

**THE VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST CENTRE SOCIETY FOR EDUCATION AND REMEMBRANCE** 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 tens of thousands of 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.

## VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

This year, the Board of Directors and professional staff of the VHEC engaged in a process to develop renewed statements of the organization's vision, mission and values.

These statements, intended to articulate the Centre's foundational principles, do not represent a new direction, but rather are intended to capture in words the intent of the founders as well as the practical impacts of the VHEC's work over more than two decades.

Adopted by the Board on May 2017, the statements are as follows:

### **VISION STATEMENT**

A world free of antisemitism, discrimination and genocide, with social justice and human rights for all.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Through education and remembrance, the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre engages students, educators and the broader public in British Columbia and beyond with the history of the Holocaust — the Shoah — and its ongoing relevance. As a teaching museum that stewards programs and collections initiated by Holocaust survivors, we honour and support those who survived and remember those who perished.

#### **VALUES STATEMENT**

Inspired by our founders, survivors of the Shoah, the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre strives to model understanding and respect for human rights and social justice.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The past year has been an extraordinarily busy period of delivering the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre's core education and remembrance programs alongside the planning and development of new initiatives.

Highlights included the launch of an original exhibition, *Canada Responds to the Holocaust, 1944-45*, our interaction with educators at the 10th Biennial Shafran Teachers' Conference, the growth of symposia for senior secondary students, as well as numerous commemorative and public programs that engaged and expanded our audiences.

The VHEC also laid the groundwork for a Renewal Project that will ensure that the Centre continues to build on its reputation for excellence and innovation. With an anticipated completion date in early 2018, this project includes the ongoing digitization of our collections, which will support the preservation of and access to our archival materials. Infrastructure improvements will ensure that we meet the growing demand from students, teachers and the general public. A new web-based collections management system and companion pedagogical resources will allow teachers in British Columbia and beyond to integrate Holocaust survivor testimonies and invaluable primary source materials into their classroom teaching.

Holocaust-related organizations have relied on eyewitness accounts to deliver impactful programming, especially for student audiences. Across the sector, organizations are preparing for the delivery of mandates in a post-eyewitness era. The Renewal Project currently underway will position the VHEC for the future, ensuring that our onsite and online offerings continue to engage with the history of the Holocaust, present meaningful local and Canadian content and explore the ongoing relevance of the Shoah.

Everything we are undertaking will make the Centre even more effective in supporting social justice education, and promoting remembrance of the Holocaust.

As we proceed with new initiatives, we remain grateful for and dedicated to the vision of the founders of the VHEC, survivors of the Holocaust, who, despite experiencing and witnessing the worst inhumanity, created this legacy, the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. It is this model of courage and optimism that underpins the work we do and guides us in our mission.

This is all possible because we have the support of members of our community, like you, who understand and value the importance of our work.

Thank you.

**Philip Levinson** 

President

Nina Krieger
Executive Director

## EXHIBITIONS

THE VHEC IS RECOGNIZED AS AN INNOVATIVE PRODUCER OF HOLOCAUST-RELATED EXHIBITIONS. WE CREATE INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED EXPLORATIONS OF DIVERSE ASPECTS OF HOLOCAUST HISTORY, MANY WITH PARTICULAR LOCAL OR CANADIAN RELEVANCE.





## OPEN HEARTS - CLOSED DOORS: THE WAR ORPHANS PROJECT

*Open Hearts – Closed Doors* tells the story of the arrival in Canada of 1,123 Jewish children orphaned by the Holocaust.

Originally developed by and presented at the VHEC in 1997, the Centre felt it was opportune to present this exhibition again as Canada and other countries are engaged in political discussions about refugees and migration. This is a testament to a core vision of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre that lessons of the past have relevance for the present and the future.

Supported by the Isaac and Sophie Waldman Endowment Fund, held at the Vancouver Foundation.

## CANADA RESPONDS TO THE HOLOCAUST, 1944-45

This original VHEC-produced exhibition explores interactions between Canadians in Europe and survivors of the Holocaust at the close of the Second World War and in the immediate postwar era. It follows members of the Canadian military — soldiers, chaplains, official photographers and war artists — who fought in the Allied campaigns in Europe, as well as journalists and aid workers, as they encountered and struggled to respond to evidence of Nazi atrocities.

This original exhibition, produced by the Vancouver Holocaust Education

Centre, has been researched and written by Richard Menkis and Ronnie Tessler, with the Bergen-Belsen panels by Mark Celinscak.

Canada Responds to the Holocaust represents an approach for which the VHEC has become known: presenting original scholarship at the intersection of Holocaust history and local or Canadian relevance.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the VHEC commissioned an original comic book, *Kicking at the Darkness*, by Vancouver artist Colin Upton, which students and teachers have acclaimed as an age-appropriate entry point to the subject matter.

Produced by the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre and funded by the Government of Canada.

## TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS

THIS YEAR, THREE EXHIBITIONS PRODUCED BY THE VHEC TRAVELLED TO INSTITUTIONS LOCALLY AND ACROSS CANADA. MANY OF THEM ALSO COINCIDED WITH LARGER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION EVENTS AND SYMPOSIA, INCREASING THE VIEWERSHIP OF THE VHEC'S ORIGINAL EXHIBITIONS.

