

Europe and the Holocaust

MCHE 2014 FILM SERIES FEATURES INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILMS

The Holocaust has been and continues to be a particularly important theme in European cinema, especially in Central and Eastern Europe. Not only was Europe the site of the vast camp system where the annihilation of two thirds of its Jewish population took place, but it was also the home of the perpetrators and collaborators who facilitated that destruction.

To be sure, some European filmmakers are influenced by their Jewish roots. Most, however, have no personal connection to Judaism or the Holocaust and yet have repeatedly returned to explore the topic in their works. All are preoccupied with questions of agency and responsibility, complicity and victimization.

MCHE's 2014 public film series will showcase five full length, European-produced narrative films, one Tuesday evening each month from February through June. Programs will be held at the Leawood Theatre, 3707 West 95th Street, Overland Park, KS, beginning at 7:00 p.m., preceded by an introduction 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. Open seating begins at 6:40 p.m. Block seating may be requested for parties of 10 or more making reservations as a group.

Save by purchasing advance tickets

at www.mchekc.org/filmseries, in person at the MCHE office or by mailing your payment with the order form found between pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter.

- Individual tickets are \$7.50 in advance (plus a \$1.00 service fee for Internet sales) and \$10 at the door.
- Series packages (5 films for the price of 4) are available in advance for \$30 and at the door on February 4 for \$40.
- Sponsorships are welcome for individual films or for the series. Please see the insert for information about sponsor levels and benefits.

Article continues on page 5 »



FEBRUARY 4



MARCH 4



APRIL 8



MAY 13



JUNE 17

Jean Zeldin



Memorable MCHE Moments

It seemed like such an easy task when I promised last spring to identify my 20 Top MCHE Moments—those events, projects and milestones from the past 20 years that are most significant to me personally, and which enhanced or best symbolized the core mission of MCHE.

For two decades I have kept a log of our major activities and, though the retrospective look reminded me how much we have accomplished and how the organization has grown, narrowing the field to just 20 was a far greater challenge than I had anticipated.

And so it is with sincere apologies to the many educators, scholars, professionals, volunteers, lay leaders, community partners and funders who have played such an integral role in MCHE's first 20 years and who are not represented here that I present my top picks.

1. **Witnesses to the Holocaust (1993-1994)** – This videotape testimony project, conducted in cooperation with the Fortunoff Archive at Yale University, resulted in the recording of 48 eyewitnesses, including survivors of varying experiences and liberators of concentration camps.
2. **Schindler's List (1994)** – Over 600 invited guests of MCHE were invited to a special complimentary screening of this landmark film, recipient of that year's Academy Award for Best Picture.
3. **Screening "The Holocaust: Through Our Own Eyes" (1995)** – MCHE's award-winning documentary, to be broadcast subsequently on KCPT-TV, presented an overview of the Holocaust through the testimony of local survivors.
4. **Speakers Bureau (1995)** – MCHE assumed responsibility for the Speakers Bureau from the JCRB/AJC. Named in 2003 to honor of MCHE's co-founder, the Jack Mandelbaum Holocaust Speakers Bureau in its prime reached 10,000 students annually through the commitment of local survivors to ensure that the Holocaust is not forgotten.
5. **Launch of Teacher Cadre (1995)** – A dedicated group of educators meets monthly to learn about Holocaust history and pedagogical approaches for effective instruction, to design lesson plans, and to mentor other teachers. Named in 2003 to honor MCHE's co-founder, the Isak Federman Holocaust Teaching Cadre has twice benefited from exclusive conferences at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.
6. **White Rose Student Essay Contest established (1995)** – One of MCHE's most successful and visible projects, the essay contest encourages middle and high school students to research a specific topic each year and provide their personal reflections.
7. **Morris Dees (1997)** – On a cold Saturday night in January, 600 people turned out at Rockhurst University to hear the director of the Southern Poverty Law School, who kicked off MCHE's Teaching Tolerance workshop for educators the following day.
8. **Headquarters remodeling and dedication (1998)** – Following a successful capital/endowment campaign, MCHE's office at the Jewish Community Campus was remodeled to provide for greater outreach opportunities, additional staff, and space for a resource center that now holds over 3,000 titles.
9. **Portrait 2000 Exhibit completed; displayed at Science City (2000)** – MCHE's photographic exhibition of 52 Holocaust survivors and refugees who came to call Kansas City home focused on their lives before and after World War II, giving a sense of the Jewish culture that was lost and the continuation of life after the Holocaust.
10. **Elie Weisel lecture (2000)** – MCHE was one of several partners in this program, spearheaded by the Truman Library. It was my honor—even at 6 a.m.—to drive Professor Wiesel to the airport and spend an hour with him one-on-one when his flight to New York was delayed.
11. **From the Heart (2001)** – One of the most poignant moments of my 20 years was the book launch of *From the Heart*, published by Kansas City Star Books, where survivors and refugees featured in the book autographed copies for their admirers. For most, it was the high school yearbook party they never experienced.
12. **Tenth Anniversary Celebration (2003)** – Tenor, Cantor and Broadway star Dudu Fisher entertained 900 guests at the Westin Crown Center for a memorable evening honoring MCHE's founders and featuring a special on-stage tribute to Kansas City's Holocaust survivors.
13. **HEART (2005)** – Possibly the only project of its kind, MCHE's Holocaust Education Academic Roundtable is an interdisciplinary consortium of college and university faculty who meet quarterly in seminar fashion to explore various approaches and issues related to addressing the Holocaust in post-secondary settings and who serve as speakers at MCHE programs.

