



Legacy



A publication of the Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee, a division of the Alabama Holocaust Foundation

Fall/Winter 2009

VOICES OF THE HOLOCAUST Ann Mollengarden, Education Coordinator

DATES TO REMEMBER:

KRISTALLNACHT
November 9, 2009

VOICES OF THE
HOLOCAUST
November 18, 2009
7:00 pm
Temple Emanu-El

TEACHER WORKSHOP
Thursday, November 19,
2009
8:30 am-3:00 pm
Temple Emanu-El

U.N. INTERNATIONAL
HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE DAY
January 27, 2010

STATE YOM HASHOAH
Days of Remembrance
State Capitol
Tuesday, April 13, 2010

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As the events of the Holocaust recede further into the realm of history, and the number of survivors left to tell their stories dwindle, there is concern that the Holocaust will simply become a story of mass death and destruction. By personalizing the study of the Holocaust with the voices of its victims, students will eschew forever the role of bystander and realize that we have individual responsibilities towards our fellow citizens, regardless of their ethnicity, gender, religion, ability or gender.

State-Wide Educational Program

Since its inception in 2003, the Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee (BHEC), a regional division of the Alabama Holocaust Commission (AHC), has focused its efforts on education. With the help of our generous supporters as well as our tireless volunteers, the BHEC has achieved great successes. Now, in November, the AHC will be embarking on its first, state-wide education program. We will reach areas of our state that have little or no access to knowledge of the events of Holocaust and the lessons to be learned from this cataclysmic event. We are bringing author/historian Alexandra Zapruder to Alabama.

Community Lecture & Teacher Workshops

Ms. Zapruder will present a Community Lecture as well as a Teacher Workshop in Monroeville, Montgomery, Birmingham, and Florence. **On Wednesday, November 18, 7:00 pm, Temple Emanu-El in Birmingham will graciously host her lecture. This event is free and open to the public.**

Then on Thursday, November 19, Temple Emanu-El will once again host a full day Holocaust teacher workshop.

In an effort to encourage teachers to attend during these difficult economic times, they will receive reimbursement for their substitute teachers, as well as copies of Ms. Zapruder's book and DVD.

Support this Program

As the AHC received no state funding this year, support for this important program is actively being pursued at the local and state level. With your help, this zealous undertaking, spearheaded by the BHEC, will be possible. The repetition of human tragedies in the world today reminds us that we must be vigilant and learn the lessons of the Holocaust again and again.



Alexandra Zapruder: The author of *Salvaged Pages, Young Writers' Diaries of the Holocaust*, a collection of 15 diaries of children's experiences during the Holocaust. She is a 1991 graduate of Smith College and received her masters from Harvard University. Zapruder resides in Washington, DC.

TEACHERS' RECEPTION

Teacher's Reception

Five teachers attended the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Belfer Conference. Their attendance was generously underwritten by the Fred and Brenda Friedman Family Fund. Another teacher, attending the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous Lerner Fellowship Program, was underwritten by the Alabama Holocaust Commission. They were all honored by Holocaust survivors and members of the BHEC. A stimulating discussion was shared by all twenty-five attendees.



Teacher Scholarship Recipients: Left to right: Rachel LaMonte, Berry Middle School, Shannon Jones, Oneonta Elementary School, Angela Thompson, West Blocton Middle School, Kathleen Keelin, Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School, and Sharon Wright, Fayetteville Middle School. Jill Wallace, Spain Park High School (not pictured).



Barbara Solomon, Coordinator

BHEC's traveling exhibit *Darkness Into Life* is 'home' and is presently displayed on the walls of the BHEC office. *Darkness Into Life* had a hugely successful two month exhibition in Gadsden this past spring. It was viewed by several thousand people, and over 20 programs were presented in conjunction with the exhibit. A *Gadsden Times*' article reported stories told by Aisic and Riva Hirsch and relayed responses of some of the students they touched. One middle school student was quoted in the article as saying, "It didn't feel completely real when we studied it. But when you listen to survivors, it makes it sound more real and it feels a little bit more strange that someone actually did that."

Community Impact

The impact on that community was huge and the knowledge gained about the Holocaust was tremendous. This is exactly what Becky Seitel and Mitzi Levin, the creators of the exhibit envisioned when they developed the idea of *Darkness Into Life*, to create an educational project which would feature photography and artwork depicting memories of the survivors. The initial exhibit debuted in April 2007 with 13 survivor stories; in 2008 it was expanded to represent the stories of 20 survivors from Alabama.

