



## Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES)

Newsletter, Vol. 6, No. 2, April 2026

### Words from CHES Chair Mina Cohn

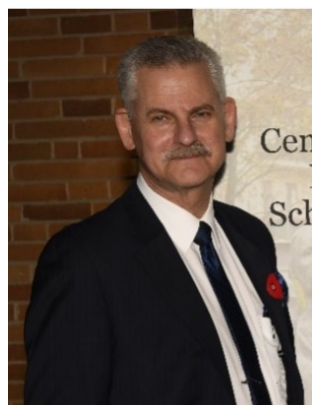


CHES Chair, Mina Cohn

As we know all too well, a war in Israel drastically increases antisemitism, creating both a Canadian and global crisis. Jewish communities in Canada, faced with shootings at Toronto synagogues and compounded by horrific antisemitic signs displayed during demonstrations in North York, feel targeted, threatened, and unsafe. [Read more](#)

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### Introducing a New Regular Feature: *Three Questions from Laurence Wall*



Laurence Wall

Professor Jan Grabowski in conversation with CHES member Laurence Wall. Professor Grabowski is a Polish-Canadian professor of history at the University of Ottawa who specialises in Jewish-Polish relations in German-occupied Poland during World War II and the Holocaust in Poland. [Read more](#)

### CHES Remembers Dr. Truda Rosenberg

1922 – 2026



By CHES Secretary Marion Silver

CHES shares in the sorrow at the passing of **Dr. Truda Rosenberg**. As a Holocaust survivor, her life was exemplary for her ability to withstand unimaginable hardships thanks to her sharp wit, her bravery, and her resilience. [Read more](#)

### Curriculum to Classroom: Teaching the Holocaust in the New Grade 10 Curriculum

## By Alyssa Novick

During the recent Professional Development Day hosted by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) for the social studies teachers of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, more than 20 educators participated.

[Read more](#)



Alyssa Novick explains the Holocaust component of Ontario's Grade 10 curriculum to local educators.

## CHES and JFO Jointly Present on Hate Crimes



Artur Wilczynski, Mina Cohn, and David Sachs, JFO's Community Relations and Antisemitism Specialist

### By Artur Wilczynski

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, representing CHES and the Jewish Federation of Ottawa (JFO), I was asked to make a presentation at the National Hate Crimes Symposium hosted by the Canadian Police College in Ottawa.

[Read more](#)

## Ottawa's Zikaron BaSalon Tradition Continues

### By CHES Vice-Chair Shirley Siegel

Building on the success of previous years in commemoration of Yom HaShoah and in the spirit of Holocaust remembrance, CHES was honoured to bring the tradition of Zikaron BaSalon (Remembrance in the Living Room) into Ottawa homes once again. [Read more](#)



A Zikaron BaSalon was held at Hillel House.

## CHES Partners with University of Ottawa Students on NHM Project



Shirley Siegel and Mina Cohn join the University of Ottawa students.

### By CHES Vice-Chair Alyssa Novick

This winter, CHES had the opportunity to collaborate with **Professor Scott Simon's** fourth-year honours anthropology seminar at the University of Ottawa on an innovative experiential learning project focused on the National Holocaust Monument (NHM) and the IWalk app.

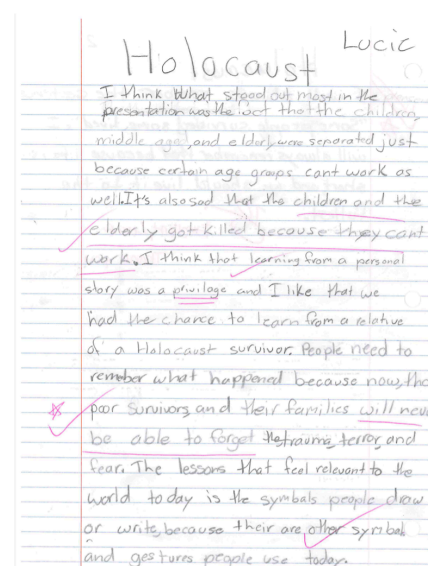
[Read more](#)

## The Power of Witness: The Impact of the Speakers' Bureau

### By CHES Executive Assistant Ana Villegas

The 2025-2026 school year has been a remarkable and deeply impactful one for CHES' Speakers' Bureau. As of mid-April, we will have completed 32 requests from teachers and reached 2,260 students. Each presentation has been an opportunity to connect young people with stories that must never be forgotten.

[Read more](#)



## Germany Close Up – A Unique Learning Experience For Jewish University Students



Flags of the DAAD on Kennedy Allée, Bonn

By CHES Vice-Chair Shirley Siegel

Established in 2007, *Germany Close Up – North American Jews Meet Modern Germany* is an initiative created by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German government to enrich transatlantic dialogue. **Application open until May 15th.** [Read more](#)

## *Il Respiro di Shlomo*: Commemorating the Liberation of Auschwitz

By CHES Secretary Marion Silver

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, the Ottawa Art Gallery was the venue for a gripping presentation in observance of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. The Embassy of Italy, partnering with CHES, staged a compelling documentary entitled, “*Il Respiro di Shlomo*”. [Read more](#)



## Inspirational Holocaust Education at Ashbury College

Holocaust Learning: A Personal Story

By CHES Member Phil Emberley

*Liberation 75* organized a day of learning about the Holocaust for Ontario teachers and students. The theme was “Stories That Inspire: Learning from the Holocaust Today”. CHES was encouraged to apply to present a session that would strongly resonate with students and reflect CHES’s leadership in Holocaust Education. [Read more](#)

## Ashbury Students’ Reflections



Phil Emberley (centre) shared his father’s story with Ashbury College students and teachers.

By Adel Zorchinsky and Khanyi Sithole

CHES member **Phil Emberley** visited Ashbury College as a guest speaker to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day. As the son of a Holocaust survivor who escaped Germany on the Kindertransport, Mr. Emberley spoke to the students about his father’s life. [Read more](#)

## Former Teacher Continues to Contribute

By CHES Vice Chair Alyssa Novick

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, former Ashbury College teacher **Alyssa Novick** participated in a dedicated Holocaust Education Day at the school, joining the Social Studies department for meaningful learning and reflection. Approximately 120 Grade 10 history students, accompanied by nine staff members, took part in this comprehensive educational program. [Read more](#)

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Newsletter Editor: CHES Director Sheila Hurtig Robertson

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