



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

Quarterly Newsletter - September 2015

16th Anniversary Edition



Dear Readers,

As we read of the tide of refugees seeking safe harbour across the world and the tragedy that has befallen so many of them, we are reminded of the way in which history has the devastating possibility of repeating itself again and again. But history is neutral; it is the human response which dictates the direction it will follow.

Here at the Centre we feel deeply honoured that our work can in some small way help to create awareness and empathy which in turn has the possibility of impacting on the way people see and value one another. This was no better illustrated by the Centre's recent White Rose Art & Writing Project which attracted many outstanding submissions from high school students. Their engagement with Holocaust history manifested in poignant works echoing a deep understanding of the ills which still beset society and their own sense of activism.

The Jewish High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, which fall at this time of year, are periods of introspection and reflection. They serve as a reminder of the individual's responsibility to be cognisant of the nature of what it means to be human and our dealings with those close to us and those who are different from us.

To our Jewish readers and supporters we take this opportunity of wishing you a Shana Tovah. May the new year herald hope, peace and a strengthening of the spirit of human kindness.

Richard Freedman

Director



Shana Tovah U'metukah

May you and your family be inscribed
for a sweet and blessed year



Warm wishes
from the
Cape Town
Holocaust
Centre



Personalised Jewish New Year cards sent by survivors in DP camps after WWII.
Germany and Cyprus, 1947-48. Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

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Cape Town Holocaust Centre 16th Anniversary

THE CAPE TOWN HOLOCAUST CENTRE CELEBRATES ITS 16TH ANNIVERSARY



August 2015 marked 16 years since the opening of The Cape Town Holocaust Centre, and we had a full programme to celebrate this milestone. The Ernest & Renee Samson 16th Anniversary Lecture, in association with the Ralph & Sue Stern visiting scholars programme, was delivered by **Dr Annamaria Orla-Bukowska**, social anthropologist at the Jagiellonian University, Poland. Dr Orla-Bukowska spoke on *Anti-semitism With and Without Jews – What is Polish Antisemitism?* Pictured here with Myra Osrin and survivors Miriam Lichtenstein, Henia Bryer and Ella Blumenthal



Anniversary month events continued with a public lecture in partnership with the Cape Jewish Seniors Association. Historian **Dr Samuel D Kassow** (Trinity College, USA) spoke about his involvement as Exhibition Advisor for the newly opened POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, which is built on the site of the Warsaw Ghetto in Poland. Dr Kassow had many fascinating anecdotes about such a process – and entertained us all with his excellent Yiddish!

The programme ended with two riveting documentary screenings. ***A Snake Gives Birth to a Snake***, screened in partnership with the Global Art Corps, USA, and the Institute of Justice and Reconciliation, follows a group of South African actors as they take a play about reconciliation to other countries experiencing national traumas, only to discover that they still have work to do on their own process of forgiveness.

The following week, we were honoured to have survivor Pinchas Gutter and his family as our guests at the screening of ***Politische Pole-Jude: The Story of Pinchas Gutter***, by Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Pinchas introduced the film in which he returns to Poland, the country of his birth – a country which would later become the site of his imprisonment in numerous death camps before his liberation in 1945.

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



Panelists Alex Boraine, Mary Burton and Yvette Hardie at the screening of *A Snake Gives Birth to a Snake*



Richard Freedman with Dorothy and Pinchas Gutter, daughter Tanya and granddaughter Lara

A CALENDAR FULL OF EVENTS

Winter Film Festival

Carl Lutz: The Forgotten Hero (in partnership with the Consulate General of Switzerland in Cape Town)

Hitler's Children (in partnership with the German Language Centre of Cape Town) and

Kaddish for a Friend (in partnership with the Jacob Gitlin Library)

Pictured: CTHC Educator Lesley Cushman and survivor Ella Blumenthal with Nigel Brown, Swiss Consul General Bernadette Hunkeler-Brown and Patrizia Wacht



Public lectures

2015 marks 100 years since the Armenian Genocide, and to commemorate this tragic historical event, the CTHC and the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies hosted a lecture by **Professor Robert M Kaplan** entitled *Doctors and the Armenian Genocide: Template for the Holocaust*. Other thought-provoking lectures were presented by **Alona Timkaeva**, interning at the CTHC from Germany (*Gert Schramm and the Fate of Black People in Nazi Germany*), and **Dr Alon Segev** from USA (*Theodore Lessing: Jewish Self-Hatred*).



