VISION
The South African Holocaust Foundation is dedicated to creating a more caring and just society in which human rights and diversity are respected and valued

MISSION
The South African Holocaust Foundation
• Serves as a memorial to the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust and all victims of Nazi Germany
• Teaches about the consequences of prejudice, racism and discrimination
• Promotes an understanding of the dangers of indifference, apathy and silence

SOUTH AFRICAN HOLOCAUST FOUNDATION (SAHF)
• Cape Town Holocaust Centre (CTHC)
• Durban Holocaust Centre (DHC)
• Johannesburg Holocaust Centre (JHC)

Education programmes to support the National Curriculum
• Fellowship programme
• Teacher training programmes
• Education programmes for High School learners

Public programmes and events
2008 Highlights
• Children’s rights in focus
• Responding to the plight of refugees
• Campaigning against genocide

Diversity training programmes
• South African Police Service
• Correctional Services
• Diverse adult groups including amongst others: corporates, NGOs, psychiatric nurses, university students

Patrons
Prof Kader Asmal, Dr Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, Justice Richard R Goldstone, The Most Revd Desmond M Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus

Board of Trustees
Gerald Diamond, Ann Harris, Prof Michael Katz, Mary Kluk, Bernard Lazarus, Gerald Leissner, Myra Osrin, Samuel Seeff, Prof Milton Shain, Mervyn Smith, Stephen Smith (UK), David Susman (Chairman)

Richard Freedman (National Director, SAHF), Marlene Silbert (National Education Director, SAHF), Richard Freedman (Director CTHC), Tali Nates (Director JHC), Mary Kluk (Director DHC)
2007/8 has been an important year in the history of Holocaust education in South Africa. The study of the Holocaust was mandated for inclusion in the National Curriculum, escalating the demand for teacher training programmes and classroom support materials. More recently, the xenophobic attacks that swept through the country highlighted again the importance of educating the young about human rights.

The challenge of supporting educators in all nine provinces to be able to teach this complex subject matter, and to extract its universal lessons for humanity, is formidable indeed.

It is therefore with great anticipation that we welcome the establishment of the South African Holocaust Foundation (SAHF), with its renowned centre in Cape Town and two new centres in Durban and Johannesburg. The SAHF is also pleased to report on its newly launched Fellowship programme, which will further assist the Foundation in rolling out its teacher training programmes at the national level.

In addition to a marked increase in the Foundation’s teacher training programmes, this past year has seen the Foundation take on a greater role in human rights advocacy and promotion primarily through its ongoing Public Education programmes (see pg 8). The Foundation’s Diversity Training programme continues to work with civil society groups from a broad spectrum of the community (see pg 7).

2008/9 marks the 10th year of the establishment of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre, and an opportunity to reflect on our past achievements and our road ahead.

Ten years on, it remains clear that the protection and promotion of human rights in South Africa continue to be of central importance.

On behalf of the SAHF, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our patrons, board of trustees, staff, volunteers and benefactors for their ongoing support and dedication which has enabled us to pursue our mission of creating a more just and caring South Africa through Holocaust and human rights education.

Launch of the South African Holocaust Foundation

In 2007, in response to the incorporation of the study of the Holocaust into the National Curriculum, the Board of Trustees of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre took the decision to establish the South African Holocaust Foundation to support Holocaust education and teacher training in South Africa.

Richard Freedman, director of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre since 2006, has been appointed to the position of National Director and Marlene Silbert, Education Director of the CTHC has been appointed National Education Director.

Mary Kluk and Berhard Lazzarus (Durban), Gerald Leisnner and Michael Katz (Johannesburg) have joined the Board of Trustees. The Foundation is honoured to have Professor Kader Asmal, former cabinet minister in South Africa’s first democratically-elected government, join our illustrious group of patrons.

With its three regional Centres, the Foundation is well situated to expand its important work of promoting Holocaust and human rights awareness across all sectors of the population.

Durban Holocaust Centre opens

[Photograph: Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein (SAHF patron), Richard Freedman, Ms M Cele (Office of the Finance Minister, KZN), Mary Kluk and Ethekwini Mayor, Obed Mlaba]

Johannesburg Holocaust Centre under construction

[Photograph: Architect Lewis Levin’s design for the Johannesburg Holocaust Centre, due to open in Raedene, 2009 (see pg 3)]
It is hard to believe that only a year ago we were beginning to discuss the reality of a Holocaust Centre in Durban. That we have achieved our initial objectives is due to the support and guidance of many individuals. Richard Freedman, Myra Osrin and the exceptional educational staff at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre provided critical support and guidance throughout the process. I would also like to thank our remarkable Durban Jewish community and our most generous benefactors who have enabled the Centre’s vision to come to life. I would also like to acknowledge the guidance, wise counsel and encouragement of our Board of Trustees.

The exhibition

The permanent exhibition at the Durban Holocaust Centre was designed by Linda Bester who created the exhibition at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre. Her skill and compassion has resulted in an exhibition that has already received great acclaim. A significant portion of the exhibition is dedicated to the life of Anne Frank, an accessible role model for the millions of young students who will be visiting the Centre as part of a structured educational programme. We hope that by learning about Anne Frank, students will develop a greater understanding of the evils of discrimination.

With the cooperation and support of the Anne Frank House a representation of Anne Frank’s bedroom has been created in the exhibition and was officially opened on Kristalnacht by the International Director of Outreach of the Anne Frank House, Mr Jan Erik Dubbelman. This important addition was made possible through the generosity of Mr Peter Adelson.