## MORE THAN JUST GAMES: CANADA AND THE 1936 OLYMPICS

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE, LONDON, ON

The 1936 Olympics held in Nazi Germany represented one of Canada's first points of intersection with Nazi Germany. This VHEC-produced exhibition explores the intersection of Nazi-era history and Canadian responses.

"Today, I didn't just learn about cceptance, I realized just how important it is and what it can do to a community."

— A STUDENT WHO VIEWED THE *MORE THAN JUST GAMES* EXHIBITION



More Than Just Games exhibition at the Jewish Community Centre in London. Ontario.



## IN DEFIANCE: JEWISH RESISTANCE DURING THE HOLOCAUST

KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL, VANCOUVER, BC

Early histories of the Holocaust portrayed Jews as passive victims. Recent accounts have contributed to a more nuanced representation of Jews as active resisters. This original VHEC exhibition invites reconsideration of the role of resistance during the Holocaust.

Students were trained as volunteer docents to lead peers through this exhibition during the school's Yom HaShoah week.

## SHANGHAI: A REFUGE DURING THE HOLOCAUST

SHAWNIGAN LAKE SCHOOL, SHAWNIGAN LAKE, BC

More than 18,000 Jews escaped from Nazi-occupied Europe to Shanghai, China, between 1938 and 1940, including numerous who settled in British Columbia. This original VHEC exhibition was presented as part of the fourth annual Shawnigan Lake School Holocaust and Genocide Symposium.

## EDUCATION SYMPOSIA PROGRAMS

THE VHEC MET THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR SYMPOSIA PROGRAMS BY EXPANDING OFFERINGS FEATURING HOLOCAUST EYEWITNESSES AND HISTORIANS.

### **42nd ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE HOLOCAUST, UBC**

MAY 3 & 4, 2017, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

One thousand senior secondary students from 24 schools attended this year's symposium, hearing an historical overview, viewing a contextualizing film and then hearing first-hand testimony from Chief Dr. Robert Joseph, a survivor of Indian residential schools, and Holocaust survivor Robbie Waisman.

Teachers received library copies of *Rywka's Diary: The Writings of a Jewish Girl from the Lodz Ghetto* generously donated by the Leo Krell Memorial Book Fund.

The Annual Symposium at UBC is sponsored by the following VHEC Funds: Edwina & Paul Heller Holocaust Education Fund, Sophie Waldman Endowment Fund, and the Leo Krell Memorial Book Fund. This program is funded through our community's generous contributions to Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver Annual Campaign and by the Province of British Columbia.









"The seminar with Martha was a truly inspirational experience and an eye-opening moment. Getting to know these survivors is a privilege and it was not something many more people will be able to experience. This is the part of today that I valued the most."

— A STUDENT'S RESPONSE TO OUTREACH SPEAKER MARTHA SALCUDEAN, ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM, UBC

## EDUCATION SYMPOSIA PROGRAMS

### **DISTRICT-WIDE SYMPOSIA**

The VHEC delivered 10 half-day symposia, engaging more than 6,800 senior secondary students in 62 schools.

School and district partners:

Abbotsford

Burnaby

Coquitlam

Delta

Maple Ridge

New Westminster

North Vancouver

Shawnigan Lake

West Vancouver

(Kay Meeks Centre)

West Vancouver

(Rockridge Secondary School)

District Symposia are supported by the Vaisler family in honour of Syd & Sari Vaisler and Naomi & Mac Adler; and The Lovi Memorial Endowment Fund of the VHEC in honour of Anna (Abrahamsohn) Lovi, Dr. Joseph Lovi & Dr. Marta Lovi; and by the financial support of the Province of British Columbia. This program is also funded through our community's generous contributions to Federation Annual Campaign, with additional support from the Azrieli Foundation.







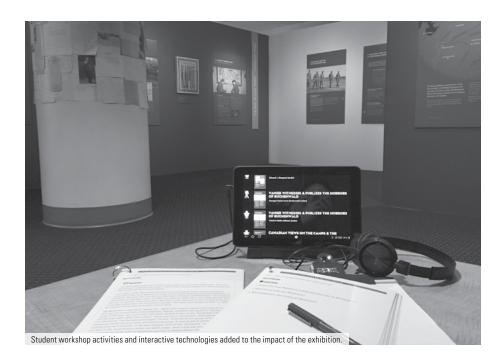
"During her speech, the audience became silent. For a moment, not a single sound could be heard in the whole gymnasium. Students and teachers alike were transformed by this heart-breaking image and the thought of never seeing a loved one again. ... The account of this journey moved every member of the audience in one way or another. Everyone who had the opportunity to hear her story would forever be changed."

— A STUDENT'S RESPONSE TO OUTREACH SPEAKER LILLIAN BORAKS-NEMETZ, NORTH VANCOUVER SYMPOSIUM



## EDUCATION SCHOOL PROGRAMS

INNOVATIVE, DOCENT-LED SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND COMPANION TEACHING MATERIALS SUPPORTED LEARNING ABOUT EXHIBITION THEMES AT THE VHEC AND IN THE CLASSROOM.





"The reference to local individuals who were part of the liberation effort — photos of Rabbi Cass and the uniform of Dr. Sheppard — were some of the highlights of the school program. Students enjoyed the handson experience of putting the simulated weight of the helmet on their heads to see how heavy it is."

