

# Newsletter

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Fall/Winter 1999-2000

## *PRESENT MEMORIES*

### **SPIELBERG -- HERE WE COME!**

The Holocaust Center is in the process of professionally producing an educational video based on the original script *Present Memories* that was presented at the Yom HaShoah Commemoration this past year.

*Present Memories* retells the history of the Holocaust through the eyes of six survivors. Each focuses on one specific period of their years under the Nazis. When linked together, the viewer journeys through the Holocaust from the pre war years to the end of World War II to freedom. As the survivors speak, pictures and images of their stories are projected on a screen.

Participating survivors regularly speak to classes and groups. **ERIC KAHN** of Swampscott begins with the pre war years and his incarceration in the concentration camp Theresen. **JANET APPLEFIELD** of Plymouth tells of her survival as a hidden child in Poland. **ALAN BROWN** of Malden continues with his ordeal in slave labor camps in Hungary and the *Righteous Gentile* who helped to save his life.

Next, **RENA FINDER** of Framingham describes her years in the Krakow Ghetto and the Plashov concentration camp and her survival with Oskar Schindler. **JOSEPH MATZNER** of Boston picks up where Rena leaves off. He details his journey in cattle cars and his struggles in the death camps. **SONIA WEITZ** of Peabody chronicles the end of the war in the Mauthausen concentration camp, and the DP camps (displaced persons camps). The program concludes as the survivors relate their return to life.

The video will be designed for the scope and sequence of public school classrooms, appropriate for middle school and older students. The curriculum will include a videotape and printed materials as well as a teacher's guide.

Anyone interested in contributing to the funding of this project is encouraged to call the Holocaust Center.

# ***WHAT IS THE HOLOCAUST CENTER?***

## ***ANSWERS TO COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS***

### **HISTORY**

The Holocaust Center of the North Shore was created in **1982** to provide community awareness, information, audio-visual support, and education about the Nazi Holocaust in an attempt to prevent that history from repeating itself. The general aim is to reduce hatred, prejudice, ignorance and indifference through education. The Holocaust Center is an interfaith non-profit organization overseen and advised by an interfaith committee.

### **RESOURCES**

The free-lending library houses more than **1,600** books and over **500** videos and films for all ages.

The Holocaust Center offers a **Speakers' Bureau** of survivors and witnesses.

### **PROGRAMS**

The Holocaust Center provides **custom-designed programs and awareness sessions** for the community including public and private schools, organizations, churches, and temples.

The Holocaust Center is an affiliate of the **Fortunoff Video Archives for Holocaust Testimonies** at Yale University. To date, 100 oral histories that will be used solely for education have been recorded. This is an on-going project.

Each fall the Holocaust Center offers a forum for survivors at the annual **Survivors' Conference** in cooperation with Facing History. Participants are encouraged to share their experiences with the public and in the classroom. Children of survivors are encourage to come.

The Holocaust Center offers an annual **Human Rights Awareness Conference** for High School students, grades 9-12 to increase awareness of past violations of human rights. Attendance has been to capacity of 800. (Held 10/20/99.)

Area teens have the opportunity to hear a survivor speak at the **Interfaith Teen Conference**. The

public is invited to this program. (Scheduled for 3/13/00. Snow date 4/3/00.)

**Yom HaShoah** (Holocaust Memorial Day) is annually commemorated with an interfaith community-wide program attended by 500-800 people. (4/30/00)

**A Conference for Clergy & Educators** is offered in the late spring. In the past they have been held at Gordon College, at Merrimack College, and at the Holocaust Center.

