



Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES)

Newsletter, Vol. 5, No. 2, April 2025

Words from Chair Mina Cohn



On November 9th, CHES will mark ten years since its establishment. We proudly celebrate our many achievements. We started with a dream and have made it a reality. I want to thank the establishing committee for being an important partner of this dream and all the members who have since joined CHES and work so hard to fulfill our goals. Yasher Koach! [Read more](#)

CHES Chair Mina Cohn

Save the Dates!

CHES Presents Two Special Events in Honour of Yom HaShoah

Erez Tadmor's *Soda* Explores Holocaust Survivors' Experience in the 1950's

By CHES Member Shirley Siegel

On April 24th, Temple Israel, in collaboration with CHES, will present a film screening of *Soda*, an exploration of interwoven themes of love, guilt, and survival within a community of Holocaust survivors and former resistance fighters. [RSVP required](#)
[Read more](#)



Zikaron BaSalon: An Intimate Gathering of Remembrance

Attendance by registration only.
To register contact:
info@chesatottawa.ca or
<https://forms.gle/VRdosdpuBTjGfe5m6>

April 27th 7:00 pm. In commemoration of Yom Hashoah, CHES is delighted to collaborate with the Embassy of Israel to bring the Israeli tradition of Zikaron BaSalon to Ottawa homes this year. Started in Israel in 2011, Zikaron BaSalon (A Memory in the Living Room) is a social initiative and an informal gathering aiming at meeting and listening to a survivor or a descendent share their family experience during the Holocaust. [Read more](#)



CHES Mourns Elly Bollegraaff



Hilda Bleyer (L) and Elly Bollegraaf at the 2024 Holocaust Education Month Launch Event


By CHES Executive Assistant Ana Cristina Villegas

One of Ottawa's last remaining Holocaust survivors, **Elly Bollegraaf** (Dwinger), passed away peacefully on February 16th. Elly was a child Holocaust survivor, born on September 19th, 1940, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. [Read more](#)

Federal Government Holds National Forum on Antisemitism

By CHES Chair Mina Cohn

To address the growing public safety threat posed by antisemitism, the Government of Canada invited provincial, territorial, and municipal leadership, law enforcement, prosecutors, and members of the Jewish community to the National Forum on Combatting Antisemitism, held on March 6th in Ottawa. [Read more](#)

A graphic for the National Forum on Antisemitism. It features a close-up of a hand holding a small, dark object, possibly a stone or a piece of wood, against a dark background. Below the hand, the text "National Forum on Antisemitism" is written in white. At the bottom, there is a white Star of David.

United Way of Eastern Ontario Sponsors *Building Bridges Against Hate*



Materials on display at the Building Bridges event.

By CHES Director Artur Wilczynski

On March 21st – the International Day for the Elimination of Racism — CHES Chair **Mina Cohn** represented CHES and the JFO at the launch of the *Building Bridges against Hate* event sponsored by the United Way of Eastern Ontario. [Read more](#)

Bringing Holocaust Stories to Local Schools

By CHES Director Kara Goodwin

2025 is off to a busy start for the CHES Speakers' Bureau. St. Francis Xavier Catholic high school in Gloucester invited CHES survivors and next generation *Through Their Eyes* speakers to share their stories with all of the school's Grade 8 students. [Read more](#)



Sue Hurtubise presents her family's story for the first time.

The Impact of *Sabotage* is Undeniable Bringing History to Life: Heilman's Story Resonates with Grade 10 Students



St. Peter High School

By History Teacher Daniel Maillet, St. Peter High School

History can feel distant, a textbook collection of dates and names. Sometimes a story emerges that bridges the gap, making the past tangible and profoundly relevant. [Read more](#)

British High Commission, Swedish Embassy, and CHES Commemorate Stockholm Declaration and Raoul Wallenberg Day



In a panel moderated by Professor Jan Grabowski, museum directors Adam Atlas, Dara Solomon, and Katherine Hauptman share their experiences in dealing with Holocaust misinformation.

By CHES Secretary Marion Silver

January 17th, Raoul Wallenberg Day, honours the heroism of Swedish diplomat **Raoul Wallenberg** who, along with his driver, mysteriously disappeared from Budapest following detention by the Soviet military. [Read more](#)

Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz and International Holocaust Remembrance Day

By CHES Member Phil Emberley

On January 27th, the Embassy of Italy in Canada hosted a memorable evening to honour both the Liberation of Auschwitz and International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The event at the Canadian Museum of History was attended by close to 100 distinguished guests. [Read more](#)



Julia and Italo Camerino share the story of their father, Enzo Camerino, with moderator Dr. Constanza Musu

Words of Welcome from Ambassador Alessandro Cattaneo On the Occasion of the Screening of *Liliana*



Ambassador Alessandro Cattaneo

Distinguished guests, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, Bienvenus et bonsoir à toutes et à tous.

I am deeply honoured to welcome you tonight to join us for the premiere of the documentary film Liliana, focusing on Italian Life Senator and Holocaust survivor, Liliana Segre. [Read more](#)

Liliana A Profoundly Moving Experience

By CHES Director Kara Goodwin

The Embassy of Italy, in cooperation with CHES, hosted the North American premiere of the film, *Liliana*, with special guest, film director **Ruggero Gabbai**, on Sunday, February 2nd, on the Canadian Museum of History's big screen. [Read more](#)



A spellbound audience views *Liliana*.

A Painsstaking Task: Restoration of Anna Wajcblum Heilman's Diary



Anna Heilman's diary.

In 2024, **Manise Young**, the LAB Head, Books at Library and Archives Canada, took on an emotional project: restoring the diary of **Anna Wajcblum Heilman**, which captures her experience as a fifteen-year-old girl in Auschwitz. [Read more](#)

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