Annual Report 2025

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

Mission

Through education and remembrance, the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre engages students, educators and the broader public in British Columbia and beyond with the history of the Holocaust—the Shoah—and its ongoing relevance. As a teaching museum that stewards programs and collections initiated by Holocaust survivors, we honour and support those who survived and remember those who perished.

Vision

A world free of antisemitism, discrimination and genocide, with social justice and human rights for all.

History

The Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society for Education and Remembrance was founded in 1983 by survivors of the Holocaust. The founders' goal, realized in 1994, was to leave a permanent legacy in the form of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre devoted to Holocaust-based anti-racism education. Typically reaching more than 25,000 students each year, the VHEC is Western Canada's leading Holocaust teaching museum. We promote human rights, social justice and genocide awareness through education and remembrance of the Holocaust. The VHEC has presented more than 50 thematic exhibitions, many featuring local or Canadian themes, each accompanied by educational programs and resources.

Message from the President & Executive Director

Dear Members,

We are pleased to share the VHEC annual report for 2025, a year of profound remembrance, marking the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, and a historic breakthrough for Holocaust education in BC.

In September 2025, mandatory Holocaust education was introduced as part of the BC Social Studies 10 curriculum. The VHEC worked closely with the Ministry of Education and Child Care on the development of this curriculum and the creation of educational resources to support it. To this end, we launched *Fragments in Focus: A History of the Holocaust*, an online teaching exhibition promoted by the BC Teachers' Federation on their Teach BC website.

Our education team delivered hands-on training to hundreds of teachers across BC, preparing them to meet the updated mandate. Many teachers requested printed copies of *Fragments in Focus* teaching materials for classroom use. The VHEC invested over $100,000 in 2025 to produce and deliver these classroom resources to school districts across the province.

We have also seen a marked increase in schools asking us to deliver antisemitism education, for teachers and students alike.

Great headway has been made on the design of our new space within the JWest development. We are looking forward to opening in several years at almost double our current size and above ground for the first time.

More than 450 people bought VHEC memberships in 2025. And we're happy to report an increase in multi-year donor commitments, with over 100 donors pledging over $500,000.

We redeveloped our original exhibition *Age of Influence: Youth & Nazi Propaganda* as a travelling exhibition to reach new audiences. The interactive exhibition explores how the Nazi regime used media, education and youth organizations to influence young people, while encouraging audiences today to think critically about propaganda, media consumption and the ways social pressures can shape attitudes and behaviours. At a time of rising Holocaust distortion, antisemitism and increasingly complex media environments, the exhibition's focus on critical thinking and media literacy for young audiences is especially urgent.

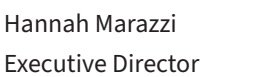
This year of remembrance included the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and the appointment of VHEC co-founder Mariette Doduck to the Order of Canada. Our survivor and descendant communities remained at the heart of our work, none of it possible without the generosity and courage of our members, survivors and facilitators.

The VHEC welcomed the appointment of Hannah Marazzi to the role of executive director—we are grateful to the board, staff, volunteers and members who have received her so warmly.

Looking ahead, we are excited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Annual Symposium on the Holocaust with you at a special event. Stay tuned for more information on that in the not-too-distant future.

At a time of rising antisemitism and Holocaust denial here and abroad, our work is as vital as ever and we remain as committed as ever. To our donors, members, volunteers, survivors, partners, staff and board members: we are immensely grateful, and we look forward to building on this momentous year together.

Warm regards,



Hannah Marazzi
Executive Director

Al Szajman
President

2025 At A Glance

Here's a look at the VHEC's impact in 2025, made possible thanks to support from our members, survivors, donors, funders, volunteers, community partners, as well as the educators, students and parents who engage in our programming.

120,000+ Visitors

We welcomed more than 5,000 visitors to the centre in person and recorded 115,000 visits to vhec.org.

460+ Members

Our membership base continues to grow, with familiar faces and new supporters joining us each year.

49,000+ Online Learners

Learners engaged with our online exhibitions and digital learning resources, deepening their understanding of the Holocaust.

New Teaching Website

Our new bilingual teaching website, *Fragments in Focus: A History of the Holocaust*, launched in August 2025, aligned with the mandatory Holocaust learning standard for students in BC.

Training for 370 Teachers

We provided 13 professional development training seminars to 370 social studies teachers across the province.

New Travelling Exhibition

We developed a new travelling version of *Age of Influence: Youth & Nazi Propaganda* that will bring the exhibition to local, national and international audiences. The exhibition features large-format graphics and six interactive touchscreen kiosks to support inquiry and reflection. It is available as either a full-scale modular museum exhibition or as a portable pop-up exhibition for smaller venues.

Exhibition Tours

4,100 visitors participated in educator-led exhibition tours at the VHEC, including students, teachers, elected officials, dignitaries, members of the VPD and other professional and community groups.

57 Workshop Presentations

We delivered 57 presentations—both in person and online—to nearly 2,000 students, teachers, parents, members of community groups and interfaith partners across Vancouver Island, Northern BC, the Interior and the Lower Mainland, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia.

12 Archival Donations

We received 12 new archival donations, including recorded testimonies, travel journals, identity records, and pre- and post-war family photographs.

43 Holocaust Survivor Speaker Presentations

Our survivor speakers shared their experiences with nearly 5,000 people across the country.

6 In-Person Symposia

We convened 6 high school symposia on the Holocaust, which featured professional historians and Holocaust survivor speakers and reached 1,760 students across the Lower Mainland.

17 Community Events

Our team engaged communities across the province, hosting 4 commemorative programs, 11 community events and participating in 2 festivals.

170+ Attendees at Descendant Programs

We hosted 4 Generations After programs, creating meaningful opportunities for descendants of Holocaust survivors to learn, connect and share experiences.

Year in Review

EDUCATION

VHEC continues to be the trusted resource for schools, community organizations and all levels of government, in educating about the history of the Holocaust and the dangers of Holocaust denial and distortion, misinformation and antisemitism. The Ministry of Education and Child Care relied on the VHEC as an education partner and the Holocaust expert in developing their mandatory Holocaust education learning standard in the Social Studies 10 curriculum.
As the foremost teaching museum on the Holocaust in Western Canada, we provide tangible support to students, parents, educators, teaching associations, professional organizations and the broader public. This year marked a huge expansion in our education efforts, stemming from our launch of a major new teaching website, *Fragments in Focus: A History of the Holocaust*, along with workshops that support teachers in learning how to incorporate *Fragments in Focus* into the classroom. The BC Teachers' Federation includes *Fragments in Focus*, and other VHEC resources, on their classroom resources website.

EXHIBITION TOURS

In 2025, **4,100 students, teachers and members of the public** participated in guided tours of VHEC exhibitions. School groups were offered a choice of

Holocaust survivor Miriam Dattel with her daughter Anat Schwartz at the Yom HaShoah Commemoration at Temple Sholom Synagogue, April, 2025.

two docent-led, interactive exhibition tours tailored to different grade levels. Elementary students explored *In Focus: A History of the Holocaust Through the VHEC Collection*, which introduces key themes in Holocaust history through artefacts, photographs and survivor testimony. High school students participated in a tour of *Age of Influence: Youth & Nazi Propaganda*, which examined how the Nazi regime used propaganda to shape the attitudes, identities and behaviours of young Germans. *Age of Influence* is designed to build critical thinking and media literacy among students, particularly important skills in today's media landscape.

