



Honoring the Past  
Protecting the Future®

# MIDWEST CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER  
2012-2013

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M C H E



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## JEWISH RESPONSES TO THE HOLOCAUST

# Kristallnacht Commemoration Features New MCHE Documentary



Berlin, November 10, 1938, Jewish-owned business destroyed during Kristallnacht. Photo: National Archives and Records Administration

This year's community-wide commemoration of *Kristallnacht* on Thursday, November 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall at the Jewish Community Campus, 5801 West 115th Street, Overland Park, Kansas, will showcase the documentary film *Jewish Responses*, newly produced as the sixth film in MCHE's Witnesses to the Holocaust series.

*Kristallnacht*—known as the “Night of Broken Glass”—was an anti-Jewish pogrom devised by Joseph Goebbels, Hitler’s minister for public enlightenment and propaganda, and carried out by the SS and other national police agencies 74 years ago on November 9 and 10, 1938. Jewish businesses were vandalized and homes ransacked and burned. At least 100 Jews

were murdered and 30,000 Jewish men were imprisoned in concentration camps. *Kristallnacht* ended the illusion that normal Jewish life in Germany and Austria was still possible.

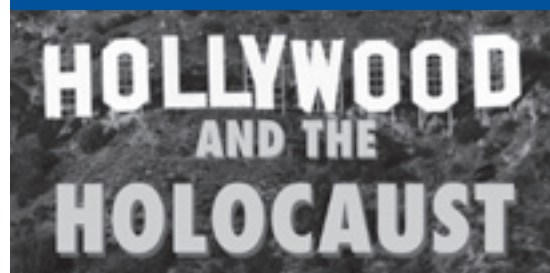
The one-hour film features excerpts from MCHE’s videotaped survivor testimonies along with archival and personal photos to describe the broad spectrum of Jewish responses to the Holocaust. These responses—individual and collective, armed and unarmed, social, political and cultural—demonstrate European Jewry’s perseverance and proactivity in the face of overwhelming forces.

Production of *Jewish Responses* was supervised by Dr. Fran Sternberg, MCHE’s “in house” historian and director of university programs and adult education, and Jessica Rockhold, director of school programs and teacher education, who also provided voice-over narration.

Generous funding for the film was provided by the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City, with special consideration from Outpost Worldwide.

There is no charge for this program, but reservations are requested by November 1 at 913-327-8196 or [rsvp@mchekc.org](mailto:rsvp@mchekc.org).

## MICHE'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY FILM SERIES



January - June 2013  
Featuring Academy-Award  
Nominated Films Spanning  
Five Decades

See page 4 for details.

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

# The Future of Holocaust Education: Balancing Popular Culture with Accurate Historical Memory

At two conferences I attended this summer—one in Detroit, sponsored by the Association of Holocaust Organizations, and the other at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem—a total of nearly 500 center and museum directors, historians, scholars, educators and survivors representing over 50 countries explored the future of Holocaust education and discussed the increasing challenge of balancing popular culture with accurate historical memory. Topics included antisemitism, the role of recorded survivor testimony, emotional vs. historical engagement of audiences, connections to contemporary issues, the impact of social media, denial, misappropriation and trivialization of the Holocaust.

As professionals contemplate and debate the relationship of Holocaust studies and the broader framework of contemporary atrocities, these factors are being carefully considered. Remembrance and relevance are essential to these conversations as events become more distant and as we no longer have eyewitnesses to convey their personal experiences firsthand and to provide the compelling connection that can be achieved only in their presence.

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*First teach  
the core; then,  
by all means,  
tell the stories.*

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In attempting to compensate for that void, there is a temptation to link or compare the Holocaust to a wide range of seemingly or minimally related events and issues, oftentimes sacrificing its particular elements for the sake of universalizing its meaning.

When the Holocaust is presented as the universal symbol of man's inhumanity, we must take care to avoid "over-relevance," which often results from that approach and may blur the unique essence of each experience. However, we cannot and should not lose sight of what has happened in the ensuing years.

The conference theme at Yad Vashem, "Telling the Story: Teaching the Core," may serve as the best guide for Holocaust educators, though it was suggested by program organizers on the final day of the conference that perhaps the two phrases should be reversed. First, teach the core; then, by all means, tell the stories.

