



Legacy



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

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A MESSAGE FROM PHYLLIS WEINSTEIN, Chair

Dear Friends,

We were singly honored and well pleased to welcome Governor Bob Riley to our office in a hastily arranged meeting to commemorate Yom Hashoah, the Days of Remembrance last April. As he requested, we had just a small group of Holocaust survivors and Alabama Holocaust Commission members as well as Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee members. Fifteen people and his staff were present, Governor Riley spoke movingly about his visit several years ago to the Dachau Concentration Camp and how he would never forget what he saw and learned there. It was a touching and heartwarming moment for us to be aware that the Governor of our State had this experience and expressed himself with such deep feeling.

At that time, he promised that Yom Hashoah, 2008, would be held at the Capitol Building in Montgomery where a larger audience would be invited. Holding true to that promise, the Commemoration for 2008 will be held on Friday, May 2, 1:30 p.m. in the Old House Chamber of the Capitol Building. Governor Riley will deliver the main address during this program.

As we know, the Holocaust did not begin in the gas chambers—it began with words. The lack of respect for one another, contempt for one another, demonizing one another, led to a state of mind that made it possible to kill innocent people just because of who they were. It brings to mind a maxim we learn from the late, revered Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel who wrote, "In a free society where terrible wrongs exist, some are guilty, but all are responsible."

Members of the Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee fully accept our responsibility to educate teachers, students, and the general public about the Holocaust. As you read this *Legacy* newsletter, you will learn how our committed, dedicated members, all volunteers, are moving forward with new ideas, new programs and new technology to reach our citizens with the message that Never Again should any people be subjected to the evil that befell those who came under Hitler's rule.

And to those who express their responsibility through their financial aid and in kind support of our mission, we express our deepest gratitude.

Phyllis

DATES TO REMEMBER

Kristallnacht Remembrance Friday, November 9, 2007

U.N. Holocaust Remembrance Sunday, January 27, 2008

Birmingham Public Library Brown Bag Lunch Series Wednesdays, March 2008

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LOCAL UNIVERSITIES MOVING TOWARD ADOPTION OF HOLOCAUST COURSES IN EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS, Barbara Bonfield, Program Coordinator

BHEC's longstanding goal, to increase teachers' knowledge of the Holocaust and improve their ability to impart that knowledge to their students, has recently advanced to another level. Deans of the Education Departments at Samford University and The University of Montevallo, working with BHEC, have begun discussing ways that they may collaborate to provide orientation and training for appropriate faculty members. Such additional studies will facilitate the development of curricula for the schools of education.

Furthering Our Efforts

To further this effort, BHEC has communicated with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) to identify appropriate institutes and seminars for university faculty.

USHMM has requested information about the universities to be used in an approval process. Once approved, applications will be accepted from faculty members for admission to institutes and seminars. USHMM also indicated a strong interest in including Alabama institutions in its list of those approved for other support. If accepted, the two universities will also be eligible to receive assistance from USHMM's Fellows in the development of curricula and planning other activities.

Proposal

BHEC recently submitted a proposal to the Birmingham Jewish Foundation for funding for scholarships for middle and high school teachers. In addition, a request for a small amount of funds to support training of university faculty was made to Birmingham Jewish Foundation.

Teacher education continues to be a top priority of the Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee (BHEC).

Samford Summer Institute

In July, we were fortunate to be keynote speakers at the Samford Summer Institute for Teaching Excellence (SSITE). Almost 100 teachers from across the state attended our lecture which focused on the "Guidelines for Teaching the Holocaust." We introduced our newly created PowerPoint resource entitled "The Holocaust", which is available to teachers free on our website at www.bhamholocausteducation.org.

Teacher Workshops

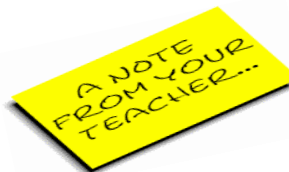
This fall we will continue to market this and other teacher resources directly to the school systems in the Birmingham area. We currently have a teacher workshop scheduled with the Jefferson County teachers in October.

Program Development

Our teacher education has begun to evolve into a two-pronged approach. While we have always focused our efforts on middle and high school teachers, we have recently recognized that students in college-level teacher education programs are also lacking in Holocaust education. To that end, the BHEC is developing programs with the education schools at Samford University and at the University of Montevallo.

Teachers Are Our Inspiration

Our teachers are our inspiration and our hope for the future. We at the BHEC strive to empower them with the tools they need to teach the lessons and the memory of the Holocaust.



TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS SPEAK ABOUT SEMINAR EXPERIENCES

This summer we also welcomed home our Teacher Scholarship recipients that attended some of the top Holocaust Conferences across the country and world. This scholarship program, funded in part by the Birmingham Jewish Foundation, is vital to awakening teachers to the importance of Holocaust education as well as furthering their knowledge of the history.

