

VANCOUVER
HOLOCAUST
EDUCATION
CENTRE



2024

ANNUAL
REPORT

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 60 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 proud to share the 2024 VHEC annual report. It captures a year of renewed momentum, impact and growth as we expand our educational reach, bolster our team and invest in the future of Holocaust remembrance and education.

This past year, we hired five new staff into important roles in collections, education, communications and finance administration to strengthen organizational capacity. Their energy and expertise have boosted our ability to deliver high-impact programming to more people and to steward the Centre's growing collections and reach.

In 2024 we delivered distinctive and profound community-focused programs. We were honoured to feature speakers who reflected our values and work in nuanced ways. One such example was Dr. Nataliia Ivchyk, a Ukrainian Holocaust scholar, whom we co-sponsored through the Scholar-at-Risk program alongside UBC. Nataliia's research and public engagement around Holocaust history in Eastern Europe, especially in the context of current global conflicts, brought valuable new perspectives to our work.

We expanded our work documenting survivor testimony, including interviews of Russian-speaking Holocaust survivors—part of our effort to preserve and reflect the diverse voices and stories of those impacted by the Holocaust.

We continued to exhibit *Age of Influence: Youth & Nazi Propaganda*, which remains deeply relevant in today's challenging media landscape. Thousands of students, parents, teachers and adult learners streamed through our doors. Also, we made *In Focus: The Holocaust Through the VHEC Collection* a permanent exhibition, providing ongoing access to survivor narratives and artefacts that speak to the experiences of Shoah victims and survivors. In addition to thousands of BC students and educators, we hosted leaders from unions, every level of government, lawyers, business and medical professionals

and academics from Canada and beyond. The VHEC continues to exist as an institution rooted in, and dedicated to, its local context, while also shaping the national and international conversation about Holocaust education and collection scholarship.

We would be remiss not to mention that the Fall of 2024 marked an organizational change with Nina Krieger's departure to join the BC government. We are pleased to have made a seamless transition while continuing our very important work. Given the increasing antisemitism here and abroad, our work is as important as ever.

Looking ahead to the fall of 2025, the VHEC team is designing an exhibition on Danish rescue during the Holocaust, developing *Age of Influence: Youth & Nazi Propaganda*—already in demand internationally—into a travelling exhibition, and preparing to support the implementation of new Holocaust learning standards in the BC social studies curriculum. In addition, we are hard at work on the JWest redevelopment project, planning for a new home that will allow the VHEC's exhibitions, programs and collections to flourish and reach more and more people. This vision reflects our commitment to meet the demands of the present while building for future generations.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Together, we continue to make Holocaust education matter—now and for the future.


Warm regards,



Hannah Marazzi
Executive Director



Al Szajman
President



Students at the 46th Annual Holocaust Symposium held at UBC's Woodward Instructional Resource Centre on June 4, 2024. Photo by Rhonda Dent.

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Education

The VHEC is the foremost teaching museum on the Holocaust in Western Canada. We support students, parents, educators, teaching associations, professional organizations and the broader public in learning the history of the Holocaust and the dangers of Holocaust denial and distortion, misinformation and antisemitism.

In 2024, we expanded our education team, promoting Lise Kirchner to Director of Education, and adding Ellie Lawson, Education Manager, and Daniel Panneton, Associate Director of Education. Lise, Ellie and Daniel have extensive experience in Holocaust history and museum education, positioning the VHEC to meet the evolving demand for Holocaust education in BC and beyond.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Following the BC government's announcement of an expanded **Social Studies 10 curriculum** to include Holocaust education, effective September 2025, the VHEC hosted and participated in consultation sessions with the Ministry of Education in May 2024 and continued to support this important project throughout the year.

We **expanded our educational outreach programs** to adult audiences, including professional bodies, law enforcement, unionized workplaces and union executives, policy research institutes, public officials, diplomats and politicians from various political parties.

STUDENT SUPPORT

To support student learning, the VHEC education team develops workshops which the team presents in person or online in classrooms around the province. In 2024, we created workshops on Holocaust denial, antisemitism and conspiracy theories, propaganda and moral decision making during the Holocaust. Among our most popular workshops were those based on the video testimony of local Holocaust survivors Regina Feldman²¹ and Serge Vanry.

The VHEC hosted **symposia on the Holocaust** in West Vancouver and White Rock and the **46th Annual Symposium on the Holocaust**, held at UBC, for secondary school students.

Students heard the eyewitness accounts of Holocaust survivors Janos Benisz²¹, Amalia Boe-Fishman and Mariette Doduck, insights from historians Dr. Lauren Faulkner Rossi, Dr. Sebastian

Huebel and Dr. Chris Friedrichs, as well as remarks from filmmaker Daniel Schubert.

Several VHEC **Holocaust survivor outreach speakers** shared their experiences of persecution, discrimination and loss with several thousand students and members of the general public at workshops, in-class presentations, online talks and other events in Canada, the US and Europe.

The VHEC supported several BC high school students by mentoring them through their year-long **Capstone 12 projects** (a requirement for graduation in BC): students used recorded VHEC survivor testimony, interviewed Holocaust survivors and presented their completed projects at school-wide events.

EDUCATOR SUPPORT

The VHEC **presented new teaching resources to public school educators** at Pro-D Day conferences held in the Vancouver and Richmond school districts, as well as at the province-wide Annual Conference of the BC Social Studies Teachers Association.

Our education team contributed to the **development of a micro-certificate course, called Teaching the Holocaust**, offered through the University of

Victoria. Designed for BC high school and elementary educators, the course offers a specialized pathway for in-service teachers to integrate Holocaust education into their classroom teaching.

The **Meyer & Gita Kron and Ruth Kron Sigal Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education** recognizes a BC educator who demonstrates remarkable commitment to teaching students about the Holocaust and its lessons. Ben Lane of Collingwood School in West Vancouver and Michael Wolthuisen of Rutland Senior Secondary School in Kelowna were selected for the award in 2024, each receiving a \$500 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 British Columbia and elected officials. The events feature varied programming, including Holocaust survivor speakers, second- and third-generation speakers, arts and

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cultural presentations, candle-lighting ceremonies, government proclamations and memorial prayers.

