



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

Quarterly Newsletter - September 2014 *15th Anniversary Edition*



Dear Friends

This newsletter marks the 15th milestone in the history of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre. Since the doors opened in 1999, the Centre's permanent exhibition has been visited by over 250 000 people, including international visitors from over 85 different countries!

Since 2007, the South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation (SAHGF) education team has reached close to 4000 teachers from nearly 2500 schools across the country. Our ***Holocaust: Lessons for Humanity*** materials are central to these programmes and the travelling exhibition developed from these materials has been used extensively throughout the country. Since 1999, the education team at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre has worked with an average of 5000 High school learners per year, which is a staggering total of 75 000, nearly all of whom are not Jewish.

Our activities are not limited to those at the Centre. Over the years, we have conducted many off campus programmes. Recently, we took the Anne Frank House travelling exhibition ***Anne Frank: A History for Today*** to Hermanus, where it formed the backdrop to school programmes and teacher training. Thereafter it opened at Muizenberg High School, where over 400 learners from surrounding schools participated in programmes run by the Centre's education team.

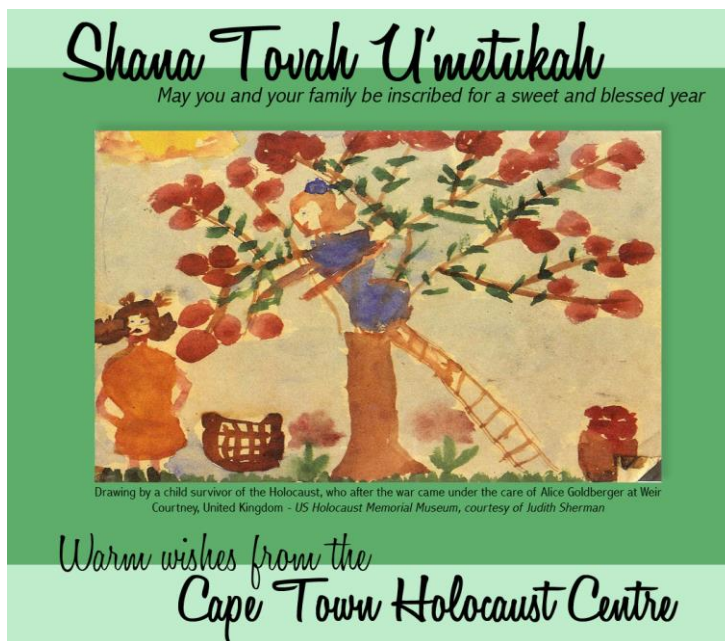
Education is at the core of the Centre's activities, and the success of these is in no small measure owing to the leadership and drive of the Centre's Education Director, Tracey Petersen. Tracey will be leaving the Centre at the end of November to complete her PhD. She will be sorely missed.

If the need for additional space in which to hold programmes and exhibitions is in itself testimony to the success of the Centre, then we certainly have shown growth and development. With the help of generous benefactors, we have added offices and spaces for the holding of workshops and travelling exhibitions. Over the next few months as part of our 15th anniversary celebrations, we are embarking on a major refurbishment of our internationally acclaimed exhibition - which has basically remained untouched since 1999.

The encouragement and involvement of our dear survivors, the dedication and commitment of our professional and administrative staff, the vision and wisdom of the trustees, together with the unstinting support of our benefactors and volunteers, has made possible the achievements to date.

We look forward to your joining us as we embark on the next 15 years, and take this opportunity of wishing all our Jewish friends and supporters, Shana Tovah U'metukah.

Richard Freedman
Director



Cape Town Holocaust Centre Celebrates 15 Wonderful Years



To mark its milestone 15th anniversary, the CTHC hosted the African premiere of the film *Shimon's Returns*, which included a Q&A with its award-winning filmmakers Slawomir Grünberg and Katka Reszke from Poland. Their visit to South Africa was made possible through the generosity of Ralph and Sue Stern.

We thank all the staff, volunteers, visitors and benefactors for your ongoing support of and commitment to this organisation.



Katka Reszke and Slawomir Grunberg with Miriam Lichterman and Richard Freedman



Posters and articles from over the years

A Calendar Full of Events

The Cape Town Holocaust Centre has been delighted to have hosted a record number of visiting scholars this year. The Pola Pasvolsky Conference Centre has been a constant hub of activity, with lectures, screenings and other events taking place there almost every week.