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Belfer Conference

"The teaching/informative sessions...helped me realize my purpose in teaching the Holocaust. Not that it is just a part of my curriculum, but to confront hatred, prevent genocide, promote human dignity and strengthen democracy."

- Mary Yates, Cullman Middle School, Teacher

The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, Alfred Lerner Fellowship

"I met colleagues from across the U.S. as well as from Poland and Croatia. My...discussions...shed an amazing light on many issues, primarily teaching the Holocaust in eastern Europe...where genocide has taken place within the lifetime of the students."

- Laurian Dumas, Berry Middle School, Teacher

Facing History and Ourselves, Remembering the Holocaust

"...it is through education, that we as educators can become an agency of change and directly impact our students' consciousness creating an inclusive global community filled with dignity, respect and compassion for all mankind."

- Willie A. Brown, Jr., A.G. Gaston Elementary, 6th grade, Teacher

NAMES & ADDRESSES OF SURVIVORS NEEDED

Alabama Holocaust Commission and BHEC seeks names and addresses of Holocaust Survivors in the State of Alabama. They will receive invitations to special events and may be included in the Art and Photography Exhibit "Darkness into Life". Please send information to P.O. Box 130577, Birmingham, AL 35213

Two Years in Development

After two years in development, “The Holocaust” PowerPoint is now available FREE on the BHEC website.

Concept Development

The BHEC has long recognized that the Alabama Course of Study minimally addresses issues regarding the Holocaust and its relevance to today. This project began with the concept of developing a two to three day curriculum for classroom teachers. What finally resulted was a PowerPoint presentation of 389 slides and almost 300 pages of accompanying notes.

Collaborating with Teachers

The BHEC worked with two classroom teachers on this project: Randy Hubbard from Springville High School and Lisa Byrd from Mortimer Jordan High School. Both teach semester courses on the Holocaust. Recognizing that resources can be both difficult to

locate and overwhelming, and that various grade levels and disciplines have different needs, it was decided to make this PowerPoint a “one-stop” resource for teachers beginning their exploration of the Holocaust.

Project Includes

“The Holocaust” is appropriate for middle or high school instruction. It incorporates multi-disciplinary approaches to the topic and includes:

- Historical information
- Maps, charts, graphs
- Quotes
- Artwork
- Photographs
- Political cartoons
- Primary and secondary sources

We encourage all teachers and interested individuals to sample “The Holocaust” and welcome your comments.



The Birmingham Area Holocaust Survivors Through Photography & Art

Representative DeMarco Views *Darkness into Life*
Since its debut in April, *Darkness into Life: The Birmingham Area Holocaust Survivors Through Photography and Art* has been viewed by thousands of visitors. Phyllis Weinstein and Barbara Bonfield recently hosted two special guests for a tour during the exhibition at Temple Beth-El. State Representative Paul DeMarco and Rex Boyd, Alabama Power, Manager-Governmental Projects, spent a morning learning more about some of their constituent’s lives before, during, and after the Holocaust. This exhibit was created by Mitzi Levin and Becky Seitel.

“Representative DeMarco, a member of the Alabama Holocaust Commission and Mr. Boyd are very supportive of the mission of BHEC and were impressed with the exhibit,” says Phyllis. “They suggested other venues within the metropolitan area and were pleased and anticipate the wide audience it will receive at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in the fall of 2008.”



State Representative Paul DeMarco and BHEC Chairman Phyllis Weinstein view the story of Holocaust survivor Max Herzel.

IT’S ALL ABOUT GIVING . . .

The Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee (BHEC) is pleased to extend our gratitude to our “Friends” who generously support our efforts. BHEC relies on individual donors such as you to continue our mission. We have enclosed a contribution envelope and hope you will become a “Friend”.

“The World is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.”

Albert Einstein

ANNUAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM AT JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Steve Whitton, PhD.

Jacksonville State University Holocaust Remembrance Program Begins

The Jacksonville State University Holocaust Remembrance began in 1982 as a project of the JSU Wesley Foundation. Over the years, attendance at the remembrance program has grown from a short event attended by 25 people to the current annual program, which often had an attendance of as many as 500 people from the campus and surrounding communities. Holocaust survivors from the region have told their stories.

Annual Remembrance Made Possible

The annual Holocaust Remembrance is made possible by the JSU Holocaust Remembrance Committee in cooperation with the JSU Student Government Association. Other support comes from generous donations from local and regional charities. Faculty, students and community members participate in order to remember Holocaust victims and in the hope that, through education, an event such as the Holocaust can be prevented from ever reoccurring.

<http://holocaust.jsu.edu>.

SECOND GENERATION, Helena Lubel, Coordinator

If you or someone you know would have interest in joining our Second Generation group, (children of survivors), please contact Helena Lubel, Coordinator at 871-4073.

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.*

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