Over the last two years, MCHE staff has worked to preserve audio and videotaped testimonies of local Holocaust survivors and to make them accessible to the public on the MCHE website.

These testimonies cover the geographic range of European Jewish experiences in the Holocaust as well as a variety of circumstances, including forced labor, hiding, death camps and emigration in the 1930s.

This collection, now fully available at www.mchekc/survivors, includes

- 40 condensed versions of video testimonies gathered in 1994 during MCHE’s Witness to the Holocaust project (transcripts will be available in 2016)
- 49 audio interviews conducted as part of MCHE’s Portrait 2000 exhibit, as well as transcripts of the interviews, which focus on pre- and postwar experiences
- 73 individual survivor profiles, complete with supplemental resources to enhance understanding of each survivor’s unique experience
- In addition to online holdings, full-length, original versions of the video testimonies are available for onsite viewing by researchers and other patrons.

“Creating an online archive not only serves our mission locally and regionally but also allows us to reach students and classroom teachers nationally and internationally,” said Jessica Rockhold, MCHE director of education. “We know that students and teachers utilize these testimonies in their classroom studies, and we hope to become a destination for researchers as well. An added benefit is that our website provides families of survivors with access to these personal histories no matter where they are in the world.”

For an onsite viewing appointment, please contact Shelly Cline at 913-327-8194 or shellyc@mchekc.org.

MCHE Library and Archive Reopens for Business!

It has been an exciting summer at MCHE’s Holocaust Library and Archive, formerly known as the Resource Center!

Thanks to a major reorganization led by librarian Ronda Hassig, also librarian at Harmony Middle School, and assisted by student volunteer Imire Goller, patrons no longer need to know the author’s last name in order to find a resource on a particular topic. Instead, books are arranged according to the Library of Congress classification system, one of the most widely used systems in the world today and the one found in most academic libraries. The Library of Congress divides all knowledge into 21 classes and sub-divides them from there. Posters displaying the most often studied Holocaust topics will lead visitors to a variety of sub-themes, resulting in a search that turns up not only one, but several resources on a desired topic. This will be especially helpful for contestants in the White Rose Student Essay Contest, as well as for graduate students and academics.

- Library Hours: 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday or on Wednesdays until 7:00 p.m. by appointment (email rhassig@bluevalleyk12.org).
- Over 3,000 titles are available for free loan.
- BARGAIN WEEK – NOVEMBER 16-20
  Shop from our full inventory of sale items during regular office hours or make an appointment for Wednesday evening.
Raising the Bar: MCHE Strives to Satisfy a Thirst for Knowledge

For those in the education field, Labor Day is our New Year’s Eve. Though no ball drops in Times Square, the start of a new academic year is a time for reflection and new resolve, a time to assess past accomplishments and to set new goals, inevitably raising our internal bar of expectations to meet those of our constituents.

Within the span of 14 months, from June 2014 through August of this year, MCHE partnered with the National Archives (NARA) at Kansas City on two major traveling exhibitions—State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda and Discovery and Recovery: Preserving Iraqi Jewish Heritage—and offered 12 free speaker programs in cooperation with NARA and the National World War I Museum and Memorial. Generous funding from local foundations and trusts coupled with enthusiastic reception by the general public tells us that, despite decades of distance from these events and questions of relevance that arise from time to time, there is still a great thirst for information about the history of the Holocaust and its seemingly limitless ramifications.

Little Known Facts

In this newsletter, you will read about the many ways in which MCHE is addressing this ongoing quest for knowledge. What you may not know are the following “little known facts” about the many ways in which MCHE serves the educational needs of our community.