The opening

The Durban Holocaust Centre was opened in March 2008. At a dignified and moving ceremony, guests listened to poignant remarks from Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein, Mr Jaap van Proosdij (one of the Righteous Among the Nations), Mr John Moshal (Hon President of the Council of KZN Jewry), Mr Jack Puterman (a Holocaust survivor), Jan Erik Dubbelman (Director International Dept Anne Frank House), Mr Obed Mlaba (Mayor eThekwini) and Richard Freedman.

Hidden letters, the story of an 18-year-old Dutch boy, Philip ‘Flip’ Slier was launched during the opening week of the DHC. Lionel Slier, Flip’s first cousin from Johannesburg came to Durban for the launch. The book, annotated by Deborah Slier and Ian Shine, is based on the poignant correspondence that Flip sent to his family while prisoner in a Nazi forced labour camp prior to his being sent to the death camp of Sobibor where he was murdered. Written in 1942 the letters were only discovered in 1997. Flip’s story now forms a special exhibit at the Durban Holocaust Centre.

A special feature of the Durban Holocaust Centre is the Garden of Remembrance endowed by the Union of Jewish Women, Durban.

The water candles, commemorating the six million Jews who died during the Holocaust
REPORT | THE DIRECTOR OF THE JOHANNESBURG HOLOCAUST CENTRE

Centre established

The Johannesburg Centre is the exciting realisation of the vision of the trustees of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre and members of the Johannesburg Committee who recognised the need for a Holocaust education centre in Johannesburg.

Although building of the Johannesburg Holocaust Centre is only expected to be completed in mid-2009, the Centre is already deeply involved in projects in the fields of Holocaust, genocide and human rights education.

We are deeply grateful to our dynamic team of committee members, our benefactors, professional staff and volunteers who have helped to take the Centre from its concept stage into an active organisation already running programmes prior to its opening next year.

Renowned architect Lewis Levin, has designed a two-storey building that will include a permanent exhibition, two seminar rooms, a hall for temporary exhibitions and events, a resource centre, administration offices, a bookstore and a coffee shop. The esteemed Linda Bester, responsible for the Cape Town and Durban exhibitions, will design the permanent exhibition. The Union of Jewish Women in Johannesburg has generously offered to fund the establishment of the Centre’s memorial garden.

A funding drive towards the construction of the Centre, coordinated by Gerald Leissner, is well underway. Already a number of substantial contributions have been received.

Honouring survivors

The commitment of the Centre to survivors of the Holocaust is evident in a number of ways. The Centre works closely with the Friendship Forum, offering support to survivors, second generation survivors, and members of the community affected by the Holocaust.

The Centre is also offering training to Holocaust survivors that are interested in sharing their stories with Grade 9 learners who are required to study the Holocaust.

In partnership with Yad Vashem, the Centre is helping to collect ‘Pages of Testimony’ from all survivors and community members.

In memoriam

We mourn the loss of PROFESSOR JOCELYN HELLIG: renowned scholar, writer and exceptional community leader. Her commitment to South African Jewry has been life-long. At the time of her passing, she held the position of National Vice-Chairman of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies. She was also a vice-chairman of the Gauteng Council of the SAJBD, on which committee she had served for nearly three decades. A distinguished authority on antisemitism as well as a lifelong campaigner against prejudice and injustice, Professor Hellig played a central role in the recent establishment of the Johannesburg Holocaust Centre and was instrumental in researching and writing the Johannesburg and Durban narratives for the Seeking Refuge exhibition. Her insight, guidance and leadership will be deeply missed.

Cecelia Boruchowitz, a Holocaust Survivor, participating in the Holocaust Survivor Photograph Initiative
SAHF launches its Fellowship Programme

In early 2008, with the endorsement of the National Department of Education, the SAHF launched its Fellowship Programme – an exciting partnership between the SAHF and the Yad Vashem International School of Holocaust Studies in Jerusalem.

The aim of the programme is to build critical capacity across the country of a group of senior educators who will be able to assist teachers in their regions to understand the content, rationale and methodologies of teaching the Holocaust and Nazi Germany as mandated by the new National Curriculum.

The programme consists of two segments: an intensive three-day preparatory workshop at the CTHC followed by a two-week seminar fully sponsored by Yad Vashem and designed for South African educators, at the International School of Holocaust Studies in Jerusalem.

In January, 20 senior educators were selected by the Provincial Education departments in five provinces, to attend the preparatory workshop in Cape Town. The workshop gave Fellows an opportunity to meet each other, the Foundation staff, and to prepare for the two-week course in Jerusalem. Two months later, in March, the Fellows, accompanied by education personnel from the SAHF, travelled to Jerusalem and participated in a two-week programme at the Yad Vashem International School of Holocaust Studies. The programme immersed Fellows in Holocaust studies and gave them the opportunity to visit areas of Israel and Palestine.

On completion of the Fellowship programme, the Fellows have already begun to play a vital role in the rollout of national training workshops. Together with the SAHF’s education team, the Fellows have already conducted workshops for more than 400 educators across the country.

The education programmes developed by the SAHF for high school learners, educators, NGOs and civil society groups, are widely acclaimed and continue unabated.

As expected, the demand for both teacher training and school programmes has significantly increased following the recent inclusion of the Holocaust in the National Curriculum.

