



# Jewish Heritage Committee

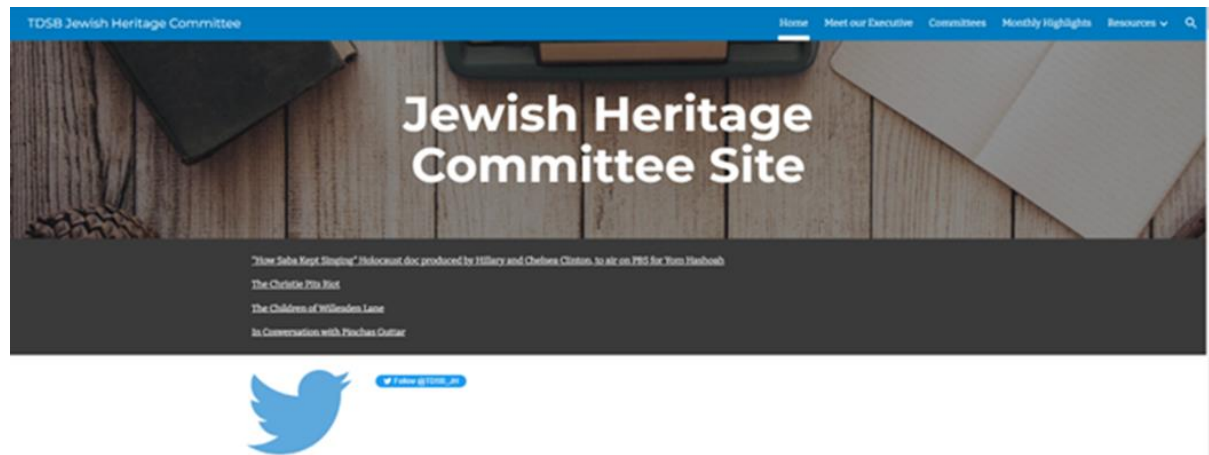
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**Update May 2023**





## Who Are We?



**The TDSB’s Jewish Heritage Committee (JHC) which is now made up of nearly 200 staff across every level of the system as well as Trustees, since its inception in 2015, has focused on teaching & learning in classrooms, with students.**

We aim to celebrate Jewish heritage and culture and in impactful, innovative, and inspirational ways, with the fight against antisemitism and all forms of hate providing the core goal of this work.

- Follow us on **Twitter @TDSB\_JH**
- Here is the site for the Jewish Heritage Committee –  
<https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/tdsbjewishheritagecommittee/home?pli=1>



## Educating Against Hate

Last week the Toronto police released their Annual Hate Crime Statistical Report for 2022. Compared to 2021, the number of reported occurrences decreased approximately 6% from 257 to 242

That said, Jews continue to be targeted more than any other group - 26% of hate crimes in 2022 - only 3.4% of Toronto's population

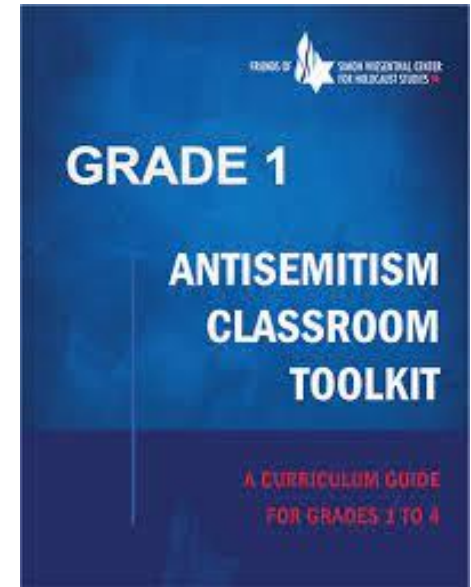
Data mirrors TDSB's hate statistics where Jewish students make up less than 2% of the population but antisemitism was the highest reported hate by creed

The JHC supports the efforts of our Equity and Human Rights Office in educating against hate



## Combatting Antisemitism








The JHC consulted on resource documents - **Combatting Antisemitism Toolkit** (grades 1-4) from Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC) and **Unlearn Antisemitism** (grades 6-8) from the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) which is a series of animated shorts based on real-life situations that have occurred at TDSB schools





# Periphery

In collaboration with the Equity Department and the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement, The JHC screened the film **Periphery** on November 22, 2022 for almost 1600 students

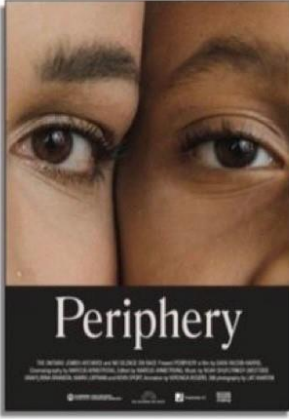
### Building an Understanding of the Experiences and Identities of Jewish Communities and Addressing Antisemitism

The Equity, Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression Department, which includes the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement and the Equity, Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression teams, is collaborating with Periphery, No Silence on Race, the Ontario Jewish Archives, and the TDSB Jewish Heritage Committee to provide TDSB students, staff and community with ongoing learning opportunities. These sessions focus on the ethnic diversity within the Jewish community and explore strategies to affirm Jewish identities within school communities and classroom environments.

