



MCHEnews

MIDWEST CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION MAKING A DIFFERENCE SINCE 1993

SPRING/SUMMER | 2020

Pictures of Resistance: The Wartime Photography of Faye Schulman

Exhibition Dates: April 4 - May 31
Exhibit is free and open to the public
Kansas City Public Library
Central Branch
14 West 10th Street
Kansas City, Missouri

Faced with overwhelming obstacles, Jews and others in occupied Europe sought to resist Nazi policy in various ways. Some took up arms in uprisings in ghettos and camps. Others performed more social acts to preserve community and create a record of their experiences.

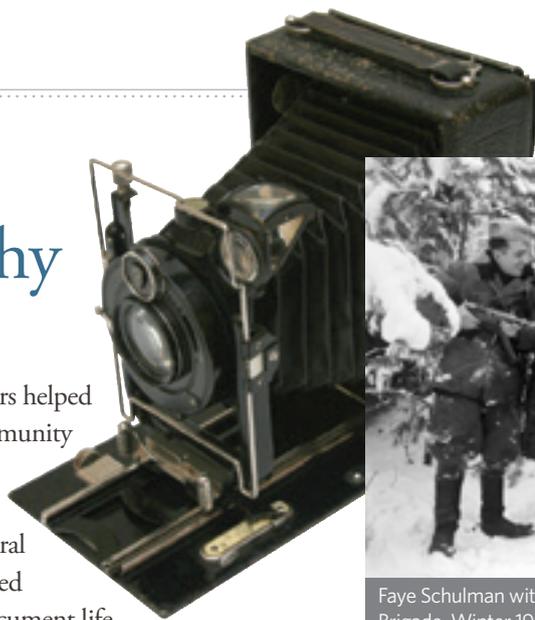
Social Resistance

In many ghettos, people chose to resist through a variety of social acts. Some attempted to continue cultural life through the establishment of schools, theater groups and

libraries. Others helped maintain community through soup kitchens and hospitals. Several ghettos collected material to document life within the ghetto. The most famous among these was the Ringelblum Archive from the Warsaw ghetto. The collections that survived the war are an invaluable source of information on Jewish life in occupied Europe.

Armed Uprisings

For many, the most well-known example of Holocaust resistance are the events of the Warsaw ghetto uprising in April of 1943. On the eve of Passover, April 19, Nazi forces



Faye Schulman with partisans of the Molotova Brigade, Winter 1944. Source: JPEF

entered the ghetto to resume deportations and final liquidation of the ghetto. Those remaining in the ghetto fired on the Nazi troops and held the ghetto until May 16. In addition to the Warsaw ghetto uprising, the killing centers of Treblinka, Sobibor and Auschwitz-Birkenau all saw prisoner revolts. In each of these cases, prisoners revolted once they realized the end of their camp or ghetto was imminent.

Continued on page 2

Exhibit Programs

April 22

Reception 6:00 p.m. | Lecture 6:30 p.m.
Kansas City Public Library Central Branch

Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust

Lecture presented by Jonathan Furst, Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation.

Learn more about the incredible history of the Jewish partisans and how they saved thousands of Jewish lives, in some cases literally breaking Jews out of the ghettos. These Jewish partisans blew up thousands of German supply trains, convoys and bridges, making it harder for the Germans to fight the war. They also destroyed power plants and factories, focusing their attention on military and strategic targets, forcing the Germans to spend massive amounts of resources combating them and diluting Germany's efforts fighting against the Allies.

April 29

6:30 p.m.
Kansas City Public Library Plaza Branch

MCHEnews' Free Film Series RESIST Presents:
Daring to Resist: Three Women Face the Holocaust

Why would a young person choose resistance during Hitler's reign of terror while her world was collapsing around her? In this documentary, three Jewish women answer this question by recalling their lives as teenagers in occupied Europe. Defying her family's wishes, each woman found a way of fighting back — as a ballet dancer shuttling Jews to safe houses and distributing resistance newspapers, as a leader in an underground Zionist group smuggling Jews across the border, and as a photographer and partisan (Faye Schulman) waging guerrilla war against the Germans. (Run time: 59 minutes, English, 1999)

May 14

6:30 p.m.
Kansas City Public Library Central Branch

Gender and the Holocaust

Lecture presented by Shelly Cline, Midwest Center for Holocaust Education

Holocaust scholar Myra Goldenberg's famous quote, "Different horrors, same hell," conveys the reality that women and men were both persecuted and killed by the Nazis, yet their experiences of these events differed greatly. This talk will explore gender's role in shaping the individual's experience in the Holocaust — how women and men faced different dangers and employed different strategies for survival, and how Nazis' perpetration was influenced by traditional gender expectations.