In 2024, we commemorated **International Holocaust Remembrance Day** at Vancouver City Hall and The Bayit Synagogue, **Yom HaShoah** at the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver and the BC Legislature, **Kristallnacht** at Congregation Beth Israel and the **High Holidays Cemetery Service** at Schara Tzedek Cemetery in New Westminster.

Speakers and presenters included Bernard Pinsky, Marsha Lederman, Professor Richard Menkis, Dr. Nataliia Ivchuk, Rabbi Jonathan Infeld, Rabbi Levi Varnai, Holocaust survivor outreach speakers Amalia Boe-Fishman, Dr. Peter Suedfeld and Lillian Boraks-Nemetz. Wendy Bross Stuart provided musical direction.

We partnered with many community organizations for our commemorative events, including the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver, Cherie Smith JCC Jewish Book Festival, The Bayit Synagogue, Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver, Temple Sholom Synagogue, Congregation Beth Israel and Congregation Schara Tzedek.

Public Programs & Partnerships

The VHEC presents **cultural and artistic programs** open to the public throughout the year, including talks, book launches and film screenings. In 2024, the VHEC organized book launches for *Hidden Vision: Poems of Transformation* by Holocaust survivor Jagna Boraks (Lillian Boraks-Nemetz), and for *Winter Light: The Memoir of a Child of Holocaust Survivors*, by third-generation descendant Grace Feuerverger. Partners included the Cherie Smith JCC Jewish Book Festival and the Sidney and Gertrude Zack Gallery at the JCC. Wendy Bross Stuart provided musical accompaniment.

As part of the 2024 **Cherie Smith JCC Jewish Book Festival**, the VHEC co-presented Dr. Richard Menkis in conversation (virtually) with Jonathan Freedland, author of *The Escape Artist: The Man Who Broke Out of Auschwitz to Warn the World*.

For the **Vancouver Jewish Film Festival**, the VHEC co-sponsored a screening of *Irena's Vow* by Canadian director Louise Archambault.

Collections

LIBRARY

In partnership with the Isaac Waldman Jewish Public Library, librarian Jill Pineau organized a book club for teens and adults around banned books, including works by Judy Blume, Anne Frank, Elie Wiesel and Jodi Picoult.

ARCHIVES & MUSEUM

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

- A Nazi propaganda flyer, donated by Peter N. Moogk
- A silver Cross of the German Mother, with certificate
- A sewing kit belonging to Mania Krell, donated by Shoshana Krell-Lewis
- Materials from Irene Bettinger, Marla Gropper, Nomi Kaplan, Rudi Kovanic²¹ and the Oberlander family, which are used for research and educational purposes.

MENTORSHIP

The collections team mentored two students in 2024: a UBC iSchool student who completed a professional



Yom HaShoah commemoration at the Wosk Auditorium at the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver, May 5, 2024. Photo by Rhonda Dent.

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LEFT: Malka Pischanskaya signs copies of her book, *A Mother to My Mother*, during a book launch event at the Sidney and Gertrude Zack Gallery, held on June 2, 2024. Photo by Tybie Lipetz.
RIGHT: Lillian Boraks-Nemetz at the launch of her book *Hidden Vision: Poems of Transformation* at the Sidney and Gertrude Zack Gallery, held on November 24, 2024. Photo by Rhonda Dent.



experience program for course credit for their masters of archival studies degree; and a student from the Library & Information Technology program at Langara College, who completed a practicum with the VHEC library, cataloguing new donations.

OUTREACH

The VHEC engages academics and research institutions from all over Canada and beyond, partnering on various projects based on holdings in our collections. In 2024, UBC graduate students in Dr. Richard Menkis's public history course at UBC gained practical experience at the VHEC by researching special topics in the archives and producing online exhibitions and podcast episodes, available at vhec.org/public-history-ubc-595.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

With funding from the **International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance**, the VHEC further advanced the **Russian-language Holocaust Testimony Accessibility Project**, in partnership with the NGO Centre for Studies of Memory Policy and Public History "Mnemonics" in Rivne, Ukraine. As part of the project, the VHEC recorded the Holocaust testimonies of twelve Russian-speaking Holocaust

survivors living in BC. We are now in the process of developing transcripts, time-coded summaries and a web resource in English, Russian and Ukrainian. This project fills an important gap in the testimony records of the Holocaust held in Canada and Ukraine.

With funding from the **Jewish Community Foundation**, the VHEC was able to undertake the **Kuppenheim Family Fonds: Digitization & Accessibility Project**, a 13-month-long project to process and share materials donated by Timothy Taylor and Shelagh Genuis. The project focused on the conservation and digitization of archival materials and artefacts, the translation of documents and the publication of materials on web-based and publicly accessible collections management systems (CMS) at the VHEC and UBC. As part of this project the VHEC purchased new assets, including a new camera, motorized copy stand and other necessary equipment.

Through the **BC History Digitization Program** funded by the **UBC Irving K. Barber Learning Centre**, the VHEC digitized and increased access to textual records donated by the Oberlander family in 2019. The VHEC also carried out conservation treatment, arrangement and description, and data

entry to provide access to the materials in the VHEC online catalogue.

The collections team undertook the **Out of the Archives: Increasing Access to the Vancouver Holocaust Centre Collection Project**, funded by **Documentary Heritage Communities Program**, for which we enhanced finding aids and catalogue records, carried out conservation treatment on materials, digitized them, and uploaded media representations and descriptions to our online collections management system at collections.vhec.org.

Exhibitions

The VHEC hosted two major exhibitions in 2024, viewed by thousands of people.

Launched in March 2023, **Age of Influence: Youth & Nazi Propaganda** explores the messages and techniques used in Nazi propaganda to manipulate the attitudes of young Germans. This interactive teaching exhibition challenges viewers to look critically at the messages and techniques used by Nazi propagandists. Viewers are also prompted to reflect upon their

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On behalf of everyone at Louis Brier, I want to sincerely thank you for your incredible presentation on *Elsbeth Cherniavsky: Vienna to Vancouver, 1938*. ... it's clear that your session made a profound impact on all who were there. The way you shared Elspeth's letters and photos, and your ability to identify the people in those letters, was especially remarkable. It's incredible how you could connect the faces and names to the historical moments, bringing a personal and intimate perspective to the story of Kristallnacht.

