



Bergen-Belsen: Then and Now

What remains of Bergen-Belsen?

How does its memory fit into the consciousness of modern European society?

Images of Bergen-Belsen's liberation are seared into the collective consciousness of the West. Yet, these scenes of overcrowding and death represent only a few months in the camp's entire history.

On Wednesday, April 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall at the Jewish Community Campus, MCHE's public historian, Dr. Shelly Cline, will discuss the full history of Bergen-Belsen, from its beginnings as a POW camp to the memorial site it is today. Dr. Cline will also explore how the camp's history

fits into the consciousness of modern European society. **Reservations are requested by calling 913-327-8196 or emailing rsvp@mchekc.org.**

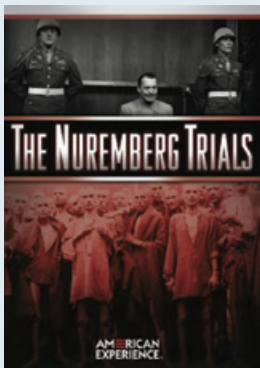
Bergen-Belsen was established in 1940 near the small towns of Bergen and Belsen in Germany. In April 1943, the SS took over a portion of what was until then a POW camp and converted it for use as a concentration camp. Belsen underwent another significant shift in late 1944 as it became a destination for thousands of prisoners evacuated from eastern camps in advance of Soviet forces. It was at this time that the camp was plagued by overcrowding, disease and starvation.



In April 1945, British forces liberated the 60,000 prisoners they found there. Five months later, a British court tried those responsible for staffing the camp. This trial, which took place prior to the International Military Tribunal convened at Nuremberg in November 1945, was the first time the Nazi system was put on trial by the West.

Final Film in Free Series Explores Postwar Justice

THE NUREMBERG TRIALS • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 7:00 PM • JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPUS SOCIAL HALL



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 ensuing trial pitted chief prosecutor and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson against Hermann Göring, former head of the Nazi air force, whom Adolf Hitler had once named to be his successor. The irony of these men taking the stand in Nuremberg, formerly the site of many

of the most spectacular Nazi rallies, was not lost on the prosecutors, defendants or the world that was watching.

This American Experience production from PBS tells the dramatic story of this groundbreaking exercise in international justice, drawing upon rare archival material and eyewitness accounts to recreate the dramatic tribunal that defines trial procedure for state criminals to this day. (60 minutes - English)

MCHE's 2016 Film Series is sponsored by Regina and Bill Kort, the Polsky Family Charitable Foundation, and Marcia and Mike Weaver, with additional support from the White Theatre Grantor Fund, Deb Gill, and Robynn and Michael Andracsek.

FILM RESERVATIONS

Advance reservations are encouraged by calling MCHE's automated response line, 913-327-8196, or emailing rsvp@mchekc.org with full contact information.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for those making reservations by noon on April 26. Seating for those without reservations will begin at 6:45 p.m.

Snacks and beverages will be provided and resources offered for purchase. Donations at the door are appreciated but not required.



**A MESSAGE FROM
JOYCE HESS**
President
and
JEAN ZELDIN
Executive Director



Think Before You Vote!

POLITICS & PROPAGANDA

Oh, for a crystal ball! Writing this message in time to meet our print deadline, neither we nor the pundits nor the pollsters can predict who will still be on the road to the White House by the time this reaches you. Perhaps that is best, since our goal is neither to endorse nor reject any one party or candidate.

Every election cycle brings with it promises and possibilities, oratory and opposition. Each of us would prefer to believe that we can distinguish between rhetoric and reality, idealism and initiative, pomposity and pragmatism. But can we? Do we take the time and effort to do that? Do we know how to do that? Or do we hear just what we want to hear and dismiss the finer points? Can we recognize propaganda or are we swayed by the emotion it stirs within us?

Biased Information

Propaganda is biased information designed to shape public opinion and behavior. Although not all propaganda is negative, the danger lies in the suppression of alternate ideas.

Propaganda is nothing new to the election process, but this year, the hold it has on the voting public seems to be stronger and more negative than ever. Techniques include name-calling, testimonials by celebrities, playing on fear, and “plain folks” (an attempt to convince the audience that a candidate’s ideas are “of the people.”)

Concerned and sensible people are making comparisons to the Nazis’ legal rise to power within a democratic system and with that the scuttling of civil rights and, ultimately, genocide. While it is often said that history repeats itself, nothing (particularly the Holocaust) is ever “just like” anything else, and it is a tenuous and risky leap from 1930s Germany to the United States in 2016.

