

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

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# 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.

**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

Since our last Annual General Meeting in October 2021, the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre has emerged from the global pandemic, maintaining a strong commitment to our mandate and engaging with students, educators and the broader community in dynamic and innovative ways.

The pages of this Annual Report speak to the continued impact of the VHEC's activities, which reached expanded audiences thanks to digital adaptations and the investment of our supporters. The advancement of Holocaust education and remembrance is even more critical in light of increasing antisemitism and racism globally and in our own backyard.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Diamond Foundation, the VHEC was able to deliver its school programs free-of-charge this year, while the Azrieli Foundation's support allowed the Centre to develop its online and onsite offerings. Our dedicated volunteer docents facilitated Zoom-based workshops and started to again lead on-site tours for students.

The VHEC's work continues to be inspired by the strength of local Holocaust survivors and by the Holocaust survivor speakers who courageously share their experiences with students. Thousands of young people from diverse backgrounds, from across BC and beyond, engaged with an eyewitness speaker this year. These memorable opportunities for learning and interaction encouraged students to reflect about the consequences of antisemitism and racism and consider what they can do to respond to injustice.

We continued to build on our commitment to collecting, preserving and providing access to the documentation entrusted to the Centre by Holocaust survivors and community members. As more material was digitized and catalogued, we served more researchers than ever.

Audience engagement and participation in our commemorative programs also increased. We offered programs in pre-recorded, livestream and hybrid formats, in collaboration with regional and national partners. Through public programming and partnerships, we explored the intercultural, intergenerational, and broad resonance of the Shoah.

On the pages of this Annual Report, we invite you to learn more about our programs and their impact. Alongside facts and figures, the report profiles diverse individuals who have been touched by, and have contributed to, our work. These profiles include moving reflections; we truly hope that you find their perspectives informative and inspiring.

Of course, none of this work would be possible without our Holocaust survivor speakers, volunteer docent educators, professional team, Board of Directors, volunteers, members and supporters. The VHEC community is enriched by the dedication and commitment of so many.

We could not advance our work without you, and we could not be more grateful for your engagement and support. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Nina Krieger  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Corinne Zimmerman  
PRESIDENT

# Year at a glance

Highlights from June 2021 to June 2022

**900**

people took part in  
our Kristallnacht  
commemoration

**39**

meals were shared  
by survivors during  
Hannukah celebrations

**14,600**

students across BC and  
beyond engaged with survivor  
speakers and docents



7

artefacts on loan to  
the Canadian Museum  
for Human Rights

400

archival and museum  
item catalogue  
records created

1,200

monthly users of  
collections.vhec.org



15,400

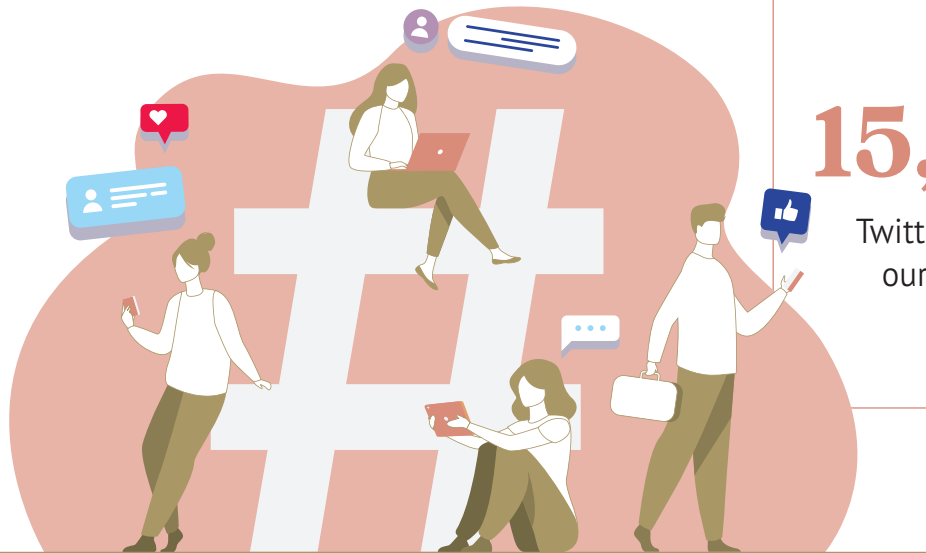
Twitter users saw  
our top tweet

3,022

followers on Twitter

2,684

likes and follows  
on facebook



## EDUCATION

# A year of far-reaching Holocaust education—in and out of the classroom

Thanks to the generous support of the Diamond Foundation, the VHEC was able to deliver its school programs free-of-charge this year. Thousands of students and teachers from diverse backgrounds engaged with our survivor speakers and docent-led workshops. For the first time since the start of the pandemic, we were thrilled to invite students back to the Centre for on-site tours.



Amalia Boe-Fishman with her son, Jan, during filming for the online symposium, April 2022.

## SCHOOL PROGRAMS

### Holocaust Survivor Speakers

Our team of 13 engaging Holocaust survivor speakers shared eyewitness testimony and personal accounts with over 13,000 students in BC and across Canada.

### **Pigeon: Live Virtual Workshop**

VHEC docents helped deliver an interactive online workshop: *Pigeon: Facing Choices, Making Decisions during the Holocaust*. Based on the Emmy- and Gemini-nominated short film, *Pigeon*, the screening is followed by docent-led questions to foster critical thinking and ideas about social responsibility among students. They learn about moral courage and rescue during the Holocaust, and to think deeply about the motivations behind the choices we all make.

**“I am grateful for the VHEC and *Pigeon* workshop leader Cathy for joining us at the Vancouver Westside German School. Thank you for the excellent material and for providing the service and resources for free. I really appreciate the work you do!”**

DR. DOROTHEE LEESING  
LECTURER AT CENES, AFFILIATE AT UBC'S CENTRE FOR MIGRATION STUDIES

### **Treasured Belongings: Exhibition Tour and Workshop**

With the easing of pandemic restrictions, we welcomed students back to the Centre for on-site school tours and workshops based on the exhibition, *Treasured Belongings: The Hahn Family & the Search for a Stolen Legacy*.

The docent-led interactive tour and workshop allows students to take a hands-on approach to learning. Students explore the history of the German-Jewish Hahn family through primary sources from the family collection, including rare artefacts, photographs, and official documents.

### **Online Symposium on the Holocaust**

We were privileged to create two new and engaging video conversations with survivors to help educators and students reflect on the importance of eyewitness accounts.

Holocaust survivor Mariette Doduck and SFU historian Dr. Lauren Faulkner Rossi spoke from their unique perspectives about the importance of survivor testimony in the study of the Holocaust.

Survivor Amalia Boe-Fishman and her son, Jan, engaged in a conversation about the intergenerational legacies of the Holocaust.



Top: Tom Szekely speaking to Grade 11 and 12 students at Westsyde Secondary School, Kamloops, May 2022. Bottom: Byrne Creek Secondary school tour of the VHEC, May 2022.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Teaching Best Practices in Holocaust Education

For the first time, the VHEC partnered with Yad Vashem and the Azrieli Foundation's Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program to offer an afternoon of learning, growth and professional development for teachers. The workshop offered participants an overview of best practices in Holocaust education, age-appropriate strategies for teaching about the Holocaust and online resources from all three organizations.

The VHEC and UBC professor Dr. Andrea Webb were co-leaders in a session exploring the online resource Primary Voices, a web-based platform for teachers that brings together survivor testimony and inquiry-driven historical thinking.



Vancouver teachers at the Teaching Best Practices in Holocaust Education workshop, facilitated by Tessa Coutu (VHEC), Yoni Berrous (Yad Vashem), Marc-Olivier Cloutier (Azrieli Foundation) and Andrea Webb (UBC)

### Collaboration with Collingwood School

Collingwood teacher Ben Lane reached out to the VHEC for help in creating an immersive, on-site exhibition for the UK-based Dora Love Prize, named after a survivor who worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the Holocaust. Four Holocaust survivors participated in the exhibition, which included interviews with students and a presentation by survivor speaker Lillian Boraks-Nemetz.



**"The Nazis who committed these atrocities are not otherworldly, they are human. I learned how quickly human beings can be taught to hate each other and how quickly that hate can turn into evil. As young people, we need to constantly be vigilant against hate."**

JADE, COLLINGWOOD STUDENT

# Meet social studies teacher Ben Lane

Originally from Southampton in the UK, Ben Lane teaches at Collingwood School in West Vancouver. This year he, his colleague Selena Rathwell and their students are creating an exhibition about society's obligations to protect the human rights of all peoples. Ben reflects on how meeting survivors impacts students, and the significance of bringing Holocaust education into the BC classroom.

I first learned about the VHEC through a colleague who had taken field trips to the Centre and taught VHEC workshops in his class.

Holocaust education has been a mandatory component of the UK's history curriculum since 1991. Being from Europe, I have been privileged to experience talks by Holocaust survivors in the past and know the benefits that this exposure can have in classrooms.

When meeting Holocaust survivors, students begin to understand that the Holocaust is more than just facts and figures—it's an historical event that involved real people. That's why primary source material and testimonies make such an impact on our students. They learn that the Holocaust was not confined to Germany and Poland, but that it affected the entire European continent.

Teaching the Holocaust to young people can generate genuine historical and intellectual curiosity among

some students. Students are more readily prepared for, and can articulate, genocidal tendencies found in other contemporary contexts, including here in Canada.

