

Newsletter September 2010
Volume 1 Issue 6

Private Bag X6, Sandringham, 2132
Tel: 011 640 3100 / 011 640 2148
Fax: 011 640 7865
info@jhbholocaust.co.za
www.holocaust.org.za
Please join us on facebook – www.facebook.com/JHGCentre

BREAKING NEWS All is revealed: our new centre is under construction!

The Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre (JHGC) has recently commenced construction of a world class centre of learning on a prime site in Forest Town situated on Jan Smuts Avenue opposite the Westcliff Hotel. The site has been provided by the City of Johannesburg. The centre will house a permanent exhibition, venues for workshops and public events, a memorial garden and resource centre, a coffee shop and a bookshop.



Tali Nates, director of the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre explains

The centre is not intended as a museum but rather a vibrant educational space. We are hoping to complete the project late in 2011. We are delighted with the response to date and we are, of course, largely dependent on the generosity of the community. We trust that the response to our fundraising efforts being led by Gerald Leissner and his committee will be positive.

Since its establishment in 2008, the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre has been operating from a temporary location and has already established itself as a major role player in the educational field in the region.

Images on this page: Impressions of the new Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre to be completed in 2011.

The architect and project manager for the new centre is Lewis Levin who has designed many public buildings including museums, schools and synagogues in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town.



Yad Vashem visits South Africa

We were recently honoured to have two education specialists from Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, present seminars in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg on **Jewish Identity and the Holocaust**.

(L-R) Educational consultant Carmen Emanuel (Jhb), Souki Rozovski Charedi Dept Yad Vashem, Tali Nates, Director of JHGC and Michal Sternin, Head of the pedagogic center at the Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust studies, Jerusalem.



Souki and Michal shared Yad Vashem's age appropriate, interdisciplinary approach to teaching the Holocaust with educators in Johannesburg.

JFR Summer Institute for Teachers Columbia University, New York City

Janine Cohen, our project manager was awarded a scholarship to attend the JFR Summer Institute for Teachers held at Columbia University, New York City.

Sincere thanks to the JFR for affording me the opportunity to learn from renowned Holocaust scholars including Debórah Dwork and Robert Jan van Pelt to name a few. The small group discussions with museum staff and educators from the US, Poland and Croatia, regarding pedagogy and sharing teaching concepts were extremely beneficial. I look forward to sharing what I have learned.

To find out more about the **Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR)** please go to <http://www.jfr.org>



The JFR Summer Institute group outside Lerner Hall, Columbia University.

Association of Holocaust Organisations (AHO) Conference, Chicago

Tali Nates recently participated in the AHO conference in Chicago. The AHO is an international network of organisations and individuals for the advancement of Holocaust education, remembrance and research.



Tali Nates with Michael Berenbaum, writer, lecturer and teacher consulting in the conceptual development of museums and the historical development of film. Amongst his many accomplishments Dr Berenbaum was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation as well as Project Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, overseeing its creation.



Tali Nates met with Director, Rick Hirschhaut, and Noreen Brand, Director of Education of the new Illinois Holocaust Museum.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Twinning Project

Our Twinning Programme assists Bar/Bat Mitzvah boys/girls 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. This project adds depth to learning and affords the participant the opportunity to experience the values of kavod (honour), chesed (kindness) and tzedakah (charity). Natanya Joseph recently celebrated her Bat Mitzvah and twinned with Naomi Posinova (1932-1944), a young Czechoslovakian girl who was murdered in Auschwitz.



Our intention of Natanya twinning her Bat Mitzvah was to enable her to realise that there is more meaning to a Bat Mitzvah than just having a party, and that there are less privileged people around. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to use your project and to grow from the experience as a family.

Avril and Avi Joseph

Janusz Korczak – Champion of the Child Exhibition

Janusz Korczak: Champion of the Child, a major exhibition from the London Jewish Museum was hosted by the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre (JHGC) in association with King David High School, Linksfield (KDHSL). The exhibition tells the inspiring story of Janusz Korczak (1879-1942), the Polish-Jewish doctor, writer and educator, one of the world's first advocates of children's rights, who devoted his life to the needs and plight of children, regardless of nationality or religion. An interesting programme around the exhibition included a film and talks relating to the life and times of Janusz Korczak.



