

ANNUAL REVIEW
2015



CAPE TOWN HOLOCAUST CENTRE

DURBAN HOLOCAUST CENTRE

JOHANNESBURG HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE CENTRE

VISION

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

MISSION

The South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation

- Serves as a memorial to the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust and all victims of Nazi Germany
- Raises awareness of genocide with a particular focus on Rwanda
- Teaches about the consequences of prejudice, racism, antisemitism, xenophobia and homophobia, and the dangers of indifference, apathy and silence

New SAHGF Chairman

Gerald Diamond has been appointed chairman of the Board of Trustees of the South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation (SAHGF). He has been a trustee of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre since 2003.



Gerald Diamond

Gerald has a long history of service in the Jewish community and has held numerous honorary public, community and charitable positions over the years. He is chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Community Trusts which oversee the UJC (IUA, UCF & Welfare Campaigns).

Gerald is proud to have been appointed chairman of the SAHGF, and hopes to carry on the good work undertaken by his predecessors.

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of the following Holocaust survivors who passed away in 2015:

Maja Abramowitch
Cecelia Boruchowitz
Mendel Lieman
Stella Israel
Bella Sigoura

The focus of the South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation (SAHGF) in 2015 has been the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII and the liberation of Auschwitz. In this context, the exhibition *Germany's Confrontation with the Holocaust in a Global Context* toured the country, invoking timely debate on dealing with the legacy of the past.

The Holocaust centres in Durban (DHC), Cape Town (CTHC) and Johannesburg (JHGC) have facilitated a highly-successful nationwide educator training programme in support of the national school curriculum, often in under-resourced areas of rural South Africa. In addition, thousands of high school learners have attended our education programmes.

The SAHGF's contribution continues to be valued in global Holocaust education, particularly through our involvement with UNESCO's Holocaust education initiative in West Africa and the University of the Free State programme for its Student Representative Council in Poland and Germany.

We value our interactions with the Rwandan community, who are deeply involved in our activities and have been gracious to share their haunting histories with us.

Holocaust survivors in South Africa, whilst small in number, give unstintingly of their support to all our projects. We cherish them and are extremely grateful to them for sharing their stories and, in many cases, committing these to print or to film for us to draw on in the future.

Speaking at the dedication of the wonderful building that will house the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre, SAHGF Patron Professor Jonathan Jansen observed that South Africa needs now more than ever the channels through which to engage with its past in order to move forward.

I salute my colleagues Mary Kluk and Tali Nates, and thank our wise Patrons and Trustees, our generous benefactors and our dedicated professional staff and volunteers who have joined us in our work in 2015.

Richard Freedman, *Director – South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation*



Left to right SAHGF Chairman Gerald Diamond, JHGC Director Tali Nates, SAHGF and CTHC Director Richard Freedman, DHC Director Mary Kluk and CTHC Founder Myra Osrin at the Building Dedication of the JHGC which will open in 2016

Cape Town Holocaust Centre

Numerous public events and a packed education programme for visiting schools and adult groups have made for a very busy year at the CTHC.

An exciting development has been the refurbishment of our permanent exhibition. While it has served the Centre superbly over 16 years – and is still acclaimed as one of the finest small exhibitions in the world – it has now been modernised to benefit both visitors and our education team.

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of so many of you who have helped to make the new exhibition and our programmes possible.

Thanks also to our dear survivors; the dedicated professional and administrative staff; our 70 remarkable volunteers and to our wise trustees. The achievements of the CTHC in 2015 are due to you all.

Richard Freedman, *Director*



Dr Orla-Bukowska (second left) with Holocaust survivors Miriam Lichterman, Henia Bryer and Ella Blumenthal

Stern Visiting Scholar

The Ernest and Renée Samson 16th anniversary lecture in association with the Stern Visiting Scholars programme was given by **Dr Annamaria Orla-Bukowska** of Jagiellonian University, Poland.

She spoke on the topic *Anti-semitism with and without Jews – What is Polish Antisemitism?* and presented a workshop to the CTHC education department and volunteer education assistants on *The Other Side of the Coin: The Righteous Among the Nations of the World*.



‘A wonderfully-curated presentation of the Holocaust that manages to let the story and people speak for themselves. This horrific time is presented without sensationalism.’

Visitor, Cape Town



Exhibition renewal

The CTHC permanent exhibition has been visited by some 375 000 visitors from South Africa and abroad. In its 16th anniversary year, the Centre has embarked on a refurbishment of the exhibition, which includes refreshing all visual elements and adding multimedia displays.

This process will review and augment aspects of the exhibition, given the

experience gained from education programmes for high school learners and educators, as well as the latest research by Holocaust historians.

The new exhibition will be unveiled in December, with the official opening on 27 January 2016, *United Nations International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust*.

‘Thank you for preserving the memory and for lending it a South African perspective.’