—Kelly Lopuch, Certified Recreation Therapist, Supervisor, at Louis Brier Home & Hospital, November 2024.

own media literacy skills as they consider how they consume media, share information and establish opinions in a growingly complex landscape fueled by social media. So resonant is the message of the exhibition that new adult audiences have been drawn to the VHEC, including workplace leaders, professional bodies, unions and politicians, among others.

In Focus: The Holocaust Through the VHEC Collection brings to life the experiences of survivors from our community, using 91 locally donated artefacts and archival records. The exhibition, arranged thematically and chronologically, brings to life the personal stories of survivors, set against the broader historical backdrop of the Holocaust. The school program includes small group activities in which students engage in hands-on exploration of select reproductions, challenging them to use their critical and historical thinking skills to construct meaning from the personal artefacts.

Survivor Services

The VHEC continues to invest in its **partnership with the Jewish Family Services**, supporting Claims

Conference-funded programs, hosting monthly survivor meetings and special events, and supporting the local survivor community.

In 2024, the **Vancouver Child Survivor Group** met each month online as well as in person at the VHEC. The group gathered to connect, talk and celebrate birthdays and Jewish holidays. Participants joined virtually from across the lower mainland, Bowen Island, Vancouver Island and Palm Springs.

On December 16, members of the Vancouver Child Survivor Group, along with their families, as well as VHEC staff and volunteers, gathered for an early **Hanukkah celebration**, bringing joy and light into the holiday season. The group enjoyed a lunch, including latkes and sufganiyot, lit menorahs, sang songs and shared Hanukkah memories.

The **Russian Speaking Survivor Group** met monthly at the VHEC for film screenings, presentations and other organized activities; meetings were conducted in Russian and coordinated by the JFS.

In late July, the **Vancouver Child Survivor Group**, the **2G Group** (of second-generation descendants)



Members of the collections team working with brand new digitization equipment—including a camera, lens and motorized copy stand—purchased with grant funds from the Jewish Community Foundation.

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and several **third-generation descendants** gathered in the garden of Temple Sholom Synagogue for an opportunity to connect, talk and get to know one another. Continuing the legacies of survivors by the next generations was a focal point of much of the conversation that day. As Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, a child survivor, phrased it, “With time, the second and third generations will become the last witnesses.” It was a joyous occasion, described by one participant as “like a marriage, bringing these two groups together.” We are grateful to Temple Sholom Synagogue for generously sponsoring this event.

With the help of dedicated volunteer Bonnie Elster, the VHEC continues to **support survivors in applying for restitution funding from the Claims Conference** on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

Publishing & Media

The VHEC promotes our programs and events through various publishing and media channels. We deliver accessible, engaging content about the Holocaust over multiple platforms for significant

reach. Our website, vhec.org is the hub of our online publishing program, with 61,700 total users in 2024, supported by a vibrant social media presence and our monthly e-blast.

In 2024, we **rebranded** our blog as the **VHEC Bulletin**, making it more accessible and engaging. Traffic to the blog increased by 30%. First-time visitors increased 34% over the previous year. We published at least one post per month, covering topics such as VHEC news and milestones; staff reflections on key anniversaries, community events, volunteer experiences and international observances; new archival finding aids and collection highlights; memorial tributes honouring community members; and public Holocaust education initiatives and award recognitions.

The VHEC published the work of 23 contributors across two issues of **Zachor**, our biannual magazine, circulated to over 1,000 readers, mostly members of the VHEC. Contributors included Jessica Lithwick (third-generation descendant), Liliane Pari Umehoza (a survivor of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda), Rabbi Dan Moskovitz, historian Chris Friedrichs, and others. Our highlight was the

30th Anniversary Edition of *Zachor*, a double-length, full-colour issue celebrating the first 30 years of the VHEC’s history, and honouring the contributions of past and present staff, volunteers, board members, community members and founders and survivors.

DIGITAL MEDIA AT A GLANCE: 2023 TO 2024

178,000 unique website page views

↑ 18.4%

3,000 subscribers to VHEC’s email lists

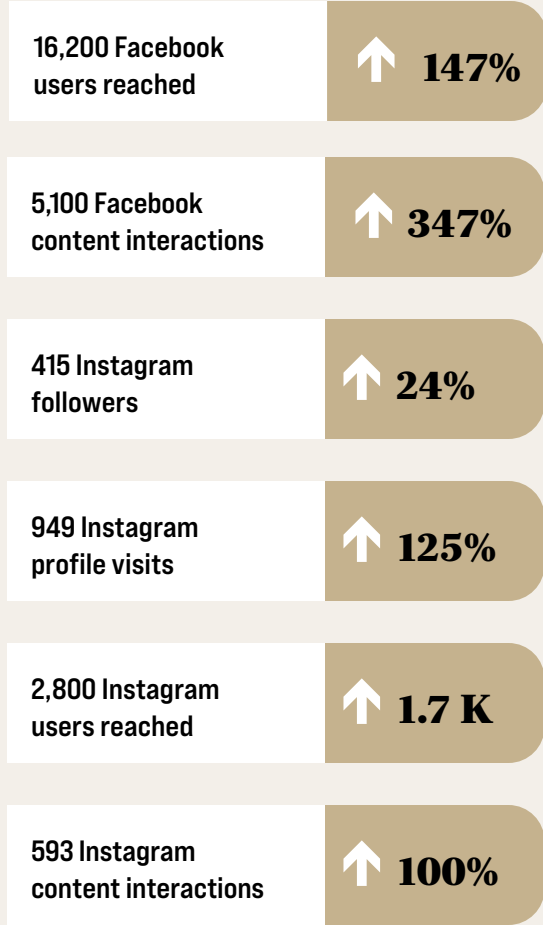
↑ 10%

1,600 Facebook followers

↑ 7%

5000 Facebook page visits

↑ 201%



Fundraising & Development

We are grateful for the support of our dedicated donors and members. Your donations in 2024 helped fund the delivery of engaging and inspiring educational programs, exhibitions and commemorative programs.

The 2024 **membership campaign** brought in more than 400 members. Thank you to those who renewed their membership or joined for the first time.


The **annual campaign** foregrounded the 30th anniversary of the VHEC, bringing in over \$131,000 in 2024.

