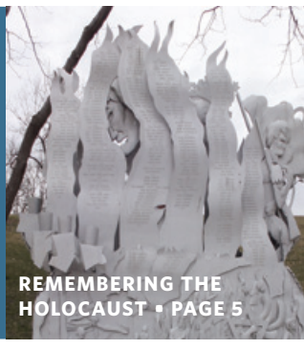
MIDWEST CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION INC.
Honoring the Past Protecting the Future®

MIDWEST CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION
Newsletter
MAKING CHANGES FOR HUMANITY THROUGH EDUCATION



REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST • PAGE 5

SPRING/SUMMER | 2018

MCHE Celebrates 25 Years

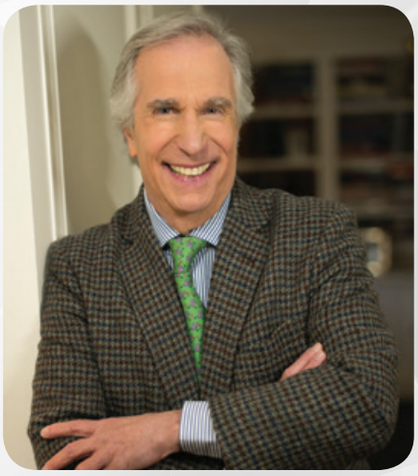
SILVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
25
10 • 28 • 18

SAVE OUR DATE

October 28, 2018

on the stage at Starlight Theatre

An Evening With Henry Winkler



Henry Winkler's portrayal of The Fonz for 10 seasons on Happy Days made him one of the most recognized actors in the world. His extensive list of stage and television credits, producing roles, children's books, and award recognitions make him one of our country's most desirable speakers.

But Winkler is also the son of refugees from Nazi Germany. Most of the actor's extended family perished in the Holocaust.

On Sunday, October 28,Winkler will take stage at Starlight Theatre at the Silver Anniversary Celebration of MCHE in "An Evening With Henry Winkler" and will share stories about his long and impressive career.

For details, including information about VIP sponsorship packages, visit mchekc.org/25

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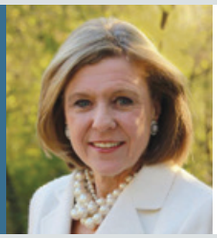
Jean Zeldin



Student Voices: 1968 and 2018

In a year defined by the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy, sit-ins on college campuses protesting the quagmire in Vietnam, violent demonstrations and the arrest of the Chicago Seven at the Democratic National Convention, I and many of my fellow baby boomers cast our first vote in a presidential election. Events did not go as we had planned. We found our voice, but it seemed no one was listening.

The following year witnessed the moon landing and Woodstock. That fall, I began what would become a 24-year teaching career. I look back fondly on those times when teachers enjoyed greater academic freedom, more actual instructional time—and security. Yes, there was the occasional confrontation with a student or an encounter with an irate parent, but we knew nothing of armed security officers, active shooter drills or the need for designated gun-free zones.

In fact, I remember one time in the 80s when the teachers were asked to complete a district survey aimed at assessing how safe we felt. Safe from what, we wondered? Why would we feel anything else, cocooned within our homogeneous suburban middle school?

WE MUST NOT LET 2018 BE REMEMBERED AS THE YEAR OF SCHOOL SHOOTINGS, GUN VIOLENCE AND THE LOSS OF SO MANY YOUNG LIVES. THIS TIME, IT MUST BE DIFFERENT. AS STUDENTS FIND THEIR VOICE, IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO LISTEN.

Fast forward to 2018.

Teachers and their students face challenges and threats we would never have imagined in "the good old days." Texting substitutes for conversation, and critical thinking is on the decline.

With the advent of social media, it is harder to distinguish truth from propaganda and misinformation. Even if disavowed or disproven later, the damage is often irreversible. Bullying, now practiced anonymously and online, has risen to tragic proportions. Even more alarming are threats to physical safety.

At Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, the victims were a united body prior to the tragedy. They cheered for the same teams, shared the same lunchroom, and now they are united in finding their common voice. They are not violent. They are articulate, organized and committed. They have started a movement, ironically called "Never Again."

They remind me of three German university students—Hans and Sophie Scholl and Christopher Probst—who sacrificed their lives for the White Rose movement they launched to protest the repressive and murderous Nazi regime. MCHE's White Rose Student Essay Contest and White Rose Membership Society honor their courage and their memory.

With the voting age lowered to 18 by the 26th Amendment in 1971, many will find their voice in the upcoming off-year elections and certainly in the 2020 presidential race.

We must not let 2018 be remembered as a year of school shootings, gun violence and the loss of so many young lives. This time, it must be different. As students find their voice, it is our responsibility to listen.

To learn more about the White Rose movement in Germany, read *Remembering the White Rose,* by Richard Hurowitz: www.nytimes.com/ 2018/02/21/opinion/white-rose-hitler-protest.

Use the remittance envelope between pages 4 and 5 to become a member of MCHE's White Rose Society.

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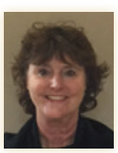

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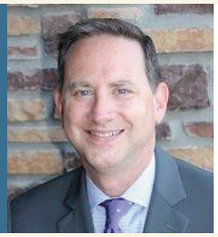
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Steve Flekier



25 Years: A Time to Re-examine Our Commitment

Twenty-five years ago, in 1993, Bill Clinton was President, Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat signed a peace agreement on the White House lawn, Islamic fundamentalists bombed the World Trade Center, *Schindler's List* was released and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum opened its doors. 1993 was also the year that the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education was founded. Jack Mandelbaum became our first president, Isak Federman was appointed as chairman and Jean Zeldin was hired as executive director.

A Center of Excellence

Over the years, MCHE has sponsored countless programs, speakers and exhibits—often in partnership with local and national organizations—to bring unique, creative and meaningful educational opportunities to the Kansas City area. By 2001, MCHE was one of only 16 Holocaust centers designated by the Jewish Foundation of the Righteous in New York as a Center of Excellence. We remain one of 12 still in that program.

On Sunday, October 28, we will gather to celebrate MCHE's important work, promoting its mission — to teach the history of the Holocaust, applying its lessons to counter indifference, intolerance and genocide. We also will honor our local survivors—many of whom are no longer with us—who were instrumental in building this organization.

Need to Educate

With antisemitism on the rise in many parts of the world and almost daily events in the news to remind us of the relevance of our mission, we cannot lose sight of the critical role that MCHE plays in our community and the need to continue to educate as many youth and adults as possible.

To be successful, we must continue to grow our endowment, ensuring that in these turbulent times we have the funds available to spread our message and reach as many people as possible. Our challenge is not only to protect the legacy of those who have left us but also to ensure that future generations will know their stories and learn the lessons that we have been taught.

Silver Anniversary

I ask each of you to take this opportunity to reflect on the progress this organization has made in the last 25 years and also to re-examine your personal commitment to MCHE. Your support is paramount to our continued impact.

In the coming weeks, we will announce additional details regarding sponsorships and patron opportunities for our Silver Anniversary Celebration. Please consider supporting this milestone event and helping to spread the word by letting us know of any businesses or organizations that may be interested in participating.

MCHE ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

JUNE 12, 2018, 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.
JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPUS SOCIAL HALL

Dessert reception and business meeting followed by Survivor Storytelling activity (see page 7).

For complimentary reservations, call 913-327-8196 or email rsvp@mchekc.org with the subject line Annual Meeting.