- In addition to our relationships with the National Archives at Kansas City and the National World War I Museum and Memorial, MCHE has developed program partnerships with other nonprofits, including the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, UMKC, Rockhurst University, Avila University, Kansas City Art Institute, and both the Truman and Eisenhower Libraries.
- MCHE hosts an academic roundtable of regional university faculty and administers a new consortium that offers an interdisciplinary graduate Certificate in Holocaust Studies (see page 4).
- The Jack Mandelbaum Holocaust Speakers Bureau features children of survivors who tell their parents’ stories and share their own perspectives. Last year, this free program reached a total of nearly 5,000 students and adults.
- The Isak Federman Holocaust Teaching Cadre has been going strong for over 20 years and serves as a model for similar programs in other states.
- Since 2000, MCHE has been recognized by the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous in New York as a Center of Excellence.
- MCHE is an active member of the Association of Holocaust Organizations, for which I serve as treasurer of the board of directors. Through the AHO, we have connected with many speakers and learned about exhibitions we then share with our community.

Pay It Forward

What you also may not know is the importance of our annual members. Last year, membership gifts accounted for nearly 38% of MCHE’s unrestricted revenue, which is critical to keeping our doors open and retaining quality professionals to manage programs and general operations.

If you are among the tens of thousands who have attended our programs, visited our website, borrowed materials from our Library and Archive or benefited simply by reading our newsletter, please consider becoming an annual member or renewing a lapsed membership. Think about MCHE when the time comes to remember a special occasion or to honor the memory of a friend or loved one. We will be delighted to add your name to those of other members in our annual donor next fall.

Please make your gift by using the envelope between pages 6 and 7 or visiting mchekc.org. Join with hundreds of other MCHE donors listed there in helping us raise the bar even higher. By paying it forward, you too can make a difference.
Discussion Begins

The Holocaust was not a topic discussed in our home. Did my mother want to protect her children from the knowledge of the pain she had suffered? Did she not want to burden us with a sense of guilt for what she had experienced? Or was it just too painful for her to re-live all that had happened to her?

I'm not sure why we weren't told, but when I was 15 years old, my mother's past began to become part of my future and an integral part of my identity when my brother, Allan, needed to write a term paper for his history class on the Holocaust.

Seated at the kitchen table, Allan said to my mother, “Tell me your story.” She started talking and we listened. It seemed surreal as she spoke for hours, but time stood still. We were mesmerized by her story. We never knew the pain she had experienced, the heartache she felt from the loss of her family, the struggles she endured to start a new life.

After she shared her story with us, I urged my mother to share it with others. When I was in high school, I asked her to formulate her story into a presentation for my social studies class. She came, she spoke and she continued speaking right up to her death in 2007. Whenever she spoke to students, you could hear a pin drop. Their vision of the world changed after listening to her experiences.

Responsibility Is Ours

We often hear that time heals all pain, and it is true that time is a great healer. But my mother’s pain was not healed. She was deeply scarred by her life’s experiences during the Holocaust. Her conscience would not let her forget and neither will mine.

So the responsibility to inform the next generation is ours, the children and grandchildren of survivors. We have to summon the courage to share their stories of the atrocities that mankind is capable of committing. It is my hope, during my term as president of the MCHE board, that our 2nd Generation Speakers Bureau will grow to include more participants to share their families’ Holocaust experiences.

The more students and community organizations we can reach… the more conversation we can generate about how the history of the Holocaust can teach lessons to counter indifference, intolerance and genocide… the more lives we can touch through the teachers that use MCHE for educational resources… the more community programming that we can sponsor or co-sponsor with other organizations… the more we will keep this history relevant.

As the years pass, my hope is that our mission continues to be applicable to everyday life as we teach our youth that ‘Never Again’ will such history repeat itself.
Jewish Film Festival Includes The Eichmann Show

Sunday, January 24 • 7:00 p.m.
Lewis and Shirley White Theatre at the Jewish Community Campus

This year’s Jewish Film Festival, a project of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City (The J), includes a screening of The Eichmann Show, released in January of this year and MCHE’s choice as the official History Screening entry.

Filmed in Lithuania and Malta, The Eichmann Show is a 90-minute dramatization illustrating the challenges and frustrations encountered by an American production team attempting to televise the trial of Adolf Eichmann in 1961. Historians credit coverage of his trial with spurring public interest in the Holocaust and in the experiences of survivors.