## November 22, 2022

Join us for a virtual screening of **Periphery** and conversation with the director/producer Sara Yacobi-Harris, co-founder of No Silence on Race, Akilah Allen-Silverstein, and film participant Tema Smith!


**Periphery** is an evocative film about ethnic diversity in the Jewish community in Toronto, Canada. Through dance, poetry, and personal narratives, 10 Jews of Black/African, Korean, Iraqi, Indian, and South American ancestry challenge perceptions of who is a Jew. **Periphery** invites us to appreciate the richness of Jewish identity and cultural expression while illustrating the feeling of grappling to belong.



**TDSB Staff & Students**

**Time:** 9:45AM-11:15AM


**Platform:** Zoom link shared with registrants only.


Click here to register:  [zoom Webinar](#)

**TDSB Caregivers & Community**

**Time:** 6:30PM-8:00PM

**Platform:** Zoom link shared with registrants only.

Click here to register:  [zoom Webinar](#)





## Bringing Jewish Students Together



In December, the JHC hosted a Hanukkah Party that brought together **Jewish Student Groups** from 12 of our high schools. We believe this is the start of an important network of Jewish student groups at our high schools (many of whom already have Jewish student associations/Jewish culture clubs) who can inspire and support each other





## FSWC Recognized Shari Schwartz-Maltz



On January 26, 2023, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies recognized **Shari Schwartz-Maltz**, TDSB's Media Relations & Issues Manager and Chair of Jewish Heritage Committee for her demonstration of excellence in Holocaust education



# Carrying Holocaust Testimony



**SCHEDULE A CARRYING HOLOCAUST TESTIMONY PRESENTATION FOR YOUR SCHOOL OR CLASS**

This program is designed to enable continued Holocaust education in a powerful format of first-hand testimony, but in the absence of the Survivors themselves. Children and Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors share their families' histories using their own voice, video footage of the Survivor, photos and artifacts.

45 MINUTE IN-PERSON OR ZOOM PRESENTATION WITH 15 MINUTE Q&A AVAILABLE FOR TDSB SCHOOLS.

**NO CHARGE**

LEARN MORE  
WATCH OUR TRAILER  
<https://bit.ly/HTTrailer>

BOOK A PRESENTATION TODAY!  
<https://bit.ly/BookAPresentation>

The content of the presentations aligns with the Equity, Inclusivity and Social Justice ideologies contained within the Ontario Ministry of Education curriculums and is appropriate for Grades 6-12.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[WWW.CARRYINGTESTIMONY.CA](http://WWW.CARRYINGTESTIMONY.CA)

The JHC continues to work with Michelle Glied-Goldstein from Carrying Holocaust Testimony when there is an antisemitic incident in our schools. Mostly in middle schools these are largely Nazi swastika graffiti, Nazi salutes, and hateful words. As we've said all along - it's not enough to punish the perpetrators and support the victims, there must be education in the classroom for all students. Children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors present their testimony.





# Holocaust Remembrance Day

We brought in Pinchas Gutter, Holocaust Survivor and contributor to the Azrieli Foundation's The Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program' and USC Shoah Foundation's 'I Witness: Dimensions in Testimony' to speak to students through a virtual link from our Boardroom for **International Holocaust Remembrance Day** on January 27th

**Pinchas Gutter**  
In conversation with  
TDSB's Shari  
Schwartz-Maltz

**Friday, January 27, 2023**  
10:15am to 11:00am

**For Grades 6 and Up**

Please join us virtually as we welcome Pinchas Gutter, Holocaust Survivor and contributor to the Azrieli Foundation's 'The Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program' and USC Shoah Foundation's 'I Witness: Dimensions in Testimony'.

**Live Stream:** <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/stream/livebroadcast-2023-01-27.html>

Teachers can access the following resources to use before or after the presentation:

[Pinchas Gutter: The Story of Pinchas Gutter](#) / [I Witness \(USC Shoah\)](#) / [Grades 6-8 Holocaust Survivor Memoirs](#) / [Pinchas Gutter Book](#) / [Survival Experiences](#) / [Grades 6+](#)

After the presentation, students can ask Pinchas their own questions using [Dimensions in Testimony](#) from the USC Shoah Foundation.