Article continues on page 6 »

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carol H. Sader

Photo Credit: James Maidhof
Photography



MCHE Can Meet Challenges Ahead with Your Involvement

In assuming the presidency as MCHE begins its third decade, I feel honored and privileged to have this opportunity to work for such an important cause with a most capable and committed Board of Directors, officers, Council of Advocates and uniquely qualified staff. We strive to include and involve all members and others who believe, as we do, that indifference, inaction and un-involvement are more unacceptable than ever.

Despite our need and eagerness to succeed, I am concerned lest we underestimate the new and daunting challenges before us.

- Antisemitism worldwide is on the rise.
- Aging survivors, witnesses, veterans and liberators are fewer in number.
- The passage of years is distancing our youth from the past.

These realities demand a more learned and proactive approach going forward. We must heed Elie Weisel's warning, delivered at the 20th anniversary ceremony of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Weisel said, "It is not enough to simply remember the Holocaust; we must act on what we have learned from it." To accomplish this, we must follow the tried and true directive, "Tell me, I forget. Teach me, I remember. Involve me and I learn." Clearly, the only viable path to learning and action for MCHE in the years ahead depends upon our personal involvement.

There is no "one size fits all" for personal involvement. Levels and types of involvement should be personalized to whatever extent is individually feasible. Within MCHE, there are many opportunities for personal involvement, any one or a combination of which provides the personal satisfaction of knowing that you have effected change and made a difference by doing something that really matters. Please choose to join working committees, attend MCHE programs and invite others to join you, assume positions of responsibility and leadership, advocate for MCHE's mission in the community, contribute financial support, persuade others to become members, or provide special assistance in the office or on special projects.

To achieve the challenging goals before us, I respectfully request that all who believe in MCHE's mission consider making a personal commitment to "INVOLVEMENT" as our operative word for MCHE's third decade and beyond.

YOUR PLANNED GIFT WILL HELP MCHE CONTINUE TO TELL THEIR STORIES

Thank you to the following individuals for their commitments to securing MCHE's mission through planned gifts to our endowment or for program support. Through their generosity, the messages of survivors will continue to inspire and educate future generations.

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*of blessed memory

As the Holocaust becomes more distant, your investment has never been more important to ensuring the preservation of Holocaust memory, securing its place in history. Please contact Executive Director Jean Zeldin at 913.327.8191 to learn how you can create your personal legacy.

DONATIONS RECEIVED JULY 1, 2012 - JUNE 30, 2013 ~ THANK YOU!

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*of blessed memory

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

EUROPE AND THE HOLOCAUST

featuring internationally acclaimed foreign-language films

continued from page 1

February 4 - *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis*

Italy ~ 1970 ~ 94 minutes

In late 1930s Ferrara, Italy, the adult children of the Finzi-Continis, one of the town's leading families, keep the rest of the world at bay by gathering a circle of friends for constant rounds of tennis and parties at their villa with its lovely grounds. Their illusions about romantic love cause them almost as much pain as their denial of the consequences of fascism, until the forces of politics close in. Academy Award Winner, Best Foreign Language Film.

March 4 - *Au Revoir les Enfants*

France ~ 1987 ~ 104 minutes

In German-occupied France, Julien sees the teachers at his Catholic boarding school defy German policies, enrolling Jewish children under assumed names and identities. He develops a strong relationship with Jean, one of these boys. But the Jewish children are betrayed and Julien must once more be a bystander and/or possibly even an unwitting accomplice in their arrest. César Awards, France – winner of 7 awards, including Best Picture.

April 8 - *Divided We Fall*

Czech Republic ~ 2000 ~ 123 minutes

Based on a true story in German-occupied Czechoslovakia, Josef and Maria, a childless couple, agrees to hide David, the adult Jewish son of Josef's former employer. To keep their secret safe, they are forced to play the role of seeming collaborators. The film captures the pervasive suspicion and betrayal of World War II through the unexpected guise of situation comedy. Czech Critics Award, Best Feature Film.