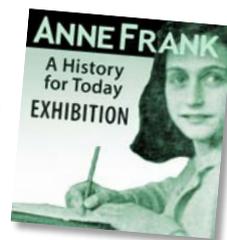
Tali Nates (Director JHGC), Don Krausz, Chairman of the Holocaust Survivors Association, Ronnie Mink (Deputy Headmaster, KDHSL)



(L-R) Tali Nates (Director, JHGC), Rene Posniak (KDHSL), Marc Falconer (Headmaster, KDHSL), Gary Bloch (Vice Principal, KDHSL), Ronnie Mink (Deputy Headmaster, KDHSL), Janine Cohen (JHGC)

If you haven't yet had a chance to see the Janusz Korczak exhibition watch out for details as the exhibition travels to educational institutions around Gauteng in the near future.

Anne Frank Exhibition



on the move again

After a most successful tour of schools in Soweto the **Anne Frank - a history for today** exhibition returned to Constitution Hill by popular demand.

Student guides from Orlando West High, Moletsane High & Letare Secondary accompany the Dutch Ambassador to Pretoria, Rob de Vos, through the exhibition at Constitution Hill.

Another group of learners will have the privilege of being trained by Aaron Peterer of the Anne Frank House, Amsterdam to act as peer-guides for this inspiring exhibition as it moves to St Stithian's Girls' College, Redhill School, Mondeor High and Patterson Park, as part of its tour to selected Greater Johannesburg schools over the next few months.



Two new interest groups launched



Holocaust Survivors' Interest Group

In addition to the extremely popular Friendship Forum, a new closed group was formed for Holocaust Survivors to meet informally on a regular basis.

(L-R) Lyonell Fliss, Helene Sieff, Lia Stermer and Rita Stevenson were amongst the group of Holocaust Survivors who attended.

Second Generation Interest Group

The launch of a Second Generation Interest Group was well attended and many interesting ideas were tabled for the group going forward. Guest speakers were Tali Nates, who spoke on *The Holocaust Through the eyes of the Second Generation* and Tracey Farber, Clinical Psychologist who spoke about *Worldwide trends in support of 2G and beyond*. If you are interested in joining this group please send your contact details to info@jhbholocaust.co.za

Raising awareness against xenophobia and violence

Recently, Tali Nates spoke at the South African Students Congress (SASCO) **Anti Xenophobia and Violence Campaign**. Photographed here together with Stephanie Hodes, Chairperson, South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS) and Morris Masutha, WITS Chairperson SASCO.

....Your contribution to awareness raising in our campus really made a huge impact. After the campaign we had students coming to us asking how they can take part and raise awareness in their communities. Thank you very much.

Morris Masutha (SASCO, WITS Chairperson)



Forthcoming events

13 September 13h00-14h00

The 2010 Steve Biko Lecture delivered by Tali Nates: **Health and Human Rights: Perpetrators, Bystanders and Rescuers – Portraits in Moral Choices**
RSVP tejal.mistri@wits.ac.za

9 November Kristallnacht – The JHGC will partner with the Goethe Institut for this year's commemoration event. Please save the date, details to follow shortly.

Have you visited our website?

Take a look at the South African Holocaust Foundation website www.holocaust.org.za
The website provides a wealth of information about activities on a national as well as local level of the three centres in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg.

The Johannesburg pages will keep you informed about our educational programmes, exciting forthcoming events, as well as enabling you to follow the progress of the construction of our new centre.

We thank those who have already contacted us via the website and invite you to join us on facebook: www.facebook.com/JHGCentre

We wish all our
Jewish friends
Shana Tova
U'metukah

JOHANNESBURG
HOLOCAUST
& GENOCIDE
CENTRE

SOUTH AFRICAN HOLOCAUST FOUNDATION
CENTRES: CAPE TOWN • DURBAN • JOHANNESBURG