



Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES)

Newsletter, Vol. 1, No. 2, September 2021



From the Chair

As I write, CHES is concluding the planning for Holocaust Education Month (HEM) events. Since its establishment in 2015, CHES has been committed to providing meaningful, quality events during HEM in Ottawa. I am excited to share that once again CHES will present inspiring programs with two world-famous speakers. Actor Saul Rubinek, who has Ottawa connections, will headline the launch event on November 9th and Helen Epstein, an arts journalist, author, and pioneer on the inter-generational transmission of trauma, will deliver the keynote address on November 14th. Both events will be virtual and open to the public and will be promoted across Canada (see details below).

We welcome Honourary Chair, Dr. Gerry Pulvermacher, an organizational psychologist who was born in Bergen-Belsen and is a child of survivors, and CHES friend Natalie Stern, as co-chair of the November 9th event with Saul Rubinek.

We anticipate that both these events will attract new audiences, especially from those who are interested in the arts. Our annual Teachers' Workshop has been made possible through the generosity of the Congregation Beth Shalom Legacy Fund Committee and will help teachers to better explore with their students the voices of survivors who made Ottawa their home.

The workshop, designed as an interactive educational opportunity, will raise the understanding of current issues involving discrimination, antisemitism, and racism and will encourage equity and diversity in the school and global community.

Third Generation of Holocaust survivors will play an important role in the way future generations understand the Holocaust. Engaging them remains a challenge and CHES is looking for creative ways to attract them to our work. Presentations by two young adults, Chaim Katz and Yaffa Tegegne, at the recent Emergency Summit on Antisemitism opened my eyes to the fear and the challenges of antisemitism and hate they face daily as university students and as young professionals. CHES hopes to include them in the HEM program; sharing their powerful messages will appeal to their generation and inform others in the audience.

A heartfelt thanks to all those who responded to our fundraising campaign. Your generous support will help sustain our mission to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive. If you have not yet made your donation, please do so. CHES is an independent, new charitable organization and needs the financial support of the community to continue to provide the quality programs to which you are accustomed.

We thank the Azrieli Foundation and the John McHale and Renee Levcovitch Foundation for their generous support of CHES programs.

As summer comes to an end and we are about to welcome a new year, may we all celebrate this year with our families. We look forward to the time when we can safely look back on the past many months of Covid-19 and celebrate having endured this challenging time.

We at CHES are wishing you and your family a happy, healthy, and safe year.



A Happy New Year!
! שנה טובה ומבורכת



September 14th, 80 Years Since Babi Yar at the National Holocaust Memorial, 3:30 pm

The National Holocaust Monument will be the site of a solemn remembrance to mark 80 years since the two-day mass killing at Babi Yar. The short outdoor program is being organized by a grassroots committee of engaged community members and will provide for social distancing.

RSVP: office@cmhottawa.com. Please respond via email, stating name(s) of those attending, together with contact number(s) as per Covid.

2021 Holocaust Education Month (HEM)

Save the Date!

We are pleased and excited to announce the CHES 2021 Holocaust Education Month (HEM) lineup. While our programs will remain virtual, we promise to engage our audiences across Canada and beyond with a stimulating and thought-provoking range of events. All are Zoom events, unless otherwise indicated.

November 9th, Launch event: 7:00 pm

“All in the Telling” – An evening in Commemoration of Kristallnacht with acclaimed Canadian actor Saul Rubinek



Saul Rubinek’s presentation will focus on how delving into and re-telling the story of his parents’ survival during the Holocaust in Poland affected three generations of his family. He has recently completed his play, “All in the Telling”, highlighting the many strands of this story and he will perform excerpts from it.

Born in a DP camp in Germany in 1948, Saul Rubinek grew up in Ottawa where he began his acting career at the Ottawa Little Theatre. He went on to become an award-winning stage and screen actor in a variety of roles both in Canada and the US, most recently in several successful TV series such as *Hunters* and *The Marvellous Mrs Maisel*. He has also directed and produced plays and films including the documentary based on *So Many Miracles*, his own book about his parents’ survival.

[Read more...](#)

This is a virtual event via Zoom with Advance Registration. In lieu of tickets, a donation of \$25 will be gratefully accepted. For more information: info@chesatottawa.ca

.....

November 14th, Second Generation Program: 7:00 pm

Keynote Address by Helen Epstein: “The Shadow of the Holocaust on the lives of descendants of survivors – Is it possible to move beyond its grip?”



Well-known author, journalist, and child of survivors, Helen Epstein’s published works include the non-fiction trilogy [Children of the Holocaust](#), [Where She Came From](#), and [The Long Half-Lives of Love and Trauma](#).

Her pioneering work on the inter-generational transmission of trauma paved the way for hundreds of works by second-generation writers, artists, and researchers and has been widely translated. Born in Prague in 1947, Helen grew up in New York City. In addition to her 11 books, her reviews and articles have appeared in the Sunday New York Times, Washington Post, Boston Globe, New York, Esquire, and NewYorker.com. She lives in Massachusetts and has two grandchildren in Montreal.