Visitor from Frankfurt Am Main, (Anne Frank’s birthplace)

A growing archival collection



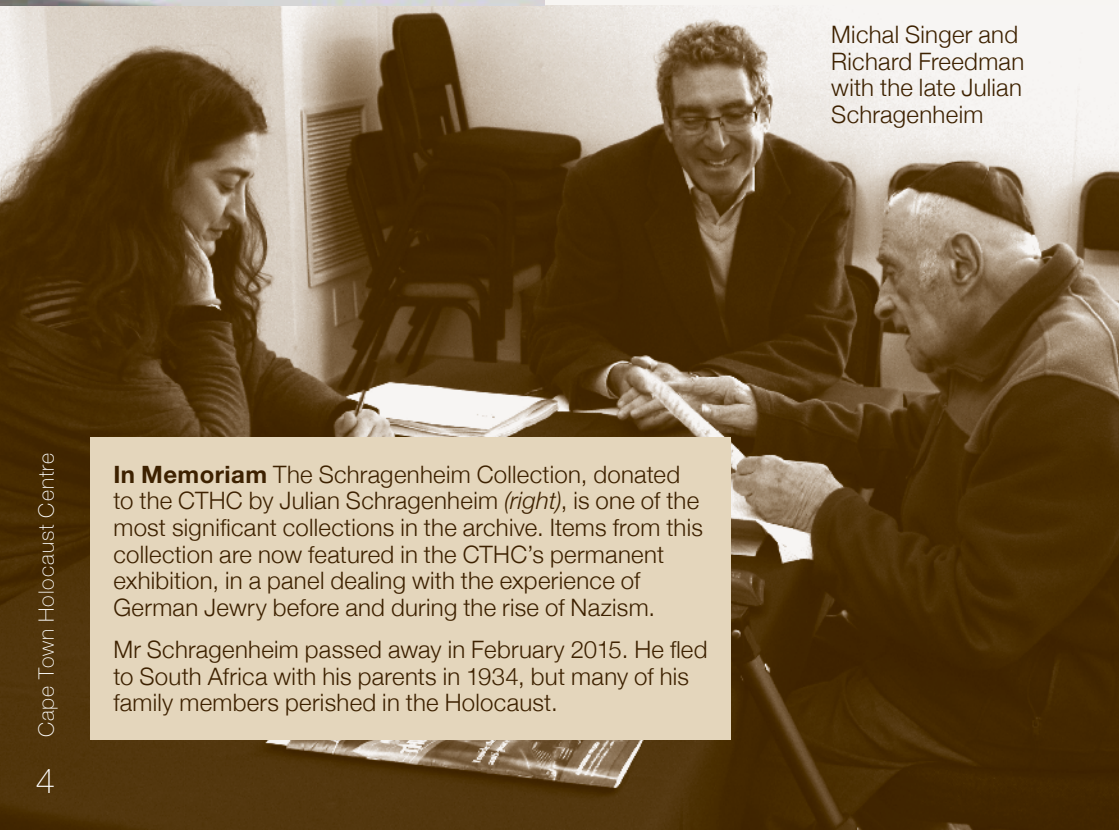
The SAHGF archive continues to develop. In 2015, 4 000 documents were handed over to the University of Cape Town Libraries Special Collections where they have been digitised.

Coordinated by archivist and educator Michal Singer, the team of volunteers and support staff has also worked on the institutional memory of the CTHC as well as Holocaust memorialisation in South Africa.

Pictured alongside is archival assistant Dmitri Abrahams (*right*) with Margaret Selberg and a collection of artefacts that belonged to her late husband Erwin, who arrived in South Africa in the late 1930s to escape Nazi persecution.



Supported by a generous grant from
Claims Conference ועידת התביעות
The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany



Michal Singer and Richard Freedman with the late Julian Schragenheim

In Memoriam The Schragenheim Collection, donated to the CTHC by Julian Schragenheim (*right*), is one of the most significant collections in the archive. Items from this collection are now featured in the CTHC's permanent exhibition, in a panel dealing with the experience of German Jewry before and during the rise of Nazism.

Mr Schragenheim passed away in February 2015. He fled to South Africa with his parents in 1934, but many of his family members perished in the Holocaust.

The White Rose Art & Writing Project



Meeting of Ideologies.
Shannon Wonfor, Gr 12
Herzlia High School

Led by CTHC Audiovisual Coordinator Orli Barnett, the annual White Rose Project grew exponentially in 2015, with participants from over 140 learners from 24 high schools across South Africa.

The competition is inspired by the White Rose Movement, which was led by young people who stood up to Nazi tyranny through peaceful acts of opposition during WWII. The project encourages learners to grapple with resisting injustice through art, writing and multimedia.



