



CTHC Newsletter | April 2017

Dear Friends



This autumn edition of our newsletter reflects the diversity of our programmes and events of the last three months. A significant highlight of our activities has been the exhibition “The Promise”, developed by the South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation together with Eva Schloss. The exhibition was used extensively in our education programmes and was visited by over 2000 members of the public. It has closed now, but will be returning, so if you missed it please watch this space! Our volunteers are intrinsic to the success

of the Centre. My colleague Linda Hackner (senior educator and coordinator of our education programmes) has worked intensively with a cohort of new education volunteers since their training at the end of last year. Many of them have now “graduated” and will be part of the education team helping us with the thousands of high school students who come through our programmes, as well as with the many adult groups. We also have new volunteers on our front desk and are so grateful to them all.

With the growing demand on our programmes, we are thrilled to welcome to the Cape Town Holocaust Centre team both Justine Sibomana and Gail Simon. Justine has taken over from Orli Barnett in the capacity of audio-visual and exhibition coordinator and Gail Simon has joined the education team.

We have a very full programme between now and the end of the year. Please follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with all the events and exhibitions. My thanks to colleagues both here at the Centre and in the Holocaust Centres in Johannesburg and Durban, and to our benefactors and supporters who have made this rich programme possible.

As we enter the period of the Jewish festival of Pesach, symbolising freedom from slavery and oppression, we are aware of the challenges facing the world. One of the

major foci of our education programmes is the “fragility of democracy”. The Nazi era saw how the state set about dismantling the fragile democracy of the Weimar Republic. Through fear and propaganda and the manipulation of society a new order was created, which had disastrous and tragic consequences for Jews all over the world.

It is difficult for the individual to influence the broad sweep of the political and social changes engulfing the world, but through our programmes we hope to make the participants aware of their own sense of agency in addressing injustices in our immediate society and of the disastrous consequences of apathy and silence.

I take this opportunity of wishing you a Pesach *Sameach*, and for those who celebrated Easter recently I hope that the meaning of the festival will inspire to become aware of the possibility of building a better world for all.

Richard Freedman
Director

Girls eating matzah on Passover at the Rothschild
Center, Vienna, Austria, postwar
Yad Vashem Archives



Chag pesach sameach



From the staff at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre

Please Note: The Cape Town Holocaust Centre will be closed on the upcoming Jewish holidays in April, with early closing times on each Erev Chag.

Contents

1. In Memory of Ahmed Kathrada
2. A full Calendar of Events
3. The Promise: Travelling Exhibition
4. Education Programmes
5. Volunteer Guide Training
6. New staff
7. SAHGF Archive
8. Upcoming Events
9. Contact Us

In Memory Of Ahmed Kathrada



Anti-apartheid stalwart Ahmed Kathrada takes in the Anne Frank exhibition at Constitution Hill © The City of Johannesburg

We note with sadness the passing of an icon in the struggle for a just non-racial society. Ahmed Kathrada had a close association with the Cape Town Holocaust Centre and especially with our work with Anne Frank House in Amsterdam and the travelling exhibitions on Anne Frank which came to South Africa. "The Diary of Anne Frank" was one of the treasured texts of the political prisoners on Robben Island. Mr Kathrada often spoke about how he meticulously copied out passages from the diary when the book fell apart and how inspirational the courage and words of a young Jewish girl were to them on Robben Island as they struggled with the injustice of their imprisonment and a society which had placed them there.

A Full Calendar of Events



The Cape Town Holocaust Centre hosted a number of events this quarter. The first event was a ceremony to mark the 2017 United Nations International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. The keynote address, entitled ***'Austria Dealing with the Past: Restitution and the Future of Remembrance'*** was delivered by **Hannah M. Lessing**, Secretary General of the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism.

In February, **Dr Michael J. Cohen**, Emeritus Professor of History at the Bar-Ilan University spoke to a capacity crowd on the fascinating topic of why the British did not bomb Auschwitz in 1944, in partnership with the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies at UCT.

March began with the opening of an exhibition to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Babyn Yar massacre, in partnership with the Embassy of Ukraine. This was followed by a thoughtful and insightful lecture by **Dr Werner Dreier** of *erinnern.at* entitled ***'Holocaust in Public Memory and in Education in Austria'*** through the generosity of the Austrian embassy.

In April, the CTHC partnered with the South African Jewish Museum, to host a public lecture by **Dr Steven Uran** entitled ***'In the Shadow of the Holocaust'*** addressing the issue of antisemitism in contemporary France.

[For event photos, visit our [Facebook page](#) our [Facebook page](#).]