Over and over, conference participants heard that the primary role of centers like MCHE is to convey the facts, particularly to teachers so they "get it right." This has always been basic to our mission, and we will continue to provide educational resources that create context for survivor testimonies as well as learning opportunities and sound pedagogical approaches for educators.

MCHE is also committed to engaging and educating our community through programs that resonate with general audiences while respecting the integrity of the history. During the coming year—our 20th anniversary year—we are offering an exceptional array of programs, projects and resources that both teach the core and tell the story. Whether you approach the Holocaust from an emotional or historical perspective, we trust that as you read this newsletter you will discover many opportunities to learn more about this history and find meaning in its representation, whether through academia or the arts.



Jean Zeldin



# Program Partnerships Further MCHE's Mission

MCHE is pleased to share information about upcoming programs on Holocaust-related topics. For updates, please visit [www.mchekc.org](http://www.mchekc.org).

## October 14 *Refuge Denied: The Voyage of the St. Louis*

Learn about the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's 10-year project to uncover the fate of every refugee aboard the *St. Louis* from Scott



St. Louis artifacts from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Miller, USHMM director of curatorial affairs and co-author of *Refuge Denied: The St. Louis Passengers and the Holocaust*.

Presented by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in partnership with Kehilath Israel Synagogue  
10501 Conser, Overland Park, Kansas  
7:30 p.m.

RSVP to Jed Silberg at 847-433-8099 or [jsilberg@ushmm.org](mailto:jsilberg@ushmm.org).

## October 17

### *Naomi Benaron and Leah Warshawski: A Conversation Between Novelist and Filmmaker*

Both speakers are descendants of Holocaust survivors with new works about Rwanda. Leah Warshawski, granddaughter of local survivor Sonia Warshawski, is producer of the documentary *Film Festival Rwanda*, and Benaron is author of the novel *Running the Rift*. Moderated by Angela Elam, host and producer of the nationally syndicated radio program *New Letters on the Air*, the event is co-sponsored by BkMk Press of UMKC, MCHE, Rainy Day Books, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, Kansas City Public Library, and UMKC's Departments of Communication Studies, History and the Religious Studies Program.

Kansas City Public Library, Plaza Branch  
4801 Main Street, Kansas City, Missouri  
6:00 p.m. Reception, 6:30 p.m. Program  
RSVP to 816-701-3407 or [www.kc.library.org](http://www.kc.library.org)

## November 27 *Sidonia's Thread*

Award-winning author Hanna Perlstein Marcus will discuss her memoir about life growing up with her Holocaust-survivor mother, a single parent and master seamstress. Randomly assigned to Springfield, Massachusetts, from the Bergen-Belsen displaced persons camp, they forged a life bound by their roles as designer and model while keeping their inner secrets from each other. Hanna's mother is a first cousin of local survivor Olga Rothstein, of blessed memory.



Jewish Community Campus, Social Hall  
5801 West 115th Street, Overland Park, Kansas  
7:00 p.m.

Book signing and reception to follow.  
RSVP to 913-327-8196 or [rsvp@mchekc.org](mailto:rsvp@mchekc.org)

## January 22 – February 21 *Number the Stars*

This play, based on the award-winning book by Lois Lowry, tells the story of the rescue of the Danish Jews during World War II.

This play is co-produced with UMKC Theater. Resources for educators are provided by MCHE.

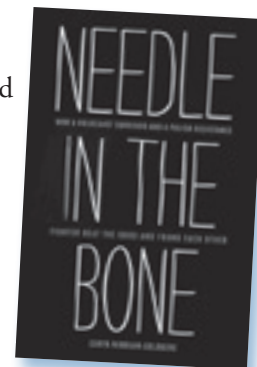
Coterie Theatre  
2450 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri  
Additional information is available at [www.coterietheatre.org](http://www.coterietheatre.org).



## January 31

### *Needle in the Bone*

Join author Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg, poet laureate of Kansas, as she discusses her book, *Needle in the Bone*, at an event co-sponsored by MCHE and the Kansas City Public Library. The book, to be released this November, weaves together the stories of Holocaust survivor Lou Frydman and Polish resistance fighter Jarek Piekalkewicz. Taken in the Warsaw ghetto uprising, Frydman survived six concentration camps and three death marches. By war's end, everyone else in his extended family had been killed except his brother. Piekalkewicz started his own underground army at age sixteen. In addition, one of his uncles was the main leader and another the head treasurer for the Polish Resistance before the Nazis discovered, tortured and murdered them. Frydman, who passed away earlier this year, and Piekalkewicz met in 1975 in Lawrence, Kansas, and became best friends.