What Jack and Isak Began: The Next Chapter

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE | JESSICA ROCKHOLD



I heard Jack Mandelbaum speak as a junior in a 1,000-person auditorium at the University of Kansas. He was the first survivor I ever

heard give testimony in person. It was on that day that I became aware of the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education and the story behind its founding. Now 20 years later, I am honored to be entrusted with the legacy created by Jack and his friend Isak Federman.

New Challenges

MCHE recently surpassed a quarter century of mission-based work, and on that occasion we looked back and celebrated the many accomplishments of this organization. Through those years, MCHE was an integral part of the professionalization of the field of Holocaust education. Our team participated in the advancements in establishing best practices and pedagogical approaches.



Jessica Rockhold teaching the visual timeline in an MCHE summer course.

We taught. We preserved testimony. We established core programming that ensured that the lessons and messages of the Holocaust were passed to students and adults throughout our community.

In 2020, as we all grapple with increased antisemitism and other forms of bigotry and hate, we find that – despite 26+ years of work – our mission, our message and our programs are as relevant as ever. It is with that knowledge and our foundational strength that we embark on the next chapter. Our vision includes regional growth and expanded use of technology to reach people geographically removed from us and demographically removed from traditional learning structures, as well as robust personal outreach to the more rural parts of our region.

Carry It Forward

This year, in addition to our annual commemorations and programs, MCHE plans to launch a new website aimed at distance learning and regional outreach. This will be anchored by the creation of video presentations delivered by content experts (see page 8, Innovation Grant). We will be updating current programs like our White Rose Student Essay Contest and developing new programs to create a more regional presence. We also plan to expand the visibility and reach of our survivor testimony (see page 10, Kansas City Oral Histories Project).



MCHE co-founders Jack Mandelbaum and the late Isak Federman, of blessed memory.

Plans to grow and expand our reach make this an exciting time to be part of the MCHE team. Still, as we look forward, our foundational principles remain – teaching the lessons, preserving the testimony, and ensuring that our programs remain true to our mission. What Jack and Isak began, we carry forward.



Jessica Rockhold contextualizing the *Diary of Anne Frank* in support of Theatre Lawrence's production of *Yours, Anne*.

Pictures of Resistance continued from Cover

Partisans

During World War II, approximately 30,000 Jews escaped ghettos and work camps and formed organized armed resistance groups known as partisans. Despite the odds, women were also able to join the partisans. Their work ranged from domestic duties such as cleaning, cooking and nursing to reconnaissance, weapons

transport and armed combat. Women made up approximately 10% of the partisans.

Born in Poland in 1924, Faye Schulman received her first camera from her brother when she was thirteen. That camera ultimately saved her life and allowed her to later document Jewish partisan activity. She is one of the only known Jewish partisan photographers. Schulman's rare collection of images captures the camaraderie, horror and loss, bravery and triumph of the rag-tag,

tough partisans—some Jewish, some not—who fought the Germans and their collaborators.

Pictures of Resistance: The Wartime Photography of Jewish Partisan Faye Schulman is a traveling exhibition produced by the Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation. It poses probing questions about this incredible woman and the people whose images she documented.



In 2020, we will honor Jean Zeldin for her many years of leadership and welcome Jessica Rockhold as our new executive director. It will be a

year of transition and opportunity.

As MCHE's founding executive director, Jean began the journey to fulfill the goals set forth by Isak Federman and Jack Mandelbaum over 25 years ago. Her pioneering work to launch educational programs, hire a talented staff and build relationships in the community led MCHE to become a nationally recognized leader in Holocaust education.