The Promise: Travelling Exhibition

This exhibition developed by SAHGF shows the story of the Geiringer family as told by Eva Geiringer Schloss, and focuses on their experiences – the advance of Nazi occupation, being in hiding and discovery, deportation, death and survival. Eva's brother Heinz's paintings and poetry are the heart of the exhibition, and this is what we invited learners to engage with. Each learner was given a Post-It on which to express their thoughts and feelings about one of Heinz's paintings, or one of his poems. Heinz perished in Auschwitz, aged 19. Eva has been touched by the profound impact her brother's legacy is having on young South Africans, and the way in which this history is resonating with them.

Knowing that Eva would be reading their comments, some of them addressed her directly:

Hello. My name is Lydia and I am aware that we were to write about which one of your brother's paintings or poems affected us. I would like to inform you that not a single one of your brother's works touched me but ALL of them spoke to me, called to me, told me a story – the story of what went on in his head, what he thought about and what he felt. He was a great person with an amazing plane of thought. He has a creative eye and a skilful gift for poetry. It is a shame that a man like him had his life so wrongfully taken but I am grateful for the gifts he left us. Love Lydia.

Education Programmes

The education team continues to run a full programme for high school learners from the greater Cape Town area. Over 38 schools and 1799 learners have visited the Centre since the start of 2017, and the feedback from both learners and educators has shown how impactful and inspiring these visits have been.

View more photos from our programmes on our [Facebook page](#).



I am so grateful for coming here today because I've learnt a lot of things I did not know existed.

**-Grade 9 learner,
Bardale high school**



"I feel very bad for what people had to go through back then. I... think we should make the world a better place. Lots of people lost their lives and we should make a change."

- Grade 9 learner, Bonteheuwel High School



"It really gave me a human aspect. I am so used to reading about the Holocaust as facts and figures, and this experience has really given the victims names and faces, which is really quite incredible. I was surprised that there was such a wide variety of original artefacts at the Centre, which to be honest, I really didn't expect – it was quite fantastic to see." - **Grade 9 learner (SACS)**



"I found today's programme useful and that it has given me a new view on how I live my life."

-Grade 9 learner, International School of Helderberg

Teacher Training



As part of the South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation teacher training program the CTHC and DHC conducted 7 teacher workshops reaching over 200 educators in 6 different districts of Kwazulu Natal.

Working with the educators is always both humbling and uplifting. Our colleagues in some of the rural areas work under circumstances that are often extremely trying – yet their dedication, passion and desire for professional development is undiminished.

A few of the comments from educators have been included below:

- *"The workshop was very useful and will increase the standard of history in Grade 9."*
- *"All educators should be invited to a workshop like this to improve our teaching and learning"*
- *"What stands out for me is how to treasure human rights and to understand that we*

all can make choices good or bad. It was so enriching. We discussed issues of race identity, human rights, decency and respect of all humans without prejudice and stereotyping - teaching our learners to be human."

- *"The workshop was very fruitful and quality history teachers can be produced by such workshops."*

White Rose Art & Writing Project



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

The Cape Town Holocaust Centre is delighted to invite **all Grade 9-12** learners in the Western Cape to contribute to the annual White Rose Art & Writing Project.

This year's theme is:
Recognising & Resisting Injustice

Please submit your
art or writing piece
to your teacher.

The closing date
for entries is
Thursday 27 July

**Fantastic prizes
to be won!**

Visit us at:
www.facebook.com/CTHCpage
www.holocaust.org.za



Members of the White Rose: Hans & Sophie Scholl and Christoph Probst, 1942

The project takes its name from a group of German university students who resisted Nazi oppression. They were known as the White Rose Movement.

What is the aim of the project?

- To encourage a greater understanding of the need to protect human rights and freedom of expression.
- To be a catalyst in empowering participants to each find their voice in resisting injustices within their own environment.
- To learn about resistance to Nazi oppression during the Holocaust, and to consider what relevance this history has for a South African in 2017.

We invite all Grade 9-12 learners in the Western Cape to contribute to our White Rose Art & Writing Project. Work will be displayed at an exhibition & awards evening later this year, and there are prizes to be won.

We look forward to receiving your essays, stories, poems, songs and artwork! For further information, and to download the entry pack, visit our website www.holocaust.org.za.

Volunteer Guide Training



In November last year, a training course for volunteer guides took place at the CTHC. The course itself is only one week in duration, but the time required to become proficient is where the commitment comes in. Our trainee guides have been working diligently for the last four months, shadowing our experienced guides and making sure that they know the exhibition and feel confident with the way we use it to explain the history to learners. Our thanks go to the “veteran” guides for generously offering their help and support to the new recruits. Six of our new guides are already “up and running” and have been guiding schools learners through the exhibition. We hope to run further training courses in the future.

Become a volunteer!