Tickets may be purchased online at kcjff.org or by calling 913-327-8054.

MCHE Introduces Graduate Certificate in Holocaust Studies

In a partnership with Avila University, Kansas City Art Institute, Park University and the University of Missouri-Kansas City, MCHE is proud to announce the successful launch of the Graduate Certificate in Holocaust Studies (CHS). Three years in the planning, and to our knowledge the first such program to be coordinated by a Holocaust center, this innovative project is an extension of HEART, MCHE’s Holocaust Education Academic Roundtable, begun in 2006, and the major component of a Consortium Agreement among the partner institutions.

While most graduate programs are limited to the faculty of one institution, the Consortium brings together scholars representing a wide range of disciplines from post-secondary institutions throughout the Kansas City region. The Consortium allows students who are enrolled in member institutions and the Certificate Program to take approved courses from other member institutions. Its unique composition allows for flexibility in the development of research topics and projects.

Professional or Personal Development

Students can use the CHS to supplement an existing degree program, to develop a credential for professional development, or to enrich an area of personal interest. Our certificate is of value to students across a broad range of disciplines, especially those in the fields of history, international studies, political science, geography, religious studies and psychology. It can enhance the credentials of those seeking careers in law international business, education, criminal justice and government service.

Interdisciplinary Curriculum

At the heart of this exciting new interdisciplinary program is the introductory course, a core class required for all certificate students. Organized and facilitated last spring by Dr. Andrew Bergerson of UMKC and Dr. Brian Cowley of Park University, with curricular support from other HEART members, the course familiarizes students with a variety of approaches to Holocaust and genocide studies through a review of the most recent research and encourages them to develop their own research interests.

Tracy Cobden, a teacher at Raytown High School and a student in the inaugural class, said of the course, “It pushed me out of my comfort zone and challenged me to consider new ideas. It made me look at World War II and Hitler’s Germany from different perspectives, and class discussions were very thought provoking.”

In addition to the introductory course, which will be offered again in the fall of 2016, students may choose from a variety of approved courses offered at each institution for a total of 18 graduate credit hours. The program culminates in a capstone experience course under the auspices of a professor chosen by the student.

Dr. Shelly Cline, MCHE public historian and CHS program coordinator, said of the program, “The Certificate in Holocaust Studies is an attractive opportunity for students and will further strengthen partnerships between MCHE and local university communities.”

To learn more about CHS, eligibility requirements and application procedures, contact Shelly Cline at 913-327-8194 or visit http://mchekc.org/certificateinholocauststudies.
Kristallnacht Commemoration Focuses on International Remembrance

On November 9 and 10, 1938, the Nazi SS and other national police agencies in Germany, Austria and the Sudetenland carried out a series of violent, state-sponsored, anti-Jewish pogroms devised by Joseph Goebbels, Hitler’s Minister of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda.

These events, designed to appear as spontaneous, came to be known as Kristallnacht (commonly translated as “Night of Broken Glass”), a reference to the broken windows of synagogues, Jewish-owned stores and community centers, and to the homes destroyed and plundered by the rioters. In all, 267 synagogues were burned or destroyed, 7,500 Jewish businesses were vandalized or looted, at least 91 Jewish people were killed, and approximately 30,000 Jewish men were imprisoned in concentration camps. Rioters also damaged Jewish cemeteries, hospitals and schools while police and fire brigades stood aside, under orders to intervene only if the fires threatened non-Jewish property.

Kristallnacht ended any illusion that normal Jewish life under the Nazis was still possible. It also marked a turning point in Nazi anti-Jewish policy that would culminate in the Holocaust—the systematic, state-sponsored mass murder of European Jews.

This year’s community-wide Kristallnacht commemoration will take place on Monday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m. in Jewish Community Campus Social Hall, 5801 West 115th Street, Overland Park, Kansas.

For additional information or to register, please visit http://mchekc.org/lunchandlearn or call Shelly Cline at 913-327-8194.