Kansas City Public Library, Plaza Branch  
4801 Main Street, Kansas City, Missouri  
6:00 p.m. Reception, 6:30 p.m. Program  
RSVP to 816-701-3407 or [www.kclibrary.org](http://www.kclibrary.org).

## February 6 – April 10

### *Persecution of the Homosexuals*

View a traveling exhibition from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum sponsored by The University Libraries, UMKC's Office of Diversity, Access and Equity and the Kansas City Museum in partnership with Heartland Men's Chorus.



UMKC Miller Nichols Library, Dean's Gallery  
800 East 51st Street, Kansas City, Missouri

# HOLLYWOOD

## Hollywood and the Holocaust

American filmmakers' varied depictions of Adolf Hitler, the Nazis and the genocide of European Jewry have always involved a coming together of art, commerce, politics and history. In turn, these representations have exerted a profound influence on public perception and opinion about these events.

To mark its 20th anniversary year, MCHE will offer a six-part program series featuring narrative films produced in the United States and nominated for at least one Academy Award. The monthly series, to be held at the Jewish Community Campus, will begin in January with *Imaginary Witness: Hollywood and the Holocaust*, which provides context and background for five commercial movies, dating from 1942 through 1989.

Collectively, the films illustrate how depiction of the Holocaust in American cinema has changed over five decades as the country's own relationship with this history has evolved. All films in the series will be shown in the White Theatre, except in February, when the film will be shown in the Campus Social Hall.

Each film will be preceded by an introduction at 7:00 p.m. and followed by a question-and-answer session, facilitated by Dr. Fran Sternberg and members of the Holocaust Education Academic Roundtable (HEART), MCHE's consortium of university educators. The discussions will provide insights on how to view these films for both their artistic and historical value.

Funding for "Hollywood and the Holocaust" is generously provided, in part, by grants from the Earl J. and Leona K. Tranin Special Fund and the White Theatre Grantor Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City.

For information about tickets and sponsorship opportunities, please refer to the attached insert or go to [www.mchekc.org/filmseries](http://www.mchekc.org/filmseries).

### Featured Films

#### JANUARY 15 • *Imaginary Witness: Hollywood and the Holocaust* (2007)

This documentary film, directed by Daniel Anker and narrated by Gene Hackman, examines the treatment of the Holocaust in Hollywood films over a period of 60 years and the impact of those films on public perception and thinking, and vice versa. (92 minutes)

#### FEBRUARY 12 • *To Be or Not to Be* (1942)

Directed by Ernst Lubitsch and featuring Carole Lombard, Jack Benny, and Robert Stack, this American comedy depicts how a troupe of actors in German-occupied Warsaw used their abilities at disguise and acting to fool the occupying troops. In 1983, Mel Brooks remade the film, featuring himself and Anne Bancroft in the Benny and Lombard roles. (99 minutes)

#### MARCH 12 • *Gentleman's Agreement* (1947)

Based on Laura Z. Hobson's 1947 novel of the same name, *Gentleman's Agreement* features Gregory Peck as a journalist who goes undercover as a Jew to expose antisemitism and personally discovers the true depths of bigotry and hatred. Directed by Elia Kazan, it also starred Celeste Holm, John Garfield and Dorothy McGuire. (118 minutes)

#### APRIL 23 • *The Pawnbroker* (1964)

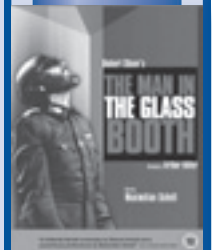
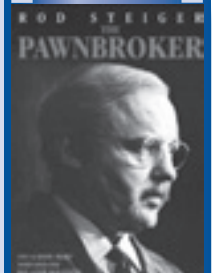
Rod Steiger stars as a German-Jewish concentration camp survivor living in the Bronx who has lost all faith in his fellow man and only realizes the tragedy of his actions when it is too late. Based on the novel by Edward Lewis Wallant and directed by Sidney Lumet, this is the first American film to deal with the Holocaust from the point of view of a survivor. It also features Geraldine Fitzgerald, Brock Peters and Jaime Sanchez. (116 minutes)