25 PROGRAMS TO MARK OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

(upcoming events are bolded)

1. Living Voices – Right to Dream
2. Living Voices – Anne Frank
3. *Big Sonia* Screening at Truman Library
4. Film: *Son of Saul*
5. Film: *Silenced Walls*
6. Film: *Night Will Fall*
7. Lunch and Learn: Auschwitz and Beyond
8. Dr. Beth Griech-Polelle – Hitler's First Victims
9. Purim Nosh for Survivors
10. Speed Storytelling for Teachers
11. David Bartouw - Anne Frank in the 21st Century
12. Second Generation Panel (student program)
13. **Yom Hashoah – April 15**
14. **Pop up at the Monument – April 19 and May 8 (see page 5)**
15. **Film: *Witness House* (April 25 – see page 8)**
16. **White Rose Reception (by invitation only)**
17. **Annual Meeting – June 12**
18. **Perspectives (June workshop for educators)**
19. **Testimony in the Classroom (June workshop for educators)**
20. **KC to DC (July – for 7-12 educators, by application)**
21. **Film: *Raise the Roof* (August 23 at the Bloch Building)**
22. **Lunch and Learn Fall Series – TBD**
23. **Speaker: F.K. Clementi (Fall – Date TBD)**
24. **Speaker: Mark Hull (Fall - Date TBD)**
25. **Ordinary Soldiers (for U.S. military groups - Date TBD)**

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS MEMBERS • CURRENT AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2018

Please use the attached envelope to become an MCHE member, to reactivate a lapsed membership, or to renew your current membership. Memberships received between March 1 and June 30, 2018, will be recognized in both our fall donor listing and by level in next spring's newsletter and will be current through June 30, 2019. Italics indicate memberships due for renewal in June. Others are current through December 2018.

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**of blessed memory*

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

Yom Hashoah Community Commemorations

A DAY OF REFLECTION • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11
ROCKHURST UNIVERSITY, 1100 ROCKHURST ROAD, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
READING OF VICTIMS' NAMES, 8:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M., KINERK COMMONS
PRAYER SERVICE 2:30 P.M., FINUCANE JESUIT CENTER

Contact: bill.kriege@rockhurst.edu

COMMUNITY *YOM HASHOAH* • SUNDAY, APRIL 15 • 1:30 P.M.
LEWIS AND SHIRLEY WHITE THEATRE, JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPUS
5801 WEST 115TH STREET, OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS

The community is invited to attend this year's *Yom Hashoah* service, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and the 55th anniversary of the dedication of Kansas City's Memorial to the Six Million.

Rosanne Rosen, daughter of Shirley Kohlman and Holocaust survivor Alfred Kohlman, both of blessed memory, is chairing the program, which will feature the traditional lighting of six candles in memory of the six million Jewish victims. The program also will include a history of the Treblinka revolt of 75 years ago, one of many examples of Jewish resistance during the Holocaust. Organized by the Jewish Community Center, Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee and the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, this annual program is co-sponsored by Jewish agencies and congregations throughout Greater Kansas City. No reservations are necessary.

The Treblinka Memorial, surrounded by a field of 17,000 stones, representing the lost Jewish communities.

Photo ©FCIT/University of South Florida

POP UP AT THE MONUMENT • THURSDAY, APRIL 19 • 1:00 – 1:30 P.M. • AND TUESDAY, MAY 8 • 1:00 – 1:30 P.M.
JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPUS, 5801 WEST 115TH STREET, OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS

Join Dr. Shelly Cline, MCHE's public historian, for an in-depth look at the Memorial to the Six Million, located on the east side of the main parking lot at the Jewish Community Campus. Organized by members of the New Americans Club and dedicated in 1963 by President Harry S. Truman, it was one of the first of its kind in the United States.

Learn about the history of the monument and explore the detailed images and text engraved upon it. Reservations are appreciated but not required by emailing rsvp@mchekc.org.