1941: A PIVOTAL YEAR IN HOLOCAUST HISTORY

MCHE Launches Adult Lunch and Learn Series

In 1941, after securing the Western Front, Germany again turned its attention to the East. Conditions worsened for Polish Jews living in the ghettos, and the military war against the Soviet Union resulted in radicalized policy toward the Jews and the first moves toward genocide.

Beginning in February, MCHE will offer its first adult learning series, which will explore major events of this pivotal year in Holocaust history. Five weekly sessions will be held from noon until 1:15 p.m. at the Jewish Community Campus at a cost of $50 for the series. Participants are encouraged to bring dairy or vegetarian lunches. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

Led by MCHE’s public historian Dr. Shelly Cline, the sessions will feature short lectures and stimulating class discussions.

February 2
Life in the Polish Ghettos
The ghettos were the last place Polish Jews functioned as families and communities. In the midst of deteriorating conditions and extreme hardship they sought not just to survive, but to live. This session explores the cyclical conditions designed to undermine these communities, as well as the means employed by the Jewish community to sustain their lives and culture.

February 9
Jews on the Eastern Front
Jewish life east of the Molotov-Ribbentrop line followed a unique trajectory during the Holocaust. Initially sheltered from German occupation, in 1941 these Jewish communities were the first to face murderous Nazi policy. In response to this mass murder, Jews in the East formed significant communal responses, including some of the most successful armed resistance movements of the Holocaust, the partisans. This session will explore the destruction of East European Jewish lives and culture, but also the role of resistance in the East.

February 16
Preparing for the Final Solution
As mass murder commenced along the Eastern Front throughout 1941, Nazi leaders in Berlin were making preparations for a “Final Solution to the Jewish Question.” That summer, orders were given, decisions made and methods tested in preparation for the establishment of the six killing centers. This session explores the methods by which the “Final Solution” was achieved and the rationale behind the expanded killing operation.

February 23 & March 1
Jewish Experiences in the Axis Countries—Parts I and II
While Jews under German occupation experienced persecution and murder as a direct result of Nazi policy, those living in countries under a military alliance with Germany often experienced varied levels of persecution as a result of the national leadership. In 1941, many of these Jewish communities began to experience changes to their status. This session explores their relationships with the Axis governments and their ultimate fate in the Holocaust.
This exhibition was created by the National Archives and Records Administration, with generous support from the U.S. Department of State.

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IRAQI JEWISH HERITAGE

Exhibition Highlights and Speaker Program Podcasts Now Available

If you missed seeing Discovery and Recovery: Preserving Iraqi Jewish Heritage or to learn more about this treasure trove of documents and artifacts discovered by a U.S. Army team in Saddam Hussein’s intelligence center in 2003, visit http://www.ija.archives.gov.

Podcasts of the five speaker programs held in conjunction with Kansas City’s hosting of the exhibition may be viewed at http://mchekc.org/program-podcasts.
2016 Free Film Series

The films in this series were thoughtfully chosen to highlight the progression from the early era of Nazi power, to the planning and implementation of the “Final Solution,” and finally to the postwar prosecution of those deemed responsible for the crimes of the Third Reich. As such, the audience will find the totality of the series as rewarding as each individual film.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE
All films will be shown on Wednesdays in the Social Hall of the Jewish Community Campus. Each program will begin at 7:00 p.m. with an introduction to the film. Snacks will be provided. New and gently used resources will be available for sale (cash preferred).

RESERVATIONS
To make reservations, please call 913-327-8196 or email rsvp@mchekc.org by noon the day prior to each film. Seating for those with advance reservations begins at 6:30 p.m. Walkups are welcome and will be seated beginning at 6:45 p.m.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
To help defray costs of licensing fees, publicity and refreshments, MCHE invites sponsorships of $150 for individual films and full series sponsorships of $500 (Supporter) and $1,000 (Patron).

Please make your gift by mail, online at mchekc.org/filmseries, or by calling MCHE’s executive director Jean Zeldin at 913-327-8191. Donations are also appreciated at the door but not required.

