

YEAR IN REVIEW 2020

#askasurvivor

What is your message?



Thank you

To our community of supporters – we say thank you for supporting the Jewish Holocaust Centre during 2020. Despite challenges, we saw great achievement. We could not do it without you.

In 2020 we renewed our purpose and vision statements – thanks to survivors, volunteers, staff and EY who helped.

OUR PURPOSE

We exist to keep the voices of the Holocaust alive through education and memorialisation in order to combat antisemitism, racism and prejudice

VISION

Safeguard our history and inspire positive change through education and commemoration in our eminent Holocaust museum

PRIORITIES

- Retain the voice of Holocaust survivors into the future
- Build and operationalise a world-class museum
- Lead the development of state and national Holocaust education
- Build a high performing board with skills and experience to deliver on the purpose
- Establish and utilise strategic alliances, partnerships and media presence

VALUES

Integrity, Empathy, Responsibility, Respect, Inclusivity

Highlights

Commencement of the **redevelopment** of the new Jewish Holocaust Centre celebrated with a soil turning ceremony in November 2020

96%

of students said virtual workshops inspired them to learn more about the Holocaust

Introduction of **mandatory** Holocaust education in Years 9-10 in government schools

Schools:

47% Government schools

31% Independent/Private

20% Catholic

2% Jewish

Rapid transition to virtual education program

73%

of participating students were in Years 9 and 10

6644

school students participated in our education programs

Received over

400

letters for survivors through Survivor Connect

50

schools were able to visit the Centre

48

schools participated in virtual workshops

Recognised in

6

sector awards

for Ask a Survivor, Virtual Tour and staff excellence

Winner: Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria: Digital Media Award for Ask a Survivor

19

survivors from our Melbourne community spoke to students during our education programs

Board and CEO message

Pauline Rockman OAM and Sue Hampel OAM, Co-Presidents, and Jayne Josem, Museum Director and CEO

2020 was not the year that we expected. Despite a myriad of challenges brought on by COVID-19, the Jewish Holocaust Centre (the Centre) experienced an incredibly successful year furthering our mission by engaging further and deeper with the community and educating them about the Holocaust.

Pre-pandemic the year commenced with a Board initiative to develop a Strategic Plan. With expert pro bono assistance from EY, and invaluable input from Holocaust survivors, volunteers and staff we created and committed to our vision and purpose and outlined our core values of integrity, empathy, responsibility, respect and inclusivity.

We have affirmed our main strategic priorities for the coming three to five years and our volunteers and staff are working hard to deliver on these goals.

The impacts of the global pandemic have devastated communities across the world and while Australia fared better than most other countries, in Victoria we suffered the loss of many people, mostly our valued elderly. When the COVID pandemic came to Australia, the survivors were the first to be asked to remain at home as we feared for their safety. Within a week the museum doors were closed, and staff transitioned to working from home.

Drawing on the lessons of resilience our survivors taught and continue to teach us, we regrouped and focused on our mission of educating the public about the Holocaust.

We realised that we did not need a physical museum to continue our work and we converted our face-to-face program into online education workshops. In a matter of months, we created a virtual museum in which visitors could discover and learn about significant artefacts. We

also created online interactive programs such as the award winning 'Ask A Survivor' and 'Understanding Through Testimony'. We educated school students remotely through virtual workshops, where our educators guided students through our virtual museum. A particular highlight for all involved was being able to bring survivors to the students via Zoom.

Our ongoing care of our Holocaust survivor community remained a priority. We kept in regular contact and established a 'Survivor Connect' program, encouraging students and others to write letters to survivors. This engagement and interaction proved invaluable to both survivors and letter writers, each reassuring the other that 'this too will pass'.

2020 also saw the commencement of our new build and while this was exciting the pandemic presented many obstacles to this endeavour. Due to social distancing restrictions, our on-site team was diminished to a few. We commend this team for their incredible work to pack up the entire building, its collections, and the museum. Just before the serious 'Stage two lockdown' was imposed, we managed to transport the contents of the entire Centre to our temporary home, and the demolition of the Selwyn Street building began.

With Holocaust survivor and Board Director Abram Goldberg, Federal Treasurer, The Hon Josh Frydenberg honoured the construction of the new building by turning the first sod. Although this was a number-restricted gathering, it was a definite highlight in a difficult year. Despite everything, our community rallied to continue to provide financial support to the project. Holocaust survivor, the late Josef Hellen, was announced as the significant benefactor whose name will adorn the building.