- DODIE KATZENSTEIN, VHEC DOCENT

## CANADA RESPONDS TO THE HOLOCAUST, 1944-45

OCTOBER 2016-IUNE 2017

The exhibition welcomed 65 classes, including more than 1,400 students, who participated in interactive docent-led exhibition tours followed by either a workshop based on Colin Upton's comic *Kicking at the Darkness* or a session with a Holocaust Survivor Outreach Speaker.

#### DOCENT TRAINING

Training included an overview by the exhibition's research directors, Richard Menkis and Ronnie Tessler, with further training including an exhibition walk-through based on the docent script with VHEC education director Ilona Shulman Spaar.

### **TEACHERS' GUIDES**

The Canada Responds to the Holocaust, 1944-45 Teacher's Guide contained pre- and post-visit activities that facilitated student engagement with the historical context of the exhibition and provided an opportunity for further reflection on thematic issues raised during the school program.

## EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS AND OUTREACH PROMOTE BEST PRACTICES FOR TEACHING ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST AND PROVIDE ONGOING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS TO EXPLORE NEW TEACHING RESOURCES AND CLASSROOM STRATEGIES.

#### **TEACHER PREVIEW**

Teachers participated in a special preview event for the *Canada Responds to the Holocaust, 1944-45* exhibition and received an introduction to the school program and the VHEC teaching resources.

## 10TH BIENNIAL SHAFRAN TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

The VHEC welcomed 50 classroom teachers, university professors, school librarians and educators from British Columbia and Washington state to the 10th Biennial Shafran Teachers' Conference: Beyond the Textbook: New Approaches to Holocaust Education.

Sponsored by the David & Lil Shafran Endowment Fund of the VHEC.



## WEST VANCOUVER DISTRICT-WIDE WORKSHOP

West Vancouver teachers learned about the VHEC teaching resources and school programs on a district-wide professional development day and heard Holocaust Outreach Speaker Robbie Waisman.

## GLOBAL STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL VANCOUVER

Students of St. George's School in Vancouver engaged with the VHEC-commissioned comic book *Kicking at the Darkness* at the school's first Global Stewardship Conference, titled *Me.Us.World*.

## 2016 MEYER AND GITA KRON AND RUTH KRON SIGAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Eyal Daniel of Buckingham Elementary School in Burnaby and Stephanie Henderson of Seaquam Secondary School in Delta, were presented with the Kron Sigal Award, including a prize of \$500, in recognition of their outstanding commitment to Holocaust education.

The Kron Sigal Award is presented annually to an elementary or secondary teacher in any discipline who has shown a commitment to teaching students about the Holocaust and its important lessons.

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



## EDUCATION OUTREACH SPEAKERS

THE CENTRE'S DEDICATED SPEAKERS CONTINUE TO SHARE THEIR EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS WITH STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA AND BEYOND.

This year, VHEC Outreach Speakers engaged more than 9,000 students in 44 schools, in-person and teleconferencing via Skype, as well as more than 900 adults at schools, churches, synagogues and commemorative events. Communities reached include Metro Vancouver, Calgary, Vernon, Prince George and Seattle.



































## WRITING LIVES

### LANGARA STUDENTS PARTNER WITH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS TO WRITE MEMOIRS

Writing Lives was a two-semester course and a partnership between Langara College, the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre and the Azrieli Foundation.

In the first semester, students learned about the history of European Jewish culture and the Holocaust. In the second term, groups of three students were teamed with a Holocaust survivor. Students interviewed the survivor, transcribed their recollections and wrote their memoirs, which were presented at the graduation event on April 20.

The course was a pilot project and will be offered again in future.

"They had fresh points of view, they had interesting ideas about the Holocaust, they had interesting questions — not the kind of routine things that I've gone through before with more professional interviewers who tend to ask the same questions the same ways. Some of the questions made me think about my own experiences in ways that I never had before..."

— DR. PETER SUEDFELD



Dr. Peter Suedfeld, professor emeritus of psychology at the University of British Columbia, spoke at the Writing Lives Graduation Ceremony on behalf of the survivors who participated.



"These memoirs will be given to the survivors as gifts for themselves and their families, but they will also be archived and they may possibly be published and they will also serve as legacies for the survivors, their families and perhaps the research community in general..."

— DR. RACHEL MINES, ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR AT LANGARA AND COORDINATOR OF THE WRITING LIVES PROGRAM



"I came out of this class with something I did not expect: Hope. Amidst all their personal accounts of suffering and loss, our survivors still managed to impart upon us the importance of hope. I don't know if I've ever had such a life-affirming experience as talking to these survivors."

— FRIEDA KRICKAN, LANGARA COLLEGE STUDENT IN THE WRITING LIVES PROGRAM

## SURVIVORS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

THE VHEC OFFERS AN ARRAY OF SERVICES FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

#### SURVIVOR SERVICES

The VHEC and Jewish Family Service Agency delivered 224 services to 137 survivors, including:

- Financial Aid
- Group Support
- Referrals for Professional Counselling
- Housing and Health Care Advocacy
- Restitution and Compensation Assistance
- Social and Educational Activities

Social services for Nazi victims have been supported by a grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.





#### **HOLOCAUST RESTITUTION**

Volunteer lawyers Stan Taviss and Bonnie Elster helped many survivors this year apply for compensation and restitution. The service has been in operation for 17 years and counts 230 successful restitution applications.

