



*International Janusz Korczak
Association*

*Międzynarodowe Stowarzyszenie
im. Janusza Korczaka*



I'm proud that the Canadian Janusz Korczak Association, together with The University of British Columbia, created this series of lectures devoted to the pedagogical and social legacy of Janusz Korczak.

Henryk Goldschmidt, better known as Janusz Korczak, was the first person to demand a declaration on children's rights. Already in 1924 when reading the Declaration of the Rights of the Child that was adopted by the League of Nations he was disappointed. He felt that it was not clear enough and that it was begging rather than insisting.

From that time on, Korczak the medical doctor, writer, and educator became the most radical campaigner for children's rights.

"Dom Sierot" - The Orphan's Home and those responsible for operating it have been an inspiration for all those people and organizations concerned with education and caring for the child and his rights.

"The child has the right to respect. The guiding thought - the child is a person equal to us in value" Korczak J., Writings, p.155, Heb. Edition.

For thirty years, in full cooperation with Stefa Wilczynska, his partner, Korczak carried the child's voice in every possible way, in books ostensibly written for children but really aimed at adults, parents, and educators. They both developed and implemented an educational approach that respects the child, giving him equal rights to that of grown-ups.

"School creates for the child the rhythm of hours, days and years. School officials are supposed to provide for the needs of today's young citizens. Needed is not a despotic order, imposed discipline, or distrustful control, but tactful understanding; faith in experience, cooperation and co-existence is the real basis of child-care." Korczak J., The Child's Right to Respect, E.P. Kulawiec, page 176.

Still today, so many years later, we continue to have to fight for these rights. I believe that this series of lectures will bring us closer to this goal.

Batia Gilad - Chairperson, International J. Korczak Association