Universal Lessons

That said, there are universal and relevant lessons to learn from the Holocaust:

- Democracy is fragile. We must do our utmost to protect it and never take our freedoms for granted.
- We must stand up for the rights of others—responding to the first warning signs of bigotry. “Never Again,” applies not only to the Jewish experience, but also to any group singled out for persecution. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”
- As a responsible electorate, we must be critical consumers of information, not only what we hear from the candidates, but also what we read in the media and on the ever-expanding and often unfiltered Internet. We need to do our homework, consider the source, fact-check, and remember the old adage,

IF WE FOREGO CRITICAL THINKING AND SIMPLY ACCEPT THE CLAIMS OF THOSE WHO AGREE WITH US, WE RELINQUISH THE POWER TO CHANGE OUR MINDS AND TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS.

“Don’t believe everything you read.” It is important to discuss this with our children—tomorrow’s voters—as well.

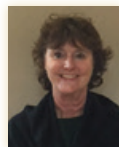
Informed Decisions

One problem with negative propaganda is its appeal to the masses of people who are already prone to a particular point of view. If we forego critical thinking and simply accept the claims of those who agree with us, we relinquish the power to change our minds and to make informed decisions. It is as if to say, “My mind’s made up. Don’t confuse me with the facts.”

“I’ve changed my mind” is a powerful statement, far different from, “I was wrong.” And it may well be that after a thoughtful and thorough reality check, we conclude that our first decision is still the right decision. That, too, is a powerful statement.



Shelly Cline, Ph.D
Public Historian
(913) 327-8194
ShellyC@mcheck.org



Ronda Hassig
Evening Resource Assistant
(913) 327-8192
Resource@mcheck.org
RHassig@bluevalleyk12.org



Dana Smith
Accounting Manager
(913) 327-8192
DanaS@mcheck.org

**MCH
E
STAFF**



Kathy Coenen
Administrative Assistant
(913) 327-8192
KathyC@mcheck.org



Jessica Rockhold
Director of Education
(913) 327-8195
JessicaR@mcheck.org

Jean Zeldin
Executive Director, Chief Executive Officer
(913) 327-8191, JeanZ@mcheck.org

Newsletter Editor | Trudi Galblum
Art Director | Janelle Smith

Essay Contest Changes Lives

TEACHER TESTIMONIALS

As an eighth grade English Language Arts teacher, embarking upon an historical analysis project such as the White Rose Student Essay Contest is an excellent way to address many academic standards. This interdisciplinary unit exposes students to a critical chapter of human history while also challenging them to do an unprecedented amount of research and composition. The contest's primary sources illuminate the dangers of apathy and remaining indifferent to the suffering of others. Students gain an appreciation for what it means to be a responsible citizen and the importance of standing up to injustice, and they gain a better understanding of prejudice and an appreciation for diversity in their own communities. White Rose changes lives—and I see it every year—one eighth grader at a time.

— Dan Blumeyer, Harmony Middle School

The contest is a great way to incorporate more of the Holocaust into the curriculum and to personalize the Holocaust because of the requirement to focus on an individual or family. I appreciate that the topic changes every year because it keeps it fresh for me, and the use of primary sources in the essay fits perfectly with what I do in my teaching. My students benefit by having another opportunity to practice research skills and by being introduced to a topic or an individual's story they probably would never have otherwise experienced. They appreciate any time I offer them a look at how the Holocaust impacted a specific person. It helps to shrink the enormity of the Holocaust just a little bit.

— Christopher Bobal, Lee's Summit High School

The White Rose Essay competition provides a rich opportunity for my high school students to learn and practice a wide variety of English language arts skills. I use it to teach how to conduct research with primary sources, which are always provided and organized online by MCHE with each essay theme. I also use the online tools that come with the essay to teach and emphasize ELA standards, such as essay organization, implementation of grammar and mechanics conventions, and the articulation of a meaningful thesis.

Past winners of the contest, available online, are wonderful examples of academic writing that always seem to be exemplars of the hard-to-teach quality of voice, and my students absolutely respond to those winning essays with admiration and strive to meet those standards.

MLA citation and documentation standards are not a delight to teach in any class, but the White Rose Essay, with its built-in requirement for a consistent citation convention, allows me to displace some of the responsibility for the necessity of learning citation skills onto an outside authority. This becomes a grand lesson on how to never, ever plagiarize. The White Rose Essay not only brings students into our A.P. social studies program who are uniquely prepared to excel, but MCHE offers annual professional development, tailored to the essay's theme, that is some of the best I have experienced. I have used their lessons on the Holocaust in both my English and A.P. social studies courses.

— R. Gina Renee, Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy



Photo credit: Shelly Cline
Ravensbrück Concentration Camp, 2010

White Rose Essays Explore Nazi Propaganda

The 21st White Rose Student Essay Contest theme asked students to research the goals and methods of Nazi anti-Jewish propaganda and to explain how that propaganda affected one Jewish person or family during the Holocaust. Essays were to be submitted by March 31.