In researching our exhibition, my students interviewed four survivor speakers on Zoom: Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Miriam Dattel, Peter Voormeij and Alex Buckman. They were guided by the theme that, if the human rights of one group are violated, then no one can feel safe.

Together, we will present a multi-sensory exhibition over five distinct spaces: Life before the Nuremberg Laws/Indian Act, the eight stages of genocide, an in-house documentary, an art installation that challenges attendees to confront the legacies of the Holocaust and residential schools, as well as a student reflection room.

By confronting the atrocities in our collective histories, we can reflect upon their implications and stand up for the rights of the oppressed.



“When meeting Holocaust survivors, students begin to understand that the Holocaust is more than just facts and figures—it’s an historical event that involved real people.”

## COMMEMORATION

# Remembering the victims, honouring the survivors and committing ourselves to 'never again'

Each year the VHEC presents four commemorative programs to remember the six million Jews who died during the Holocaust as well as the five million non-Jews who perished at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators.

This year, with the pandemic keeping so many at home, the VHEC responded by offering in-person, livestreamed and pre-recorded offerings to engage the community in remembrance and reflection.



Leo Vogel, keynote speaker at the Yom HaShoah commemoration in Victoria, BC.

## High Holidays Cemetery Service September 12, 2021

Held in front of the Holocaust memorial at the Schara Tzedeck Cemetery, the annual service allows participants to mourn those who perished during the Holocaust at this symbolic grave site.

This year's keynote address was delivered by **Ahava Zarembski-Schachter**, Director of Women and Young Families Education, Congregation Schara Tzedeck.

Presented by the VHEC, Congregation Schara Tzedeck and the Jewish War Veterans.

## Kristallnacht November 9, 2021

This year marked the 83rd anniversary of the state-sponsored pogrom known as the Night of Broken Glass. *New York Times*-bestselling author **Judy Batalion** delivered a riveting and informative keynote lecture based on her award-winning book, *The Light of Days: The Untold Stories of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler's Ghettos*. The program attracted more than 900 attendees—a record for the VHEC.

Dr. Abby Wener Herlin moderated the program and engaged Judy in a Q&A following the talk.

Watch the Q&A online [here](#).

## International Holocaust Remembrance Day January 27, 2022

The VHEC partnered with CIJA and the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver for a community commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Our keynote speaker was Holocaust survivor **Claude Romney**. She provided a harrowing account of her and her father's experiences.

The program also featured remarks from Mayor Kennedy Stewart, Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung, and candle lighting by Grade 7 Talmud Torah students. Two King David High School students performed a beautiful and uplifting song of hope.

Watch the recorded commemoration online [here](#).

The VHEC partnered with the Bayit synagogue in Richmond to present a moving keynote lecture delivered by survivor speaker **Miriam Dattel**.

In partnership with Hillel BC, survivor speaker **Louise Sorensen** shared her story of enduring the Holocaust as a child in the Netherlands with students and the wider UBC community.

## Yom HaShoah April 27–28, 2022

### VANCOUVER

Yom HaShoah was particularly poignant this year with the return of Holocaust survivors lighting memorial candles in person at the Wosk Auditorium in the Jewish Community Centre.

Held to remember those who perished and to honour Holocaust survivors, this year's Yom HaShoah program featured second generation speaker and award-winning journalist **Marsha Lederman**, author of *Kiss the Red Stairs: The Holocaust Once Removed*.

Netherlands-born **Amalia Boe-Fishman**, who survived the Holocaust as a child in hiding at the home of a member of the Dutch resistance, delivered a powerful keynote address.

The lyrical, haunting musical program arranged by Wendy and Ron Stuart featured four vocalists and VSO violist Andrew James Brown.

### VICTORIA

The VHEC partnered with with CIJA Pacific Region for a Holocaust Memorial Day service live-streamed from the BC Legislature. The Honourable John Horgan spoke about the importance of commemoration and remembrance. **Leo Vogel**, the Holocaust survivor speaker, spoke eloquently and powerfully in the keynote address.

Watch the commemoration [here](#).

# Meet child survivor Miriam Dattel

Born in Zagreb, Croatia, Miriam Dattel experienced fear and displacement as a young child. With her parents and aunt and uncle, she hid in eighteen different locations over four years. She shares the story of her family's fierce will to survive as the VHEC's newest outreach speaker.

I was invited to join the Child Survivor Group and share my story in 2020. It was wonderful to find this welcoming group and feel a strong sense of belonging. Soon, I was asked to become a VHEC Holocaust survivor speaker.

My first experience speaking publicly about the Holocaust was when my 11-year-old granddaughter asked me to talk to her Grade 6 class. Later, I spoke to my congregation, to students in our Hebrew school, and at Brockton School in North Vancouver. All my talks received very positive feedback.

Still, it took some time before I felt comfortable in front of an audience. When I speak, I share the history of the Holocaust, but I also share very personal memories and experiences. I look at the age level of my audience, and share anecdotes I hope they can understand. For example, when food was scarce and we were in hiding at a villager's house, we were invited to a barn where people were roasting chestnuts over a fire. The smell of roasted chestnuts remains with me to this day.

When we were hiding in a windmill in a valley, with my parents, my aunt and uncle, and my baby cousin, German officers knocked on the door to check the mill. I remember being three-and-a-half years old, caressing my mother's hand and telling her "don't worry, it will be okay."

Students often tell me afterward that they will never forget my story. Many thank me for having the courage to speak about my experiences. Others tell me they'll pass on my story to their families and friends. That's why speaking with students is so rewarding. Together, we share a common goal: that the Holocaust must not be forgotten, and must never happen again.

I am grateful to be a VHEC Holocaust survivor speaker. My mission is to educate as many young people as possible for as long as I am able. I feel great responsibility in telling my story, as I am one of the ten percent of Jewish children who survived the Holocaust.

Read Miriam Dattel's article, "What's in a Name?" in the Spring 2021 issue of *Zachor* [here](#).



"Students often tell me afterward that they will never forget my story. Many thank me for having the courage to speak about my experiences. That's why speaking with students is so rewarding. Together, we share a common goal: that the Holocaust must not be forgotten, and must never happen again."



Amalia Boe-Fishman, keynote speaker at the Yom HaShoah commemorative program in Vancouver, BC.

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS & OUTREACH

### **Building partnerships and engaging diverse communities**

The impact of the Holocaust on survivors and their descendants in BC figured prominently in our public and cultural programs, shared through moving image, book readings, lectures and dialogues.



Yosef Wosk and Robert Krell at the double book launch of *Out of Hiding* and *Sounds of Silence*.

### Testimony and Trauma: The Last Chance Collection October 17, 2021

Executive Director Nina Krieger announced a partnership to support the Last Chance Collection, launched by Liberation75 and the USC Shoah Foundation to record remaining survivor testimonies before their vital voices are lost to us.

**Dr. Robert Krell**, child Holocaust survivor and psychiatrist, was interviewed by **Dr. Kori Street**, Senior Director of Programs and Operations, USC Shoah Foundation, and introduced by **Marilyn Sinclair**, founder of Liberation75.

### Black Excellence Day January 14, 2022

Program Coordinator **Giorgia Ricciardi** and Holocaust survivor speaker **Lillian Boraks-Nemetz** spoke as part of BC's first annual Black Excellence Day programming, organized by the Ninandotoo Society, which reached some 10,000 students and educators across BC.

### Historical Quests – Cherie Smith Book Festival February 6, 2022

Historical Quests brought together award-winning authors, **Isa Milman** (*Afterlight: In Search of Poetry, History and Home*) and **Menachem Kaiser** (*Plunder: A Memoir of Family Property and Nazi Treasure*) to recount their personal journeys to unravel family histories. Isa set out to find her aunt's long-lost journals published in Poland, while Menachem battled with Nazi treasure hunters to reclaim his family's apartment building in Poland.

Dr. Abby Wener Herlin moderated the evening.

### Vancouver Jewish Film Festival March 3–13, 2022

The VHEC partnered with the Jewish Film Festival to present the 2021 French-made film *Valiant Hearts*, directed by Mona Achache. The story recounts the odyssey of six Jewish children who, in August 1942, were forced to take refuge where no one would expect: in the Château de Chambord, hidden amidst the stored masterpieces from the Louvre.

### The Historian and the Survivor: Notes on a Collaborative Writing Project March 3, 2022

The VHEC joined with SFU's Department of History as part of their 2021–22 Colloquium Series for a program with **Dr. Lauren Faulkner Rossi**. Rossi reflected on her experience working with Holocaust survivor **Mariette Doduck** on her memoir.

### Double Book Launch featuring authors Alan Twigg and Robert Krell April 5, 2022

Celebrating BC's Holocaust survivor community, two books were brought to vivid life before a captivated audience.

Hosted by the Cherie Smith JCC Jewish Book Festival, the event was moderated by Yosef Wosk.

**Alan Twigg's** *Out of Hiding: Holocaust Literature of British Columbia* is a celebration of 85 Holocaust survivor authors who have written and published books in BC.

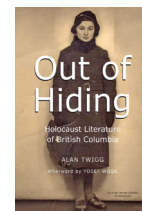
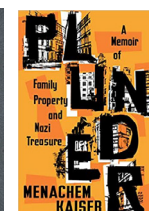
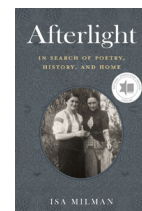
**Robert Krell** shares the lost pieces of his childhood and later efforts to regain a Jewish identity in his compelling book, *Sounds of Silence: Reflections of a Child Holocaust Survivor, Psychiatrist and Teacher*.