As the redevelopment began, our Curatorial team worked intensely researching and designing the new museum. They were supported by our Collections team, who kept in touch with the public fielding enquiries and caring for our collections of artefacts, art, testimonies and books.

We thank the Board Directors for their efforts in continuing to meet online and ensure our success. The AGM was a rare moment when we gathered for the last time in the auditorium, spatially distanced yet united in our mission. We farewelled David Cohen and thanked him for many years of excellent contribution to the Centre, and welcomed new Directors Michael Debinski, Prof George Braitberg and Simon Szwarc.

We thank our wonderful volunteers for their support and patience during a challenging year when we simply could not gather together as we would have liked. They are the lifeblood of our organisation and their presence was dearly missed during lockdown.

And this year, more than ever, we thank our incredible and dedicated staff for their resilience and perseverance in working from less-than-desirable home offices, home schooling children and caring for extended family, trying to keep themselves and those they loved safe while continuing their work for the Centre.

To our supporters, we say thank you. Without you nothing is possible.

As we look forward to a time free of lockdowns and social distancing, we will continue the legacy of our survivors as we make great strides towards opening the doors to our new museum in 2022.



Pauline Rockman OAM,
Jayne Josem and
Sue Hampel OAM

Redevelopment

After years of planning, fundraising and hard work, the redevelopment of the new Jewish Holocaust Centre has begun!

MOVING OUR PRECIOUS COLLECTION

With the date of mid-August for the move to our temporary premises confirmed, activity at Selwyn Street ramped up despite our numbers being severely restricted due to COVID. The staff involved in the relocation did an incredible job to make this move as seamless as possible. Among the memorable highlights was the challenging task of moving the large and precious Treblinka model, which required expert assistance and guidance from leading material conservation specialists from the Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation. Working with our Senior Archivist, Dr Anna Hirsh, they carefully documented the entire model, removed the surface components for offsite treatment, and prepared and divided the base to allow for its removal and storage during the rebuilding phase. It was a tremendous undertaking.

Smaller artworks were packed with care by our team, while larger ones were packed by professional art movers, International Arts Storage. Another challenge was moving the very large David Rankin painting 'The Drowned and the Saved', which required a full team of masked removalists. The large 'Pillars of Witness' sculpture by Andrew Rogers was moved by Meridian Sculptures. Our librarian packed up our sizeable collection of 16,560 books, most of which will be in safe storage through the construction phase.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

The existing building was demolished in August 2020, and in November a soil-turning ceremony was held celebrating the commencement of the new build. This progress sent a powerful message to the community, our supporters and to Holocaust survivors - despite the

challenges posed by COVID19, our mission prevails and the new museum remains on track to open in August 2022. The November event was attended by survivors, staff and board and members and representatives of the Federal and State Governments, confirming the museum's bipartisan support.

'The Jewish Holocaust Centre is an incredibly important place where Victorians can be educated about the tragedies of the Holocaust and learn the significance of tolerance and humanity.' The Hon Josh Frydenberg, Treasurer of Australia

With this bigger and enhanced facility, our aim is to reach all Victorian school students and support educators across the state furthering our goal of teaching the Holocaust. We are not just building a museum, we are building harmony, connection, tolerance, humanity and empathy. Holocaust survivors who came to Melbourne vowed to bear witness and spread vital messages to all. This new museum, the largest of its kind in Australia, will uphold their vow and continue their legacy.

HONOURING JOSEF HELLEN'S LEGACY

The building is being named in honour of Auschwitz survivor Josef Hellen, a major supporter of the project. Josef's substantial gift represents his firm belief in Holocaust education and its role in creating a better society. Sadly, Josef died earlier last year, but we know he was grateful to have made his considerable gift before his passing. Josef Hellen suffered much during the Holocaust, losing his entire family including his parents and three siblings. Despite this Josef was determined that the Holocaust would not define him. He attributed his survival to good luck and great instincts. In Australia, he built himself up from nothing and valued living in a



Disassembling the large Treblinka model for removal and storage



Hon Josh Frydenberg and Abram Goldberg OAM



Josef Hellen

multicultural democracy. He recorded his testimony and wrote his life story, *University of Life: To Be or Not To Be*. It is more than fitting that Josef's name adorns this significant building.

NONE OF THIS IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT

In 2016 we began a capital campaign, spearheaded by campaign chairs, Helen Mahemoff OAM and Phil Lewis. The response from the community and public has been truly heartening and enabled us to commence the building works in 2020. We thank the families and individuals who have generously donated substantial sums of money, especially the Hellen Family. We are grateful to the Federal and State Governments for their incredible support of this project.