Through its three regional Centres, education staff at the SAHF together with SAHF Fellows, have been able to respond to this need. I am delighted to report that in 2008, successful training programmes were conducted for educators in the Western Cape, Gauteng, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal. In 2009, the SAHF will be conducting training programmes for educators in the Northern Cape, North West Province and Eastern Cape.

The education resource materials developed by the SAHF, The Holocaust: Lessons for Humanity are used across the country and are in great demand.

The Afrikaans translation of the Educator’s Resource manual has been completed and will soon go to print. In 2009, we are hoping to have our materials translated into isiXhosa, isiZulu and seSotho.
Teacher training programmes

The SAHF has developed a range of teacher-training programmes to help build the capacity of educators to deliver high quality lessons on the Holocaust and Nazi Germany. In 2008, over 400 educators from the Free State, KwaZulu Natal, Gauteng and the Western Cape participated in the SAHF’s Residential and In-service teacher training programmes. In 2009, these workshops will be extended to educators in the Northern Cape, North West Province, Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and Limpopo.

FREE STATE In 2008, as part of an ongoing partnership with the Free State Department of Education, four one-day teacher training workshops were held in Bloemfontein, Bethlehem and Welkom. The workshops were attended by 124 Social Sciences, History and Life Orientation teachers.

GAUTENG In 2008, as part of a three-year partnership with the Gauteng Department of Education and the Apartheid Museum, the SAHF together with staff from the Apartheid Museum facilitated two, three-day training workshops for 120 Gauteng educators. This customised programme focuses on the Holocaust and Nazi Germany, apartheid South Africa and post-Holocaust genocides, drawing on the lessons relating to bystander behaviour, the power of choice and responses to gross human rights violations including the TRC and the Nuremberg trials.

KWAZULU NATAL In September and October, staff from the SAHF and SAHF Fellows conducted two training workshops for 42 GET and FET educators at the DHC.

WESTERN CAPE To date, over 3 000 Grade 9 and 11 History, Social Sciences and Life Orientation teachers from all regions in the Western Cape have participated in the SAHF’s teacher training programmes.

In 2007, the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) seconded Freda Qanya to the CTHC to provide ongoing mentoring and curriculum support to educators teaching the Holocaust and Human Rights, particularly at schools in disadvantages areas. To date, Ms Qanya has worked with 31 schools in four districts around the Western Cape. She has been instrumental in helping educators to develop the content knowledge and skills to teach about the Holocaust drawing on its lessons for human rights and reflecting on South Africa’s history of human rights abuses.

Programmes for high school learners

High school learners visit the SAHF’s permanent exhibitions in Cape Town and Durban and participate in the educational programme.

The programme is designed for either Grade 9 or Grade 11 learners and is structured to meet the needs of the National Education Curriculum. Each group is given an introduction to the Holocaust and its historical background before being taken on a guided visit of the SAHF’s permanent exhibition, which are facilitated by members of the Foundation’s education staff and volunteers.

The permanent exhibition comprises text and photo panels, archival documents and film footage, multimedia displays, artefacts and recreated environments. The exhibition focuses on prejudice and discrimination in Nazi Germany and the factors leading up to the Holocaust. It also focuses on apartheid South Africa and encourages participants to think about the choices that individuals have when faced with prejudice, racism and discrimination.

Through examining their own contemporary environments (schools, home and society), learners are given an opportunity to understand their capabilities to speak out and not be bystanders in the face of injustice.

A teacher writes ...

“... In many ways our learners still experience racialist (if not racist) pressures in the communities in which they grow up. For some of these learners, what they experience at the Centre is a vindication of something they instinctively feel; for others it is an eye-opener; but not one of them walks away at the end of the day untouched. There is no better way to teach learners about the dangers of generalisation, stereotyping and discrimination than through a visit to the Holocaust Centre.”

Ms. Muda van Eeden, Monument Park High, Kraaifontein

The national teacher-training programmes have been made possible through the generosity of the Claim’s Conference, The Mott Foundation and the Haas family.

Marlene Silbert and SAHF Fellows, Moletsane Matli, Cecelia Khoabane and Wimpee van Rooyen of the Free State Education Department

Freda Qanya teachers learners from Silverstream Secondary School

Workshop facilitators: Marlene Silbert, Tracey Petersen, John Biyasi, Tali Nates and Michelle Friedman

Engcobo Secondary School

A teacher writes ...

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Sponsor–A–School Programme

The Sponsor–A–School programme allows schools that have visited the Cape Town Holocaust Centre’s permanent exhibition and educators that have attended training workshops to receive the Foundation’s classroom support materials which include an educator’s resource manual, learner’s interactive workbooks, an introductory DVD and classroom poster set.

Holocaust and Human Rights – Art and Writing Competition

The annual Holocaust and Human Rights Art and Writing Competition run by the CTHC aims to support the teaching of Holocaust history among all high school learners regardless of whether they study history as a chosen subject. In this way, the competition helps to expose as many learners as possible to the Holocaust’s universal lessons for humanity.

The theme for 2008 was “Growing up in the shadow of the Swastika”. Learners were asked to explore the impact of Nazism on the identity of young people growing up under Nazi occupation at the time of the Holocaust.

Education materials on Xenophobia

In 2008, in response to the spate of xenophobic violence that erupted throughout South Africa, the SAHF developed an education pack Responding to the Human Cry. The resource pack was designed to help high school educators to engage with their learners about issues related to xenophobia.