January 27 • Address Unknown

The relationship between an art dealer and his Jewish business partner during the rise of Nazism in Germany is at the heart of this 1944 film. Famed director William Cameron Menzies brings Katherine Kressman Taylor’s rediscovered 1938 short story to the screen with some of the finer shots ever filmed in black and white. Address Unknown is a suspenseful film and a revealing look at contemporary attitudes and knowledge of Hitler’s Germany. (Running time: 75 minutes – English)

February 24 • Conspiracy

It was a polite meeting with food, drink and debate. Ninety minutes later, the “Final Solution” was ratified and the fate of six million lives decided. Conspiracy is based on the only surviving record of the Wannsee Conference. This provocative drama, winner of the 2002 Peabody Award and the 2003 BAFTA Award for Best Single Drama, recreates the meeting of mid-ranking SS commanders and government ministers as they gathered at this lakeside villa. It is a powerful portrayal of the bureaucracy of genocide. (Running time: 96 minutes – English)

March 30 • Belzec

The first of the Nazi death camps, Belzec was in operation for less than one year, yet it witnessed the murder of at least 600,000 Jews. Once the Soviet counterattacks began, the SS eliminated all traces of the camp and Belzec faded from collective conscience, to be largely forgotten and overshadowed. In this film, conceived of by executive producer Claude Lanzman as the last chapter to his epic Shoah, Helmer Guillaume Moscovitz has created a chilling account that is as much about remembrance as it is about the past. (Running time: 100 minutes – French and Polish with English subtitles)

April 27 • The Nuremberg Trials

In 1945, at the Palace of Justice in Nuremberg, Germany, 21 representatives of the Nazi elite stood before an international military tribunal, charged with the systematic murder of millions of people. The Nuremberg Trials tells the dramatic story of this groundbreaking exercise in international justice. The irony of these men taking the stand in Nuremberg, formerly the site of many of most spectacular Nazi rallies, was not lost on the prosecutors, defendants or the world that was watching. (Running time 60 minutes – English)
In the fall of 1945, the war was over but the continent of Europe was marked by unprecedented suffering and destruction. Over 40 million people were left homeless, transportation lines were disrupted, and millions of acres of farmland were left destroyed. Low estimates totaled human losses between 1939 and 1945 at a staggering 36 and a half million deaths from war-related causes. Of these, 19 million were non-combatants. What many people wanted most was to recover the trappings of normal life in a legitimate state. Part of this project was the pursuit of justice.

The Moscow Declaration of October 1943 mandated that war criminals be tried by the countries in which the crimes had been committed. Excluded from this were those individuals whose crimes were not confined to one geographic area, such as those who staffed the concentration camps. These criminals were tried under the London Agreement on the Punishment of the Major War Criminals of the European Axis, established in August 1945. This established the basis for the International Military Tribunal.

**Uncertain Atmosphere**

The Belsen Trial began the era of postwar justice in the West. Trials of staff from other major and minor concentration camps followed over the next few years. Each trial reflected the particular moment of its time and highlighted specific issues. Belsen was the first trial of the Nazi system and reflected immediate postwar attitudes. The high-profile Nuremberg Trial was about the Nazi system and larger questions of humanity and justice.

These trials were conducted in the uncertain postwar atmosphere. In the East, trials conducted in Soviet-controlled territory were swift and high in death sentences. There was less of an attempt at impartial justice or in learning about the Nazi system and more focus on punishing Germans for Soviet sufferings. In the West, the British were eager to set the standard for war crimes trials, particularly through the Belsen Trial, before the Americans became involved in the Nuremberg Trials, set to begin in late November. Much was at stake for all involved.

**Belsen Focused on Individuals**

The Trial of Josef Kramer and 44 others was held from September 17 to November 17, 1945, in Lüneberg, Germany, a small town near Bergen-Belsen. Belsen was located in the British zone of occupation; therefore, the trial was conducted by British authorities.