ELSTERNWICK CULTURAL PRECINCT

Museum Director and CEO, Jayne Josem represented us at several Glen Eira City Council meetings focused on the redevelopment of Selwyn Street into the Elsternwick Cultural Precinct. A highlight was the news that the Jewish Museum and Kadimah and Sholem Aleichem School are joining forces to develop our neighbouring site (currently Kadimah) into one cultural centre, to be known as JAQ (Jewish Arts Quarter).

We are thrilled about the future of this street, a place where these wonderful cultural organisations can sit side by side and collaborate on stimulating projects. We are also excited that Kathy Temin has been commissioned to design public art for the precinct. As a descendant of Holocaust survivors and a renowned artist, Kathy is an excellent choice for this important work.



We are not just building a museum, we are building harmony, connection, tolerance, humanity and empathy. 》》

- Jayne Josem, JHC Museum Director & CEO

Education



It is vital that each generation understands the horror of the Holocaust to ensure it can never be repeated and to educate the community on the damage caused by anti-Semitism, racism and prejudice. ”

- The Deputy Premier and Education Minister, The Hon James Merlino



CEO Courage to Care Mike Zervos, Education Minister The Hon James Merlino, Jayne Josem and Gandel Philanthropy CEO Vedran Drakulic OAM

MANDATORY EDUCATION

Seventy-six years since the Holocaust ended, our world still faces the enormous challenges of racism and antisemitism. Education is a powerful tool in changing attitudes towards hatred and intolerance.

On 26 February 2020, the Deputy Premier and Education Minister, The Hon James Merlino, announced that Holocaust Education would become mandatory in Years 9 and 10 in government schools. This was particularly welcome news in the wake of increased antisemitism in schools. We were proud to play a part in bringing about this crucial change.

'It is a significant moment when a government supports an educational solution to help solve the troubling societal problems of antisemitism and racism' Jayne Josem, JHC Museum Director & CEO

Following this announcement, the Department of Education and Training (DET), with the support of Gandel Philanthropy, established a Steering Group to provide direction and guidance to an Expert Working Group, whose role was to develop, recommend and advise the Steering Group on Holocaust resources, and provide guidance on best practice and lesson plans. Stakeholders involved in this process included members of our staff along with representatives from the DET,

Gandel Philanthropy, Jewish Museum Australia, Courage to Care, Jewish Community Council of Victoria, United Jewish Education Board and Anti-Defamation League, the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, Yad Vashem, Monash University's Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation and five graduates from the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program.

Our Head of Education, Lisa Phillips, co-chaired the Expert Working Group with the DET. Over three months of intensive meetings, all conducted under COVID restrictions, 13 individuals representing diverse organisations came together virtually to curate the most valuable resources for teachers. The aim was to make teaching the Holocaust as easy and accessible as possible to teachers who are burdened by limited time, lack of knowledge and confidence in teaching such difficult material. The outcome of this work is a comprehensive Holocaust education website on the DET website, FUSE: <https://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/pages/holocaust>

Following this, our team began to develop a pilot program for Teacher Professional Development, with support from the DET and Gandel Philanthropy. It has been designed to give teachers confidence in using the materials, helping them to teach this challenging topic in a meaningful and engaging way.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION GOES ONLINE

Our team worked hard in a pandemic landscape to continue to educate students within Victoria. The silver lining for delivering virtual programs was that we were able to reach schools far and wide, continuing our important mission.

In 2020, we educated 6,644 students. Fortunately, 50 schools were able to visit the Centre before the pandemic forced us to close our doors in March 2020. Despite this closure, our educators continued to work remotely to transform our education programs into meaningful online learning educating students from a further 48 schools in a virtual environment.

We offered schools tailored online workshops in place of the usual excursions. Virtual learning enabled us to support teachers and students across Australia in a way that had never previously been possible.

MUSEUM VIRTUAL TOUR

Students can explore the stories behind 34 carefully curated artefacts found in the museum guided by Holocaust survivors.

During the year we were recognised in the Victorian Community History Awards with a Commendation for the virtual museum tour.

See the virtual tour at <https://jhc.org.au/education/virtual-learning/virtual-tour>

ASK A SURVIVOR

In this interactive experience, we have curated 18 questions most commonly asked by students. This resource gives students the autonomy to engage with survivor testimony by listening to a chronological personal account. It allows them to pose questions and compare and contrast responses enabling students to appreciate the different circumstances of each survivor's experience. With Ask a Survivor resources, we are future-proofing Holocaust survivor testimony and creating an unforgettable experience of being able to interact with survivors even after they have gone.

