

## CAPE TOWN HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE CENTRE 20 YEARS ON



Dear Friends

I am often asked why there are so many children who visit the Holocaust Centre each day. Well, as the Department of Education's official provider of Holocaust education for Grade 9 and Grade 11 (History) learners, our educational programmes play a vital role in supporting both learners and teachers through our Teachers Training workshops, in understanding and teaching the CAPS curriculum.

In order to add another dimension to their knowledge of the Holocaust, we strive where possible to source outside projects that can contribute to the learner's understanding of the Holocaust as well as other life lessons that can be applied in their day to day lives.

One such project was the Children Of Willesden Lane, where not only did 5000 learners receive a copy of the book to be read and discussed within their school environment, but each child was given the opportunity of attending Mona Golabek's performance of The Children of Willesden Lane. For many of our children who come from disadvantaged areas, this was probably the first time they had ventured outside of their area, to experience a live performance at the Cape Town City Hall. Truly a special and memorable experience for the children!

This year the White Rose Creative Project pushed the creative juices of learners within the Western Cape. Their interpretation and execution of the theme 'Reflections of my visit to the Cape Town & Holocaust Centre' was truly inspiring. Through their poetry and art, one got a sense of the importance of fighting prejudice, racism and antisemitism

The variety of talks, films and events drew in large audiences, many of whom are new comers to the Centre. As a Centre of memory which draws on the testimonies of our survivors, Ella Blumenthal was invited to talk at a special evening hosted by the learners of DF Malan and Fairmont High Schools. As Ella embraced and spoke to each learner, one of the teachers remarked to Linda Hackner our Education Director "The Children are Hugging History." We are privileged and honoured to have in our midst, our Special Survivors whose stories, memories and sense of resilience becomes an inspiration to all of us who work and volunteer at the Centre. It is because of them that we endeavour to keep the flame burning and the memory alive of those who perished.

Rosh Hashana is a time of reflection and introspection; a time for new beginnings and as we enter into this New Year, we wish all our Jewish Friends of the Centre, supporters and benefactors:

"L'shanah tovah tikateivu v'teichateimu"

**Heather Blumenthal**  
**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 &  
Genocide Centre



Lodz, Poland, Jewish New Year's greetings card from the ghetto, 1940

**Please Note:** The Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre will be closed on the upcoming Jewish holidays in September and October, with early closing times on each Erev Chag.

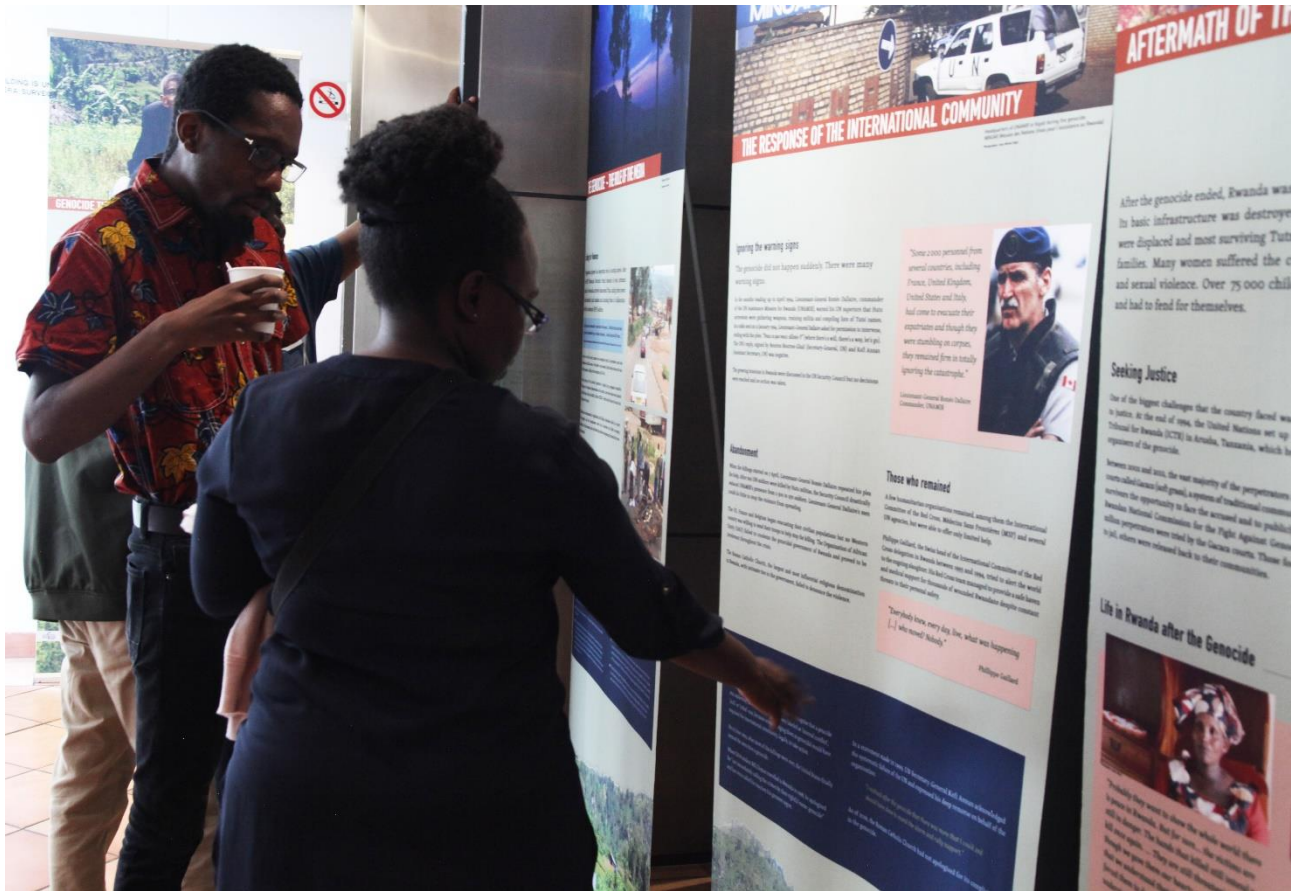
## CLOSING TIMES DURING SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Sunday, 29 September  
Monday, 30 September  
Tuesday, 1 October  
Tuesday, 8 October  
Wednesday, 9 October  
Sunday, 13 October  
Monday, 14 October  
Tuesday, 15 October  
Sunday, 20 October  
Monday, 21 October  
Tuesday, 22 October