Above *I Have Spoken Up.*
Lukhango Bonkolo, Gr 10
Camps Bay High School

Above *The Art of Resisting Injustice.* Chloe Boetcher,
Gr 10 Springfield Convent.
Winner: Junior Art Category

Durban Holocaust Centre

The tragic outburst of xenophobic attacks particularly in KwaZulu Natal earlier this year reconfirmed the essential need for the educational programmes of the Durban Holocaust Centre (DHC).

In addition to our regular activities, we established a special fund (initiated by the Beare Foundation) to support these victims, and have since continued working with local communities.

School groups remain at the core of our work, with more than 4 500 learners participating in daily workshops this year. Our unique Anne Frank programme for younger learners is fast becoming a popular fixture on the calendar of local schools. I am indebted to our educator, Mdu Ntuli who facilitates this programme, and to our wonderful volunteers, whose dedication to the DHC is inspiring.

The DHC's public events programme has been of an exceptional standard and our deep gratitude is extended to the Victor Daitz Foundation without whom these well-supported events would not be possible.

These activities are skilfully managed by a small team of dedicated professionals, especially our wonderful Project Coordinator Maureen Caminsky. We also have exciting plans to extend our educational programmes in 2016 by creating an adult education department, particularly partnering with law enforcement agencies and correctional services.

Our busy public events programme for next year includes a number of international and local exhibitions, and I look forward to your support.

The DHC and all our education programmes are funded entirely by donations, and I thank our generous benefactors for their ongoing support. The wisdom and guidance I receive from our Trustees is invaluable, as is that of my colleagues Richard Freedman and Tali Nates, and I thank them all.

Mary Kluk, *Director*

THE VICTOR DAITZ RESOURCE CENTRE

The DHC has become an important education facility in Durban, with an increasing call from schools and students to access to our library. In light of this need, the DHC is excited to announce plans to transform our library into a state-of-the-art multimedia resource centre.

The Victor Daitz Resource Centre, named after the generous sponsor supporting this exciting project, will include an area for reading and research as well as a substantial collection of Holocaust-related books and DVDs available for loan.



DHC
RESOURCE
CENTRE

DURBAN
HOLOCAUST
CENTRE



Announcing our special programmes
for learners developed around the
story of **Anne Frank**



Anne Frank Workshop

The DHC's newly-created 'Anne Frank Workshop' for younger learners (Grades 4 to 7) is growing in popularity.

This interactive programme focuses on Anne Frank's experiences in the Secret Annex and encourages learners to make connections to their own lives.

It also teaches young people to express their feelings by writing their thoughts in a journal; and focuses on issues of identity, social responsibility and relationships.

Grade 7 learners from
Durban Girls College
participating in a
workshop in the
Anne Frank Room



The Other Families



UJW Sandwich Project

Learners from rural areas often travel far to reach the centre, and may not always have a meal for the day. The UJW has partnered with us to provide sandwiches for these children. Here, learners from Mnyameni Secondary School are pictured with Judy Druck and Lorna Harris visiting the DHC.



The DHC focuses on education programmes for young people ranging from local learners to international students. These international students shared their knowledge and were fascinated by the unique content of our exhibition.

'I tell my story for the purpose of improving humanity ... hopefully, by telling my story over and over again I will achieve the purpose of making the world a better place to live in.'

Pinchas Gutter speaking to *The Star* while in South Africa



The importance of survivor testimony

Holocaust survivor Pinchas Gutter and his wife Dorothy were honoured guests of the SAHGF. They spent time at all three centres, which included screenings of a film about this esteemed survivor's life and his aim to leave a legacy on the lessons of the Holocaust.

Pinchas survived the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, Majdanek (where his entire family was murdered), imprisonment, slave labour and a death march. He was liberated in Theresienstadt in May 1945.

He spoke to audiences at the DHC after a screening of a film about his life and also spoke at the JHGC's Building Dedication Ceremony about the importance of Holocaust testimony, and met with learners and Rwandan and Holocaust survivors around the country.

Pinchas and Dorothy Gutter in the DHC's Garden of Remembrance

Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre

This year, the dream of creating a Holocaust and Genocide Centre in Johannesburg became a reality. A large gathering of supporters, survivors and community leaders participated in a moving dedication ceremony of this impressive landmark building.

It was a momentous occasion, and I express my grateful thanks to the many individuals, foundations, corporations, organisations and professionals who have supported the project so generously. We look forward to the Centre's official opening in the new year.

In 2015, our dedicated team of staff and volunteers has undertaken an impressive range of projects; educational activities for learners and educators; public events; commemorations and exhibitions. Thank you to so many organisations, NGOs, embassies and museums for partnering with us and offering their venues so generously whilst our Centre was under construction.

I would like to express my appreciation to the staff, volunteers and members of the building and exhibition teams for their dedication and commitment. I pay particular tribute to our dear Holocaust and Rwandan survivors – we could not have fulfilled our vision without your inspiration and involvement.