In her presentation, Helen Epstein will shine a light on the need to help ensure that hate and its horrible repercussions will be eradicated. For children of Holocaust survivors, understanding the transmission of trauma from their heroic parents can perhaps answer some self-reflective questions which have dogged them their entire lives.

This is a virtual event via Zoom with Advance Registration. In lieu of tickets, a donation of \$18 will be gratefully accepted. For more information: info@chesatottawa.ca.

.....

November 24th Teachers' Workshop, 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm



Kenra Mroz



Sophia Mirzayee

Workshop facilitators: Sophia Mirzayee is a first-generation Afghan-Canadian from Ottawa. She has a BA in Human Rights and an MA in Education with a special emphasis in the pedagogy of human rights and social justice. Kenra Mroz is an English and Writer's Craft teacher at Sir Robert She is a graduate of the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem's seminar program for Holocaust educators. Both facilitators are members of CHES.

Entitled "Testimonies of the Holocaust, Inspiring Change Through Legacy: In-depth Exploration of the voices of Holocaust survivors" the workshop will be based on the [testimonies of Ottawa-area Holocaust survivors](#) recorded by CHES in 2016.

The workshop and associated lesson plans for teachers will focus specifically on the stories and experiences of the Ottawa survivors with the purpose of stimulating educators and students to learn about, reflect upon, and discuss why and how Holocaust history and legacy continue to form an integral part of understanding a variety of social justice and human rights issues today.

In addition to supporting the Ministry of Education's ongoing commitment to providing a strong Equity and Diversity focus throughout all Ontario schools, the workshop topics and materials will directly address important aspects of the Ontario Curriculum with respect to multidisciplinary content and responsible citizenship.

The program will provide readily available and accessible resources, specifically up-to-date digital resources, including lesson plans, hands-on activities, and access to a wide variety of speakers and supportive contacts. It will also promote an understanding of current issues involving discrimination, racism, and antisemitism and encourage equity and diversity in schools and in our global community, thereby promoting positive change in our world.

This workshop is made possible thanks to a grant from the Congregation Beth Shalom Legacy Fund Committee.

For more information: info@chesatottawa.ca

Rising Antisemitism Threatens Us All



My name is Minda Chaikin. I'm both a Canadian citizen and an Israeli citizen. I live in both of these worlds and know both very well. I was born in this country as were my parents. I have deep roots. I love this country and feel proud to be Canadian.

My parents made Aliyah to Israel in 1968 where I grew up from the age of 11. I served in the Israel Defense Forces. I love Israel and I'm a proud Israeli. Many years ago, I moved back to Canada with my husband, Zev Zlotnik, and our two daughters. I continue to maintain close ties with Israel. As a family, we visited every year and in the past eight years, I spent three months a year there. I also taught about Israel and led many Israeli events in my capacity as a long-time member of the Judaics staff at the Gray Academy of Jewish Education in Winnipeg. And I am a founding member of CHES. I'm writing this article to address the newest form of antizionism/antisemitism Jews in Canada have been facing since the war between Israel and Hamas last May

There has been an explosion of antizionism/ antisemitism hatred around the world, which unfortunately has also taken hold in Canada. This is apparent on our streets, in our schools, on social media, and in the mainstream media. We cannot accept Jews in Canada feeling unsafe as a result of the violent rallies that were held across the country during the recent war.

[Read more...](#)

Hate crimes increased by 37% in 2020: Federal Government begins to address the situation with a National Summit on Antisemitism

Ottawa, July 21: A virtual gathering of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and key government ministers and leading stakeholders in the fight against antisemitism was hastily organized in response to the disquieting increase in antisemitic hate crimes. CHES was invited and was represented by CHES Chair Mina Cohn and Dr. Art Leader. Mina's presentation of CHES' concerns earned congratulations from co-chair Hon. Irwin Cotler. [Read the report on the summit.](#)

Letters

From the Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat

Dear Mina Cohn:

On behalf of the Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat, I would like to thank you for your important contributions to the National Summit on Antisemitism. We appreciate your invaluable insights and thoughtful recommendations that you shared at the Summit [and] thank you for contributing to this critical conversation on combating antisemitism and building a more inclusive and equitable Canada.

Peter Flegel
Executive Director
Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat
Canadian Heritage

From the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights

And so the important question: what, then, do we do? – as all of the above make the convoking of this National Summit as timely as it is necessary. The answer is simple – we must take concrete action. - Professor Cotler

Important Links:

[Irwin Cotler's Remarks for the National Summit to Combat Antisemitism](#)
[The Government of Canada Concludes National Summit on Antisemitism](#)

Editor: Sheila Hurtig Robertson

We have made it easy to donate online.

To support HEM 2021, simply click on the button below.

Your gift to CHES will support our year-round programs.

If you already contributed to this year's campaign, we thank you for your generous support.



Contact

Email: info@chesatottawa.ca

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CHESATOTTAWA>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/chesatottawa>

Visit our website at www.chesatottawa.ca

Copyright © 2021 Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship. All rights reserved.