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CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

Voices

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I listen to the father
who watched his son step onto the bus
just before it blew up.

Give voice to the daughter
who held her mother's hand
as she was led to the gas chamber.

I write the story of an innocent mother,
her daughter ripped from her arms,
arrested, tried, falsely convicted, incarcerated.

I sit with a mentee,
grapple with his question how
to truly welcome home wartime veterans.

I drive a colleague along the route
of a human trafficking victim, hidden
just five miles from an unknowing and loving family.

I hold the hand of a friend
needing an empathic listener
through cancer treatments and doctor visits.

I look into their eyes, not at them –
make them feel visible,
know they are heard –

others, like me, who know they need help
but may not know what to ask, or how.
I listen to heal, find meaning, purpose.

I carry their stories of pain and grief,
celebrate their moments of hope and joy.
Memories live in me too, nurture my soul.

Zieva Dauber Konvisser, PhD, is an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Wayne State University and a Fellow of the Institute for Social Innovation at Fielding Graduate University. Her research focuses on the human impact of traumatic events, including terrorism, genocide, and wrongful conviction, and the possibility of positive change after trauma. She is the author of *Living Beyond Terrorism: Israeli Stories of Hope and Healing* (Jerusalem: Gefen Publishing House, 2014) and is the Oral Historian at the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus in Farmington Hills, Michigan. She serves on the boards of METIV: The Israel Psychotrauma Center, Strength to Strength, and Proving Innocence and is a member of the Innocence Network Research Review Committee.