Finally, I thank my colleagues, Richard Freedman and Mary Kluk, and the Trustees and Board members for all their support.

Tali Nates, Director

The Absa Jewish Achievers Award's Kia Community Service Award was presented to Tali Nates in recognition of her work educating about the Holocaust and its lessons, and for her instrumental efforts in creating the JHGC. Ivor Ichikowitz, Ichikowitz Foundation (left) and Clive Blechman, Kia (right) are pictured with Tali Nates

Photo: Ian Ossendryver



Holocaust survivors at the JHGC Building Dedication Ceremony

Photo © Julian Pokroy

Building Dedication Ceremony

JOHANNESBURG

HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE CENTRE

On 1 September, over 300 people who have contributed to the creation of the JHGC gathered for a special dedication ceremony of the new centre, a magnificent building that will house a permanent exhibition and host education programmes and public events.

“It is envisioned that the new centre will be a place of learning, where young and old, from all walks of life, come together to learn from the histories of the Holocaust and the genocide in Rwanda,” said Director Tali Nates.

‘This centre ... offers a powerful educational rationale for remembering in the wake of tragedy.’

SAHGF Patron Professor Jonathan Jansen
speaking at the ceremony



Left Holocaust survivor Veronica Phillips presents her childhood doll to Tali Nates for the JHGC exhibition

Right Tali Nates welcoming guests to the ceremony

THE JHGC
PERMANENT
EXHIBITION
IS FUNDED BY



Survivors support groups



The JHGC offers social, educational and psychological services for survivors and their families. Dedicated volunteers and staff facilitate monthly meetings for Holocaust and Rwandan survivors groups.

At a recent Holocaust survivors group meeting, Zelda La Grange (former private secretary to Nelson Mandela), spoke about her book, *Good Morning Mr Mandela*

Photo © Joe Yudelowitz

Seeking Justice – South Africa and Rwanda Study Tour

A two-week study tour of South Africa and Rwanda brought together students from Monash campuses in Australia and South Africa to study the contemporary histories of these post-conflict societies.

JHGC Special Projects Officer Kim Nates accompanied the 49 students and lecturers as they explored issues of memory and justice through lectures and visits to memorial sites and museums.



Commemoration of the Armenian genocide centenary

Together with the Armenian Youth of South Africa and the Ditsong National Museum of Military History, the JHGC hosted a commemoration event to mark 100 years since the Armenian genocide.

The programme included a screening of *Grandma's Tattoos* followed by a performance of Armenian music.

Second-generation Survivor Rose Pamboukian lights a candle to mark the centenary of the genocide



Holocaust Education

High School learners

The SAHGF's three centres continue to provide education programmes to Grade 9 – 12 learners across the country, supporting the mandated study of Holocaust history in the National Curriculum.


These workshops give learners an understanding of racism, prejudice, oppression and their consequences, evident in the Holocaust, South Africa, and the world today. This in turn leads them to question and envision how they can effect positive change in their communities.

In 2015, learners were also exposed to exhibitions such as *Germany's Confrontation with the Holocaust in a Global Context* and *Vedem* (looking at a secret magazine by teens in Terezin), and specific programmes on combating xenophobia. New workshops on *Women in WWI* and *Teaching about Peace* were introduced at the JHGC.