### Holocaust Memory and the Russian War against Ukraine April 28, 2022

#### LECTURE BY DR. MARTA HAVRYSHKO, URIS FELLOW AT BASEL UNIVERSITY

Dr. Marta Havryshko is an Associate Researcher in the Department of Contemporary History at the I. Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies of Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences (Lviv). She is a Babyn Yar Interdisciplinary Studies Institute director of the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Centre. She received an emergency fellowship at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research. Her research interests primarily focus on gender, sexuality and violence during the Second World War and the Holocaust, feminism, nationalism and militarism.

Moderated by Richard Menkis (Chair, Holocaust Education Committee, Department of History, UBC) and Ania Switzer (Department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies, UBC). Programmed in partnership with the Holocaust Education Committee of the University of British Columbia.



COLLECTIONS: LIBRARY,  
MUSEUM, ARCHIVES  
& TESTIMONY

## Making our collections accessible through digitization, cataloguing and reference

The VHEC has made our collections easier to find and access by adding to our online public catalogue:

- 3,100 library resources
- 600 museum works
- 2,300 archival documents and photographs
- 190 Holocaust survivor testimonies



Documents and photographs owned by Naiman Pulver, born in Iasi, Romania, and forced into labour during the period of the Holocaust. In 1947, he and his family immigrated first to Trinidad, then Barbados and Venezuela, before moving to Canada in 1956. Donated to the VHEC by his daughter, Molly Ungar.

## Creating educational opportunities

With the VHEC reopening its doors in late 2021, we were privileged to welcome students from the University of British Columbia, University of Victoria and Langara College, for practicums and grant-funded positions in support of collections-based digitization and cataloguing work at the Centre.

PhD candidate Ryan Sun worked on 'Enemy Aliens' collection descriptions and Shanghai Oral History Project transcripts, funded by Innovate BC's Innovator Skills Initiative and TECHNATION Canada's Career Ready Program.

Public history students from Dr. Richard Menkis' class at UBC produced research guides, podcasts and slide show exhibits featuring items in the VHEC collection.

Students in Dr. Uma Kumar's class on literary representations of the Holocaust wrote papers on the lives and work of seven BC Holocaust survivors: Anna Mahler Aszkenazi, Alex Buckman, Marion Cassirer, René Goldman, Bronia Sonnenschein, Louise Stein Sorensen, Serge Vanry and Robbie Waisman. Read their essays, based on memoirs and other resources in the VHEC's collections, on their course blog [here](#).



Gurjiv Dhami, student in Langara College's Library & Information Technology Program, cataloguing new library donations.

## Supporting research and reference

This year saw interest in our collections and catalogue from across Canada, the United States, UK, Israel, Netherlands and Australia. Many inquiries came from families of survivors who had provided testimony or donated archival and museum artefacts. In support of increased research, we:

- Added **157** resources to the library and catalogue ([\*\*\*See what's new in the library!\*\*\*](#))
- Added **400** archival and museum item catalogue records
- Completed 17 finding aids ([\*\*\*Browse our finding aids\*\*\*](#))
- Completed our *Zachor* cataloguing project (View [here](#))
- Saw 1,200 average monthly users of [\*\*\*collections.vhec.org\*\*\*](https://collections.vhec.org)

The VHEC is making testimonies more accessible to post-secondary institutions by partnering with external databases managed by the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies and USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive.

## Donation highlights

The VHEC archives and museum collection received significant donations this year, including from Debby Freiman, Molly Ungar and Kit Krieger.

VHEC member and testimony interviewer Debby Freiman donated drawings, mementos, documents and photographs belonging to her mother, Holocaust survivor and dressmaker Leonore Freiman, who was featured in our 1999 exhibition, *Broken Threads*. Debby kept these materials in her home for many years, until ready to make them available for research and reference at the VHEC.



A selection of items owned by Leonore Freiman in Vienna, Austria. Leonore escaped Nazi persecution in 1939 and eventually settled in Vancouver. Donated to the VHEC by Debby Freiman.

# Meet Project Archivist Chase Nelson

Chase Nelson is a student in UBC's iSchool program. He works part time at the VHEC on a cataloguing and access management project funded by Library and Archives Canada's Documentary Heritage Communities Program.

While I was not raised in a religious family, the Jewish community played a formative role in my childhood. Many of my closest friends were made through religious school, Jewish day school and United Synagogue Youth (USY). When I moved to Vancouver for graduate school at UBC, I was looking for a way to reconnect with my Jewish identity in a way that intersected with my interest in public history, my education in library and archival studies and my social justice values. The VHEC's role as a community museum and archive with an anti-racist mission stood out to me during my search, so I decided to reach out to Nina... and the rest is history!

I began my graduate studies at UBC just before the pandemic started. When COVID-19 brought our classes online, students in my cohort were not able to receive the hands-on learning usually expected in archival coursework. I was privileged to have the opportunity to work in-person at the VHEC while in "Zoom school," so I saw real world examples of the lessons we were being taught in class. As I advanced through my studies, I've been able to use my experiences from the VHEC as a reference point. Shyla's mentorship is also invaluable as an addition to the UBC archival program that is occasionally detached from the on-the-ground experiences of archivists in the field.

One thing that stands out to me through my work is the glimpse I get into European Jewish life before the Second World War. Throughout my Jewish education, Jewish history was often taught as the Tanakh, the Shoah and the establishment of the State of Israel. We were rarely given insights into the ways Jews lived their lives over the thousands of years from the destruction of the Second Temple to the rise of the Nazis. When listening to survivor testimony and sorting through photographs, the greatest moments of relief from this often emotionally taxing labour are the anecdotes of the sights, sounds and smells of the shtetl. These stories give me a greater understanding of and connection to my history as an Ashkenazi Jew.

Frequently, archives are viewed as dusty places where historical artefacts are sent to be held in a vault to stand the test of time, occasionally accessed by a researcher writing a book on a niche topic. The VHEC's archival collection exemplifies the social role of archives. The records held here are not preserved just for preservation or academia's sake, but to be used towards goals of justice and anti-racism. Human rights archives, such as this one, have great potential to serve as resources for others attempting to document injustices and work towards the liberation of oppressed people around the world.



**“Human rights archives, such as this one, have great potential to serve as resources for others attempting to document injustices and work towards the liberation of oppressed people around the world.”**

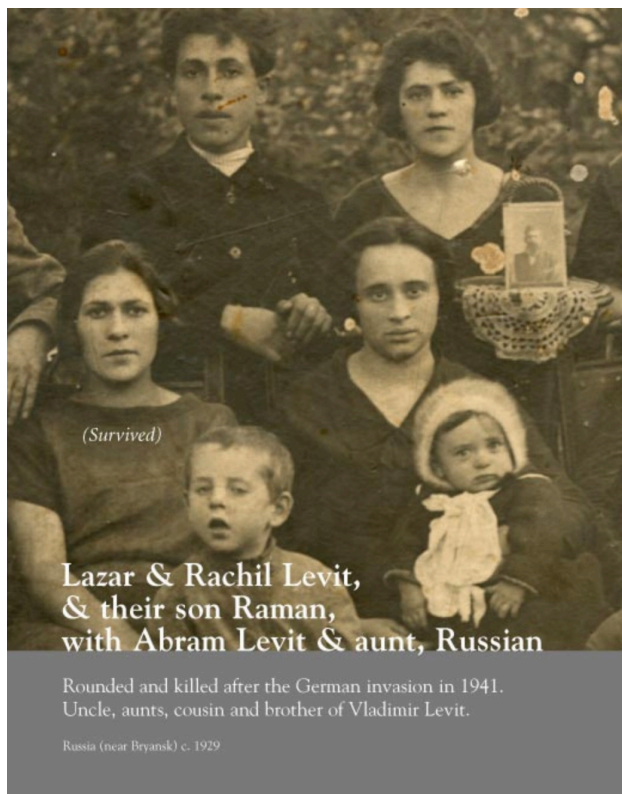
## EXHIBITIONS

### **A year of online engagement with a global audience**

We have created digital, interactive content for two online exhibitions, enabling a wider global audience and facilitating engagement with the projects in new ways.



Photograph of Peter and Marta Winkler featured in the *Faces of Loss* online exhibition. In June 1944, the whole family was deported to Auschwitz—only their father survived.



The Levit family featured in the *Faces of Loss* online exhibition.

### **Online Exhibition: Faces of Loss: Remembering Those Who Perished**

This year, the VHEC refreshed the 2005 exhibition curated by Roberta Kremer, *Faces of Loss: Remembering Those Who Perished*.

*Faces of Loss* is a memorial exhibition focusing on the victims of the Holocaust whose families later immigrated to Canada and settled in Vancouver. Descendants of survivors and other Vancouver families contributed their precious few pre-war photographs of family members who were lost during the Holocaust.

In many cases, no photographs remain of those who perished. This online exhibition serves to remember and mourn these victims while restoring the human, personal element to what has become an abstraction of numbers.

Sarah Ruediger led the website design and development.

### **Moving In Focus Online**

Launching in 2023, an online version of *In Focus: The Holocaust through the VHEC Collection* will present 80 artefacts for virtual viewing. The companion exhibition will feature new digital content, interactive features, as well as teaching resources. Supported by Digital Museums Canada, this project will attract a wider, global audience and will facilitate engagement with the exhibition in new ways.

