

Association of Holocaust Organizations Annual 2025 Conference
Toronto Holocaust Museum and Liberation 75
June 7-10, 2025

Saturday June 7, 2025

1:00-6:00 p.m. Registration at Hotel

Courtyard Toronto Downtown

475 Yong Street

Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y 1X7

6:30-8:30 p.m. Reunion Schmooze, Courtyard Toronto Downtown

Sunday, June 8, 2025

All sessions at the Toronto Holocaust Museum

Breakfast: 7:30-8:45 a.m. Courtyard Toronto Downtown

First Time Attendee Orientation: 8:00-8:45 a.m.

Chair: Susan Myers, President AHO

Buses departs to Toronto Holocaust Museum 8:45 a.m.

Focus Groups: 9:30-11:00 a.m. (Participants choose one session)

Session A:

Library: Meeting of Museum and Center Directors

Chair: Talli Dippold, AHO Board Member

Session B:

Classroom 2: Meeting of State Commissions and Councils

Chair: Lilly Filler, AHO Board Member

Session C:

Conference Room: University/College Centers

Chair: Tom White, AHO Board Member

Session D:

Classroom 1: Education/Program Directors

Chair: Dr. Laura Cohen, AHO Board Member

Session E:

Terrace: Individual Members

Chair: Lauren Bairnsfather, AHO Board Member

Session 1: 11:30-12:30 p.m.

The Landscape of Holocaust Memory in Canada

Panelists: David Koffman, Sara Horowitz, Adara Goldberg, Hesh Troper, Jasmine Lucas, Mort Weinfeld

Moderator: Kori Street, AHO Board Member

- David Koffman provides a brief history of Canadian Jewry and what are some of the key differences/similarities with US Jewry and how those differences have shaped Holocaust memory
- Overview of Holocaust survivors in Canada and how they shaped Holocaust remembrance, commemoration, and institutions.
- Setting the stage for how the legacy of the Holocaust lives in Canada differently than in the US.
- Jewish identity more closely tied to Holocaust remembrance.
- Indigenous issues?

Chair: Kori Street. Liberation 75

Lunch 12:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Session 2: 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Museum Building: What Makes a Museum Uniquely Canadian?

Conversations with Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver Holocaust Museums

A roundtable with directors from major with Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver Holocaust Museums, as each city is in a state of renewal and reimagining spaces; discussing their visions and the challenges of building Holocaust museums in the Canadian context. (post survivor era, post Oct 7 era, indigenous issues and acknowledgements)

Moderator: Jody Spiegel Director, Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program · The Azrieli Foundation

Panelists: Dara Solomon (THM), Audrey Licop (MHM), Hannah Marrazzi (VHEC)

Session 3: 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Survivors Tell the Stories They Were Told

Presenters: Arielle Berger, Marc Olivier Cloutier, Jody Spiegel, The Azrieli Foundation's Survivor Memoirs Program ; Michelle Fishman THM
Exploring the HSMP origins, the editorial process, then offerings audiobooks/exhibit but also challenges of working with survivor testimony (interventions vs scared texts; video testimony vs writing)

Chair: Michelle Fishman, Toronto Holocaust Museum

Break: 3:30 -3:45 p.m.

***Session 4: Tours of Toronto Holocaust Museum and
3:45-4:30 p.m.***

4:30-5:15 p.m.

3:45 p.m. 1/2 Conference attendees: Tour the Toronto Holocaust Museum while 1/2 can network.

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***Buses depart Toronto Holocaust Museum at 5:15
p.m. for Harold Green Theatre.***

Special Session: The Children's Republic

Harold Green Theatre, 121 Parkway Forest Dr, North York,

Reception and conversation with the director followed by a presentation of the educational play The Children's Republic – Children's Rights, Antisemitism and Dr Janusz Korczak. The play, written by Helen Moscovitch, has been designed and performed for students.

6:45 p.m. Buses return to hotel, dinner on your own

Special Session: *(Pre-registered guest only) 6:00p.m.-9:00 p.m.*

Advanced Training for Rising Holocaust Organizational Professional

Presenter: Lois Roman and Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus, Farmington, Michigan

Monday, June 12, 2025

All Sessions at Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) 100 Queens Park, Toronto.

Breakfast: 7:30-9:00 a.m. at hotel

Walk to ROM

Session 5: 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Walk to the ROM

Auschwitz – Not Long Ago. Not Far Away A special opportunity for AHO members, a private viewing of the award-winning exhibit. The traveling exhibition "Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away." explores the history of Auschwitz and its role in the Holocaust, featuring over 700 original objects from the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and other institutions.

Session 6: 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

A Special Conversation with the designers, historians and experts behind the exhibit: Auschwitz. Not Long Ago, Not Far Away

Panel – Michael Berenbaum, Luis Ferreiro, Paul Salmons and Robert Jan van Pelt

Moderator: Tom White, Cohen Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

Business Luncheon

12:30-1:30 p.m.

Agenda Items include:

- **Board Elections**
- **Reports from the Board**
- **Report on the Auschwitz 80th Commemoration Trip**

Session 7: 1:45 - 2:45 p.m.

Enacting Verbatim Testimony

Presenter Arnold Mittleman, President National Jewish Theater Foundation, Founding Director NJTF Holocaust Theater International Initiative, with Mira Hirsch-Senior Education Consultant NJTF HTII, Karen Pollock CBE, Chief Executive UK Holocaust Education Trust, Lasar (Elly) Gotz, Holocaust Survivor, retired engineer, businessman, author of Flight of Spirit

Chair: Jackie Congedo, CEO, Nancy and David Wolf Holocaust and Humanity Center

Break: 2:45 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Session 8: 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

A Holocaust Journey

Pinchas Gutter and Lisa Reznick. A special screening and conversation with Toronto Holocaust Survivor Pinchas Gutter and filmmaker Lisa Reznick.

Chair: Erin Blankenship, President and CEO, Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center

Special Session: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Private AHO Screening with Toronto Jewish Film Festival (TJFF) at Innis Town Hall, University of Toronto, 2 Sussex Ave.

(The Theatre is a short walk from the Museum)

The Property

Talkback with Director, Dana Modan

Special Session: (Pre-registered guest only) 6:00p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Advanced Training for Rising Holocaust Organizational Professional

Presenter: Lois Roman and Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus, Farmington, Michigan

Tuesday June 10, 2025

Breakfast: 7:00-8:30 a.m.

Marriott Hotel

Session 9: 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m

Auschwitz In front of Your Eyes virtual Tour

The Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation offers a unique opportunity to bring the history of the infamous camps to educators, students, and the public worldwide through "Auschwitz. In Front of Your Eyes."

This live tour uses Zoom, where a guide walks through the camps with a video camera, providing an experience similar to an in-person visit.

What sets this tour apart are the archival videos, photographs, and survivor testimonies integrated throughout.

AHO will offer conference attendees a special opportunity to experience an abridged version of this live tour.

Chair: Aviva Miller. Branding, Business & Development Consultant

Session 10: Special Convening: Holocaust Education in the Wake of October 7

Marriott Hotel, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Presenters from leading national Holocaust Education programs discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the field. Melissa Mott, SWC; Jesse Tannetta, Echoes and Reflections, Marilyn Sinclair, Liberation 75 and YYYY. Moderators: Talli Dippold, Kori Street, Aho Board members

Special Board Meeting: 11:45 – 1:30

Please note, those standing for election should make effort to book travel accordingly.