CLASSROOM WORKSHOPS

VHEC offered 12 different workshop options in 2025. Our staff delivered **57 workshops** to **1,859 students, teachers and members of the public**, in person in the Lower Mainland and over Zoom across BC and the rest of Canada. The workshops drew on artefacts, survivor testimonies and other primary sources from the VHEC collection, exploring themes of propaganda, antisemitism, resistance, Holocaust denial, moral decision-making and the experiences of Jewish children and families during the Holocaust.

TEACHING RESOURCES

The VHEC launched a new major teaching resource, *Fragments in Focus: A History of the Holocaust*. Designed for students in Grades 6–12, this bilingual teaching website combines 160 curated primary sources with historical text, 19 integrated learning activities and a teacher's guide. *Fragments in Focus* is supported by the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care for use in BC classrooms.

The education team created **4 new teaching guides** in 2025. These include *Holocaust History: A Roadmap for Educators*; *Defining the Holocaust* teacher's guide; *The Power of Objects* lesson plan; and Teaching the Holocaust with the graphic novel *Hidden*.

SURVIVOR SPEAKERS

4,942 students had the privilege of hearing first-hand accounts from VHEC Holocaust survivor outreach speakers through the VHEC symposium program and school-based survivor speaker presentations.

Symposia on the Holocaust

The VHEC hosted six symposia across the Lower Mainland, held in White Rock, Langley, West Vancouver and several locations in Vancouver. **1,760 students** had the unique opportunity to hear the eyewitness accounts of Holocaust survivors Mariette Doduck, Amalia Boe-Fishman, René Goldman, Michel Silver and Miriam Dattel. Their powerful narratives were enriched by insights from professional historians Dr. Kristin Semmens, Dr. Lauren Faulkner Rossi and Dr. Sebastian Huebel.

Survivor Speaker Presentations

3,182 students and teachers attended survivor speaker presentations in their schools and classrooms, either in person or online over Zoom. Survivor speakers included Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Amalia Boe-Fishman, Mariette Doduck, René Goldman, Michel Silver, Miriam Dattel and Dr. Robert Krell.

BIENNIAL SHAFRAN TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

The 12th Biennial Shafran Teachers' Conference was held in February 2025, with **80 teachers** attending the full-day event. The conference featured lectures by professional historians and Holocaust educators, as well as 8 break-out sessions on specialized topics in Holocaust history and pedagogy.

EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

With the introduction of the Holocaust as a required topic in the BC curriculum in 2025, the VHEC developed an extensive professional development program to support teachers in Holocaust education. Our education staff delivered **13 educator training seminars** to **370 teachers** in Prince George, Nanaimo, Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond and online across BC. This included six full-day teacher training conferences and seven half-day training sessions. Two of these full-day conferences were offered in partnership with the Azrieli Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program.

KRON SIGAL AWARD

The 2025 Meyer and Gita Kron and Ruth Kron Sigal Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education was presented to Chantel Parsons of Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School in Courtenay, BC, at our annual general meeting in June. Throughout her career, Chantel has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to Holocaust education,

making a significant impact on her students, colleagues and the broader school community. The award was accompanied by a $1,000 prize.

COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAMS

The VHEC holds four community-wide commemorative programs each year, attended by Holocaust survivors and their families, members of the Jewish community, diverse cultural groups, members of the consular corps of BC and elected officials. Events feature varied programming, including Holocaust survivor speakers, descendant speakers, arts and cultural presentations, candle-lighting ceremonies, government proclamations and memorial prayers.

In 2025, we held and co-sponsored International Holocaust Remembrance Day events at Vancouver City Hall, The Bayit Synagogue, Hillel BC at UBC and at the JCC Cherie Smith Jewish Book Festival. We commemorated Yom HaShoah at Temple Sholom Synagogue and at the BC Legislature, Kristallnacht at Congregation Beth Israel and the High Holidays Cemetery Service at Schara Tzedeck Cemetery in New Westminster.

Presenters included Holocaust survivor outreach speakers Miriam Dattel, Dr. Peter Suedfeld and Michel Silver; descendant speakers Micha Menczer (second generation) and Claire Sicherman (third generation); as well as Professor Robin Judd, presenting her critically acclaimed book *Between Two Worlds: War Brides and the Holocaust*; and historian, philosopher and SFU professor Roger Frie, presenting his book *Edge of Catastrophe: Erich Fromm, Fascism and the Holocaust*. Wendy Bross Stuart provided musical direction. Special emcee was MLA Nina Krieger, former VHEC executive director.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

In 2025 we organized a presentation by the Japanese author Akira Kitade on his book *Emerging Heroes: WWII-Era Diplomats, Jewish Refugees and Escape to Japan.* We also supported the launch of *They Never Left Me: A Holocaust Memoir of Maternal Courage and Triumph* by Evelyn Kahn with Hodie Kahn, which included a conversation moderated by Robert Krell. After a ceremony at City Hall proclaiming April 9 as Ruth Kron Sigal Day, the VHEC organized a program for family and friends of Ruth, with remarks from community members and Keith Morgan, author of *Ruta's Closet*, a book based on Ruth's experiences. In October, the VHEC, the Schara Tzedeck Cemetery Board and a committee of volunteers erected a monument at Schara Tzedeck Cemetery to honour one of Vancouver's most under-recognized figures, Rudolf Vrba, whose escape from Auschwitz and subsequent testimony helped to save hundreds of thousands of Jewish lives.

VHEC partnered with The Walrus Lab, the podcast production studio of *The Walrus* magazine to present *The Hidden Holocaust Papers: Survival. Exile. Return.*, a six-part documentary podcast, hosted by best-

Left: Chantel Parsons, winner of the 2026 Kron Sigal Award. Middle: Robin Judd keynote speaker Kristallnacht. Right: Timothy Taylor and Shelagh Genus, *The Hidden Holocaust Papers: Survival. Exile. Return.* podcast live recording event.

selling Canadian author Timothy Taylor. The series is based on materials donated by Taylor and Shelagh Genus to the VHEC, relating to their family's Holocaust-era correspondence, papers, diaries, photographs and artefacts, which make up the Kuppenheim fonds in our holdings.

As part of the 2025 **Cherie Smith JCC Jewish Book Festival**, VHEC sponsored three programs: Rosa Lowinger presenting her memoir *Dwell Time*; Karine Rashovsky on her book *An Improbable Life: My Father's Escape from Soviet Russia*; and scholar Jason Bell in conversation with journalist Peter Klein discussing Bell's *Cracking the Nazi Code*.