As in previous years, entries are judged in a preliminary round to identify 10 finalists in each of two divisions (Grades 8-9 and 10-12). A Blue Ribbon panel of judges then chooses first, second and third place finishers in each division. All decisions are based on blind judging.

This year's Blue Ribbon panel:

- Debby Ballard, President, Sprint Foundation
- Barbara Bayer, Editor, *Kansas City Jewish Chronicle*
- Dr. Kurt Graham, Director, Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum
- Dr. Amy Milakovic, English Department Chair, Avila University
- Josh Sosland, President, Sosland Publishing Company

Finalists and sponsoring teachers will be honored at a private reception in May where the top winners will be announced. Visit www.mcheck.org/essay beginning May 16 to read the winning essays.

This year's contest is sponsored by members of MCHE's White Rose Society, listed on page 4.

CURRENT MCHE MEMBERS AS OF FEBRUARY 29, 2016 • THANK YOU!

Please use the attached envelope to become an MCHE member, to reactivate a lapsed membership, or to renew your current membership. Memberships received between now and June 30, 2016, will be recognized in both our fall donor listing and by level in next spring's newsletter and will be current through June 30, 2017. Italics indicate memberships due for renewal in June. Others are current through December 2016.

WHITE ROSE CHAI SOCIETY

Ann & Kenny Baum
Herb & Bonnie Buchbinder
Larry & Donna Gould Cohen
Katherine DeBruce
Ed & Sandi Fried
Mike & Karen Herman
Bill & Regina Kort
Allen & Debra Parmet
Morton & Estelle Sosland
David & Ellice Vittor

WHITE ROSE SOCIETY PATRONS

Anonymous
Jim & Pamela Ash
Stanley J. Bushman
Sam Devinki & Mary Stahl
Federman Families
Buzzah & Lisa Feingold
Frank & Sondra Friedman
Deb Gill
Ron & Susie Goldsmith
Allen & Gail Gutovitz
Rich & Judy Hastings
Barnett & Shirley Helzberg
Charles Helzberg & Sandra Baer
Ron & Barbara Porter Hill
John & Trudy Jacobson
Jagoda Family Foundation
Barry Krigel
Jim & Jill Maidhof
Rob & Caryn Mandel
Allen & Jeanie Parelman
Joe & Stacy Parelman
Ed & Karen Porter
Bill & Fani Schiffman
Martin & Claire Seem
Chuck & Ester Udell
Bob & Jean Zeldin

WHITE ROSE SOCIETY BENEFACTORS

Michael & Robynn Andracssek
Anonymous
Christopher Beal & Tim Van Zandt
Irene Bettinger
Irwin & Rita Blitt
Jeff Buhai & Suzanne Rosenblatt
Pati Chasnoff
Steve & Beth Cole
Paul & Bunni Copaken
Bob Cutler
Alan Edelman & Debbie Sosland-Edelman
Eddie & Gloria Baker Feinstein
Paul & Susie Gershon
Max & Julie Goldman
Eddie & Marsha Herman
Jim & Joyce Hess
Harry & Gail Himmelstein
Lynn & Marilyn Hoover
Mike Johnson & Jennifer Struthers-Johnson
Gordon & Suzanne Kingsley
Jason & Heather Kort
Mel Mallin
Jack Mandelbaum
Bob Meneilly
Josh & Laura Goodman Mitchell
Jerry & Margaret Nerman
Stuart & Sharon Pase

Bill Pfeiffer & Mary Kay McPhee
Hal & Carol Sader
John Sharp
Faye Sight
Steve & Illeene Simon
Burt & Barbara Smoliar
Joe Smuckler & Marcia Karbank
David & Rachel Sosland
Josh & Jane Sosland
Neil & Blanche Sosland
Marvin Szneler
Lowell & Evy Tilzer
Gerald Zobel
Karl & Beth Zobrist
Joe & Julie Zwillenberg