#### MAY 21 • *The Man in the Glass Booth* (1975)

Arthur Goldman (Maximilian Schell) is a rich Jewish industrialist, living in luxury in a Manhattan high-rise. He banters with his assistant Charlie (Lawrence Pressman), often shocking him with his outrageous and irreverent views about Jewish life. Then, one day, Israeli secret agents burst in and arrest Goldman for being a Nazi war criminal. Whisked to Israel for trial, Goldman forces his accusers to face not only his own presumed guilt but their own. (117 minutes)

#### JUNE 11 • *Enemies: A Love Story* (1989)

In 1949 New York, a Polish Jew (Ron Silver), who was hidden during the war and who now works as a ghostwriter for a Jewish rabbi (Alan King), finds himself involved with three women: his current wife, a Polish non-Jew who hid him during the war; another survivor (Lena Olin), who is married; and his first wife from Poland (Anjelica Huston), who was thought to have been killed in the Holocaust along with their two children but who suddenly reappears. Based on the novel by Isaac Bashevis Singer, the film focuses on the survivors, who question religion and a God who could let the Holocaust occur. (119 minutes)





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James & Kristine Swords ~ Marvin Szelezer **T** Bill & Marcia Tammeus ~ Joe & Judi Tauber ~ Tension Envelope Corporation ~ Harvey & Donna Thalblum ~ Jerry Tilzer ~ Lowell & Evy Tilzer ~ Harold & Ruthie Tivol ~ Toledo Bar Association ~ Steve & Judi Tranckino ~ Adeline Trempy ~ Cathy Trenton ~ Cliff & Carol Trenton ~ Ralph & Nina Turek **U** Rowena Unger Turk ~ Chuck & Ester Udell ~ Patricia Uhlmann ~ Ann Unger ~ Steve Unterman & Ellen Murphy **V** Joel & Sue Vile ~ Robert & Doris Virden ~ David & Ellice Vittor ~ Susan Vogel **W** Davey & Mindy Wajcman ~ John & Barbara Waldron ~ Bob & Carolyn Walla ~ Brad & Barbara Warady ~ Ed & Donna Warren ~ Debbie Warshawski ~ Sonia Warshawski ~ Arnold & Susan Warshawsky ~ Judy Marder Wasserman ~ John & Pat Weed ~ Danny & Ari Weindling ~ Gary & Gail Weinberg ~ Michael Weindling & Patricia Hurley ~ Howard & Irene Weiner ~ JoAnne Weiner ~ Larry & Joanie Weiner ~ David & Judith Weinstein ~ Julie Wenderott ~ Benjamin White ~ Scott & Civia White ~ Shirley White ~ Stuart & Sheila Wien ~ Craig & Carol Wilson ~ Ed & Kristen Wilson ~ Maureen Wilt ~ Elvin Winans ~ Jeff & Debby Winkel ~ Herbert & Lois Winter ~ Morris & Jean Wise ~ Sheldon Wisna ~ University of Missouri-Kansas City ~ Ria Wolf ~ Nancy Wolff ~ Erna Wolowski ~ Michael & Ruth Worthington ~ Michael & Linda Wunsch ~ Irene Wurzbürger ~ Wyandotte County Historical Museum **Y** Bob & Carol Yarmo **Z** Linda Zack ~ Sam & Donna Zavelo ~ Mary Zawatzki ~ Bob & Jean Zeldin ~ Ryan & Katie Zeldin ~ Sarah Zeldin ~ Stan & Joyce Zeldin ~ Hugh & Eulalie Zimmer ~ Karl & Beth Zobrist ~ Joe & Julie Zwillenberg ~ Jonathan & Kelli Zwillenberg ~ Louis & Janet Zwillenberg

*\*of blessed memory*



We regret any errors or omissions and would appreciate your contacting the MCHE office at 913-327-8190 or info@mcheck.org with any needed corrections.

**2011-2012  
WHITE ROSE ESSAY  
CONTEST FINALISTS**

**8TH-9TH GRADE DIVISION**

*Harmony Middle School*

Olivia Baird, Claudia Chen  
Nandita Daga, Alex DeMarea  
Sarah Hansen, Dhruv Mather  
Abigail O'Grady, Freddie Xu

Teachers: Brian Bollinger,  
Michelle Sutton and Katie Unruh

*Trailridge Middle School*

Joe Specht, Jr., Sophie Tomasic

Teacher: Gay Ramsey

**10TH-12TH GRADE  
DIVISION**

*Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy*

Jacob Margolies

Teacher: Cynthia Knight

*Lee's Summit High School*

Haley Denney, Aly Mosier  
Denise Thoreson

Teacher: Christopher Bobal

*Liberty High School*

Haley Ferguson  
Erin Martin

Teacher: Kelsie Blakley

*St. Thomas Aquinas High School*

Liz Carmosino  
Megan Lucas  
Cara Oldenhuis  
Hannah Pyle

Teacher: Lisa Bauman

**WHITE ROSE SOCIETY**

Your annual membership provides support for MCHE's educational programs and the White Rose Student Essay Contest.