### **Treasured Belongings Exhibition**

Accompanied by a catalogue published in 2021 and extended through June 2022, the VHEC's acclaimed exhibition, *Treasured Belongings: The Hahn Family & the Search for a Stolen Legacy*, continued to engage public and school visitors. This exhibition brings together items from the Hahn archive alongside rich artefacts and interviews to detail the story of the Hahn family, their collection, and their descendants' restitution efforts. The family's ongoing search for their stolen collection speaks to timely themes of cultural loss, reconciliation and intergenerational legacy. An online version of the exhibition is currently in development.

### **Coming this Fall: A revival of In Focus: The Holocaust through the VHEC Collection**

Preparations began this year to restage our popular *In Focus* exhibition, originally created and installed in 2018. This successful original exhibition will feature artefacts and testimonies from the VHEC collection. Through the powerful lens of personal experience, including testimonies from local survivors and other eyewitnesses, we are working to ensure visitors gain a deeper understanding of the depth and scope of an unprecedented event in human history.

Launching in the fall, the exhibition will feature a thematic spotlight on propaganda, emphasizing the different ways the Nazis promoted antisemitism. This exploration of propaganda will invite visitors to actively question, analyze and seek truth, achieved both in touring the exhibition and through school programming and teaching materials.



Tessa Coutu leading a tour of *Treasured Belongings* with the Richmond Jewish Day School, May 2022.

# Meet docent Lotti Smith

Lotti Smith was born in Bogotá, Colombia, then moved to Vancouver as a teenager. Both her parents were originally from Berlin and endured profound losses through Hitler's rise to power. Lotti's grandfather was rounded up during Kristallnacht, and never spoke about his experience with his family. Despite it all, Lotti's parents instilled in her a positive outlook which she carries forward, over 40 years of teaching and now an inspiring VHEC docent.

For years, I have known about the VHEC and wanted to become involved because both of my parents escaped Nazi Germany.

After I retired from full-time teaching, I trained as a docent for the exhibition, *Treasured Belongings: The Hahn Family & the Search for a Stolen Legacy*. At that point, school programs were still in person, then COVID-19 hit and we moved online.

Although it's different facilitating students on Zoom, we do get to present to many more students at once and in various parts of the province. Our last session was attended by more than 200 students.

As a docent working alongside survivor speakers, I make sure that the students understand what a huge gift the speakers are giving them. It takes the speakers a lot of emotional energy to relive the past each time they tell their story.

Even in a virtual session, I can see how engaged the students are when listening to our amazing survivors. They always come up with thought-provoking questions, such as: Is there one thing that helped you get through difficult times? How did you maintain hope? How do we relate the Holocaust to today's world? They also wonder what life was like after liberation and how the survivors eventually found their way to Canada.

I am inspired by the student-created artwork and writing that follows some survivor presentations. The way students capture these shared oral histories and express them through their own creative work is so powerful.

I have tremendous admiration for the survivor speakers, who tell their stories with genuine passion and strong emotion. Having a connection to these brave people is remarkable and a real honour.



**“As a docent working alongside survivor speakers, I make sure that the students understand what a huge gift the speakers are giving them. It takes the speakers a lot of emotional energy to relive the past each time they tell their story.”**

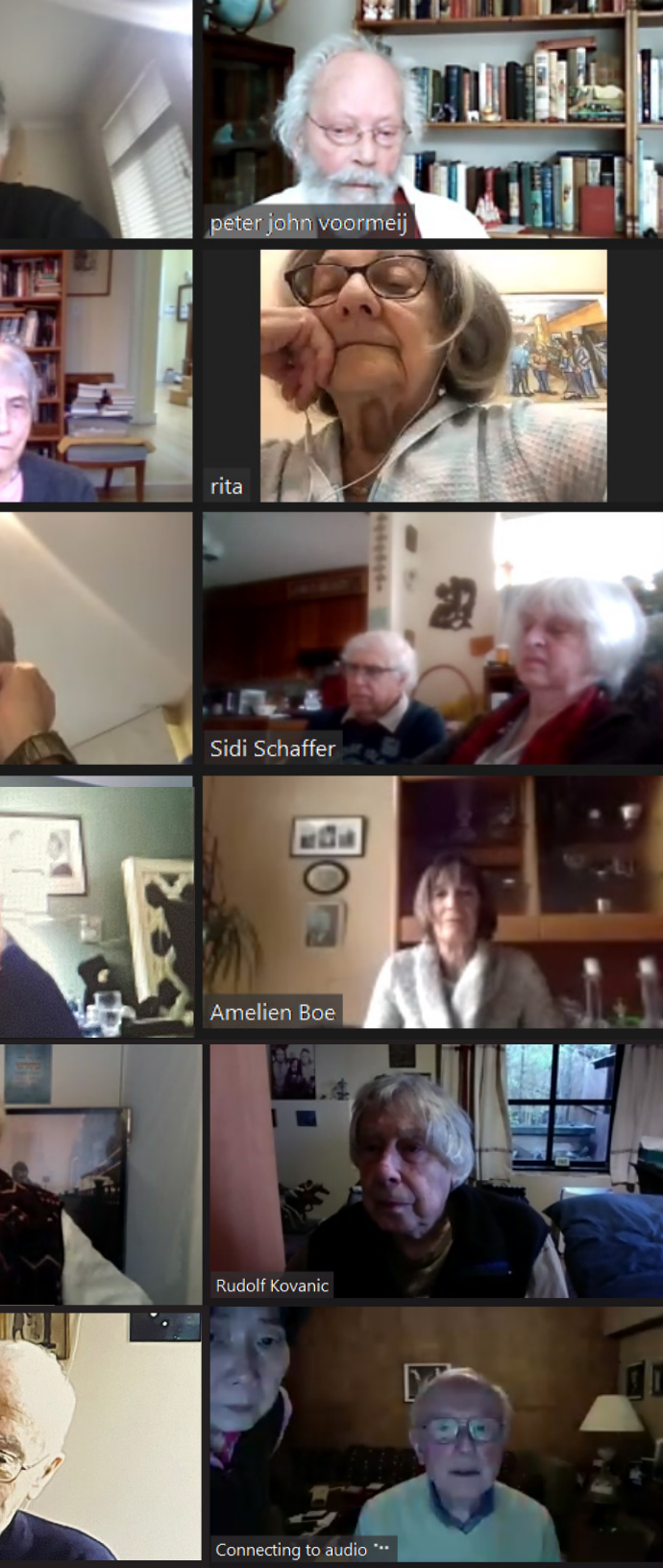
## HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR SERVICES

# Building connections and providing a second home for survivors

The VHEC, with generous support from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), offers a range of Holocaust survivor services, from social and educational activities to housing and health care advocacy.

Staying connected has been challenging for survivors throughout the pandemic. This year, the Russian Survivor Group and Child Survivor Group found creative ways to celebrate important holidays together.





### Virtual gatherings, film screenings and survivor luncheons

The Russian Survivor Group met virtually each week while the Child Survivor Group met virtually twice a month. Each group drew closer as they shared stories, discussed current events and even watched documentaries together from home.

In December, we were delighted to be able to hold in-person Hannukah celebrations for both survivor groups. Each group gathered separately to share a meal, light the Hannukah candles, sing songs, exchange stories of Hannukah and enjoy being together after so many months of virtual gatherings.

Some 25 survivors attended the Child Survivor luncheon, while 14 attended the Russian Survivor luncheon. A sense of joy pervaded the groups as members treasured being together after so long apart.

**“This year’s Hannukah luncheon took place in a wonderful atmosphere of joy, relaxation and a feeling of freedom. The short story about the history of the holiday was received with interest, it was nice to hear and included some little-known details. Thank you for organizing this celebration for us, which was a success. It was exactly what we needed in this difficult time.”**

ANNA ABRAMSKY  
RUSSIAN SURVIVOR GROUP MEMBER

### Holiday packages delivered with care

To reach some of our more isolated community members, unable to celebrate Hannukah with their community, families or friends due to the pandemic, we put together and delivered care packages containing a Kosher meal, a Hannukah treat, a card from the VHEC and Claims Conference, and a large word search book.

The project allowed us to check-in on survivors in their homes and to provide a greater sense of connection to the Jewish community.

### The VHEC partners with Jewish Family Services to better serve survivors

In January 2022, the VHEC and JFS announced a new and closer partnership to better serve our survivor community.

JFS has taken on the administration and coordination of Claims Conference-funded programs, while related services continue to be available at the VHEC.

The VHEC is working in partnership with JFS to continue to deliver social programs that provide a profound sense of care and community to our survivors.

JFS will have a coordinator working on-site at the VHEC one day a week to provide support with care management and applications, and to organize social programs throughout the year. This development will increase access to JFS social services and resources among the survivor population.

ZACHOR

## **Publishing BC writing about the Holocaust and its continued resonance**

In the pages of our magazine, we highlighted new programs and acquisitions, and continued to champion the voices of Holocaust survivors and their descendants.



Jan Cherniavsky, Elspeth Rogers Cherniavsky and Gaby Bettelheim, Austria, 1922. Courtesy of Alix Morgan.



This year we published essays, illustrations, personal reflections and poetry from fourteen contributors over two issues of our widely read biannual publication, *Zachor*. An article which particularly resonated among our readers was “A New Acquisition: Letters from Vienna, 1938,” by Lise Kirchner, in the Spring 2022 issue.