PARTNERS

David & Alice Jacks Achtenberg
Rolfe & Sylvia Becker
Irv Belzer & Sue Mccord-Belzer
Mary Shaw Branton
Jonathan & Ellen Chilton
Tom & Gail Cluen
Bruce Culley & Linda Larkins
Zandy & Peggy Davis
Marcia Duke
Ernest & Barbara Fleischer
Steve & Milisa Flekier
Josh & Ronna Garry
Allan Golad
Lance Goldberg
David Goodman
Janey Goodman
Fred Greenstein & Marcia Schoenfeld
Rip & Clara Grossman
Jeff & Stephanie Herman
Rocky & Susan Horowitz
Bill & Lynn Intrater
Tom & Ann Isenberg
Jonathan & Sherri Jacobs
Harvey & Michele Kaplan
Andy & Lynn Kaufman
Phil & Marie Koffman
Lisa Lefkowitz
Adele Levi
Michael & Beth Kaplan Liss
Lowenstein Brothers Foundation
John Mandelbaum & Bruce Larsen
Mark & Ellie Mandelbaum
Aaron March
Mark Myron & Debbie Smith
Jack & Marlene Nagel
Sammy Scott
Roy & Beverly Sherrell
Leland & Jill Shurin
Ron & Suzanne Slepitz
Arthur & Barbara Stern
Joe & Judi Tauber
Harvey & Donna Thalblum
Susan Vogel
Howard & Irene Weiner

ASSOCIATES

Glenn & Susan Abelson
Don Alexander
Avrom & Rachel Altman
Steve & Diane Azorsky
Michael & Linda Begleiter
Tyler Benson & Stacy Van Der Tuuk Benson
Loren & Marilyn Berenbom
Bill & Maureen Berkley

Donovan & Cathy Blake
Mike & Sherry Blumenthal
Diane Botwin
Edith Bratt
Steve & Ellen Bresky
Peter & Lynne Brown
John & Debbie Coe
Mark Eisemann & Leslie Mark
Gus & Elinor Eisemann
Sheldon Eisenberg
Roger & Virginia Emley
Gertrude Epstein
Harriet Epstein
Henry & Clarice Epstein
Lorie Federman
Ken & Rose Fichman
Steve & Beatrice Fine
Jonathan & Reggie Fink
Mike & Marlene Fishman
Elliott & Nancy Franks
Sherrill & Elinor Friedman
Barbara Friedmann
Bernie Fromm
Eileen Garry
Bob & Jackie Gershon
Tom & Anne Gill
Bill & Cherie Ginsberg
Gerry Goldberg
John Goldberg & Marla Brockman
Marvin & Adelle Goldstein
Rudy & Phyllis Green
Laura Greenbaum
Maxine Grossman
Sheldon Grossman
Herbert Gruenebaum
Dan Guckenheimer
Marc Hammer & Alana Muller
Susan Hammer
Cheryl Hewitt
Bob Hill & Priscilla Reckling
Elliott & Kathy Hollub
Stan & Emily House
Mamie Currie Hughes
John & Mary Hunkeler
David & Judy Jacobs
Alan & Joan Jacobson
Milton & Sharon Katz
Ward & Donna Katz
Meyer Katzman
Kurt & Stephanie Kavanaugh
Ada Gillespie Kelly
John & Ann Kenney
Kimberly Klein
Brad & Amanda Koffman
Stephen & Ellen Kort
Seymour & Marsha Krinsky
Donald Larsen
Jim & Karen Lesky
Pete & Enid Levi
Norman & Clara Levine
Howard & Sharon Levitan
Craig & Colleen Ligibel
Lynnly Busler Marcotte
Adam & Kim Matsil
Gerald & Jean McNamara
Kurt & Marilyn Metz
Matt & Stefani Miller
Jim & Nicole Murray
Sue Seidler Nerman
Flossie Pack
Shelly & Stevie Pessin
David & Carol Porter
Jay & Ellen Portnoy
Mark & Leslee Gottlieb Price

Diane Ravis
Mike & Laurel Rogovein
Walter Rosel
Howard & Rosanne Rosen
George Rosenberg
Ben & Debra Rubin
Howard Sachs
Neil & Bitsy Sader
Dan & Miriam Scharf
Brent Schondelmeyer & Lee Williams
Lynn Schweig
Mark & Toubie Searles
Arlene Shalinsky
Peter & Amy Shapiro
Ruth Shechter
Carole Sher
Steve & Judy Sherry
John & Stevie Shuchart
Merna Siegler
Bob & Aletha Simon
Barbi Simons
Ed & Marcia Soltz
Stewart & Esther Stein
Todd & Shirley Stettner
Dan & Jennie Stolper
Robert Tamasi/DBS Financial Services, Inc.
Rob & Paula Thomson
Ted Traczewski
Cliff & Carol Trenton
Ralph & Nina Turec
Steve Unterman & Ellen Murphy
Ed & Donna Warren
Morris & Jean Wise
Erna Wolowski
Sam & Donna Zavelo
Ryan & Katie Zeldin
Stan & Joyce Zeldin
Hugh & Eulalie Zimmer
Louie & Janet Zwillenberg

