The Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society was founded in 1983 by survivors of the Holocaust. The founders' goal, realized in 1994, was to leave a permanent legacy in the form of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, devoted to Holocaust based anti-racism education.

The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre is a teaching museum and a leader in Holocaust education in British Columbia, reaching more than 15,000 students annually. It produces acclaimed exhibits, innovative school programs and teaching materials, including online exhibits. The VHEC presents numerous public cultural and commemorative events and publishes a newsletter, Zachor, three times a year. The Centre maintains a museum collection and archives, survivor testimony project, as well as a library and resource centre.

Mission

The mission of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre is to promote human rights, social justice and genocide awareness and to teach about the causes and consequences of discrimination, racism and antisemitism through education and remembrance of the Holocaust.
Those who attended this year’s Yom HaShoah commemoration were struck by the standing room only audience in the Jewish Community Centre’s Wosk Auditorium, by the power of child survivor of the Holocaust Mariette Doduck’s testimony, and by the involvement of talented young performers in the program. Bringing together multiple generations in remembrance and learning, this community-wide commemorative event is a hallmark Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre program — honouring the survivors in our community while at the same time educating about the events of the Holocaust. The increasing attendance at the VHEC’s Yom HaShoah observance speaks to the increasing relevance of the Shoah to all people, and to the unique role of the VHEC in perpetuating its remembrance and commemoration in British Columbia and beyond.

This year, your board of directors and professional staff have worked together to continue the delivery of our commemorative and educational programs, while also working to develop a robust and sustainable vision for the future. Behind the scenes, the board and staff have been engaged in strategic planning to confirm priorities and facility and infrastructure requirements for the years ahead. We look forward to engaging our members, various stakeholders and the broader community in our plans during the months ahead.

Looking forward, we will build on our commitment to honour the legacy of local Holocaust survivors through the continued promotion of Holocaust education and remembrance, with an emphasis on time-sensitive activities. The presentation of eyewitness perspectives in the context of our Symposia programs remains a significant priority, reflected in the expansion of our district-wide Symposia programs. This year they engaged more than 5,000 students, with several schools now participating in Symposia via webcasting. The unparalleled impact of VHEC Outreach Speakers is affirmed in student and teacher comments throughout this Annual Report and we would like to extend a special thank you to local survivors for their remarkable commitment to sharing their experiences with students and with community groups. We truly could not do the work we do without you.

Our exhibition program this year brought two significant international exhibits to local audiences: Anne Frank – A History for Today and Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945. While the former explored the enduring legacy of one of the most iconic figures of the Holocaust, the latter brought attention to an under-discussed victim group of Nazism. A series of Sunday openings of the Anne Frank exhibit attracted a significant number of public visitors to the Centre, while the Out of the Archive companion exhibit highlighted materials from the VHEC’s collection with thematic links to the Anne Frank story. Our extraordinary team of volunteer docents brought this all to life for our student visitors to the Centre. Beyond our museum walls, the Centre’s roster of original exhibits travelled widely, including but not limited to our outstanding exhibit, "Enemy Aliens": the Internment of Jewish Refugees in Canada, 1940-43, which was accorded front-page status in the National Post when it travelled to Sherbrooke, Quebec.

The VHEC’s collection of primary source material and survivor video testimonies will assume increasing importance in the years ahead, and play central roles in future exhibits, school programs and teaching materials. The Centre is a proud beneficiary of the largest grant in our organization’s history from Citizenship and Immigration Canada to support the preservation, access and pedagogical use of audio-visual survivor testimony. Meanwhile, a generous bequest from the estate of Paul Heller will ensure that significant advances are made to digitize and catalogue our broader archival collection, advancing its use in support of our mandate.

Of course none of this would be possible without the dedication of our professional staff, board of directors and volunteers. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of them — as well as to all of you, our members and supporters — for your abiding commitment to Holocaust education and remembrance.

Ed Lewin
PRESIDENT

Nina Krieger
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EXHIBITS

Bringing the Past to Life

The Centre built on its commitment to presenting acclaimed exhibits exploring both iconic and under-discussed aspects of the Holocaust.

NAZI PERSECUTION OF HOMOSEXUALS 1933-1945
OCTOBER 30 – DECEMBER 2, 2013

The VHEC, in partnership with Egale Canada Human Rights Trust, was proud to host the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum exhibit, *Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945*. The exhibit explored the Third Reich’s efforts at destroying all internal biological threats to the “Aryan” nation’s health, including homosexual males. Thousands of men were arrested and interned in prisons and concentration camps, leading to the imprisonment and deaths of thousands of homosexual males.

*Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933 - 1945* was produced by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s exhibitions program was supported in part by the Lester Robbins and Sheila Johnson Robbins Traveling and Special Exhibitions Fund established in 1990.

Exhibition and School Program was co-presented by the VHEC and Egale Canada Human Rights Trust.

