

IMPACT

Annual Report | Fiscal Year 2023

MIDWEST CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

IN MANY WAYS last year was the first of “new normal” at MCHE, after the pandemic and after the Auschwitz exhibit. It represents the end of a whirlwind three years of incredible change, growth and seizing new opportunities.

The pace of our educational programming has not slowed since the Auschwitz exhibit closed – a remarkable achievement for our small and dedicated team and a necessary sustained pace to meet the increasing demands for our services and programs.

As we head into the next phase of our work, having marked a significant anniversary and the closing of a major project, we are focused on ensuring that every program we offer – every class we teach – upholds the second mandate in our mission, which is to apply the lessons of the Holocaust.

The importance of the history we teach continues to open doors. Now we work to ensure that the sustained impact of lessons of this history resonate throughout the Midwest.

Jessica Rockhold, Executive Director

MCHE
maintains
a **strong**
financial
position
thanks to

the support of our **members**,
which once again is the **highest**
total in our **30 years**



a Legacy Donation Challenge
Grant from MCHE benefactors
Karen and Mike Herman, who
matched up to **\$50,000** in
new memberships through 2023.



support from our **grant agencies**



THIS YEAR WE ...

Delivered **81 Rosh Hashanah bags** and marked **103 survivor birthdays** including a **95th birthday for Gitla Doppelt**.



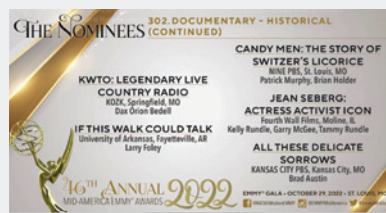
Hired **Laura Patton** as our Program Associate responsible for **outreach to our 7-12th grade learners** and building relationships with professional educators **throughout the region**.



Participated in the **Kansas and Missouri Holocaust Commissions**. Co-chaired the Kansas Commission where we plan the **Kansas Holocaust Commemoration** each spring. Served on the **education subcommittee** responsible for **supporting the Holocaust education mandate in Missouri**.

Held **30th Anniversary Special Programming and Events**

- Hosted initial **I Witness Programs**
- 6 pre-trip learning sessions** leading up to our **first European study tour**
- Awarded **Inaugural Holocaust Educator of the Year**
- Awarded **Inaugural Ruthie Research Grant**



Celebrated the **Emmy Nomination** of **all these delicate sorrows**.

In honor of our **30th anniversary** in 2023, we look back at the **most significant event in MCHE history in each year.**

- 1993 – MCHE incorporated
- 1994 – *Witnesses to the Holocaust* project recorded 48 witness testimonies
- 1995 – Isak Federman Holocaust Teaching Cadre formed
- 1996 – Initiation of White Rose Membership Society
- 1997 – I Witness program launched featuring Holocaust survivors
- 1998 – MCHE Library opened
- 1999 – MCHE's first website launched
- 2000 – Portrait 2000 Survivor Recording and Photo Project
- 2001 – Publication of *From the Heart: Life Before and After the War – A Mosaic of Memoires*
- 2002 – Mosaic of Memories Classroom Slide Show created
- 2003 – MCHE's 10th Anniversary featuring Dudu Fischer
- 2004 – Kansas City Together Law Enforcement Training Program launched
- 2005 – Educational partners to KC Public Television for *Auschwitz: Inside the Nazi State*
- 2006 – *The Nazi Olympics: Berlin 1936* exhibition in partnership with the American Jazz Museum and Negro Leagues Baseball Museum
- 2007 – Together We Remember Student Program launched
- 2008 – 15th Anniversary Speaker Series
- 2009 – *Witnesses to the Holocaust* Documentary Series produced
- 2010 – *Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race* exhibition in partnership with the National Archives at Kansas City
- 2011 – MCHE's 18th Anniversary Celebration – *To Life!*
- 2012 – Publication of *Collective Voices – a Second Generation* writing project
- 2013 – Extensive teacher education programming
- 2014 – *Witnesses to the Holocaust* Archive launch online. *State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda* exhibition in partnership with the National Archives at Kansas City.
- 2015 – Graduate certificate with UMKC and other partner universities launched
- 2016 – *Return to Life* Concert
- 2017 – Expansion of the Portrait Project with addition of 22 survivors
- 2018 – 25 events to mark 25 years
- 2019 – Daffodil Project installed around Memorial to the Six Million
- 2020 – Launch of online learning and regionally available programming
- 2021 – *Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away.* in partnership with Union Station Kansas City
- 2022 – Inaugural year of Auschwitz Legacy Fellowship Program
- 2023 – I Witness Anniversary Series, European Study Tour

