



Legacy



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

Spring/Summer 2009

TEACHER EDUCATION, Ann Mollengarden, Education Coordinator

DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 4–25, 2009
Birmingham Public Library
Brown Bag Lunch

February – April 2009
Vestavia Hills
Public Library
“Love & Forgiveness”

March 15, 2009
2:00– 4:00 pm
Birmingham-Southern College
Holocaust Film
“The Grey Zone”

March - April, 2009
Gadsden Center for
Cultural Arts
Darkness into Life Exhibit

Sunday, April 19, 2009,
2:00 p.m.
Birmingham Yom HaShoah
Commemoration
Birmingham Museum of Art
Film, “The Counterfeiters”
Candle Lighting Ceremony By
Holocaust Survivors & Second
Generation

We are pleased to announce an unprecedented response to our Teacher Scholarship Program for the Summer of 2009. This year we are pleased to be able to send six teachers to the Belfer Conference at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. These teachers represent the following schools: West Blocton Middle School, Oneonta Elementary School, Our Lady of the Valley School, Fayetteville Middle School, Piedmont High School and Spain Park High School. All are new participants to the BHEC’s Scholarship Program. The teachers will spend three days at the Museum learning Holocaust history and proper pedagogy for teaching the Holocaust. In addition, we have a teacher from Pleasant Grove High School who will be attending the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous’ Lerner Fellowship Program. Afterwards, these teachers will become active members of our Teacher Cadre and share their experiences with their colleagues. These opportunities were made possible by the Frank & Fred Friedman Family Fund.

Alexandra Zapruder

On the home front, planning is underway to bring noted Holocaust historian, Alexandra Zapruder, to Birmingham in the Fall of 2009. Ms. Zapruder is the author of *Salvaged Pages*, a collection of diaries kept by young people during the Holocaust. In addition, MTV has made an educational video entitled *I’m Still Here: Real Diaries of Young People Who Lived During the Holocaust*, based on this book. Primary resources such as this are a valuable tool for teachers.

Photos

We are in the process of collecting any photos and/or documents that local survivors have to include as a learning tool on our website. We plan to scan these materials so that they will be digitally preserved. If you or anyone you know has materials that they would be willing to share with the BHEC, please contact Ann Mollengarden, Education Coordinator, at 205 - 937- 5282.

Inside this issue:

Message	
Phyllis Weinstein	2
Love & Forgiveness	2
Darkness into Life	3
Brown Bag Lunch Series	4
Holocaust Film Series	4



No longer comfortable in public schools, Ruth Siegler transferred to a private school three years after Hitler came to power. This photo is from that private Dominican Lyceum School in Euskirchen, Germany that Ruth attended from the time she was nine years old until Kristallnacht in 1938. Ilse Nathan attended the same school earlier. The small picture in the rear of the room is the mandatory picture of Hitler required in every classroom.

Dear Friends,

"The World agrees that genocide is unacceptable, and yet genocide and mass killings continue. Our challenge is to match words to deeds to stop allowing the unacceptable," stated Madeleine K. Albright, co-chair of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Council.

It may be a huge stretch to think that what we do in the Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee could impact that goal. But ultimately that is why we want everyone to learn about and to understand the horrors that were committed during the Holocaust, not only to Jewish people, but to all those whom the German Nazi Party considered undesirables: the Gypsies, homosexuals, educators, Jehovah Witnesses, etc. Targeting a people for extinction resulted in the death of over 12 million people and little was done by good people in the world to prevent this.

The world should have learned from this genocide. Obviously, it has not, as mass killings continue in many parts of the world. Never Again—the slogan that became the watchword following the Holocaust has not been fulfilled.

Surprisingly, often we hear from teachers and students that they know nothing about the Holocaust. It is a completely new word to them. Part of our task is to bring knowledge of this dark period in human history to them. Our Holocaust survivors, Martin Aaron, Jack Bass, Max

Herzel, Aisic Hirsch, Riva Hirsch, Ilse Nathan, Ruth Seigler and Max Steinmetz, who speak of their experiences at schools and civic programs and even give private interviews in the Birmingham area and beyond are our greatest ambassadors in telling the story of the Holocaust. We are blessed to have these extraordinary people who willingly tell and retell their tragic story over and over so that people will know what human beings are capable of doing to another human being. Their impact is immeasurable.

In this publication you will learn of other ways that we reach out to our citizens to impart the events that occurred during World War II.

Please support our efforts

Please know that we cannot carry on our important work without the support of friends like you who understand that our work is vital to making our world a better place, a place where man's relationship with his fellowman is one of understanding and respecting differences, a world where *Never Again* is not a hope but a reality. Return the enclosed envelope with a gift that is your voice saying loudly, *Never Again*. Your gift will enable us to continue to teach, to inform and to bring the story of the Holocaust, in its varied dimensions, to all our citizens. We deeply appreciate your support.

Let's Talk About It: Love and Forgiveness Features Survivor, Jack Bass Barbara Bonfield, Program Coordinator

January - April 2009

The Vestavia Hills Public Library was chosen from among 30 applicants nationwide to host this year's American Library Association discussion program. Since 1982, the ALA has sponsored the Let's Talk About It Program. The program model involves a scholar-led reading and discussion program for libraries with a central theme defined each year.

Leslie West, Adult Services Librarian and author of the proposal is excited about Vestavia's selection, and states, "We are thrilled to be hosting the Let's Talk About It: Love & Forgiveness program. I am pleased that our program scholar Dr. Julie Steward from Samford University, will join us for the series."