In her article, Lise examines a donation of original correspondence written by Vancouver’s Elspeth Rogers Cherniavsky. She conveys the life and friends of Elspeth and her husband, Jan, and draws out the historical and educational importance of correspondence when trying to understand the events in Vienna in 1938.

#### EXCERPT

Elspeth and Jan were living in England in the spring of 1938 when Nazi Germany annexed Austria. Disturbing news reports of mob violence and persecution compelled the Cherniavskys to travel to Vienna to check on the well-being of their many Jewish friends there, particularly Karl Bettelheim.

Elspeth, by her own description, had always been “mortally afraid about everything” and was particularly trepidatious about visiting Vienna during this “reign of terror” with a husband who was Jewish by birth. But the couple was determined to see their friends and offer what help they could. As Canadians, the Cherniavskys hoped their citizenship would protect them and possibly allow them to assist their friends in their urgent search for a means to flee the Nazis.

So it was that eight weeks after Anschluss, in May 1938, Elspeth and Jan Cherniavsky arrived in Vienna by car. Elspeth wrote home to her mother in Vancouver describing the scene that met them in Vienna:

*It was a mad-house in Vienna and we began to feel, after a few days, that we were losing our senses too... Hitler’s photograph is everywhere until it stinks and swastikas cover everything. Streicher’s paper, Der Stürmer, on sale at every corner and the pictures in it make you sick... I walk for blocks to look for a shop that is not marked “Aricshes Geschäfft” [Aryan business].*

FROM “A NEW ACQUISITION: LETTERS FROM VIENNA, 1938,”  
BY LISE KIRCHNER (ZACHOR SPRING 2022)



## FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT

**We are grateful for  
the unwavering  
support of our  
generous donors and  
members this year.**

Your support allows us to deliver innovative and educational programs, world-class exhibitions and moving commemorative programs. Together, we pledge to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive now, and for future generations.



## 2022 Annual Campaign: Triple your Impact

Our annual campaign kicked off on June 1, 2022.

Thanks to a generous pledge of \$50,000 from Marilyn and Robert Krell and a gift of \$50,000 from a group of passionate and committed donors, your donation this year will be tripled.

During a time when antisemitism, Holocaust denial and disinformation are on the rise, you are making a positive contribution to ensuring the lessons of the Holocaust are a catalyst for change.

Among our many initiatives, this year's annual campaign will help fund:

- A new educational workshop about rescue during the Holocaust. The workshop will cultivate empathy, inclusivity and **promote moral courage in the classroom**.
- Our Fall 2023 **propaganda exhibition** and companion teacher's guide. Both will help audiences understand the key role of propaganda in the Holocaust and to promote media literacy, especially among students and other young people.
- More video content to **preserve and share the voices of survivors and their descendants**, and increase the digitization, preservation and accessibility of items in our library, museum, archives and testimony collections.

To learn more or make a donation, please visit [vhed.org/donate](https://vhed.org/donate), call 604-264-0499 or email [info@vhed.org](mailto:info@vhed.org).



From left to right: Simone Kallner, Marilyn Krell, Robert Krell, Shoshana Lewis and Michaela Singerman. Photograph by Tybie Lipetz.

## Membership Campaign

### Thank you to all our current & new members!

We are so grateful to all the supporters who have joined us or renewed their memberships in 2022. You are part of an inspiring community of individuals who are standing up against antisemitism, distortion and hate.

### Thanks to you for partnering with us and becoming a member of the VHEC. We raised \$63,000 this year.

Your membership will help us reach young people, educators, researchers, allies, community members and the wider public more than ever before. It's not too late to join us! Consider renewing or joining us as a new member in 2022. Every membership donation is eligible for a tax receipt.

Special thanks to those of who shared their personal stories in supporting our membership campaign this year.

- **Alex Buchman**  
Child Holocaust survivor
- **Claire Sicherman**  
Member of the third generation
- **Lindsay Hutchinson**  
Social Studies educator
- **Jonathan Boone and students**  
from Bulkley Valley Christian School

## Forthcoming Projects

Our work is ongoing! Throughout the next year, the VHEC will:

- Improve access to items in our collection holdings through providing professional translation and transcription of original documents and audiovisual recordings.
- Recruit, train and support more docents and volunteers.
- Expand our network of community, cultural and professional partnerships to reach new audiences and increase our impact in BC and beyond.
- Deliver educational programming in direct response to specific incidents of antisemitism, Holocaust denial and distortion.
- Offer an authoritative response to the circulation of antisemitic tropes, conspiracy theories and Holocaust distortion through our social channels, programs and outreach.
- Produce community-wide commemorative events in virtual (livestream, pre-recorded) and hybrid formats.

## New Endowment Funds

- **Mimi, Leo & Nancy Sweedler Endowment Fund**
- **Jakob-Izrael & Goldstein-Reisz Families Endowment Fund**

Initiated by Yosef Wosk:

- **Irwin Cotler Endowment Fund**
- **Rudolf Vrba Memorial Endowment Fund**
- **Elie Wiesel Memorial Endowment Fund**

*"I've always admired the Centre and feel it's an important and special place. So many people have no idea and no information about the Holocaust. For young people it is so long ago, but antisemitism continues, and rises. I feel, as a Jewish person, if I can support the Centre and its mandate, this is something I can do to 'never forget.'"*

NANCY SWEEDLER

# Meet member joy Fai

Eighteen years ago, joy Fai walked into an interview for a job as assistant to Robert Krell. He gave her a copy of *Night*, by Elie Wiesel, to read. Her passion for Holocaust education continues to this day, as a proud VHEC member and monthly donor.

Robert Krell first introduced me to the VHEC. Later, I attended one of its school symposiums. Seeing the film, listening to survivors and being among the students shook me to the core. I believe the VHEC is the leader in Holocaust education in Canada. And that's one of the reasons I am so proud to be a member.

When I'm attending a Yom HaShoah event, I sense a depth of love among those in attendance as they embrace one another. As I watch survivors hold candles and listen to them tell their stories, as I hear the haunting music and lower my head during "El Malei Rachamim," I feel the souls of those we lost in the Shoah.

In 2019, I helped Robert Krell and Mariette Doduck bring the World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust and Descendants to Vancouver. Watching the

survivors and their families together in a safe space—knowing they could talk to each other and understand one another in ways no one else possibly could—permanently cemented my heart to the survivors and to the VHEC.

My world has opened up since becoming a member. And becoming a monthly donor was my way of making a commitment to a place I really believed in.

Every generation should have a deep understanding of the Holocaust. Hitler came to power democratically. We cannot move forward without talking about this history. It is part of our DNA.

Read joy Fai's article, "Tuesdays Are the Most Wonderful of Days," in the Fall 2021 issue of *Zachor* [here](#).



**"I believe the VHEC is the leader in Holocaust education in Canada. And that's one of the reasons I am so proud to be a member. My world has opened up since becoming a member. Becoming a monthly donor was my way of making a commitment to a place I really believed in."**

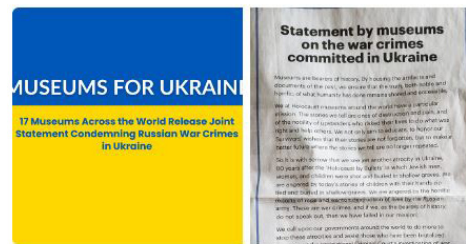
## SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

# Expanding our social media presence and highlighting the growing relevance of our work

Our followers engaged with themes ranging from the need to combat Holocaust distortion to the role of museums in speaking out against Russian invasion of Ukraine.

**Top Tweet** earned 15.4K impressions

Some 17 Holocaust museums, including [@thevhec](#), have issued a statement condemning Russian war crimes in [#Ukraine](#). The statement ran as a full-page ad in [@nytime](#) on Sunday, April 10. Read it here: [pic.twitter.com/FyPnFtcn8n](#)



2 37 105

**Top Tweet** earned 1,782 impressions

We are so honoured to support [#BlackExcellenceDay](#) Friday, Jan 14 at 10am. See the list of speakers: [buff.ly/3pZdTSo](#).

Child [#holocaust](#) survivor Lillian Boraks-Nemetz will be part of this inaugural event. Let's stand together in the fight against racism.

[pic.twitter.com/5V4KhNC7V3](#)



10 21

As an organization founded by survivors of genocide, the VHEC stands in solidarity with Indigenous people on this solemn day.

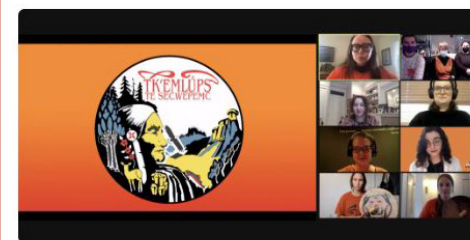
At 2:15pm staff joined the [@Tkemlups](#) virtual event to [#DrumForTheChildren](#)

[#NDTR](#)

[#NationalDayforTruthandReconciliation](#)

[#TRCCanada](#) [#OrangeShirtDay2021](#)

[pic.twitter.com/QUQeXBrPSP](#)



10

**Top Tweet** earned 1,452 impressions

Holocaust distortion poses a real threat to the legacy of the Holocaust. This [#IMD22](#), we stand together with [@EU\\_Commission](#), [@TheIHRA](#), [@UN](#) and [@UNESCO](#) to raise awareness of the role we all play to [#ProtectTheFacts](#). Learn more at [againstholocaustdistortion.org](#). [pic.twitter.com/0io0ZAV3Pf](#)



7 21



**Ezra S. Shanken**

@eshanken · Mar 24

**#Meaningful:** This morning I affirmed my oath of **#Canadian** citizenship holding two special prayer books from **@theVHEC** collection. The first was carried by a survivor from his liberation from Bergen-Belsen through his life & the second by a Jewish **@CanadianForces** soldier through WW2. [pic.twitter.com/XjMFwYqyua](https://pic.twitter.com/XjMFwYqyua)



11 2 57

### Top Tweet earned 1,210 impressions

George Bluman, son of survivors Nate and Susan, joined the CJN podcast to share his family's story, explain why he lent his father's visa to the new exhibit and argue why Sugihara's name should be better known than it is. Listen below [twitter.com/TheCJN/status/...](https://twitter.com/TheCJN/status/...)

