



### Who Will Remember?

— Dr. Art Leader, CHES

**“There are events of such overbearing magnitude that one ought to not remember them all the time, but one must not forget them either. Such an event is the Holocaust.”**

*The Rabbi of Bluzhov, Rabbi Israel Spira  
Hasidic Tales of the Holocaust*

For Holocaust survivors, there is no forgetting. For everyone else, we need to capture survivor testimonies so we can remember. However, with each day, another survivor and another eyewitness to the evils of the Holocaust disappears. Today, the children of survivors (*Second Generation or G2*) and their children (*Third Generation or G3*) must continue to remind society what the Holocaust meant to Jewish families and mankind, and to combat the antisemitic merchants of hate who deny the Holocaust.

The children of survivors face their own personal challenges. For those raised in homes where Holocaust experiences were discussed in too much detail, too soon, or too often, there can be secondary traumatization, shame, and PTSD symptoms. Others raised in homes of silence and hidden mystery may have experienced a culture of repression. On the other hand, those resilient traits that enabled parents to survive may be passed on to their children. Given the diverse experiences, it is not surprising that some G2 and G3 children come to

Holocaust education needing understanding and recognition; others need to keep defense mechanisms on active alert.

Today, in the face of much violence, we face increasing indifference. In 1999, Elie Wiesel warned against the perils of indifference. Hidden or even visible anguish becomes of no interest. Indifference reduces the other to an abstraction and renders us inhuman. We are left with the need to re-double our efforts to honour our parents and grandparents and those who perished, but how? We promise, “*Never Again*”, but how do we keep the promise?

**With the Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES) at Carleton University, Canada’s capital now has a permanent organization to promote a deeper understanding of the legacy and lessons of the Holocaust.**

CHES is based on three pillars:

- **HOLOCAUST EDUCATION MONTH:** Each November CHES organizes Holocaust-related programs for the community, launched by a commemoration of *Kristallnacht*.
- **OUTREACH to SCHOOLS and TEACHERS:** CHES organizes teacher workshops and sends survivor speakers or testimonial films to reach students at schools across the region.
- **PROGRAMS FOR G2 and G3:** CHES develops programs to help and prepare descendants of survivors to understand their trauma and to speak out on behalf of families that were/are victims of antisemitic hate.

Teacher and student workshops in November and April address the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum and provide a forum to inspire teachers and students to recognize and deal with hate and antisemitism. The workshops bring together survivors, students, educators and community leaders “*to discuss the dangers of forgetting and the imperative of remembrance, the danger of indifference and the responsibility to act,*” said the Honourable Irwin Cotler.

Sadly, hate works 24/7 and is everywhere. Educators from across Eastern Ontario have requested more frequent and local workshops as they deal with hate in their communities. Resources and volunteers are needed to train teachers and to provide anti-hate education year-round. While national Holocaust remembrance occurs annually, we lack the resources to develop a smart phone-based application that would enrich the understanding of the Holocaust for visitors to the Holocaust Monument. Involving G2 and G3 has been a challenge, but we must redouble our efforts to make Holocaust education our cause and the cause of our children.

Almost 75 years ago our parents and surviving family members emerged from their personal hell. They were “*carried by profound fear and extraordinary hope*” to Canada. “*Indifference always means coming down on the side of the aggressor, never on the side of the victim. It is this teaching which makes the Centre’s work so crucial,*” said Professor Cotler.

It is our duty to speak up and stand up against hatred — every day.