CONTRIBUTORS

Erwin & Phyllis Abrams
Joe & Debbie Adamous
Mark & Lucinda Adams
Frank & Elisabeth Adler
Sam & Janice Balot
Dick & Shari Barr
Sol & Mickey Batnitzky
John & Evi Bergl
Dick & Sandy Berkley
Randy & Elyse Block
Richard & Charlotte Brockman
Max & Lenore Cardozo
Todd Clauer & Mirra Klausner
Gene & Kathy Coenen
Madonna Colip
Jerry & Barbara Cosner
Patrick & Jannie Cubbage
Dan Cullinan
Adela Dagerman
Mark & Diane Davidner
Alyce Edwards
Howard Eichenwald
Scott Eveloff & Ruth Eisen
Richard Farnan & Aryn Roth
Samuel & Samantha Feinberg
Joel & Annette Fish
Dan & Mary Lou Fritts
Trudi Galblum
Bill & Sandra Gasser
Zolan & Doris Gilgus
Byron & Gerri Lyn Ginsburg

Brian Goodman
Bob & Evie Grant
Mark & Mary Greenberg
Jeff & Melissa Greenstein
Lee Hammons & Emily Loeb
Hannah Harris
Ralph & Gay Hartwich
Cheryl Brown Henderson
Bruce & Lori Hertzfield
Jean Hiersteiner
Laura Rollins Hockaday
Ann Hornburger
Jeff & Laurie Horn
Max Jevinsky
Stan & Marlene Katz
R. Crosby Kemper, III
Susan Kirschbaum
Lori Klarfeld
Tiberius & Carla Klausner
Sol Koenigsberg
Stephen & Marilyn Koshland
Kliff & Sherry Kuehl
David & Kerry Kuluva
Rachel Kurz
Tom & Alice Lewinsohn
George & Bev Lewis
Norbert* & Lilian* Lipschuetz
Rodney Longhofer
Bill & Patsy Lorimer
Richard & Gail Lozoff
Evan Luskin & Andrea Kempf
Walter & Joan March*
Mary Ann Meeks
Rod & Gerre Minkin
Jeff & Suzanne Tompkins Myers
Sere & Mary Jane Myers
Mark D & Vicky Nanos
Daniel Nash & Sarah Hirsch
Jimmy & Kaye Nickell
Steve & Rosie Noehlin
Dee & Joyce Pack
Steve & Sandy Passer
Dennis & Laura Patton
Lee & Esther Pearlmutter
Jerald & Rochelle Pelofsky
Floyd Pentlin
Scott & Gay Ramsey
James Remer
John & Jessica Rockhold
Marty & Matilda Rosenberg
Terry & Tammy Ruder
Jeff & Linda Sander
Bob & Madeline Schiffman
Carl & Bonnie Schulkin
Howard Schwartz & Barbara Kilikow-Schwartz
Jeffrey & Hedy Shron
Richard & Connie Simon
Bill & Janelle Smith
Stuart & Dana Smith
Bruce & Celia Solomon
Marilyn Stearns
Stephen & Barbara Strass
Matthew & Rita Sudhalter
Howard Swartzman & Sharon Helm-Swartzman
Bill & Marcia Tammeus
Nancy Todd
Adeline Trempey
Cathy Trenton
Lee Vandenbos
Joel & Sue Vile
John & Barbara Waldron
Craig & Carol Wilson
Ed & Kristen Wilson

Ria Wolf
Michael & Ruth Worthington
David & Rita Wrysten
Linda Zack

DONORS

Martha Atlas
Shari Baellow
Paul Bauman
Phillis Bengis
Walt & Pat Brayman
Melba Buterin
Harriett Charno
Mary Covitz
Mike & Ellen Dalen
Jerry & Liz Davidow
Harold & Arla Edelbaum
Marvin & Evelyn Gibian*
Stanley & Carolyn Goldman
Marvin & Carol Goldstein
Irene Goodman
Marty & Rosemary Gorin
Roger & Berenice Haberman
Mitch & Lisa Hamburger
Steve & Linda Hammer
Robert & Roberta Herman
Baruch & Donna Kaelter
David & Fran Kanter
Sid & Nan Kanter
Marian Kaplan
Allen & Susan Lebovitz
Sunie & Lee Levin
David & Toby Levine
Joel & Bev Levine
Sam & Danielle Levine
Peter & Sharon Loftspring
Margie Lundy
Carol Margolin
Joseph & Alice Megerman
Robert & Nancy Milgrim
David & Patty Newkirk
Shirley Novorr
Elizabeth Nussbaum
Janice Panknin
Steven & Jennifer Paul
Deborah Rosenberg
Shirley Sander
Frances Schlozman
Ferne Searles
Robert & Jenean Sears
Arthur Alan Shaw
Mike & Beth Sherry
Dolores Sosnow
Ann Stern
Benesto & Sharon Tumanut
Davey & Mindy Wajcman
Sonia Warshawski
David & Judy Weinstein
Scott & Civia White
Sheldon Wishna
Nancy Wolff
Bob & Carol Yarmo