SPECIAL EXHIBIT TOURS

JCC Youth & Parents, including Or Shalom B’nei Mitzvah Program • Gay and Grey • Outlook TV • Pride Society Vancouver • Qmunity: BC’s Queer Resource Centre

ANNE FRANK – A HISTORY FOR TODAY
JANUARY 28 – JULY 31, 2014

Through photos, narratives, and artefacts, *Anne Frank – A History for Today* illuminated the effect of National Socialism on one Jewish family, and explored the legacy of this history for all Canadians.

The program also featured *Out of the Archive: A Companion to Anne Frank – A History for Today*. The photographs, documents and objects in this exhibit attested to the power of authentic artefacts to communicate an understanding of the past. Just as Anne Frank’s narrative emerges from the survival of her diary, this exhibit drew from the VHEC’s archival collection to provide insight into the lived experience of donors and their families before, during and after the Holocaust.

*Anne Frank — A History for Today* exhibit produced by The Anne Frank House.

Supported by the Consulate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Isaac and Sophie Waldman Endowment Fund of the Vancouver Foundation, and Ralph Markin & Bob Markin, in honour of a dear friend, Leslie Spiro z”l.

SPECIAL EXHIBIT TOURS

Jewish Community Centre Staff • Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver Staff • Kehila Society of Vancouver • L’Chaim Drop-In Group • Temple Sholom

“How wonderfully diverse we are as human beings. And every human being requires validation and respect. Thank you for bringing this exhibit to Vancouver, to remind us that each of us is our sister’s and brother’s keepers. The more we learn from history, the less we are able to commit atrocities. When we know better, we do better!”

“As a gay man of 72, not a Jew, I am deeply touched by the spirit of inclusiveness that permeates this space.”

PUBLIC VISITORS, NAZI PERSECUTION OF HOMOSEXUALS EXHIBIT

“Thank you for the great educational experience you provided to our two children today at the Anne Frank display! After our visit, both of our children had a million questions about the Holocaust that we were happy to answer. The lady volunteer was very gracious taking time to speak to our son and daughter about losing her grandparents who perished in a concentration camp. Thank you! A great educational experience for all of us. May we NEVER forget.”

PUBLIC VISITOR, ANNE FRANK EXHIBIT
OVER 1,650 PUBLIC VISITORS

4,620 STUDENTS

157 CLASSES
Travelling Exhibits

This year, five exhibits produced by the VHEC travelled to institutions across Canada. Several of them coincided with significant Holocaust education programs, expanding the Centre’s reach and building audiences for VHEC exhibits.

MORE THAN JUST GAMES: CANADA AND THE 1936 OLYMPICS AND FRAMING BODIES: SPORT & SPECTACLE IN NAZI GERMANY
Langley Centennial Museum, Langley BC
Township of Langley Symposium

“ENEMY ALIENS”: THE INTERNMENT OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN CANADA, 1940-1943
Sherbrooke Historical Society, Sherbrooke Quebec

JANUS KORCZAK AND THE CHILDREN OF THE WARSAW GHETTO
Shawnigan Lake School, Shawnigan Lake BC
Shawnigan Lake School Holocaust and Genocide Symposium

IN DEFIANCE: JEWISH RESISTANCE DURING THE HOLOCAUST
King David High School, Vancouver BC
2014 King David Yom Ha’Shoah commemorative event

SHANGHAI: A REFUGE DURING THE HOLOCAUST
Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site, Richmond BC
In partnership with The Centre for Israel & Jewish Affairs Pacific Region
Engaging Students and Teachers

Interactive, docent-led school programs and companion teaching materials supported learning about exhibit themes at the VHEC and in the classroom.

NAZI PERSECUTION OF HOMOSEXUALS 1933-1945
OCTOBER 30–DECEMBER 2, 2013

The VHEC welcomed more than 45 classes — approximately 1250 students — to its fall school program. Groups participated in an inquiry-based exhibit tour of Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals, and an interactive critical thinking workshop based on propaganda images of the human body featured in the VHEC exhibit Framing Bodies: Sport and Spectacle in Nazi Germany.

DOCENT TRAINING
The training included a Skype discussion about LGBTQ rights and issues with Sammy Feilchenfeld, Program Director at Egale Canada Human Rights Trust in Toronto.

“The docents were really able to bring the exhibit to life, and make the experiences of queer people very real and make the history of the Holocaust important and relevant to the lives of youth today.”

LAU MEHES, YOUTH WORKER, QMUNITY: BC’S QUEER RESOURCE CENTRE

ANNE FRANK – A HISTORY FOR TODAY
JANUARY 28 – MAY 30, 2014

115 classes — approximately 3,370 students — participated in the VHEC’s two-part program which included a tour of Anne Frank – A History for Today featuring a diarizing activity, and an artefact-based workshop which explored themes of life before, during, and after the Holocaust in the VHEC-curated companion exhibit, Out of the Archive.

DOCENT TRAINING
The training included a screening of the film, The Short Life of Anne Frank, and a workshop based on the interactive program Free2Choose, led by Julie Couture, Canadian Coordinator for the Anne Frank House.