***IT IS ESTIMATED THAT IN THE COURSE OF A SCHOOL YEAR, THE HOLOCAUST CENTER'S PROGRAMMING REACHES UPWARDS OF 50,000 AND COUNTLESS OTHERS THROUGH THE MEDIA.***

**EDUCATION DOES NOT PROMOTE HATRED. IGNORANCE DOES!**

**?????NEW HOLOCAUST CENTER WEB address:** Thanks to **DR. CHRISOPHER MAURIELLO**, Professor of History at Salem State College, the Web Site Administrator and to Salem State College for donating our web site's home. Look us up at <http://www.salem.mass.edu/test/holocaust/Default.htm>

**COLLEGE INTERN:** Many thanks to our Salem State intern, **ROBERT HENRY**, who prepared the photo presentation for the *Present Memories* production at Yom HaShoah '99 and designed the Center's new web site. Good luck pursuing your PhD at Boston College!

**BOOKS FOR ALL AGES AVAILABLE:** The Holocaust Center has many books appropriate for children in its library. The library currently has 1600 Holocaust related books for all ages which are available for loan to the public at no charge. Donations of books to the Holocaust Center are greatly appreciated.

**BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE AVAILABLE FOR DISPLAY:** A copy of the Book of Remembrance is now available for display at area churches, temples, and other public buildings. This book contains Holocaust survivors' testimonies beautifully created in calligraphy. A gift of \$1,200 or more will sponsor a page with your personal inscription. Please call The Holocaust Center.

**PROGRAMMING FOR FIFTH/SIXTH GRADES:** Many area elementary students were introduced to the Holocaust and the application of the lessons of this period to the present. The program includes discussion of the effects of stereotyping, scapegoating, ethnic jokes, name-calling, the swastika, etc.

**SAVE THE DATE:** On **3/13/00**, (Snow date 4/3/00) Holocaust survivor, **ALAN BROWN**, will speak at the annual Interfaith Teen Program on the Holocaust for grades 7--12 to be held at Temple Ner Tamid in Peabody from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. Parents and teens are to attend.

**HOLOCAUST CENTER HOURS:** The Center is **open Monday through Friday, 10 A.M. -- 2 P.M.**, and is **not open** on certain Jewish holidays and when the Peabody public schools are closed.

**ALL-OCCASION CARDS:** To send a card in honor of a simcha, as a memorial, or for any occasion, or to purchase cards in packages of ten, please call the Center. These cards are an investment for a better world.

**INTERFAITH CLERGY CONFERENCE:** Scheduled for late spring '00.

**OUR FATHER ABRAHAM:** An educational documentary w/guide based on this book by **DR. MARVIN WILSON**, founding member of the Holocaust Center and Prof. of Biblical Studies at Gordon College, will be available next year after its television debut.

**ADL TISHLER AWARD:** was presented on Nov. 21 to Holocaust Center Director **SONIA WEITZ** for her active response to hate mail and her continued work against antisemitism and discrimination.

**WE NEED YOUR INPUT!** The Holocaust Center Committee is voting to change our name to **THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDES, BOSTON NORTH**. Let us know what you think.

## **YOM HASHOAH**

Interfaith Commemoration

**Sunday, April 30, 2000**

**4:00 P.M.**

Peabody High School, Lowell Street, Peabody

Interfaith Memorial Service

Survivors' Candle lighting Ceremony

Gordon College Women's Choir

Keynote Presentation

Beginning at 3:00 P.M. (prior to the commemoration), there will be video presentations and an exhibit "Art Projects on the HOLOCAUST" by North Shore students. **RICHARD ADELMAN & SANDRA WEITZ** are the Chairs for the event.

**The Holocaust Center of the North Shore** is a beneficiary of **The Jewish Federation of the North Shore Inc.** and the **Friends of the Holocaust Center**. We gratefully acknowledges the generous support thus far (from 9/99 --11/99)of 100 families/individuals for the fiscal year, 9/99-8/00.

**IF YOU HAVE ALREADY RENEWED YOUR 1999-00 ANNUAL HOLOCAUST CENTER MEMBERSHIP (FROM SEPT.--AUG.), PLEASE DISREGARD THE ENCLOSED REMITTANCE ENVELOPE.**

Newsletter Edited by Harriet Tarnor Wacks