Framing Children: School Photos Before, During and After the Holocaust
- Professors Leo Spitzer and Marianne Hirsch, USA



Lost Voices of the Holocaust
- Dr Stephen Muir, Leeds University, UK
In partnership with The Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies & Research



Genocide: Only Men's Work?
- Professor Claudia Koonz, USA



What Has Changed Since the Holocaust?
- Eva Schloss (step-sister of Anne Frank)
In partnership with the SAJBD (Cape Council)



Fateless (Screening)
In partnership with the Embassy of Hungary



Harbour of Hope (Screening)
- Magnus Gertten (Director) and Irene Krausz-Fainmann (Survivor)
In partnership with the Embassy of Sweden



The Greyshirt Trials: 80th Anniversary
 - Aubrey Katzef
 In partnership with the Jacob Gitlin Library



Shimon's Returns (Screening)
 - Slawomir Grunberg & Katka Reszke (Directors)

Commemorations



GENOCIDE IN RWANDA: 20th ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, where between 800,000 and one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were murdered within 100 days. In conjunction with the Rwandan community in Cape Town, The Cape Town Holocaust Centre held a memorial ceremony with the theme *'Remember, Unite, Renew'*.

*"Reconciliation is mutual
 acknowledgement of past suffering
 between former enemies"*

- Vivence Kalitanya, founder & chairperson,
 Rwandan Heritage Foundation



The Cape Town Holocaust Centre partnered with the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies and the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation for a panel discussion on the topic *'Taking stock of reconciliation in South Africa and Rwanda'* which formed part of the Cape SAJBD 'Transformation Conversations' series.



START OF WWII: 75th ANNIVERSARY

1 September 2014 marked 75 years since the outbreak of World War II. Local news channel News24 Live interviewed Holocaust survivor Henia Bryer at her Cape Town home about her memories of that day as a young girl living in Poland.

View video: <http://www.news24.com/Live/World/I-remember-it-like-it-was-yesterday-Holocaust-survivor-75-years-later-20140829>

Educational Programmes

The education team continues to run a full programme for **high school learners** from the greater Cape Town area. Over 60 schools have visited the Centre since the start of 2014, and the feedback from both learners and educators has shown how impactful and inspiring these visits have been.

Programmes in diversity and leadership have also been run for **tertiary students and adults**, with visits from the Amy Biehl Foundation, the Raymond Ackerman Academy, Pick 'n Pay, Correctional Services, CT Cultural Exchange, teachers in training, psychiatric nurses, and many others.





Thank you to **Truworths** who have generously sponsored a number of High School visits to the Centre this year. These schools, among them Luhlaza Secondary, Grassy Park High, Masiphumelele High and Wallacedene Secondary, have each received a Cape Town Holocaust Centre education pack '*The Holocaust: Lessons for Humanity*', which includes 60 learners' workbooks, 2 educator's manuals, 2 educational DVDs and a full colour, laminated poster set.

If you would like to sponsor a school visit, please email Diana: diana@holocaust.org.za

Photo: Educators and Grade 11 learners from Inkwenkwezi Secondary School, with Director Richard Freedman, CTHC founder Myra Osrin and Senior Educator Linda Hackner



EDUCATOR TRAINING

Richard Freedman, Director of the South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation (SAHGF) and Tracey Petersen, Director of Education at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre, were invited to facilitate a two-day workshop at the University of Namibia. Participants included student teachers, members of the University Historical Society, and members of the Museums Association of Namibia. All participants were given SAHGF "Lessons for Humanity" Education Pack.

In July, Senior Educator Linda Hackner joined Tracey Petersen in facilitating a successful workshop for Gr 9 and Gr 11 History teachers from the Overberg District, at Hermanus High School. The workshop, conducted in Afrikaans and English, supported the CAPS (the National Curriculum) and developed the teachers' content knowledge of the Holocaust, as well as teaching skills. Funding from the Claims Conference has made it possible to provide each teacher with the education material developed by the Cape Town Holocaust Centre.

"Best workshop I've attended since joining the Education Department in 2006" - J.A. Jacobs (Villiersdorp Secondary School)



OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMMES

The education team also facilitated off-campus programmes, where learners had the opportunity to interact with the portable exhibition (based on our permanent exhibit) at their school campus.

Photo: Learners from Thandokhulu High School view the portable exhibition

Thank you to our wonderful educators & volunteer guides!