VHEC launched a new program series called **Generations After** for second-, third- and fourth-generation descendants of Holocaust survivors, with a mandate to foster community and provide opportunities for socialization, education and support through meetings, workshops, lectures and other events. The program was organized by Dr. Abby Wener Herlin and Talia Mastai, third-generation descendants. Events included a talk by Marsha Lederman, columnist for the *Globe and Mail* and author of the memoir *Kiss the Red Stairs: The Holocaust, Once Removed*; a recipe sharing event; a wine and cheese event with remarks from Jessica Lithwick; and a contemplative writing workshop, led by Abby Wener Herlin. Generations After is also the title of a companion section in *Zachor*.

As part of the **Vancouver Jewish Film Festival**, the VHEC sponsored screenings of *A Real Pain*, *Crossing the River* and *Inked: Our Stories Remarked*. These screenings were presented as part of Generations After.

In November, Abby Wener Herlin moved on from the VHEC; Café McMullen assumed the role of programs officer.

COLLECTIONS: LIBRARY, ARCHIVES, MUSEUM & TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY

VHEC completed cataloguing 10 oral histories of Russian-speaking Holocaust survivors recorded by Dr. Nataliia Ivchyk, a visiting scholar from Ukraine. With support from the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), a record for each testimony has been added to our online collections catalogue and includes a transcript and summary in Russian, Ukrainian and English. Our Ukrainian partner organization on the project, NGO Center for Studies of Memory Policy and Public History "Mnemonics," developed a dedicated website to provide access to the oral histories.

LIBRARY

The VHEC library houses more than 4,000 Holocaust-related books, journals and films. We provide access to educational resources, reference material, rare books and special collections, memoirs, memorial books, fiction and non-fiction, and material for children and young adults. The library also houses a small multilingual collection. Members of the VHEC (and the Isaac Waldman Jewish Public Library) are encouraged to borrow books from our library.

The VHEC welcomed two practicum students, Owen Galbraith and Brenda Park, from the Library and Information Technology Program at Langara College. Library Technician Megan Rogers continued adding new volumes to the library collection.

ARCHIVES & MUSEUM

The VHEC received 12 donations of artefacts and archival material. Highlights included:

- Tom Szekely z"l, a Hungarian child survivor of the Holocaust, donated a collection of personal and family material documenting his childhood and postwar experiences. The collection includes childhood drawings, postcards, school notebooks, photographs, Hungarian documents dating from 1946 to 1949, records related to his adoption by relatives, and materials documenting his later education in geology at Harvard University.
- Claire Sicherman donated a collection of family materials, including Haggadahs, photographs, embroidered textiles and handwritten recipe books belonging to her mother's family.
- George Zador, a child survivor from Hungary, donated personal and family materials, including letters, photographs, newspaper clippings and prayer books.

- Nicki Stieda donated materials belonging to her mother, Agnes Stieda (née Vogel), spanning three generations of the Neisser, Pauly and Vogel families. Included are handwritten correspondence from Nicki's grandmother Susanne Vogel, who was Jewish by birth, practiced Christianity and spent time in hiding during the Nazi era.
- Several donors contributed additional records to their family collections, including **Dylan Taylor**, **Debbie Freiman**, **Joan Payne** and the **Oberlander family**.

The collections team continued to process new donations and add records to our **online collections database**. Materials from the following fonds and collections were digitized and made available online in 2025: CBC Audio-Visual Collection, Sid and Sylvia Eibschutz fonds, Paul Heller fonds, Nomi Kaplan fonds, Oberlander family fonds, Weissler family fonds and the testimonies of Lily Brauer, Max Bauer and Myer Sankiewicz.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

With support from the BC History Digitization Program, funded by the UBC Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, VHEC continued digitizing the Oberlander family fonds, making available correspondence, artefacts and other materials to researchers through our online collections catalogue.

With support from the Library and Archives Canada Documentary Heritage Communities Program and the Azrieli Foundation, we enhanced the digital preservation of our Holocaust testimony collection by improving preservation packages, metadata, workflows and content management system for tracking preservation activities. This work included upgrading our testimony collection, thereby strengthening our capacity for long-term digital preservation of our collection of more than 200 Holocaust survivor testimonies.

As part of our long-standing partnership with the Yale Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, VHEC transferred additional recorded Holocaust testimonies from our collection to the Fortunoff Archive, expanding access to these testimonies through an internationally recognized collection dedicated to the preservation and study of Holocaust survivor testimony.

The VHEC began a multi-year project to digitize and translate the Kuppenheim family fonds. With financial assistance from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, funded by the German Federal Ministry of Finance, 14,000 pages of correspondence and documents were scanned by the UBC Digitization Centre. Work began to develop a customized OCR tool to read the typewritten letters and then translate from German to English using DeepL software.

MENTORSHIP

The VHEC collections team regularly provides mentorship and support for secondary and post-secondary school students. In 2025, Rohini Singh and Julia Ittah, UBC iSchool students, completed their professional experience programs in the Collections Department, receiving course credit toward their master of archival studies degrees. Rohini and Julia gained hands-on experience applying archival theory and professional practices in a working environment. Their projects engaged key areas of archival practice, including media appraisal, digitization and preservation, and the arrangement and description of archival materials in line with Canadian archival standards. They developed practical skills while contributing to the stewardship and accessibility of VHEC collections.

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

We thank our collections volunteer Audrey Leiberman who helped with archival inventories and catalogue updates.

OUTREACH

The VHEC engages academics and research institutions across Canada and beyond, partnering on various projects based on holdings in our collections.

Dr. Kristin Semmens and graduate students in History of the Holocaust at the University of Victoria conducted a class research project using VHEC collections materials. Their research focused on an album of atrocity photographs and ephemera related to Mittelbau-Dora concentration camp. The project culminated in a webpage highlighting the research.

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1. Collections staff organizing materials donated by the Stieda family. 2. Attendees looking at artefacts during BC Heritage Week programming at the VHEC.
3. Rohini Singh and Ada Alster with LTO-7 tapes migrated to LTO-10 tapes. 4. Ursula Kuppenheim's teddy bear donated by her son Dylan Taylor (2025.003.001).
5. Travel memoirs by Anna Helen Aszkanazy donated by her granddaughter Jennifer Roosma (2025.017)

Collections staff participated in various outreach activities throughout the year. Highlights included a roundtable discussion on artificial intelligence and digital Holocaust memory at the Landecker Connective Holocaust Commemoration Expo at the University of Sussex, several events at BC Heritage Week showcasing VHEC collections and discussing collections care, and a BC Heritage Lunch and Learn about newly processed Oberlander archival materials.

EXHIBITIONS

ONSITE EXHIBITIONS

In response to public demand, we extended one of our most popular and well-received exhibitions, *Age of Influence: Youth & Nazi Propaganda*, through 2025–26. Drawing on primary sources from VHEC collections, including Nazi youth magazines, school textbooks, collector cards and Hitler Youth insignia, the exhibition examines how the Nazi regime used propaganda, education and youth organizations to shape young people's identities, beliefs and sense of belonging. The exhibition's emphasis on media literacy and critical thinking has become increasingly relevant as influencers, algorithms and online communities play a growing role in shaping the identities and beliefs of people of all ages. Although developed primarily for student audiences, it has resonated with a broad range of visitors, including educators, school administrators, parents, politicians, journalists, religious leaders, community organizations and other professionals.