4 5



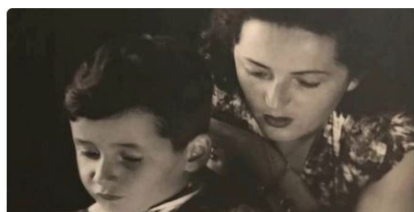
**Jewish Independent**

@JewishIndie · Nov 10

"I can barely believe that my survival as a young boy has led to the rebirth of an entire Jewish family that now includes nine gorgeous grandchildren."

Dr. Robert Krell, child survivor & founding president of **@theVHEC** opens up in his new book.

[jewishindependent.ca/a-child-surviv...](https://jewishindependent.ca/a-child-surviv...)  
**#newbook** [pic.twitter.com/Tx7TILi4kW](https://pic.twitter.com/Tx7TILi4kW)



3 7

### Top Tweet earned 2,246 impressions

Interested in learning more about the **#Holocaust** and finding **#primarysources** in **@theVHEC** archives? Last semester a class of **@UBC\_History** grad students prepared 3 new research guides about propaganda, photography, and diaries to help start your research: [buff.ly/3gzoyNW](https://buff.ly/3gzoyNW)  
[pic.twitter.com/rCWzioszd6](https://pic.twitter.com/rCWzioszd6)



4 9



**Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre**

@theVHEC

Must read **@DailyHiveVan** opinion piece. VHEC Executive Director Nina Krieger and Nico Slobinsky, Senior Director, Pacific Region **@CIJAinfo** share how Holocaust distortion & denial fuel antisemitism in the COVID era. **#InternationalHolocaustRemembranceDay**

[Translate Tweet](#)



[dailyhive.com](https://dailyhive.com)  
Opinion: Holocaust denial in COVID-19 era is fuelling antisemitism | News  
From learning from lived experiences to combatting modern day hate, how we can mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

### Top Tweet earned 388 impressions

Please read our special statement about Holocaust distortions and comparisons between public health measures and the treatment of Jews during the Holocaust. **#holocaust #shoah #survivor #history**  
[pic.twitter.com/glajnWn76H](https://pic.twitter.com/glajnWn76H)

were intended to systematically identify, isolate, humiliate and persecute Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe and measures that are designed to protect people in our democracy during a global pandemic.

Such analogies are deeply hurtful to eyewitnesses and survivors of the Holocaust, and an affront to the memory of the 6 million Jews and millions of other victims that were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators.

The VHEC honours and supports Holocaust survivors and remember those who perished. Through our educational programs and resources, we promote critical thinking and media literacy, empowering students to recognize and stand up against hate.

New Online Workshop on Antisemitism - You Can Make a Difference

6 8

### Top media Tweet earned 570 impressions

Find copies of Two Pieces of Cloth by Joe Gold at Olive+Wild in Vancouver. All sales of the book will be generously donated to the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. [pic.twitter.com/0ggDln41Co](https://pic.twitter.com/0ggDln41Co)



1 6



**Monica Hardjowasito ua**

@Writeldeas101 · Dec 8

Such a privilege to have Miriam Dattel visit our Comp 10 class **@bnss** virtually this AM to share her experiences as a child Holocaust survivor. Powerful testimony about resilience & the kindness of strangers in times of danger. Thank you, Miriam & Helen **@theVHEC** **#neverforget**  
[pic.twitter.com/WEckT0IRYU](https://pic.twitter.com/WEckT0IRYU)



6 16

# Meet teacher candidate Carly Arrotta

Carly Arrotta is a teacher candidate at the University of British Columbia. She completed a 10-week school-based practicum teaching social studies and geography. Carly helped to develop new teacher resources during a three-week community field experience at the VHEC.

From a young age, I developed a passion for history and an interest in the First and Second World Wars. I was intrigued by how people rallied and united together over ideas in ways that led to cataclysmic events. I wanted to understand more about tragic moments in history to help future generations learn from past transgressions.

For us to stop future instances of genocide and injustice, we must understand their reasonings and patterns. The VHEC's mission is integrally connected to my beliefs. We must assist students and visitors in developing an understanding of the causes, signs and consequences of prejudice, racism, antisemitism and stereotyping in any society. Working at the VHEC has allowed me to find new, exciting ways to educate future generations of students.

During my time at the VHEC, I expanded my knowledge of the ways in which I can integrate new ideas for lessons and activities. Throughout my practicum, I witnessed how students have been adversely impacted by prejudices. Students are interested in learning about historical instances of discrimination and racism. I have learned that historical representation, and feeling recognized in the material we learn, can help students connect with history.

As an educator, I believe it is our responsibility to learn about the experiences of various groups and find ways to showcase all voices within the historical narratives we present in the classroom. Working at the VHEC gave me the opportunity to hold myself accountable to my professional development on this subject so I can be a better educator to my students.



**“The VHEC’s mission is integrally connected to my beliefs. We must assist students and visitors in developing an understanding of the causes, signs and consequences of prejudice, racism, antisemitism and stereotyping in any society. Working at the VHEC has allowed me to find new, exciting ways to educate future generations of students.”**