We were delighted to win a Digital Media Award from the Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria and recognised in four other additional industry awards for Ask a Survivor during 2020. We are so very grateful to our supporters who helped to realise these award-winning digital tools.

Link to Ask a survivor here <https://jhc.org.au/education/virtual-learning/ask-a-survivor>



I think the workshop was very insightful and it helped me understand more about the Holocaust. The team are doing very well in ensuring our education is not limited during this pandemic. ””

- YR 11 English student

Education

UNDERSTANDING THROUGH TESTIMONY

One of our education goals is to humanise history by using the stories of our survivors. This led to the development of 'Understanding through Testimony', where students meet 26 Melbourne survivors.

This interactive experience showcases one-minute extracts of our survivor testimonies on a specific phase of the Holocaust. Through this experience students learn about the human impact of these five periods: The rise of Nazism, outbreak of the war, ghettos, the camps and survival, and life after the war. The use of testimony is a powerful tool in the understanding of events and history. Understanding through Testimony is perfectly suited to schools who want to teach the Holocaust in a short time frame, especially within an already crowded curriculum and time constraints.

View Understanding through Testimony online here <https://jhc.org.au/education/virtual-learning/understanding-through-testimony/>

SURVIVOR PARTICIPATION

A good Holocaust education personalises the Holocaust, and the survivor story is central to the education. We were privileged to have survivor participation as the central component to our online education.

One of the early challenges for us was establishing which survivors could go online to meet students in our webinars. Abram Goldberg and Paul Grinwald were the first to actively participate in reaching out to these students, beaming in through Zoom.

Gradually others followed and we were able to train 10 survivors to take part in programs. A highlight was when Paul Grinwald met virtually with 20 senior students from the Northern Territory School of Distance Education. Students asked Paul questions about how his family survived in France during the Holocaust. The class was led by history teacher and graduate of the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators at Yad Vashem, Toni Smid.



**UNDERSTANDING
THROUGH
TESTIMONY**

26 SURVIVORS EDUCATE ON THE HOLOCAUST



Interactive online tool "Understanding through Testimony"

Paul Grinwald participating in virtual Holocaust education



HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR PAUL GRINWALD

Believing in the importance of teaching people about the Holocaust, Paul began volunteering at the Centre in 2004 after he participated in March of the Living. He is actively engaged in the education workshops and has been zooming in during lockdown. While he prefers seeing schools face to face, he became proficient at virtual sessions with students where he openly shares his story.

“I was born in Paris, France on 9 March 1933. I was the eldest child born to Polish parents who moved to France for work opportunities. Life started to improve until the Germans invaded France. Amongst other restrictions, those that affected me the most were that I could no longer use the public library and that I missed three years of schooling. We escaped the Vel d’Hiv round up in July 1942 and were smuggled across to unoccupied France just ahead of the Germans. We hid near Lyon until the end of the war, first on a farm and then in a country hut. After the war, we returned to Paris before migrating to Australia, arriving in November 1946. I was able to finish my education and received a university degree by the time I reached twenty years of age.”

We are so grateful to Paul and all survivors and volunteers who share their time and energy to educate people about the Holocaust and impart messages of hope and resilience.



I wanted to tell you specifically that I have learned how meaningful it is to hear and learn about your story... your final message about treating everyone the same has resonated with me and it will for all of my life.



- Year 10 student note to Abram

Our Supporters

You keep the voices of the Holocaust alive. To you, our supporters, we say thank you.

JEWISH HOLOCAUST CENTRE FOUNDATION

Without the support of the community, the Jewish Holocaust Centre would not exist.

Established in 2003 the Jewish Holocaust Centre Foundation exists to ensure the future financial security and sustainability of the Centre. It has been chaired and administered since its inception by Helen Mahemoff OAM and is managed by a Board of Trustees consisting of Nina Bassat AM, Joey Borensztajn AM, Allen Brostek, David Cohen, and Jeffrey Mahemoff AO.

Since 2003 the Foundation has distributed \$5.8M to the Centre to ensure ongoing professionalisation and delivery of quality education programs to the public. With the current redevelopment project, the Foundation role is again vital in providing a guarantee and underwriting future cash flow and donor payments. Donors to the Foundation represent the majority of the principal donors to the redevelopment project.

We thank all our donors who contribute so generously towards our Foundation. Your commitment is sincerely appreciated.

