

Dear Friends,

Since the beginning of 2010, our Centre has held events, workshops and activities, many of which are captured in this 5th issue. Our team continues to work from a temporary office in Raedene, however, we have secured the rights to start construction on our permanent home in Forest Town. The future site of the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre (JHGC) will be on Jan Smuts Avenue, opposite the Westcliff Hotel. Official launch and further details will follow shortly.

Tali Nates (Director)

## Education

Our facilitators have been extremely busy conducting educator workshops for educators from both the Department of Education (DoE) and Private Schools (IEB) around Gauteng and have travelled to Mpumalanga and the North West Province. Response to these workshops has been overwhelming with educators coming away with a real sense of achievement.

*'A superb workshop – a testimony to your commitment and passion to making a difference.'* Educator

Facilitators and guest speakers from the JHGC are often invited to address or conduct workshops for learners. The workshops cover a variety of topics with a focus on Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights issues, in particular, building a strong community and celebrating its diversity.



Facilitator, Freda Qanya at work in Tshwane North.



Facilitator, Tracey Harvey in discussion with educators at the IEB workshop, Gauteng.



Calvin Buthelezi, Deputy Chief Education Specialist, FET History, Mpumalanga DoE, travelled from Nelspruit to Ermelo to spend time with the educators, photographed with Poppie Makalima, Senior Education Specialist in Social Sciences from the Gert Sibanda region.



Bonaventure Kageruka, Rwandan survivor, addressed Grade 9 and 10 learners at The King's College.



An interactive exercise at a workshop held for Grade 12 learners at Redhill School.



Group work is an important element of the workshops.

## Remembrance and Commemoration

The United Nations International Day of Commemoration, 27 January, in memory of the victims of the Holocaust marked the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp.

The UN central theme for 2010, *Legacy of Survival*, emphasizes the importance of survivor testimony for succeeding generations.

The JHGC were involved in two events – one in Johannesburg and the other in Pretoria. A memorable evening was held in partnership with the Apartheid Museum, Anne Frank House and United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), paying tribute to the children of the Holocaust - those that survived and those that didn't.



A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr. Ban Ki Moon was read by Mr. Sudeshan Reddy, National Information Officer of UNIC, photographed here with Wayde Davy, Vice Executive Director, Apartheid Museum and Deputy Israeli Ambassador, Ya'akov Finkelstein.

Irene Klass, a child survivor from Poland gave her testimony from the Warsaw Ghetto and a message for remembrance and education for the future.

Panels from the *Anne Frank - A History for Today* exhibition were displayed and a film, *The short life of Anne Frank* was introduced by guest speaker, Aaron Peterer, Project Manager for Southern Africa, of the Anne Frank House, Amsterdam. Aaron shared the amazing work being done by the Anne Frank House internationally as well as the success of the acclaimed exhibition currently travelling around schools in Soweto under the guidance of Mr Kumresh Chetty.



Irene Klass, Tali Nates, Aaron Peterer, George Bizos and Arthur Chaskalson



In Pretoria, the UNISA Primedia Holocaust and Genocide unit, together with UNIC, The Anne Frank House and the JHGC, explored the legacy of survivor testimony using the *Anne Frank - A history for Today* exhibition with learners and educators from various schools.

## 7 April -Rwanda Genocide Commemoration

The 16th commemoration of the Rwanda genocide was marked by a ceremony hosted by the Rwandan High Commission, at UNISA.

Dr Charles Mironko, cultural anthropologist, was the keynote speaker at the commemoration.





The JHGC initiated an awareness campaign as a solemn reminder of the Rwandan Genocide.

The text on the poster reads:

April 7<sup>th</sup> marks the start of 100 days of commemoration of the genocide in Rwanda

The United Nations declared April 7<sup>th</sup> as the *International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda*.

On this 16<sup>th</sup> commemoration we remember those who were murdered, as well as those who survived. We commit to working towards a day where the pledge "Never Again" becomes a reality.

Please take a moment to reflect on the significance of this day.