In 2024, donors pledged over \$218,000 through **multi-year pledges**.

More than 130 donors signed up for **auto-renewing** annual memberships in 2024.

The VHEC recieved a generous donation of \$25,000 from Coast Hotels, a bequest support of \$110,000 from the Estate of Moishe Golubchuck and an in-kind contribution of \$103,641 from Manerle Investments Ltd.

In 2024, the VHEC continued planning for the new space in the **JWest project**, a Jewish community hub and multigenerational community centre that will be located down the street from our current premises. The new JWest 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, and more room for our growing collection. There will also be expanded programming space for workshops, with new technologies to enhance learning and engagement. We look forward to keeping members and supporters updated about these exciting plans as they develop.



Caitlin Donaldson, Director of Collections and Exhibitions, shows a Hanukkah lamp from the VHEC collection to local students.

Educating Future Generations

The VHEC connects thousands of students to Holocaust history through exhibitions, survivor testimonies and educational programs, in person and online. Through delivering our own programs or supporting educators, we strive to be the first point of contact for Holocaust education for students in BC and beyond. By fostering critical and historical thinking, we connect the Holocaust with Canadian history as well as contemporary social justice issues. When studying the Holocaust, learners are engaging with complicated moral questions, many of which do not come with simple answers. Education about the Shoah encourages students to reflect on the many complicated factors that influence how groups and individuals act during a time of moral crisis. The Holocaust provides important lessons from the past to learn for the present and future.

In 2024, education programming impacted tens of thousands of individuals throughout Western Canada. Audiences were diverse and included students, teachers, administrators and parents from public, independent, parochial and alternative schools.

IMPACT

13,200+

Participants in exhibition tours, survivor speaker presentations, workshops and educational programs

45,000+

learners accessed educational resources, book sets, discovery kits and online exhibitions and programs

1,000

students attended several district symposia on the Holocaust

500

students attended the 46th Annual Symposium on the Holocaust

7,200

students heard first-hand accounts from Holocaust survivor outreach speakers

Remembrance

The VHEC is Western Canada's leading institution in carrying out Holocaust commemoration programs. Each year we mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaShoah, Kristallnacht and the High Holidays cemetery service during which we remember survivors in our community who have passed away.

We engage community in innovative and meaningful commemorations, which 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.

In 2024, we served more than 1,300 community members through our commemorative events: more than 1,100 attended in person and more than 200 joined us online, including many residents of Louis Brier Home and Hospital, who regularly watch our commemorative events via live stream together.

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. Hundreds of people engaged with VHEC public programs in 2024.

Our public programming presents opportunities for us to forge connections with diverse organizations, building community and introducing new audiences to VHEC programs. VHEC cultural events are a means to explore Holocaust memory and public commemoration, an immensely important service for survivors and descendants of survivors, especially as we expand programming for descendants. Our arts and cultural programs also serve an educational purpose for the broader public, introducing new and diverse audiences to Holocaust-related themes.

Culturally, our public programs are an opportunity to communicate the interests of the VHEC and to reflect the stories of the VHEC community. They reflect the breadth and diversity of the community to the broader public and various stakeholders, including private and public funders.

Impact

Historical Records

The 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.

The 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.

The VHEC has more than 200 audio-visual testimonies of local 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.

In 2024, materials from the VHEC collections were used by secondary and post-secondary school students for various projects, including podcasts and presentations, as well as Capstone 12 projects. The 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.

In 2024 we received 73 reference requests, most from descendants of Holocaust survivors seeking to watch video testimonies.

We received reference queries from around the world—Austria, Czechia, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, the United Kingdom and the United States—including from researchers affiliated with the following institutions and organizations, among others:

- Archdiocese of Vancouver
- About Time Archival Consulting
- Aristotle Foundation
- College de la Forêt
- Historikerkanzlei Genelogisch-Historische Reserchen GmbH
- Parks Canada
- Peretz Centre for Jewish Culture
- Peter Fuld Foundation
- Canadian Museum for Human Rights
- Canadian Museum for Immigration at Pier 21
- State District Archives Ziln, Czechia
- Technisches Museum Wien
- Temple Beth Ora
- University of British Columbia
- University of Fraser Valley
- University of Oxford
- Walrus Labs
- West Point Grey Academy

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. VHEC exhibitions were visited by thousands of students, teachers and members of the general public. Notable guests in 2024 included journalists, directors of several policy institutions, ambassadors Prosper Higiuro and Achille Karuletwa; the Polish and German Consul Generals; representatives of several unions; members of the legislative assembly of BC; members of parliament; City of Vancouver councillors; the City of Langley mayor and council; several assistant deputy ministers; thought leaders from major Canadian think tanks; and former Vancouver mayor Sam Sullivan.

Several thousand students from Grades 5 to 12 were guided through *Age of Influence* and *In Focus*, free of charge thanks to generous funding from the Diamond Foundation. School group exhibition tours were conducted by VHEC education staff and our team of dedicated docents, who contributed hundreds of volunteer hours to create an exceptional learning experience for students.

Supporting Survivors

Providing material and social support to survivors and their families has been a huge part of what we do for more than three decades. In recent years, as survivors in our community age, VHEC survivor services 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.

The VHEC supports and relies on the contributions of survivors in its educational and public programming, through the Holocaust survivor outreach speaker program.

“

I've talked more about the Holocaust in the last two years, since joining this group, then I did my whole life. It's coming out of me, actually it's rushing out of me. I'm so happy to be a part of this group, in an environment where we can talk about it. It's like an awakening... our group gives me the vehicle to express it and it's like, how should I say it, freeing myself of that burden. It felt good to be able to see all these people, we were all in the same area during the Holocaust and we went through various degrees of pain and suffering and the horrifying experiences and I felt like a kinship, for me it was like coming home.

—Michel Silver, Holocaust survivor outreach speaker and member of the Child Survivor Group



Holocaust survivor outreach speaker
Miriam Dattel addresses students at Brockton
School in North Vancouver, March 2025.

“

I can't imagine going through what Miriam and her family went through. Having these be her first memories must be so difficult in a way yet she is super brave in her willingness to share her story even when it is uncomfortable.

I learned it is important to look into your family history and past and share what happened because it might help other people. Let's not lose these stories of the past, especially as we are heading into some really difficult times.