VOLUNTEERS

Staying connected with our wonderful volunteers was one of the biggest challenges of 2020. The health and welfare of our survivor volunteers, who were particularly vulnerable and isolated during this time was of great concern to all at the Centre. Rae Silverstein, our Volunteer Welfare Officer, ensured everyone was contacted regularly throughout the whole year.

When the first lockdown occurred, we immediately established 'Survivor Connect'. Accessible through our website it was a simple way to connect survivors in isolation with the general public and particularly with students. Via email we received over 400 letters for survivors which we passed on. The correspondence helped the survivors feel less isolated and cut off from their purpose. Survivors were able to share with students lessons in resilience, something which was much needed during this difficult time of lockdown and anxiety.

“

I hope that this letter will brighten your day and let you know that there are people listening to your story and thinking of you...Your story has inspired me to push through any situation in life because my situations aren't nearly as bad as yours...after hearing your story I am even more grateful for everything that I have... ”

- Year 10 student letter to survivor

We constantly looked for ways to keep our volunteers engaged and connected with us and with each other. One initiative was the broadcast of a series of the most popular lectures from the past in our 'From the Vault' series. Post-broadcast, our volunteers met up on Zoom to discuss the lectures and socialise.

We were determined to hold our annual volunteer gathering which is always a highlight of the year. In December, we managed to do this online making it a first of its kind for the Centre. Considerable work went into ensuring all survivors could attend including those

living in aged care facilities – we were committed to making sure that no one was left out! Care packages were hand-delivered by staff to all our volunteers which included tea and biscuits, a book and note from Jayne Josem. For many of our staff, this delivery task was a highlight of their year strengthening the bond between our Centre and the people it honours. Our survivor volunteers shared special messages with us all, filmed by Robbie Simons. John Lamovie was especially touching sharing his deep appreciation to Rae Silverstein and the educators for staying in touch, a sentiment echoed by many other survivors. “I want to mention names because they probably helped to save my life, thank you Rae, and Melanie who is helping me with my book and to Soo who brings a lot of happiness when she calls.”

VOLUNTEER RUTH MUSHIN



Volunteer, Ruth Mushin

While other volunteering activities were severely interrupted by COVID and our redevelopment, Ruth Mushin, our volunteer Centre News editor, was able to continue working as usual from home. Ruth’s professional background in policy and program development in aged care and mental health services included extensive writing of business documentation and publications. A while ago, she participated in a writing program at the Lamm Jewish Library which led to helping community members edit their life stories, many of them Holocaust survivors. “I fell into something that I loved doing. I liked writing and I developed wonderful relationships with people.”

Fast forward to her recruitment by Pauline Rockman to Centre News editor, Ruth completed her first edition in 2008. “I found it a nightmare. I had edited several Holocaust memoirs, newsletters and conference proceedings, but never a 44-page magazine with a strict deadline. I learnt on the job and even though I still get

stressed twice a year when working on the magazine, it has certainly become easier. As soon as I’ve finished an edition, I’m thinking about the next one. If I’m inspired at 10.00 at night, I’ll work then. I’ve never kept a log of the hours I do, but it’s probably around six weeks full time work twice a year.”

2020 presented challenges as Ruth usually draws on special events to include in the magazine and of course, we could not hold our usual onsite activities. However, we were not short of news. With the announcement of mandatory education in schools, the new development, and rapid transition to online education because of COVID, Ruth was kept busy. We’re so grateful to Ruth for her time, skills and dedication to the task.

HELEN MAHEMOFF OAM



Helen Mahemoff OAM

Helen Mahemoff, JHC Vice President, Chair of the JHC Foundation and Co-Chair of the JHC Capital Campaign, was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Queen’s Birthday Honours 2020. The award is ‘for service to Holocaust education and remembrance’. Helen is indefatigable in promoting our work and uses her energy and passion and incredible talents for Holocaust education, and to developing and overseeing the Jewish Holocaust Centre Foundation. Helen’s volunteer work for almost two decades has ensured the sustainability of the Centre well into the future.

Donors

To all our donors, we cannot express enough our gratitude for your support, especially in a year when so many of us were so negatively impacted by the pandemic.

From the smallest donation to the largest, every cent contributes to our mission to educate the community about the Holocaust and honour those that have gone before us.

Without you, our vital work could not continue. Thank you.

Listed below are donations above \$500 from January 2020.

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 Anne Wollach-Szalmuk
 Braham & Andrea Zilberman

We apologise if your name has been omitted. Please contact the Centre on (03) 9598 1825 or admin@jhc.org.au with your details.

