



Teaching History Through Personal Journeys

For over two decades, the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education has connected audiences to historical events through personal stories that illustrate the tragic consequences of indifference and intolerance. Building on that approach, MCHE is offering a series of theatrical performances for school and community audiences that traces the experiences of diverse populations in our country.

Through dynamic solo performances combined with archival film and sound, professional actors from Living Voices, a nonprofit organization based in Seattle, Washington, will relate the history of marginalized groups in our country that continue to be victims of discrimination. Goals for each of these one-hour programs are to educate and to increase understanding and compassion.

Thanks to principal funding from the Legacy Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City and with additional generous support from J-Lead, MCHE is able to offer these public programs free of charge. **Unless indicated otherwise, each will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the social hall of the Jewish Community Campus, 5801 West 115th Street, Overland Park, Kansas.** Please visit mchekc.org/livingvoices for updates.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

Jewish Community Campus

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

Venue Pending

Within the Silence

explores the impact of President Franklin Roosevelt's 1942 Executive Order 9066, which imprisoned thousands of loyal American citizens of Japanese ancestry. One Japanese American family fights to sustain their dignity, faith and love of country while incarcerated. (Appropriate for 4th grade through adult)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 7:00 P.M.

Guadalupe Center, 1015 East Avenida Cesar Chavez, Kansas City, Missouri

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Jewish Community Campus

La Causa is set in the late 1960s against the backdrop of a new movement that changed the lives of Mexican American farm workers who fought for civil rights and battled racism and indecent working conditions. Experience this chapter of American history as one young woman balances the demands of her family and culture and fights to see her people free of poverty. (Appropriate for 5th grade through adult)



Within the Silence follows the Yamada family as they are forced to sell or give away their possessions and home.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018

Jewish Community Campus

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

Gem Theater, 1615 East 18th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, in partnership with the American Jazz Museum

The Right to Dream recreates a student's coming of age as an African American in Mississippi during the 1950s and 1960s. This program illuminates the issues of civil rights, leading audiences to understand how the fight against prejudice has shaped our history. (Appropriate for 6th grade through adult)

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018

Jewish Community Campus

Through the Eyes of a Friend presents a poignant portrait of friendship and survival, introducing audiences to the pain, loss and hope of young people during the Holocaust through the eyes of a "composite" best friend of Anne Frank. (Appropriate for 6th grade through adult)

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS for the public programs, email rsvp@mchekc.org with your full name, number in your party and telephone number, or call MCHE's automated line at 913-317-8196. No tickets will be issued, but those making reservations by noon on the business day prior to the event will be seated at 6:30 p.m. General seating begins at 6:45 p.m.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

Teachers of students in grades 7 and up who are interested in scheduling any of these programs should contact Jessica Rockhold, MCHE's director of education, at 913-327-8195 or jessicar@mchekc.org. Options include presentations at either the Jewish Community Campus or onsite at the school. For additional information, including fees and available dates, please visit mchekc.org/livingvoicesschools. Bus subsidies or reduced fees may be available by application.



It's Personal

"Today, the entire world is looking to America for enlightened leadership to peace and progress. Such a leadership requires vision, courage and tolerance. It can be provided only by a united nation deeply devoted to the highest ideals." —President Harry S. Truman, April 16, 1945, Address Before a Joint Session of the Congress

August 30, 2017

Of the scores of messages and remarks I have written during my 24 years as executive director of the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, this one was the most challenging. I struggled as daily demonstrations of hatred coupled with inflammatory rhetoric made it difficult to organize my thoughts and feelings or to predict what outrage tomorrow would bring or how relevant my comments would be by the time you read them.

It was at a multi-cultural Shabbat dinner a few days following the violence in Charlottesville that I achieved some clarity. Sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee and hosted by The Temple Congregation B'nai Jehudah, the event brought together a diverse group of invited guests, most of whom had never met one another. As representatives of groups demeaned and persecuted over time, we shared our common concerns and core values, recognizing that if one of us is at risk, we are all at risk. We understood the need to have each other's backs, to speak up when any group is threatened, and to continue the conversation during good times as well as bad.