If you would like to volunteer at the CTHC as an education assistant (guide for school groups) or at the front desk, please contact Diana: 021 462 5553 or diana@holocaust.org.za

New Staff



Justine Sibomana

Justine has joined the CTHC as the Audiovisual and Exhibition Coordinator. Her role involves design, marketing and providing audiovisual support for all CTHC events and maintaining the smooth-running of the permanent and travelling exhibitions. Originally from Rwanda, and having stayed as a refugee in various countries, she can identify with the evils of ethnic repression and what it feels like to be uprooted. This motivates her to be part of our mission to keep learning our lessons from history and build a more peaceful future.



Gail Simon

Gail has joined the educators' team after a long career in High School English teaching which has spanned 30 years. She brings with her experience and passion and a willingness to learn. She is hoping to be a meaningful part of the dynamic educators' team.

News From the Archive

The archive keeps growing!

The SAHGF Archive is made up of many collections – including a range of rare and historic artefacts, papers recording South African communal efforts to commemorate the Holocaust, and a steadily expanding audio visual collection of survivor testimony.

We would not be able to accomplish our work without the support of our archival team and volunteers. Special thanks are extended to Dmitri Abrahams, Olwethu Mbenyane, Sonja Keschner, Jocelyn Stoch, and Sean O’Sullivan.



SHIP: The Student Holocaust Interviewing Project

In the mid-1980s, the South African Union of Jewish Students coordinated a national project to interview Holocaust survivors. Dedicated SAUJS students worked with the *Sheereth Hapletah* (Association of Holocaust Survivors), as well as other communal bodies, to give voice to survivors settled in South Africa. Interest in the SHIP project was recently revived when we received six audio cassettes bearing recordings of survivors that had been donated to the Durban Holocaust Centre. We have since located another set of these interviews at the UCT Special Collections Library.

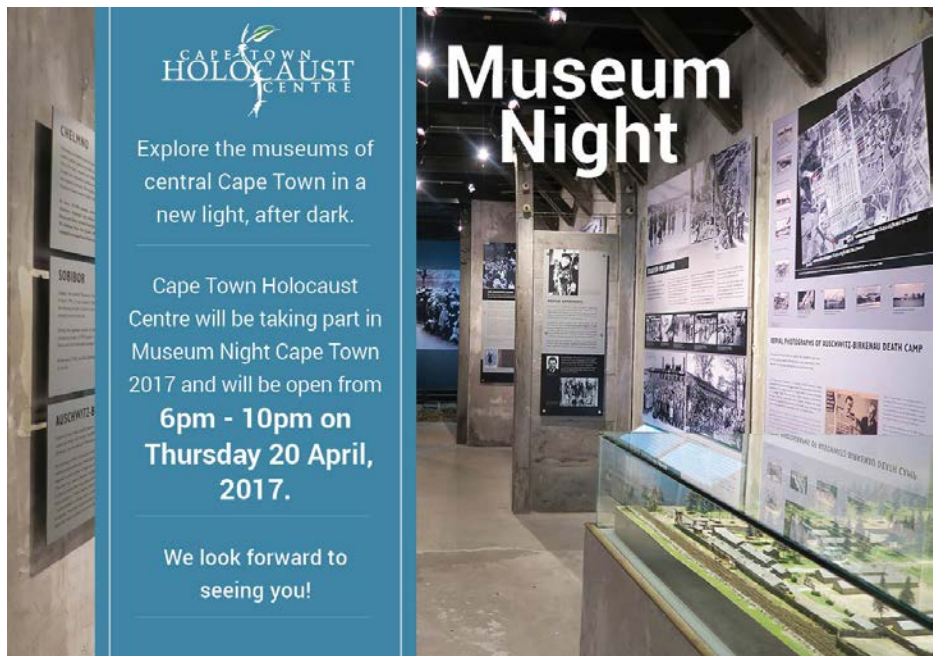
If you have any information regarding the SAUJS SHIP project, please contact the Cape Town Holocaust Centre.

All artefacts donated to the SAHGF Archive are handled with the utmost sensitivity and are safely deposited in secure, climate-controlled, storage facilities through our partnership with **UCT Libraries Special Collections**. An ongoing process of digitization makes the collection accessible to the public through a dedicated website.

Want to get involved?

The work of the SAHGF Archive is ongoing, and we rely on volunteers for much of the work. If you are interested in getting involved, or wish to discuss handing over personal archival collections related to the Holocaust, please contact Michal Singer: 021 462 5553 or via email.

Upcoming Events



**CAPE TOWN
HOLOCAUST
CENTRE**

Explore the museums of
central Cape Town in a
new light, after dark.

Cape Town Holocaust
Centre will be taking part in
Museum Night Cape Town
2017 and will be open from
**6pm - 10pm on
Thursday 20 April,
2017.**

We look forward to
seeing you!