—Brockton School student, after a workshop
with Miriam Dattel, March 2025

2025 & BEYOND

The VHEC **education team** is working hard to develop new teaching resources and to repurpose existing ones for new learning environments. In 2025 they will launch a comprehensive, bilingual, online teaching website to support the province's introduction of mandatory Holocaust education in the Grade 10 curriculum. They are creating two travelling versions of the exhibition *Age of Influence: Youth & Nazi Propaganda*, as well as developing several new classroom workshops that can be offered in person at schools or online. Among many other projects, the education team is expanding its offering of testimony-based workshops, drawing on the VHEC audio-visual testimony collection to create compelling learning opportunities that advance understanding of the Holocaust through first-person accounts. We aim to have three of these workshops by the end of 2025.

For our **commemorative programs**, we are developing new partnership opportunities, including a Yom HaShoah partnership with Temple Sholom Synagogue. For the 2025 Kristallnacht commemorative program, academic and historian Robin Judd will be the keynote speaker. We are meeting increased demand for programs around

International Holocaust Remembrance Day by offering new commemoration opportunities across Vancouver and Richmond, including multiple programs with students at Hillel House UBC.

We are launching an exciting program for second-, third- and fourth-generation descendants of Holocaust survivors, entitled **Generations After**, coordinated by Dr. Abby Wener Herlin.

Early in 2025 the VHEC partnered with The Walrus Lab to present *The Hidden Holocaust Papers: Survival. Exile. Return.*, a six-part documentary podcast, written and hosted by best-selling Canadian author Timothy Taylor. The series is based on **archival materials** donated to the VHEC by Timothy Taylor and Shelagh Genuis. The podcast has over 18,500 downloads to date.

The VHEC is collaborating with Dr. Richard Menkis of UBC and Norman Gladstone on developing a **exhibition that will shed new light on the Danish rescue** based on the newest research. How and why was virtually all of the Danish Jewish community saved? What were the immediate circumstances, and what were the values that inspired the rescuers

to behave as they did? The exhibit will use images, testimonies and artefacts drawn from the VHEC's own collection, and from museums around the world, to tell this remarkable story.

Looking ahead, we are excited to use **online tools** to engage a broader community and connect with people unfamiliar with the VHEC or the Jewish community. In 2025, we are producing a promotional video about the VHEC, which will be shared on all digital platforms, aimed at **connecting with younger audiences**. Additionally, we are updating our website for a more streamlined and user-friendly experience, with a broader range of events, blog posts, educational resources and museum updates.



Members of the Child Survivor Group at a monthly meeting at the VHEC.

Endowment Funds

The following funds provide much-needed long-term support for our programs, commemorative events, exhibitions, collection and publishing activities. 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

Sam and Frances Belzberg Endowment Fund

Dr. Barrett Benny Endowment Fund

Bluman Family Endowment Fund

Larry Brandt and Family Endowment Fund

Joseph and Mary Bulles Endowment Fund

Ron, Martha, Maija & Katie Burnett Endowment Fund

Claman-Mielnicki Family Legacy Endowment Fund

Irwin Cotler Endowment Fund

Lorne and Sylvia Cristall Endowment Fund

Jody and Harvey Dales Hospitality Endowment Fund

Jody and Harvey Dales Legacy Endowment Fund

Charles and Dora Davis and Family Endowment Fund

Ryan and Haley Davis Family Endowment Fund

Gordon and Leslie Diamond Endowment Fund

Charles and Isabelle, Craig and Carrie Diamond Endowment Fund

Dr Arthur and Judith Dodek Endowment Fund

Mariette and Sid Doduck Endowment Fund

Samuel and Else Dunner Legacy Endowment Fund

Eva and Michael Dymant Holocaust Education Endowment Fund

Sid and Sylvia Eibschutz Holocaust Education Endowment Fund

Pavel Eisner Memorial Fund

Erica Fleischer Memorial Endowment Fund

Steve and Eva Floris Endowment Fund

Lilli and Izak Folk Memorial Fund

Abe and Rachele Fox and Family Endowment Fund

Bertha Fraeme Endowment Fund

Max and Margaret Fugman Endowment Fund

Gaerber Family Legacy Endowment Fund

Edgar and Marilyn Gaerber Endowment Fund

Gechman Family Legacy Endowment Fund

Irving and Noreen Glassner Endowment Fund

David and Aurella Gold Endowment Fund

Estate of Moishe Golubchuk Endowment Fund

Jakob-Izrael & Goldstein-Reisz Family Endowment Fund

Gottfried Family Kristallnacht Endowment Fund

Sam and Lola Haber Endowment Fund

Gail Feldman Heller Endowment Fund

Edwina and Paul Heller Holocaust Education Endowment Fund

Kitty Heller Memorial Endowment Fund

Sam and Michael Heller Memorial Endowment Fund

Kahn Family Legacy Endowment Fund

Leon and Evelyn Kahn Endowment Fund

Abrasha, Ida, Odie, and Sherrie Kaplan Endowment Fund

Leon and Esther Kaufman Legacy Endowment Fund

Emmy Krell Legacy Endowment Fund

Leo Krell Memorial Book Fund

Robert and Marilyn Krell Endowment Fund

Krell Special Program Opportunity Fund

Meyer & Gita Kron and Roth Kron Sigal Endowment Fund

Landa and Hector Families Endowment Fund

Legacy Group Endowment Fund

Lewin Family Legacy Endowment Fund

Philip and Sherry Levinson Endowment Fund

Libin Family Endowment Fund

Lovi Memorial Endowment Fund

Jocy and Leo Lowy Endowment Fund

Bob and Ralph Markin Endowment Fund

Marsid Children's Legacy Endowment Fund

Eugene, Alice and Paul Meyer Endowment Fund

Karen and Jack Micner Legacy Endowment Fund

Goldie and Avrum Miller Endowment Fund

Nemetz Family Endowment Fund

Pola and Henry Nutkiewicz Endowment Fund

Pinsky Family Legacy Endowment Fund

Leo Puterman Memorial Endowment Fund

Sarah Rozenberg-Warm Memorial Endowment Fund

Sacks Family Endowment Fund

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Terry Szajman Education Endowment Fund

