

**Adam Rosengarten, King David High School (Class of 2019)
Recipients of the 2019 Gordon Diamond Community Service Award**

Remarks Delivered at the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the VHEC

Good evening, my name is Adam Rosengarten, and it has been truly an honour and a privilege to be associated with the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. I am a new graduate from King David High School, and I was recently awarded with the most generous Gordon Diamond Scholarship, which acknowledges excellence in community service and philanthropy. With this gracious award, I was allowed to donate \$900 towards a charity or institute of choice, which I ultimately decided to grant the VHEC. Nowhere, I feel, is more deserving and more merited to give than to this important institution. Although I have not been directly involved with the Centre for several years, I have admired all the work that is done here, and the work that all of you do to ensure the preservation of Holocaust education. In Grade 10, I was chosen to be a docent on behalf of the Centre to present the pilot exhibition on Jewish Heroism in the Holocaust. As I have a passion for history, I was thrilled to have been given the opportunity to participate in such a program, but I was rather intimidated. With the help of Ilona Shulman Spaar and my teacher, Ms. Wiesenthal, I prepared under their supervision, and gradually gained the confidence needed to execute the project successfully.

Last year, I participated in the March of the Living, and this was truly one of the most formative experiences of my life. My experiences on this trip helped to reinforce all the knowledge I had acquired while working on docent project, and instilled in me an even greater responsibility to be a torchbearer of this difficult legacy. I was invigorated with a passion to share and teach what I witnessed while in Poland. I feel that it is not only my obligation, but a collective duty to educate others on the Holocaust to be activate mitigators of future genocide, and to thwart similar evils that are present today. The award given to me, and subsequently, to the Centre, can help to make an impact on an individual basis, as well as to facilitate proper Holocaust dialogue on a larger scale to combat anti-Semitism. I have been inspired to help the organization promote Holocaust and genocide awareness and share the messages I learned from my own invaluable experiences. As the number of Holocaust survivors diminishes, and the resurgence of antisemitism is ever-prevalent today, it is necessary that we record survivors' testimonies and educate the public in the interests of promoting the truth.

Thank you for the important work you do, and I hope that my gift will be received with the same enthusiasm with which I give it. I hope my small, yet important contribution will be able to help fulfil what I desire, and what is necessary.

Thank you.