The materials draw on the history of the Holocaust, in particular the experiences of Jewish refugees trying to escape Nazi persecution. Poetry, writing and art from the Holocaust, as well as responses to the xenophobic violence in South Africa as depicted in the media, are used to as the basis for stimulating discussion, reflection and critical thinking among learners.

Cross-curriculum support

Holocaust history has valuable lessons which can be used to enhance the teaching in several learning areas in the curriculum.

An opportunity to illustrate this presented itself at the beginning of 2008 when the WCED invited the CTHC to facilitate a workshop on stereotyping for 600 Language educators.

The workshop examined the use of stereotyping and Nazi propaganda as weapons to justify and fuel human rights abuses and focused on giving language educators the tools to help learners recognise, challenge and deconstruct stereotypes.

SAHF attends International Conference for Holocaust Educators at Yad Vashem

The 6th International Conference for Holocaust Educators: Teaching the Shoah – Fighting Racism and Prejudice, took place in July 2008 and attracted delegates from 52 countries. Richard Freedman delivered a paper on the work done by the SAHF and Tali Nates conducted a workshop on the March of the Living.

The Conference examined new methodologies for teaching the Holocaust and focused on strategies for introducing the subject to diverse groups who would not usually include it in their learning programmes. The Conference explored how the teaching of the Holocaust can be used to combat racism and prejudice and safeguard democratic societies.

Prize-winning learners in the 2008 Art & Writing competition, Roslee Guess, Lisa de Waal, Alexa Storme Heekes and Ashleigh Furlong

Educators working with materials from the xenophobia resource pack developed by SAHF

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SAHF at the 6th International Conference for Holocaust Educators: Rosemary Gron, Tali Nates, Linda Bester (SAHF Holocaust Exhibition Designer), Richard Freedman and Maureen Caminsky (Durban Holocaust Centre)
DIVERSITY TRAINING PROGRAMMES

South African Police Service

Diversity training workshops for the South African Police Service (SAPS) commenced in 2002. To date, over two-and-a-half thousand members of SAPS have participated in these workshops at the CTHC. Over the past two years, the programmes were expanded and conducted in conjunction with Robben Island and District Six Museums.

As first-line defenders of South Africa’s new democracy, members of the police service are charged with the daily responsibility of maintaining law and order, safeguarding the community, and at the same time protecting human rights. Confronting the history of the Holocaust provides a unique opportunity for SAPS members to explore the consequences of the human rights violations that were perpetrated by the police in Nazi Germany, and the differences between the mandates of the police in the Third Reich and members of the South African Police Service.

During the course of the programme participants are encouraged to examine their own attitudes and assumptions towards ‘the other’.

Correctional Services, South African Navy and Military Academy

Workshops for personnel, management, and selected inmates from Voorberg, Pollsmoor and Drakenstein Correctional Services have taken place over the years. Successful workshops have also been conducted for members of the South African Navy, and the Saldanah Military Academy. While the focus of all workshops is on the Holocaust and the violation of human rights, each programme is tailored to the needs of the particular group. During these workshops attention is invariably given to issues relating to the consequences of choices, and the responsibilities of citizens in a democracy.

MaAfrika Tikkun

The Holocaust Foundation has established a partnership with MaAfrika Tikkun. During the course of the year, a number of education programmes have been conducted at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre for MaAfrika Tikkun educators, healthcare workers, peer leaders and junior facilitators.

Tertiary institutions, corporates and adult groups

Respect for human dignity and diversity play an important role in enriching human relationships, and add value to organisations and institutions within South African society. Programmes for educational institutions, corporates, small and large businesses, NGOs and a wide variety of other diverse groups are conducted by the Holocaust Foundation. These workshops are thought-provoking and provide an opportunity for participants to engage with issues of diversity, including gender, ethnicity and religion.

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“We all learnt so much; not only about the Holocaust, but about ourselves, our personal development, social responsibility, and cultural diversity. The programme was enlightening and absolutely inspiring.”

Maths and Computer Lab educators, MaAfrika Tikkun

“The programme has given me a clear idea of my role and responsibility to the public as a SAPS member. I am now more aware of the issues of prejudice and racism and will now be able to deliver a more professional service.”

2008 Annual Review page 7
From 4 to 27 August 2008, the South African Holocaust Foundation hosted a month-long programme of public events – Through the Eyes of Children – to raise awareness of human rights abuses against children, particularly the devastating effect of war on children.

The programme included an extraordinary exhibition of children’s art from Terezin and Darfur as well as an ancillary art education programme in partnership with the Frank Joubert Art Centre and the Ibhabhantane Project. The event was opened with the launch of the South African edition of Hana’s Suitcase.

Hana’s Suitcase

Published in 48 countries and translated into more than 35 languages, Hana’s Suitcase tells the remarkable story of how the curiosity of Japanese children visiting the Tokyo Holocaust Education Resource Centre, inspired Fumiko Ishioka, the Centre’s Director, to embark in 2000, some 55 years after the Holocaust, on an epic search to give “life” to a name Hana Brady which appeared on a forlorn suitcase found at the Auschwitz death camp.

The SAHF was honoured to host Fumiko Ishioka and Lara Brady, niece of the late Hana Brady to coincide with the launch of the South African edition of Hana’s Suitcase. The book was launched at the Baxter Theatre in Cape Town, and at Constitutional Hill, as the highlight of a special Women’s Day programme.