EDUCATORS

Terry Beasley
Marilyn Cowan
Kelly Haus
Mary Ann McCue
Kathleen Moberg
Marc Russell
Mike Russell
Ron Scroggham
Rebecca Weigel
Maureen Wilt

*of blessed memory

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

1941: A PIVOTAL YEAR IN HOLOCAUST HISTORY

Inaugural Lunch and Learn Series Draws Lifelong Learners

Enrollment in MCHE's inaugural Lunch and Learn course, taught by Dr. Shelly Cline, MCHE's public historian, was filled to capacity. For five weeks in February and March, 28 participants learned about the pivotal year of 1941. Topics included life in Polish ghettos, Jews on the Eastern Front, preparations for the "Final Solution," and Jewish experiences in the Axis countries.

Cline noted, "Because this was MCHE's first lunch and learn class, we didn't know quite what to expect in terms of response. We were delighted to see such enthusiasm for this format. We will certainly offer another such course."

There is so much more to the Holocaust than the concentration camps. Through readings, videos and discussions, we've looked at the smaller steps that led to the camps, as well as the historical context behind the Holocaust. By examining the wide range of people involved, from the most infamous of names to the commonest of people, I feel like I am finally understanding a deeper level to the Holocaust, which is surely one of the most important lessons of history.

—Robynn Andracssek

*I've always had a curiosity and interest in WWII, especially the Eastern Front, and in particular the life of the people who were occupied. These sessions, while only 75 minutes long, really challenged me to imagine how I would have lived through that period and, more importantly, to examine lessons that might be applied to today's challenges. It's easy to say the words "Never Again," but what do we need to do **today** to make sure that those words ring true?*

—Craig Wall

TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST

MCHE Participates in Fort Hays Workshop

Teachers from schools throughout the Midwest are learning age-appropriate and pedagogically sound methods for teaching the Holocaust from MCHE.

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, in partnership with Fort Hays State University and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, MCHE's director of education, Jessica Rockhold, led 66 educators from Colorado, Nebraska and central and western Kansas through a modeled classroom activity, asking them to arrange and discuss a visual timeline that featured events from the Holocaust and World War II while highlighting the roles of propaganda and occupation throughout Europe (see History-Based Holocaust Lesson Plans at mchekc.org/lessonplans). Rockhold also provided instruction on the use of primary sources

Teachers arrange a visual timeline.



and discussed the integration of survivor testimony, literature and art into Holocaust education.

Each participant received a copy of the Echoes and Reflections Teacher Resource Guide. As one noted, "This was a wonderful experience! I can't wait to apply this to my classroom."

Schools and school districts interested in scheduling MCHE-led workshops for their teachers should contact Jessica Rockhold at 913-327-8195 or jessicar@mchekc.org for details about content, scheduling and fees.

MCHE's teacher education programs are funded, in part, by the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City.

Summer 2016 Professional Development Opportunities

Perspectives on the Holocaust

JUNE 27-29

MCHE's summer course for educators will examine the experience of the Holocaust through the varied perspectives of those who lived through it—Jews from across Europe in a variety of circumstances, as well as non-Jewish civilians, perpetrators, government officials and liberators. Readings and discussions will explore differences of experience created by geography, occupation, social status, access to resources, age and gender, with special emphasis on the phenomena of "choiceless choices" and ethical dilemmas. Participants will learn from short lectures, extensive primary source analysis, seminar-style discussions of content and modeled classroom application that correlate to Common Core standards. Register at mchekc.org/perspectivescourse.

Echoes and Reflections

JULY 19

The Echoes and Reflections curriculum, created with the combined resources of Yad Vashem, the USC Shoah Foundation and the Anti-Defamation League, is designed for the 7th -12th grade classroom. Each participant will receive a complimentary copy of the Teacher Resource Guide and explore curriculum content through primary sources, survivor testimony, literature, photography, art and artifacts. MCHE is a designated training center for Echoes and Reflections. Register at mchekc.org/echoesandreflections/.

Traveling Exhibits Offer Unique Educational Opportunities

Examining the Fate of Jewish Lawyers in Nazi Germany

Lawyers Without Rights: Jewish Lawyers Under the Third Reich, on display April 4 through May 6 at the Federal Courthouse in Kansas City, Kansas, illustrates how the Nazi government purged Jewish lawyers from civil service as one of the early steps in attacking the rule of law and individual rights in Germany.