If you would like to become a volunteer guide for our high school programmes, please email Diana at the Centre: diana@holocaust.org.za

Anne Frank: A History for Today



The *Anne Frank: A History for Today* travelling exhibition, developed by the Anne Frank House and under the care of the SAHGF, was exhibited in Hermanus in July. The CTHC education team ran workshops for Grade 8-12 learners from Hermanus High School. The learners explored the story of the Frank family, and through this, the broader history of the Holocaust.

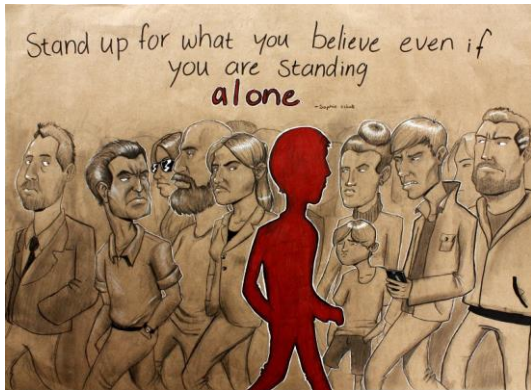
Photo: Robin Lee (Hermanus History Society), Unity Mtomile (Enlighten Trust, Junior Town Council mentor), Tracey Petersen (Education Director, CTHC), Nicolette Botha-Guthrie (Overstrand Mayor), Sonwabile Calata (Junior Town Council Mayor) and Linda Hackner (Senior Educator, CTHC).



In August, the exhibition was displayed at Muizenberg High School, in partnership with the Western Cape Education Department. The CTHC education team trained twenty Gr 10 and 11 Tourism students as peer guides for the exhibition, and also developed a special workshop programme to accompany the exhibition, which was attended by over 400 learners and members of the public.

White Rose Art & Writing Competition 2014

The Cape Town Holocaust Centre ran its annual **White Rose Art & Writing Competition: *Resisting Injustice*** in August this year. The White Rose Competition, which takes its name from a group of German university students who resisted Nazi oppression, aims to encourage a greater understanding within learners of the need to protect human rights and to respond to injustice in this country and globally. Thank you to everyone involved for your participation and support! We look forward to seeing the White Rose Competition grow from strength to strength in the years to come.



"Stand up for what you believe in" by Chloe Boetcher, Gr 9, Springfield Convent. Junior Art Winner 2014.



"Letters from Manenberg to Auschwitz" - Group installation, Gr 9 learners at Curro Meridian Pinehurst.

- View **photos** from the 2014 Awards Evening and Exhibition Opening on our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/CTHCpage
- Read more about the White Rose Art & Writing Competition, view a **collage** of 2014 entries, and access the **2015 entry form** on our website: www.holocaust.org.za

Workshops & Conferences



The SAHGF's three directors, Richard Freedman, Mary Kluk, and Tali Nates, at the 9th International Conference on Holocaust Education "***Through Our Own Eyes: Reflecting on the Holocaust from Generation to Generation***" at Yad Vashem, Israel.



Director of Education Tracey Petersen at the ***Symposium on Holocaust Education and Genocide Prevention: Sharing Experience Across Borders*** at the Salzburg Global Seminar in Austria.



The Cape Town Holocaust Centre joined the Human Rights Media Centre for a workshop and tour at the Robben Island Museum for **Nelson Mandela Day 2014**. The day formed part of an ongoing workshop series between the two organisations.



Participants at the Women's Day workshop "**Women of Faith: Bringing Light in the Darkness**", held at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre in partnership with the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies.



The Cape Town Holocaust Centre hosted two workshops for the **South African - Washington Exchange Program** for Service and Leadership (SAWIP). The workshops included a talk by Holocaust survivor Miriam Lichterman, a tour of the permanent exhibition, and sessions on development and leadership.

SAHGF Archive



UPDATE: EMBARKING ON OUR DIGITISATION PROJECT

It has been a busy and exciting winter in the archive, with extensive work being conducted to prepare a detailed inventory of the **Schragenheim Family Archival Collection**, donated by Julian Schragenheim. The Collection includes hundreds of documents, photographs and a range of ephemera related to the history of German Jewry, dating back to the mid-19th century (see *examples above*). The material is currently being digitised by UCT Libraries, as part of our official partnership with them to preserve and share this material with the world. This was the first collection of several that will undergo this process.

The Auschwitz Album

The Cape Town Holocaust Centre was visited by Lesley Weiss, Chair of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. Lesley's mother, Irene Fogel Weiss, survived the Holocaust, and can be seen in one of the images from the infamous "Auschwitz Album", the only surviving visual evidence of the process leading to mass murder at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Irene's brothers and mother were murdered at Auschwitz-Birkenau, and also appear in a photograph in the permanent exhibition.



