



Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES)

Newsletter, Vol. 4, No. 2, April 2024

House of Commons Motion: CHES Responds

The Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship expresses its profound disappointment with the motion passed by the House of Commons related to the Israel-Hamas War. The motion and the debate it provoked has amplified divisions in Canadian society. Canada's Jewish community, already suffering through an unprecedented rise in antisemitic hate crimes and incidents, has been further marginalized by its adoption.

[Read more.](#)

Words from Chair Mina Cohn



Mina Cohn, CHES Chair

Almost six months have passed since the horrific events of October 7th and the struggle for the return of the hostages continues as does the Israel-Gaza war and escalation on the Lebanese border. CHES' concern for Israel, coupled with our struggle to cope with the continuous rise in antisemitism in schools, at universities, and on our streets, is beyond exhausting.

[Read more.](#)

Recent Presentation Highlights



"The presentation was engaging. Thank you, Mina Cohn, for coming in! I think that having the kids create their timelines was also a great idea. Overall, they shared that they learned a lot and found it to be very meaningful". Michael

Washerstein, Grade 6, Ottawa Jewish Community School .

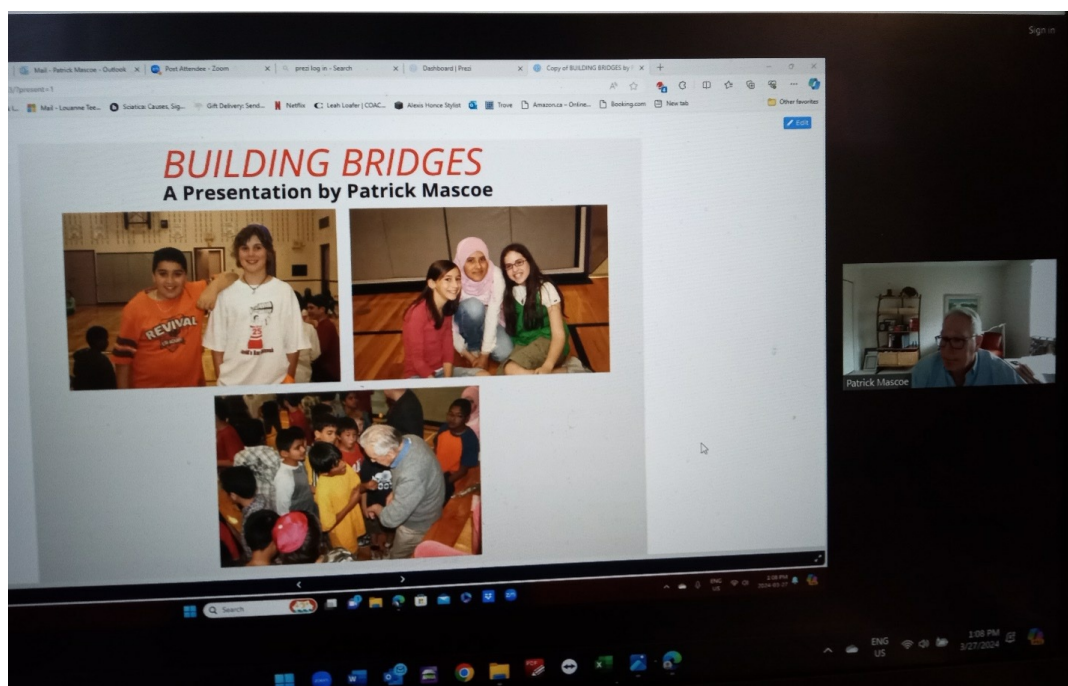


"I wanted to send my sincerest gratitude to Patrick Mascoe for taking the time to present to our class today. Your expertise was valuable, and after speaking with the teacher candidates, it's evident that they learned a great deal from each of your presentations. Moreover, I truly appreciate your willingness to answer our questions and engage in difficult conversation. My hope is that today's class inspires future educators to delve deeper into the subject matter. I look forward to having the pleasure of welcoming you back in the future. I will be in touch!" **Kirsten Littlefield, Department of Education, University of Ottawa.**



"Many thanks for arranging for David Moskovic to speak to our team yesterday. His dialogue was very impactful and was an excellent scene-setter for our follow-on briefing by Adam Chisvin," **Corey Crosby, Colonel, Commander, Canadian Forces Information Operations Group, Canadian Armed Forces.**

Award-Winning Educator Represents CHES at Liberation75's Cross-Ontario Teachers' PD Day



For 25 years, Patrick Mascoe has used Holocaust Education as a tool to teach Character Education as the basis of a program called "Building Bridges", which brought together Muslim and Jewish students together. [Read More](#)