Exhibition closes at 2pm  
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# EXHIBITION

## Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda



The temporary exhibition which was up for the duration of the 100 day Commemoration of the 1994 Tutsi Genocide in Rwanda traces the events leading to and following the genocide. The exhibition also includes emotive stories of the victims and survivors.



# White Rose Creative Project



On July 25 2019, the awards ceremony for the annual White Rose Creative Project was held at our Centre.

A record number of learners from around the Western Cape submitted fine art, creative writing and film entries in honour of and inspired by the White Rose Movement's bravery and courage in resisting the relentless oppression of Nazi Germany. The children enjoyed the opportunity to have their exceptional works displayed publically. A selection of powerful poetry entries were performed by their authors on the night.

Over 200 guests attended – including the participants, parents, proud teachers, external judges and members of the public. The annual project is sponsored by the Smith family, who handed out awards to the deserving winners.

# A CALENDAR FULL OF EVENTS



**The Centre hosted a number of public lectures and screenings in the past 6 months. Here are some of the events:**



## Victors Among Victims

The CTHGC, in partnership with the Jacob Gitlin Library, hosted a thought-provoking lecture by Prof Art Shostak entitled "Victors Among Victims." In his lecture he drew on 200 survivor memoirs in order to share inspiring accounts of altruistic care provided at great peril by Jewish victims for less fortunate others.



## New Dimensions in Survivor Testimony

The CTHGC held the 20th Anniversary lecture by Dr Stephen Smith, the Executive Director of the USC Shoah Foundation, entitled "New Dimensions in Survivor Testimony." He shared how the Foundation is using technology to preserve survivor testimony. Guests also got the opportunity to engage in a "virtual conversation" with Pinchas Gutter, a survivor of six Nazi concentration camps.



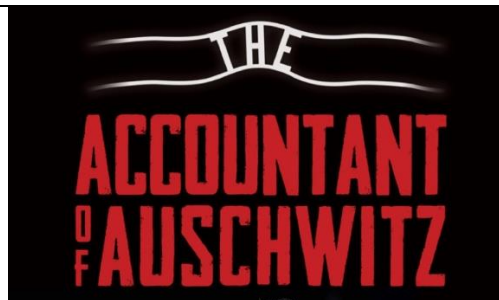
## World Refugee Day

The CTHGC in partnership with Women and Children at Concern (WCC) held a moving event to mark World Refugee Day. The keynote address, given by Prof Brian Williams, was entitled "Refugees... beyond simplicity."



## Birds are Singing in Kigali

The award winning film "Bird are Singing in Kigali" was screened to mark the end of the 100 day Commemoration of the genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda. The film set in both Poland and Rwanda dealt with a number of topics including trauma, racism and the treatment of women.