# 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,  
David & Michael Yochlowitz Endowment Fund

Gary & Dianne Averbach & Betty Averbach  
Endowment Fund

Sam & Frances Belzberg Endowment Fund

Dr. Barrett Benny Endowment Fund

Bluman Family Endowment Fund

Larry Brandt & Family Endowment Fund

Joseph & Mary Bulles Legacy Endowment Fund

Ron, Martha, Maija & Katie Burnett Endowment Fund

Claman–Mielnicki Family Legacy Endowment Fund

Irwin Cotler Endowment Fund

Lorne & Sylvia Cristall Endowment Fund

Jody & Harvey Dales Hospitality Endowment Fund

Jody & Harvey Dales Legacy Endowment Fund

Charles & Dora Davis and Family Endowment Fund

Gordon & Leslie Diamond Endowment Fund

Charles & Isabelle, Craig & Carrie Diamond  
Endowment Fund

Dr. Arthur & Judith Dodek Endowment Fund

Mariette & Sid Doduck Endowment Fund

Samuel & Else Dunner Legacy Endowment Fund

Eva & Michael Dymant Holocaust Education  
Endowment Fund

Reuvane Tzvi Yehuda Feigelstock  
Memorial Endowment Fund

Sid & Sylvia Eibschutz Holocaust Education  
Endowment Fund

Erica Fleischer Memorial Endowment Fund

Steve & Eva Floris Endowment Fund

Lilli & Izak Folk Memorial Endowment Fund

Abe & Rachele Fox and Family Endowment Fund

Bertha Fraeme Endowment Fund

Max & Margaret Fugman Endowment Fund

Gaerber Family Legacy Endowment Fund

Edgar & Marilyn Gaerber Endowment Fund

Gechman Family Legacy Endowment Fund

Irving & Noreen Glassner Endowment Fund

David & Aurelia Gold Endowment Fund

Jakob-Izrael & Goldstein-Reisz Families  
Endowment Fund

Gottfried Family Kristallnacht Endowment Fund

Sam & Lola Haber Endowment Fund

Gail Feldman Heller Endowment Fund

Edwina & Paul Heller Holocaust Education  
Endowment Fund

Kitty Heller Memorial Endowment Fund

Sam & Michael Heller Memorial Endowment Fund

Kahn Family Legacy Endowment Fund

Leon & Evelyn Kahn Endowment Fund

Abrasha, Ida, Odie & Sherie Kaplan Endowment Fund

Leon & Esther Kaufman Legacy Endowment Fund

Leo Krell Memorial Book Fund

Emmy Krell Legacy Endowment Fund

Robert & Marilyn Krell Endowment Fund

Krell Special Program Opportunity Fund

Meyer & Gita Kron and Ruth Kron Sigal  
Endowment Fund

Landa & Hector Families Endowment Fund

Legacy Group Endowment Fund

Philip & Sherry Levinson Endowment Fund

Lewin Family Legacy Endowment Fund

Libin Family Endowment Fund

Lovi Memorial Endowment Fund

Jocy & Leo Lowy Endowment Fund

Bob & Ralph Markin Endowment Fund

Marsid Children's Legacy Endowment Fund

Eugene, Alice & Paul Meyer Endowment Fund

Karen & Jack Micner Legacy Endowment Fund

Goldie and Avrum Miller Memorial Endowment Fund

Pola & Henry Nutkiewicz Endowment Fund

Pinsky Family Legacy Endowment Fund

Leo Puterman Memorial Endowment Fund

Sarah Rozenberg-Warm Memorial Endowment Fund

Sacks Family Endowment Fund

Dr. Mark & Tracey Schonfeld & Family  
Endowment Fund

Rosalie and Joseph Segal Endowment Fund

Anita Shafran and Zev & Elaine Shafran  
Endowment Fund

David & Lil Shafran Endowment Fund

Ari Shiff & Carla van Messel Legacy  
Endowment Fund

Silber & Greenhut Families Endowment Fund

Lee, Bernie, Annie, Jory & Samantha Simpson  
Endowment Fund

Phylliss & Irving Snider Endowment Fund

Dr. Stanley Sunshine Endowment Fund

Mimi, Leo & Nancy Sweedler Endowment Fund

Terry & Aron Szajman Memorial Education  
Endowment Fund

Ronnie Tessler Archives Fund

Isaac & Judith Thau Endowment Fund

Isaak & Bluma Tischler and Aron & Neri Tischler  
Endowment Fund

VHCS Endowment Fund

Rudolf Vrba Memorial Endowment Fund

Waisman Family Legacy Endowment Fund

Gloria & Robbie Waisman Endowment Fund

Waldman Symposium Endowment Fund

Joe & Birdie Wall Foundation Endowment Fund

Baruch Weise Endowment Fund

Elie Wiesel Memorial Endowment Fund

Joseph Wertman & Family Legacy Endowment Fund

Regina & Leo Wertman Endowment Fund

Shery & Gerald Wittenberg Endowment Fund

Miriam Wosk & Kenneth Wosk Legacy  
Endowment Fund

Mordechai & Hana Wosk Family Endowment Fund

Morris J. & Yosef Wosk Publishing Endowment Fund

Yosef Wosk & Family Endowment Fund

Zalkow Family Endowment Fund

Henry & Ludmila Zeldowicz Endowment Fund

The VHEC is also the recipient of funding from the following endowment funds held at the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Vancouver, the Vancouver Foundation and Gift funds:

Sarah Jackson Memorial Fund

Katz Family Endowment Fund

Krell Family Endowment Fund

Thau Family Endowment Fund

Zlotnik Family Endowment Fund

# GRANTS, PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

## FOUNDATIONS

Al Roadburg Foundation  
The Arthur Toft Foundation  
Azrieli Foundation  
Barbara McCann Foundation  
Bogner Family Charitable Foundation  
(Jewish Community Foundation)  
Chaim Zbar Foundation  
Diamond Foundation  
Harvey and Jody Dales Family Philanthropic Foundation  
Joanne Emerman Fund (Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation)  
Joseph Segal Family Foundation  
Kahn Family Foundation  
Les & Tracy Ames Private Giving  
(Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation)  
Lohn Foundation  
Lutsky Family Foundation  
MHG Foundation  
Marsid Family Foundation  
Mel and Geri Davis Charitable Trust  
Oasis Foundation  
The Phogg Foundation for the Pursuit of Happiness  
Robert and Marilyn Krell Family Foundation Fund  
(Jewish Community Foundation)  
Ryan & Haley Davis Family Foundation (Vancouver Foundation)  
Taeda Foundation  
Vancouver Foundation  
Yosef Wosk Family Foundation (Aqueduct Foundation)  
Zalkow Foundation

## GRANTS

BC Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Grant  
Canadian Heritage Museum Assistance Fund  
Canadian Museum of History Digital Museum Canada  
Canadian Race Relations Foundation  
Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany  
Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Vancouver  
Jewish Federation, Greater Vancouver  
Province of British Columbia Community Gaming Grant  
Young Canada Works in Heritage Institutions  
and Summer Career Placements  
Virtual Museum of Canada Virtual Exhibit Investment Stream

## CORPORATE SUPPORT

Summit Ice Apparel

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES

Association of Holocaust Organizations  
Archives Association of British Columbia  
British Columbia Museums Association  
Canadian Museums Association  
International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance  
Vantage Point

# PROGRAM ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## EDUCATION

### **Online Symposium on the Holocaust**

The VHEC is grateful to the following for their support of symposia programming: Diamond Foundation, Summit Ice, Michael & Rita Levy, Lohn Foundation, David & Danya Fugman, the Vaisler family, the Azrieli Foundation, Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver 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.

### **Professional Development**

A Foundation for Teaching: Bringing Holocaust Education to your Classroom workshop was presented in partnership with Yad Vashem and the Azrieli Foundation's Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program.

### **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.

## COMMEMORATION

### **High Holiday Cemetery Service**

Presented in partnership with Congregation Schara Tzedeck and the Jewish War Veterans.

### **Kristallnacht Commemorative Lecture**

Presented in partnership with Congregation Beth Israel. Supported by the Robert and Marilyn Krell endowment fund of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre and Congregation Beth Israel. This program is also funded through contributions to the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver Annual Campaign.

### **International Holocaust Remembrance Day**

Vancouver commemoration was programmed in partnership with the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs Pacific Region, Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver and the Province of BC.

Richmond commemoration was programmed in partnership with the Bayit synagogue 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 Greater Vancouver, the Province of BC and the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver.

Victoria commemoration programmed in partnership with the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs Pacific Region.

## EXHIBITIONS

### **Treasured Belongings Online Exhibition**

Exhibition supported by Michael and Sandy Hayden and children, the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Vancouver, the Isaac and Sophie Waldman Endowment Fund of the Vancouver Foundation, Isaac and Judy Thau, Yosef Wosk, Audre Jackson and the Goldie and Avrum Miller Memorial Endowment Fund of the VHEC.

With profound gratitude to the Hahn-Hayden family for entrusting the VHEC with their materials and memories for the purpose of advancing Holocaust education and remembrance.

### **Faces of Loss**

Online exhibition developed by Sarah Ruediger. With thanks to the members of the community who contributed photographs of their families to the original exhibition.

### **In Focus**

Online exhibition supported by Digital Museums Canada.

Original exhibition supported by the Province of British Columbia through the British Columbia Canada 150: Celebrating BC Communities and their Contributions to Canada, the Government of Canada through Western Economic Diversification Canada, the Leon Judah Blackmore Foundation, London Drugs, Coast Hotels, Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Vancouver, Robert & Marilyn Krell, Leon (z'l) & Evelyn Kahn and family, Isaac & Judy Thau, Jody & Harvey Dales, Birgit Westergaard & Norman Gladstone, the Ben & Esther Dayson Charitable Foundation, Rabbi Yosef Wosk, Bob Markin, Ralph Markin, and the Lohn Foundation.

# BOARD, STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Marcus Brandt  
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Avrel Festinger  
YOUNG CANADA WORKS  
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

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Talia Mastai  
SURVIVOR OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Natalya Rogachyova  
COORDINATOR, RUSSIAN OUTREACH

## WITH THANKS

Lori McNulty  
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Lisa Pullan  
DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT

Cathy Michitsch  
DATABASE CONSULTANT

Lise Kirchner  
PROGRAM CONSULTANT

Sarah Visca  
EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR

## THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

### Special Projects

Fran Alexander, Alex Buckman, Gurjiv Dhami, Valerie Levitt Dolgin, Noah Duranseaude, Richard Elias, Bonnie Elster, Chris Friedrichs, Debby Freiman, Norman Gladstone, Daniella Givon, Claudia Golombiewski, Sharon Handelsman, Helen Heacock-Rivers, Ethel Kofsky, Kit Krieger, Rachel Lando, Ella Levit, Robert Levitt, Mattie Lewis, Janice Masur, Herb Mills, Megan Rogers, Sarah Ruediger, Ron Ritch, Ed Rozenberg, Michaela Sawyer, Aurelia Sedlmair, Claire Sicherman, Agnieszka Stadnik, Al Szajman, Ronen Tanne, Stan Taviss, Marg Van Wielingen, Olga Yefremenkova, Peter Zetler.

### Outreach Speakers

Janos Benisz, Amalia Boe-Fishman, Lillian Boraks Nemetz, Alex Buckman, Miriam Dattel, Mariette Doduck, René Goldman, Serge Haber, Raoul Korngold, Robert Krell, Claude Romney, Louise Sorensen, Peter Suedfeld, Tom Szekely, Peter Voormeij.

### Docents

Reva Dexter, Sylvie Epstein, Kieran Forry, Belinda Gutman, Helen Heacock-Rivers, Gloria Joachim, Dodie Katzenstein, Lise Kirchner, Ethel Kofsky, Lucien Liberman, Ellen Millman, Herb Mills, Cathy Paperny, Gita Silver, Laurie Simpkins, Lotti Smith, Rina Vizer, Anita Willson.

### Teacher Advisory

Ryan Chapman, Eyal Daniel, Mark Figuera, Stephanie Henderson, Lindsay Hutchison, Dale Martelli, Dr. Andrea Webb, Anna-Mae Wiesenthal, Emily Winckler.

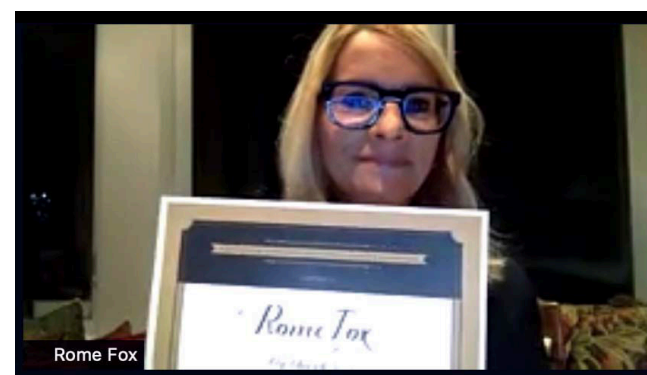
*Our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions.*

# LIFE FELLOWS

IN RECOGNITION OF THOSE WHO HAVE MADE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO HOLOCAUST EDUCATION AND REMEMBRANCE.