Museum Night

Robin Ruizendaal
I have a Name
Monday 11 May, 6pm

The Cape Town Holocaust Centre invites you to a play entitled:

I HAVE A NAME

This play celebrates the joys of childhood in the shadow of war and genocide. *I Have a Name* does not focus on the horrors, but instead is a tenderly remembering several children. The play takes the audience on a voyage of realization what happens when we are not aware of the forces of evil, and that this can happen again anywhere in the world, anytime. The play was inspired after viewing the book 'In Memoriam' by Susan Lappin and Aileen Pennewell. The book only contains a long list of names, as well as 3000 photos, of the 17964 Jewish, Roma and Sinti children that were deported from the Netherlands between 1942 and 1945, and killed in concentration camps.

Thursday 11 May, 6pm
Cape Town Holocaust Centre,
88 Hatfield St, Gardens

Director: Robin Ruizendaal
Puppeteers: Robin Ruizendaal and Anne Rodier
Stage and puppet makers: Lisa Shivan and Kim Seibert
Music creation: Snow Huang
Play created by: Robin Ruizendaal and Wu Shan-shan

Light refreshments will be served.
Admission is free, donations are welcome.
Booking essential: 021 462 5553 or
admin@holocaust.org.za

* permission was granted by the family members of the deceased for the use of the photo




Malka Nedivi
Tzipora's Nest
Monday 18 May, 6pm

The Cape Town Holocaust Centre invites you to the screening of

TZIPORA'S NEST


Thursday 18th May at 6pm
Cape Town Holocaust Centre,
88 Hatfield St, Gardens

When Malka Nedivi discovers her estranged mother, Tzipora, is subsisting on mouldy bread, she moves from Los Angeles to Israel to care for her. 'Tzipora's Nest' follows Malka's struggle to help her elderly mother while getting lost between the roles of daughter, only daughter, wife and mother. Fifteen years in the making, Tzipora's Nest invites you into a world you have never seen. Filmed by her six-year-old, sixteen-year-old and even strangers on the street, 'Tzipora's Nest' asks you to put aside any notion of 'realism' or 'cinema', and simply welcomes you to become part of the family.

Malka Nedivi was born in Rehovot, Israel in 1952, an only child to parents who survived the Holocaust and emigrated from Poland. After her studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, she moved to Los Angeles, where she established herself as a sculptor and mixed media artist. Her artwork is directly inspired by her experience of dealing with her past and her parents' unknown past. Her work has been featured in numerous galleries around California.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with our honoured guest, Malka.

Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free, donations are welcome.
Booking essential: 021 462 5553 or admin@holocaust.org.za



**23rd Commemoration of
Genocide Against Tutsi in Rwanda**
Sunday 28 May, 2pm - 4pm

SAVE THE DATE

23rd COMMEMORATION OF GENOCIDE AGAINST TUTSI IN RWANDA

Members of the Rwandan Community in Cape Town, The Cape Town Holocaust Centre and friends of Rwanda cordially invite you to join us in the memorial ceremony:

Sunday 28 May, 2pm - 4pm
Cape Town Holocaust Centre, 88 Hatfield Street, Gardens

The event will include a screening, the lighting of candles and an address from the High Commissioner of Rwanda in South Africa.

RSVP: 021 462 5553 or admin@holocaust.org.za





Philippe Sands
East West Street
Sunday 21 May, 3pm

The Cape Town Holocaust Centre, in partnership with the Jacob Gitlin Library, invites you to a book launch with author **Philippe Sands**

EAST WEST STREET

On the Origins of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity

In *East West Street*, Philippe Sands uncovers a series of extraordinary historical coincidences that set him on a quest that would take him halfway around the world in an exploration of the origins of international law and the pursuit of his own secret family history. The journey begins and ends with the last day of the Nuremberg Trials.

Philippe Sands QC is Professor of Law at University College London and a practising barrister at Matrix Chambers. He frequently appears before international courts, including the International Criminal Court and the World Court in The Hague, and has been involved in many of the most important cases of recent years, including Pinochet, Congo, Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Iraq and Guantanamo.

Sunday 21 May, 3pm
Cape Town
Holocaust Centre,
88 Hatfield St, Gardens

Light refreshments will be served.
Admission is free, donations are welcome.
Booking essential: 021 462 5553 or admin@holocaust.org.za






Contact us

Cape Town Holocaust Centre

88 Hatfield St, Gardens, Cape Town

Telephone: 021 462 5553

Email: admin@holocaust.org.za

Website: www.holocaust.org.za

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CTHCpage

Opening Hours:

SUN – THURS: 10am-5pm

FRI: 10am – 2pm

Closed Saturdays and Jewish Holidays

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

Copyright © 2016 Cape Town Holocaust Centre, All rights reserved.