Booking Contact

BHEC is in the process of negotiating several more venues for the exhibit. The exhibit has been viewed in libraries, schools, museums and cultural centers. Please email Barbara Solomon at barbsolomon@bellsouth.net or call the BHEC office, 205.795.4176 if you are interested in hosting the exhibit in your community.

PHYLLIS WEINSTEIN, Chair

Serving the dual role as Chair of the Alabama Holocaust Commission and the Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee affords us the opportunity to think and plan—state wide, as well as locally. In these pages you will read of an extraordinary educational project, a state tour by an impressive voice of the Holocaust, Alexandra Zapruder. Read her biography, and learn when you will be able to hear her address a Community Meeting in Birmingham and a Teacher's Workshop the following day. Ann Mollengarden, Project Director of the Educational Tour will have more information to share in the weeks ahead. Don't miss it.

Obviously, this unusual undertaking requires unusual funding, and we have launched our **Sponsor a Teacher** campaign. Read how you may contribute to this fund, enthusiastically chaired by Judy Abrams and Betty Goldstein.

While our sights are on the November 18, "Voices of the Holocaust: Remembering the Past to Protect the Future" program with Alexandra Zapruder, our planning extends to January 27, 2010 to mark The United Nations International Holocaust Remembrance Day. What do we remember? What do we want to prevent? Our goal is to make this day an annual day of study on a particular subject related to the Holocaust, to be studied by all our institutions, Jewish as well as non-Jewish, to examine just what we are remembering, and what it is we should strive to prevent. Interested? Contact us.

We are justly proud of our devoted, dedicated - all volunteer - committee members whose skill and professionalism have made possible the enormous strides we have made in awareness and understanding of the Holocaust in our area and beyond.

BHEC gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our supporters: Bayer Properties, B & B Print Shop, Birmingham Jewish Federation, Birmingham Jewish Foundation, Southern Jewish Voice, Frank and Fred Friedman Family Fund, and Steve Goldman Web Design.

"VOICES OF THE HOLOCAUST: LEARNING FROM THE PAST TO PROTECT THE FUTURE"

SPONSOR A TEACHER For \$100

**To Attend a
Teacher Workshop led by Ms. Zapruder**

**\$100 covers a substitute teacher, Zapruder's book, DVD, lunch at teacher workshop,
November 19, 2009, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm, Temple Emanu-El**

Make checks payable to:

Alabama Holocaust Foundation, P.O. Box 130577, Birmingham, AL 35213

ABOUT ALEXANDRA ZAPRUDER

Ann Mollengarden, Education Coordinator

Alexandra Zapruder

Ms. Zapruder began her career as the researcher for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's exhibition for young visitors, "Remember the Children, Daniel's Story." After the museum opened, she became the Assistant Director of the Oral History Department, working with Holocaust survivors to record their testimonies. In 1992, she began researching and collecting diaries written by young people during the Holocaust. She found stirring stories of adolescents whose lives were changed forever by their Holocaust experience. She related these stories in her book, *Salvaged Pages: Young Writers' Diaries of the Holocaust*. This book was the winner of the 2001-02 National Jewish Book Award in the Holocaust category. In 2005, the book was made into a DVD, also produced by Ms.

Zapruder, and entitled "*I'm Still Here: Real Diaries of Young People Who Lived During the Holocaust.*" This video was nominated for two Emmy Awards in Editing and Outstanding Historical Programming and was winner of the Jewish Image Award for Best Television Special by the National Foundation for Jewish Culture.



The Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee

Is Pleased To Offer The Following Services:

- *Archives*
- *Holocaust Lending Library*
- *Holocaust DVD's*
- *Holocaust Survivor Cookbook (\$36.00)*
- *Tribute Cards (\$10.00)*
- *Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee Endowment at the Birmingham Jewish Foundation*

Please call the BHEC Office for more information 205.795.4176

ALEXANDRA ZAPRUDER
Temple Emanu-El

Join us for an outstanding community event . . .

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

7:00 pm

Temple Emanu-El

Alexandra Zapruder, author, educator, and researcher for the
 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's traveling exhibit

Remember the Children, Daniel's Story.

This event is free and open to the public.

BHEC MISSION STATEMENT: *The Committee seeks to facilitate education and understanding of the Holocaust by providing information, materials, speakers, teachers' workshops, community events, and programming. The Holocaust, the most significant event in recent world history, revealed both the peaks of heroism and the depths of cruelty and depravity that humans can experience. The Committee hopes that, by learning from the past, students will fortify their knowledge and will be leaders in preventing such evil from recurring.*

Alabama Holocaust Foundation
 Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee

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