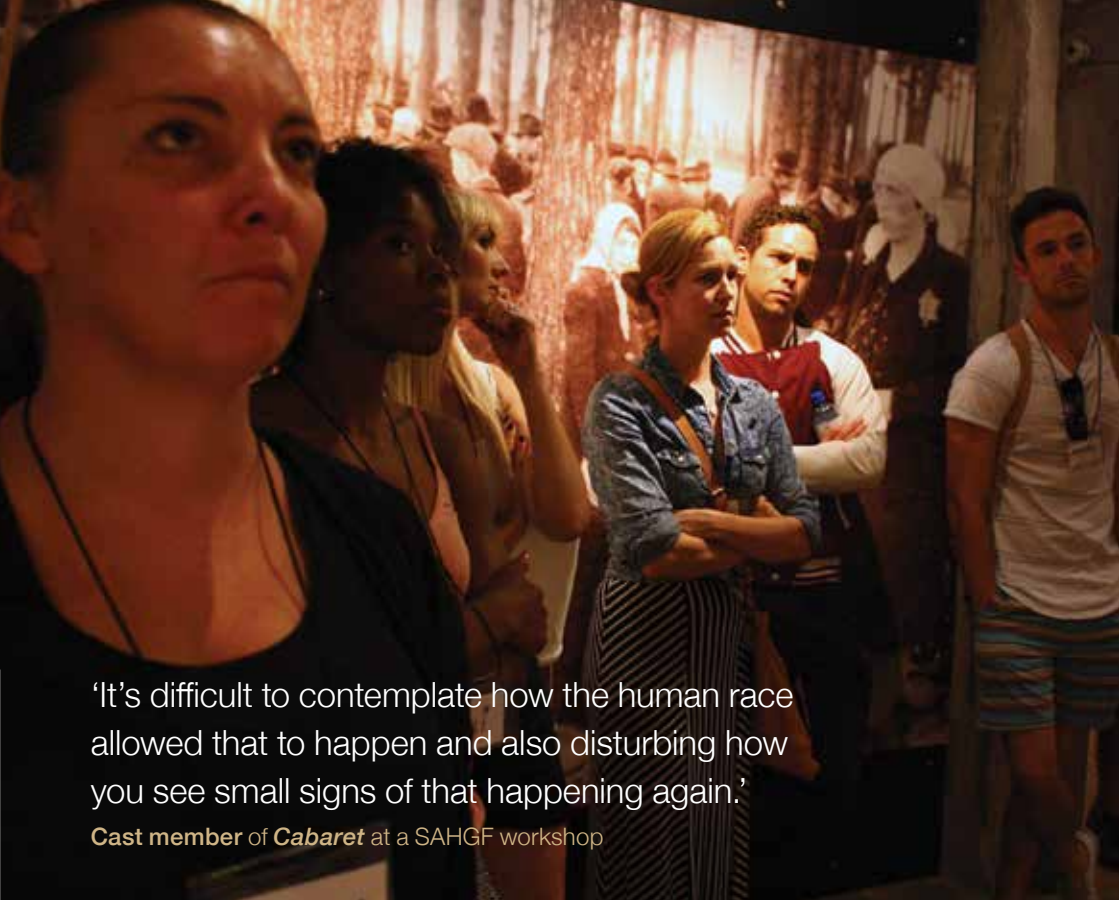
"I learnt that I am a future leader and that history is very important because if you don't know about history you can repeat the same mistakes," said one Grade 9 learner from Hlengisa Senior Secondary.

'The most important thing I learned was the similarities between apartheid, Nazi Germany and xenophobic attacks.'

Grade 9 learner, Claremont High School



Learners from Claremont High School with Sonja Keschner, who as a child was a wartime refugee who fled Nazi Germany with her family



'It's difficult to contemplate how the human race allowed that to happen and also disturbing how you see small signs of that happening again.'

Cast member of *Cabaret* at a SAHGF workshop

Adult groups

The regional Holocaust centres offer educational programmes to adult groups, which explore topics such as valuing diversity and addressing prejudice in the workplace, using Holocaust history as a starting point.

Programmes are specifically tailored to groups, which have included the South African Police Services, Correctional Services, students, medical professionals, corporate groups, politicians, NGOs and in 2015, the cast of *Cabaret*.



'The number of useful teaching strategies provided in this programme was staggering!'

Stellenbosch University Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PCGE) student

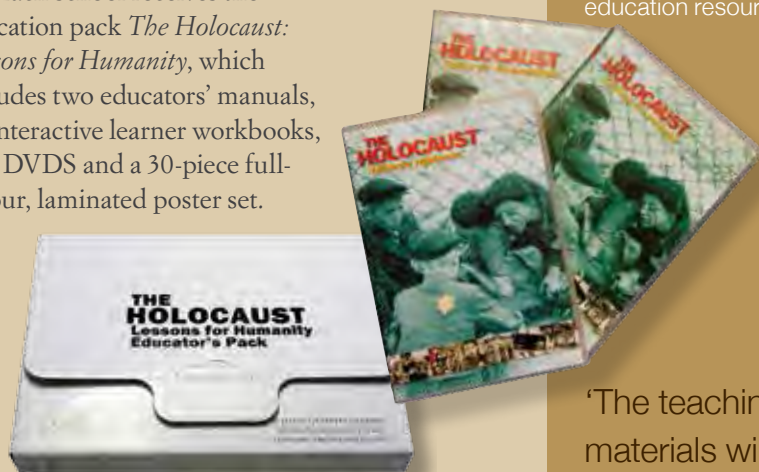
The Holocaust: Lessons for Humanity education packs



Funding from generous sponsors has made it possible to give classroom support materials to participants of educator training workshops and to schools in need.

Each school receives the education pack *The Holocaust: Lessons for Humanity*, which includes two educators' manuals, 60 interactive learner workbooks, two DVDs and a 30-piece full-colour, laminated poster set.

Senior Educator Linda Hackner (centre) with learners and educators from Holy Cross Convent who received *The Holocaust: Lessons for Humanity* education resource packs



Educators work with these in their programmes, so that they are confident using the material in their lessons.

‘The teaching materials will be part of our school centre for social justice.’

Educator,
Holy Cross Convent



Supported by generous grants from
Claims Conference ועידת התביעות
The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany



Educator training

A major part of the SAHGF's work is training and supporting educators to teach Holocaust history as part of the National Curriculum.

