



Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES)

Newsletter, Vol. 6, No. 1, December 2025

Words from CHES Chair Mina Cohn



During the last few weeks, we welcomed the U.S.-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Gaza, a ceasefire that is fragile and reflects the distrust between the parties. However, thanks to this ceasefire, 20 hostages and 26 bodies were returned to their loved ones. We hope the remaining body still held by Hamas will be returned soon.

[Read more](#)

CHES Chair, Mina Cohn

Artur Wilczynski Addresses Senate Committee

On December 1, 2025, I appeared as a witness before the Canadian Senate's Standing Committee on Human Rights. It has been almost a year since they first invited me. It was an opportunity to share perspectives and concerns about the situation in Canada. It was also an opportunity to express concern about the direction the Committee hearings are taking. I was glad to be able to highlight some of the work of the Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship. In particular, flagging the *Through their Eyes* program for descendants of Holocaust Survivors and CHES' efforts to combat antisemitic hate crime in Ottawa, was worthwhile. [Read Artur's remarks](#)



CHES Director, Artur Wilczynski

2025 Holocaust Education Month's Launch Event a Resounding Success



A capacity crowd attended the 2025 HEM Launch Event. Photo Credit: Peter Waiser

By Kenra Mroz, CHES Education Committee

On November 9th and 10th, 1938, the Nazi regime in Germany coordinated a violent antisemitic attack, which the world has come to know as Kristallnacht. On November 10th, 2025, CHES marked the 87th anniversary of Kristallnacht and celebrated its milestone ten-year

Dr. Berenbaum Shares His Wisdom with Museums' Staffs



Dr. Berenbaum captivated his audience during his visit to the Canadian History Museum.

By CHES Vice Chair Shirley Siegel

On November 10th, organized by CHES as the first segment of his Ottawa visit, **Dr. Michael Berenbaum** was hosted for lunch by **Caroline Dromaguet**, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Museum of History and the Canadian War Museum. [Read more](#)

Dr. Berenbaum Tours Canadian War Museum

By CHES Vice Chair Alyssa Novick

Dr. Berenbaum toured the Canadian War Museum (CWM) with two of the institution's leading historians, **Dr. Mélanie Morin-Pelletier** and **Dr. Jeff Noakes**. He received an engaging overview of the museum's evolution, from its modest beginnings on Sussex Drive to its striking modern home opened in 2005 with its distinctive architectural design.

Dr. Noakes, a specialist in World War I history, and Dr. Morin-Pelletier, an expert in women's military history, guided Dr. Berenbaum through Galleries 2 and 3, which highlight Canada's contributions to both world wars. They offered thoughtful insights into the origins of key artifacts, how pieces are selected for display, the rotation of exhibitions, and the museum's commitment to bilingual presentations.

Given Dr. Berenbaum's extensive work in museum development and design, his reflections on exhibits in other museums and questions added a special depth to the visit. CHES offers sincere thanks for everyone at the CWM for helping to make this an especially meaningful experience.

Dr. Berenbaum Breakfasts with *Through Their Eyes* Members

By CHES Director Kara Goodwin

On November 11th, **Dr. Berenbaum** joined CHES' *Through Their Eyes* next generation survivor speakers for an informal conversation over breakfast about their role in Holocaust Education and the challenges of our time.

[Read more](#)



Dr. Berenbaum addressed *Through Their Eyes* participants over breakfast.

Arie van Mansum Award winner Dan Maillet's Remarks



Arie van Mansum Award winner Dan Maillet has "a deep passion for history." Photo Credit: Peter Waiser

Good evening, distinguished guests, CHES Members and our hosts this evening, the Hellenic Event Centre.

Arie van Mansum Award winner Dan Maillet has "a deep passion for history." Photo Credit: Peter Waiser

To receive an award that carries the name of the Righteous Arie Van Mansum is humbling. He was a man who risked absolutely everything to save lives. This puts my day-to-day work teaching history into a powerful and necessary context. [Read more](#)

Leah Freedhoff's Remarks at the HEM Launch Event

Thank you so much to CHES for organizing such a meaningful event to launch Holocaust Education Month. This month is about memory, but also responsibility. And standing here tonight, I feel deeply grateful to be part of a community that takes this responsibility seriously.

[Read more](#)



Leah Freedhoff Young Courage Award winner. Photo Credit: Peter Waiser

HEM Annual Teachers' Workshop Provides Strategies for Holocaust Educators



Kelly Fives is a Senior Educator with ConnectED. Photo Credit: Peter Waiser

By CHES Member Danna Zabrovsky

CHES' HEM Annual Teachers' Workshop, held on October 29th, 2025, provided local educators with valuable strategies and resources for teaching the Holocaust in the modern classroom. The event featured sessions on adapting educational methods for a post-October 7th, 2023, world and utilizing the new NHM IWalk App. [Read more](#)

Bringing A Father's Holocaust Memories to Light



(L) Berthold Eger with little Dieter Eger (Phil's dad). (R) Minna Eger. Phil on Zoom in upper right

By CHES Executive Assistant Ana Cristina Villegas

On November 12th, 2025, CHES, in collaboration with the Historical Society of Ottawa (HSO), organized a special contribution to the HSO's Speaker Series: a presentation by **Phil Emberley**, CHES Member and Second Generation descendant. [Read more](#)

The Hidden Papers of the Holocaust

By CHES Secretary Marion Silver

Imagine how you would feel if assumptions you had always made about your background suddenly became upended? Such has been the experience of Professor Timothy Taylor of the University of British Columbia who discovered as an adult that he had Jewish roots. [Read more](#)



Ambassador Matthias Lüttenberg, CHES Chair Mina Cohn, and German Embassy Attaché Susanne Pauly. Photo Credit: Peter Waiser

A Learning Opportunity in Germany

By CHES Director Artur Wilczynski

Recently, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) approached CHES to help promote an interesting program for Jewish university students.

Germany Close Up – North American Jews Meet Modern Germany is a youth encounter program for Jewish North American students and young professionals aged between 18 and 39. [Learn more](#)

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CHES now offers a Legacy Program.

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