Memorial to the Six Million, Overland Park, Kansas

15TH ANNUAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE: REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST THROUGH MUSIC • MONDAY, APRIL 30 • 6:30 P.M.
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE – MAPLE WOODS, ARBOR ROOM, (CAMPUS CENTER ROOM 110)
2601 NORTHEAST BARRY, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

This program features the performance of *Annelies* by James Whitbourn, a choral work for soprano soloist, choir and instrumentalists, with text compiled and translated by Melanie Challenger from *The Diary of Anne Frank.* Contact: jim.murray@mcckc.edu.

These commemorative programs are all offered at no charge.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE IN ISRAEL

Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes Remembrance Day, as it is known in Israel, (*Yom Hashoah* in Hebrew), is a solemn day of national commemoration beginning at sundown on the 27th day of Nisan on the Hebrew calendar and ending, per Jewish tradition, at sundown the following evening. Places of entertainment are closed. Memorial ceremonies are held throughout the country and broadcast on television, with the central ceremonies held at Yad Vashem.

On the morning of *Yom HaShoah*, corresponding this year to April 12, a siren is sounded for two minutes throughout the country, during which all activity is halted and everyone stands at silent attention in reverence to the victims of the Holocaust.

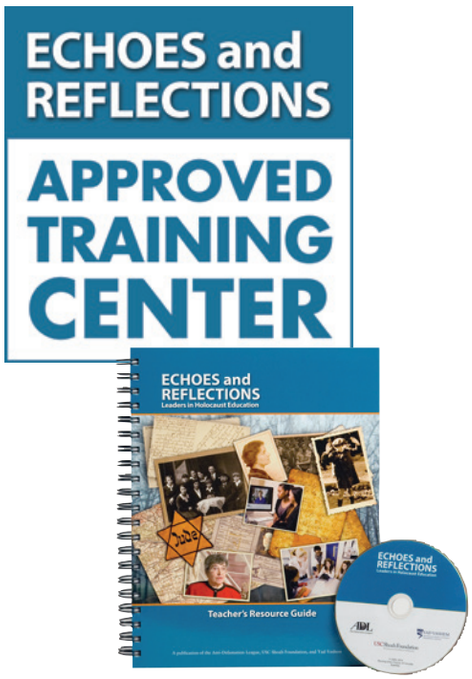
Testimony in the Classroom includes *Big Sonia* Screening

TUESDAY, JUNE 26
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM C
JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPUS

Incorporating survivor narratives into Holocaust education personalizes the history being taught, helping educators to effectively integrate survivor testimony into their classroom instruction on the Holocaust while enhancing student understanding of the impact of historical events on individual people and families.

Featuring the Echoes and Reflections curriculum, MCHE's Witnesses to the Holocaust Archive and the classroom version of *Big Sonia,* a documentary about local survivor Sonia Warshawski, workshop participants will explore various types of video testimony and their use in the classroom.

Each participant will receive a complimentary copy of the *Echoes and Reflections* Teacher Resource Guide. A fee of $20 includes a light lunch. Participation is limited to 50 and is open only to 7-12th grade educators. Registration is available at mchekc.org/echoesandreflections.



Speed Storytelling Features Local Survivor Experiences

At an event modeled on speed-dating, members of the Isak Federal Holocaust Teaching Cadre introduced teachers to profiles of nine local Holocaust survivors. The cadre members, who spent 2017 researching survivor testimonies and histories, curated clips from these testimonies that would be beneficial for classroom use.

The nine profiles represented the diversity of experiences included in MCHE's Witnesses to the Holocaust Archive, which features survivors from five countries and includes life in the camps, seeking refuge in the Soviet Union, hiding, participation in resistance activities and emigration.

MCHE'S ONLINE ARCHIVE INCLUDES TESTIMONIES FROM MORE THAN 70 LOCAL SURVIVORS. PLEASE VISIT MCHEKC.ORG/SURVIVORS-TESTIMONIALS.

As one of 25 events offered in conjunction with our 25th anniversary, MCHE will offer Speed Storytelling at its Annual Meeting on June 12. Please make reservations by calling 816-327-8196 or emailing rsvp@mchekc.org.