Isaak and Bluma Tischler and Aron and Neri Tischler Endowment Fund

Rudolf Vrba Memorial Endowment Fund

Waisman Family Legacy Endowment Fund

Gloria and Robbie Waisman Endowment Fund

Waldman Symposium Endowment Fund

Joe and Birdie Wall Foundation Endowment Fund

Baruch Weise Endowment Fund

Elie Wiesel Endowment Fund

Joseph Wertman and Family Legacy Endowment Fund

Regina and Leo Wertman Endowment Fund

Shery and Gerald Wittenberg Endowment Fund

Miriam Wosk and Kenneth Wosk Legacy Endowment Fund

Morris and Yosef Wosk Publishing Endowment Fund

Yosef Wosk and Family Endowment Fund

Zalkow Family Endowment Fund

Henry and Ludmila Zeldowicz Endowment Fund

Grants, Partnerships & Community Support

Foundations

Al Roadburg Foundation
Arthur Toft Foundation
(Private Giving Foundation)
Azrieli Foundation
Barbara McCann Foundation
(Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation)
Belzberg Family Foundation
Bruce and Merle Ames Private Giving Fund
(Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation)
C and M Private Giving Fund
(Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation)
Chaim Zbar Foundation
Charitable Gift Funds Canada Foundation
Deborah & Moshe Langman Elson Family Fund
(Jewish Community Foundation)
Diamond Foundation
Don Rosenbloom Charitable Private Giving Fund
(Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation)
Elliot and Megan Laskin Family Fund
(Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation)
Esther Chetner Family Fund
(Jewish Community Foundation)
Faigen Family Fund
(Jewish Community Foundation)
Fairway Fund (Vancouver Foundation)
Gaerber Family Fund
(Jewish Community Foundation)

Genuis Family Foundation
Glesby Family Private Giving Fund
(Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation)
Harvey and Jody Dales Family
Philanthropic Foundation
Hay-Atwater Fund (Private Giving Foundation)
Howard and Simone Kallner Family Fund
(Jewish Community Foundation)
Joanne Emerman Fund
(Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation)
Jonathon & Karly Leipsic Family Foundation
Lyle and June Karasick Foundation
(Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation)
Kahn Family Foundation
LARK Fund
(Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation)
Lohn Foundation
Lutsky Family Foundation
Marsid Family Foundation
Mel and Geri Davis Charitable Trust
Oasis Foundation
Paypal Giving Fund Canada
Peter Suedfeld Family Fund (Benefaction)
Richard and Darlene Ames Private Giving Fund
(Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation)
Robert and Marilyn Krell Family
Foundation Fund

Ronald S. Roadburg Foundation
Rosenberg Family Foundation
(Charitable Gift Funds Canada Foundation)
Rubanenko Horwitz Family Fund
(Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation)
Ryan and Haley Davis Family Foundation
(Vancouver Foundation)
Sarah Jackson Memorial Fund
(Charitable Gift Funds Canada Foundation)
Shanie Levin Philanthropic Fund
(Jewish Community Foundation)
Taeda Foundation
Thau Family for the Holocaust Centre
Society Education & Remembrance
(Jewish Community Foundation)
Timothy and Jane Taylor Family Foundation
(Canada Gives)
The 1988 Foundation
The Dayhu Family Foundation
Vancouver Foundation
Yvette Porte Family Private Giving Fund
(Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation)
Zalkow Foundation
ZLC Foundation
Zlotnik Family Endowment Fund
(Jewish Community Foundation)

Grants

BC History Digitization Program
Canadian Museum of History
Digital Museum Canada
Department of Canadian Heritage
International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance
Jewish Community Foundation
of Greater Vancouver
Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver
Library and Archives Canada
Province of British Columbia Community
Gaming Grant
Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations

Corporate and Estate Support

Coast Hotels
Estate of Moishe Golubchuck
Manerle Investments Ltd.

Professional Affiliations

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

Program Acknowledgements

Commemoration

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 City of Vancouver. Richmond commemoration was programmed in partnership with The Bayit Synagogue, the Kehila Society of Richmond and the City 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 British Columbia, 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 Province of British Columbia, the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver, the Jewish Federation of Victoria and Vancouver Island, and the Victoria Shoah Project.

High Holidays Cemetery Service

Presented in partnership with Congregation Schara Tzedek 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. This program is also funded through contributions to the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver Annual Campaign.

Education

District Symposia 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 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 & Gita Kron and Ruth Kron Sigal and the Lehrer and Sophie Waldman endowment funds.

Annual Symposium on the Holocaust

The VHEC Annual Symposium on the Holocaust is supported by The Azrieli Foundation, the

Edwina and Paul Heller Holocaust Education Fund, the Sophie Waldman Endowment Fund of the VHEC, Don Rosenbloom, the Leo Krell Memorial Book Fund and by the Province of British Columbia. This program is funded through our community's generous contributions to the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver Annual Campaign.

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.

Exhibitions

Age of Influence: Youth & Nazi Propaganda

The VHEC is grateful to the collection donors for their contribution to advancing Holocaust education. Exhibition supported by the Al Roadburg Foundation.

In Focus: The Holocaust Through the VHEC Collection

2022 exhibition redevelopment supported by the Marsid Family Foundation and the Al Roadburg Foundation.

With profound gratitude to the Holocaust survivors, their families and the community of individuals who have entrusted the VHEC with their materials and memories for the purpose of advancing Holocaust education and remembrance.

2018 exhibition supported by the Province of British Columbia through the British Columbia | Canada 150: Celebrating BC Communities and their Contributions to Canada grant program, the Government of Canada through Western Economic Diversification Canada, the Leon Judah Blackmore Foundation, London Drugs, Coast Hotels, Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Vancouver, Dr. Robert & Marilyn Krell, Leon²¹ & 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 Markin²¹, and the Lohn Foundation.