With Jessica as our executive director, we are fortunate to have an individual who served ably as MCHE's director of education for the past six years. She began with MCHE as an educational outreach coordinator in 2003 after serving as a research assistant with the senior historian at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. I know Jessica

New Leaders Need Your Support

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE | KARL ZOBRIST

will continue to work with our community partners while expanding our reach to new ones.

We are also fortunate to have Dr. Shelly Cline continue as MCHE's historian and expand her work as she succeeds Jessica as director of education. Shelly holds a Ph.D. in European History from the University of Kansas where her dissertation research focused on the role of Nazi women guards in the concentration camp system. She is also a lecturer at the Kansas City Art Institute and the University of Kansas, and has won many teaching awards.

As our board of directors works with Jessica and Shelly to expand our outreach to urban and rural schools, develop relationships

with new community partners, and focus on fund development to secure our future, we must all support their efforts as MCHE continues its work in these challenging times when new forms of indifference and intolerance must be confronted and opposed.

Karl Zobrist is a partner in the Kansas City law office of Dentons US LLP, where he specializes in energy law and corporate governance issues. He is also vice chairman of the Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission and a member of the board of trustees of Augustana College. He is president of the Truman Good Neighbor Award Foundation, his father, Dr. Benedict Zobrist having served as director of the Harry S. Truman Library from 1971 until 1994. He is also a former Chairman of the Missouri Public Service Commission (1996-97) and chaired the Missouri Energy Policy Task Force in 2001-02.

The Board of Directors and Council of Advocates of the
MIDWEST CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION
invite you to a Dessert Reception in honor of

Jean Zeldin

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 26, 2020

1:00 until 3:00 with remarks at 1:30

1900 BUILDING ↻ 1900 Shawnee Mission Parkway ↻ Mission Woods, KS 66205

Please reply by Friday, March 20 ↻ rsvp@mchekc.org • 913-327-8196

During's Jean Zeldin's 26 years as MCHE executive director, MCHE partnered with more than 50 organizations across the Midwest to sponsor distinguished scholars and authors, compelling films, and powerful traveling exhibitions that explore the history of the Holocaust and apply its lessons to present day.

To strengthen and expand MCHE's community partnerships, Jean and her family have established the Jean Zeldin Partners in Holocaust Education Fund to support programs offered in cooperation with other local nonprofit organizations that share MCHE's commitment to remembering the Holocaust, honoring the legacy of Holocaust survivors and making a difference by countering indifference, intolerance and genocide.

Individuals and businesses are invited to join the family and MCHE in furthering this goal by contributing to the fund. Donations may be included in the enclosed envelope or you may donate on-line at mchekc.org/zeldinfund.

26
YEARS



Remembering Liberation: 75 Years Later

by Shelly Cline

The world watched this January 27th as survivors and dignitaries from across the globe gathered at Auschwitz-Birkenau to commemorate the 75th anniversary of its liberation by Soviet forces. Although Auschwitz remains the most iconic of all Nazi camps, and in many respects has become synonymous with the Holocaust itself, the Nazi system extended well beyond this single location. So too do this year's liberation commemorations.

All too frequently, we think of liberation as the end of the story. While liberation marked the end of the war, and the beginning of new lives, the shadow of the Holocaust remained present in the lives of many.

Bergen-Belsen

On April 15, 1945, the British 11th Armored Division liberated the camp of Bergen-Belsen. This camp, located in north central Germany, was built to hold approximately 11,000 prisoners. However, upon entry the British found almost 60,000 dying prisoners. Originally made to house Soviet POWs and other prisoners of the Reich, Belsen's numbers swelled in the final months of the war as eastern camps, such as Auschwitz, evacuated ahead of the advancing Soviet army. The conditions of starvation, disease and countless unburied dead that these troops found are etched into the collective memory of many in the West, especially in Britain. The thousands of dead and dying found upon arrival led many to refer to Belsen as a "death" camp, although it never functioned as a mechanized killing center.