Also on display was *In Focus: The Holocaust Through the VHEC Collection*, which brings to life the experiences of survivors from our community through 91 locally donated artefacts and archival records, situated within the broader historical context of the Holocaust. An accompanying school program includes small-group activities for students to examine reproductions of artefacts, using critical and historical thinking skills to interpret evidence, ask questions and construct meaning from objects. In 2025, we expanded this program by commissioning five new artefact reproductions, giving more students the opportunity to engage directly with primary sources. This investigative approach encourages active learning, demonstrates how historical knowledge is constructed from evidence and fosters a personal connection to the experiences of individuals affected by the Holocaust.

TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

In 2025, the VHEC developed two new travelling versions of *Age of Influence: Youth & Nazi Propaganda*, extending the exhibition's reach to national and international audiences. A full-scale museum version comprises 16 hanging vinyl panels and six kiosks with touchscreen interactives to support inquiry and reflection. The modular design allows the exhibition to adapt to a range of museum and gallery spaces. A pop-up version of the travelling exhibition consists of 13 freestanding display banners in portable retractable bases, along with six iPads mounted on floor stands featuring interactive digital content. Designed for ease of transport and installation, this compact version allows schools, libraries and community venues to present the exhibition in spaces that cannot accommodate the full-scale museum installation.

ONLINE EXHIBITIONS

Six VHEC online exhibitions are currently available and widely accessible. Our online exhibitions are developed from physical exhibitions, presenting materials in an interactive, digital forum accessible to all. The VHEC's current roster of online exhibitions includes:

- *Fragments in Focus: A History of the Holocaust*
- *More than Just Games: Canada and the 1936 Olympics*
- *Faces of Loss: Remembering Those Who Perished*
- *Open Hearts – Closed Doors: The War Orphans Project*
- *Rhodes and the Holocaust: One Survivor's Story*
- *Primary Voices*

SURVIVOR SERVICES

The VHEC continues to invest in its partnership with the Jewish Family Services (JFS), supporting Claims Conference-funded programs, hosting monthly survivor meetings and special events, and supporting the local survivor community.

The **Vancouver Child Survivor Group** met 12 times in person and 12 times over Zoom. Group members joined these

When the spouses' group was formed, I joined right away because I wanted to interact and establish friendships with other spouses. The group has more than done this for me—it has led to enjoyable, fun and informative events. I look forward to each meeting with my new friends.

—Phyllis Johnson
member of the Spouses and Partners of Survivors Group

monthly meetings from Palm Springs, Courtenay, Bowen Island and throughout the Lower Mainland. We welcomed two new members to the group. The group held its annual summer luncheon in June. They were joined by VHEC staff and the wonderful volunteer drivers who provide transportation for survivors to participate in our monthly meetings and special events. Another summer lunch was held at the Shaughnessy Restaurant in VanDusen Gardens; this was a special opportunity for connection and camaraderie amongst the group, with group members joining from Vancouver Island and across the Lower Mainland. In December, the Vancouver Child Survivor Group had their annual Hanukkah party, enjoying traditional Hanukkah foods, lighting candles on their family menorahs and singing songs. This celebration filled with light and joy was made possible through a partnership between the VHEC, JFS and Claims Conference.

The **Russian Speaking Survivor Group** met monthly at the VHEC, connecting, learning and celebrating holidays together. This program, which includes film screenings, presentations and other organized activities, is conducted in Russian.

In the summer of 2025, the VHEC launched a **new support group for spouses and partners of survivors**, providing an opportunity to connect on this shared experience in a confidential and welcoming space. The group met monthly and has been received very positively by participants.

The VHEC hosted an **appreciation lunch for our wonderful and dedicated volunteers** at Seasons in the Park in Queen Elizabeth Park. This was an opportunity to show our profound appreciation for the many extraordinary volunteers who support the work of the VHEC.

With the help of dedicated volunteer Bonnie Elster, the VHEC provides **support to survivors in applying for restitution funding**, including from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. Bonnie helps with follow-up communications and provides support with required identity and proof of life verification for those receiving funds.

PUBLISHING & MEDIA

The VHEC promotes our programs and events through various publishing and media channels. We deliver accessible, engaging content about the Holocaust on multiple platforms for significant reach. In 2025, we strengthened our online presence, reaching more people and engaging them in new ways. Our website, vhec.org, the hub of our online publishing program, recorded 245,000 unique page views, up 37% from 2024, and 123,000 active users, a 182.5% increase from 2024. Visitors spent meaningful time exploring our educational resources, blog posts and program information.

We published more content on our blog, the VHEC Bulletin, in 2025, up from 12 to 18 posts from the previous year.

Topics included community events and commemorative anniversaries, VHEC collections and archives, and Holocaust education initiatives and awards.

By publishing timely updates on our Latest News page, we shared VHEC projects and activities more effectively and fostered greater engagement through our 3,800-subscriber email newsletter, reaching more interested readers than ever before.

EXPANDING SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

We promote all events and programs through social media, where we saw steady growth across platforms in 2025. On Facebook, we reached 1,700 followers, up 4.3% from 2024, with 104,246 content views and 9,126 engagements, including reactions, clicks, comments, shares, and saves—a 27% increase from the previous year. Our X (formerly Twitter) following grew to 3,001. Our Instagram presence continued to grow, with 509 followers, including 85 new in 2025, 1,051 profile visits (up 54% from 2024), and 3,751 new users reached (up 37.6%). Instagram content was viewed a total of 22,138 times, demonstrating increased reach and engagement across audiences.

ZACHOR

VHEC published two issues of *Zachor* in 2025, including a 30th anniversary double issue celebrating the history of the Centre. This special all-colour issue, our first ever, featured five pieces from back issues of *Zachor*, selected by current staff and volunteers, highlighting the VHEC's efforts to support survivors and Holocaust education over the years. Other anniversary features included a timeline of milestones in the history of the centre, as well as congratulatory notes from dignitaries, including The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau. The issue featured contributions from Dr. Chris Friedrichs, Dr. Nataliia Ivchyk, third-generation descendant Jessica Lithwick, and Liliane Pari Umuhoza, a survivor of the Genocide of the Tutsi in Rwanda, commemorating the 30th anniversary of that atrocity.

Our fall issue featured a new section, Generations After, a companion section to the program series of the same name, which includes content by descendants of Holocaust survivors. The first contribution was from award-winning writer and descendant Marsha Lederman.

Issues featured tributes to Janos Benisz z"l by Lillian Boraks-Nemetz and to Peter Voormeij z"l by Amalia Boe-Fishman and Sidi Schaffer. In total, we published the work of 23 writers in our pages in 2025, including contributions from staff, survivors, descendants of survivors, historians and internationally recognized scholars.

FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT

We are grateful for the support of our dedicated donors and members. Your donations in 2025 helped fund the delivery of engaging and inspiring Holocaust educational programs, exhibitions and commemorative events.

