

Newsletter April 2013

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Private Bag X6, Sandringham, 2131

Tel: 011 640 3100 / 011 640 2148

Fax: 011 640 7865

info@jhbholocaust.co.za

www.holocaust.org.za

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Dear friends of the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre

April marked a commemoration month for both the Holocaust (8 April) and the Genocide in Rwanda (7 April). Staff, volunteers and donors of the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre (JHGC) took part in the March of the Living, marching from Auschwitz I to Auschwitz-Birkenau on Holocaust Remembrance Day. I had the privilege to lead the international adult group while Rene Pozniak lead the South African youth group.

I am returning to an exciting period in the JHGC construction project, as we finalized phase 1 and about to begin phase 2 of our building. The JHGC building project was featured in the media in South Africa and Africa this month with articles in the Sunday Times, the New Times of Rwanda as well as on allafrica.com: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201304090049.html?page=2>

Alongside the construction and the exhibition curating process the JHGC's dedicated team of permanent staff and volunteers continues to run education activities and regular public events that are always well supported. We also hold on-going Staff Development Programmes of which the latest was a talk by Laura de Becker on her PhD: Remembering Rwanda: The Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda's National Museums and Memorials.

Once again, I'd like to convey our grateful thanks to the organisations, institutes and museums for the event and exhibition partnerships we continue to share.

Tali Nates, Director



The JHGC building site, cnr Jan Smuts Ave and Duncombe Rd, Forest Town

Watch us Grow!

Updates of the construction are posted on our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/JHGCentre>



Paul Goldreich and Laura de Becker visited the JHGC site in January

African connections

JHGC Head of Exhibition, Lauren Segal, (seated on right) recently returned from the Third Consultative Meeting of the African Union Human Rights Memorial (AUHRM) project held at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa.

Lauren reported, "...it was fascinating to be part of a meeting where over 25 international agencies were represented. It was also encouraging to gain perspective on how the JHGC is doing groundbreaking work in the field of genocide education and memorialisation. it is inspiring that the JHGC has been invited to be part of a network where we can both share our expertise as well as work in a way that will enrich our sense of belonging to a wider African community".



In Memoriam

With sadness we record the passing of Holocaust survivor Israel Gurwicz

2012 ends on a high note

2012 ended with a visit to Johannesburg of the award-winning play, *And Then They Came For Me – Remembering The World of Anne Frank*, produced by The Blue Sky Network. The JHGC in partnership with Constitution Hill hosted the multi-media production that uses actors and video footage to tell the story of Auschwitz survivor Eva Schloss and her stepsister Anne Frank. The play is based on Eva Schloss's autobiography, 'Eva's Story' and produced and directed by UK-based Nic Careem.

Producer and director Nic Careem (left) together with the cast and Holocaust survivor Eva Schloss, seated (right) answered questions from the audience after the performance in the Women's Jail



Photograph courtesy Julian Pokroy



Photograph courtesy Julian Pokroy

L-R Helene Hoedl, Deputy Director (UNIC), Israeli Ambassador Dov Segev-Steinberg, Paul Goldreich and Sudeshan Reddy at Liliesleaf on 27 January

27 January International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust

The JHGC partnered in 2 events to mark this commemoration. The theme *Rescue during the Holocaust: The Courage to Care* recognised individuals who risked their lives to save Jews and other victims of Nazi persecution during World War Two.

The JHGC partnered with the United Nations Information Centre South Africa (UNIC) and Liliesleaf. Guest speaker Paul Goldreich, a UK based psychoanalyst, spoke about his work with first and second generation survivors.

In a second event at Orange Farm, the JHGC in partnership with Education Africa and UNIC held

an enriching educational programme for 350 Grade 9 learners who study the Holocaust as part of the Social Science curriculum.



Learner programme held at Orange Farm

Due in Johannesburg in July the *In Whom Can I Still Trust?* exhibition

tells the story of homosexuals in Nazi Germany and the occupied Netherlands and includes information about human rights abuses against the LGBTQI community in South Africa and the *It Gets Better South Africa Project*.

Dr. Klaus Mueller, an international consultant for cultural institutions and museums, book and film projects, visited SA for the launch of the exhibition in Cape Town. In Johannesburg, at a JHGC partnership event with Constitution Hill, Dr Mueller introduced the award-winning documentary *Paragraph 175* (2000), that profiles gay survivors of Nazi persecution. Dr. Mueller was the initiator, research director, and associate producer of the film.



Exhibitions and Events



At the inaugural address - focused on the significance of memory and of legacy in shaping the children of Holocaust survivors and children of anti-apartheid activists in South Africa - internationally renowned psychoanalyst, Paul Goldreich, was joined by Nicholas Wolpe (CEO, Liliesleaf) and Tali Nates (Director, JHGC)

Memory and Legacy Programme

To mark the 50th anniversary of the raid on Liliesleaf the JHGC partners with Liliesleaf in the Memory and Legacy lecture programme. The *Memory and Legacy – Silent Voices Programme*, aims to ensure that the past is not forgotten by stimulating dialogue and debate around key issues, emotions and experiences. The JHGC partnered with Liliesleaf on the inaugural presentation in the series and will partner on a number of events during this year-long programme.