## The Accountant of Auschwitz

The complexities of bringing former Nazis to justice was explored in the award winning film "The Accountant of Auschwitz." The centre screened the disturbing and thought-provoking story of Oskar Gröning, one of the last surviving members of the SS to be brought to trial.



## In My Fathers Words

Richard K. Lowy shared a special presentation that included a screening of "Leo's Journey," a film that chronicles Holocaust survivor Leo Lowy's story of how the Nazi Doctor, Joseph Mengele, performed experiments on Jewish twins in Auschwitz during World War II. Richard carries his father's torch so others may learn what actually happened "Behind The Closed Doors Of Auschwitz." The event was hosted in partnership with the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning and the Green, Sea Point Hebrew Congregation and the South African Jewish Museum.



## 75th Anniversary of the Rhodeslis Deportations



The CTHGC together with Joe Mallel of the Sephardi Community mounted an exhibition of life on Rhodes Island prior to the deportations of 1944. The event was in honour of this very strong and close knit community and was attended by over 180 people. The Shalom choir sang Sephardi songs and the Chairman of our Board of Trustees, Gerald Diamond, provided an excellent opening address. After a candle lighting ceremony and poetry reading, the keynote speaker Milena Consentino, spoke about inter-generational trauma within the Rhodes Island community. The exhibition is a taster for a larger and more permanent exhibition on the Rhode Island community which we look forward to hosting next year.

## Women's Day





200 women from all walks of life came to the CTHGC to celebrate our inaugural Women's Day Event. The event inspired by the Women's March to the Union Buildings in 1956 was used to celebrate women's courage, strength and resilience. Shared stories of women who survived the Holocaust and influenced generations of their families, were juxtaposed with stories of women who survived the Rwandan Genocide and the healing power of their "many mothers and sisters" who supported them on their journey to a new life. In addition, there were numerous prizes won by very excited attendees. This event was made possible by the George Elkin Charity Trust and the event patron Shelley Friedman.

## *Children of Willesden Lane*



The CTHGC in partnership with Hold On To Your Music, a United States-based foundation, coordinated a city-wide read of the book, "The Children of Willesden Lane" where 5000 books were distributed to schools from all over the peninsula. Over 800 guests from the public and some 3656 lucky learners were able to attend a live performance of *The Children of Willesden Lane* at the Cape Town City Hall, where Mona Golabek, author of the book, in a poignant tribute, told her mother's story and played some of the world's most beloved piano pieces.

For most of the learners this was their first visit to the Cape Town City Hall and their first time hearing a live performance given by a world renowned concert pianist. The effect that it had was mesmerising. Members of the audience were absolutely spellbound and their questions for Mona after the performance were indicative of their deep connection to the story. Through this exceptional programme we were able to engage learners with Holocaust history, help them come to understand the importance of standing up against bigotry and hatred and provide them with an opportunity to develop their reading and comprehension skills and to experience the transformative power of music.

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



# COMMEMORATION

## *Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda*



*We remembered the victims of the Srebrenica Massacre which occurred 24 years ago.*

## *Educational Programmes*



## Schools

*Why do we have at least 60 learners coming through the centre each day? What is it we do with them? How do we manage the numbers through the exhibition and what are some of the outcomes?*

*Holocaust studies in the Grade 9 in the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) has its focus on WW2 and people's experiences. This is an opportunity for our learners to focus on the Holocaust as a case study of human rights abuse and to use it as a springboard to deal with our own issues of xenophobia and racism here in South Africa. We work with the Grade 9s to help them see how the road to genocide is paved with prejudice, stereotyping, and other insidious ways leaders can turn the people in a country against one another. We teach using different methodologies and technologies, but the main part of the day is the guided tour through the exhibition which is conducted entirely by volunteer guides who have been trained at the Centre. The visit has remarkable effects on the learners, many of whom feel empowered to be agents of change within their own circle of influence.*

*"Race is a social construct and not something we should judge others on. We are all more alike than we think and believe"*

*The Grade 11 CAPS is different in that it looks at ideas of race in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Many of the learners come back to us having been here in Grade 9 and it is interesting to hear them comment on how differently they access the exhibition being two years older and more mature. The programmes we run with Grade 11 learners delve much more deeply into the pseudoscience of race theories and all the results thereof. After visiting us in August and September, Grade 11 learners from two different schools wrote the following:*

*"Education can lead to people being led astray, or manipulated. If you don't have a moral compass to know when you are doing something wrong or inhumane you shall continue doing it. Stereotypes help no-one."*