AWARDS & CELEBRATIONS

Inaugural Holocaust Educator of the Year

ANGELA GOTTESBUREN, LONE JACK HIGH SCHOOL, LONE JACK, MISSOURI

Excerpts from Angela's Acceptance Speech
May 1, 2023



Angela Gottesburen (center) with Lone Jack's 2023 White Rose Finalists.

It is a great honor to be standing before you as the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education's first Holocaust Educator of the Year...

When it comes to teaching about the Holocaust, I hold Elie Wiesel's words close to my heart: "To hear a witness is to become a witness." I use his words as my guidance for teaching and learning about the Holocaust. I have had the great honor of meeting several Holocaust survivors, and their stories are engraved in my heart. Oftentimes, history seems very far away to young students, but I try to make it come alive to them by sharing the personal stories of survivors and victims...

The Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, and even more specifically, Jessica Rockhold and Dr. Shelly Cline, have helped me grow as an educator...The Holocaust education provided by the Center has not only increased my knowledge on the topic; it has also moved me toward a deeper understanding. Most importantly, the Center has allowed me to educate my students about the Holocaust and give them a clearer picture of the men, women and children who were deeply affected by the terrible machinations of Nazi policy.

To read Angela's entire speech, please go to <https://mchekc.org/holocaust-educator-of-the-year-honoree-2023/>

Ruthie Research Grant Awarded

RESEARCH EXPLORES NAZI-ERA ART LOOTING AND RESTITUTION

In May, MCHE awarded its first Ruthie Research Grant to Beatrice Levine. Beatrice is pursuing a master's degree at the University of Kansas in art history. Her research focuses on Nazi-era looted art and the process of returning these works to their rightful owners. She holds a BA in art history and completed a Certificate of Holocaust Studies from KU.

The Ruthie Graduate Research Fund, named in honor of benefactor Ruthie Abend Tivol, supports a graduate student's travel costs incurred to further their research. With this grant, Beatrice traveled to the University of Denver to attend the Nazi Era Provenance Research Training Program, which focused on art collection ethics. Students learned the fundamentals of tracing the provenance of Jewish-owned art to museum collections.

Beatrice's research, "Nazi-Era Art Looting and the Status of Art Restitution Today," explores what steps the art world is taking to facilitate restitution and search for masterworks still missing today, examines the history of Nazi looting, and questions where the art world is excelling and where it is failing in its efforts to return looted works to their rightful owners.

"This opportunity not only allowed me to further my academic research, but also to learn vital information to help survivors and their families navigate restitution efforts still ongoing today. I am extremely grateful to MCHE and Ruthie Tivol's generosity for their support and investment in burgeoning Holocaust research."
— BEATRICE LEVINE

MCHE REACH

July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

\$156,000

in membership income from over **460 Individual and Organizational members**, the **highest membership total ever** in MCHE's 30-year history.