Please join us for events in the Memory and Legacy series that the JHGC will be partnering on in May (read more under Forthcoming Events in this newsletter).

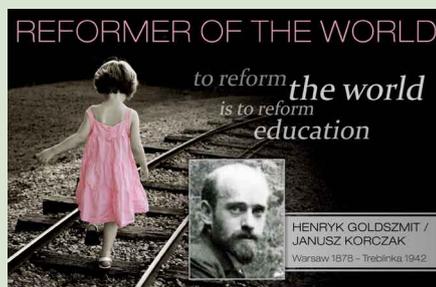
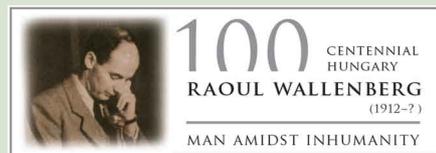
Education

Educator Workshops JHGC facilitators held workshops for Social Science educators from 41 schools in the Northwest Province.

“Both the presentation and resources are excellent.” Educator Potchefstroom

Learner programmes Demand for learner programmes has grown significantly with the introduction of the JHGC’s expanded menu of programmes.

Facilitated programmes around two exhibitions by kind courtesy of the Hungarian and Polish Embassies respectively, *Raoul Wallenberg – Man Amidst Inhumanity* and *Janusz Korczak - Reformer of the World*, are currently visiting schools in Gauteng.



JHGC facilitator Arlene Sher with learners from Thuto-Lesedi

In addition, the JHGC prepared and facilitated a programme for the Peermont School Support Programme (PSSP). 760 learners were introduced to the history of the Holocaust and examined the moral choices people made. With Human Rights Day being celebrated in South Africa shortly after the programme, the learners looked at what can be learned today from this time in history.

Congratulations to Jesse Elk and Daniel Crouch who participated in the **JHGC Twinning Programme** which offers Bar/Bat Mitzvah participants an opportunity to learn about the Holocaust in a personal way, by researching and honouring the life of one child who did not have a chance to reach this joyous milestone, because of the events of the Shoah.



Jesse Elk

“I learnt a great deal from the research that I did about Jacques Benguigui. It taught me about what Jewish children had to face in the Holocaust. It has been a very moving project”.



Daniel Crouch

“By twinning my Bar Mitzvah with Hans Loew I could pay respect to his life while my friends and family celebrated with me. This also reminded me of my late Grandpa Hans Loeb because their names were so similar”.

Holocaust Survivors Group (HSG)



Photograph courtesy Joe Yudelowitz

20 Holocaust Survivors spent a morning at the home of Mark and Bendita Gordon, sharing stories with HFH soldiers. Towards the end of his speech leader of the HFH group Gilli Ganonyan called on a Holocaust Survivor, put his "hope for heroism" bracelet next to the number on her arm and told her that members of HFH, the State of Israel and the Jewish people would never let another Holocaust happen.

HSG meetings continue to be well attended by Holocaust survivors who met with psychologist and filmmaker Cliff Matthews speaking about his many trips to Poland; Injured Israeli soldiers from the *Hope for Heroism (HFH)* programme; and a luncheon hosted by the South African Jewish Board of Deputies with keynote speaker for the Yom Hashoah Commemoration, Holocaust Survivor, Rena Quint.

March Of The Living (MOTL) The International March of the Living group of 85 participants from South Africa, Australia, US and Canada was led by Tali Nates. Tali and Jacob Shoshan (US) were scholars for the group. Educator Rene Pozniak once again lead the South African youth group. Thuli Qanya (Office Manager JHGC) managed logistics for this group.



SA March of the Living youth group 2013 at the Rapoport Monument in Warsaw

"An experience that will definitely enhance the work I do at the JHGC. We must educate so we never forget the dangers of racism, prejudice and human rights abuse."



Thuli Qanya



11 000 participants from around the world took part in the MOTL

Other news

JHGC architect, Lewis Levin discussing the architectural concepts and model of the JHGC with visiting NY-based historian, Atina Grossmann. Atina's talk on *Jews, Germans and Allies in Occupied Germany - Entangled Histories and Lost Memories*, was well received at a recent JHGC, Bet David partnership event.



At a reception to honour the life and work of Raoul Wallenberg (L-R) Swedish Ambassador Anders Hagelberg, Hungarian Ambassador Béla László, the director of the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre Tali Nates, Ambassador of Israel Dov Segev-Steinberg



Photograph courtesy Julian Pokroy

Forthcoming events

- Tues 21 May:** **Laurent Binet** – French author of the award-winning HHHH a historical novel about the assassination of Nazi leader Reinhard Heydrich in 1942 - will talk on **'Writing about Memory'** in the Memory and Legacy Series.
- Mon 27 May:** Swiss filmmaker **Walo Deuber's** documentary *Fading Traces - Postscripts from a Landscape of Memory* in the Memory and Legacy Series.
- Tues 4 June:** *Children of Chabannes* - documentary by Lisa Gossels and Dean Wetherell about the rescue of 400 Jewish children in France.

Have you visited our website?

Go to the South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation website www.holocaust.org.za to learn more about our activities on a local and national level in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg. We invite you to join us on facebook: www.facebook.com/JHGCentre