The trial lasted 44 days, at the end of which sentences were handed down. Because it was a military court, no reasoned judgments were delivered, leaving only the length of the sentence to provide insight. This lack of explanation proved problematic and confusing to the public when 14 of the accused were found “not guilty.” Public opinion criticized the tribunal for its leniency; many expected all to be convicted and sentenced to death. A new exercise in international justice, the trial was confusing and frustrating for those involved.

**System Indictment at Nuremberg**

Just days after the conclusion of the Belsen Trial, the Allied powers convened in Nuremberg for the trial of 22 major Nazi criminals. By the trial’s end, 12 were sentenced to death. Many defendants unsuccessfully claimed to be following superior orders. Unlike Belsen, this trial was largely about the Nazi state and system and not about those directly involved in the perpetration of the Holocaust.

Between 1945 and 1947, nearly 5,000 people were convicted of war crimes or crimes against humanity in the western zones of Germany. Of these, only 800 were condemned to death and only 486 eventually executed. Most convicted war criminals were released by the mid-1950s. In later decades, German courts would take up the project of justice, elongating the era of postwar justice into our own.
2015-2016 White Rose Essay Contest

ANTI-JEWISH PROPAGANDA AND ITS IMPACT

Propaganda is defined as the utilization of a message to sway opinion—be that in the form of advertising a product or selling a political message. In 21st century America, the word propaganda carries a connotation that makes us uneasy. We equate it with manipulation for negative purposes.

During the Nazi period, propaganda served a variety of purposes, from electioneering to preparing the highly integrated German society to view their own neighbors as inferior beings worthy of exclusion and, eventually, annihilation.

In light of the extensive and effective use of these methods before and during the Holocaust, contestants in the 2015-2016 White Rose Student Essay Contest are to describe the goals and methods of Nazi anti-Jewish propaganda from 1933-1945 and explain how that propaganda impacted the life of one Jewish person or family.

Complete contest information, including theme, eligibility, required resources, criteria and entry forms can be found at mchekc.org/WhiteRoseStudentEssayContest.

2015 Blue Ribbon Judges
Laura Ziegler Davis • Special Correspondent, KCUR FM
Andrea Kempf • Professor/Librarian Emeritus, Johnson County Community College
Matthew Naylor • President and CEO, National World War I Museum
Tim Rives • Deputy Director/Supervisory Archivist, Eisenhower Library and Museum
Steve Sitton • Director, Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio Historic Site

2015 White Rose Winners Honored at May Reception
MCHE’s 20th annual White Rose Student Essay Contest commemorated the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the German concentration camps and the end of the war with the theme “Liberation 1945.”

One hundred eighty five students from 17 regional schools researched conditions at liberation at Bergen-Belsen, Dachau or Buchenwald and explored the experience of one Jewish person who was affected by those circumstances. Winners were announced at a ceremony honoring student finalists, their teachers and families.

Rachel Colligan of Park Hill South High School was the top prize winner in the 8-9th grade division with her essay about liberation at Bergen-Belsen. Her sponsoring teacher was Alicia Walker. Collin Nill of Rockhurst High School won the 10-12th grade division with his essay about the liberation of Dachau. His sponsoring teacher was Christopher Elmore. In honor of the winning students’ accomplishments, their schools were awarded Holocaust resource collections on behalf of MCHE’s White Rose Membership Society.

Collin Nill (10-12th grade winner), Essay Contest Chairman, Raymond Doswell, and Rachel Colligan (8-9th grade winner).