#### OUR VISION

The South African Holocaust Foundation is dedicated to creating a more caring and just society in which human rights and diversity are respected and valued

#### OUR MISSION

The South African Holocaust Foundation

- Serves as a memorial to the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust and all victims of Nazism
- Teaches about the consequences of prejudice, racism and discrimination
  - Promotes an understanding of the dangers of indifference, apathy and silence

## Xavier's Journey

Xavier Ngabo, the only member of his family to survive the 1994 Rwandan Genocide, came to South Africa in 2005 as a student at UNISA. He established and is the vice-chairperson of the Association of survivors of Rwanda Genocide in South Africa.



In December 2009, Xavier travelled to Rwanda to bury his father, one of the first victims of the genocide, as well as to marry his long time fiancé, who is also a survivor of the genocide.

The JHGC together with St Stithians Girls' College and South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS), raised funds to enable Xavier to return to Rwanda to give his father a dignified burial.

Whilst looking for his father's remains, he managed to find those of his mother and bury her in January 2010. The remains of his father were only found in April and the burial took place in the North of Rwanda on 9 May 2010.

## 11 April Yom Hashoah

The theme for this year's Yom Hashoah Commemoration was *The Voice of the Survivors*. During the moving commemoration, Holocaust survivors, Joe Katz, Helen Lieman, Helene Sieff, Anna Almelach, Dr Rene Heitner and Leah Herman, together with a member of their families, lit the memorial candles. Guest of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, Dr Nathan Durst, a noted clinical psychologist and leading figure in the fields of Holocaust survivor counselling and research in Israel, was the keynote speaker. Nathan, a Holocaust Survivor, shared his testimony during the moving ceremony. Dr Durst's public lectures and talks to specific interest groups were extremely well attended. Survivors, second and third generation survivors and descendants of European refugees, academics and members of the public turned out to hear him speak.



Over 100 people attended a lecture on 13 April at Beyachad where Nathan Durst addressed Second Generation Holocaust Survivors and descendants of European Refugees of the Holocaust.

Israeli ambassador, Dov Segev-Steinberg, a second generation survivor also addressed the audience.

The term 'second generation' refers to the children of Holocaust survivors and describes the experiences of the second generation and the impact of the Holocaust on the children of survivors.

A special interest group will be launched in the near future.

### Bar/Bat Mitzvah Twinning Project

One and a half million children were killed in the Holocaust. These children didn't have a chance to live full lives and achieve their hopes and dreams.

Our Twinning Programme assists bar/bat mitzvah boys/girls to learn about the Holocaust in a personal way, by researching and honouring the life of one child who did not have a chance to reach this joyous milestone, because of the events of the Shoah.

Nadav Ossendryver celebrated his bar mitzvah in 2009. He twinned with Gerald Krausz, Johannesburg survivor Don Krausz's younger cousin who was murdered by the Nazis in the Sobibor Death Camp when he was 6 years old.



Nadav Ossendryver and Holocaust survivor, Don Krausz discussing the Anne Frank exhibition on 27 January 2010.

### March of the Living 2010 ([www.motl.org](http://www.motl.org))



March of Living participants joined thousands of mourners in front of the Presidential Palace in Warsaw, after the plane crash in which President Lech Kaczynski and 95 other Polish leaders died.



Holocaust survivor, Irene Klass accompanied the South African youth group to Poland. Tali Nates was the scholar of the South African adult group.

### Surviving History - Portraits from Vilna Exhibition 5 -16 May

The JHGC in association with the Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre hosted the exhibition which presents the life stories of ten individuals who survived the Holocaust in Lithuania, where ninety-five percent of the 240,000 strong pre-war Jewish population was annihilated.

Drawing on an interdisciplinary range of media including: photography, video, text, archival documentation, visual biography and biographical objects, the exhibition seeks to express how history is lived; how world events are experienced from the inside.

The exhibition project is led by Shivaun Woolfson and Francis Tay of Living Imprint UK.

An exciting ancillary programme complemented this memorable exhibition.