By focusing on the riveting experiences of 15 individuals, the exhibit portrays the collective fate of this vibrant professional community, whose members were systematically stripped of any and all rights to continue their practice and were publicly tormented as the Nazis ostracized all Jews from civic and social life.

The panel exhibit also demonstrates how Hitler, as dictator, enacted laws and issued edicts, one by one, to subvert all

Munich, 1933: Doorplates of Jewish lawyers were plastered with warnings to the public, "Visits prohibited! Jew!"



semblance of justice and to eliminate all Jews from the judicial system. It also provides an historic commentary and present-day reminder of the dangers that exist when the law is unjustly applied.

Created more than 15 years ago by the organized bar of the Republic of Germany, the exhibit has been presented in more than 80 cities, mostly in Europe. With support from the German Federal Bar and American Bar Association (ABA) officials, *Lawyers Without Rights* made its American debut in 2010 at the spring meeting of the International Law Section in New York City. That summer, it was featured at the ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Since then it has traveled to Mexico and throughout the United States.

Lawyers Without Rights: Jewish Lawyers Under the Third Reich

EXHIBIT AND LECTURE INFORMATION

The exhibit is free and open to the general public during normal business hours at the Courthouse, 500 State Avenue in Kansas City, Kansas.

On Wednesday, April, 21 at 7:00 p.m., Dr. William F. Meinecke, Jr. from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, will speak at the Courthouse. Dr. Meinecke is an historian for the Museum's leadership development programs and author of *Nazi Ideology and the Holocaust*. He is a well-known authority on the impact that the Third Reich had upon the judicial system.

Seating for Dr. Meinecke's lecture is limited, and reservations are recommended by calling 913-327-8196 or emailing rsvp@mchekc.org. CLE credit for Kansas and Missouri is pending.

For information about the exhibit, contact Mick Lerner at the Lerner Law Firm, 913-897-5050.



Whoever Saves a Single Life

EXHIBIT FRAMES RESCUE WITHIN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Whoever Saves a Single Life... Rescuers of Jews During the Holocaust remains on display at the Jewish Community Campus April 26 through May 15.

Arranged thematically, the exhibit features character traits displayed by rescuers, showcasing individuals who chose to shelter and safeguard Jews in a time of overwhelming death and destruction. On loan from the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR) in New York City, it reminds us that, although exceedingly rare, instances of rescue were an important part of the Holocaust.

Since 2000, MCHE has been recognized by the JFR as a Center of Excellence, co-sponsoring local teachers and MCHE staff to attend institutes and seminars offered and subsidized by the JFR. Centers in the program make a commitment to teach the Holocaust in a comprehensive manner and to include the subject of rescue. Teachers who attend JFR programs—known as Alfred Lerner Fellows—form a cadre of educators for each local center as well as for the JFR.

In January, Dr. Shelly Cline, MCHE's public historian, spoke at JFR's Advanced Seminar on the topic "Women at Work: The SS *Aufseherinnen* and the Gendered Perpetration of the Holocaust." Other speakers included Dr. Christopher Browning, Dr. Timothy Snyder and Alexandra Zapruder.

Our Community Remembers the Holocaust

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 1:30 P.M.

Jewish Community Campus

Lewis and Shirley White Theatre
5801 West 115th Street, Overland Park, KS

The community is invited to attend this year's Yom Hashoah service, commemorating the 73rd anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and the 53rd anniversary of the dedication of Kansas City's Memorial to the Six Million.

Benny Harding, son of Holocaust survivors Dorothy and Harry Harding, both of blessed memory, will chair the program, which will feature the traditional lighting of six candles in memory of the six million Jewish victims. It also will include readings and images related to the arrival of survivors in Kansas City, which began 70 years ago.



"I am deeply honored to be this year's Yom Hashoah Chair. As someone whose parents endured the horrors of the Nazi past, it is engrained within me to honor the memory of the victims and to remember the survivors of the Holocaust."

—Benny Harding

MONDAY, APRIL 18

Rockhurst University

1100 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, Missouri

Reading of Names 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Kinerk Commons

Prayer Service 2:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Finucane Jesuit Center

Participation by Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy and Rockhurst University choirs

Contact Bill Kriege (816-501-4855 or bill.kriege@rockhurst.edu) to read a 15-minute block of names.

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 6:30 P.M.

Metropolitan Community College - Maple Woods

2601 NE Barry Road, Kansas City, Missouri
Arbor Room in the Campus Center

Remembering the Holocaust Through Music and Art

Contact Jim Murray for more information:
816-604-3305 or jim.murray@mcckc.edu.

MONDAY, MAY 2, 1:00 P.M.