#### **SURVIVOR DROP-IN**

Between 20 and 35 Holocaust survivors meet regularly to socialize and attend special events, including a monthly program for Russianspeaking survivors.

### **CHILD SURVIVOR GROUP**

Members of the Child Survivor Group hold regular meetings and special events and participate in commemorative events.

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

#### **SECOND GENERATION GROUP**

The experiences of children of Holocaust survivors are shared among peers in the Second Generation Group.



## ENGAGING THE PUBLIC

IN ADDITION TO OUR CORE PROGRAMMING, THE VHEC ENGAGES DIVERSE AUDIENCES WITH A RANGE OF OFFERINGS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. THIS YEAR, WE PARTNERED WITH SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS TO PRESENT SUCCESSFUL EVENTS THAT INVITED REFLECTION ON THE RESONANCE AND CONTEMPORARY RELEVANCE OF THE HOLOCAUST.

## VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 5, 2016

The VHEC sponsored the film, *Vita*Activa The Spirit of Hannah Arendt by
Ada Ushpiz.

## UNDERSTANDING INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA

FEBRUARY 15, 2017

Partnering with the Jewish Family Service Agency, the VHEC presented Mark Wolynn discussing how traumas of previous generations can emerge in unexplained depression, anxiety, obsessive thoughts and other symptoms.

## **VANCOUVER JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL**

NOVEMBER 6, 2016

The Centre's presentation of the film, *Every Face Has a Name*, by Magnus Gertten, sold out at the Fifth Avenue Cinema.

# THE MAX STERN ART RESTITUTION PROJECT- IN SEARCH OF NAZI-LOOTED ART

MARCH 23, 2017

Co-presenting with Canadian Friends of Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Congregation Schara Tzedeck, the VHEC sponsored this event with guest speaker Prof. Clarence Epstein, head of the Max Stern Art Restitution Project, with opening remarks by Mr. Robert Heffel, Heffel Fine Art Auction House.

## CHERIE SMITH JCCGV JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL

**NOVEMBER 29, 2016** 

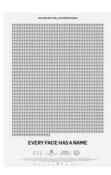
Andrew Nagorski, journalist and author of *The Nazi Hunters* presented at a reading and discussion sponsored by the VHEC.

# VANCOUVER COMIC ARTS FESTIVAL, KICKING AT THE DARKNESS ARTIST COLIN UPTON

MAY 21, 2017

Colin Upton was joined in conversation by Ronnie Tessler, one of the research directors and writers of the exhibition *Canada Responds to the Holocaust,* 1944-45, and Ilona Shulman Spaar, Education Director of the VHEC, to discuss his comic *Kicking at the Darkness*, which was commissioned to accompany the exhibition.













## COMMEMORATION

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**

OCTOBER 9, 2016

This year's service included a memorial to Dr. Elie Wiesel and featured remarks by child survivor Dr. Robert Krell and Buchenwald survivor Robbie Waisman.

VHEC with Schara Tzedeck Congregation and the Jewish War Veterans. Organized by Jack Micner, VHEC Programs Committee.

### **KRISTALLNACHT**

NOVEMBER 1, 2016

Professor Debórah Dwork spoke on the topic Holding on through Letters:

Jewish Families During the Holocaust, about what families did — and did not — discuss in correspondence while separated due to the war.

VHEC with Congregation Beth Israel. Funded through Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver Annual Campaign.



## INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

JANUARY 18, 2017

Speaking about his book *Distance from* the Belsen Heap: Allied Forces and the Liberation of a Nazi Concentration Camp, Professor Celinscak shared little-known history of Canadian involvement in the liberation of Nazi concentration camps.

VHEC with the Norman and Annette Rothstein Theatre. Funded through Federation Annual Campaign and the Province of British Columbia. Audience members received Holocaust survivor memoirs generously donated by the Azrieli Foundation. Supported by the Akselrod Family in memory of their beloved Ben Akselrod z<sup>\*1</sup>.

## YOM HASHOAH

APRIL 23, 2017

Holocaust survivor, Claude Romney spoke about *Prisoner Doctors in Nazi Concentration Camps*, including the experiences of her own father. The event included Eric Wilson, Cellist, Cantor Yaakov Orzech, Matanya Orzech & Kol Simcha Singers, Myrna Rabinowitz, Yiddish vocalist & the Yom Hashoah singers.

VHEC with the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver. Funded through Federation Annual Campaign, the Province of British Columbia, and VHEC Funds: Gail Feldman Heller Endowment and Sarah Rozenberg-Warm Memorial Endowment.