New Academic Network Tackles Anti-Jewish Hatred

By Mina Cohn

The Network of English Canadian

Academics (NECA)* was launched at Ottawa's National Arts Centre on March 21st in the presence of Deborah Lyons, Canada's special envoy on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism. [Read more](#)



Dr. Lilach Marom speaking at NECA Launch



Through Their Eyes participants during a meeting in December 2023

***Through Their Eyes* Stories Taking Shape**

By Kara Goodwin

Why are stories important? What makes sharing a personal narrative an effective way to convey history? How does one person's experience make the loss of six million lives more real? CHES' *Through Their Eyes* group contemplated these questions and more during our first Writing Workshop of 2024. [Read More](#)

A Special Message to Descendants of Holocaust Survivors



Documents for preservation

How can we show the human impact of a number like six million Jews perishing in the Holocaust?

Helping students, teachers, and individuals to create context for what happened in the Holocaust is one of CHES' goals. During our Hanukkah coffee/sufganyot 'Share and Tell' session hosted by Kara Goodwin and Mina Cohn on December 10th, 2023, participants brought artifacts and documents reflecting their family history and connection to the Holocaust. [Read More](#)

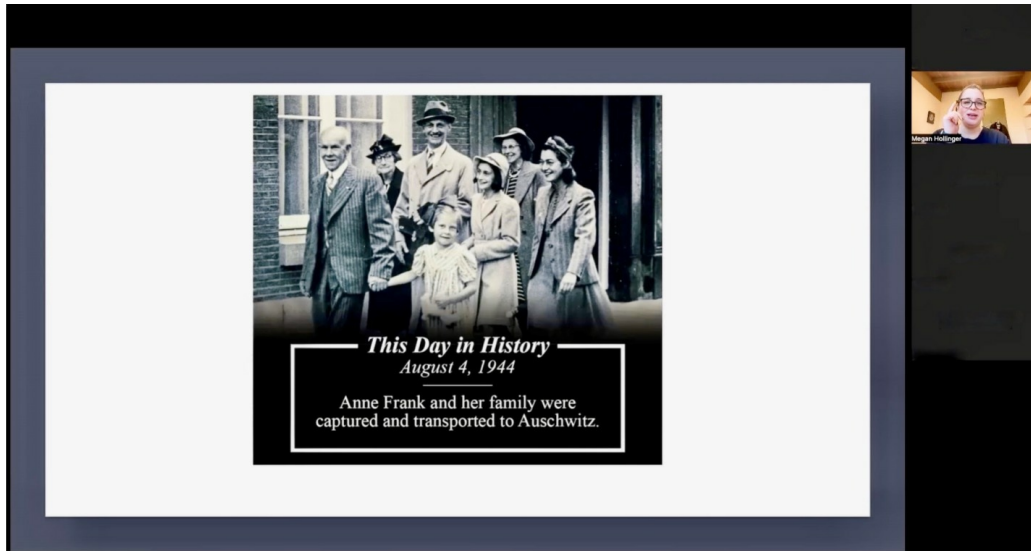


Addressing the Israel-Palestine Conflict In a Time of Crisis: Avi Posen's Workshop at Sir Robert Borden High School

By Kenra Mroz

On February 14, Avi Posen, senior director at Unpacked for Educators (UED), delivered two back-to-back virtual workshops for Social Studies, Canadian and World Studies and English teachers at Sir Robert Borden High School (SRB). [Read more](#)

Teaching The Holocaust: Historical and Religious Dimensions



A screenshot from Megan Hollinger's class on teaching the Holocaust

By Megan S. Hollinger

For the past two fall terms, I have been fortunate to teach Carleton University's *The Holocaust: Historical and Religious Dimensions*, also known as the *Holocaust Encounters* course, generously funded by CHES. [Read more](#)



Kenra Mroz

Leaving A Lasting Impact

By Kenra Mroz

Last semester I had the pleasure of welcoming three CHES speakers to my classrooms. Artur Wilczynski and Stan Farber made time in their busy schedules to speak with my Grade 12 Social Justice students, and Tova Clark graciously agreed to come in three times to share her family's story. [Read more](#)

Holocaust Remembrance with Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada

By Artur Wilczynski

On January 29th, representatives of CHES presented to Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) as part of their commemorations of International Holocaust Remembrance Day. In a virtual town hall, Holocaust Survivor Dr. Agnes Klein and CHES director Artur Wilczynski shared their experiences with over 450 Health Canada and PHAC colleagues. [Read more](#)



Artur Wilczynski



A Must-Read: CHES Friend's Op-Ed Article

On January 26th, the *Montreal Gazette* published a compelling article by long-time CHES friend Patrick Mascoe about the Danish Resistance. [Read more](#)

Ottawa teacher Patrick Mascoe

Thank you for your support:

Marcia Saipe and Mr. Theodore Miller
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Robertson

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