



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

Cape Town Holocaust Centre Quarterly Newsletter

April 2016 | *Pesach* Edition



Dear Readers,

What a momentous first quarter this has been for the Cape Town Holocaust Centre. The refurbished permanent exhibition was officially opened on 28 January, to mark United Nations Holocaust Memorial Day. Those who knew the excellent old exhibition have been amazed at the wonderful improvements which have done much to enhance the education programmes and the experience of all our visitors. A visitor from the UK wrote: *"We are so impressed with the exhibition in its revamped form. It is a powerful vehicle for teaching the Holocaust."*

As discussions on racism rage in our media and across all sections of our society, and the debates around the constitution and democracy take centre stage, Holocaust education has a unique and important role to play. It is gratifying therefore, that our education programmes are ever more in demand for school and adult groups. I am always astonished at what our small dedicated team of educators and volunteers are able to achieve. The same can be said for our public programmes which have attracted over 2000 people since the start of the year. None of this would have been possible without the commitment of every member of staff and the generous support of our benefactors and the public in general.

The festival of Passover challenges our understanding of the nature of freedom: freedom of expression, freedom to worship as we wish, freedom to be safe in our diversity, freedom to choose, freedom to stand for what is right. But perhaps above all is the notion that the freedom we wish for ourselves should not be at the expense of others and that we have the obligation to protect the freedom of all people. This is one of the core messages of the work that we do in Holocaust education and remembrance, in this country.

I take this opportunity of wishing all our Jewish supporters and readers *Chag Pesach Sameach*.

Richard Freedman
Director

New Trustees

We are thrilled to welcome our new regional trustees, **Rhoda Kadalie**, **Natalie Barnett** and **Beverley Cohen**.



Rhoda Kadalie

Rhoda's career started as an academic, teaching social anthropology and women's studies at UWC. She has travelled extensively internationally, presenting lectures and papers on human rights and gender politics in South Africa. She was appointed by President Mandela as a Human Rights Commissioner in 1995. Rhoda is now the Executive Director of the Impumelelo Social Innovations Centre, a NGO that rewards social innovations that improve the quality of life of the poor.



Natalie Barnett

Natalie is passionate about education and has been active in curriculum development, teaching and training, and project coordination – including the *Brundibár* Project for the CTHC in 2011. Natalie is a member of the Ikamva Labantu Board and the Midrasha Adult Education Board, and is a vice-chair of the United Herzlia Schools Committee. Natalie says: "I believe that by rising above differences and focusing on our commonalities, we are all capable of working together to improve and appreciate our world."



Beverley Cohen

Beverley taught at Dafna, Herzlia Milnerton and was principal of Saplings Remedial Pre-Primary School. She is a member of the Union of Jewish Women and WIZO, and serves on the United Herzlia Schools Committee and Kensington Creche Committee. Bev is proud to have been associated with the Holocaust Centre since its establishment, and the wonderful work that has been achieved and continues to be done. She has worked as a volunteer guide at the Centre for the past 9 years.

The Cape Town Holocaust Centre Opens its Refurbished Exhibition



The opening of the CTHC's refurbished permanent exhibition took place on 28 January, coinciding with a ceremony to mark **UN Holocaust Memorial Day**. We were honoured to have our patron Justice Richard Goldstone officially open the exhibition, and to have the company of many of those involved in the refurbishment (*left*) – some of whom were on the original team when the Centre was built in 1999!

Our permanent exhibition, often considered to be one of the finest of its size, has been experienced by some 375 000 visitors from throughout South Africa and abroad. We welcome the public to visit this newly renovated space, which includes an upgrade of all visual elements, contemporary multimedia displays and updated content.

Thank you to all involved in making this renewal project possible, and to all our readers for your ongoing support.



A Calendar Full of Events

We've hosted a series of wonderful events this quarter. **Dr Rose Lerer Cohen** (Israel) spoke about personal and cultural plunder in Lithuania during the Holocaust (in partnership with the SA Jewish Museum), **Dr Rolf Wolfswinkel** (USA) discussed *The Predicament of the Jews of Holland* and **Solly Kaplinksi** (Israel) launched his book *A World of Pains, A Redemptive Parable?*

The Centre partnered with the Fugard Bioscope to screen two unmissable Oscar-winning films, ***Ida*** and ***Son of Saul***, and held two screenings on the campus as well: ***Turkish Passport***, and the highly anticipated SA premiere of ***Night Will Fall*** (in partnership with the Jacob Gitlin Library). One of the highlights of the year thus far was participating in the annual **Museum Night** event.