*"The most important thing I learnt today is that kindness, empathy and just common humanity is really needed in life and shouldn't be underestimated or neglected. Kindness to those who are in need, empathy to those who are hurt and common humanity to remind us that "those" are humans."*

*These are among many profound responses that we receive from learners. As we say in the Education Department – "a seed planted can a forest make."*

## Young Adults

*Our programmes are not limited to schools, we have had many groups of young adults come through our doors – some from academic institutions such as UCT, the University of Stellenbosch, UWC and CPU. These students range from potential teachers, to German language students to literature students and to Psychiatric Nursing students. We have also hosted dance academies and in one special case a theatre group from Rwanda who in their work teach about the Rwandan Genocide. Each group is given a tailored programme to enhance what they are learning and to deepen their understanding of history as the story of our collective humanity.*



# Adult Education

*A very successful and important part of the work that we do is with people in the commercial sector.*

*We run programmes for businesses that require diversity training or would like workshops as part of their ongoing professional development. As we provide a safe space for people to express themselves, these programmes have proven to be very successful.*

## Guided Tours



*For the first time since its inception, the CTHGC ran guided tours for adults during the school holidays. With no more than 15 people per group, participants were able to engage in a personal and intimate guided tour through our award winning exhibition.*

*People from all walks of life participated in the tours; many from outside of the Jewish community, with a genuine interest in developing and enhancing their knowledge of this history. Some of those within the Jewish community who had never been part of a guided tour through our exhibition, commented on how inspired and moved they were to hear individual stories of victims, of survivors and of rescuers.*

*Because our guided tours have been so successful, the staff at the CTHGC has unanimously decided to make this a feature of our calendar and we look forward to meeting many more people through this forum.*

***Here is some feedback from the participants:***

***“A very well and knowledgeably presented tour – a must see and do!”***

*"The world then and the world now still have voices who say no to hate."*

*"I am glad that there is education about such topics and one can reflect and be able to hope."*

*"Thank you so much for today. It was BRILLIANT!"*

## Workshops for Guides and Educators



*Shikhaya and Facing History ran interactive workshop for educators using the film "Schindler's List" to address issues around racism, antisemitism and other forms of hatred.*



# News from the Archive

## **A Guide To Arranging A Collection**

*What happens to your collection once you've donated it to the archive?*

*All material is assessed to ensure that it falls within the scope of the SAHGF Archive. Material that falls outside of our ambit is either returned to the donor or donated to more suitable archives. The items that are accepted into the archive are then divided into five distinct categories or types. These are correspondence, documents, publications, photographs and ephemera.*



*Archive Intern Kine Matose sorting through one of our new collections*

*Thereafter, all metal staples and pins are removed and replaced with acid free plastic coated paperclips to ensure there is no further damage. As far as possible items are arranged chronologically and undated items are placed at the end. All the items are then placed in acid free tissue paper to preserve them and labels are applied for easy identification.*



*Documents from the Joseph Rabinowitz collection placed in acid free tissue paper.*

*The material is then placed in acid free boxes and transported to UCT Special Collections, where some of the material is digitized. The entire collection is then placed in a climate controlled storage room, from where it is retrieved on request by researchers, academics and the general public.*



*Some of our collections in the UCT Special Collection, storage rooms climate controlled.*



Through our partnership with **UCT Libraries Special Collections**. All our digitized material is accessible to the public on a dedicated platform, named Access to Memory (AtoM).

[To view our collection click this button!](#)

*Want to get involved?*

*The work of the SAHGF Archive is ongoing. If you are interested in getting involved, or wish to discuss handing over personal archival collections related to WW II, Jewish life in Europe before the war, The Holocaust and other Genocides, please contact Dmitri Abrahams: 021 462 5553 or via [email](#).*

## New Intern



*Kine Matose is currently in his final year of a BA majoring in History and Organisational Psychology at UCT. Kine is interning in the Archives Department. He also works as a guide in the Education Department to learn how the Centre translates the history of the Holocaust in a “digestible” manner and to teach the importance of understanding that we have a collective humanity.*

## Volunteers



## Volunteer Guides

*Not a single programme could take place without our dedicated, professional and energetic volunteers. The volunteer guides are really the face of the exhibition – they are the ones who engage with the learners and adults young and old. They help people make the links through the exhibition, they allow the history to unfold for those they are guiding in a way that absorbs*

the listeners. Every single guide has been on a guide training programme and we constantly upgrade skills by conducting workshops with the team whether run by the facilitators at the Centre or by our many visiting lecturers and academics.

