

# Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship

## CHES Marks One Year since its Inception



November 9th will mark one year since CHES established itself as a vital force in the Ottawa community. From January through to the Spring, CHES participated in three events in partnership with The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), as well as the Polish and the Swedish embassies. During the spring CHES was invited by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem

in Toronto to participate and to help recruit local students for the “Ambassadors of Change” program. With the help of a successful fundraising campaign through Carleton’s online FutureFunder we were able to achieve our goal to record Ottawa Holocaust testimonies. CHES was gratified by the support the project received. Through the generosity of our donors the summer months kept us busy preparing the survivors and working with the recording director, Koa Padolsky, and the wonderful staff at the Carleton Media Centre. We completed the recording of ten Ottawa Holocaust survivors’ testimonies which will become a powerful educational tool available on our website. CHES is now working with the Carleton University Archives to find the best way to preserve the recordings for future generations. CHES is planning to launch its new website and a new informa-

tion Brochure this fall. Thanks to the hard work and creativity of our committee, exciting educational programs are planned for Holocaust Education Month in November 2016. Additionally, CHES is looking forward to working with Elise Bigley, an MA student at Carleton University, and a CHES committee member. Elise was assigned to us for the coming academic year as a participant in the Developing Future Leaders Program (DFL) at the Zelikovitz Center for Jewish Studies at Carleton University. CHES has great ideas for the future and is looking forward to the support of the community as well as its participation at our events in November.

**Mina Cohn, Director, Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship**

## Remembering the Shoa

Remembering the Shoah, May 5th, 2016, Canadian War Museum, Ottawa [www.yadvashem.ca/pages/commemoration/national\\_ceremony/2016/](http://www.yadvashem.ca/pages/commemoration/national_ceremony/2016/).

Yad Vashem Toronto invited CHES to bring 50 Ottawa grade 11 students to participate in the “Ambassadors of Change” program, as part of the 2016 National Holocaust Remembrance Day Event.

This was the first time Ottawa students have participated in this event. Students of varied faiths and cultures from several secondary schools in Toronto, Montreal, and Ottawa met with Holocaust survivors to hear their stories about their experiences, and to participate in group discussions about the relevance of the Holocaust in today’s world. This year, more Ottawa sur-

vivors participated in the program. CHES was pleased to assist Yad Vashem in this interactive “Ambassadors of Change” program. CHES had forwarded invitations to 39 educators in both the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) and the Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB). CHES also encouraged the March of the Living organizers to send representatives.

On account of their actions and activities in Holocaust Education and Scholarship, CHES was asked to become a member of the ZACHOR COALITION. As part of the day’s ceremonies, Mina Cohn, Director of CHES, was invited, together with other Zachor Coalition members, to light one of the six candles during the National memorial ceremony.



Dr. Agnes Klein



Mina, Koa, and Media Centre Crew



Katie Morrison with Koa

## Future Funders Program FUNDS The Survivors’ Testimony Project

With Appreciation to all those who donated to the Future Funder Program: Your support enabled the Memoirs of Holocaust Survivors to be recorded at Carleton

This past July, the Survivors’ Testimony Project began its filming.

Members of the Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES) recognized the urgent need to record and preserve the accounts of Ottawa Holocaust survivors both for future generations and for educational and research purposes before it is too late. The goal is to document and preserve the testimonies of Holocaust survivors. These testimonies will be primary oral historical resource that will allow future generations of students, researchers, teachers, and others to hear, and to see the individuals who experienced and witnessed firsthand the genocidal policies and crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators.

The recordings and associated educational materials will form the basis of an Ottawa based Holocaust Memorial project. The survivor recordings will also become a public resource

freely accessible on the CHES website (Carleton University). Their recorded testimonies will serve as a powerful pedagogical tool to be used in any educational institution or setting. It will allow professors and students to explore online the unique power of survivors’ memoirs. The unedited recordings and videotapes will be available as resources for scholars, students, educators, and the public. These accounts will provide

*“Each and every donor to FutureFunder has helped us achieve this very important goal: to preserve the stories of Holocaust survivors currently residing in Ottawa”*

glimpses into the lives of individuals who lived during the Holocaust that cannot be obtained from documents or written records. Such testimonies will also serve as an excellent resource for the development of educational materials pertaining to anti-bullying and anti-racism.

Carleton’s FutureFunder raised the financial resources required for this

project to be realized. Documentary director Koa Padolsky, and the incredible staff at the Carleton’s Media Centre Studio completed the recording of the survivors’ testimony project on schedule.

Staff at the Media Centre was outstanding: highly professional, skilled and easy to work with. Koa who had arrived from London, England earlier that week, blended in beautifully and did a superb job interviewing the survivors. The recording process, though complex, progressed smoothly. Most importantly, the survivors were pleased.

Each and every donor to FutureFunder has helped us achieve this very important goal: to preserve the stories of Holocaust survivors currently residing in Ottawa. CHES is planning a “screening launch” once all the interviews are finalized. Many thanks again to Marion, Kathy, Annette, Les and Batia for their teamwork and for the time and effort you put into this important project. This project could not have been completed without the vision and drive of Mina Cohn, Director of CHES. Mina continues to work tirelessly on behalf of CHES in order to fulfill its mission.