“As young people, we need to understand our history to make sure it never happens again. We can be inclusive, explore potential structures that prevent violence, oppression, and inequality. We can teach and learn and share knowledge about history and make the world a better place.”

GRADE 6 CLASS, CHARLES DICKENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Annual Symposia

The VHEC met the increasing demand for Symposia programs by expanding offerings featuring Holocaust historians and eyewitness, often making connections to other genocides.

39TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE HOLOCAUST UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
MAY 7 & 8, 2014

More than 1,000 senior secondary students from 25 schools participated in the Annual Symposium on the Holocaust at UBC. Following a historical overview from Professor Chris Friedrichs and viewing the film World at War: Genocide, students participated in breakout sessions with VHEC outreach speakers. Featured keynote speakers Robbie Waisman and Chief Robert Joseph delivered inspiring messages of hope and survival, and engaged in lively panel discussions and Q&A sessions. Schools in attendance received a copy of Bev Sellars’s memoir, They Called Me Number One: Secrets and Survival at an Indian Residential School, courtesy of the VHEC Leo Krell Memorial Book Fund, and The Azrieli Series of Holocaust Survivor Memoirs, generously donated by the Azrieli Foundation.

Annual Symposium on the Holocaust UBC is supported by the following VHEC funds: the Edwina & Paul Heller Holocaust Education Fund, the Sophie Waldman Endowment Fund, and the Leo Krell Memorial Book Fund, with the support of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver, the University of British Columbia and with the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia.

"With something as immense and devastating as the Holocaust, it’s impossible to grasp the numbers, dates, or statistics. [It is] the personal stories which bring the reality of these facts to life. I will not remember each of the six million murdered Jews. I will not remember the exact dates. Nonetheless, when Robbie Waisman said, ‘1.5 million little Nathans’ perished,’ I felt emotional – he made me mourn the loss of a stranger. This is something I will never forget.”
GRADE 12 HISTORY STUDENT, EARL MARRIOTT SECONDARY SCHOOL

"This is the best educational experience when dealing with the Holocaust! We loved the addition of Chief Joseph! I can’t thank you enough for giving our students this amazing opportunity!"
VASILIS KOUTSONIKAS, FRANK HURT SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER

"Words cannot describe the impact [on me] from the Holocaust and genocide survivors eyewitness accounts. I was left in great shock and disbelief that an individual would have to sacrifice their identity to survive. Today’s Symposium left me speechless.”
GRADE 12 HISTORY STUDENT, QUEEN ELIZABETH SECONDARY SCHOOL
DISTRICT-WIDE SATELLITE SYMPOSIA

The VHEC presented seven successful half-day Symposia programs — reaching more than 5,100 senior secondary students from 70 schools — in partnership with school districts across the province: Abbotsford, Burnaby, Coquitlam, Delta, Langley, Shawnigan Lake School, and Surrey. Dr. Jay Eidelman and Kit Krieger delivered historical overviews and participated in panel discussions alongside VHEC Outreach Speakers.

District Symposium supported by the Vaisler Family in honour of Syd and Sari Vaisler & The Lovi Memorial Endowment Fund of the VHEC in honour of Anna (Abrahamsohn) Lovi, Dr. Joseph Lovi & Dr. Mara Lovi; with the financial support of the Province of British Columbia, and funding from the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver.

“Listening to a survivor speaker had a big influence on my thoughts towards the Holocaust and provided great insight and information that was new to me. I believe that this presentation will influence me daily to be a better person, to empathize and to accept everyone, despite differences. Mariette affected everyone in the room.”

GRADE 12 STUDENT, BAKERVIEW LEARNING CENTRE, ABBOTSFORD
"If you simply put it in numbers, that 6 million Jewish people were murdered, it has little effect compared to 6 million loving nurturing mothers, courageous breadwinning fathers, helpless caring grandparents, and small innocent Jewish children were inhumanely murdered causing many children to be orphaned, mothers widowed and fathers without families. This has a much heavier bearing on a person’s mind. It is people like you that help others understand the true meaning of history… If we all unify and learn from our mistakes using history, we can move to build a better future for the whole world and you have truly and generously helped that cause."

A NORTH DELTA SECONDARY STUDENT’S RESPONSE TO OUTREACH SPEAKER
ALEX BUCKMAN
Opportunities for Educators

Professional development sessions promote best practices for teaching about the Holocaust and provide ongoing learning opportunities for educators to explore new teaching resources and classroom strategies.

TEACHER PREVIEWS
OCTOBER 29, 2013 AND JANUARY 27, 2014

More than 35 teachers participated in special preview events for the VHEC’s 2013-2014 exhibits. Teachers received an overview of the VHEC programs and resources, and explored the exhibits.

At the Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945 preview, Mark Rizcu of Egale Canada Human Rights Trust delivered a presentation on the LGBTQ community in Canada’s historical struggles, and identified current issues surrounding safety for queer youth in schools.