The 2025 annual campaign raised almost $150,000 from more than 160 donors, an increase of over 11% from the previous year.

Fundraising revenue totalled nearly $290,000 in 2025, up 40% from 2024.

Membership revenue grew by 40% to almost $50,000. The 2025 membership campaign brought in more than 460 memberships. Thank you to those who renewed their memberships and to those who joined for the first time.

We continued to plan for our move into new premises in the JWest development, a Jewish community hub and multigenerational community centre that will be located down the street from the current VHEC. The JWest development will include expanded childcare, seniors' services and arts and cultural spaces. The future VHEC will have nearly double its current square footage for a state-of-the-art exhibition space, a research area, as well as more room for our growing collections. There will also be expanded programming space for workshops, with new technologies to enhance learning and engagement.

We are grateful to all our partnership organizations, listed on page 22.

Impact

EMPOWERING FUTURE GENERATIONS

VHEC connects thousands of students to Holocaust history through exhibitions, survivor testimonies and educational programs, in person and online. Students, especially online, are exposed to competing truth claims about history, many of them inaccurate, misleading or openly antisemitic. Holocaust education must therefore do more than transmit historical knowledge. It must equip students with the skills to evaluate evidence, interrogate sources, recognize misinformation and think critically about the information they encounter every day. As the province's leading Holocaust education institution, the VHEC works directly with teachers to develop meaningful, classroom-ready educational tools grounded in disciplinary history and primary source analysis. Through ongoing relationships with educators across urban, rural and remote communities, we learn first-hand about the challenges teachers and students face in a rapidly changing information landscape. Teachers and school administrators turn to the VHEC because they trust our expertise and our commitment to historically rigorous and age-appropriate education. That trust has allowed the VHEC to remain at the forefront of Holocaust education in BC.

Ellie Lawson, manager of education & engagement and Holocaust survivor Michel Silver at the 47th Annual Symposium on the Holocaust at the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver, May 2025.

In 2025, 11,271 primary, secondary and post-secondary students, teachers and members of the public participated in VHEC educational programming, including onsite exhibition tours, classroom workshops, survivor speaker presentations and high school symposia on the Holocaust.

REMEMBRANCE

VHEC presents several events throughout the year, including four community-wide commemorative programs: International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaShoah, the High Holidays cemetery service and the Kristallnacht commemorative lecture. We engage our community in innovative and meaningful commemorations, featuring varied programming, including Holocaust survivor speakers, second- and third-generation descendant speakers, candle-lighting ceremonies, government proclamations and memorial prayers. These events dedicated to Holocaust remembrance serve as a reminder of the millions murdered during the Holocaust and provide a time to reflect on the lessons of the past. VHEC commemorative programs serve as a call-to-action for the public and younger generations to equip themselves with the knowledge and inspiration to combat antisemitism and hatred in all its forms. Audiences attending the events include Holocaust survivors and their families, members of the Jewish community, diverse cultural groups, members of the consular corps of British Columbia and elected officials. The VHEC partners with Jewish and non-Jewish community organizations to ensure the success and reach of the events.

Holocaust survivor outreach speaker Mareitte Doduck with West Point Grey Academy students at a symposium on the Holocaust.

In 2025, we served more than 1,300 community members through our commemorative events, with more than 600 attending online, and more than 700 joining us in person. A particularly meaningful event was the Shabbat dinner for Holocaust survivors and students held at Hillel UBC, marking IHRD and the end of Holocaust education week. The Yom HaShoah commemoration at the BC Legislature provided an opportunity for 17 Holocaust survivors, including many from the VHEC community, to meet privately with Premier Eby prior to the event.

CULTURAL PROGRAMS

The VHEC engages the community through cultural events that reflect the ongoing importance of survivors' stories and the evolving practices of Holocaust remembrance. Our public programming presents opportunities for us to forge connections with diverse organizations, building community and introducing new audiences to our programs. VHEC cultural events are a means to explore Holocaust memory and public commemoration. Our arts and cultural programs serve an educational purpose for the broader public, introducing new audiences to Holocaust-related themes. Our public

programs are an opportunity to reflect the stories of the VHEC community, showcasing the breadth of the community to the broader public and various stakeholders, including private and public funders. Our new programming for descendants, Generations After, helps us better serve our members and reflects the changing interests and demographics of our community. It broadens our reach by attracting new members and audiences. It fosters meaningful reflection and prepares us for the time when descendants take on the sole burden of carrying forward the stories of their survivor forebears.

Our community programs were attended by close to 1,000 people, all of them in person. This includes more than 170 attendees at our new Generations After programs. Another 22,000 people listened to *The Hidden Holocaust Papers*, Timothy Taylor's podcast co-presented by the VHEC and the Walrus Lab.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

VHEC acquires, digitizes and maintains collections that spotlight the experiences of BC Holocaust survivors and their families. We steward a collection of over 8,500 Holocaust-related artefacts, testimonies and archival documents—the largest such collection in Western Canada. Collection materials are accessed by researchers, historians, students and descendants.

Our archival, testimony and museum collections serve as the basis of VHEC exhibitions and educational programs, connecting tens of thousands of students, educators and members of the public to the past through primary sources. When students interact with primary sources from the Holocaust era they make strong and meaningful connections to the past.

VHEC collections have been built up over decades. Many of the documents, photos and artefacts were personal items donated by Holocaust survivors and their families. Donations have also been made as gifts from private collectors, military veterans, community members and academics. Each item carries a unique Holocaust perspective. VHEC has more than 200 audio-visual testimonies of local Holocaust survivors, “enemy aliens” internees, rescuers and liberators in its holdings; the recordings date back to 1979. The VHEC continues to record and preserve eyewitness testimonies to guarantee the enduring legacy of their invaluable role in Holocaust education.

The VHEC library contains more than 4,000 Holocaust-related books, journals, films and educational resources—access is free for VHEC members.

VHEC education and exhibition teams developed workshops, websites, presentations, resources, lesson plans and exhibitions based on materials from our collections, reaching tens of thousands of students, educators and members of the public.

The VHEC archives provides reference support to families, independent researchers and researchers affiliated with post-secondary institutions. In 2025 we hosted a post-doctoral student from the Leo Baeck Institute London, whose research focuses on refugees from National Socialism to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. She examined a variety of documents and life writing in the VHEC Archives from German-Jewish refugees who settled in Vancouver.

Vivian Kerenyi, a second-generation descendant, speaking at a Generations After wine and cheese gathering at Temple Sholom Synagogue, July 2025.

Thank you so much… this is way above and beyond! It's so helpful to know that it was a symbol of the Jewish Brigade! Given the timing of the earlier recordings and the VHEC recording, I would guess that perhaps my mother discovered the armband among my grandmother's things; my grandmother kept a suitcase of items relevant to the war in a suitcase that my mom knew about but didn't have access to until my grandmother passed away in 2000. Since they were DPs in Amsterdam for a couple of years, it's plausible that my grandmother acquired it/received it from someone during that time. Every day I unearth a little bit more information here and there, so perhaps I'll come across the story somewhere! I do have the armband in my possession, so finding the info in the piles of documents I have is probably my best bet. Thank you for your sleuthing and insights, I really appreciate your help!