# Upcoming CHES EVENTS — Fall 2016

Event	Date/ Location	Event Description
<b>Dr. Diane F. Afoumado</b> , Chief Research and Reference Branch, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Tracing Services.	November 3 4:30 – 8:30 pm Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St. Second Floor	<b>Dr. Diane Afoumado</b> , Keynote Speaker, Second Generation Symposium <b>Dr. Paula Draper</b> , Early Years of Adaptation of Survivors to Life in Canada. <b>Dr. Paula David</b> , 2nd Generation Trauma. <b>Cathy Clark</b> , The Impact of Her Parents' Experience on Her Life and Her Work. Registration Required
<b>Dr. Diane F. Afoumado</b> , Guest Speaker Beakfast and Learn	November 4 9:00 - 11:00 am Department of History, Paterson Hall, Room 433, Carleton University	<b>Dr. Afoumado</b> will speak on the St. Louis and its voyage. <a href="http://njewishnews.com/article/4037/spreading-the-blame-for-st-louis-tragedy?source=njirnrelated#V-VGtYgrLIU">http://njewishnews.com/article/4037/spreading-the-blame-for-st-louis-tragedy?source=njirnrelated#V-VGtYgrLIU</a> The public is welcome to attend.
<b>Prof. Dariusz Stola</b> , Director of the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews	November 8 7:00 pm The Embassy of Poland, 443 Daly Ave	<b>Prof. Stola</b> , will speak about the unexpected mass interest in Jewish history in Poland and how the museum responds to and strengthens this interest. The public is welcome to attend.
<b>Dr. Michael Marrus</b> , Keynote Speaker Launch of Holocaust Education Month	November 9 7:00 pm Kehillat Beth Israel 1400 Coldrey Avenue, Ottawa	Join us for Holocaust Education Month Launch Event on the 78th Anniversary of Kristallnacht <b>Dr. Marrus</b> will speak on Lessons of the Holocaust: A Historian's Reflections. The public is welcome to attend.
Actor, <b>Mr. Shingo Misawa</b> presents Decision: Visa of Life (Sempo Sugihara Story)	November 13 4:00 - 6:00 pm Kailash Mital Theatre, Southam Hall	This play tells the true story of Chiune "Sempo" Sugihara (1900-1986). Sugihara was a Japanese diplomat, serving as Vice-Consul of Japan in Kaunas, Lithuania at the outbreak of World War II. Caught between the Nazis and the Soviets, Jewish refugees from Poland and Jewish Lithuanians were desperately seeking ways to leave the country. They came to Sugihara looking for help. Risking his career and his own safety, Sugihara made the decision to issue transit visas which saved over 6,000 lives. In 1985, Israel named him among 'The Righteous Among the Nations' for his actions. The public is welcome to attend.
Teachers' Workshop	November 24 4:30 - 8:30 pm Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales Drive	Following on <b>Dr. Irwin Cotler's</b> presentation, educators will participate in 3 workshops that address the following topics: the Nuremberg Hate Laws, the Nuremberg Trials, and The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Registration required: <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/ches/events">www.carleton.ca/ches/events</a>

For more detailed information about these events and the speakers, please visit [www.....\(our web person can help\)](http://www.carleton.ca/ches/events)

## Behind the scenes at CHES

Behind the scenes at CHES: CHES is working to develop a bibliography of publications either written by survivors or children of survivors who have made Ottawa their home. The bibliographical list will also include publications by local Holocaust scholars. These memoirs and scholarly works will complement the "Survivor Project" interviews and together will be a useful educational resource in the fight against anti-Semitism and racism. The desire is that these materials will be used by teachers in their classrooms, and by teachers in professional development, as well as in public memorial and/or commemoration events. The long-term development of these materials as an

education resource is of vital importance to honour the remaining survivors and to give them a voice in our community.

We had fantastic support for our Holocaust Testimony Project. Further contributions will help us to develop additional educational programs as noted above.

As you read in ZC's 2015 Winter newsletter, Holocaust survivors, and the children of Holocaust survivors visited students of History and World Religions class at the Cairine Wilson Secondary School in Orleans, joined them for a kosher lunch "researched and meticulously prepared by the students" during which small groups of students were seated with each speaker, who described either their own or their parents'

experience during the Holocaust, as well as aspects of Judaism of interest to them. The CHES advisory committee made a donation to CHES to thank the school for the beautiful event. Following this visit, the teacher of that class, Elaine Bryans, wrote to CHES saying, "Thank you for your kind words and for honouring our school in this way. Today, the students were very excited to talk about the experience of sharing lunch with you. The format of the luncheon allowed them to practise skills (social skills, etiquette, etc.) that are often ignored in today's curriculum. They really enjoyed having an opportunity to get to really know the guests and to participate in a different type of educational experience. Thank you once again for promoting the learning of our students."

In addition to making donations online via the Future Funder webpage, donations can be made by cheque to Carleton University, and mailed to:

Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive, 510 Robertson Hall, Ottawa, ON K1S 5B6.

In the MEMO line on the cheque please indicate: Ottawa Holocaust Survivors' Testimony project.

### Join us on our virtual venture:



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