Julie Couture, Canadian Coordinator for The Anne Frank House, offered remarks and led teachers through the interactive program, Free2Choose, at the Anne Frank – A History for Today preview. Teachers also spent time engaging with the VHEC curated companion exhibit, Out of the Archive, which features artefacts donated to the VHEC by local Holocaust survivors and their families.

2013 YAD VASHEM INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SEMINAR FOR EDUCATORS
JULY 14 – AUGUST 1, 2013

The VHEC administered a scholarship to send two British Columbia educators — Jinny St. Hilaire of W.J. Mouat Secondary School, Abbotsford, BC and Jason Hudson of Mount Boucherie Secondary School, Central Okanagan, BC — to study at the International Summer Seminar for Educators at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, Israel. During the intensive 17-day program, participants learned from scholars and educators with decades of experience in the field of Holocaust education and research, engaged with eyewitnesses to the Holocaust, and toured historic sites.

Supported by Anita Shafran, Elaine and Zev Shafran, Yosef Wosk, and the Diamond Foundation.

2014 BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 25, 2013

Approximately 40 BC teachers attended a workshop to learn more about the VHEC’s professional development and outreach resources. They also participated in activities related to the VHEC’s 2013-2014 school programs for Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945 and Anne Frank – A History for Today.

2014 KRON SIGAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HOLOCAUST EDUCATION
JUNE 2014

A prize of $500 was presented at the VHEC Annual General Meeting in recognition of their outstanding commitment to Holocaust education.

Supported by the Kron Sigal family in memory of Meyer and Gita Kron and Ruth Kron Sigal.

Jinny St. Hilaire
W.J. Mouat Secondary School
Abbotsford, BC

Al Olson
Shawnigan Lake School
Shawnigan Lake BC
Engaging the Public

The VHEC presented a wide variety of public programming that explored timely topics and engaged new audiences and communities in reflecting about the ongoing resonance of the Holocaust.

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
OCTOBER 7, 2013
The VHEC sponsored a screening of the film, Max Beckmann: Departure by Michael Trabitzsch, at the Vancity Theatre.

NAZI PERSECUTION OF HOMOSEXUALS 1933-1945 OPENING RECEPTION
OCTOBER 29, 2013
The opening reception for the exhibit attracted more than 100 guests. Speakers included Mark Riczu from the exhibit’s partner organization, Egale Canada Human Rights Trust, and VHEC Executive Director Nina Krieger.

VANCOUVER JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
NOVEMBER 12, 2013
The VHEC sponsored a sold-out screening of the Polish film, Poklosie (Aftermath) by Wladyslaw Pasikowski, at the Fifth Avenue Cinema.

CHERIE SMITH JCCGV JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL
NOVEMBER 26, 2013
The VHEC presented the launch of The Unwritten Diary of Israel Unger by Carolynn Gammon, at the Isaac Waldman Jewish Public Library.

ANNE FRANK – A HISTORY FOR TODAY OPENING RECEPTION
JANUARY 27, 2014
The opening reception followed the VHEC’s commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The reception attracted more than 150 guests, including Julie Couture, Canadian Coordinator for the Anne Frank House, Netherlands and Johannes Vervloed from the Consulate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

HIRSCH: A PANEL DISCUSSION
MARCH 2, 2014
The VHEC presented a discussion featuring panelists Alon Nashman, Paul Thompson, David Ehrlich and Fraidie Martz discussing the life and legacy of Hungarian war orphan and esteemed theatre director John Hirsch.

PUBLIC LECTURE: “ICONIC ATROCITIES: HOW MUSEUMS VISUALIZE THE HOLOCAUST”
APRIL 7, 2014
Dr. Birga U. Meyer delivered a public lecture on the visual depictions of mass murder in history museums to approximately 35 VHEC docents and community members at the VHEC.
A Space for Public Response

The Centre’s Twitter and Facebook accounts are spaces for sharing relevant news and educational resources, and serve as platforms for public response to events and school programs.

This year the VHEC saw marked growth in social media interactions, most notably on Twitter, where there was an increase of more than 300 followers. Page traffic had increased as many student participants tweeted comments during both Shawnigan Lake and UBC Symposiums. Additionally, several teachers and public visitors shared thoughts and photographs in response to their visit to the VHEC.

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IAN LEVINGS @IANLEVINGS34 · MAR 12
What a powerful message from Mr. Alex Buckman @VHolocaustCntr @skring34 Thanks for coming to Abbotsford Middle School today.

GABIRO NABEA-BUCYANA @BUCAGABS · APR 3
“Start where we are, use what we have, do what we can” so that something like genocide will happen never again. #slshgs14

KIRSI LUPTON @KIRSLUPTON · APR 3
“If not now, when? If not here, where?” Symposium to end genocide at Shawnigan Lake school #slshgs14

BRIAN CARR @BRIANCARR62 · APR 4
Understanding the power of change and the "now" generation of our youth. #slshgs14

ALIO’MARRA-ARMSTRONG @OMARRAARMSTRONG · APR 4
“Keep your consciences soft & vulnerable” -Dr. James Waller #slshgs14

LISA BAYER @PIXANDPAINT · MAY 4
Attended a very powerful exhibit today @VHolocaustCntr #annefrank #neverforget

SABRINA BLOCK @SABRINA_BLOCK · MAY 8
#wgsseng9h students viewing primary sources from the Holocaust at the #VHEC & Anne Frank exhibit. @sd35wgss

IAN LEVINGS @IANLEVINGS34 · MAR 12
What a powerful message from Mr. Alex Buckman @VHolocaustCntr @skring34 Thanks for coming to Abbotsford Middle School today.