Sometimes We Must Interfere

As Elie Wiesel so eloquently stated in accepting the Nobel Peace Prize, "Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Whenever men or women are persecuted because of their race, religion or political views, that place must—at that moment—become the center of the universe."

As I write this, Charlottesville has become that epicenter. There, during Shabbat services, worshippers at Congregation Beth Israel watched in terror as neo-Nazis paraded outside screaming, "There's the synagogue!" and "Sieg Heil!" Online threats to burn down the synagogue forced congregants to remove Torahs, including a Holocaust scroll, from the building as a precaution.

I cannot begin to imagine the pain and fear that survivors of the Holocaust must have felt watching neo-Nazis parade through the streets of Charlottesville, a scene all too reminiscent of *Kristallnacht* and other pogroms of the 1930s and 1940s. These are people who endured suffering and tragedy that, in the words of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, "beggar description." What must they think of the vitriolic or, in other cases, tepid response of our leaders? With most now in their 90s, do they wonder if they have made a difference? Was their suffering all for naught? What will be their legacy? Will the world remember when they are not here to remind us?



Never Again

One constant over the past two-plus decades has been my growing connection with our community's Holocaust survivors. I have heard their

testimonies and been amazed by their resilience. I have listened as they shared their stories with students, cautioning their young audiences not to hate. I have internalized their sadness, their hope for future generations, their belief in the words "Never Again," and although I have no knowledge of my family's direct connection to the Holocaust, for me, it's personal.

Changing Hearts and Minds

Like the survivors, I sometimes ask myself if all of our efforts to educate and to preserve Holocaust memory are making a difference. The reality is that we will rarely change the minds of those with hearts hardened by hate, but imagine if there were no Holocaust education, no eyewitness accounts, no centers or museums, no scholars, researchers, historians, writers or filmmakers to teach about the consequences of remaining silent and indifferent in the face of racism and bigotry. Would we recognize the warning signs that exist today? Would we be seeing the pushback, the condemnation, the reactions by the media and celebrities, by the public and by some, though too few, lawmakers—or would tolerance of hate groups become the new normal?

Let each of us do what we can to ensure that the new normal will be instead a strengthened resolve to protect the rights of those marginalized and victimized. Let us continue to educate and to learn from those who do not share our religion, ethnicity or skin color. Let each of us personally promote and preserve the moral principles upon which our nation was founded and demand that those with political power do the right thing by weighing the impact of their words and actions more heavily than their political careers.



Memories Inspire Leadership

I am honored and privileged to serve as president of the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education. As the child of a survivor, I learned about the horrors of the Holocaust at a very young age. The Yom Hashoah service to commemorate the Warsaw Ghetto uprising was an event I always attended and one of the earliest memories that made me aware of the tragic history of my father's family. Growing up around Holocaust survivors sent a powerful message. It was somewhat surreal to know people who seemed like regular folks, yet each had an extraordinary story.

As the years passed, the reality that survivors of the Holocaust would not be here forever began to set in. I recall conversations among survivors that something needed to be done to assure that their stories were not forgotten. That concern eventually led to the establishment of this organization in 1993. Twenty-four years later, MCHE's website features dozens of survivor testimonies.

Quality Programs

Today, MCHE is a strong and vibrant voice in our community that continues to grow and evolve. Focusing on today's youth has never been more of a priority, with education as the driving force, powered by strong programming.

- Our White Rose Student Essay Contest, now in its 23rd year,

generates quality, thought-provoking, Holocaust-related essays from a growing number of middle and high school students and schools within and beyond our metropolitan area.

- Our Second Generation Speakers Bureau continues to flourish, and we hope to increase the number of speakers to meet a growing demand.