Chai Society – \$1,800

Patrons – \$1,000

Benefactors – \$400

Contact Jean Zeldin,  
MCHE executive director,  
at 913-327-8191 for details.

# 2011-2012 Essay Contest Winners Announced at Annual Meeting

Haley Ferguson of Liberty High School was the top prize winner in the 10th-12th grade division of MCHE's 17th annual White Rose Essay Contest with her essay about Roman Polanski's experiences in the Krakow ghetto. Claudia Chen of Harmony Middle School won the 8th-9th grade division with her essay about the Radom ghetto. Second place winners in the contest were Erin Martin of Liberty High School and Nandita Daga of Harmony Middle School.

research the history of one Polish ghetto that experienced a major deportation in 1942 and to describe how that situation affected the life of one Jewish resident of the ghetto. Reflecting on their research, students also were to explain how learning about the Holocaust through personal testimony made the history more meaningful to them.

All finalists and their sponsoring teachers were honored at a reception at MCHE's Annual Meeting in May. Winning essays and

excerpts from other entries can be read

at <http://www.mchekc.org/WhiteRoseStudentEssayContestFinalists>.

Major funding for the 2011-2012 contest was provided by the Gould Charitable Foundation, with additional support from MCHE's White Rose Membership Society. For more information about the White Rose Society, please see the sidebar on this page.



From left to right: Nandita Daga, Claudia Chen, Haley Ferguson and Erin Martin.  
Photo Credit: James Maidhof Photography

## The 2012-2013 contest asked students to **2012-2013 White Rose Student Essay Contest**

### **CONTESTANTS WILL ADDRESS THE SEARCH FOR SAFE HAVENS**

This summer, as classroom teachers prepared to implement the new Common Core educational standards—a state-led effort to define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers and which heavily emphasize reading and writing skills—MCHE convened a focus group of educators to assess the White Rose Student Essay Contest and how to align it with the Common Core standards.

After 17 successful years of the Essay Contest, we learned that most of its structure and intent should remain unchanged. However, to craft the contest as a way for educators to meet the new standards, this year's contest will shift to a document-based format.

Contestants will explore the theme *Flight from the Reich: The Search for Safe Havens* through the study of pre-selected documents, images, testimonies and art forms while expanding their understanding through their own historical research. The postmark deadline is April 4, 2013.

Eighth through 12th grade students in the 18-county metro area are eligible to enter the contest, which this year will expand to recognize first, second and third place winners in both the 8th-9th and 10th-12th grade divisions. To learn more about the contest, or to encourage your child's teacher to sponsor student entries, visit [www.mchekc.org/essay](http://www.mchekc.org/essay).

## WORKSHOPS FOR EDUCATORS

# Flight from the Reich and the Search for Safe Havens

October 15, 2012 • 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Jewish Community Campus  
Conference Room C

5801 West 115th Street, Overland Park, Kansas

Join Scott Miller, director of curatorial affairs at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, as he addresses Jewish emigration from the Reich and the search for safe havens in the 1930s. Co-author of *Refuge Denied: The St. Louis Passengers and the Holocaust*, Mr. Miller spent a decade tracing the fates of the 937 passengers aboard the ill-fated *St. Louis* and how their lives were affected by restrictive immigration and refugee policies.

This program, presented by MCHE in cooperation with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, is open to all 7th through 12th grade educators and is especially recommended for teachers interested in sponsoring entries in the 2012-2013 White Rose Student Essay Contest (open to 8th-12th grade students in the Kansas City metro area).



The Chraplewski family poses on board the *St. Louis*.

Photo: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Advance registration for the teacher workshop is required. The \$20 fee includes light supper. Registration is available at [www.mchekc.org/Flightfromthereich](http://www.mchekc.org/Flightfromthereich).

