

The Claims Conference has published the latest issue of “Kavod: Honoring Aging Survivors – A Professional Journal for Care Providers and Families.” As an expression of the Claims Conference’s commitment to helping those who care for Nazi victims, it produces Kavod, an online peer-reviewed journal. Kavod is intended to help caregivers who attend to the needs of aging survivors by giving them the opportunity to read about this issue from experts in the field.

Not only does the Claims Conference provide funding to assist Holocaust victims but it has pioneered the field of developing care particular to their needs. Claims Conference support and initiative has led to a specialized field encompassing a network of social workers and caregivers. For survivors to receive the care they deserve, their particular needs have to be understood, which is what Kavod seeks to address.

The new issue includes six pieces about the social, physical, and mental health needs of the populations we serve. Topics include issues faced by aging child survivors; late life strategies for coping with wartime experiences; experiencing trauma in an institutional residential setting; survivors of sexual violence during the Shoah; end of life issues for survivors; and the resilience and fragility of survivors.

Kavod’s editorial board is chaired by Dr. Paula David, a full-time member of the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto. She served as Senior Social Worker at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care for more than 20 years. The board also includes Dr. Anita Friedman of Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco; Judith Hassan of Jewish Care in London; Elihu Kover of Selfhelp Community Services in New York; Carla Lessing of the Hidden Child Foundation in New York; and Dr. William Seidelman of Ben-Gurion University, Israel. Dr. Kellermann and Ms. Lessing penned articles for the latest volume. We are grateful to these professionals for their volunteer work for Kavod on behalf of Nazi victims.

Though the Nazi victim population is decreasing, the number of those needing care -- including mental health, supportive services, and homecare -- is increasing, as is the level of care that they need. Kavod will be valuable to mental health professionals, home health aides, social workers, case managers, families of aging Nazi victims, and all who help the vulnerable and frail individuals in this population.

Please read the articles and pass them on to your colleagues and community. The Claims Conference hopes that you will find the articles in Kavod pertinent to your work with Holocaust victims and personally moving.