Adult education opportunities draw ever-increasing and diverse audiences.

- Our Lunch and Learn Series, launched in 2015, has met with great success and capacity enrollment.
- Our free film series has introduced new lifelong learners to the work of MCHE.
- A wide variety of exhibits, speakers and special events appeals to those of varying interests and backgrounds.

Committed Board and Staff

None of these programs would be possible if not for our exceptional staff. We couldn't be in more capable hands than those of Jean Zeldin. As our founding executive director, she continues to be an invaluable resource and our professional staff is second to none. I am also fortunate to have a strong group of officers as part of our team, as well as an active and engaged Board of Directors and Council of Advocates.

These are exciting times for MCHE. It's hard to believe that our 25th anniversary is quickly approaching. Be sure to watch

for meaningful programs leading up to this milestone, culminating with a major event in the fall of 2018. We'll keep you posted as details unfold.

Our mission statement has never been more relevant. Learning about the Holocaust is an ideal segue into some of the major issues currently plaguing our society. Racism, hatred and bigotry are still prevalent and, through the work of MCHE, we will continue to provide the necessary tools and resources to increase compassion and understanding and to help counter these issues in our community.

A Constant Reminder

As with most survivors, the Holocaust defined who my father was, and he spent much of his life sharing his story with others. I still recall him pointing to the names of my grandparents and uncles who perished during the Holocaust, etched on the monument that stands just outside the MCHE office at the Jewish Community Campus, a memorial that serves as a constant reminder of why we are here today and the need for us to spread our message to the next generation.

In the words of Elie Wiesel, of blessed memory, "I don't want my past to become anyone else's future."

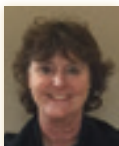
Thank you for your much needed and greatly appreciated support of MCHE.



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2017 White Rose Student Essay Contest Winners Honored at May 8 Reception

The enormity of the Holocaust was such that no victim response would have stopped the Germans from implementing genocide. Yet, despite overwhelming obstacles, Jews repeatedly sought to oppose Nazi policy in various ways. While armed uprisings or partisan activities are commonly regarded as prime examples of successful Jewish resistance, often the only course of action available was unarmed resistance.

Successful acts of resistance ranged from personal acts to preserve dignity; social acts to preserve the community, such as organizing clandestine schools, soup kitchens and underground record keeping; political acts, such as the sabotage of the German war industry; and eventually armed uprisings. Nowhere was resistance more robust than in the ghettos where Jews last lived as

families and communities and resistance activities occurred amidst extreme conditions and against enormous odds.

This year's 23rd annual contest asked students to research the goals of and obstacles to Jewish resistance in the ghettos and to explore the experiences of one Jewish person affected by these circumstances. From 164 entries, a Blue Ribbon panel of judges identified ten finalists in each of two divisions. Winners were announced at a ceremony in May, attended by the students, their teachers and families, and by MCHE's White Rose Society members.

Alex Gibson of Harmony Middle School earned first place in the 8-9th grade division for his research on the resistance in the Vilna Ghetto. His sponsoring teacher was



2017 White Rose Winners (left to right): Ashton Stropes from Lone Jack High School (1st place, 10-12th grade division) and Alex Gibson from Harmony Middle School (1st place, 8-9th grade division).

Michelle Sutton. Ashton Stropes of Lone Jack High School won the 10-12th grade division with her essay about unarmed resistance and the attempted support of children in the ghettos. Her sponsoring teachers were Bailey Appleton and Angela Gottesburen.

To read the winning essays, visit mchekc.org/essay. For information about co-sponsoring the 2017-2018 contest or becoming a White Rose Society member, email info@mchekc.org.



