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Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES)

Newsletter, Vol. 4, No. 1, December 2023

Words from Chair Mina Cohn



Mina Cohn, CHES Chair

The weeks following October 7 and the unspeakable terrorist attack on Israel by Hamas, a terrorist group bent on destroying the Jewish state, have been disquieting and consumed most of our energies. With heavy hearts as we follow events in Israel and yearn for the return of the hostages, we continued to focus on our work in the community. Sadly, due to the ongoing war, the keynote speaker for our launch of Holocaust Education Month (HEM) was unable to join us. [Read more.](#)

A Special Thank You

We thank all the donors who participated in Giving Tuesday for their continuing support. You can still make a difference by donating now. Have you considered the change you could make by supporting the work of CHES? Providing a legacy for CHES helps greatly to keep alive the memory of the Holocaust.

Our Legacy donors are individuals, survivors, and descendants like you who care about Holocaust Education. The legacies ensure that CHES will continue its mission to deliver Holocaust Education programs to teachers, high school and university students, and various relevant institutions. Making a legacy gift can be very rewarding. With a little advance planning, you can demonstrate your enduring commitment to Holocaust Education and combating antisemitism through CHES' many programs. CHES will honour these legacies on our website if the legator so wishes.

CHES Welcomes Deborah Lyons

On October 13, Karina Gould, Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and a granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor, together with Ya'ara Saks, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, and Kamal Khara, Minister of Diversity and Inclusion, announced the appointment of Deborah Lyons as the new Special Envoy on preserving Holocaust remembrance and combatting antisemitism. [Read More.](#)



(L to R) Deborah Lyons, the new Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism; Honourable Irwin Cotler, Canada's first Special Envoy; Pam Damoff, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Consular Affairs); Ya'ara Saks, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health; Kamal Khera, Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities; and Karina Gould, Leader of the Government in the House of Commons



(L to R) Frayda Raber, Sue Hurtubise, Zev Kalin, Zoltan Fried, Stan Farber, and George Abonyi listen to Rachel Guy-Levine present her grandparents' Holocaust experience.

Through Their Eyes Project Update

By Kara Goodwin

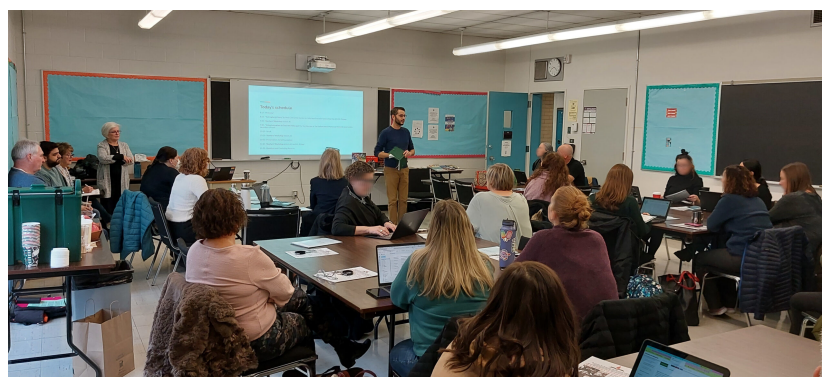
The past two months of Through Their Eyes have been quiet in terms of events, but CHES has been busy in the background laying the groundwork for presentation development. Over 35 participants have joined the program.

[Read More](#)

Presenting Grade 6 Curriculum Workshop to OCDSB Teachers

By Marion Silver

In mid-November, a two-day teachers' workshop organized by CHES presented four sessions for 120 Grade 6 educators and administrators. CHES' partners in the initiative were the Azrieli Foundation, Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust Studies in Jerusalem, and the Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OSDSB). [Read more](#)



Brian Kom opens the Grade 6 Holocaust Education Teachers' Workshop.



Avi Posen provided OCDSB teachers with tools to fight antisemitism.

Focusing on Antisemitism, Responding to Incidents of Hate with Avi Posen

By Minda Chaikin

After years of working together remotely, Avi Posen, the Senior Director of Unpacked for Educators, was finally able to join CHES in person for three teaching sessions in October and November. Welcomed enthusiastically, Posen presented the first session of a pilot project initiated by Open Door Media to

educators from Sir Robert Borden High School, Ashbury College, and Holy Trinity High School. [Read More](#)



CHES Secretary Marion Silver (L) and Danish Ambassador Hanne Fugl Eskjær

Commemorating the Rescue of Danish Jews

On November 15, Danish Ambassador Hanne Fugl Eskjaer, Swedish Ambassador Signe Burgstaller, and CHES hosted the 80th Commemoration of the Rescue of the Danish Jews. Ambassador Eskjær shared an inspiring story of a family member who was a carpenter and who made coffins that provided unorthodox hiding places, thereby helping to save Danish Jewish lives.

[Read more](#)

Ashbury Students' Perspective on the Danish Embassy Commemoration



Alyssa Novick (L) and her Ashbury College students

Four students from Ashbury College accompanied their teacher, Alyssa Novick, to the 80th Commemoration of the Rescue of Danish Jews. This was an excellent opportunity for the four International Baccalaurate History students to learn more about the Holocaust from Danish and Swedish perspectives and to learn, via a movie and panel discussion about the unique experience of the Danish Jews and how they were saved during the Holocaust. [Read more](#)



Tova Clark (L) shared her story of survival to Kenra Mroz's classes at Sir Robert Borden High School.

Tova Clark Shares Her Remarkable Story with SRB Students

By Kenra Mroz

During the month of November, child Survivor Tova Clark visited all three of my classes at Sir Robert Borden High School. Tova shared her family's incredible story of survival with my two Grade Nine English classes and with my Grade Twelve Social Justice class. Vice principal Karl Carey also attended one of the presentations. Tova's presence, and the personal details that she shared, touched, and inspired all of us in several meaningful ways.

[Read more](#)

Tibor Egervari Visits Future Teachers at UOttawa Department of Education

By Marion Silver

Six-hundred and fifty future students from the Department of Teachers Education at the Faculty of Education at the University of Ottawa listened with rapt attention as Tibor Egervari recounted his experiences as a Holocaust survivor on October 10 and November. This is the second year Tibor has been invited to share his Holocaust survival story with soon-to-graduate teachers in our schools. [Read more](#)



Professor Tibor Egervari brought a powerful message to future teachers at UOttawa's Faculty of Education.

CIJA (Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs) Conference on Antisemitism

By Minda Chaikin and Mina Cohn

Close to 1,000 members of Jewish communities from across Canada and friends joined the two-day CIJA Conference, *Antisemitism: Face It, Fight It*, in Ottawa on October 13 and 14. On everyone's mind was the horrific attack by Hamas terrorists on the people of Israel one week earlier. [Read more](#)



Antisemitism: Face It, Fight It presentations

Thank you for your support:

*Marcia Saipe and Mr. Theodore Miller
Stephen and Gail Victor
John McHale & Renee Levcovitch Foundation*

*Barbara Crook and Dan Greenberg
Wielkanoc George
Adath Shalom Congregation
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CHES is accepting donations of securities-in-kind.

CHES now offers a Legacy Program.

Please visit the [CHES Legacy program for more information](#).



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