BRAD SONNENTHAL @BRADSONNENTHAL · MAY 17
Attended a very powerful exhibit today @VHolocaustCntr #annefrank #neverforget

SABRINA BLOCK @SABRINA_BLOCK · MAY 8
#wgsseng9h students viewing primary sources from the Holocaust at the #VHEC & Anne Frank exhibit. @sd35wgss

JILLIAM SAGUN @JILLIAMSAGUN · MAY 7
I feel extremely lucky to have been at the Holocaust symposium today, and able to hear firsthand accounts #history #VHECSymp14

AYESHA @AYESSHH · MAY 7
Life changing #vhecsymp14
Building Community

The VHEC partners with organizations and community groups to present a range of programming throughout the year that fosters commemoration and reflection, education and dialogue.

HIGH HOLIDAYS CEMETERY SERVICE
SEPTEMBER 8, 2013
Held annually at the Holocaust Memorial at the Schara Tzedeck Cemetery on the Sunday between the High Holidays, this service affords participants the opportunity to mourn those who perished during the Holocaust at this symbolic grave site. The program featured keynote speaker Deborah Ross-Grayman and Hesped by Rabbi Nadata. Cantor Steve Levin chanted El Moleh Rachamim. Presented in partnership with Schara Tzedeck Congregation and the Jewish War Veterans.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE: Jack & Karen Micner

KRISTALLNACHT
NOVEMBER 3, 2013
The commemorative lecture marks the Nazi state sponsored “Night of Broken Glass” of November 9, 1938. This year, Professor Richard Menkis, University of British Columbia, presented “Traumatized Generations? A Historian’s Perspective on the Children and Grandchildren of Survivors". Presented by the VHEC and Congregation Beth Israel, hosted by Temple Sholom and with support from the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver Endowment Fund.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE: Cynthia Bluman, George Bluman (Chair), Noah Finkelstein, Debby Freiman, Chris Friedrichs, Richard Menkis, Judy Oberlander, Hannah Ordman

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY
JANUARY 27, 2014
International Holocaust Remembrance Day is the United Nations-declared annual commemoration marking the liberation of Auschwitz. This year’s program featured keynote speaker, Louise Sorensen, Dutch Survivor of the Holocaust. A copy of one survivor memoir was distributed to all who attended, provided by the Azrieli Series of Holocaust Survivor Memoirs.

Supported by the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, Norman and Annette Rothstein Theatre, Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver, Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Azrieli Foundation and with financial assistance from the Province of British Columbia.

YOM HASHOAH
APRIL 28, 2014
The commemorative evening featured a survivor speaker, Mariette Doduck, candle lighting and a musical program featuring Claire Klein Osipov and cellist Eric Wilson. More than 35 survivors participated in the candle lighting ceremony and more than 500 attended the program.

Presented in partnership with the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver with support from the VHEC Funds: Gail Feldman Heller Endowment and Sarah Rozenberg-Warm Memorial Endowment, Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver Endowment Fund, with the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE: Rome Fox, Cathy Golden, Ethel Kofsky.
VOLUNTEERS: Habonim Dror youth.

YOM HASHOAH, BC LEGISLATURE
APRIL 28, 2014
The Province of British Columbia paid tribute to more than six million victims of the Holocaust in a ceremony at B.C.’s Parliament Buildings on April 28th to mark Yom Ha’Shoah Holocaust Memorial Day. Keynote speaker Dr. Peter Suedfeld, Holocaust Survivor & VHEC Outreach Speaker, addressed the British Columbia Legislature. Suedfeld was joined by more than 20 Vancouver & Victoria Holocaust Survivors at the Legislature.

Supported by the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs Pacific Region and the Victoria Holocaust Remembrance & Education Society.

“...the Yom Hashoah ceremony was well organized and flowed from one act to the next seamlessly. The voices [of the youth in the Vocal Ensemble] were so beautiful, instrumentation was perfect, and musical arrangements particularly moving. The ceremony itself was of a perfect length and did not drag on. The use of Yiddish to the extent it was used was a great touch – bringing to life the culture that the Nazis sought to destroy.”

JEREMY FINKELMAN
The VHEC offers an array of services for Holocaust survivors, and is a focal point for activities of the child survivor and second generation groups in the community.

SURVIVOR SERVICES
A range of services is offered to benefit local Holocaust survivors, whose needs are assessed and addressed. This year, between the VHEC and Jewish Family Services, 137 survivors received 224 services, including: financial aid, group support, referrals for professional counselling, housing and health care advocacy, restitution and compensation assistance and social and educational activities.