2017 BLUE RIBBON JUDGES

Emma Priesendorf, Individual Giving Specialist at the National World War I Museum

Dr. Shelly Cline, Public Historian at the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education

Joette Pelster, Executive Director of The Coterie Theatre

Yael Abouhalkah, Blogger of "Yael on the Trail"

Marvin Szneler, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee

2016-2017 WHITE ROSE STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST FINALISTS

8TH-9TH GRADE DIVISION

Melody Brooks – Lansing High School
 Aaron Du – Harmony Middle School
 Molly Feldner – Lansing High School
 Alex Gibson – Harmony Middle School
 Gavriel Glickman – Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy
 Egan Li – Aubry Bend Middle School
 Grace Miller – Harmony Middle School
 Emily Moser – Harmony Middle School
 Lianna Shoikhet – Aubry Bend Middle School
 Brynn Stasiulis – Harmony Middle School

10TH-12TH GRADE DIVISION

Elissa Gafford – Lone Jack High School
 Warren Haralson – Lee's Summit High School
 Loren Limas – Lone Jack High School
 Quintin McCannon – Lone Jack High School
 Devin McCormick – Lone Jack High School
 Coco Percival – Lone Jack High School
 Jolie Quinn – Lee's Summit High School
 Ashton Stropes – Lone Jack High School
 Riley Sutherland – Liberty North High School
 Wyatt Titus – Lone Jack High School

SPONSORING TEACHERS

Bailey Appleton – Lone Jack High School
 Christopher Bobal – Lee's Summit High School
 Maeve Bolin – Lansing High School
 Kimberly Brownlee – Liberty North High School
 Angela Gottesburen – Lone Jack High School
 Hddie Henry – Harmony Middle School
 Jonathan Holsapple – Harmony Middle School
 Carrie Razzano-McClain – Aubry Bend Middle School
 R. Gina Renee – Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy
 Diane Robertson – Aubry Bend Middle School
 Michelle Sutton – Harmony Middle School

The White Rose

The White Rose: Standing Up to Tyranny

Like other German teenagers in the 1930s, attracted by pomp and propaganda, Hans and Sophie Scholl joined Nazi youth groups, believing that Adolf Hitler was re-establishing Germany's greatness. Following their father's imprisonment for criticizing Hitler and the war, however, their views changed, and they concluded that it was the duty of all citizens to stand up against the repressive and murderous regime. Together with their friends Willi Graf, Alexander Schmorl and Christoph Probst, by then all students at the University of Munich, and with their professor Kurt Huber, the siblings formed a resistance movement.

One day in 1942, copies of a leaflet entitled "The White Rose" suddenly and mysteriously appeared at the university, advocating passive resistance to the tyranny of the Nazi government. Between 1942 and 1943, the group distributed six leaflets, four

under the title "The White Rose" and two as "Leaflets of the Resistance." The group expanded into an organization of students in Hamburg, Freiburg, Berlin and Vienna.

Despite their best efforts, the Gestapo was unable to catch the perpetrators—until a janitor, a Nazi party member, saw Hans and Sophie with the pamphlets and denounced them. The two were arrested, along with Christoph Probst. Four days later, all three were tried for treason, found guilty and sentenced to death by guillotine. Their sentences were carried out that afternoon.

At her trial, Sophie Scholl remarked, "Somebody, after all, had to make a start. What we wrote and said is also believed by many others. They just don't dare to express themselves as we did." In the months that followed, dozens of others were imprisoned for their (real or imagined) connections

to the White Rose, and some, including Huber, Graf and Schmorell, were executed.

A square at the University of Munich is named for Hans and Sophie. Streets, squares and schools all over Germany are named for the members of The White Rose. Their actions have made them enduring symbols of the struggle for freedom of the human spirit wherever and whenever it is threatened.