Board, Staff & Volunteers AS AT JUNE 1, 2025

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Aisling Rynn

THANK YOU TO OUR DEVOTED VHEC VOLUNTEERS

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR OUTREACH SPEAKERS

Janos Benisz^{z1}, Amalia Boe-Fishman, Lillian Boraks-Nemetz, Miriam Dattel, Mariette Doduck, René Goldman, Robert Krell, Malka Pischanskaya, Claude Romney, Michel Silver, Peter Suedfeld, Tom Szekely

SURVIVOR SUPPORT

Bonnie Elster, Ethel Kofsky, Norman Gladstone, Michelle Guez, Helen Heacock-Rivers, Alex Krasniak, Gisi Levitt, Shoshana Lewis, Liat Nirenberg, Jeff Weissler

DOCENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Helen Heacock-Rivers, Anita Willson

DOCENTS

Tracy Ames, Helen Heacock-Rivers, Gloria Joachim, Michelle Patton, Gita Silver, Lotti Smith, Anna-Mae Wiesenthal, Anita Willson

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Noah Duranseaud, joy Fai, Harvey Field, Rome Fox, Claudia Golombiewski, Roxanne Henderson, Cassie Hooker, Audrey Lieberman, Oliver Matisz, Zachary Mullin, Laken Randhawa, Brendan Taylor, Catherine Zhu

2025 Life Fellow Recipients



Keith Morgan was born in Blackpool, England in 1954. He moved to Vancouver in 1980 where he became a columnist on cars and motoring for the *Province* and *Sun* newspapers.

In 1997 Keith wrote a newspaper feature about Ruth Kron Sigal and her community impact. Moved by Ruth's family story and motivated by his own limited knowledge of the Holocaust in the Baltic states, Keith collaborated with Ruth, the eldest daughter of Meyer and Gita Kron, on her memoir, *Ruta's Closet* (Shavi Publishing, 2008), about the murder of 200,000 Lithuanian Jews during the Holocaust and the Kron Sigal family's survival during the Nazi occupation of Lithuania. Keith worked on *Ruta's Closet* while simultaneously working as a journalist—researching daily, conducting interviews and using his holidays to travel across Europe, Israel and North America. Since its publication in 2008, *Ruta's Closet* has become a powerful educational resource. According to historian Sir Martin Gilbert, it is "...one of the finest Holocaust memoirs."

The VHEC Board of Directors is honoured to recognize Keith Morgan's strength, dedication and vital role in preserving Holocaust history.



Sidi Schaffer was born in northern Romania. In 1940, she and her family were forced into a ghetto in Czernowitz; a year later they were driven to Djurin, a concentration camp in Ukraine, where they survived in terrible conditions for four years. In 1945, they returned to Romania; in 1959

they immigrated to Israel, where Sidi received a degree in art education. In 1975, with her husband David and their three sons, she immigrated to Canada. Sidi returned to studying art and graduated with a bachelor of fine arts from the University of Alberta. In 1998, Sidi and her family settled in Vancouver, where she joined the Vancouver Child Survivor Group.

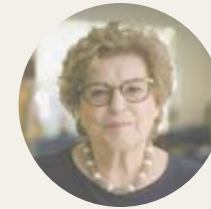
Sidi's art, including her mixed-media piece *Earth Don't Cover Their Blood* from the 1998 Geshet Project at the VHEC, conveys the emotional and historical weight of the Holocaust. Her work has served as a tribute to those lost, and as a powerful tool for education.

The VHEC Board of Directors is honoured to present Sidi with a Life Fellow Award, acknowledging her remarkable journey of survival, her artistic contributions and her unwavering commitment to Holocaust education.

Life Fellow Recipients

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

Rita Akselrod	Izzy Fraeme ^{z1}	Gisi Levitt	David Shafran ^{z1}
Lola Apfelbaum ^{z1}	Chris Friedrichs	Ed Lewin	Vera Slymovics ^{z1}
Janos Benisz ^{z1}	Norman Gladstone	Lucien Lieberman	Bronia Sonnenschein ^{z1}
Agi Bergida ^{z1}	Bernard Goldberg ^{z1}	Gerri London	Leslie Spiro ^{z1}
Susan Bluman ^{z1}	René Goldman	Leo Lowy ^{z1}	Louise Stein Sorensen ^{z1}
Amalia Boe-Fishman	Serge Haber ^{z1}	Inge Manes ^{z1}	Ron Stuart
Lillian Boraks-Nemetz	Edwina Heller ^{z1}	Richard Menkis	Wendy Bross Stuart
Alex Buckman ^{z1}	Paul Heller ^{z1}	Reverend Fred Metzger ^{z1}	Peter Suedfeld
Marion Cassirer ^{z1}	Katy Hughes ^{z1}	Jack Micner	Aron Szajman ^{z1}
Saul Cohn ^{z1}	Frances Hoyd ^{z1}	Michel Mielnicki ^{z1}	Tom Szekely
Jody Dales	Jannushka Jakoubovitch ^{z1}	Frieda Miller	Stan Taviss
Miriam Dattel	Oscar Jason ^{z1}	Bente Nathan Thomsen ^{z1}	Ronnie Tessler
Mariette Doduck	Leon Kahn ^{z1}	William Nichols ^{z1}	Peter Voormeij ^{z1}
David Ehrlich ^{z1}	Ida Kaplan ^{z1}	Pola Nutkiewicz ^{z1}	Gloria Waisman ^{z1}
David Feldman ^{z1}	Chaim Kornfeld ^{z1}	Peter Parker ^{z1}	Robbie Waisman
Lili Folk ^{z1}	Robert Krell	Rubin Pinsky ^{z1}	Sophie Waldman ^{z1}
Ernie Forrai ^{z1}	Robertta Kremer ^{z1}	Malka Pischanitskaya	Irene Watts ^{z1}
Klara Forrai ^{z1}	Kit Krieger	Susan Quastel ^{z1}	Yosef Wosk
Graham Forst	Nina Krieger	Claude Romney	Corrine Zimmerman
Judith Forst	Ethel Kofsky	Martha Salcudean ^{z1}	
Rome Fox	Phil Levinson	David Schaffer ^{z1}	



MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF CANADA

Congratulations to **Mariette Doduck**, dedicated survivor outreach speaker and co-founder of the VHEC, for being named a Member of the Order of Canada in 2024. For more than 50 years, Mariette has been a leader in Holocaust education and philanthropy in Vancouver. She is the first woman to have served as president of the board of Beth Israel Synagogue.