ONLINE REACH



Youtube:
297,900
views for 70,300
hours of watch time



Facebook:
2,553
followers

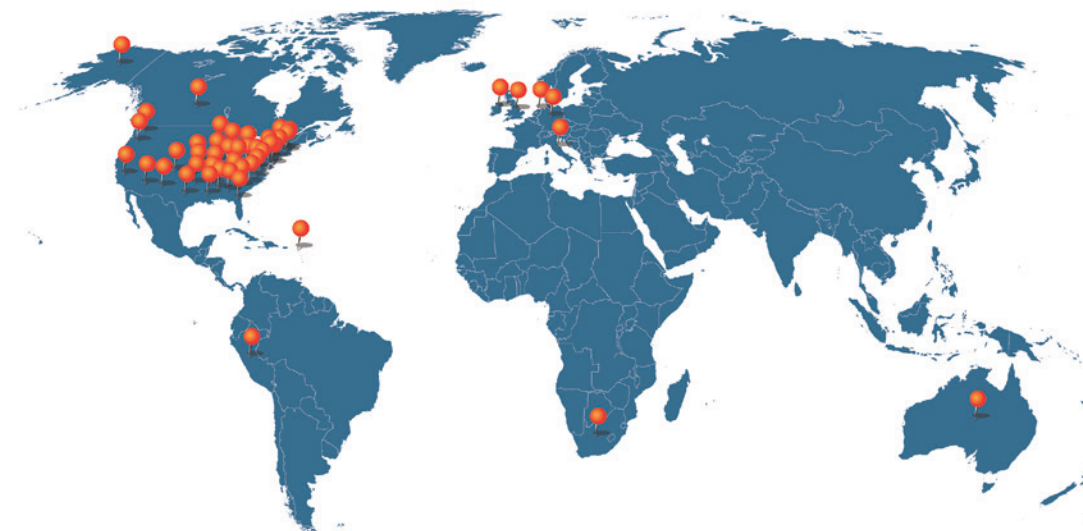


Website:
32,695 users
for 85,956 page
views

PHYSICAL REACH

Direct participation in MCHE educational programming from the **U.S.** and **internationally.**

Alaska	Florida	Massachusetts	New York	Texas
Alabama	Georgia	Michigan	North Carolina	Virginia
Arizona	Illinois	Minnesota	Ohio	Washington
Arkansas	Indiana	Mississippi	Oklahoma	West Virginia
California	Iowa	Missouri	Oregon	Wisconsin
Colorado	Kansas	Nebraska	Pennsylvania	
Connecticut	Louisiana	New Jersey	South Carolina	
Delaware	Maryland	New Mexico	Tennessee	
Australia	Great Britain	Italy	The Netherlands	
Canada	Ireland	Peru	US Virgin Islands	
Germany	Israel	South Africa	USA	



+ 113 countries
in every corner
of the globe have
connected with our
online resources.

The incredible pace of our educational programming has not slowed since the Auschwitz exhibit closed. As an example — in one 12-hour stretch on April 25, MCHE was conducting programming in Hays, Salina, Overland Park and Leavenworth. Three of those four programs were in-person.

PROGRAMS

And Looking Ahead

Completing our **European Study tour** and **preparing for the next**

Completing our **flipped lecture series** for **classroom use**

Developing programming in support of the second and third generations, further engaging them in our mission

Hosting a **Yahad-In Unum Institute** for educators in 2024



WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ...

“Jewish Experiences cherishes our close connection with the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education. As the Jewish Experiences team continues to expand, we have continued to come back to MCHE seeking opportunities for partnership and collaboration. This past year we’ve teamed up to provide educational resources to the cast of Vilna: A Resistance Story and engaged both Dr. Shelly Cline and Jessica Rockhold to present at events like Day of Discovery and the Acclaimed Author Series, amongst other ventures.

It is more than our shared visions for building a community of understanding and tolerance that bring us together. The MCHE team has become valued thought partners, colleagues, and friends in our work to engage the KC Jewish community in unique and innovative ways.”

— ETHAN HELFAND,
DIRECTOR JEWISH EXPERIENCES,
A COLLABORATION OF JEWISH FEDERATION AND THE J



“I cannot put into words how impactful it was listening to Sonia talk about her hardships in her life. Having read many Holocaust books, I have never experienced a survivor sitting in front of me telling me the story from their own perspective.

I was in shock and awe the entire time I would hear her speak. I was able to feel her pain through her impactful story. For as long as I will live, I will never forget Sonia’s story. Sonia was truly a bright light in a sea of dark, and I feel honored that I got to hear her story.”

— ALAINA SWEANY,
STUDENT AT MILL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL,
I WITNESS PARTICIPANT



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Overland Park, Kansas 66211-1800



J.E.D.I. Award Recipient
Justice - Equity
Diversity - Inclusion
Perspective Group, LLC
Lawrence, KS