[For event photos, visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CTHC page]

To wrap up this quarter, we hosted **Eva Schloss** – Holocaust survivor and the step-sister of Anne Frank – in the beautiful Gardens Synagogue, where a crowd of over 700 gathered to hear her story. The SAHGF has created a travelling exhibition about Eva and her family, which will visit Cape Town later this year.



Tea at the German Ambassador's Residence



German Ambassador to SA Walter Lindner and his wife Laura hosted a tea for Holocaust survivors at their beautiful Cape Town residence. It was a wonderful afternoon, with many stories shared.

Education Programmes

The education team has been functioning at full capacity running daily programmes for high school groups. So far this year we've worked with **2076 learners from 44 schools** – with visits from schools as far afield as Limpopo! We have had wonderful feedback from both learners and teachers, many commenting on how their visit has changed their understanding of history and the way they see the world around them.



"The things I have learned here today will stay with me for the rest of my life. I have learned to be more compassionate, gentle and caring."

– Learner, New Orleans Secondary School



"I can help make the world a more humane place. Even though I might not change the world completely, I hope that I can make a difference."

– Learner, Shiloah Christian School



"Racism is more than just another topic to be ignored. It is the cause of most of the problems in society. And nothing good can come from treating others badly."

– Learner, Claremont High



"I have never been as moved... As a History student, it was really good to see all the personal accounts and details of the time period that you don't get in textbooks."

– Learner, Glenwood House



SAHGF Teacher Training Workshops

Together with our colleagues in the other Centres, our education team has assisted in facilitating five educator training workshops across the country, in support of the National Curriculum. In addition, the Cape Town team has also run workshops for Post-Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) students from UCT and Stellenbosch University.

Human Rights Day Commemoration Programme 2016

The CTHC, in partnership with the Robben Island Museum, conducted a 4-day programme for Grade 10 learners from 5 high schools across Cape Town, which overlapped with Human Rights Day (21 March). The programme focused on learning about human rights, democracy and the devastating effects of racial prejudice. We look forward to collaborating in the years to come.

"The exhibition moved me in so many ways. I feel lucky to be in a country with people who care about me."

– Grade 10 learner



Thank you to our wonderful educators and volunteers!

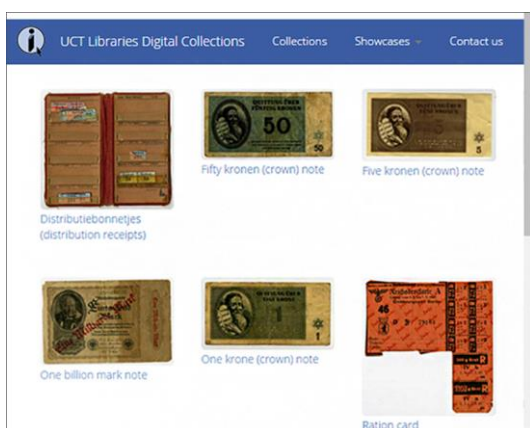
If you would like to volunteer at the CTHC as an education assistant or at the front desk, please contact Diana: 021 462 5552 or diana@holocaust.org.za.



The Cape Town Holocaust Centre's White Rose Art & Writing Project

To enter our annual **White Rose Art & Writing Project** for high school learners in the Western Cape, please contact us: www.holocaust.org.za or admin@holocaust.org.za.

South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation Archive



On all fronts, it has been a busy and exciting year in the archive. Our collection has become well established as part of the prestigious University of Cape Town **Special Collections Library**. The finding aid is available upon request – please contact us.

SAHGF Archive goes live: Our collection can now be viewed on the UCT Libraries database. Please note that this is a work-in-progress, and will be populated with new collections on a regular basis.

If you have original and appropriate material that you would like to donate to the SAHGF Archive, please email Michal Singer at the CTHC: michal@holocaust.org.za.

Upcoming Events

Yom HaShoah Ceremony

Thursday 5 May, 2pm
Pinelands II Cemetery

Lecture: *Holocaust Deception* by Robert M Kaplan

Monday 9 May, 6pm
Cape Town Holocaust Centre, 88 Hatfield St, Gardens

22nd Commemoration of the Genocide in Rwanda

Sunday 15 May, 2pm
88 Hatfield St, Gardens