Supported by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

SURVIVOR DROP-IN
A group of 20-35 survivors meets regularly to socialize. They attended a Chutzpah musical program. Everyone looks forward to the special treat of a closing lunch.

Volunteer coordinators: Gerri London & Gloria Waisman.

CHILD SURVIVOR GROUP
The child survivor group meets monthly at the VHEC and for several special events. The group participates annually in Kristallnacht and Yom HaShoah and lays a wreath at the City of Vancouver’s Remembrance Day ceremonies.

Lillian Boraks Nemetz edits “No Longer Alone” in Zachor, a section that explores the child survivor experience.

Child Survivor Executive: Lillian Boraks Nemetz, Peter John Voormeij, Claude Romney and Alex Buckman.

HOLOCAUST RESTITUTION
Volunteer lawyers met with over 20 survivors in the past year in order to assist them with their claims for compensation and restitution. Most of the applications are pursuant to the Hardship and Article 2 fund. The latter fund, ministered by the Claims Conference, but governed by eligibility criteria established by the German government, is somewhat restricted and the process (worthwhile as it is) takes considerable time.

SECOND GENERATION GROUP
The group shares issues related to the second generation experience and the Holocaust. Members meet informally rather than in structured meetings. There are 120 members on the email list with whom we share news items, stories, and events, local and international about the Holocaust.

This year, the group placed a wreath alongside the Child Survivor Group at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day. The group provided continuity for the annual Vancouver Raoul Wallenberg Day event and members served in the Wallenberg-Sugihara Civil Courage Society.

Members were involved in a number of community initiatives: they launched a Second Generation Vancouver Facebook page, gave public talks on the Holocaust in Lithuania, launched an educational website on the Jewish community of Skuodas, Lithuania ((www.shtetlshkud.com), attended a reunion of Jews from Liepaja, Latvia, volunteered as docents with the Vancouver Holocaust Centre, and drove Survivors to speaking engagements.

Coordinator: Alan LeFevre.
The Centre continues to build its library, archives and collection and supports preservation, access, and use of the collection for educational and research purposes.

VIDEO TESTIMONY PROJECT

For the past 12 months, the VHEC has continued the documentation phase of its long-standing Testimony Project. During this time, we delivered an interviewer training workshop aimed at recruiting new volunteers for the project, and to allow existing volunteers to share their knowledge with the rest of the group, while providing feedback to the project coordinator.

Over the past year, the Centre recorded six new interviews with local survivors, none of who had had their testimonies previously documented on digital video, and some of who had never shared their story with family members.

Through this ongoing but time-sensitive initiative, the VHEC is one of the only organizations whose mandate continues to include recording previously undocumented eyewitness accounts — several of which are scheduled to take place this coming summer.

The Testimony Project could only be made possible through the generous support of Anita Shafran and Zev and Elaine Shafran, and Rabbi Yosef Wosk — and by the hundreds of hours donated by our committed team of volunteer interviewers: Debby Frieman, Cathy Paperny, Hodie Khan, Kit Krieger, Anita Shafran, Guy Askadsky, and Heather Wolfe.

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Toni-Lynn Frederick

LIBRARY, ARCHIVES AND COLLECTION

It has been an especially busy and exciting year for the collection. A number of new donations were accessioned into the library, archives and collection, including donations of both pre-war and post-war documents, photographs and artefacts. Among the items donated are a number of suitcases, photographs and correspondence from the turn of the 20th century, and identification and education documents.

Items from the archives and collection were featured in the exhibition, Out of the Archives: A Companion to Anne Frank – A History for Today. Featuring items from both our collection and a number of items that are on loan, this exhibit spoke to the power of primary sources to convey the experiences of their owners through themes of childhood, faith, identity, rescue, hiding and resistance.

Work is ongoing to arrange and describe a number of archival collections, making this material more accessible for internal and external research. We have also made it easier to discover new library books; lists of our recent library acquisitions can be found online at http://bit.ly.com/2013-library and http://bit.ly/2014-library.

The archives and collection was the recipient of two large funding awards this year. Work has begun on a three-year project — Collection Management in the Digital Age: Preservation, Access & Pedagogy — which is funded by a generous donation from the estate of Paul Heller. This project will facilitate extensive digitization and cataloguing work that will further the collection’s accessibility, research potential and long-term preservation. Additionally, an 18-month project is currently underway, facilitated by a grant from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, that will facilitate access to, long-term preservation and pedagogical use of our rich and extensive Survivor Testimony Collection.

With support of a grant from the Irving K Barber BC Digitization Program and funding from the estate of Paul Heller, the Centre established a digitization lab this year, employing an assistant to carry out the digitization and online exhibition of the Gottfried Collection as its inaugural project.

We wish to thank everyone who generously donated to the library, archives and collection this year.
GOTTFRIED COLLECTION

The Gottfried Collection is the VHEC’s most extensive collection, consisting of a wealth of documents and photographs — including pre-war life in Vienna, wartime in Shanghai and post-war settlement in British Columbia — that highlight the lives of members of the Gottfried Family and the families of their spouses (the Kraus and Seemann families). The digitization of this Collection brings the VHEC closer to enhancing access to and use of our rich archival and museum holdings.