These workshops provide a broad understanding of the Holocaust, as well as methodological support for teaching Holocaust history in Grades 9 and 11.

The connection to apartheid is examined, and participants are encouraged to share their experiences and strategies in dealing with prejudice.

Since 2007, the SAHGF education team has reached over 4 000 teachers from more than 2 500 schools across the country, providing them with the skills, knowledge and materials to more effectively teach the subject.

'Thank you...
this is an eye-
opener to my
teaching career.'

Educator, Raohang
Intermediate School,
Bloemfontein

Below A SAHGF
educator training
workshop in
Mpumalanga



Events and Exhibitions



The exhibition *Germany's Confrontation with the Holocaust in a Global Context* launched in South Africa and the United Kingdom on 27 January 2015, the United Nations International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

Developed in conjunction with partners including the University of Leeds and the UK National Holocaust Centre & Museum, Nottingham Trent University UK; the exhibition investigates how Germany has come to terms with the Holocaust through responses of silence, outrage, acknowledgment of guilt, reconciliation and memorialisation. It also provides perspectives on how other societies – including South Africa – have confronted their dark pasts.

‘Educating and teaching the past to future generations alerts them that the horrors of the past may be unthinkable today – but that this does not make them impossible tomorrow.’

His Excellency Dr Horst Freitag,
at the DHC exhibition opening



[illegible]

Management goals when we fail to prevent harm, or fail to prevent the greatest harm, are either *partial* or *total*.



Grade 9 learner, St Cyprians High School

High school learners
engaging with
the exhibition



Right A visitor to the DHC wrote about how the exhibition helped him come to terms with his family's past

Left Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr Horst Freitag and Holocaust survivor Hugo Marom viewing the exhibition

Holocaust Centre a moving experience

I WRITE to encourage everybody to make a visit to the Durban Holocaust Centre to experience a most moving memorial to all those who perished so needlessly during World War II in the concentration camps set up by Nazi Germany and her collaborators.

My own motivation to visit was deeply personal as my entire patrilineal family were gentle Germans and were most likely involved in some way, perhaps even directly, in this horrific persecution.

Alas, my family members alive during the war are now dead and have passed on to me a legacy of absolute denial and silence in this regard. I thus feel doubly responsible

There was an old

There was an added exhibition depicting how Germans and their descendants are dealing with this awful legacy. Again I found a balanced and objective commentary of how people of gentle German ancestry face this daunting but deeply necessary challenge, with openness and humility.

A final point: I've always felt a terrible separateness, as a descendant of the perpetrators of this violence, from the descendants of Jewish survivors. But no more.

Redemption came in the form of a tiny pebble placed at the foot of the memorial to all the Jewish children who died in the Holocaust.

There in quiet contemplation and despite a heavy sadness I felt my heart and spirit moved in passionate solidarity and tribute. These children did not die in vain.

MICHAEL SCHONE
Durban

They survived as boys. They're coming back as men.



KINDERBLOCK 66

— RETURN TO BUCHENWALD —

The award-winning documentary **Kinderblock 66: Return to Buchenwald** was screened at all three centres. The film features several of the 1 000 young boys who survived the Buchenwald concentration camp, which they return to 65 years later as men.



SAHGF Trustee Gerald Leissner, Shirley Leissner and SAHGF Trustee Michael Katz (*right*), who spoke about his recent visit to Buchenwald

The generosity of CNN resulted in the SAHGF screening **Voices of Auschwitz** (made by the network to mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the camp). The film features four survivors as well as Steven Spielberg and CNN anchor Wolf Blitzer (whose paternal grandparents died at Auschwitz). All spoke about the importance of never forgetting.



"KARSKI & THE LORDS OF HUMANITY"



The SAHGF hosted Polish filmmakers Slawomir Grünberg and Katka Reszke, who screened their documentary **Karski & the Lords of Humanity**. The film tells the story of Jan Karski, a member of the Polish underground, who infiltrated the Warsaw Ghetto and a Nazi transit camp and took his report to Britain and the United States, hoping to appeal to the conscience of powerful leaders.



Ambassador of the Republic of Poland Ms Anna Raduchowska-Brochwicz, Katka Reszke and Israeli Ambassador Arthur Lenk at the JHGC screening

Together with the Embassy of Switzerland in South Africa, the SAHGF hosted screenings of **Carl Lutz: The Forgotten Hero** about the fascinating life of Carl Lutz, a Swiss diplomat who saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews during WWII. His humanitarian action is considered the greatest civil rescue operation of Jews during the Holocaust.