Upon arrival, the British began to administer what medical care they could, but as an active military unit still fighting to win the war, they were wholly unprepared for the crisis they encountered. Newly freed prisoners

were moved out of the camp to nearby Wehrmacht barracks, which would become the displaced persons camp. There they received medical care and were treated for typhus and malnourishment. After all the remaining prisoners were transferred, the British burned what remained of Belsen, its conditions so appalling they were beyond salvage. In the months that followed, efforts focused on rehabilitating survivors and on initial attempts at postwar justice. The camp staff captured at Belsen were tried in September of 1945, the first trial of the Nazi system in the West.

In the years that followed, survivors remained in the displaced persons camp until 1950, and initial memorialization efforts began on the former site of the Belsen camp. Jewish survivors placed a wooden marker of remembrance months after the end of the war, and in 1952 it was replaced with a permanent stone obelisk. Memorials by other groups followed as the grounds were turned into a memorial site.

After many decades, a documentation center and museum opened on the site. This year, the Bergen-Belsen memorial site will have

its own ceremony inviting remaining survivors to return in commemoration of liberation. As Belsen remains an important symbol in British consciousness, British Holocaust educational institutions and the Bergen-Belsen memorial have partnered on a special program called Belsen 75. This allows British students to learn about the camp, visit the camp, and then design a legacy project to mark the anniversary in their school and community.

Dachau

On April 29, 1945, the U.S. Seventh Army's 45th Infantry Division liberated the camp of Dachau, located in southern Germany outside the city of Munich. Dachau too suffered from overcrowding and disease exacerbated by the increased numbers of prisoners transferred in the final months from eastern camps. When the Americans arrived they found 30,000 survivors, along with 30 railcars filled with bodies. Like the British, American troops did their best to provide immediate food and medical care to the survivors they found. Later, they too set up camps for displaced persons.



Bergen-Belsen



Dachau

From July of 1945 to 1948, the camp served as a prison camp for former Nazis and saw the legal proceedings known as the Dachau trials. In 1948, the grounds became a displaced persons camp for those who remained homeless. Memorialization attempts began in the following years. It was agreed that the site should be turned into a memorial, and in 1955 the Comité International de Dachau was formed. The Dachau Memorial and Documentation center opened in 1965. Today within the grounds there are memorials dedicated to Jewish, Protestant, Catholic and Russian Orthodox victims, as well as an international memorial dedicated to all recognized categories of prisoners.

This year on May 3, the memorial will commemorate its 75th anniversary of liberation.

Ravensbrück

On April 30, 1945, Soviet forces arrived in Ravensbrück, a women's camp northwest of Berlin. In January of 1945, the camp held nearly 45,000 prisoners, but over the next few weeks the SS forced the majority of prisoners westward on death marches ahead of the advancing Soviet army. When the Soviets arrived only 2,000 prisoners were left in the camp. During its existence, Ravensbrück held a variety of prisoners, most of them non-Jewish, until the final months of the war. Unlike the British and

American forces, Soviet liberators did not establish displaced persons camps to house those they liberated.

As in the case of Belsen and Dachau, the immediate postwar years saw attempts at justice through a series of trials conducted both by the British and later Soviet occupation forces. After liberation, Soviet forces took over much of the existing camp structure and used it for barracks. The rest of the camp fell into disrepair. The first memorial service was held in 1948, and they have continued every year. A decade

later, a formal memorial opened, followed by the construction of a special pavilion for memorial services and Soviet rallies. The grounds of the camp continued to be used for military purposes until 1994.

This April, the Ravensbrück memorial will host three days of memorial events, including educational programs on various victim groups represented in Ravensbrück, a memorial walk from the Fürstenberg train station to the camp site re-tracing the path prisoners once took, a concert, and special events for children and grandchildren of camp survivors.

Regardless of location or nationality of the liberating army, many survivors had a common experience of liberation — immediate euphoria of freedom, followed by the realization that the lives they had lived to return to were over, and the people who made them up were gone. All too frequently, we think of liberation as the end of the story. While liberation marked the end of the war and the beginning of new lives, the shadow of the Holocaust remained present in the lives of many. As we remember the 75th anniversary of liberation, let us also remember that even for those who survived, much was lost.



Ravensbrück Memorial

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SPRING/SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please visit the MCHE website at www.mchekc.org for complete details and registration information on these programs.