Hans Scholl (left), Sophie Scholl and Christoph Probst, leaders of the White Rose resistance organization. Munich 1942 (USHMM Photo)

2017-2018 WHITE ROSE THEME

Victims of the Nazi Era

Between 1933 and 1945 the Nazis sought to create a racial state comprised of what they deemed to be a racially pure population, while at the same time attempting to bring the thoughts and values of their citizens in line with Nazi ideology. To that end, multiple groups were persecuted based on their political convictions, sexual orientations, religious practices, or their perceived biological identities. Though the ultimate aim of the Holocaust was the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question," which resulted in the genocide of approximately six million Jews, the persecution, suffering and murder of others deemed unworthy

of inclusion in the Nazi state often predated the persecution of the Jews and laid the groundwork for the mechanisms that would be used against the Jews.

While it is always inappropriate to compare the suffering of victims, it is appropriate to analyze the policies toward different victim groups and how those policies were implemented. By examining the experiences of other victims of the Nazi tyranny, students are able to properly understand the context in which the Holocaust happened, explore what is unique to each victim group, and recognize what is universal across the experience.

To help students understand these persecuted groups, the 2017-2018 White Rose Student Essay contest theme asks them to identify one group of non-Jewish victims and to describe how and why that group was targeted by the Nazis. In reflecting on their research, students will also address the primary parallel and the primary difference between that group's experience and that of Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

The essay contest is open to 8th-12th grade students in eastern Kansas and western Missouri. Full contest information including the writing prompt, documents for research, and contest criteria is available at www.mchekc.org/essay.

DONATIONS RECEIVED JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017 - THANK YOU!

Thank you to the hundreds of generous donors who supported the work of MCHE during our last fiscal year. We can't do it without you!

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We regret any errors or omissions and would appreciate your contacting the MCHE office at 913-327-8190 or info@mcheck.org with any needed corrections.

MCHE Introduces White Rose Silver Society Membership



Since 1997, MCHE's White Rose Society members have provided generous financial support for educational programs, including the White Rose Student Essay Contest (see page 5). Benefactors and Patrons are recognized as a group for their participation, and resources are awarded to the winning schools in the name of the White Rose Society.

In conjunction with MCHE's upcoming silver anniversary celebration next fall, we are offering a new level of membership, the White Rose Silver Society, available to individuals, families, schools and corporations making unrestricted annual donations of \$2,500 or more. Gifts may be made in up to five installments between now and March 1, 2018, by check or credit card, through a donor advised fund or stock transfer, or (for those 70 ½ and older) through an IRA distribution.

Members of the White Rose Silver Society will join White Rose *Chai* Society members as named co-sponsors of the essay contest on MCHE's website and, like all White Rose Society members, will be invited to the awards reception in May honoring finalists and their sponsoring teachers.

Please use the attached envelope to remit your membership donation or to indicate your commitment and method of payment. Thank you for your kind consideration.

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*of blessed memory

THE HOLOCAUST IN BELORUSSIA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

7:00 P.M.

JEWISH COMMUNITY
CAMPUS SOCIAL HALL

Dr. Anika Walke, Assistant Professor at Washington University in St. Louis, will speak about her book

Pioneers and Partisans: An Oral History of Nazi Genocide in Belorussia. Based on oral histories, video testimonies and memoirs produced in the former Soviet Union, this work analyzes how the first generation of Soviet Jews experienced the Nazi genocide and how they remember it in a context of complicated social change. Dr. Walke's talk, co-sponsored by the University of Missouri-Kansas City's Department of History, will also address issues of identity and memory. Reservations are requested by emailing rsvp@mchekc.org or calling 913-327-8196.



NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS

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

Kristallnacht owes its name, the "Night of Broken Glass," to the shards of shattered glass that lined German streets in the wake of the pogrom—broken glass from the windows of synagogues, homes and Jewish-owned businesses plundered and destroyed during the violence.

Designed to appear spontaneous, *Kristallnacht* ended the illusion that normal Jewish life under the Nazis was still possible. It marked a turning point in Nazi anti-Jewish policy that would culminate in the Holocaust.

MEET AT THE MONUMENT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

1:30 TO 2:00 P.M.