—Naomi, researcher

EXHIBITIONS

Guided tours of original VHEC exhibitions allowed visitors to view Holocaust artefacts in person, while digital exhibitions expanded access to materials from our museum collection. Our online exhibitions were seen by an audience of nearly 50,000. VHEC exhibitions were visited by thousands of students, teachers and members of the public. Notable guests in 2025 included MLAs, MPs, consul generals, researchers, authors, professors and filmmakers. In recent years we have seen a shift to a broader audience engaging our guided tours. Corporations, adult groups and professional organizations increasingly seek out our exhibition tours, as well as workshops based on our exhibitions on topics including antisemitism, Holocaust denial and Holocaust history.

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS

For more than 30 years the VHEC has provided material and social support to survivors and their families. As survivors in our community age, these supports have become increasingly important. The VHEC serves as an entry point for many survivors, providing support and resource referrals for a variety of needs, including assistance with restitutions from the Claims Conference and connecting survivors with Jewish Family Services and other community resources. VHEC staff and volunteers support survivors with transportation to VHEC programs and events.

The Vancouver Child Survivor Group was established as a socialization group, and it continues to provide a space for survivors to come together to discuss what is happening in their lives, in their community and in the world more broadly. As painful as it is to lose group members, the group has gained new members in recent years, including two in 2025.

The new Spouses and Partners of Survivors Group has provided much needed support for those who provide tremendous support themselves to survivors. The response has been overwhelmingly positive.

CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

The VHEC reaches an audience of well over 100,000 readers through digital and print mediums. Our publishing and communications efforts are integral to supporting VHEC programs, including education, exhibitions, collections and commemorative and cultural activities. The VHEC Bulletin provides a selection of news updates, behind the scenes material and pieces that reflect on various programs and anniversaries. *Zachor* continues to be one of the most popular perks for VHEC members. With timely news and long-form features, *Zachor* reflects the interests and activities of VHEC staff and our wider network of colleagues, historians, educators, community members and Holocaust survivors.

Child survivor summer luncheon at Shaughnessy Restaurant at VanDusen Botanical Gardens, August 2025.

Moving Forward

In 2026, the Education Department will build on the introduction of mandatory Holocaust education in the BC curriculum by expanding professional development for teachers across the province and providing educators with classroom resources to support the new learning standard. The province-wide roll-out of *Fragments in Focus: A History of the Holocaust* will continue, with the goal of providing classroom resource sets free of charge to teachers and school districts across BC. We are also developing new workshops and teaching resources on antisemitism, conformity and complicity during the Holocaust and the persecution of LGBTQI+ people in the Nazi era. Finally, school programming will be developed to accompany the new exhibition *The Exception: Denmark, the Holocaust and the Survival of a Jewish Community*.

For our commemorative programs, we are looking to engage descendants across various generations and integrate them into programming with survivors. We will continue to develop innovative ways of engaging audiences, featuring new programs and survivor supports. Our aim is to increase engagement by partnering with educational and corporate institutions. We will continue to meet increased demand for programs around International Holocaust Remembrance Day by offering commemoration opportunities in Vancouver and

Lise Kirchner with Zachary Mullin at the test assembly of the *Age of Influence: Youth & Nazi Propaganda* travelling exhibition Creekside Community Centre. Photo by Rhonda Dent.

Richmond, including multiple programs with students at Hillel House UBC. Our Kristallnacht keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Heidi Tworek.

With the 2026 FIFA World Cup in Vancouver, we will organize public programs that explore the connection between sport, antisemitism, Holocaust history and the politics of exclusion. We will continue to build new partnerships with organizations that broaden our reach and reflect the diversity of our community. We aim to expand cultural programming through increased collaboration, new festival opportunities and initiatives. Our programs continue to reinforce the importance of Holocaust remembrance, survivor testimony and ongoing public education.

The collections team will continue to catalogue and digitize acquisitions and review processes. We will increase outreach efforts to existing and prospective donors, including second-generation descendants of Holocaust survivors as part of a plan to build broader awareness about the VHEC Archives among members of the Jewish community and to encourage the preservation of Holocaust-era materials and survivor legacies in BC. We plan to develop an online exhibition module for our collections catalogue, creating opportunities to adapt existing exhibitions and curate new digital exhibitions using material from across VHEC collections to be brought together thematically, providing users with new ways to discover and engage with the collection. In preparation for our move into the JWest development, we will begin strategic planning to guide collections development and management in the new expanded space.

We will mount a new, original exhibition, *The Exception: Denmark, the Holocaust and the Survival of a Jewish Community* in late 2026. The subject is the extraordinary episode when most of Denmark's Jewish population escaped the Nazis by crossing the narrow strait to neutral Sweden. This exhibition explores how a rare convergence of political conditions, institutional behaviour, geography, wartime circumstances, community networks and individual choices unfolded, and asks: Why did most Jews in Denmark survive the Holocaust when most Jews elsewhere did not?

As always, our goal is to maximize reach and engagement to better promote VHEC programs and support our mandate. More specifically, we are aiming to increase website traffic and engagement with VHEC educational resources, as well as improving accessibility and discoverability of online resources and *Zachor* material. We plan to increase the number of VHEC Bulletin posts. We are focused on growing our email lists and improving audience segmentation. We will continue to preserve and amplify survivor voices across our publishing channels.

"... I had the rare opportunity to absorb the human stories of courage and survival in solitude—a profoundly moving experience that left me struggling for words as I was trying to tell my husband about the experience. Growing up in Switzerland, this painful past has always been close to my heart, but standing among these exhibits made its weight even more real. The current exhibition and its lessons on propaganda feel especially urgent given the realities we face today, particularly in the US. Coast Hotels is honoured to support the vital work you do in preserving memory and educating future generations, and we remain committed to standing with you in this mission."

— **Brigitte Diem-Guy, Brand & Communications Consultant, Coast Hotels, upon visiting the** *Age of Influence: Youth & Nazi Propaganda*

Endowments

The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre is fortunate to have committed members who, in addition to giving annual gifts, have shown their commitment by establishing an endowment fund. The following funds provide much-needed long-term support for our educational programs, commemorative events, exhibits and collection, as well as the publishing activities of the Centre. Endowment funds can be established at any time.