[Access the video from the USC Shoah Foundation's 'I Witness: Dimensions in Testimony'](#) / [Activity: I Witness \(USC Shoah\)](#)

This talk is brought to you by the TDSB Jewish Heritage Committee and their partners in honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day

**tdsb** Toronto District School Board  
Azrieli Foundation  
USC Shoah Foundation





## The Children of Willesden Lane



We brought thousands of grades 6-8 students across Canada virtually and over 4000 in attendance for a live theatrical performance based on the best-selling book, **The Children of Willesden Lane**

For younger students (grades 2-5), we facilitated the video-link to author Mona Golabek reading the children's book version of The Children of Willesden Lane - **“Hold onto your Music”**





# Combatting Hate and Racism

The TDSB aims to be responsive to the voices of communities by developing tailored action plans each based on the pillars of the Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism Strategy

The JHC is pleased to be involved in the creation of the **Antisemitism Strategy**



The Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism Strategy is a community led and TDSB staff facilitated initiative. The TDSB will establish a comprehensive two-year strategy and action plan.



## Toronto Holocaust Museum



Toronto will have a brand-new **Holocaust Education Museum** opening June 9, 2023. It will be open to field trips in September and members of our JHC Holocaust Education sub-committee have provided input along the way



# Christie Pits Riot

## The Christie Pits Riot 90th Anniversary Commemoration

This summer marks the 90th anniversary of the Christie Pits Riot, the largest race riot in Canadian history.

Join the TDSB's Jewish Heritage and Italian Heritage Committees for a live, interactive, theatrical production in Christie Pits Park this May (Jewish Heritage Month) and June (Italian Heritage Month). This program will include a visit to the TDSB created peace garden. Stay tuned for updates, registration information and additional learning resources!

This experiential learning opportunity is available for Grades 8 & 10.

The Riot at Christie Pits is presented by The Hogtown Collective, created by Sam Rosenthal and Drew Carnwath and music by Measha Brueggergosman. Produced by Hogtown Productions.



[Click Here For Resources](#)

For more information or questions please contact:  
Stacie.Berman@tdsb.on.ca and Blair.Dash@tdsb.on.ca



Proudly brought to you by the TDSB's Jewish and Italian Heritage Committees, the Ontario Jewish Archives, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), the Toronto Holocaust Museum, Villa Charities, and CHIN Radio. Supported by the Province of Ontario and the Kultura Collective.

*Christie Pits Riot 90th Anniversary Commemorative*

# BASEBALL

*Game*

*Baseball Builds Bridges*

**Christie Pits Park - Dominico Field**  
Located at the southwest corner of Christie Street and Barton Avenue

**Featuring the Toronto Maple Leafs Baseball Club**

**Sunday, June 4, 2023**

TDSB Commemorative Pre-Game Program at 1:30 PM

Maple Leafs Ballgame at 2:00 PM

Rain Date  
June 11, 2023 at 1:30 PM

Organized by the TDSB Jewish Heritage Month Committee and the TDSB Italian Heritage Month Committee

For more information, contact [planning@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:planning@tdsb.on.ca)



# Christie Pits Riot





# Christie Pits Riot

## Christie Pits RIOT 90<sup>th</sup> COMMEMORATION

On August 16, 1933, the largest race riot in Canadian history broke out in a Toronto park. Learn more about this pivotal moment in Jewish history in commemoration of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Christie Pits Riot.



Painting of "Hail Hitler" on the roof of the clubhouse as reported in the Aug. 15 issue of the Toronto Daily Star, 1933. This occurred two days prior to the riot on Aug. 16, 1933.

Toronto Daily Star.



The only known photo taken the night of the Christie Pits Riot, August 16, 1933.

City of Toronto Archives



Young Italian and Jewish boxers at the Elm Grove Gym, Toronto, 1935.

The boxers in this photograph include Sammy Luftspring and Frank Genovese, both of whom were participants in the Christie Pits Riot.

Courtesy of the Ontario Jewish Archives



"No Jews Wanted" sign, Jackson's Point, Ontario, 1938.

In the 1930s, signs like this one were seen around the province at private resorts and public beaches.

Courtesy of the Ontario Jewish Archives.



Stop-work flyer promoting march and demonstration at Queen's Park in protest of Hitlerism and fascism, 1933.

Courtesy of the Ontario Jewish Archives



## Christie Pits Riot