APRIL

April 4

Opening of *Pictures of Resistance: The Wartime Photography of Jewish Partisan Faye Schulman*

In partnership with the Kansas City Public Library Central Branch
Exhibit runs April 4 to May 31



April 19 1:30 p.m.

Community *Yom HaShoah* Commemoration
Jewish Community Campus

April 20 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

State of Kansas Holocaust Commemoration
Downtown Ramada Inn, Topeka, Kansas



April 21 10:30 a.m.

Second Generation Speakers Bureau Panel for registered students

April 22 6:30 p.m.

Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust
Public program offered in partnership with the Kansas City Public Library

April 23 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Resistance and the Partisans: A Workshop for Educators
Kansas City Public Library Central Branch



April 26 1:00 p.m.

Retirement Reception for Jean Zeldin
1900 Building

April 29 6:30 p.m.

Daring to Resist: Three Women Face the Holocaust
Final film in the RESIST Film Series
Kansas City Public Library Plaza Branch



MAY

May 9 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Victory Day Celebration
Jewish Community Campus

May 12 4:30 p.m.

Reception honoring the White Rose Student Essay Contest Finalists
JCC Social Hall



May 14 6:30 p.m.

Gender and the Holocaust featuring Dr. Shelly Cline
Kansas City Public Library Central Branch

JUNE

June 4 6:30 p.m.

MCHE Annual Meeting
JCC Social Hall
MacKenzie Mallon, Provenance Specialist,
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

June 10 9:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Holocaust Workshop for Educators
A partnership of MCHE, JCRB/AJC, *Big Sonia* and the Eisenhower Presidential Museum and Library
Eisenhower Library, Abilene, Kansas



June 22 9:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Antisemitism: A Workshop for Educators
Jewish Community Campus



June 23 9:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Propaganda: A Workshop for Educators
Jewish Community Campus



June 24 9:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Liberation: A Workshop for Educators
Jewish Community Campus



Restitution for Holocaust Survivors and Their Families

You might qualify for an additional Holocaust-related pension.

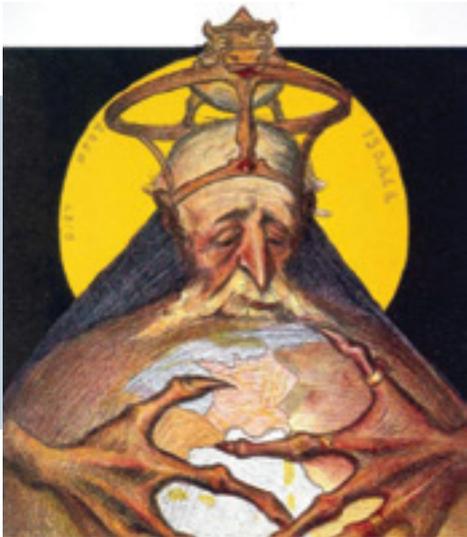
Jewish Family Services can help Holocaust survivors and their surviving spouses access restitution. For more information, contact Laura Gilman, Director of Older Adult Services: 913-730-1441 or lgilman@jfskc.org.



Summer Workshop Series for Educators

Educators will have three opportunities this summer to enhance their skills in teaching the Holocaust. This full-day workshop series will be offered from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Jewish Community Campus, Conference Room C.

Each workshop features primary source documents and resources for classroom use. Participants will learn from lectures, primary source analysis and seminar-style discussions of content. Register at mchekc.org/summer2020. The \$10 per session fee includes all necessary materials and lunch.



June 22

Antisemitism: Evolution and Escalation

Antisemitism has a long history, well beyond the 20th century. This session will examine the evolution of antisemitism from religiously motivated antipathy in early modern times and the economic and pseudo-scientific antisemitism of the 19th and 20th centuries to the politically driven antisemitism of today.



June 23

Propaganda and the People

Propaganda was an important tool to win over the majority of Germans who had not supported Hitler and to push forward the Nazis' radical program. This session will look at how the propagandists preached an appealing message of national unity and a utopian future that resonated with millions of Germans and, simultaneously, waged campaigns that facilitated the persecution of Jews and others excluded from the Nazi vision of the "National Community."