Kansas State Historical Museum

6425 Southwest 6th Street, Topeka, Kansas

State of Kansas Holocaust Commemoration Service Survival and Remembrance

Proclamation presented by Governor Sam Brownback

Recognition of Holocaust survivors, their children and World War II veterans

Keynote speaker: Nancy Geise, author, *Auschwitz 34027 - The Joe Rubenstein Story*

Light reception to follow

Sponsored by the Kansas State Holocaust Commission

Call 785-272-6040 to RSVP or for more information.

MONDAY, MAY 2, 7:00 P.M.

Congregation Beth Torah

6100 W. 127th Street, Overland Park, Kansas

Jewish Soul: A Musical Journey from the Shtetl to the Stage

Presented by Kansas City Symphony
Concertmaster Noah Geller and his ensemble, Shir Ami

Tickets are \$20 in advance, available at the Jewish Community Center and at thejkc.org.

Yom Hashoah

ITS ORIGIN AND MEANING

Yom Hashoah, the day honoring Jewish victims of the Holocaust, is marked according to the Hebrew calendar on the 27th day of Nisan, the anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising. This year that corresponds to May 5. The full name of the day is *Yom Hashoah Ve-Hagevurah*—in Hebrew literally translated as the "Day of (remembrance of) the Holocaust and the Heroism." The date was selected in a resolution passed by Israel's Parliament, the Knesset, on April 12, 1951.

In Israel, the sound of a siren stops traffic and pedestrians for two minutes of silent devotion, both on the eve of Yom Hashoah and the day itself. Places of public entertainment are closed by law. Israeli television and radio air Holocaust-related programming.

In 1979, the President's Commission on the Holocaust, established by President Carter, commemorated Holocaust Remembrance Day in the U.S. Capitol with an unprecedented ceremony attended by the President, Vice President and many members of Congress. Since then, ceremonies have been held in Washington, DC, and in individual states and cities. These range from synagogue services to communal vigils and educational programs. The theme is the importance of remembering—recalling the victims and ensuring that such a tragedy never happens again.

In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly designated January 27—the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau—as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, urging every member state to honor victims of the Nazi era and to develop educational programs to help prevent future genocides. The significance of the resolution is that it calls for a remembrance of past crimes with an eye towards preventing them in the future.

Except as noted, all programs described on this page are free and open to the public.

MCHE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Joyce Hess

Immediate Past President

Carol Sader

Vice Presidents

Christopher Beal

Cathy Blake

Ron Slepitz, Ph.D.

Karl Zobrist

Secretary

Stephanie Herman

Treasurer

Rich Hastings

Board of Directors

Alice Jacks Achtenberg

Robynn Andracssek • Jim Ash

Donna Gould Cohen • Steve Cole

Steve Flekier • Gail Gutovitz

Lloyd Hellman • Cheryl Brown Henderson

Barbra Porter Hill • Kerry Kuluva

Rita Sudhalter • Donna Thalblum

Evy Tilzer • Chuck Udell

Council of Advocates

Richard Berkley • Alvin Brooks

Gail Cluen • Laura Ziegler Davis

Katherine DeBruce • Raymond Doswell, Ed.D.

Henry Epstein • Samantha Feinberg

Reggie Fink • Anne Rosel French

Deb Gill • Brian Goodman • Bob Hill, D.D.

Lynn Hoover • Laurie Horn

Mamie Currie Hughes • Tom Isenberg

Trudy Jacobson • Andrea Kempf

Mirra Klausner, Psy.D. • Kliff Kuehl

Adele Levi • Michael Liss • Alana Muller

Ben Pabst • Sharon Epstein Pase

Brent Schondelmeyer • John A. Sharp

David Sosland • Sarah Strnad

Marvin Szneler

Council of Presidents

Mark Adams • Steve Chick*

Arthur Federman • Karen M. Herman

William Kort • Gayle Krigel

Colleen Ligibel • Blanche Sosland, Ph.D.

Directors Emeriti

Maria Devinki*

Isak Federman

Jack Mandelbaum

* of blessed memory



Midwest Center for Holocaust Education

5801 West 115th Street Suite 106

Overland Park, Kansas 66211-1800

NON PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI

PERMIT NO. 910

Visit [mchekc.org/
mche-newsletter](http://mchekc.org/mche-newsletter)
for an online version
of this newsletter.

markyourcalendar

MICHE ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

HONORING MCHE MEMBERS OF 20 YEARS OR MORE

Tuesday, June 21, 2016, 7:00 p.m.
Jewish Community Campus Social Hall

Dessert reception following the program.

The community is invited to attend at no charge.
MCHE members will receive mailed invitations.

Reservations are requested by June 10: 913-327-8196 or rsvp@mchekc.org.