## COLLECTIONS

THE VHEC'S COLLECTION REPRESENTS THE LARGEST HOLOCAUST-RELATED HOLDINGS IN WESTERN CANADA, MUCH OF WHICH WAS GENEROUSLY DONATED BY LOCAL SURVIVORS, THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

The VHEC is nearing completion of a multi-year, multi-project initiative to preserve, digitize and enhance access to and pedagogical use of its four collections: archives, museum objects, Holocaust survivor testimonies and library (together referred to as the "Collection"). Several significant milestones in the VHEC's collections management strategy have been achieved to date, including:

- implementation of a new online collections management system,
   which was selected and customized by VHEC staff to best serve the specific needs of the institution, its user groups, the community and scholars;
- establishment of an in-house digitization lab and photography studio giving the VHEC the capacity to digitize artefacts and archival material;
- digitization of over 500 artefacts, documents, correspondence, photographs and works of art;
- arrangement, description and cataloguing of over 1,100 artefacts, archival materials, library items and testimonies to populate the new collections management system;
- digitization of the VHEC's collection of over 200 survivor and eyewitness video testimonies;
- creation of time-coded summaries for 175 of these testimonies;
- creation of 10 new archival finding aids for the Collection;
- development of a digital preservation strategy to sustain and preserve the digital content of the Collection into the future; and
- development of an interactive timeline and historical overview of the VHEC's Survivor Testimony Project.

In this final year of the initiative, the VHEC looks forward to making much of the Collection publicly accessible with the launch of the VHEC Collections website and online catalogue later this year.

Funding for the collections management strategy has been provided by a generous donation from the Estate of Paul and Edwina Heller, with thanks to Dr. Irene Bettinger, and by grants from the Government of Canada and UBC's Irving K. Barber Learning Centre.

## NEW ACQUISITIONS TO THE COLLECTION

The archives, library and museum collections acquired a variety of pre-war, wartime and post-war documents and artefacts this year, including: displaced persons camp publications, propaganda posters, prayer books, identity documents, correspondence, stamps, photographs, research materials, items from daily wartime life, and commemorative artefacts. The library collection expanded by almost 200 items.

We would like to thank everyone who generously donated to the archives, museum and library collections this year and for their patience and commitment during this time of growth and renewal.



## COLLECTIONS

### **COLLECTIONS OUTREACH**

This year, items from the Collection were displayed in the VHEC-produced exhibition *Canada Responds to the Holocaust, 1944-45*.

Eyewitness testimony from the VHEC's survivor testimony collection was included in Mark Celinscak's *Distance from the Belsen Heap: Allied Forces and the Liberation of a Nazi Concentration Camp*, which won the 2016 Vine Award for Canadian Jewish Literature in the non-fiction category.

Items from the VHEC's Rosengarten family collection were used in the exhibition *Faithful Israelites – Faithful Citizens: From the History of the Jews in Meiningen*, curated by Christoph Gann at the Meininger Museum in Meiningen, Germany.

Materials from the Rosengarten collection were also featured in a German television documentary *Heimweh nach Themar* (Homesick for Themar). In this program Dr. Sharon Meen, historian and VHEC volunteer, discussed her research about the Jewish community in Themar and Manfred Rosengarten's attempts to reconnect with his hometown.

#### **APPEAL FOR ARTEFACTS**

As part of our mission to preserve the memory of the Holocaust, the VHEC collects original artefacts and archival materials relating to pre-war Jewish life, experiences during and after the Holocaust, and settlement in Canada. Survivors and their families are encouraged to consider entrusting their photographs, correspondence, diaries, government documents or household and personal objects to the VHEC for use in education, exhibition and commemoration. Such materials provide a tangible link to the personal experiences of survivors and can bear witness to events, which is a powerful component of Holocaust education.

VHEC staff welcomes inquiries about the donation of materials to the Collection. Please call 604.264.0499 or email info@vhec.org.



## SOCIAL MEDIA COLLECTIONS

THE COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT LAUNCHED THE @VHECCOLLECTIONS TWITTER ACCOUNT THIS YEAR TO SHARE HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR DIGITIZED HOLDINGS, PROMOTE RESOURCES IN ALL AREAS OF THE COLLECTION, AND OFFER A GLIMPSE AT BEHIND-THE-SCENES COLLECTIONS WORK.



# **Y** VHEC COLLECTIONS @VHECCollections



German passport belonging to Gerda Sara Marcus, who immigrated to #Vancouver in 1966 #IAD17



Burned fragment of a prayer book. Found in front of Fasanenstrasse Synagogue in Berlin, following the Kristallnacht pogrom. | 2009.004.001



The most testimonies in our collection were recorded in the 1980s & 1990s on Umatic tapes. The length of the interview covered 2 tapes 1/8



All artefacts tell a story.
This luggage was donated to the VHEC with little known about its history.
A bit of research uncovered more... 1/3



Card issued by the Preparatory Commission for the International Refugee Organization qualifying refugee status. | RA009-04-00-00-01



Metal cup from Ravensbrück concentration camp | 1997.001.001



We're currently processing & digitizing the Baltuch, Schmucker family fonds. This photo, taken in around 1933, is of an unidentified woman.



We're repairing some pedagogical artifact reproductions that accompany the In Defiance traveling exhibition.

## SOCIAL MEDIA VHEC

THE CENTRE'S TWITTER AND FACEBOOK ACCOUNTS ARE SPACES FOR SHARING RELEVANT UPDATES AND SERVE AS PLATFORMS TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, TEACHERS AND OTHER CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS, BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

## CANADA RESPONDS TO THE HOLOCAUST 1944-45 EXHIBITION

**y JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD** *@Puglaas*Thx *@nicoslobinsky* & *@CIJAinfo* 4
organizing *#VanGran* visits today w/Vanc.
Hebrew Academy, *@JewishVancouver*, *@VHolocaustCntr* & *@KDHSVancouver* pic.
twitter.com/UwPXO5e61S



#### **★** ARTUR WILCZYNSKI @Arturmaks

Fantastic exhibit about how Canada and Canadians responded to the #Holocaust at the @VHolocaustCntr Powerful personal reflections.