How many of us have driven by or visited Kansas City's Holocaust monument, located in the parking lot of the Jewish Community Campus, and never truly understood the meaning of the sculpture? Join Dr. Shelly Cline, MCHE's public historian, for an in-depth look at the Memorial to the Six Million, dedicated in 1963 by President Harry S. Truman. Learn how the monument came to be and explore the detailed images and text engraved upon it.

This free program is open to the public. Reservations are appreciated but not required by emailing rsvp@mchekc.org with the subject line MONUMENT.



Kristallnacht Commemoration

FILM CELEBRATES LIFE AND MEMORIES BURIED AT THE WEISSENSEE CEMETERY

North of Berlin's noisy city center lies the peaceful and secluded 130-year-old Weissensee Jewish Cemetery, the largest Jewish cemetery still in use in Europe. Its one hundred acres hold 115,000 graves and a meticulous archival record. The cemetery has never closed, and it was one of the few institutions to remain in Jewish hands during the Nazi regime.

This year's *Kristallnacht* commemoration will feature the film *In Heaven, Underground: The Weissensee Jewish Cemetery*, an enchanting journey into history that celebrates life and the immortality of memories. Through the story of one cemetery, this documentary by German director and writer Britta Wauer follows the history of German Jews for over a century, and offers a poignant commentary on the community that was lost during the Holocaust. MCHE public



historian Dr. Shelly Cline will introduce and contextualize the film. (Running time: 90 minutes; German with English subtitles)

This year's *Kristallnacht* commemoration will be held on **November 9, 7:00 p.m. at The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah, 12320 Nall Avenue, Overland Park, Kansas.** Complimentary reservations are available by calling 913-327-8196 or emailing rsvp@mchekc.org.

All Lunch & Learn sessions will be held from noon until 1:15 p.m. in the Multi-Activity Center at the Jewish Community Campus. A registration fee of \$50 for the series includes materials, beverages and dessert. Participants are encouraged to bring a dairy or vegetarian lunch. To register, visit mchekc.org/lunchandlearn or call 913-327-8194. Enrollment is limited.

MCHE Adds Fall 2017 Lunch and Learn Series

By popular demand, public historian Dr. Shelly Cline will offer two five-week courses during the coming year. Her recently added fall course, "Sourcing the Holocaust," will focus on different types

of sources from which we learn about the Holocaust. For additional details about these sessions or to register, visit mchekc.org/lunchandlearn.

October 4 - Primary Documents
October 11 - Photographs
October 18 - Memoirs
October 25 - Movies/Films
November 1 - Novels

LUNCH AND LEARN 2018

Auschwitz and Beyond: A Comparative Look at the Camp System

Recent research reveals that more than 45,000 camps and ghettos existed within the Nazi system. Beginning February 1, 2018, MCHE's public historian Dr. Shelly Cline will offer a five-week adult education course focused on ten of those camps that represent the experience in concentration, labor and death camps. The course will explore the function, prisoner experience and memorialization of these camps.

February 1 Overview of the Camp System

There were many types of camps included within the Nazi system. Session one will provide a foundational overview of camp structure as a whole, as well as a discussion of differences among forced labor, concentration and death camps.

February 8 Early Beginnings and Other Prisoners: Sachsenhausen and Ravensbrück

Established in 1936, Sachsenhausen was part of the early system. As such, it housed a variety of prisoners and served as a model for some subsequent camps. Like Sachsenhausen, Ravensbrück held a large number of political prisoners, but it

was uniquely all-female. This session will look at how these camps fit into the larger system, as well as factors unique to each of their locations.

February 15 Forced Labor: Neuengamme and Dora Mittelbau

Forced labor was a key component within the Nazi system. Session three explores two of the camps that served that purpose. Located just outside the city of Hamburg, Germany, Neuengamme was a mid-sized facility that focused on production and brickmaking. Other locations, such as Dora Mittelbau, were less visible and supplied armaments for the war.