June 24

Perspectives on Liberation

This session will explore the liberation of the concentration and death camps by Allied forces in the spring of 1945. Primary source analysis will be utilized to outline the unique perspectives of ground troops, command staff and survivors, illustrating the full spectrum of human experience as the Holocaust ended. Through these perspectives, participants will differentiate the experiences of liberation in the East versus the West.

MCHE Receives Innovation Grant

VIDEO LECTURES WILL SUPPORT FLIPPED CLASSROOM MODEL

Imagine learning about the Holocaust by watching content experts lecture online followed by a deeper dive in the classroom.

MCHE has received initial funding from the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City in the form of an innovation grant to begin development of content lectures on a video platform for use in a flipped classroom setting.

A flipped classroom is an instructional strategy that reverses the traditional structure of classroom content delivery. In a traditional classroom, educators provide information or lectures during class time and assign

readings and other activities as homework. A flipped classroom provides lecture-based content outside of the classroom, typically viewed online. Students are assigned lectures as homework and classroom time is then devoted to activity-based learning and discussion. This technique enables students and educators to learn directly from the content expert and to maximize the impact of the educators' skills as pedagogical experts and discussion facilitators.

"Core Concepts in Teaching the Holocaust" was inspired by the need to address educators' concerns about teaching the Holocaust



inaccurately, incompletely or insensitively, which has long been a primary barrier to inclusion of Holocaust education in many classrooms," said MCHE Executive Director Jessica Rockhold who, with MCHE Historian Dr. Shelly Cline, will develop the curriculum.

Each video lecture will be supported with lesson plans, primary source documents and secondary readings for expanded learning, and will be correlated to local survivor testimony. Designed as a classroom resource, the lectures be available in early 2021 on the MCHE website and fill a variety of learning needs, including those of adult and informal learners.

MCHE Takes Rural Outreach to the Next Level

MCHE's Second Generation Speakers Bureau has been bringing individual survivors' testimonies into schools and creating personal connections between students and adult children of survivors since 2006. This year, the Speakers Bureau along with a new partnership to engage regional hubs will play a key role in rural outreach throughout Kansas and Missouri, an MCHE priority for 2020.

Have Car, Will Drive

The Speakers Bureau has expanded this year to include 17 speakers, many of whom very generously have adopted the motto, "have car, will drive." MCHE staff also respond to requests for presentations in support of local and regional programming.

Thus far in the 2019-2020 school year, Speakers Bureau volunteers have met with more than 3,000 students and reached new audiences at Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, Buhler High School, Buhler, KS, Logan-Rogers Middle School, Rogersville, MO, and the Linwood Community Library, Linwood, KS.

Dr. Shelly Cline has made presentations on a variety of topics including:

- Weimar Germany in support of a production of *Cabaret* in Jefferson City, MO

- *Women in War* for educators at the Belleville Public Library in Belleville, KS
- *Propaganda and the People* at the Courtland Arts Center in Courtland, KS
- *Propaganda in the Third Reich* at Cottey College in Nevada, MO

Outreach to Educators

Outreach to educators is being accomplished in partnership, bringing together the resources of MCHE, the Jewish Community Relations Bureau-American Jewish Congress, and the film *Big Sonia*. The partnership utilizes MCHE's standing as an *Echoes and Reflections* Approved Training Center to provide substantial Holocaust education, coupled with training to identify and respond to current instances of antisemitism through JCRB-AJC materials. The program concludes with an examination of the impact of the Holocaust on survivors and their families through *Big Sonia*.

The pilot program will be initially offered at the Eisenhower Presidential Museum and Library in June 2020 and at regional hubs with partner agencies throughout Kansas before expanding to Missouri at a later date.

Contact the MCHE office at 913-327-8192 to learn more about how we can support you.