Perspectives on the Holocaust

JUNE 11-14
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPUS
CONFERENCE ROOM C
5801 WEST 115TH STREET
OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS

This series of four workshops examines the Holocaust through a few of the many perspectives of those who lived through it, focusing on policies and experiences of perpetration based on geography—especially in Eastern Europe.

Each workshop features primary source documents and resources for classroom use. Pending availability, a survivor representing a specific geographic experience will be interviewed during each session.

Participants will learn from lectures, extensive primary source analysis and seminar-style discussions of content. A registration fee of $20 per session or $60 for the four-day series includes all necessary materials. Registration is available at mchekc.org/perspectives.

Workshops include:

Germany – Kristallnacht

The Holocaust in Germany June 11

German Jews experienced six years of increasing persecution before World War II officially began in Europe. These years applied unique pressures on that community but also afforded it an important window of time in which to take action to leave Germany and, sometimes, even Europe. For those who did not manage to secure their emigration from Germany, the Holocaust unfolded differently than anywhere else in Europe. This session will explore the unique circumstances of the Holocaust in Germany.

Poland - Lodz Ghetto

The Holocaust in Poland June 12

Beginning with the Nazi invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, Polish Jews faced immediate persecution and acts of violence. Their experiences—which included war-time occupation, ghettoization, forced labor and the first deportations to killing centers—resulted in a 90 percent death rate. This session will explore these unique factors of the Holocaust in Poland with an emphasis on the Operation Reinhard killing centers: Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka.

Soviet Union - Einsatzgruppen Action

The Holocaust in the Soviet Union June 13

Operation Barbarosa brought total war and genocide to the Jews of eastern Poland and the Soviet Union. As the German armies conquered territory moving eastward, special squads called the *Einsatzgruppen* implemented the first genocidal policies of the Holocaust as they conducted mass shootings. This shift in German policy resulted in a unique set of circumstances, ranging from mass murder to the flight of refugees deep into the Soviet Union where they often faced persecution by a different oppressor. This session will explore the unique circumstances of the Holocaust in the Soviet Union.

Hungary - Auschwitz

The Holocaust in Hungary June 14

In 1944 there was one remaining, largely intact Jewish community left in Europe. The Jews of Hungary, living in an Axis country, had faced discrimination and persecution at the hands of the Hungarians, but the country had not been occupied and the Jews had not been deported. That all changed in the spring of 1944 when, in the course of fewer than three months, the country was occupied and its Jewish population of over 400,000 deported and largely murdered at Auschwitz-Birkenau. This represented the height of the capabilities of the industrial killing complex and a specific and concerted effort by the Nazis to reach this community before the war was lost. This session will explore the unique circumstances of the Holocaust in Hungary.

Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City
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CONCLUDING FILM IN 2018 SERIES

The Witness House

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25 • 7:00 P.M.
JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPUS SOCIAL HALL
5801 WEST 115TH STREET • OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS

It is autumn of 1945 and the Nuremberg Trials are about to begin. High ranking war criminals are to be brought to justice.

In a curious yet fascinating twist, witnesses for both the prosecution and the defense are housed together in a villa on the outskirts of town. 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 as guests try to adjust to each other and to the new times. When the first testimonies are presented in the courtroom, however, realities of the past become too present to be ignored. (Running time: 105 minutes, German with English subtitles)

Complimentary movie snacks will be provided.

Donations at the door are appreciated but not expected.

For reservations and early seating at 6:30 p.m., email rsvp@mchekc.org or call 913-327-8196 by noon the day prior to the film. General seating begins at 6:45 p.m. For more information, visit https://mchekc.org/filmseries2018.

Funding for the 2018 film series is provided by the Polsky Family Charitable Foundation (patrons) and by series supporters Irene Bettinger and Marsha and Michael Weaver.