Treasurer's Report

Year ending December 31, 2024

The financial position of the Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society for Education and Remembrance remained consistent in the year ending December 31, 2024; the Society's net assets increased slightly by \$19,491 (2023 – increase of \$2,515) due to named endowment contributions exceeding the deficiency from the statement of operations. The portfolio experienced an approximate return of 8.9% (2023 – 10.5%). Operating revenues increased by \$318,875 (2023 – decrease of \$404,446) during the year. The Society received \$638,130 (2023 – \$448,219) in general donations from its members and supporters, over and above its membership dues of \$34,796 (2023 – \$57,699), with the increase attributable to generous in-kind donations of securities as well as a bequest from an estate. The Society's fundraising revenue increased due to continued success at growing our fundraising efforts with \$206,325 (2023 – \$147,512) generated. Specific project grant revenue increased by \$109,246 (2023 – decrease of \$324,354) due to the timing of several grants which are either one-time grants or applied for biannually, as well as grant revenue recognized when funds are spent based on the deferral method of accounting for contributions which recognizes restricted contributions as revenue when the related expenses are incurred. Overall general operating expenditures increased by \$236,915 (2023 – decrease of \$92,137), including an increase of \$206,091 in wages expense (2023 – \$112,183 increase) from several new hires filling previously vacant roles. The Society experienced a deficiency of \$60,316 during 2024 (2023 – deficiency of \$24,403). The deficiency includes an unrealized gain on marketable securities of \$112,591 (2023 – unrealized gain of \$292,054) and

realized gains of \$205,220 (2023 – \$94,944). The current year's operating deficit, before accounting for investment income, realized and unrealized gains and losses and other items, was \$534,964 (2023 – deficit of \$573,415). The deficit when adding investment income generated by the portfolio was \$381,194 (2023 – deficit of \$410,526). The Society is generally dependent on endowment portfolio returns in the form of yield and capital appreciation, to supplement its deficiency from operations. The Board has supported the Society's increase in wages and benefits expense incurred in the past three years in an effort to grow and better meet the staffing needs of the organization and is comfortable with the increase in wage expenses due to an increase in sustainable grant revenue and a return to a normalized fixed income rate environment which will provide a materially higher level of dependable investment income to support 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 generosity of community funders who have contributed to the Society's healthy financial position and a resumption of pre-pandemic operations.



Joshua Sorin
Treasurer

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, 2024, 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, 2024, 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.



Sanders, Russell & Company
Chartered Professional Accountants

Richmond, BC
June 10, 2025

Abbreviated Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2024 (Unaudited)

	2024	2023
Assets		
Current Assets – Unrestricted	\$ 669,324	\$ 249,644
Cash – Restricted	20,278	20,523
Collections	1	1
Tangible Capital Assets	60,819	30,599
Holocaust Education Centre	751,558	810,795
Investments	4,545,591	5,020,199
	\$ 6,047,571	\$ 6,131,761
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities – Unrestricted	\$ 121,893	\$ 64,963
Current Liabilities – Restricted – Deferred Special Projects Contributions	253,519	359,466
Deferred Contributions – Permanent Exhibit – Renewal Project and JWest Project	31,742	86,406
	5,640,417	5,620,926
Net Assets	\$ 6,047,571	\$ 6,131,761

Abbreviated Statement of Operations

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 (Unaudited)

	2024	2023
Revenues		
Donations and Tribute Cards	\$ 638,130	\$ 448,219
General Grants, Specific Projects	249,150	139,904
Fundraisers	206,325	147,512
General Grants, Renewal Project	54,664	97,042
Memberships	34,796	57,699
Azrieli Foundation Grant	50,000	50,000
Ongoing Program Revenues	34,546	40,689
Government Grants	37,111	29,200
Jewish Federation Grant	48,000	28,000
Annual Program Revenue	5,073	4,700
Exhibits Admission Revenues	3,603	300
Interest Income	945	203
	<hr/> \$ 1,362,343	<hr/> \$ 1,043,468
Expenses		
Administrative Expenditures	\$ 1,701,255	\$ 1,464,340
Exhibition Costs – Specific Projects	12,556	43,218
Ongoing Programs	83,394	75,993
Annual Programs	99,156	25,832
Fundraising Expenses	946	7,500
	<hr/> \$ 1,897,307	<hr/> \$ 1,616,883
Operating (Deficit) Before Other Items	<hr/> \$ (534,964)	<hr/> \$ (573,415)
Other Income (Expenses)		
Income from Investments Measured at Fair Value	\$ 152,035	\$ 161,346
Income from Investments Measured at Cost	1,735	1,543
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Marketable Securities	205,220	94,944
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Marketable Securities	112,591	292,054
Unrealized (Losses) Gains on Foreign Exchange	3,198	(875)
Realized Loss on Foreign Exchange	(131)	-
	<hr/> \$ 474,648	<hr/> \$ 549,012
(Deficiency) Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	<hr/> \$ (60,316)	<hr/> \$ (24,403)

Abbreviated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 (Unaudited)

	2024	2023
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 5,620,926	\$ 5,618,411
Named Endowment Contributions	74,807	26,918
Externally Restricted Publishing Funds	5,000	
Deficit of Revenues Over Expenditures	(60,316)	(24,403)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance, End of Year	\$ 5,640,417	\$ 5,620,926
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Abbreviated Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024 (Unaudited)

	2024	2023
Cash Flow Used by Operating Activities	<u>\$ (528,839)</u>	<u>\$ (286,281)</u>
Cash Used for Investing Activities		
Purchase of Tangible Capital Assets	\$ (48,146)	\$ (24,043)
Proceeds on Sale of Marketable Securities	1,496,867	364,814
Purchase of Investment Portfolio Securities	(706,690)	(13,556)
Redemption of Israel Bonds	-	2,000
Purchase of Israel Bonds	-	(2,000)
Change in Restricted Cash Balance	245	(10,293)
	<u>\$ 742,276</u>	<u>\$ 316,922</u>
Cash Provided by Financing Activities		
Endowment Contributions	79,807	26,918
	<u>\$ 79,807</u>	<u>\$ 26,918</u>
Increase in Cash	\$ 293,244	\$ 57,559
Cash, Beginning of Year	<u>211,753</u>	<u>154,194</u>
Cash, End of Year	<u>\$ 504,997</u>	<u>\$ 211,753</u>