Fumiko and Lara visited the Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg Holocaust Centres as well as Constitution Hill in Johannesburg where they conducted workshops with learners and gave a series of presentations entitled Historical Detectives in which they relayed not only how Hana’s story came to life, but also the impact the story has had on people of all ages across the world.

As we struggle with the challenges of building a new South Africa, this book helps to remind us that each human being should be valued as being of infinite worth irrespective of differences and that with that attitude we will ultimately create a more caring and just society.

From the foreword by Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu (SAHF Patron) to the South African edition of Hana’s Suitcase by Karen Levine, published by New Africa Books

Children’s drawings from Terezin

On exhibition were 50 artworks created by Jewish children imprisoned at the Terezin concentration camp (Czechoslovakia) by the Nazis during World War II. On liberation of the concentration camp, the art works were found hidden in four suitcases. The exhibition is on long-term loan from the Jewish Museum in Prague.

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The young boy who created this image, was eight when his village in Darfur was attacked in 2004. His drawing describes this attack, where Janjaweed and Sudanese forces worked together to burn his village, kill civilians and lead to the displacement of the survivors.

Drawings from Darfur

On exhibition for the first time in South Africa, this collection showcased 50 drawings created by Darfuri children who escaped war-torn Sudan and have been living in refugee camps in neighbouring Chad. The exhibition was on loan to the SAHF by Waging Peace, a non-governmental organisation, based in London, which campaigns against genocide.

The drawings depict children’s memories of violent attacks on Darfuri villages and amount to visual testimonies of the horrors that they have endured. The drawings are being exhibited throughout the world to raise awareness about the crisis in Darfur and to rally support for tougher international action against Sudan. The drawings were accepted by the International Criminal Court in the Hague as contextual evidence of the war crimes committed in Darfur.

The Ibhabhatane Project

In conjunction with the main exhibition, artworks of young South Africans from the Ibhabhatane Project, an initiative of the Frank Joubert Art Centre, were also displayed. Ibhabhatane provides opportunities for children from historically-disadvantaged areas to study visual art and design. Their artworks are the culmination of an intensive education programme that included a visit to the Cape Town Holocaust Centre where children explored issues of prejudice, racism and discrimination and a series of art workshops facilitated by the Frank Joubert Art Centre where children were encouraged to use images and text to give express their concerns and hopes for the society in which they live.

A further 785 learners from 16 historically-disadvantaged schools in Cape Town attended a morning workshop at the Baxter Theatre Complex, where they learned more about the Holocaust and human rights through the story of Hana Brady, and the children’s art from Terezin and Darfur. The workshop concluded with each learner creating a butterfly – a poignant connection between the past, and a symbol of hope for the future.
Cape Town Centre responds to the plight of refugees

9 November 2008 marked the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht. Kristallnacht marked a radicalisation of the six-year-long campaign of terror and intimidation carried out by the Nazi government against German Jewry since 1933. On that single night, more than 200 Synagogues were destroyed and tens of thousands of Jewish businesses and homes were ransacked.

In commemoration of the victims of Kristallnacht, and to reflect on the plight of refugees in South Africa and worldwide, the Cape Town Holocaust Centre hosted a series of public events during November.

**SEEKING REFUGE EXHIBITION**
10 to 27 November 2008

Seeking Refuge describes the immigration of German Jewish refugees to South Africa between 1933 and 1939. It records the local efforts, both individual and communal, to facilitate this migration, during a period of political volatility in South Africa. This major exhibition features some 80 narratives of individuals and families who fled Nazi Germany and made their home in South Africa. The exhibition was viewed by over 1 000 visitors.

The exhibition was opened by Dieter W. Haller, (German Ambassador to South Africa) shown here with Richard Freedman and German Jewish refugee, Miriam Kleinebst

**SYMPOSIUM ON REFUGEES**
20 November 2008

In May 2008, the world watched with dismay as violent xenophobic attacks erupted against refugees and foreign immigrants in communities across South Africa.

The issue of migration, xenophobia and the response to refugee crisis was the focus of a day-long symposium organised by the SAHF. The symposium was attended by a wide range of individuals and organisations interfacing with refugees, including policy-makers; local government officials; members of the South African Police Service, provincial Department of Education personnel, and the NGO and faith-based community. Programme highlights included:

**Panel discussion on xenophobia**
A panel of experts in the fields of migration and human rights facilitated a discussion on issues of xenophobia in contemporary society. Panelists included Ms Nomfundo Walaza (CEO, Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation), Bishop Paul Verryn (Methodist Church of Southern Africa), Dr Astrid Berg (Associate Professor, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Cape Town), Dr Jonathan Crush (Executive Director – Southern African Research Centre) and Ms Fatima Hassan (AIDS Law Project).

**Refugee Voices**
A facilitated breakaway session was held where participants listened to testimonies from four African refugees and four German Jewish refugees who shared their personal stories of challenges and triumphs.

**The Crossings**
A dramatic performance was given by Zimbabwean refugee Jonathan Nkala who relayed the story of his escape from Zimbabwe and his efforts to make a new life in South Africa.
Campaigning against genocide – remembrance and beyond

UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION TO HONOUR VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

27 January 2008

In January, the SAHF organised a series of events to mark the United Nations International Day of Commemoration to honour the victims of the Holocaust.