February 22 Developing a Death Camp: Belzec to Auschwitz

Although Auschwitz has come to epitomize the Holocaust, many do not realize that it was the culmination of years of previous efforts. Session four will examine the evolution of the killing process beginning with rudimentary efforts in the first death camp, Belzec, and concluding with industrialized genocide in Auschwitz.

March 1 Liberation: Belsen and Dachau

When liberating armies discovered these camps in the spring of 1945, they found thousands of dead and dying, massive over-crowding, starvation and disease. Belsen and Dachau became symbolic of the liberation experience and, indeed, the Holocaust in the West. Images of their liberation are sealed into our consciousness, yet there is much more to their history than these final months. This session will look at both their liberation and their use earlier in the war.



Certificate of Holocaust Studies Adds Undergraduate Track

MCHE and the University of Missouri-Kansas City are pleased to announce the expansion of the Certificate in Holocaust Studies to include a dual degree program, allowing students at UMKC to begin their certificate study at the undergraduate level. This exciting change will allow for faster growth of the program and serve as a model for other partner institutions.

An introductory course, required of all students in the certificate program, is being offered again this fall. This core class, organized and facilitated by Dr. Andrew Bergerson of UMKC and Dr. Brian Cowley of Park University, 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.

Those interested in learning more about the program, eligibility requirements and application procedures should contact the program coordinator, Dr. Shelly Cline, at 913-327-8194 or visit <http://mchekc.org/certificateinholocauststudies>.



KANSAS CITY ART INSTITUTE



Holocaust Education Academic Roundtable

Now in its 13th year, MCHE's Holocaust Education Academic Roundtable (HEART) is a unique educational and networking opportunity for college and university educators. Convening three times a year, HEART participants are an interdisciplinary group drawn from higher education institutions across Kansas and Missouri. At their meetings, they explore the place of the Holocaust in higher education, address

challenges of teaching the Holocaust, and examine the scope of available resources. HEART has recently expanded to include more graduate students from area university programs, encouraging them to present their work to the group.

For more information about HEART, contact Dr. Shelly Cline, MCHE's public historian, at 913-327-8194 or shellyc@mchekc.org.

HEART MEMBERS

Avila University*

Jeffery Meyers, Department of History

Benedictine College

Richard Crane, Department of History

Cottey College

Laura Chaney, Department of Theater

Emporia State University

Christopher Lovett, Department of Social Sciences

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Jim Murray, Department of Music

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Kelly McFall

Park University*

Brian Cowley, Department of Psychology and Sociology
Debra Scheffer, Department of History

* Denotes Certificate of Holocaust Studies Consortium Institutional Partner

Saint Mary's University

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University of Central Missouri

Maureen Wilt, Department of Communication Disorders and Social Work

University of Kansas

Sarah Chao, Slavic Languages and Literature
Andrew Denning, Department of History
Alana Holland, Department of History
Stefany Van Scoyk, Department of History
Andrea Weis, American Studies
Nathan Wood, Department of History
John Younger, Jewish Studies

University of Missouri- Kansas City*

Andrew Bergerson, Department of History
Hal Fisher, Department of History
Ben Furnish, Department of English
Gayle Levy, Foreign Languages, Honors College
Irit Nevat, Department of History

US Army Command and General Staff College

Mark Hull, Department of Military History

Wichita State University

Nancy Trier Metzger, Musicology and Cultural History

Witness Comes in Many Forms

What does it mean to see the inner workings of the gas chambers, to live within the walls of a former transit camp, to film the liberation of Bergen-Belsen or to testify at the Nuremberg Trials? Witness comes in many forms.

This year's film series focuses on individuals and locations that observed events and created a record of crimes committed during the Holocaust. Join us on the following evenings for these free programs.