Miller will present the results of his research on the *St. Louis* at a public program at Kehilath Israel Synagogue on October 14 (see Community Programs on page 3).

## Echoes and Reflections

**WORKSHOP INCLUDES FREE  
HOLOCAUST CURRICULUM**

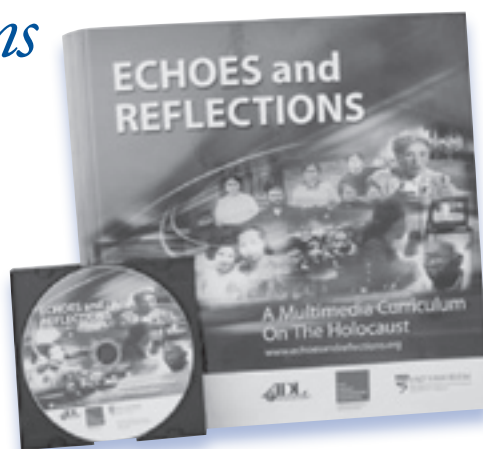
December 11, 2012 • 4:30-8:00 p.m.

Jewish Community Campus  
Multi-Activity Center

5801 West 115th Street, Overland Park, Kansas

MCHE is proud to be one of ten original centers identified as training hubs for *Echoes and Reflections* and to offer workshops for teachers of grades 7-12 on how to include this comprehensive curriculum in their classroom instruction.

The result of a partnership among the Anti-Defamation League, the USC Shoah Foundation Institute and Yad Vashem, this modular curriculum draws upon extensive survivor testimony, primary documents and creative instructional techniques designed to meet Common Core standards.



The \$25 fee for this workshop includes light supper. Participants also will receive a complimentary copy of the *Echoes and Reflections* curriculum, valued at \$100.

Educators enrolling by November 21 will receive a 10% discount coupon for same-day, on-site resource purchases from MCHE.

For more information or to register, go to [www.mchekc.org/echoesandreflections](http://www.mchekc.org/echoesandreflections).

## SAVE THESE DATES!

### Summer 2013 Professional Development Opportunities

History of the Holocaust:  
Teaching the Core  
June 17-19, 2013

Echoes and Reflections  
Curriculum Training  
July 8, 2013

Telling the Story:  
Teaching With  
Witness Testimonies  
July 9-11, 2013

For updates, go to [www.mchekc.org/professionaldevelopment](http://www.mchekc.org/professionaldevelopment)



Support for MCHE's 2012-2013 teacher education programs is provided by grants from the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City and the Menorah Legacy Foundation.



### EDUCATORS' BLOG

[holocausteducators.blogspot.com](http://holocausteducators.blogspot.com)



### FACEBOOK

[facebook.com/MidwestCenterforHolocaustEducation](http://facebook.com/MidwestCenterforHolocaustEducation)

## WIN FREE MOVIE TICKETS

New Facebook friends registering by November 15 will be entered in a drawing for two free movie tickets to "Imaginary Witness: Hollywood and the Holocaust" (see page 4).

Go to [facebook.com/MidwestCenterforHolocaustEducation](http://facebook.com/MidwestCenterforHolocaustEducation).



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## Midwest Center for Holocaust Education

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for an online version  
of this newsletter.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Your Support Makes the Difference



Steve Chick

Each year at this time, I find myself reflecting on the past and contemplating the future. This is especially true as my term as board president of the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education will come to a close next June.

We have fantastic programs and events year round, as described in this newsletter and on our web site. Have you attended one of these lately or availed yourself of our resource library, which contains nearly 3,000 titles available for free loan? Remember that our staff, board and advocates are most willing and able to assist you.

In the next few months, I would be pleased if those of you who are members would spread the word about MCHE's important work in our community. Invite a friend, relative, business colleague, or neighbor to an MCHE event and to become an MCHE member.

The financial support of our annual members enables us to provide quality programs for our community and helps support Holocaust education in the schools. Increasing our membership will improve our visibility and strengthen our mission.

In the longer term, the Bushman Initiative of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City, which encourages current or planned gifts to permanent endowments, has benefited MCHE for the past several years, and we have been offered an additional incentive grant this year if we meet our fundraising goal. If you have already made a commitment in your future financial planning that includes MCHE or if you would consider including MCHE in your will or estate plan, please contact our executive director, Jean Zeldin, at 913-327-8191 to discuss the many options available to you.

Looking forward to hearing from you and seeing you soon!