

Newsletter April 2012

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JOHANNESBURG
**HOLOCAUST
& GENOCIDE
CENTRE**

SOUTH AFRICAN HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE FOUNDATION

CENTRES: CAPE TOWN • DURBAN • JOHANNESBURG



Dear friends of the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre

After a lengthy process of securing a re-zoned prime site in the heart of Johannesburg (in partnership with the Joburg Property Company and the City of JHB), all plans were finally approved early this year and the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre (JHGC) has commenced its building project on Jan Smuts Avenue opposite the Westcliff Hotel.

Fundraising continues vigorously and to date there has been a very positive response by organisations, foundations and individuals to the building project with funding now being raised for Phase 2. We are especially grateful to companies who are supporting the building project by assisting with the provision of materials, namely MacSteel for the steel, Plate Glass for the glass and Italtile for tiles and sanitary ware.

Alongside the process of construction of the building and curating the unique permanent exhibition, our small and dedicated team continues to run education activities for young and old, events, projects and commemorations. We invite you to read about some of our activities and programmes carrying out the mission of Holocaust education and genocide awareness throughout Gauteng and beyond.

Tali Nates, Director

Construction of the JHGC complex underway!



Architect, Lewis Levin discussing construction details with builders on site



Builders, Murray and Dickson have been appointed and Phase 1 of construction has begun. The foundations have been dug, concrete is being poured and the columns of the parking basement and first floor slab as well as the exciting new frame are currently taking shape.

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

In Memoriam

With sadness we record the passing of the following friends of the JHGC

Dr Rene Heitner, Holocaust survivor

Ruby Gurwicz, wife of Holocaust survivor Israel Gurwicz

Sheila Katz, wife of Holocaust survivor Joe Katz

Special Commemoration

The 27th January 2012, **International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust** was dedicated to the theme of 'Children and the Holocaust'. Special guest was Holocaust survivor, Elly Gotz.

The JHGC held an event at Liliesleaf in partnership with the United Nations Information Centre Pretoria (UNIC) and the Liliesleaf Trust.



Addressing a capacity audience Mr Gotz spoke on his return to Dachau after 65 years.



(L-R) Helene Hoedl (Deputy Director, UNIC), Tali Nates (Director JHGC), Nicholas Wolpe (CEO, Liliesleaf Trust), Elly Gotz, Janine Cohen (JHGC), Arlene Sher (JHGC), Sudeshan Reddy (UNIC)



125 Grade 9 learners from 7 Gauteng schools were privileged to engage with Elly Gotz at another event in partnership with UNIC and the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA). Photographed here with Elly - the educator and learners from Greenside High School.



Tali Nates, guest speaker at a 27 January Commemoration assembly at St Stithians Boys' College together with Tracey Harvey (HOD History) (L) and Headmaster, Mr David Knowles



Helene Hoedl, Deputy Director UNIC and Tali Nates, addressed learners and educators at the UNIC Library in Pretoria, to commemorate the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust



Elly Gotz addressed the HSIG – photographed here with Holocaust Survivors, Mendel and Helen Lieman

Holocaust Survivors' Interest Group (HSIG)

A recent highlight of the popular monthly meetings was a talk by Ricci Lyons about a collection of 2,500 newly-discovered letters, found in a trunk in her parents' garage in Johannesburg, between an exiled German Jew, Ralph Schwab (Ricci's late grandfather) and his relatives and friends in Nazi Germany. This collection is especially enlightening as in addition to letters received, Ralph kept carbon copies of the letters he wrote. These letters are currently the subject of a research project by Dr Shirli Gilbert of the University of Southampton.



South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation (SAHGF) National Education Team Development Programme

Visiting guest speaker Dr Shirli Gilbert, Southampton University addressed the SAHGF education team in Durban. Dr Gilbert spoke about music and art during the Holocaust.

Photographed with Dr Gilbert at the Durban Holocaust Centre are (L-R) Richard Freedman, (Director, SAHGF), Inger Schaap, (Anne Frank House, Amsterdam), Janine Cohen (JHGC), Dr Shirli Gilbert, Janine Hamilton (DHC)



JHGC facilitator, Barbara Buntman with educators in North West Province

Educator workshops

This term, JHGC facilitators have conducted educator workshops in Soweto, North West Province and Ekurhuleni.



Adelaide Mashigo (L) Senior Education Specialist: Social Sciences for the Gauteng Department of Education – Ekurhuleni North.



JHGC facilitators Charlotte Fischer and Arlene Sher at work at an educator workshop in Katlehong, Ekurhuleni.



Reaching the young



Tali Nates addressed Grades 5-7 at The Ridge School, Johannesburg speaking about choices and dilemmas during the Holocaust.

Human Rights' Day



Human Rights' Day at the M.H. Joosub Technical Secondary School in Lenasia in partnership with the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation.

Fundraising

Johannesburg attorney, Maurizio Mariano, Adv Laurance Hodes and the Johannesburg Italian Ladies Society (JILS) hosted a fundraising event at the historical Villa Arcadia in Parktown. The proceeds of the evening were donated to the JHGC building project. Sponsors of the evening were BBM Attorneys, Etana Insurance and Genesis Capital.

Programme director, actress and producer Rosie Motene, introduced honoured guests; Andries Nel, Deputy Minister of Justice & Constitutional Development and His Excellency the Italian Ambassador, Vincenzo Schioppa both of whom addressed the capacity audience. Guest speaker, Hugh Raichlin's presentation, **'The Jews of Italy'** traced the roots of Jewish life in Italy to more recent contributions to Italy and the world by famous Italian Jews.

A most appreciative audience thoroughly enjoyed a wonderful rendition of popular Hebrew and Italian songs by Cantor Ezra Sher and Hugh Raichlin. Ambassador Schioppa spontaneously joined in singing 'O Sole Mio', to the delight of all.

A surprise presentation was made to the JHGC, by Dorothy Adjoa Amuah, granddaughter of Nelson Mandela. This framed presentation of photographs and a letter of endorsement of the JHGC by Nelson Mandela will no doubt find pride of place in the new Centre.



(L-R)
Caterina Barecchia
(Chairlady, JILS),
Tali Nates,
Maurizio Mariano,
Rosie Motene and
Laurance Hodes.



Hugh Raichlin

Italian Ambassador,
Vincenzo Schioppa (L) and Andries
Nel, Deputy Minister of Justice &
Constitutional Development



Photographs courtesy Julian Pokroy. To see more photos of the event, follow the link: www.julesimages.co.za



We are dependent on the generosity of caring individuals, foundations and organisations to make the new Centre a reality. We invite you to be a partner in this important endeavor and ask you to consider making a contribution to the JHGC.

You may want to honour the memory of the Holocaust or other genocides; you may be committed through educating future generations to ensuring that genocide, xenophobia or other human rights abuses never happen again.

Whatever your reason, we would like you to partner with us.

For more information on donor and benefactor opportunities please contact info@jhbholocaust.co.za or call +27116403100 for further details.

Forthcoming events

Wednesday 11th April: 18th Commemoration of the Rwanda Genocide at Freedom Park 12:00 – 14:00.
Please call (011)6403100 or email info@jhbholocaust.co.za if you would like to attend.

Thursday 19th April: Yom Hashoah, West Park Cemetery at 12h30. Keynote speaker, John Dobai (UK), a Raoul Wallenberg survivor.

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