Template for the Holocaust: Doctors and the Armenian Genocide by Professor Robert M Kaplan (centre)



Gert Schramm & the Fate of Black People in Nazi Germany, by Alona Timkaeva

TRAVELLING EXHIBITION COMES TO THE CTHC

The international travelling exhibition ***Children of War: Broken Childhood*** was displayed at the Centre in June. CTHC founding director Myra Osrin and Counsellor Greg Goldhawk (Head of Office at the Trade Office for the Canadian High Commission in South Africa) addressed the audience at the opening, giving a poignant account of the lives of child soldiers, and the work being done to curb recruitment and to rehabilitate those affected.

In collaboration with the Government of Canada, United Nations Information Centre, Powerhouse and Proof: Media for Social Justice



Yom HaShoah

The focus of this year's Holocaust Remembrance Day was the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the camps of Nazi occupied Europe. At the ceremony, survivors Miriam Lichtenstein and Ella Blumenthal spoke about the complexities of liberation and of their lives after WWII. The CTHC education team was invited to Herzlia High School to run workshops for the school's annual Yom HaShoah Day of Learning.



Pictured: CTHC Educator Linda Hackner at Herzlia High.

Rwandan Genocide

2015 marks 21 years since the genocide of Tutsi in Rwanda. A commemorative event was held at the CTHC, attended by both local Rwandan and Jewish communities and the general public. The theme was 'Fight genocide denial and revisionism'.



World Refugee Day

The CTHC, Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) hosted an event to mark World Refugee Day. The programme included a message from the UNHCR, a keynote address by Caroline Skinner (African Centre for Cities, UCT) and a dynamic panel discussion with women migrants and refugees living in South Africa. The event also marked the opening of a photographic exhibition by Nicky Newman.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

2015 so far: 64 high schools, 4359 learners, 20 tertiary & adult groups!

Our daily programmes for high school learners (Grade 9 & 11), tertiary students and adult groups continue to fill the yearly calendar. We are delighted with the positive feedback we have received: many participants comment on how their time at the Centre has encouraged them to better themselves and to tackle prejudices and injustices around them.

Special focus has been on the power of testimony, with some school groups having the opportunity to hear first-hand accounts from local and visiting Holocaust survivors and refugees. Other groups have heard second generation testimony from some of our own volunteer guides, after their tour through our permanent exhibit.



Holocaust survivor Shoshana Brayer shares her story with Grade 9 learners from CBC St Johns



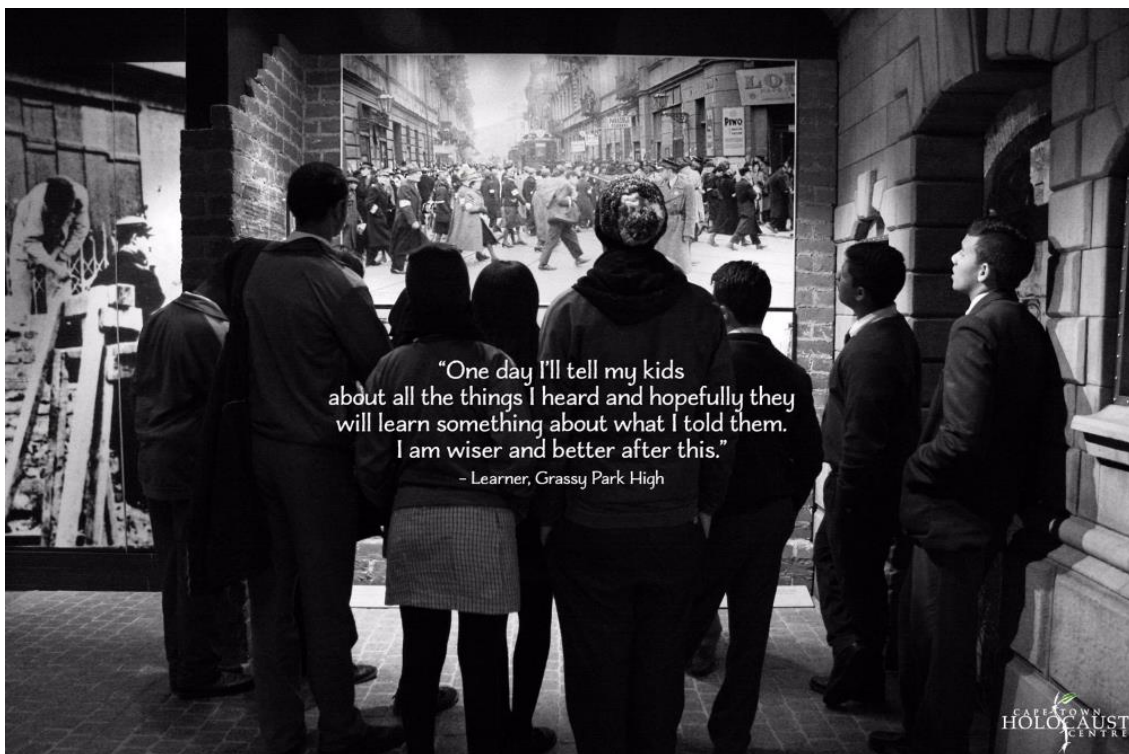
"I thought about today's programme as the most important exhibition I have ever experienced."
Grade 9 learner, Sinenjongo High School