RWANDA: 13 Years after Genocide

The SAHF, in partnership with the UN Information Centre (UNIC, New York), hosted the exhibition RWANDA: 13 Years after Genocide. Developed by the Aegis Trust, a UK-based NGO, the exhibition was created to reflect on the genocide in Rwanda and its aftermath as well as the roles and responsibilities of governments to prevent and deal with genocide.

At the opening of the exhibition in Cape Town, Rwandan Ambassador to South Africa, Mr Eugene Munyakayanza said the exhibition is part of efforts to preserve the memory of genocide victims. “Human beings must respect the right to life of others. This can be achieved by continually educating and informing on genocide and the Holocaust, and its effect on societies.”

Sudeshan Reddy, National Information Officer (UNIC, Pretoria), commented that it was fitting that the exhibition be shown at the Holocaust Centre, as “a place that teaches us about humanity’s propensity to destroy, but more importantly, our ability to resist, survive, and triumph”.

From the CTHC, the exhibition travelled to the University of Pretoria before opening at the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg.

WITNESSING DAFUR

Following its display at the CTHC in 2007, the much acclaimed exhibition Witnessing Darfur developed by the Aegis Trust (UK), toured the country in 2008. It was displayed at the University of Witwatersrand, the Origins Centre, UNISA and the Durban Holocaust Centre.

Keynote speaker Charles Kiza, Sudanese Doctoral student with Gaylee Tolpert, President of the South African Jewish Student’s Organisation, at the exhibition launch at Wits.

St George’s Cathedral, Cape Town

On 27 January, a commemorative event was held in Cape Town at St. George’s Cathedral. Following an address by the Very Rev Rowan Smith (Dean of St George’s Cathedral), survivors of the Holocaust and the Rwandan genocide lit memorial candles to commemorate the victims of these two genocides. The German Consul Andreas Kauke read a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, who emphasised the need for new generations to know the history of the Holocaust.

Dr Oscar Bayingana, representing survivors of the Rwandan genocide with Holocaust survivor, Miriam Lichterman, during the candle-lighting ceremony on 27 January 2008

Participants in the Rwanda tour

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Beyond Redemption

In 2008 the book, Beyond Redemption, was launched at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre and in Johannesburg. The extensively researched book, co-authored by Harold Serebro and Jacques Sellschop, tells the fascinating story of the enigmatic SS Colonel Kurt Becher. The launch at the Albow Centre was co-hosted by the Living Newspaper and the Gitlin Library.

2 or 3 Things I Know About Him

In partnership with the Goethe-Institut of Johannesburg and with support from the Consulate-General of the Federal Republic of Germany, the SAHF hosted special screenings in Johannesburg and Cape Town of the acclaimed documentary, 2 or 3 Things I Know About Him. The director, Malte Ludin, and the producer, Iva Svarcova attended the screenings. Mr Ludin’s documentary about his father, Hanns, a prominent Nazi executed as a war criminal in 1947, captures how Malte breaks his family’s silence about their father’s guilt, and takes on the responsibility tied to the name Ludin.

Santa’s Story launched

In September 2008 following Santa Pellam’s 90th birthday, the Cape Town Holocaust Centre was honoured to host the launch of her autobiography – Santa’s Story. This beautifully produced and illustrated book tells the remarkable story of Santa’s family’s attempt to escape Nazi Germany and her courageous flight from France on the brink of war in 1939 to marry a man she had never met in Salisbury, Rhodesia. This saved her life. Her parents and brother were deported to Auschwitz in 1942 and murdered there. Despite the tragic loss of her beloved family, Santa has gone on to establish a wonderful family of her own and to live her life with great generosity and fulfillment.

ABSENCE AND LOSS

January 2008

Following a successful programme at the Goethe Institute in Johannesburg, the Absence and Loss exhibition with text and photographs by the London-based photographer, Marion Davies, travelled to the CTHC and was also mounted at St Georges Cathedral for the 27 January UN Holocaust International Day of Commemoration to honour victims of the Holocaust. The photographs examine Holocaust Memorials in Berlin and, together with the text, reflect the destructive impact of the Nazis as well as moments of resistance and protest.
Dr. Cole pointed out that Holocaust history From his perspective as a social historian, Holocaust: Through the eyes of Children. Rautenbach, one of the DHC volunteer Natal attended the conference. Marlene normality,” and increasingly restrictive and destructive measures imposed by the Nazis. In September, Second Innings in association with the Johannesburg Holocaust Centre and Selwyn Klass, screened the acclaimed film, Miracle at Midnight. The film pays tribute to the Danish community who rescued their fellow Jewish Danes. The Honorary Consul-General of the Royal Danish Consulate, Mr. Jan Lottrup Jensen and Mrs. Yvonne Jensen were the guests of honour. An exhibition reflecting material provided by the Museum of Danish Resistance was mounted to coincide with the film screening. At age ten, Marta Wise and her 13-year-old sister Eva from Slovakia, spent some time in a country town living in hiding as Catholics, until, having finally been discovered as Jews, they were caught and put on transport for Birkenau on 3 November 1944. She recalled their arrival — the shouting, the barking guard dogs, the ‘porters’ and the line-up to march past Mengele for selection. The two sisters were sent to Mengele’s experimental unit, where they received daily injections and had blood samples taken. She has no idea what was in the injections or what the purpose was.