#### ✓ MICHAEL BODNAR @idealmb

Socials 11 students from Ideal Mini learning about the Canadian response to the Holocaust at @VHolocaustCntr @VSB39



#### **■** BROCKTON SCHOOL @brockton\_school

Our 10-12s visited the *@VHolocaustCntr* today to learn about the Canadian reactions towards the Holocaust victims during WWII.



#### **UBC ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM**

#### **y** LOGAN KITTERINGHAM @GatorDunWGSS

Thank you to Mariette Doduck (child holocaust survivor from Belgium) for speaking to us today. So powerful and real @VHolocaustCntr



## NEW WESTMINSTER DISTRICT SYMPOSIUM

#### ♥ CLAUDIO CABANA @ClaudioCabana

An incredible privilege to hear David Ehrlich, Holocaust Survivor & Kit Krieger, renowned educator, *@VHolocaustCntr* Symposium. Thx VP Mr.J

#### **BURNABY DISTRICT SYMPOSIUM**

## **y** DALLAS THOR *@seagreenED*

Incredible morning @bbysouthSD41 learning about Holocaust history with Kit Krieger & a survivor @VHolocaustCntr #sd41 #fightinjustice



## WEST VANCOUVER - ROCKRIDGE SECONDARY DISTRICT SYMPOSIUM

➤ ROCKRIDGE SECONDARY @RockridgeSS

Thanks to the @VHolocaustCntr for working with our grade 11 students today. 
Important, hard and thought provoking work. 
#westvaned

•••••

#### **EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**

■ EcolePJLFI @ecolePJLFI

Watching Ducumentary 'Hana's Suitcase'.

Learning so much. Such an inspiring story!

@LaraHanaBrady @VHolocaustCntr



### **BIENNIAL SHAFRAN CONFERENCE**

### **y** CHARLOTTE SCHALLIÉ @CSchallie

It was a great honour to present our #graphicnovel Holocaust #highschool project at the #shafrancon @VHolocaustCntr. Pics by @\_ChorongKim



### **SUMMIT ICE**

▶ NATHAN FIELDER *@nathanfielder* Vancouver Summit Ice store is open for business!



### **y** SARAH WETHERED @swethered

@VHolocaustCntr today I wore my "Deny Nothing" button I won yesterday at the conference and someone asked me what it meant.

## TREASURER'S REPORT YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

The financial position of the Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society for Education and Remembrance (the "Society") improved in fiscal 2016. The Society's net assets grew by \$59,972 (2015 – reduction of \$15,232) primarily due to net proceeds received from the gala. The investment portfolio generated a return of 3.20% (2015 – 3.07%) net of fees during the fiscal year, which includes unrealized gains and losses from market value adjustments. The Society's liabilities remained virtually unchanged, and are mostly comprised of deferred public and private contributions anticipated to be used for projects in future years.

Revenues have increased by \$281,192 in the current year, principally from the generosity of the Society's donors, with the generation of more than \$259,000 from the gala alone. In addition, the Society received more than \$73,000 in general donations from its donors, over and above annual membership fees. Current year overall expenses increased by \$167,800 as a result of continued work on funded projects, and gala-related expenditures. On-going program expenses decreased by \$52,683 primarily as a result of the reduction in activities on a project funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Administrative expenses increased by \$78,502 as a result of additional resource requirements to facilitate the Society's projects.

The Society incurred a surplus of \$53,273 during the fiscal year (2015 – deficit of \$32,702). The surplus includes unrealized foreign exchange losses of \$14,364 (2015 – gain of \$21,573), unrealized gains on investments of \$153,874 (2015 – loss of \$71,385), and realized losses of \$48,399 (2015 – gain of \$131,051). The deficit, before taking into account investment income, realized gains and other items, was \$102,364 (2015 – \$215,756). The Society is dependent on investment income to sustain the shortfall from general operations. The Society's portfolio is professionally managed, and must adhere to an investment policy that has been approved by the Board of Directors.

Marcus Brandt

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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, 2016 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. 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

Banders, Russell + Company

JUNE 1, 2017

## ABBREVIATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	\$ 4,940,642	\$ 4,879,212
Net Assets	 4,365,101	4,305,129
Deferred Contributions - Permanent Exhibit	185,611	184,110
Current Liabilities	\$ 389,930	\$ 389,973
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
	\$ 4,940,642	\$ 4,879,212
Investments	3,607,232	3,561,211
Holocaust Education Centre	644,757	653,071
Property and Equipment	63,174	30,372
Cash - Restricted	208,794	207,234
Current Assets - Restricted	10,025	10,025
Current Assets - Unrestricted	\$ 406,660	\$ 417,299
ASSETS		RESTATED
As of December 31, 2016 (Unaudited)	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>

## ABBREVIATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

BALANCE, END OF YEAR	\$ 4,365,101	\$ 4,305,129
Endowment Contributions	 6,699	17,470
Surplus (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenses	53,273	(32,702)
Restated Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 4,305,129	\$ 4,320,361
Reallocation of Recognized Revenues from Prior Years' Permanent Exhibit Contributions		140,369
Prior Period Adjustment	(7,122)	(32,711)
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 4,312,251	\$ 4,212,703
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016 (Unaudited)	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>

## ABBREVIATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015 (Unaudited)		<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
REVENUES			RESTATED
Memberships	\$	45,632	\$ 48,737
Donations and Tribute Cards		73,323	130,152
BC. Gaming Grant		24,500	24,500
Gala Event Revenue and Fundraisers		259,146	24,590
Book Income and Other		305	3,036
Federation Grant		24,000	21,333
General Grants		72,000	-
General Grants - Specific Projects		262,555	123,653
Claims - Socialization Grants		20,788	18,938
Young Canada Works Government Grant		5,013	6,292
Permanent Exhibit Revenues		-	6,470
Exhibit Revenues		4,475	3,555
Ongoing Program Revenues		92,616	188,393
Annual Program Revenues		10,489	14,001
	_\$_	894,842	\$ 613,650
EXPENSES			
On-Going Programs	\$	62,456	\$ 122,719
Gala Expenses		109,445	-
Administrative		753,862	675,360
Book Store Expenses		503	619
Exhibit Costs		53,898	7,131
Annual Program Expenses		17,042	23,577
	\$	997,206	\$ 829,406
OPERATING DEFICIT BEFORE OTHER ITEMS	\$	(102,364)	\$ (215,756)
OTHER ITEMS			
Interest and Other Investment Income		66,396	100,784
Realized Gains on Sale of Investments	\$	(48,399)	\$ 131,051
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments Measured at Market Value		153,874	(71,385)
Unrealized Foreign Exchange (Loss) Gain on Investments		(14,364)	21,573
Realized Loss on Citizenship and Immigration Canada Project		(1,870)	-
Realized Gain on Replacement of Equipment		-	1,031
	\$	155,637	\$ 183,054
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$	53,273	\$ (32,702)

## ABBREVIATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended December 31, 2015 (Unaudited)	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
		RESTATED
CASH (USED FOR) PROVIDED FOR OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$ (399,306)	\$ (274,160)
CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Endowment Contributions	\$ 6,699	\$ 17,470
Deferred Revenues Received	421,453	409,536
Withdrawal from Investment Portfolio for Use in Operations	50,000	50,000
Proceeds from Sales of Investments	1,848,163	1,690,828
Returns of Capital Received	19,201	15,839
Redemption of Israel Bonds (\$25,000 USDs)	32,815	33,205
Deferred Contributions, Permanent Exhibit	 1,500	7,500
	\$ 2,379,831	\$ 2,224,378
CASH USED FOR INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of Investment Portfolio Securities	\$ (1,859,873)	\$ (1,856,581)
Purchase of Israel Bonds (\$25,000 USDs)	(32,815)	-
Investment in Capital Assets	 (61,647)	(24,340)
	\$ (1,954,335)	\$ (1,880,921)
INCREASE IN CASH	\$ 26,190	\$ 69,297
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	 566,827	497,530
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	\$ \$593,017	\$ 566,827

## ENDOWMENTS

Gottfried Family Kristallnacht Endowment Fund

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.