"A valuable learning experience that opened my eyes to how I can effectively teach this very difficult history."
Student, Stellenbosch PGCE



Members of Parliament after a guided tour through the permanent exhibition



Thank you to our wonderful educators & volunteer guides!

If you would like to volunteer at the CTHC, please contact Diana: 021 462 5552 or [email](#) us.

- Become a volunteer guide for our high school programmes
- Welcome visitors to the museum at the front desk

WHITE ROSE ART & WRITING PROJECT 2015

We were delighted to see the incredible growth of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre's annual high school competition, the **White Rose Art & Writing Project**.

The White Rose Project encourages learners to grapple with the theme of resisting injustice through the medium of art, writing and multimedia, using instances of resistance during the Holocaust as a starting point.

On **Youth Day** (16 June) we partnered with Frank Joubert Art Centre to run a workshop for learners from Wynberg Senior Secondary, where they were able to create a group art piece for the White Rose Project. The day was a great success due to the dedication and enthusiasm of all involved.



Then it was time for our annual **exhibition and awards evening**, and what a memorable and special evening it was! On display were 85 writing pieces and 60 artworks from over 140 learners at 24 high schools across South Africa.

We look forward to seeing this project continue to blossom and grow in years to come.



WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

The CTHC has had a busy year running various workshops in Holocaust education and issues around prejudice, discrimination and xenophobia. Annual programmes include partnerships with, among others, the Human Rights Media Centre ([HRMC](#)) and the SA Washington International Programme for Service & Leadership ([SAWIP](#)).



International School for Holocaust Studies, Yad Vashem (Jerusalem)

CTHC Senior Educator Linda Hackner joined delegates from around the world for a programme of Holocaust Studies for educators.



Intergenerational dialogue workshop with HRMC, focusing on the challenges related to intergenerational trauma and forgiveness. The group included participants from South Africa and Rwanda.



Anti-Xenophobia workshop by Chuma, in conjunction with CTHC & Africa Unite. The first day was co-facilitated by Michal Singer and Nokuzola Bikwana (pictured).



'The Other Side of the Coin: The Righteous Among the Nations of the World' by Dr Orla-Bukowska for the CTHC education department and volunteer guides.

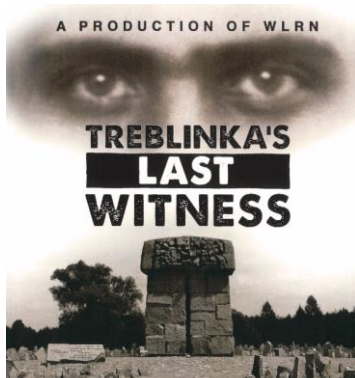
SAHGF ARCHIVE



We are delighted to announce that the digitisation of the first 4000 documents donated to the Centre has been completed through our partnership with the Digital & Digitisation Services at UCT Libraries. The archive continues to grow, with fascinating and priceless collections being donated to the CTHC.

Pictured: CTHC Archival Assistant Dmitri Abrahams with Margaret Selberg and a collection of material belonging to her late husband, Erwin, who fled Nazi Germany for South Africa in the late 1930s.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Wed 14 October, 6pm

Film screening: *Treblinka's Last Witness*

A documentary on Samuel Willenburg, 92, the last living survivor of Treblinka death camp.

Tuesday 20 October, 6pm

Film screening: *Memory Keepers*

A documentary on memory and the pre-war Jewish community of Sighet, Romania.

Wednesday 11 November, 8pm

Public lecture by Edward Serotta, founder of Centropa

Edward Serotta is a journalist and filmmaker specialising in Jewish life in Central and Eastern Europe.

Free entrance to all events, donations welcome.

Light refreshments will be served.

Cape Town Holocaust Centre | 88 Hatfield St, Gardens | 021 462 5553

Opening Hours Sunday - Thursday: 10am - 5pm | Friday: 10am - 2pm
Closed Saturdays and Jewish Holidays



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