Lesley Weiss points to her mother, Irene Fogel Weiss, a Hungarian Jew who survived selection at Auschwitz-Birkenau in May 1944.



Lesley stands next to a photograph of family members who perished in the Holocaust. From left: Reuven Fogel, Gershon Fogel and Lenke Mermelstein Fogel.

Farewell to Tracey Petersen



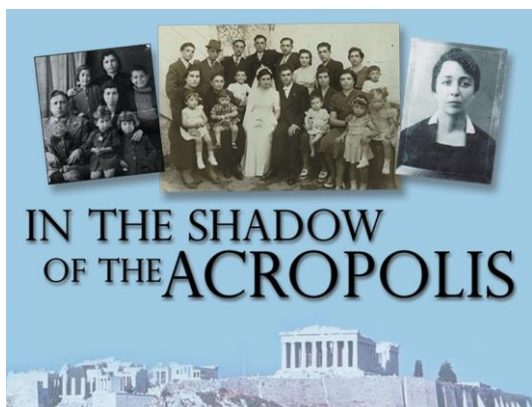
FAREWELL TO OUR DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION TRACEY PETERSEN

Tracey joined the Cape Town Holocaust Centre as an educator in 2005. In 2008 she took over the role of Director of Education and, building on the fine foundation laid by Marlene Silbert, has established an education department that is recognised as being at the forefront of best practice in Holocaust education for school learners, educators and adults alike. On the national front she has made enormous contributions to the South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation's educator training programme through which thousands of teachers countrywide have benefited from her understanding of the complexity of Holocaust history and the challenges of teaching it.

Tracey is held in high esteem internationally and was most recently involved in the Salzburg Global Seminar initiative on Holocaust education. There have been many highlights in Tracey's career at the Centre, but one of the most exciting public programmes, which she championed with typical commitment and vision, was the remarkable Brundibar programme which touched the lives of over 10 000 people and included the first ever performances in Africa of the Brundibar children's opera made famous in the Terezin concentration camp.

We thank Tracey for the knowledge and expertise that she has brought to the Centre. She has inspired her colleagues and the participants of the many hundreds of workshops she has facilitated. She will be sorely missed! Tracey is leaving us in order to complete her PhD and we wish her every success in her future endeavours.

Upcoming Events



OCTOBER

Public screening: *In the Shadow of the Acropolis*
Thursday 30 October, 19:30
Hellenic Community Centre, 24 Bay Road Mouille Point

In partnership with the Consul of Greece, the Hellenic Community in Cape Town, and the SA Jewish Board of Deputies (Cape Council) Zanet Battinou, Director of the Jewish Museum of Greece, will deliver a keynote address.
Please RSVP by 20 October: 021 462 5553, or admin@holocaust.org.za

NOVEMBER

Völkermord und Volksgemeinschaft: The German society during the Nazi dictatorship

- Professor Ulrich Herbert, Germany
Wednesday 19 November, 20:00
88 Hatfield Street, Gardens

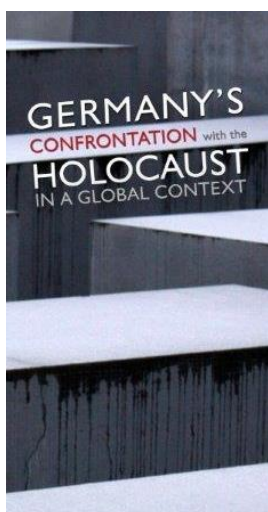
Concert: *Passion & Prejudice: Forbidden Composers*

- Peter Lurie
23 November, 18:00
88 Hatfield Street, Gardens

DECEMBER

The Hard Power of Forgiveness: Reassessing Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs

- Professor Dennis Klein (Keen University, USA)
Tuesday 2 December, 20:00
88 Hatfield Street, Gardens



JANUARY 2015

Exhibition
Germany's Confrontation with the Holocaust in a Global Context
Opens 27 January 2015
88 Hatfield Street, Gardens

Developed by University of Leeds, UK, SAHGF, the UK National Holocaust Centre & Museum, Nottingham Trent University, UK, and the University of the Free State.

The focus of this exhibition is not the history of the Holocaust, but on the responses of post-war Germans to the crimes committed in their name: responses of silence, outrage, reconciliation, and memorialisation. Towards the end of the exhibition, Germans' efforts to face up to their nation's past are placed in a global context, alongside other countries and other 'difficult pasts'.