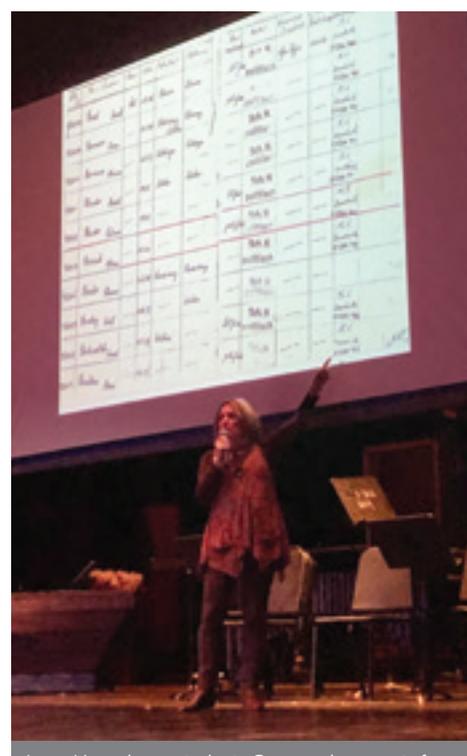
The community at Buhler High School welcomed us with open arms as we spoke to over 600 students in their auditorium. The teachers and administration did a great job of preparing the students with Holocaust background, which made our presentations more meaningful and understandable. They were truly interested in learning about the Holocaust and applying this knowledge to counter indifference and intolerance.

It is a wonderful experience for us to travel to rural communities where they would not have exposure to the stories that a second generation speaker can provide.

— Joyce Hess



Dr. Shelly Cline discusses propaganda in the Third Reich at Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri on February 20, 2020.



Joyce Hess shows students German documents from Stutthof detailing the fates of members of her family.

Survivor Testimonies Will Join Kansas City Oral Histories Project

Edited testimonies of Holocaust survivors who rebuilt their lives in Kansas City that are part of MCHE's Witnesses to the Holocaust Archive have been available to the public on MCHE's website and used in classrooms and informal learning settings since 2015.

Beginning next year, the unedited testimonies will be accessible for the first time online as part of the Kansas City Public Library's Oral Histories Project.

Many area libraries, archives and cultural institutions over the past 50 years have engaged in oral history by creating audio and video recordings of residents from all walks of life. The Oral Histories Project seeks to bring these collections

together into a single repository where users can experience the diversity of Kansas City life through time with ease from their own homes and classrooms.

Testimonies from MCHE's Witnesses to the Holocaust Archive keep the names, faces and voices of local survivors present in Holocaust education. Each profile, supplemented with additional information about the survivor's life and path through the Holocaust, has been carefully curated to ensure accuracy and educational support for the story.

"The creation of the Witnesses to the Holocaust Archive is one of MCHE's greatest achievements to date and central to our mission," said MCHE Executive Director

Jessica Rockhold. "Joining our archive with the Kansas City Public Library will greatly expand the reach of survivors' stories and will contextualize them within a larger Kansas City narrative."

"Our goal is to maximize the way learners can find these testimonies. We are grateful to KCPL and their Oral History Project team for giving people another path to find them."



Survivor Profiles: Rose and Leo Zelman

Rose Weiss was born in 1922 in Sosnowiec, Poland, the youngest of Israel and Esther Weiss's three daughters. One day, after the German occupation of Poland, Rose remembers her mother telling her to leave quickly through a window. As Rose climbed out of the window, she was captured from behind by a Nazi and deported to the first in a series of labor camps.

Over the next several years she was forced to work in Bolkenheim, Waldenberg and Graben — subcamps in the Gross-Rosen and Mauthausen complexes. In 1945, she was sent to Bergen-Belsen where she was liberated in April 1945. She and her only surviving relative, her sister Ida, immigrated to the United States in 1949 where she later met and married her husband, Leo Zelman.



Rose Zelman

Leo Zelman was born in Wloclawek, Poland, where he lived with his parents and six siblings. Shortly after the German invasion of Poland, Leo was separated from his family and spent the next four years in a series of labor camps and factories, including Posen (Poznan), Auschwitz, Buchenwald and the Krupp factory in Essen.

He was liberated by American troops on April 28, 1945 while en route to another camp. He emigrated to the United States in 1950 where he later met and married his wife Rose.



Leo Zelman

Learn more about Rose and Leo at www.mchekc.org/survivors.