Selina Alko, Karen Alko Bichin, Amber Quiring,	Sam and Lola Haber Endowment Fund	Rosalie and Joseph Segal Endowment Fund				
David and Michael Yochlowitz Endowment Fund	Gail Feldman Heller Endowment Fund	Anita Shafran and Zev and Elaine Shafran				
Gary and Dianne Averbach and Betty Averbach Endowment Fund	Edwina and Paul Heller Holocaust Education Endowment Fund	Endowment Fund David and Lil Shafran Endowment Fund				
Sam and Frances Belzberg Endowment Fund		Ari Shiff and Carla van Messel Legacy				
Dr. Barrett Benny Endowment Fund	Kitty Heller Memorial Endowment Fund Sam and Michael Heller Memorial	Endowment Fund				
Bluman Family Endowment Fund	Endowment Fund	Silber and Greenhut Families Endowment Fund				
Larry Brandt and Family Endowment Fund	Kahn Family Legacy Endowment Fund	Lee, Bernie, Annie, Jory and Samantha Simpson				
Claman-Mielnicki Family Legacy Endowment Fund	Leon and Evelyn Kahn Endowment Fund	Endowment Fund  Phylics and Irving Spidor Endowment Fund				
	Abrasha, Ida, Odie and Sherie Kaplan	Phyliss and Irving Snider Endowment Fund				
Lorne and Sylvia Cristall Endowment Fund	Endowment Fund	Elizabeth Stern Memorial Endowment Fund				
Jody and Harvey Dales Hospitality Endowment Fund	Leon and Esther Kaufman Legacy Endowment Fund	Dr. Stanley Sunshine Endowment Fund				
Jody and Harvey Dales Legacy Endowment Fund	Leo Krell Memorial Book Fund	Terry Szajman Education Endowment Fund				
Charles and Dora Davis and Family	Emmy Krell Legacy Endowment Fund	Ronnie Tessler Archives Fund				
Endowment Fund		Isaac and Judith Thau Endowment Fund				
Gordon and Leslie Diamond Endowment Fund	Robert and Marilyn Krell Endowment Fund Krell Special Program Opportunity Fund	Isaak and Bluma Tischler and Aron and Neri Tischler Endowment Fund				
Charles and Isabelle, Craig and Carrie Diamond Endowment Fund	Meyer and Gita Kron and Ruth Kron Sigal	VHCS Endowment Fund				
	Endowment Fund	Waisman Family Legacy Endowment Fund				
Dr. Arthur and Judith Dodek Endowment Fund	Landa and Hector Families' Endowment Fund	Gloria & Robbie Waisman Endowment Fund				
Mariette and Sid Doduck Endowment Fund	Legacy Group Endowment Fund					
Samuel and Else Dunner Legacy Endowment Fund	Lewin Family Legacy Endowment Fund	Waldman Symposium Endowment Fund Joe and Birdie Wall Foundation				
Eva and Michael Dymant Holocaust Education	Libin Family Endowment Fund	Endowment Fund				
Endowment Fund	Lovi Memorial Endowment Fund	Baruch Weise Endowment Fund				
Sid and Sylvia Eibschutz Holocaust Education Endowment Fund	Jocy and Leo Lowy Endowment Fund	Joseph Wertman and Family Legacy				
Erica Fleischer Memorial Endowment Fund	Bob and Ralph Markin Endowment Fund	Endowment Fund				
Steve and Eva Floris Endowment Fund	Marsid Children's Legacy Endowment Fund	Regina and Leo Wertman Endowment Fund				
	Eugene, Alice and Paul Meyer Endowment Fund	Shery and Gerald Wittenberg Endowment Fund				
Abe and Rachele Fox and Family Endowment Fund	Karen and Jack Micner Legacy Endowment Fund	Miriam Wosk and Kenneth Wosk Legacy Endowment Fund				
Bertha Fraeme Endowment Fund	Pola and Henry Nutkiewicz Endowment Fund	Mordehai and Hana Wosk Family				
Max and Margaret Fugman Endowment Fund	Pinsky Family Legacy Endowment Fund	Endowment Fund				
Gaerber Family Legacy Endowment Fund	Leo Puterman Memorial Endowment Fund	Morris and Yosef Wosk Publishing Endowment Fund				
Edgar and Marilyn Gaerber Endowment Fund	Sarah Rozenberg-Warm Memorial	Yosef Wosk and Family Endowment Fund				
Gechman Family Legacy Endowment Fund	Endowment Fund					
Irving and Noreen Glassner Endowment Fund	Sacks Family Endowment Fund	Zalkow Family Endowment Fund				
David and Aurelia Gold Endowment Fund	Dr. Mark and Tracey Schonfeld and Family Endowment Fund	Henry and Ludmila Zeldowicz Endowment Fund				

## LIFE FELLOW RECIPIENTS

### IN RECOGNITION OF THOSE WHO HAVE MADE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO HOLOCAUST EDUCATION AND REMEMBRANCE

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



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

#### **OUTREACH SPEAKERS**

Janos Benisz, Amalia Boe-Fishman, Lillian Boraks-Nemetz,
Alex Buckman, Mariette Doduck, David Ehrlich, Serge Haber,
Jannushka Jakoubovitch, Chaim Kornfeld, Robert Krell,
Inge Manes, Claude Romney, Martha Salcudean,
Louise Sorensen, Peter Suedfeld, Tom Szekely,
Robbie Waisman; Coordinator: Rita Akselrod

#### **DOCENTS**

Lucy Adirim, Reva Dexter, Sylvie Epstein, Kieran Forry, Helen Heacock Rivers, Dodie Katzenstein, Dina Kaufman, Ethel Kofksy, Uma Kumar, Lucien Lieberman, Ivan Linde, Ellen Millman, Herb Mills, Cathy Paperny, Evelyn Ray, Meredith Shaw, Gita Silver, Rina Vizer, Anita Willson

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Alex Buckman, Richard Elias, Bonnie Elster, Chris Friedrichs, Debby Freiman, Dasa Hynek, Marianne Hoffard, Hodie Kahn, Sarika Kelm, Kit Krieger, Ella Levitt, Evelyn Ray, David Schaffer, Meredith Shaw, Stan Taviss, Emily Winckler (UBC Intern)

### **TEACHER ADVISORY**

Eyal Daniel, Mark Figuera, Stephanie Henderson, Kit Krieger, Tom Morton, Jinny St. Hilaire, Andrea Webb, Anna-Mae Wiesenthal

#### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Association of Holocaust Organizations
British Columbia Archives Association
British Columbia Museums Association
Canadian Museums Association
International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance
Vantage Point

#### **FOUNDATION SUPPORT**

Azrieli Foundation

Ben and Esther Dayson Charitable Foundation

Leon Judah Blackmore Foundation

### **GRANTS**

Library Archives Canada – Documentary Heritage Communities Program

Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany Inc.

Government of Canada – Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program

Government of Canada - Inter-Action Program

Jewish Community Foundation

**Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver** 

Province of British Columbia - Community Gaming Grant

Province of British Columbia - Multiculturalism Grant

Province of British Columbia – Canada 150 Celebrating B.C. Communities Grant

Young Canada Works in Heritage Institutions and Summer Career Placement

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Cherie Smith JCCGV Jewish Book Festival

Congregation Beth Israel (Kristallnacht)

Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver (Yom HaShoah)

Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCCGV (International Holocaust Remembrance Day)

Vancouver International Film Festival

Vancouver lewish Film Festival

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