*"I enjoy meeting the young people, all of whom come from different backgrounds and my interaction allows me to be very aware of the learners and their teachers, those who are privileged and those who are not. Working here for the past fifteen years has taught me so many things, the most important of which is to be humble and compassionate, wherever one finds oneself."*

**Pat Jacobson**

*"At the end of last year I joined the training group for volunteers in the hopes that I would be able to absorb and to communicate the vast and complex content. Instantly I was surprised. It was not simply a matter of learning new content. It was so much more than I had ever considered."*

*It was about a much the wider purpose of exposing this chapter in history to young adults from schools throughout the Western Cape. It is about Human Rights, South Africa's apartheid past, the fragility of democracy; the dangers of propaganda and prejudice, bullying and violence. All this being drawn from and directly related to Genocides and the Holocaust."*

**Viv Basckin**

*"The Holocaust and the lessons associated with it and genocide in general has always been something that I have had a deep connection with. The opportunity to be able to guide Grade 9 and Grade 11 learners from all walks of life in Cape Town was very exciting for me as I believed I had so much to offer and to teach. What I didn't realize was how much these young learners would be teaching me, particularly with their openness to receiving what we are trying to get across. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity and hope that I make a difference in some small way."*

**Lisa Tarlie**

## **Front Desk Volunteers**

Every visitor who comes to our centre is greeted and welcomed by our front desk volunteers. These amazing people are the face of our centre and they make sure those visitors whether from near or far are made to feel valued and special. They help us maintain the statistics for the centre by noting numbers of people through the exhibition, in their gentle and elegant way they ask for donations and comments for our visitors' books and they often act as fonts of knowledge about Cape Town for those out-of-towners who are trying to find their way around our city. We know that first impressions are important, and our front desk volunteers are always warm and welcoming.

*"There are 3 reasons that give added meaning to my life. First are the other volunteers and guides who I meet in the course of my time at the Centre. Second are the visitors from literally all over the world, many of whom stop to talk after they have toured the exhibition and third and most important are the staff all of whom are warm, friendly and helpful to the nth degree. My Monday afternoons at the Centre are a very important part of my life and I would not miss a session unless it is really necessary."*

**Sheila Edelstein**

*"I feel privileged to have been a volunteer for the last 15 years at the Holocaust Centre. While I enjoy my interactions with the guests that pass through, my true motivation is the small part I am able to play in keeping alive the memory of my late mother-in-law Violette Fintz and all*



*the other victims of the Holocaust."*

*Lindsay Fintz*

# BECOME A VOLUNTEER GUIDE

## AT THE CAPE TOWN HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE CENTRE

*For school and adult groups*



### **Are you:**

- Able to volunteer one morning each month?
- Open to impacting the lives of others?

### **We offer:**

- A week long initial training programme on how to guide and present the history in a meaningful and relevant manner
- Ongoing mentoring and training by experienced teaching staff

20 - 24 January 2020, 9:30am - 3pm

Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre, 88 Hatfield St, Gardens

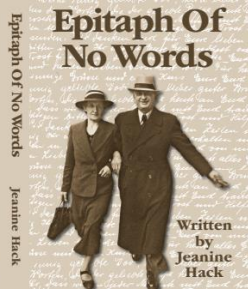
For info and to book: [danielle@holocaust.org.za](mailto:danielle@holocaust.org.za) or 021 462 5553  
visit [www.ctholocaust.co.za](http://www.ctholocaust.co.za) | [www.facebook.com/CTHGCentre](https://www.facebook.com/CTHGCentre)



***Become a Front Desk Volunteer!***

*If you would like to volunteer at the CTHGC front desk, please contact Dianne: 021 462 5553 or [admin@holocaust.org.za](mailto:admin@holocaust.org.za)*

# Upcoming Events



## **Epitaph of No Words**

*A book launch by the author Jeanine Hack*

Thursday 3 October, 10:30am

88 Hatfield St, Gardens

RSVP: 021 462 5553 or [admin@holocaust.org.za](mailto:admin@holocaust.org.za)



## **Documenting History Through Art**

*A public lecture by Leora Raikin*

Wednesday 16 October, 6pm

88 Hatfield St, Gardens

RSVP: 021 462 5553 or [admin@holocaust.org.za](mailto:admin@holocaust.org.za)

# Support Us

## [Donate](#)

*As a non-profit, the CTHGC is dependent on the generosity of donations and partnerships to ensure the continuation of our myriad activities. All donations to the CTHGC are tax deductible in terms of Section 18 (A) of the Income Tax Act.*

*Your contribution will make an immediate and direct impact on our work.*

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Have you visited us recently? Review us on online!