Common Book Recommendation

THE WOMAN FROM HAMBURG

Join the MCHE community in reading *The Woman From Hamburg* by Hana Krall.

This unique collection of 12 short stories is a powerful combination of journalism and fiction. Set in the postwar world, the Holocaust is rarely mentioned directly, yet it remains an omnipresent force in these stories.

In the first story, for which the collection is named, a young Jewish woman is hidden from the Nazis by a Polish couple. Her pregnancy is concealed by the man's wife wearing a pillow under her clothes. When the baby girl is born, the couple raise the child as their own. After the war, the Jewish woman disappears. Not until the girl is grown and her father is dying does he reveal the truth about her mother. This is not a simple story of hiding and rescue, but one of "choiceless choices" and trauma.

In another story, a paralytic Jewish woman starts walking after her husband is suffocated by fellow Jews afraid that his coughing would reveal their hiding place to the Germans. In yet another, a young American man refuses to let go of the ghost of his half-brother who died in the Warsaw



Hanna Krall

ghetto. He never knew the boy, but learns Polish to communicate with his *dybbuk* (the soul of a dead person inhabiting a living human being).

These stories deal with the complexities and guilt of survival, of lives shattered and worlds destroyed. Krall reminds us that the suffering of the Holocaust and war went well beyond 1945.



About the author:

Hanna Krall was born in Warsaw in 1935. She was living in Lublin when the war broke out and survived the Holocaust in hiding. Most of her close relatives were killed during the Holocaust. She worked as a reporter for from 1957 until 1981. The recipient of numerous international literary awards, her books have been translated into 15 languages. She lives in Warsaw.

“My work as a reporter has taught me that logical stories, without riddles and holes in them, in which everything is obvious tends to be untrue. And things that cannot be explained in any fashion really do happen. In the end, life on earth is also true, but it cannot be logically explained.” – *Hanna Krall*

Questions for Discussion:

1. “I had to. ‘I wanted to live.’ The woman from Hamburg began to tremble. She repeated, louder and louder, faster and faster, the same sentences: ‘I was afraid.’ ‘I had to.’” — What is she referring to and whom does she credit with her survival?
2. Which story do you find complicated or compelling and why?
3. “‘Then which woman are you, really? And who are you?’ her son asked her.” — What does this passage reveal about trauma endured during the Holocaust?
4. In “Portrait with a Bullet in the Jaw,” how did Blatt get the bullet in his jaw, and why doesn’t he have it removed?
5. Discuss the themes of guilt, sorrow and regret found within the collection.
6. What do you think Krall is trying to tell readers about this period of history?
7. Krall once said, “Describing any true event involves moral dilemmas. When your story is about real life, you cannot intervene.” How does this sentiment shape the stories presented here?
8. Krall is herself a Holocaust survivor. How do you think this influences her writing in this collection?
9. In *Hamlet*, Krall tells the story of pianist Andrzej Czajkowski. Why do you think he donates his skull to the Royal Shakespeare Company at the end of his life?
10. In your opinion, does Krall succeed in her attempts to recover the lost individuality of the people she describes? Why or why not?

Join us online on May 18 for a chance to share your thoughts on these questions: <https://www.facebook.com/MidwestCenterforHolocaustEducation/>

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Yom HaShoah Community Commemoration

Sunday, April 19, 1:30 p.m.

Jewish Community Campus | Lewis and Shirley White Theatre

5801 West 115th Street | Overland Park, Kansas

The community is invited to attend this year's *Yom HaShoah* service commemorating the 77th anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising and the 57th anniversary of the dedication of Kansas City's Memorial to the Six Million, established by members of the New Americans Club and dedicated in 1963 by former President Harry S. Truman.

Mary Covitz, daughter of Holocaust survivors Rose and Leo Zemelman, both of blessed memory, will chair the program, which will include the traditional lighting of six candles in memory of the six million Jewish victims. This year's program will also feature a retrospective of *Yom HaShoah* in the Kansas City community, which began as an annual service in 1959.



The program is organized by the Jewish Community Center, Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee and the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education. It is co-sponsored by Jewish agencies and congregations throughout Greater Kansas City.



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