2. Letter to Dr. Edmund Kraus, for his service as a doctor in the Great War, in letterhead of the King of Austria. Vienna, 1917.

3. Postcard with image of a group of men in uniforms playing cards. Dr. Edmund Kraus may be on the right.

4. Group photograph of the Gottfried family on a street in a residential area, with homes and a car visible in the background. Back row: from left: Manfred Gottfried, Chaja Gottfried (née Genyo), Unknown, Lori Seemann (née Gottfried), Hugo Seemann, Leopold Gottfried, Unknown. Front row: two unidentified children, Unknown, Genda Kraus (née Gottfried), Han Kraus.


Letter to Dr. Edmund Kraus, for his service as a doctor in the Great War, in letterhead of the King of Austria. Vienna, 1917.

Postcard with image of a group of men in uniforms playing cards. Dr. Edmund Kraus may be on the right.

Group photograph of the Gottfried family on a street in a residential area, with homes and a car visible in the background. Back row: from left: Manfred Gottfried, Chaja Gottfried (née Genyo), Unknown, Lori Seemann (née Gottfried), Hugo Seemann, Leopold Gottfried, Unknown. Front row: two unidentified children, Unknown, Genda Kraus (née Gottfried), Han Kraus.
As at December 31, 2013, Net Assets of the Society were $4,420,473, compared with $4,235,192 at December 31, 2012. This is an increase of $185,281 or 4%, the breakdown of which is presented in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets. In the year ended December 31, 2013, the Society recorded an overall surplus of $194,926 compared to a deficit of $45,309 in the prior year. The main reason for the surplus in 2013 is an overall gain on the Society’s investment portfolio of $305,236 compared to $70,637 in 2012 due to strong returns in the equity markets and strengthening of the US dollar.

Interest and other investment income decreased by $52,400 from 2012, but was offset by higher gains on the value of the portfolio. Revenues, excluding special projects and investment income, increased by $32,657, or 20%. The main reasons for this increase were an increase from membership contributions of $7,349, an increase in donations and tribute cards of $22,160, and an increase in the B.C. gaming grant of $17,500. There was a decrease in contributions to the annual Fundraiser of $10,249.

Administrative expenses increased by $32,851 or 8% from last year, most of which was from salaries. Net costs of on-going programs was consistent with 2012, decreasing by $2,214.

In 2013, our investment portfolio performed very well, the market had an above average year overall and our portfolio outperformed the market benchmark that was set out. The total return, excluding foreign exchange, was 12% compared to 7% in 2012. Gains and losses on sales of investments and on market value changes of investments are all recorded in the statement of operations. The Society’s portfolio is well diversified and professionally managed. The Finance Committee, Investment Manager and Investment Advisor have continued to closely monitor the holdings and ensure that the portfolio remains within the guidelines of the Investment Policy that has been implemented by the Society.

Excluding unrealized gains and foreign exchange from the portfolio, there would have been a deficit of $12,106. The budget was kept on balance by the hard work of the staff obtaining various grants and donations, and the much appreciated support of the Society’s members through annual fundraisers, pledges, membership fees and other donations.

Robert Crystal
TREASURER
Review Engagement Report

We have reviewed the statement of financial position of Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society for Education and Remembrance as at December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012 and the statements of changes in net assets, operations and cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012. Our review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to us by the Society. A review does not constitute an audit and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements. Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Sanders, Russell & Company
PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
MAY 26, 2014

Abbreviated Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2013 (Unaudited)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets - Unrestricted</td>
<td>$165,192</td>
<td>$136,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets - Restricted</td>
<td>179,817</td>
<td>210,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and Equipment</td>
<td>25,297</td>
<td>29,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holocaust Education Centre</td>
<td>669,698</td>
<td>678,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>3,411,368</td>
<td>3,235,469</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| | $4,451,372 | $4,289,071 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>$30,897</td>
<td>$53,879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>4,420,475</td>
<td>4,235,192</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| | $4,451,372 | $4,289,071 |
## Abbreviated Statement of Operations

_For the Year Ended December 31, 2013 (Unaudited) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memberships</td>
<td>$46,221</td>
<td>$38,872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations and Tribute Cards</td>
<td>63,739</td>
<td>41,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and Other Investment Income</td>
<td>121,019</td>
<td>173,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.C. Gaming Grant</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>27,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraisers</td>
<td>25,302</td>
<td>35,551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federation Grant</td>
<td>15,442</td>
<td>18,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Income (Net) and Other</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>1,941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>317,228</td>
<td>336,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-going Programs</td>
<td>16,739</td>
<td>18,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>424,953</td>
<td>392,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Projects, Exhibits and Events (Net)</td>
<td>(14,154)</td>
<td>23,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>427,538</td>
<td>434,917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPERATING DEFICIT BEFORE GAINS (LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS</strong></td>
<td>(110,310)</td>
<td>(97,946)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GAINS (LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realized (Losses) Gains on Sale of Investments</td>
<td>98,204</td>
<td>(4,046)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments</td>
<td>184,421</td>
<td>91,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Foreign Exchange Gains (Losses)</td>
<td>22,611</td>
<td>(16,943)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>305,236</td>
<td>70,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</strong></td>
<td>194,926</td>
<td>(27,309)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PERMANENT TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>(18,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>$194,926</td>
<td>$(45,309)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Abbreviated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