When the end of the war was near, the survivors were lined up in the freezing cold and snow to go on the ‘Death March’. Eva, recovering from typhoid, was too weak to march, but fortunately they were able to sneak back into the camp and managed to survive. Marta said their survival was “beyond understanding” — she believed they owed it to the grace of God. She first started to talk about her experiences only in the 1970s. She was asked by her 14-year-old daughter to speak to a school group. After that she began to study the Holocaust and became an historian.

Through the generosity of Ralph and Sue Stern, the Cape Town Holocaust Centre is able to invite eminent scholars to Cape Town to conduct special education programmes and to deliver the Renee and Ernest Samson anniversary lecture. Following on the very successful visit in 2007 of Dr. William F. Meinecke of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the 2008 visiting scholar was Dr. Tim Cole, Senior Lecturer in Social History at Bristol University.

Dr. Cole’s week-long visit included presentations to diverse groups of educators, university students and learners on topics such as gendered responses to the Holocaust and the behaviour of perpetrators and bystanders. He also presented the 9th annual anniversary lecture: The Holocaust: Through the eyes of Children.

From his perspective as a social historian, Dr. Cole pointed out that Holocaust history is not monolithic. Through the examination of the history of any particular group, the complex nature of individual experiences emerges. Fragments from documents paint a nuanced portrait of children, as they sought to “conserve some kind of childhood normality,” and increasingly restrictive and destructive measures imposed by the Nazis.

The Rotary Club of Durban Morningside and the First National Bank held the New Generations Conference 2008 recently at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Learners from 34 schools throughout KwaZulu-Natal attended the conference. Marlene Rautenbach, one of the DHC volunteer educators, gave a detailed presentation on behalf of the Durban Holocaust Centre which was very well received.

In a joint venture with the Jewish Board of Deputies, the SAHF hosted survivor, Marta Wise. Marta gave an address on Yom Ha’Shoa in Johannesburg and memorable talks at the Holocaust centres in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

At age ten, Marta Wise and her 13-year-old sister Eva from Slovakia, spent some time in a country town living in hiding as Catholics, until, having finally been discovered as Jews, they were caught and put on transport for Birkenau on 3 November 1944. She recalled their arrival — the shouting, the barking guard dogs, the ‘porters’ and the line-up to march past Mengele for selection. The two sisters were sent to Mengele’s experimental unit, where they received daily injections and had blood samples taken. She has no idea what was in the injections or what the purpose was.

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Yom Ha’Shoa

Commemorated in Free State

Marta Wise

‘Our vengeance is survival’ – Marta Wise

(left to right) Wendy Kahn, National Director SA Jewish Board of Deputies, Elias Ishram, Second Secretary, Israeli Embassy, Toli Notes, Mr. Ulrik Jorgensen, Councillor and Chief Financial Officer of the Danish Embassy in Pretoria (at Beyachad on 30 November 2008)
LINKS WITH JAPAN
The Arigatou Foundation

In 2002 Marlene Silbert was invited to serve on the Ethics in Education Committee of the Arigatou Foundation, a Japanese interfaith NGO that works closely with UNICEF and UNESCO on children’s rights issues.

The committee compiled a toolkit for educators to nurture ethical awareness, promote values of respect, and empower young people to respond appropriately to violence, poverty and environmental destruction.

The toolkit, entitled Learning to Live Together, was launched at a conference in Hiroshima in May 2008. Over 200 people from 32 countries attended the conference.

The Holocaust Education Centre, Fukuyama, Hiroshima District

In 2008 both Marlene Silbert and Tali Nates had the opportunity to visit the impressive Holocaust Education Centre in Fukuyama. The Centre is developing an exhibit about Oskar Schindler. As Tali’s father and uncle were on Schindler’s list, members of the Centre were eager to share information and ideas with her.

LINKS WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM
The Anne Frank Trust

Gillian Walnes visited the Cape Town and Durban Holocaust Centres and conducted a seminar on the programmes developed by the Anne Frank Trust (UK). Their mission is to draw on the power of Anne Frank’s life and diary to challenge prejudice and reduce hatred, encouraging people to embrace positive attitudes, responsibility and respect for others.

The University of London

In July 2008, Richard Freedman was invited to present the SAHF’s education materials and the national teacher-training programme to academics from the Education Institute of London University. They have been commissioned by the UK Holocaust Education Trust and the Pears Foundation (UK) to investigate the possibility of developing a Holocaust teacher-training programme for Britain as well as a coordinated approach to teaching materials. There was much interest in the work being done in South Africa in that there is a nationwide programme which is being conducted by one centralised body, the South African Holocaust Foundation.

LINKS WITH THE NETHERLANDS
The Anne Frank House

The SAHF is working in partnership with the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam on several exciting projects, including the training of education volunteers and the piloting of classroom materials.

The SAHF has also been invited to develop the South African component of the Anne Frank House webguide which will examine, among other issues, antisemitism in South Africa; the role played by South Africa in WWII and the impact of the Holocaust on the development of a democratic South Africa.

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B E Y O N D  O U R  B O R D E R S
2008 marked the 20th anniversary of the March of the Living. For a week each year, Poland is filled with hundreds of groups from all corners of the world, who come together on Yom Ha'Shoa (Holocaust Memorial day) to walk the 3 km from Auschwitz 1 to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where a most moving ceremony is held. The March is a profound statement of triumph, as young and old pay homage to those whom the Nazis decreed unworthy of life.