2015 Contest Finalists

8th-9th Grade Division
Gabrielle Abrams, Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy
Anagha Anantharaman, Lakewood Middle School
Kelly Bushhouse, Lakewood Middle School
Rachel Colligan, Park Hill South High School
Lauren Dudley, Aubry Bend Middle School
Guilherme Galhardo, Lakewood Middle School
Emilee Hirsch, Harmony Middle School
Lauryn Massey, Aubry Bend Middle School
Eliana Schuster, Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy
Amanda Sokol, Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy

10th-12th Grade Division
Natalie Boone, Lee’s Summit High School
Isabel Crain, Mill Valley High School
Danielle Foley, Lee’s Summit High School
Madison Foster, North Kansas City High School
Chris Licata, Lee’s Summit High School
Bret Meier, Lee’s Summit High School
Collin Nill, Rockhurst High School
Mitchell Roberts, Rockhurst High School
Andrew Scherer, Lone Jack High School
Brooklyn White, North Kansas City High School

Sponsoring Teachers
Bailey Appleton, Lone Jack High School
Christopher Bobal, Lee’s Summit High School
Kristen Crosbie, Mill Valley High School
Christopher Elmore, Rockhurst High School
Steve Epley, North Kansas City High School
Jennifer Lehr, Aubry Bend Middle School
Carrie McClain, Aubry Bend Middle School
Erin Peavey, Lakewood Middle School
R. Gina Renee, Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy
Michelle Sutton, Harmony Middle School
Alicia Walker, Park Hill South High School

Winning essays can be read at http://mchekc.org/white-rose-student-essay-contest-finalists.

CONTEST FINALISTS

2015-2016 White Rose Essay Contest

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Michelle Sutton, Harmony Middle School
Alicia Walker, Park Hill South High School

Winning essays can be read at http://mchekc.org/white-rose-student-essay-contest-finalists.
History of the Holocaust

“All of the sessions were incredible. Everything we did can be translated into my classroom.”

So remarked one of 23 educators representing public and private schools from Kansas, Missouri and Iowa who participated in MCHE’s summer course, History of the Holocaust, which included an Echoes and Reflections training. MCHE is an approved training center for Echoes and Reflections, a collaborative project of Yad Vashem, the USC Shoah Foundation and the Anti-Defamation League.

Beginning with a discussion of pre-war Jewish life, the course provided a chronological overview of the Holocaust, including exploration of the history of antisemitism, the Nazi rise to power in Germany, the evolution and radicalization of Nazi policy toward the Jews, responses of Jews and non-Jews to the Holocaust, and the aftermath of the Holocaust.

In addition to learning through lectures, the educators actively participated in the exploration of primary sources through modeled classroom application. The course featured survivor testimonies, analysis of primary sources and curated video clips for classroom use.

MCHE Participates in Truman Library Summer Institute

MCHE was invited to present two workshops in the Truman Library’s Summer Institute for 50 educators from 17 states. The topic of this year’s institute, “1945,” commemorated the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe and Japan and the end of the Holocaust.

MCHE’s first session focused on liberation of the camps and explored differences between what occurred in the East and West through the perspectives of liberated Jews, ground troops and U.S. Army command staff. By examining documents and through resulting discussion, educators were able to identify the differing priorities of each participant group and the significant difference in liberation by Soviet and American or British troops.

For the second session, again through the use of documents, educators gained an understanding of postwar priorities of Jewish survivors, including the search for their families, the desire for justice and the pressing need to emigrate from Europe.

Through close readings of primary sources, educators expanded their content knowledge and acquired tools for classroom instruction that address Common Core Standards.
Although elections to MCHE’s Board of Directors are months away, the nominating committee, chaired by immediate past president Carol Sader, will begin its work in February. MCHE members should take note of the following election procedures, as stated in MCHE’s by-laws.

- Each year by election at the annual meeting of the Membership, the Members may fill the positions of those Directors and Advocates whose terms shall have expired as well as any new positions on the Board of Directors.
- No fewer than 90 days before the annual meeting, members may submit in writing to the chair of the Nominating Committee names to be considered for the Board of Directors and/or the Council of Advocates by the Nominating Committee. No nominations may be made without the consent of the person nominated.
- The slate of Directors, as determined by the Nominating Committee, shall be included with the annual meeting invitation, to be mailed either electronically or by standard mail no fewer than 20 days prior to the annual meeting.
- Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting only from among those persons nominated by the Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors.

In order to be considered by the nominating committee, submissions must be emailed to info@mchekc.org no later than March 1, 2016.

Thank You!