Mrs. Carine Carey, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Switzerland and Holocaust survivor Veronica Phillips, at the JHGC screening

Johannesburg survivor, Masha Schainberg, was invited by the World Jewish Congress to attend the 70th anniversary commemoration at Auschwitz Birkenau on 27 January 2015. This was Masha's first trip back to Poland since her liberation from Auschwitz at the age of 16. Masha was accompanied by her daughter Doris Krinsky (*left*).



United Nations International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

This year's UN International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust on 27 January marked the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. *Liberty, life and the legacy of Holocaust survivors* was the theme of the commemoration day, which the SAHGF marked with a number of events.

Yiftach Ashkenazy (*below*) from Yad Vashem's International School of Holocaust Studies spoke at all three centres on the topic *Liberated but not free, 70 years since the liberation of Auschwitz*, while Professor Stuart Taberner (German Department, Leeds University), gave a keynote address to open the exhibition *Germany's Confrontation with the Holocaust in a Global Context* (See pages 18 and 19).



Below The JHGC, United Nations Information Centre and Education Africa hosted a Holocaust education programme for Grade 9 learners in Orange Farm



77th commemoration of Kristallnacht

To mark 77 years since Kristallnacht, the three centres hosted public lectures by Edward Serotta of Centropa (Vienna), who spoke about *The future of Jewish Memory in Central Europe: Using new technologies to preserve stories of a world destroyed*.



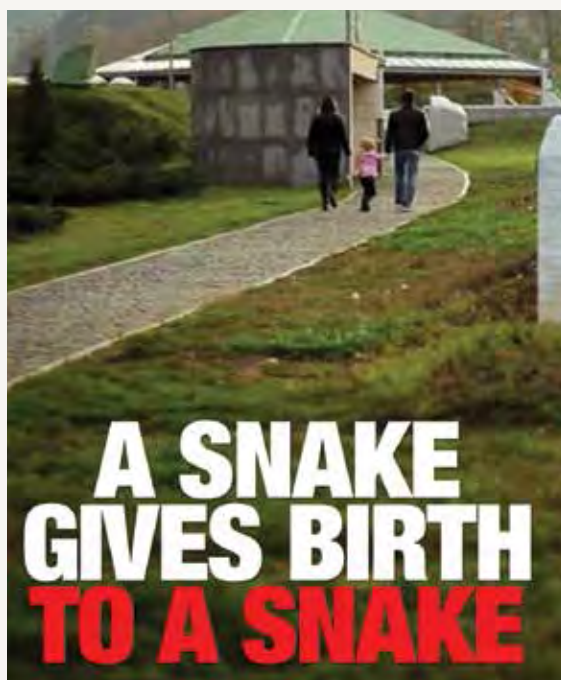
Austrian Ambassador H.E. Brigitte Öppinger-Walchshofer, Tali Nates, Edward Serotta, Wilfried Telkämper (Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung) and Dr Norbert Spitz (Director Goethe-Institut)



Udi Kredo and his family, who brought the film to the SAHGF. They relayed a message from survivor Samuel Willenburg, who said how pleased he was that this history is being told through his story

Treblinka's Last Witness

Screenings of the film *Treblinka's Last Witness* were shown, depicting the last living survivor of Treblinka, Samuel Willenburg, as he recounts the harrowing months he spent as a forced labourer in the death camp, and how he has made a life for himself after liberation.



Together with the Institute for Justice & Reconciliation, the SAHGF screened *A Snake Gives Birth to a Snake*. The film follows a group of diverse South Africans as they travel to former conflict zones sharing South Africa's experiment with reconciliation. Panel discussions with prominent South Africans followed the screenings.



Maureen Caminsky, Mary Kluk and actress Thembi Mtshali-Jones at the DHC screening



Holocaust survivors Carmela Heilbron and Tomi Reichental in conversation at the DHC

'I was a Boy in Belsen': Tomi Reichental

Together with partners, the SAHGF hosted Holocaust survivor Tomi Reichental, who was deported to Bergen-Belsen with his family from Slovakia when he was nine years old.

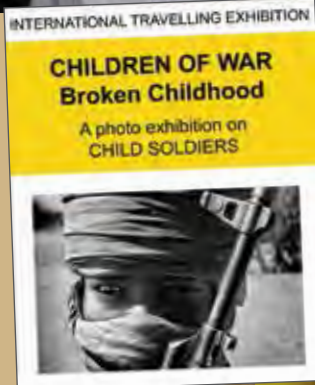
For almost 60 years after liberation, Tomi was unable to talk about his story, but now dedicates himself to highlighting the lessons of the Holocaust. In 2014 he was the recipient of the RTE International Person of the Year award in Ireland, in recognition of his work in Holocaust education.



Tomi Reichental with local Holocaust survivor Ella Blumenthal. Both are survivors of Bergen-Belsen and were there when the camp was liberated

Children of War: Broken Childhood

Children are often the innocent victims of war and conflict. Featuring a series of portraits, this exhibition called for an end to the terrible phenomenon of recruiting children to participate in armed conflicts.