The SAHF was well represented at the 2008 march. Tali Nates and Mary Kluk, directors of the Johannesburg and Durban Holocaust Centres, and Tracy Petersen, Education Director of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre, were part of a group of 96 adult participants from the USA, Canada, Australia and South Africa. The South African group also included radio personality Criselda Kananda and the editor of the Sowetan, Thabo Leshilo.

The group spent a week in Poland, visiting and learning about the Jewish communities of Warsaw, Lublin, Krakow and Lodz. They then visited the death camps of Majdanek and Auschwitz.

Following their visit to Poland, members of the group travelled to Israel in time for the 60th anniversary of Israel’s independence.

Mary Kluk, Holocaust survivor Henry Buchman (from Melbourne) and editor of the Sowetan Thabo Leshilo
Radio personality Criselda Kananda, Thabo Leshilo and Mary Kluk who all joined the march

Reflections

Tali Nates, the group historian for the 2008 tour, has led March of the Living groups for many years. She made the following observations:

“Participants take part in a journey of reflection of the role of the individual, to take the lessons of the Holocaust and transfer them to actions when they return home. For me as a second generation survivor, it is always tremendously emotional to go to the concentration camp in Plaszow near Krakow, where my father worked and suffered for almost two years. Standing near the memorial with my daughter Kim, and telling the group of my father’s story, was immensely important to me as a human rights educator. My hope is that through stories such as my father’s one, we can strengthen ourselves to build a better world rather than destroy it.”

Tracy Petersen assisted with the group. It was her first visit to Poland and the first time she participated in the “March of the Living”.

“The trip to Poland was extraordinary in many ways. The conflict of reconciling the beauty of the Polish landscape with the painful history for me was finally resolved when one of the Second generation survivors in the group reminded me that there was life before the Holocaust. She said that she realised that her mother (who survived Auschwitz) had enjoyed days of beauty before the war began. She had also looked at the blue sky and been touched by the beauty of the land. If her mother’s memory was to be honoured, we needed to remember the part of her mother’s life that was before the Shoah.”
It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Prof Neville Dubow in August 2008. Professor Dubow, former Director of the Michaelis School of Fine Art and founding Director of the University of Cape Town’s Irma Stern Museum, was a renowned art critic and lecturer. Author of Imaging the Unimaginable – Holocaust Memory in Art and Architecture, he made a significant contribution to the Cape Town Holocaust Centre through his lectures and its Remembering Refuge exhibition. In October 2007, Professor Dubow gave a memorable public lecture under the auspices of the CTHC and the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies at UCT, In the field of memory: The Berlin Holocaust Memorial – whose memory? in which he examined whether the Berlin Holocaust memorial succeeds in carrying its burden of memory.

His much valued support, wisdom and guidance will be sorely missed.

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The South African Holocaust Foundation joins Cape Town Jewry in mourning the passing of Violette Fintz, chairman of She’erith Hapletah and doyenne of the survivor community, at the age of 96 years. Born on Rhodes Island in 1911, Violette Maio was deported in 1944 and survived Auschwitz, Dachau and Bergen-Belsen. After liberation, she married Nathan Fintz in Harare, moving to Cape Town on his passing. In the 1980s Violette became chairman of She’erith Hapletah. She was committed to the importance of bearing witness and was among the first survivors to tell her story to Cape Town audiences in the 1980s, and later to groups at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre.

Violette said, “If G-d made a miracle which enabled me to survive, then I must give testimony. I must never forget – but I can try to forgive.” Violette’s voice will never be forgotten.

We mourn the loss of

Violette Fintz
Bella Rahmani
Peggy Berolsky
Jack Hasson
Juliette Cronheim

members of She’erith Hapletah, Holocaust Survivors Association, who passed away in 2008
A PLACE OF MEMORY – A PLACE OF LEARNING
The Cape Town Holocaust Centre’s 10th Anniversary

With the generous support of private benefactors and under the guidance of a committee of distinguished designers, architects and researchers, the Cape Town Holocaust Centre opened its doors in August 1999.

Speaking at the dinner held on 1 December 2008 to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Holocaust Centre its founder Myra Osrin said that when a vision, for the yet-to-be established Holocaust Centre was first conceptualised and articulated in 1996 it was that of creating a more caring and just society in which human rights and diversity are respected and valued.

She said that no one envisaged the extent to which this noble vision would be fulfilled, nor how far the Centre’s mission of teaching about the consequences of racism and discrimination would reach. Nor could they have anticipated the tremendous success of the venture and that there would be, in 2008, a national Holocaust Foundation with centres in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg.

Osrin paid tribute to the survivors who were an inspiration in the establishment of the Centre and not spared to celebrate the occasion but how gratified and proud they and those who were able to be at the dinner should feel at what had been achieved.

The occasion was also the launch of the Centre’s 10th Anniversary publication, *A Place of Memory* - a place of learning – the first 10 years of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre, written by Lloyd Pollak designed by Angela Tuck and edited by Max Du Preez.

In introducing the CTHC’s 10th anniversary publication, Myra Osrin observed: “Many people know about the Centre as a place of memory, which boasts an impactful exhibition and a dynamic programme of well attended public events. However, few people truly know and understand what happens at the Centre on a daily basis. It was for this reason that, on this significant milestone, it was decided to produce a publication which would convey, in photographs and words, the story not only of the establishment of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre as a place of memory but also of the Centre as a place of learning – telling of the development and the growth of its ongoing educational programmes which are the very raison d’être of the Centre.”