**For the Year Ended December 31, 2013 (Unaudited)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance, Beginning of Year</td>
<td>$4,235,192</td>
<td>$4,185,258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus, (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenses</td>
<td>194,926</td>
<td>(45,309)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Contributions</td>
<td>23,542</td>
<td>22,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Exhibit Contributions</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>143,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Exhibit Expenses</td>
<td>(63,187)</td>
<td>(70,960)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance, End of Year</td>
<td>$4,420,473</td>
<td>$4,235,192</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Abbreviated Statement of Cash Flows

**For the year ended December 31, 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CASH (USED BY) PROVIDED FOR OPERATING ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>($94,456)</strong></td>
<td><strong>($141,246)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Contributions</td>
<td>23,542</td>
<td>22,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Exhibit Contributions</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>143,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CASH USED FOR INVESTING ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of Investments - Net</td>
<td>110,323</td>
<td>90,643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment in Permanent Exhibit</td>
<td>(63,187)</td>
<td>(42,739)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment in Capital Assets</td>
<td>7,008</td>
<td>(26,702)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH</strong></td>
<td>13,230</td>
<td>46,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td>316,229</td>
<td>269,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td>$329,459</td>
<td>$316,229</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Securing Our Mission for Future Generations

The VHEC is fortunate to have committed members who, in addition to giving annual gifts, have also shown their commitment by establishing an endowment fund. The following funds provide much needed support for our educational programs, commemorative events, exhibits and collection, as well as the publishing activities of the Centre.
OUTREACH SPEAKERS
Janos Benisz, Lillian Boraks Nemetz, Alex Buckman, Marion Cassirer*, Mariette Doduck, David Ehrlich, Bill Gluck, Jannushka Jakobovitch, Serge Haber, Chaim Kornfeld, Robert Krell, Inge Manes, Bente Nathan Thomsen, Peter Parker, Claude Romney, Louise Sorensen, Peter Suedfeld, Tom Szekely, Robbie Waisman; Coordinator: Rita Akselrod

DOCENTS

SPECIAL PROJECTS

FOUNDATION SUPPORT
Leon Judah Blackmore Foundation

GRANTS
Citizenship and Immigration of Canada – Inter-Action Program
City of Vancouver Cultural Infrastructure Grant
Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany Inc.
Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver
Province of British Columbia
Young Canada Works in Heritage Institutions and Summer Career Placement

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
Congregation Beth Israel (Kristallnacht)
Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (International Holocaust Remembrance Day)
Istituto Italiano di Cultura (International Holocaust Remembrance Day)
Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCCGV (International Holocaust Remembrance Day)
Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver (Yom HaShoah)
Vancouver Jewish Film Festival
Cherie Smith JCCGV Jewish Book Festival
Vancouver Film Festival
The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, Pacific Region (Yom HaShoah Victoria BC)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS
Association of Holocaust Organizations
British Columbia Archives Association
British Columbia Museums Association
Canadian Museums Association
International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance
Lower Mainland Museum Educator’s Association
Vantage Point

Our apologies for any errors or omissions.
Life Fellow Recipients

In recognition of those who have made special contributions to Holocaust education and remembrance.

Rita Akselrod
Lola Apfelbaum
Janos Benisz
Agi Bergida
Susan Bluman
Lillian Boraks Nemetz
Alex Buckman
Marion Cassirer
Saul Cohn
Jody Dales
Mariette Doduck
David Ehrlich
David Feldman
Lili Folk
Ernie Forrai
Klara Forrai
Graham Forst
Judith Forst
Izzy Fraeme
Chris Friedrichs
Bernard Goldberg
Serge Haber
Edwina Heller
Paul Heller
Katy Hughes
Frances Hoyd
Oscar Jason
Leon Kahn
Ida Kaplan
Chaim Kornfeld
Robert Krell
Lola Kremer
Kit Krieger
Lucien Lieberman
Gerri London
Leo Lowy
Inge Manes
Reverend Fred Metzger
Michel Mielnicki
Frieda Miller
Bente Nathan Thomsen
William Nichols
Pola Nutkiewicz
Peter Parker
Rubin Pinsky
Susan Quastel
Claude Romney
David Shafran
Vera Slymovics
Bronia Sonnenschein
Leslie Spiro
Louise Stein Sorensen
Peter Suedfeld
Aron Szajman
Tom Szekely
Stan Taviss
Ronnie Tessler
Gloria Waisman
Robbie Waisman
Sophie Waldman