At the opening of the exhibition at the 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.

They gave a poignant account of the lives of child soldiers, and the work being done to curb recruitment and to rehabilitate those affected.



Myra Osrin and Greg Goldhawk



SAHGF Director Richard Freedman, Ernest Kajabo (representative of the Rwandan community in Cape Town), High Commissioner Vincent Karega and Holocaust survivors Ella Blumenthal and Miriam Lichterman

Commemorating the Rwandan genocide

The SAHGF joined the Rwandan community in marking the 21st commemoration of the genocide targeting the Tutsis in Rwanda. The theme of the commemoration was ‘Fighting genocide denial and revisionism’ (*Kurwanya ibakana ipfobya rya Jenoside yakorewe Abatutsi*).

“We commit to being a strong voice to keep the memory of the victims alive around the world and to support the survivors whose souls and bodies bear permanent scars,” said event organisers.

Ceremonies included lighting candles in memory of victims, and screening the acclaimed documentary *Intore*.



“Let ‘never again’ be our shared responsibility”.

Ernest Kajabo,
Rwandan community leader



SAHGF commemorations included the screening of *Intore* – a powerful look at how Rwanda survived its tragic past by regaining its identity through music, dance, and the resilience of a new generation



Women from the Scalabrini Centre's Women's Platform together with Caroline Skinner (UCT), Chae Li Diong (UNHCR by Association Resettlement Officer) and photographer Nicky Newman at the CTHC event



Learners at a JHGC education workshop on combating xenophobia

World Refugee Day

20 June is UN-designated World Refugee Day, which the SAHGF joined others in marking with a number of events, including learner workshops, panel discussions and a photographic exhibition. The 2015 theme was *Refugees Just Like Us*.

These events highlighted the plight of refugees today, who face xenophobia and other challenges as they are forced to leave conflict zones both in Africa and around the world.

'REFUGEES JUST LIKE US'

"On this World Refugee Day, everyone should remember the things that connect all of us – our common humanity."
UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres (2015)



The Tshwane Children's Choir at the JHGC partnership event, Pretoria

Conferences and presentations

Conferences

- *Research, Education, Remembrance – The Holocaust in the Nordic Countries*, AHO European Conference: Tali Nates
- *Transnational Holocaust Memory*, University of Leeds: Michal Singer
- Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies Seminar *Teaching the Shoah and Antisemitism*: Linda Hackner (*pictured below, second from left*)
- South African Society for History Teaching: 29th Annual Conference, Limpopo University: Lesley Cushman
- Anti-xenophobia workshop by Chuma, in conjunction with CTHC & Africa Unite: co-facilitated by Michal Singer
- Strategic Research Agenda for Robben Island Museum Consultative workshop: Michal Singer
- International Council of Museums Conference, Cape Town: Richard Freedman



Presentations

- International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, Pretoria: Keynote speaker Tali Nates
- *Second Innings, Creating the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre – from a dream to reality*: Keynote speaker Tali Nates
- Women's Day event at Hogan Lovells SA: Tali Nates, Irene Klass (Holocaust survivor) and Christine Niwemfura (Rwandan genocide survivor)
- Aladdin Project and UNESCO Conference on Holocaust Education (Senegal): Mary Kluk presented
- Opening of *Germany's Confrontation with the Holocaust in a Global Context* at the University of Leeds and the University of the Witwatersrand: Michal Singer and Richard Freedman presented

International programmes

- *March of the Living*: Tali Nates, Richard Freedman, Rene Pozniak (JHGC education) Kim Nates and Courtneigh Cloud (JHGC volunteer).
- *Seeking Justice, South Africa and Rwanda*, Monash University Student Tour – logistics by Kim Nates (JHGC Special Projects Officer)
- *Monuments, Memorials and Memory: What can South African student leaders learn from the German experience?* University of the Free State SRC study tour to Poland and Germany led by Tali Nates

Partners & connections 2015

We thank the following organisations for partnering with the SAHGF in 2015:

- Adam Mazo (*Coexist*)
- Aegis Trust UK
- Africa Unite
- Anne Frank House
- Armenian Youth of South Africa
- Arts & Humanities Research Council United Kingdom
- Association of Holocaust Organisations (AHO)
- Cape Jewish Seniors Association
- Cape Peninsula University of Technology
- Cape Town Hebrew Congregation
- Centre for Curating the Archive (UCT)
- Centropa
- Chuma
- City of Johannesburg
- City of Tshwane
- CNLG
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A historical photograph of a crowded street, likely during a protest or civil unrest, with a large fire burning in the background. The scene is viewed through a museum display, with the backs of several people in the foreground visible. The photograph shows a wide street filled with people, some carrying flags or banners. In the background, a large fire is visible, and buildings line the street. The overall tone is somber and historical.

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