Our Supporters

HOLCKNER FAMILY B'NEI MITZVAH PROGRAM

A highlight of 2020 has been the support of the Holckner family whose generous gift enabled the Centre to establish The Holckner Family B'nei Mitzvah program, developed to introduce Jewish young adults of bar and bat mitzvah age to the Holocaust in an age-appropriate and meaningful way.

Charlie says of his support, "The story of my family and my wife's is one of transformation and growth. From the poverty and oppression of life in their native Poland, my parents travelled across the world to a distant and unfamiliar land to seek a better life. Building a new life in their adopted home while maintaining a strong connection to their past, their values and their culture and heritage as Australian Jews. Lily (my wife) and I sought to follow in their footsteps with our own family.

My family and I are delighted to support the Centre through the endowment of a new program for Jewish young adults of bar and bat mitzvah age. This program will help young people to learn about the Holocaust in a meaningful way, but it will be more than an education program. We also hope it will instil in them the importance of their Jewish identity while, at the same time, honouring the memory of those who were murdered during the Holocaust."

The Holckner Family B'nei Mitzvah program is due to launch in the new museum in 2022.

PRO BONO PARTNERS

We wish to acknowledge the significant support provided by EY in our strategic planning and the legal support from Arnold Bloch Leibler.

COVID SUPPORT

We acknowledge the tremendous support from the Federal and State Governments in the form of stimulus packages including JobKeeper and the Business Support Fund, which were vital to our ability to continue operating



Charlie Holckner OAM (seated) with his children Mark Holckner, Helen Landau, Anne Melinger and David Holckner

throughout the pandemic. We express our gratitude to staff members who supported the organisation by voluntarily reducing their hours and taking reduced salaries.

2020 IN MEMORIAM

With each year comes the difficult but important task of remembering those who have been taken from us. This year was an especially challenging one with the passing of four very special women, survivors and volunteers at the Centre.

Maria Lewit
1924 - 2020

Eva Marks
1932 - 2020

Floris Kalman
1924 - 2020

Claire Weis
1928 - 2020

**With the support
of our generous
community we've
been able to achieve
so much in 2020.
Thank you!**



Events and Activities

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

The theme for the IHRD event was 'The Liberation of Auschwitz: 75 Years On'. Held pre-pandemic, the face-to-face event attracted around 650 people representing a 60% increase from 2019. The highlight of the evening was a powerful presentation from Holocaust survivor Eva Slonim, who was one of the children in Auschwitz when it was liberated. Prof Jeffrey Rosenfeld AC OBE, former Surgeon General of the Defence Force Reserves, spoke powerfully of his time in Rwanda after the 1995 genocide and posed the question, 'Why has humankind not learnt the lessons of the Holocaust?'

CHILD SURVIVORS

In absence of events during 2020 we supported the Child Survivors of the Holocaust group with their newsletter with Dr Paul Valent writing an excellent piece about the specific challenges for Holocaust survivors during lockdowns. More at <https://www.jhc.org.au/child-survivors-of-the-holocaust/>

SWASTIKA BAN

The Hon David Southwick held a media announcement at the Centre in February, to talk about the new Liberal Party Policy to ban the swastika. Holocaust survivor Joe de Haan, who experienced first-hand the terror of living under Nazi rule, shared his thoughts with the media: 'This symbol of Nazi Germany should have been wiped off the earth years ago.'

Watch David Southwick MP and Holocaust survivor Joe de Haan talk about the Swastika ban. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2728701143832228>



Swastika Ban: James Newbury MP, Sue Hampel OAM, Joe de Haan, David Southwick MP, Pauline Rockman OAM, Edward O'Donohue MP, Dr Dvir Abramovich and Jayne Josem

YOM HASHOAH CELEBRATIONS IN ISOLATION

With the community unable to gather to commemorate Yom HaShoah in April, we devised a series of activities to keep people connected:

- We held a one-hour commemoration radio broadcast in partnership with JAir hosted by Museum Director and CEO, Jayne Josem, which featured extracts of testimony from the late Kitia Altman
- We delivered an online Zoom event featuring three generations discussing Holocaust and memory, hosted by our Engagement Manager Jennifer Levitt Maxwell and featuring Holocaust survivor Phillip Maisel
- We engaged with sport participants across Australia, in partnership with Maccabi, via a one minute video reminding them that many Holocaust victims were sport lovers too. See the #justlikeyou campaign video here: <https://www.jhc.org.au/maccabi-australia-and-jhc>

THE RAOUL WALLENBERG EVENT

In partnership with the Australian Embassy in Stockholm, the B'nai B'rith Raoul Wallenberg Unit in Melbourne, Raoul Wallenberg Academy in Stockholm and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at Lund University, we hosted a seminar to honour the memory of Raoul Wallenberg. The Swedish panel included Sue Hampel, our Co-President and Sweden's Minister for Education, Anna Ekström, who looked at ways to ensure that Wallenberg's actions inspire civil courage among younger generations. This is especially vital, at a time of growing concern about antisemitism, xenophobia and racism. An audience of 310 people attended from across Melbourne and Sweden.