Selina Alko, Karen Alko Bichin, Amber Quiring, Mike and David Yochlowitz Endowment Fund

Gary and Dianne Averbach and Betty Averbach Endowment Fund

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Pavel Eisner Memorial Fund

Erica Fleischer Memorial Endowment Fund

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Bertha Fraeme Endowment Fund

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Estate of Moishe Golubchuk Endowment Fund

Jakob-Izrael & Goldstein-Reisz Family Endowment Fund

Gottfried Family Kristallnacht Endowment Fund

Sam and Lola Haber Memorial Fund

Gail Feldman Heller Endowment Fund

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Kitty Heller Memorial Endowment Fund

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Miriam Wosk and Kenneth Wosk Legacy Endowment Fund

Yosef Wosk and Family Endowment Fund

Zalkow Family Endowment Fund

Henry and Ludmila Zeldowicz Endowment Fund

Grants, Partnerships & Community Support

FOUNDATIONS

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Arthur Toft Foundation (Private Giving Foundation)
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Barbara McCann Foundation (Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation)
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Jonathon & Karly Leipsic Family Foundation
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Lyle and June Karasick Foundation (Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation)
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Lohn Foundation
Lutsky Family Foundation
Marsid Family Foundation
Mel and Geri Davis Charitable Trust
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Peter Suedfeld Family Fund (Benefaction)
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Porte Gen 3 Private Giving Fund (Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation)
PS Charitable Foundation
Richard and Darlene Ames Private Giving Fund (Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation)
Robert and Marilyn Krell Family Foundation Fund
Rosenberg Family Foundation (Charitable Gift Funds Canada Foundation)
Rubanenko Horwitz Family Fund (Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation)
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Taeda Foundation
Thau Family for the Holocaust Centre Society Education & Remembrance (Jewish Community Foundation)
The Arnold and Anita Silber Family Foundation
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The Dayhu Family Foundation
Vancouver Foundation
Vancouver Heritage Foundation
Yvette Porte Family Private Giving Fund (Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation)
The Zacks Family Charitable Foundations
Zalkow Foundation
ZLC Foundation
Zlotnik Family Endowment Fund (Jewish Community Foundation)

GRANTS

BC History Digitization Program
Canadian Museum of History
Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany
Department of Canadian Heritage
Digital Museums Canada
International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance
Jewish Community Foundation of British Columbia
Jewish Federation of British Columbia
Library and Archives Canada
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PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Alliance of Museums
Association of Holocaust Organizations
Association of Jewish Libraries-Canada
Archives Association of British Columbia
British Columbia Museums Association
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International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance
Vantage Point

Program Acknowledgements

COMMEMORATION

High Holidays Cemetery Service
Presented in partnership with Congregation Schara Tzedeck, the Jewish War Veterans of Canada and the Jocy and Leo Lowy endowment fund.

Kristallnacht Commemorative Lecture
Presented in partnership with Congregation Beth Israel. Supported by the Robert and Marilyn Krell endowment fund and Congregation Beth Israel. This program is also funded through contributions to the Jewish Federation of British Columbia Annual Campaign.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day
Vancouver commemorations were programmed in partnership with the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs Pacific Region, Cherie Smith JCC Jewish Book Festival, City of Vancouver, Hillel BC, Jewish Federation of British Columbia and the Province of BC. Richmond commemoration was programmed in partnership with The Bayit Synagogue, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs Pacific Region, Jewish Federation of British Columbia, Friends of Simon Weisenthal and the Kehila Society of Richmond.

Yom HaShoah
Vancouver commemoration supported by the Gail Feldman Heller and Sarah Rozenberg-Warm endowment funds, the Jewish Federation of British Columbia, the Province of BC, Temple Sholom Synagogue and the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver. Victoria commemoration programmed in partnership with the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs Pacific Region, the Legislative Assembly of BC, Jewish Federation of British Columbia and Jewish Federation of Victoria and Vancouver Island.

EXHIBITIONS

Age of Influence: Youth & Nazi Propaganda Travelling Exhibition
Exhibition supported by the Azrieli Foundation and the Al Roadberg Foundation.

Fragments in Focus: A History of the Holocaust
VHEC is grateful to Don Rosenblum for his support of promotional efforts of *Fragments in Focus: A History of the Holocaust*.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The VHEC is grateful to the following public programs partners: Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs Pacific Region, Cherie Smith JCC Jewish Book Festival, Congregation Schara Tzedeck, Holocaust & Antisemitism Educators Association, Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver, Jewish Family Services, Jewish Federation of British Columbia, Schara Tzedeck Cemetery Board, Congregation Temple Sholom and Vancouver Jewish Film Festival.

EDUCATION

Symposium on the Holocaust
The VHEC is grateful to the following for their support of symposia programming: Diamond Foundation, Michael & Rita Levy, Lohn Foundation, David & Danya Fugman, the Vaisler family, the Azrieli Foundation, Jewish Federation of British Columbia and the Province of BC and by the following VHEC endowment funds: Joseph and Mary Bulles Legacy, Sid and Sylvia Eibschutz, Lilli and Izak Folk Memorial, Edwina and Paul Heller Holocaust Education, Leo Krell Memorial Book, Lovi Memorial, Goldie and Avrum Miller Memorial, Meyer and Gita Kron, Ruth Kron Sigal for Excellence in Holocaust Education and the Lehrer and Sophie Waldman endowment funds.

School Programs
Supported by the Azrieli Foundation and the Diamond Foundation. With generous sponsorship from the Diamond Foundation, the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre was pleased to offer free admission for museum exhibition tours.

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Survivor Support
Bonnie Elster, joy Fai, Ethel Kofsky, Norman Gladstone, Helen Heacock-Rivers, Gisi Levitt, Shoshana Lewis, Al Szajman

Docents
Helen Heacock-Rivers, Gloria Joachim, Gita Silver, Lotti Smith, Anna-Mae Wiesenthal, Anita Willson

Special Projects
Summer Chatagwe, joy Fai, Rome Fox, Audrey Lieberman, Lara Wostal, Anna-Mae Wiesenthal

2026 Life Fellow Recipients

In recognition of those who have made special contributions to Holocaust education and remembrance.

JOY FAI

joy Fai is a writer, artist and community volunteer whose work reflects a deep commitment to education, remembrance and civic engagement in British Columbia. As a volunteer at the VHEC, she helps with administration, events and survivor support. Through her photography, she has documented many VHEC events, helping to preserve moments of connection and remembrance.

joy supports the Vancouver Child Holocaust Survivor Group, which meets bi-monthly in person and over Zoom. joy diligently takes minutes of each meeting, which are then shared with members unable to attend—this is an important service for keeping survivors connected to the group. joy often visits survivors in hospital or in care when they are unwell. Her dedication and compassion for working with the Child Survivor Group are essential to the functioning of the group.

Her engagement with the community extends beyond the VHEC. She was a longtime volunteer with Scouts Canada and has supported a variety of initiatives, including the Chutzpah! Festival and the Stanley Park Ecology Society. joy brings curiosity, generosity and a strong sense of community to the organizations and causes she supports.

For her unbridled commitment to the work of the VHEC, and for being a guardian angel of the Child Survivor Group, the board is thrilled to present joy with a Life Fellow Award.

LISE KIRCHNER

Lise Kirchner has contributed to the work of the VHEC for over 27 years across a variety of roles.

Lise was born in Victoria. She studied history at the University of Victoria and law at the University of British Columbia. She went on to practice labour, employment and human rights law in Vancouver.