Rita Akselrod	Edwina Heller <sup>z'l</sup>	William Nichols <sup>z'l</sup>
Lola Apfelbaum <sup>z'l</sup>	Paul Heller <sup>z'l</sup>	Pola Nutkiewicz <sup>z'l</sup>
Janos Benisz	Katy Hughes <sup>z'l</sup>	Peter Parker <sup>z'l</sup>
Agi Bergida	Frances Hoyd <sup>z'l</sup>	Rubin Pinsky <sup>z'l</sup>
Susan Bluman <sup>z'l</sup>	Jannushka Jakoubovitch <sup>z'l</sup>	Susan Quastel
Amalia Boe-Fishman	Oscar Jason <sup>z'l</sup>	Claude Romney
Lillian Boraks-Nemetz	Leon Kahn <sup>z'l</sup>	Martha Salcudean <sup>z'l</sup>
Alex Buckman	Ida Kaplan <sup>z'l</sup>	David Schaffer
Marion Cassirer <sup>z'l</sup>	Chaim Kornfeld	David Shafran <sup>z'l</sup>
Saul Cohn <sup>z'l</sup>	Robert Krell	Vera Slymovic <sup>z'l</sup>
Jody Dales	Roberta Kremer	Bronia Sonnenschein <sup>z'l</sup>
Mariette Doduck	Kit Krieger	Leslie Spiro <sup>z'l</sup>
David Ehrlich	Ethel Kofsky	Louise Stein Sorensen
David Feldman <sup>z'l</sup>	Phil Levinson	Ron Stuart
Lili Folk <sup>z'l</sup>	Gisi Levitt	Wendy Stuart
Ernie Forrai <sup>z'l</sup>	Ed Lewin	Peter Suedfeld
Klara Forrai <sup>z'l</sup>	Lucien Lieberman	Aron Szajman <sup>z'l</sup>
Graham Forst	Gerri London	Tom Szekely
Judith Forst	Leo Lowy <sup>z'l</sup>	Stan Taviss
Rome Fox	Inge Manes	Ronnie Tessler
Izzy Fraeme <sup>z'l</sup>	Reverend Fred Metzger <sup>z'l</sup>	Gloria Waisman <sup>z'l</sup>
Chris Friedrichs	Jack Micner	Robbie Waisman
Norman Gladstone	Michel Mielnicki <sup>z'l</sup>	Sophie Waldman <sup>z'l</sup>
Bernard Goldberg <sup>z'l</sup>	Frieda Miller	Irene Watts
Serge Haber	Bente Nathan Thomsen <sup>z'l</sup>	

## 2021 Recipients



Rome Fox



Phil Levinson

# INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

## **To the Members of Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society for Education and Remembrance,**

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society for Education and Remembrance (the Society) that comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2021, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO), and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### **Practitioner's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of

management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards.

Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

### **Conclusion**

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society for Education and Remembrance as at December 31, 2021, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with ASNPO.

### **Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

As required by the Societies Act of British Columbia, we report that, in our opinion, the accounting policies applied in preparing and presenting the financial statements in accordance with the Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-profit Organizations have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Richmond, British Columbia  
June 15, 2022

*Sanders, Russell & Company*  
Chartered Professional Accountants

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Year Ending December 31, 2021

The financial position of the Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society for Education and Remembrance strengthened; the Society's net assets increased by \$741,372 (2020 – increase of \$386,903) due to our leadership's efforts to secure more grant funding and the significant support from the community as evident in strong performance of our membership and annual campaigns. Additionally, the Society's endowment fund received \$127,131 in contributions and the portfolio benefited from an exceptional year in the market as evident by the unrealized gain and investment income.

Operating revenues increased by \$63,859 (2020 – increase of \$68,601) during the year, increasing \$143,793 when excluding non-recurring receipt of government COVID-19 wage subsidies of \$77,836 in 2020. The Society received \$305,552 (2020 – \$250,277) in general donations from its members and supporters, over and above its membership dues of \$62,991 (2020 – \$57,998).

The Society increased its receipts from fundraising activities, with a total of \$230,599 (2020 – \$194,561) generated. General operating expenditures increased by \$184,424 (2020 – decrease of \$172,318), including an increase of \$120,627 in wages expense (2020 – \$78,600 decrease). The Society generated a surplus of \$614,241 during 2021 (2020 – surplus of \$358,140). The surplus includes unrealized gains on investments

of \$514,023 (2020 – unrealized gains of \$191,869) and realized losses of \$1,147 (2020 – loss of \$18,020). The current year's operating deficit, before accounting for investment income, realized and unrealized gains and losses and other items, was \$31,321 (2020 – surplus of \$89,244). The Society is generally dependent on portfolio returns, funded by endowments, to supplement its deficiency from general operations. The Society's portfolio is professionally managed and must adhere to an investment policy that has been approved by the Board of Directors.

The Board would like to acknowledge the extraordinary effort of staff and volunteers and the extra generosity of community funders throughout the pandemic and subsequent resumption of operations which have contributed to the Society's healthy financial position ensuring a return to normal operations.



Joshua Sorin  
TREASURER

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Abbreviated Statement of Financial Position

<i>As of December 31, 2021 (Unaudited)</i>	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Current Assets	\$ 344,367	\$ 703,038
Cash – Restricted	10,143	10,123
Collections	1	1
Property and Equipment	151,700	239,073
Holocaust Education Centre	931,178	994,156
Investments	5,442,817	4,176,731
	<b>\$ 6,880,206</b>	<b>\$ 6,123,122</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Current Liabilities – Unrestricted	\$ 36,063	\$ 19,031
Current liabilities – Restricted – Deferred Special Projects Contributions	491,856	353,758
Deferred Contributions – Permanent Exhibit, Renewal Project	306,667	446,085
Net Assets	6,045,620	5,304,248
	<b>\$ 6,880,206</b>	<b>\$ 6,123,122</b>

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Abbreviated Statement of Operations

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021 (Unaudited)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Revenues</b>		
Donations and Tribute Cards	\$ 305,552	\$ 250,277
General Grants, Specific Projects	160,515	111,851
General Grants, Renewal Project	139,418	139,418
Azrieli Foundation Grant	50,000	50,000
Jewish Federation Grant	28,000	28,000
Covid-19 Recovery Grants	29,000	29,000
Claims Conference Grants	20,463	16,132
Government Grants	43,483	42,134
Fundraisers	230,599	194,561
Memberships	62,991	57,999
Exhibits Admission Revenues	3,415	4,300
On-Going Program Revenues	12,935	13,281
Annual Program Revenue	-	5,625
Government Assistance (Repayments)	(2,098)	77,836
	<u>\$ 1,084,273</u>	<u>\$ 1,020,414</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administrative Expenditures	\$ 959,436	\$ 829,803
Annual Programs	12,880	12,876
On-Going Programs	65,593	72,218
Exhibit Costs – Specific Projects	70,355	13,969
Fundraising Expenses	7,330	2,304
	<u>\$ 1,115,594</u>	<u>\$ 931,170</u>

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Operating (Deficit) Surplus Before Other Items</b>	<b>\$ (31,321)</b>	<b>\$ \$89,244</b>
<b>Other Income (Expenses)</b>		
Unrealized Gain on Marketable Securities	\$ 514,023	\$ 191,869
Income from Investments Measured At Cost	9,350	14,136
Income from Investments Measured at Fair Value	123,782	82,276
Loss on Sale of Marketable Securities	(1,147)	(18,020)
Unrealized Loss on Foreign Exchange	(446)	(1,365)
	<u><b>\$ 645,562</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 268,896</b></u>
<b>Excess Of Revenues Over Expenses</b>	<u><b>\$ 614,241</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 358,140</b></u>

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Abbreviated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021 (Unaudited)*

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 5,304,248	\$ 4,917,345
Named Endowment Contributions	127,131	28,763
Surplus (Deficit) of Revenues Over Expenditures	614,241	358,140
<b>Balance, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 6,045,620</b>	<b>\$ 5,304,248</b>

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Abbreviated Statement of Cash Flows

*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>
<b>Cash Flow from Operating Activities</b>	\$ 172,856	\$ 485,280
<b>Cash Used for Investing Activities</b>		
Purchase of Tangible Capital Assets	\$ (7,466)	\$ (7,809)
Proceeds on Sale Of Marketable Securities	503,353	334,183
Redemption of Israel Bonds (\$82,000 USDS)	-	102,539
Purchase of Investment Portfolio Securities	(1,170,575)	(339,536)
Purchase of Israel Bonds (\$55,000 USDS)	-	(105,039)
Return of Capital (Cost Adjustment)	6,276	(6,072)
Change in Restricted Cash Flow	(20)	(28)
	<u>\$ (668,432)</u>	<u>\$ (21,762)</u>
<b>Cash Provided by Financing Activities</b>		
Endowment Contributions	127,131	28,763
	<u>\$ 127,131</u>	<u>\$ 28,763</u>
<b>Increase in Cash</b>	<b>\$ (368,445)</b>	<b>\$ 492,281</b>
<b>Cash, Beginning of Year</b>	<u>682,211</u>	<u>189,930</u>
<b>Cash, End of Year</b>	<u><b>\$ 313,766</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 682,211</b></u>