BETTY AND SHMUEL ROSENKRANZ ORATION – AUSCHWITZ: ARTEFACTS AS WITNESS

Normally a large gathering at a town hall, hundreds of people still tuned in online to this annual event in memory of the late Betty and Shmuel Rosenkranz held online, made possible through generous support of the family of Judy and Leon Goldman.

Keynote speaker Paul Salmons, an independent curator and education consultant specialising in 'difficult histories' spoke about his recent work 'Auschwitz. Not

long ago. Not far away', a major travelling exhibition produced by Spanish company Museali, presenting 700 original artefacts. Paul's detailed description of the exhibition and its displays enabled our audience to virtually experience the exhibition and understand how it was curated. In a time when travel was not permitted, it enabled us to feel like we were there.

COLLECTION PRESERVATION

Our Senior Archivist Dr Anna Hirsh held a session about basic and more complex ways of preserving and documenting home collections of family artefacts, both small and large.

ROUND TABLE

Senior Archivist, Dr Anna Hirsh, participated in an international online Roundtable with Steven Smith (USC Shoah Foundation), Marc Cave (UK National Holocaust Centre & Museum) and Heather Blumenthal (Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Museum) which was hosted by Digital Holocaust Memory. Anna promoted our virtual museum and online activities and services accessible during the pandemic, raising our international profile.

Many of our events are still available to watch online at www.youtube.com/c/JHCMelbourne

MUSEUM AWARDS AND NOTABLE MENTIONS

In 2020, our award-winning 'Ask A Survivor' program was celebrated:

- Winner of the Victorian Museums & Galleries (AMaGA Victoria) award in the Digital Media category
- Highly commended at Museums Australia Publication & Design Awards (MAPDA) in the Program Website category
- Finalist for The Japan Prize
- Shortlisted under the Interpretation, Learning & Audience Engagement category for 2020 Museums and Galleries National Awards (MAGNAs)

Jennifer Levitt Maxwell was highly commended for Museum Staff at the AMaGA Victoria Awards.

As part of the Victorian Community History Awards 'Ask a Survivor' and our 'Virtual Tour' on our website were both nominated for the Judge's Special Prize and the Victorian Premier's History Award.

Schools

With the planned closure of the Centre in April for redevelopment and subsequent move to smaller premises, we had anticipated a reduction in student numbers. COVID19 forced us to close our doors a month earlier and move our workshops online.

ATTENDED FACE TO FACE

Alamanda College	Harvester Technical College	Princes Hill Secondary College
Albury High School	Highvale Secondary College	Rainbow P-12 College
Alphington Grammar School	Ivanhoe Grammar	Salesian College
Balwyn High School	John Monash Science School	Scotch College
Beaconhills College	Lalor North College	South Oakleigh College
Billanook College	Lilydale High School	St Bede's College
Box Hill High School	Marist College Bendigo	St Joseph's College
Braybrook College	McClelland College	St Kevin's College
Brighton Secondary College	Melton Christian College	St Mary of the Angels Nathalia
Carwatha College	Mentone Grammar	Staughton College
Catholic Regional College	Mercy Regional College	Sunshine College
Caulfield Grammar	Mountain District Christian School	The Knox School
Cranbourne Secondary College	Narre Warren South P-12 College	Toorak College
Elisabeth Murdoch College	Northside Christian College	Warragul Regional College
Footscray High School	Parade College	Waverley Christian College
Geelong High School	Parkdale Secondary	Yeshivah - Beth Rivkah

ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Avila College	Good News Lutheran College	Oberon High School
Ballarat Grammar	Hillcrest Christian College	Our Lady of Mercy College
Beaconhills College (Berwick)	Hopetoun College	Our Lady of Sion College
Brunswick Secondary College	Hume Anglican Grammar	Point Cook Senior Secondary College
Camberwell Girls Grammar School	Lakeview Senior College	Rosehill Secondary College
Carey Grammar	Lavalla Catholic College	Ruyton Girls' School
Caroline Chisholm Catholic College	Lily Schwarz (Home School NSW)	Springside West Secondary College
Cheltenham Secondary College	MacKillop Catholic Regional College	St Mary MacKillop
Collingwood College	Masada College (NSW)	St. Philip's Christian College (NSW)
Danebank Anglican School for Girls	McKinnon Primary School	Sunbury College
Dimboola Secondary College	Melbourne Girls' College	The Academy
Donvale Christian College	Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School	Tintern Grammar
Emmanuel College	Mount St Joseph Girls' College	Trinity Grammar
FCJ Benalla	Mount St Joseph Catholic College (NSW)	University High School
Fintona Girls' School	Mount Ridley College	Upper Yarra Secondary College
Glasshouse Christian College (QLD)	Northern Territory School of Distance Education (NT)	Wangaratta High School

Personnel

BOARD

Co-Presidents: Pauline Rockman OAM and Sue Hampel OAM

Treasurer: Richard Michaels

Vice-President: Helen Mahemoff OAM

Secretary: Mary Slade

Board Directors: Professor George Braitberg AM, Elly Brooks, Allen Brostek, David Cohen, Michael Debinski, Anita Frayman, Abram Goldberg OAM, Paul Kegen, Phil Lewis, Melanie Raleigh, Simon Szwarc

JEWISH HOLOCAUST CENTRE FOUNDATION

Chairperson: Helen Mahemoff OAM

Trustees: Nina Bassat AM, Joey Borensztajn AM, Allen Brostek, David Cohen, Jeffrey Mahemoff AO

STAFF

Museum Director/CEO: Jayne Josem

Executive Assistant: Navrutti Gupta

Head of Education: Lisa Phillips

Education Programs Officer: Tracey Collie

Education Officers: Anatie Livnat (until March), Fanny Hoffman, Soo Isaacs, Melanie Attar

Senior Curator: Sandy Saxon

Senior Archivist: Dr Anna Hirsh

Director of Testimonies Project: Phillip Maisel OAM

Librarian & Information Manager: Julia Reichstein

Engagement Manager: Jennifer Levitt Maxwell

Marketing Manager: Danielle Kamien (until September)

Grants & Partnerships Manager: Lorelle Lake

Digital Media Producer: Robbie Simons

Communications & Events Officer: Evelyn Portek (until November)

Chief Operating Officer: Laura Etyngold

Finance Manager: Roy John

Special Projects Officer: Daniel Feldman

Administrative Support Officers: Georgina Alexander, Karen Miksad

Volunteer Welfare Officer: Rae Silverstein

Operations Support: Lana Zuker

REDEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS

Curatorial Assistant: Gavan O'Connor

Multimedia Consultant: Arek Dybel

CENTRE NEWS VOLUNTEERS

Editor: Ruth Mushin

Yiddish Editor: Alex Dafner

Financial summary

For the year ended December 2020

REVENUE

Operational revenue	\$1,168,825
Capital campaign revenue	\$5,259,010
Other revenue	\$36,715
	\$6,464,550
Other income	\$624,813
Interest revenue	\$42,067
Total revenue and other income	\$7,131,430

EXPENSES

Administration expenses	-\$203,364
Professional fees	-\$79,988
Employee benefits expense	-\$1,470,380
Depreciation and amortisation expense	-\$256,606
Loss on disposal of assets	-\$87,492
Occupancy expenses	-\$245,227
Other expenses	-\$66,025
Finance costs	-\$21,149
Total expenses	-\$2,430,231

Surplus for the year attributable to the members of Jewish Holocaust Centre Inc	\$4,701,199
Other comprehensive income for the year	\$0
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to the members of Jewish Holocaust Centre Inc	\$4,701,199

ASSETS

Current assets	\$7,222,375
Non-current assets	\$7,088,369
Total assets	\$14,310,744

LIABILITIES

Current liabilities	\$1,018,697
Non-current liabilities	\$22,641
Total liabilities	\$1,041,338
Net assets	\$13,269,406

EQUITY

Retained surpluses	\$13,269,406
Total equity	\$13,269,406

EXPENSES BY DEPARTMENT

Organisation support incl.	
Depreciation & Lease expenses	49%
Capital campaign	15%
Engagement	13%
Education	12%
Collections and research	6%
Museum	3%
Fundraising	2%

“

**It was
amazing to
witness a
survivor! I
wish I could
hear it all
over again
as it was the
most inspiring
thing I've ever
witnessed ”**

- YR 11 English student