Lise began her work with the VHEC in 1999 as a volunteer docent. Over the years her volunteer duties expanded to include work on the development of VHEC programs, exhibitions and pedagogical content, as well as the facilitation of survivor speaker events. In 2014, Lise took on the role of program consultant, leading testimony transcription and digital collections projects. The product of these efforts can be seen today in the VHEC's online collections platform, which allows VHEC artefacts, documents and testimonies to be accessed by students and scholars anywhere. In 2023, Lise became the acting director of education. In this role, she served as the exhibition developer of *Age of Influence: Youth & Nazi Propaganda*. Today, Lise continues to work on exhibitions, educational programming and professional training services as the director of education.

For her 25+ years of unwavering commitment to the important work done by the VHEC and, most recently, her stewardship of *Fragments in Focus: A History of the Holocaust*, which has become a Ministry of Education-recognized resource for mandatory Grade 10 Holocaust education province-wide, the board of directors is beyond pleased to recognize Lise with a Life Fellow Award.

MICHEL SILVER

Michel Silver was born in 1936 in Paris, France. He lived in Paris until 1943 when he was put into hiding in a small village southwest of the city when the Nazis and French Police were rounding up Jewish men, women and children. During this

time, he was separated from his parents who hid in another area of France. Michel was liberated in the spring of 1944. He moved to Canada in the 1950s, where he earned a degree in mechanical engineering and pursued an international career in the field.

In 2023, Michel joined the Vancouver Child Holocaust Survivor Group. As an active member, he provides support to his fellow survivors, listening with compassion. Michel's warmth and energy enrich every gathering, strengthening the bonds of friendship, understanding and shared remembrance that make the group so meaningful.

In December of 2024, 80 years after the end of the Second World War, Michel began to share his experiences as a VHEC Holocaust survivor outreach speaker. Since then he has told of his experiences on more than 20 occasions, in classrooms, to professional organizations and corporate groups, and at the Annual Symposium on the Holocaust.

The VHEC Board of Directors thanks Michel for his ongoing commitment and contributions and is pleased to present him with a Life Fellow Award.

Life Fellows

In recognition of those who have made special contributions to Holocaust education and remembrance.

Rita Akselrod
Lola Apfelbaum z'l
Janos Benisz z'l
Agi Bergida z'l
Susan Bluman z'l
Amalia Boe-Fishman
Lillian Boraks-Nemetz
Alex Buckman z'l
Marion Cassirer z'l
Saul Cohn z'l
Jody Dales
Miriam Dattel
Mariette Doduck
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joy Fai
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Oscar Jason z'l
Leon Kahn z'l
Ida Kaplan z'l
Lise Kirchner
Chaim Kornfeld z'l
Robert Krell
Roberta Kremer z'l
Kit Krieger
Nina Krieger
Ethel Kofsky
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Lucien Lieberman
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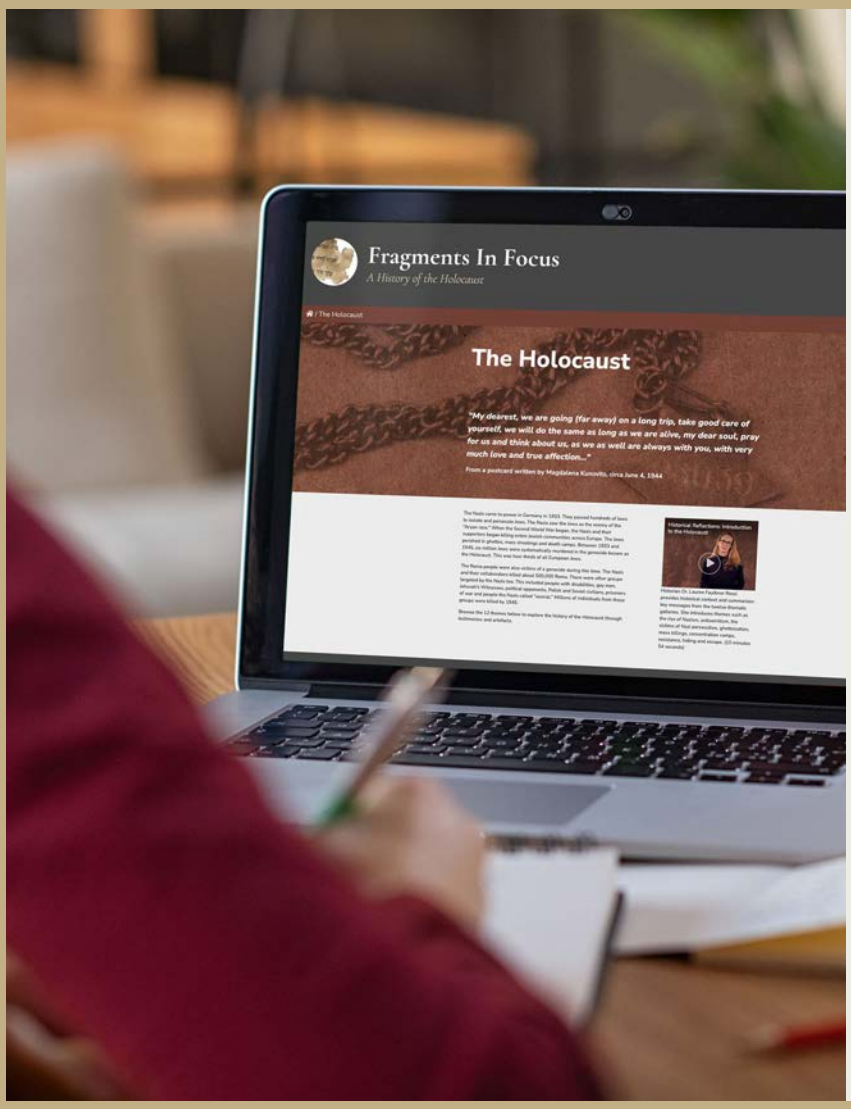
Peter Parker z'l
Rubin Pinsky z'l
Malka Pischanitskaya
Susan Quastel z'l
Claude Romney
Martha Salcudean z'l
David Schaffer z'l
Sidi Schaffer
David Shafran z'l
Michel Silver
Vera Slymovics z'l
Bronia Sonnenschein z'l
Leslie Spiro z'l
Louise Stein Sorensen z'l
Ron Stuart
Wendy Bross Stuart
Peter Suedfeld
Aron Szajman z'l
Tom Szekely
Stan Taviss
Ronnie Tessler
Peter Voormeij z'l
Gloria Waisman z'l
Robbie Waisman
Sophie Waldman z'l
Irene Watts z'l
Yosef Wosk
Corrine Zimmerman



VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

Holocaust Education Resources for Teachers and Parents

Young people encounter an increasingly unregulated and distorted information landscape—our online and in-person resources help build media literacy and critical thinking skills.

The VHEC offers free resources to educators and parents who want to engage their students and children about the Holocaust responsibly and with confidence, while building the skills needed to navigate today's fraught online environment.

Explore the resources:
vhec.org/educational-resources/

Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre | vhec.org | 604-264-0499 | 50-950 West 41st Avenue, Vancouver BC V5Z 2N7