Programs

In 2009, over a period of three

months, January through March, a variety of programs will provide exploration of the theme. Other programs will include a discussion of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* and a viewing of Emma Thompson's Oscar-winning film based on the novel. Martin Luther King's, Jr. I Have a Dream Speech will be reviewed and discussed.

Literature to be Studied

The second book of the series, Nicole Krauss's *The History of Love* will be discussed in February with Dr. Steward leading the discussion. Other literature to be studied include, Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*, a documentary, *Anne Frank Remembered*, the Persian poet

Rumi's *The Essential Rumi*, Ian McEwan's *Atonement* and a final documentary, *The Power of Love & Forgiveness*.

JACK BASS SPEAKS

April 2, at 6:30 pm Jack Bass, a local Holocaust survivor, and speaker for the Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee will talk about his personal experiences in the Holocaust. Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee, a partner in the Forgiveness series, encourages learning from the past to prevent evil from recurring.

Further Information

The program is open to the public. For further information, contact Leslie West at the Vestavia Hills Library, 205-978-3683.



Darkness Into Life Exhibit on the Move

Barbara Solomon, Coordinator

BHEC's *Darkness Into Life*, an exhibition of photography by Becky Seitel and art by Mitzi J. Levin features private memories of Alabama Holocaust survivors. It is a traveling exhibit available for display.

Educate Students of All Ages

This collection of thought provoking and heart-warming paintings and photographs are accompanied by narratives that tell the stories shared by the survivors as well as maps that trace the survivors' journeys. It is a superlative educational opportunity to educate students of all ages about the story of the Holocaust.

Traveling Exhibit

Since its debut in April of 2007 at the Levite Jewish Community Center in Birmingham, AL. the exhibition has grown and has traveled to many venues where thousands have had the opportunity to view the exhibition and to participate in the various lectures and study sessions that have been coordinated to complement the exhibition. The exhibition has been viewed in schools in various Alabama communities as well as in the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery, The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and currently is on loan at the Mobile Museum of Art. It will be traveling on to the Gadsden Center for Cultural Arts for the months of March and April.

Exhibit is Available for Your Community

The exhibit is available for view in your community. Exhibit fees for all types of venues within the state of Alabama are waived and shipping costs associated with moving the exhibit to schools within the state are paid by the BHEC. Please call Barbara Solomon, Exhibit Coordinator at (205) 422-3584 or email Barbsolomon@bellsouth.net. Additionally, you may contact the BHEC office at 205 795-4176 and view our website at www.bhamholocausteducation.com.

Darkness Into Life travels to the Mobile Museum of Art.



Mitzi Levin, artist, speaking in Mobile



From left to right: Becky Seitel, photo journalist; Ricki Voit, Mobile, Alabama Holocaust Commissioner; Alan Seitel, Birmingham



Holocaust Survivor Cookbook Order Form

Recipes collected from around the world
Copyright 2007, Published in USA

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (_____) _____ 2nd TELEPHONE NUMBER: (_____) _____

\$36 each, plus \$10 shipping and handling Number Ordered: _____ Total amount. of purchase: _____

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES

March 2009 - 12:00 NOON- 1:00 pm

Birmingham Public Library

Wednesday, March 4—Mitzi J. Levin, Artist
Darkness into Life Art/Photography Exhibit
Alabama Holocaust Survivors Through Photography and Art
 The artist will share her experiences in developing art for the exhibit, from interviewing survivors to the final creation.

Wednesday, March 11—Becky Seitel, Photographer/ Journalist
Darkness into Life Art/Photography Exhibit
Alabama Holocaust Survivors Through Photography and Art
 The artist will relate how the Holocaust, previously unknown to her, became a focus of her creative work. Her photographs depict current images of the survivors in photojournalistic style.

Wednesday, March 18—Film Documentary
“The Children of the Holocaust”
 This 55 minute film, locally produced by Jenny Katz and Dorian MacDougal introduces you to the experiences of nine Birmingham Holocaust survivors.

Wednesday, March 25—“L’dor v’ L’dor—Generation to Generation
 Denise Blum Lewis tells of her father, Roger Blum’s unusual road to survival: from France to Birmingham at the age of 19, to joining the U.S. Army, and back to Birmingham after the war. His parents and sister were captured and taken to a concentration camp.



Holocaust Film Series, Norton Theatre **Birmingham-Southern College**

March 15, 2009—2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. “The Grey Zone”, Tim Blake Nelson , Director, United States
The true story of Dr. Miklos Nyiszli, a Hungarian Jew chosen by Dr. Josef Mengele to be the head pathologist at Auschwitz. The doctor, along with the Sonderkommandos (Jews who were forced to work in the crematoria), find themselves in a moral grey zone.

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
 A Resource Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education
 P.O. Box 130577
 Birmingham, AL 35213-0577
 Phone: 205.795.4176

NONPROFIT ORG
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 BIRMINGHAM, AL
 PERMIT NO. 400

Phyllis G. Weinstein, Chair	
Karen Allen	Esther Levy
Barbara Bonfield	Helena Lubel
Lisa Byrd	Denise Lewis
Lin Carleen	Judy Borisky Metzger
Dr. Robert Corley	Ann Mollengarden
Laurie Elmets	Becky Seitel
Vicki Flax	Bobbie Siegal
Max Herzel	Barbara Solomon
Randy Hubbard	Lemarse Washington
Kelly Kahn	Dr. Steven Whitton
Mitzi J. Levin	Eva Wilensky