Son of Saul • January 31

This film follows two days in the life of Saul Auslander, a Hungarian prisoner forced to work as a member of the *Sonderkommando* at one of the Auschwitz crematoria. Saul turns away from the living and the other prisoners' plans of rebellion in order to bury the corpse of a single boy he takes for his son. (Academy Award and Golden Globe Winner, Best Foreign Language Film of 2016. Running time: 107 minutes, Hungarian with English subtitles)

The Silenced Walls • February 21

In the Parisian suburb of Drancy lies an unadorned block of low-income housing. With some of the cheapest rents in the region, it houses some 500 residents. Everything seems normal, but in 1940 this building became the central internment camp for Jews during the Nazi occupation of France and is considered France's most significant Holocaust site. Most of the 77,000 Jews arrested in France came through its austere lodgings, the majority on their way to Auschwitz.

Through moving interviews with survivors and fascinating archival footage from the 1940s, this film offers a compassionate look inside the walls of this housing project and raises important questions about the existence of this building. How could such a place still exist, and since it does exist, why didn't it become a museum? (Running time: 88 minutes, English and French with English subtitles)

Night Will Fall • March 21

Using remarkable, recently discovered archival footage and testimony from survivors and liberators, *Night Will Fall* recounts efforts to document the almost unbelievable scenes that the Allies encountered at liberation, explaining and contextualizing images previously seen but not fully understood. The film explores how a team of top filmmakers, including Sidney Bernstein, Richard Crossman and Alfred Hitchcock, came together to provide undeniable evidence of what the Allies found. Due to emerging Cold War politics, the British government stopped the project, and only 70 years later was it completed. (Running Time: 75 minutes, English. Contains graphic footage; viewer discretion advised)

The Witness House • April 25

It's 1945. The International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg is about to open; the war criminals are to be brought to justice. In a guesthouse, witnesses for the trials—both perpetrators and victims of the Nazi crimes—are housed under one roof. On any given evening, concentration camp survivors sit next to personal friends of Hitler, resistance fighters next to SS officers, and counterintelligence officers next to former heads of the Gestapo.

Hired by the U.S. military administration as a house manager, Countess Belavar does her best to maintain a cultivated atmosphere among her guests. At first, everyone tries to adjust to the others and the new times, but with the first testimonies in the courtroom, realities of the past become too present to be ignored. (Running time: 105 minutes, German with English subtitles)



Schedule

All films will be shown on Wednesdays in the Jewish Community Campus Social Hall. Each program will begin at 7:00 p.m. with an introduction by Dr. Shelly Cline, followed by discussion. Snacks and beverages will be provided at no charge.

Reservations

Complimentary reservations are requested by visiting mchekc.org/filmseries, emailing rsvp@mchekc.org with full contact information, or by calling 913-327-8196. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for those making reservations by noon the day prior to each program. General seating begins at 6:45 p.m.

Sponsorship Opportunities

To help defray costs associated with licensing, refreshments and publicity, MCHE invites sponsorships of \$150 for individual films and full series sponsorships of \$500 (Supporter) or \$1,000 (Patron). Those interested can make commitments online, by mail or by calling MCHE Executive Director Jean Zeldin at 913-327-8191. General donations at the door are also appreciated.

For additional information, visit mchekc.org/filmseries.

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Making a Difference

In the best of worlds, MCHE would not need an endowment to continue educating future generations about the tragic consequences of unchallenged bigotry.

Yet recent events illustrate that, no matter the distance from the Holocaust, we must remain vigilant for early warning signs and stand up to racism and discrimination leveled against any group. The Holocaust teaches us that silence is a form of acquiescence and that indifference emboldens the evildoers.

You can help secure the future of Holocaust education by making a planned gift to MCHE, ensuring that what is meaningful to you now becomes part of your personal legacy, to last beyond your lifetime.

As a first step, please indicate on the envelope inserted between pages 6 and 7 if you have included or wish to include MCHE as a beneficiary in your will or trust or contact executive director Jean Zeldin at 913-327-8191 or jeanz@mchekc.org.

We are grateful to those who have already included MCHE in their planned giving.

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