May 13 - *The Counterfeiters*

Austria/Germany ~ 2007 ~ 98 minutes

The true story of Jewish master forger Salomon 'Solly' Sorowitsch who was transferred from Auschwitz to Sachsenhausen to run "Operation Bernhard"—Germany's secret project to destabilize the United Kingdom by flooding its economy with forged currency—in exchange for protection from the horrors of camp life. But soon, his conscience begins to gnaw at him. Academy Award Winner, Best Foreign Language Film.

June 17 - *Left Luggage*

Netherlands ~ 1998 ~ 100 minutes

In 1970s Antwerp, Chaya, an irreverent and rebellious university student and the daughter of Holocaust survivors, comes to terms with her family's experiences and history as a result of her relationship with a Hasidic family for whom she works as a nanny and an encounter with a shocking tragedy. Best Director, British International Film Festival.

See attached insert for tickets and sponsorships.

Comic Book heroes like Superman, Daredevil, Silver Streak and Captain America were among the first to do battle with Hitler and the Nazis. This exhibit—a series of colorful and informative panels on loan from The Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives at Queensborough Community College in New York—illustrates the impact Jewish cartoonists had on the comic book industry in the 1930s and 1940s while telling the story of the ways this unlikely medium played a role in exposing hatred and the horrors of the Holocaust.

This project was made possible by a generous grant to MCHE from J-LEAD of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City (Jewish Leadership, Education, Action and Development).

Coming February 1 – March 30, 2014

American Cartoonists: Nazi Germany and the Holocaust



An Exhibition Presented by
the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education
Hosted by the Kansas City Public Library, Central Library
14 West 10th Street • Kansas City, Missouri

Special Program March 25 featuring Larry Tye, author of
Superman: The High-Flying History of America's Most Enduring Hero
Kansas City Central Library • 6:00 Reception • 6:30 Program

Learn about Superman's Jewish roots, his young creators, and the reasons for his enduring popularity.

Co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City and the Kansas City Public Library

Reservations: (816) 701-3407 or kclibrary.org

White Rose Student Essay Contest Expands in 2013-2014

The White Rose Student Essay Contest has undergone many changes since its inception in 1995. Eligibility, initially offered to 10th through 12th grade students within the five-county Kansas City metro area, was expanded in 2002 to include 8th and 9th graders in a separate division and in 2009 to include schools in 18 counties.

This year, in response to requests from teachers in districts outside our immediate region, students in eastern Kansas and western Missouri—a total of 112 counties—are eligible to participate. The growth of the contest is a major step toward meeting MCHE's strategic goal of expanding our Midwest outreach.

In recognition of the 70th anniversary of the deportation of the Hungarian Jews, the 2013-2014 contest asks students to address the theme "Deportation of the Hungarian Jews: Auschwitz-Birkenau 1944," explaining how one Jewish person or family was affected by the deportation.

For a list of eligible counties for 2013-2014, a list of the 2012-2013 finalists and to read the winning essays, visit mchekc.org/whiterosestudentessaycontest.

continued from page 2

- 14. **Nazi Olympics: Berlin 1936 (2006)** – This traveling exhibition from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum established MCHE's ongoing partnership with the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum and the American Jazz Museum.
- 15. **Launch of 2G Speakers Bureau (2006)** – With the passage of time, children of survivors, the Second Generation, crafted presentations to continue personalizing their parents' stories for school and community groups through their own perspectives.
- 16. **The Memory Project (2008)** – Personal vignettes authored by local Holocaust survivors were published as the culmination of a three-year writing project.
- 17. **Thematic DVDs (2009)** – MCHE created a series of programs, unique among Holocaust centers, based on *Witnesses to the Holocaust: Kristallnacht, Ghettos, In Hiding, Auschwitz, Liberation and After, and Jewish Responses*.

- 18. **Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race (2010)** – Over 9,000 people viewed this compelling exhibition from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, sponsored by MCHE at the National Archives at Kansas City.
- 19. **18th (Chai) Anniversary (2011)** – Maestro Marvin Hamlisch at the new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. A standing ovation for Holocaust survivors in attendance. What more is there to say? This was truly a celebration of life.
- 20. **Collective Voices (2012)** – *Collective Voices*, featuring writings and drawings by children and grandchildren of survivors, was published, featured at Yom HaShoah, and earned Nonprofit Connect's Unique Project Award.

I encourage you to visit mchekc.org/milestones for a more complete timeline and to share **your** most memorable MCHE moments with us at info@mchekc.org or post them to [Facebook.com/MidwestCenterforHolocaustEducation](https://www.facebook.com/MidwestCenterforHolocaustEducation).

Speakers Bureau

CHILDREN OF SURVIVORS SHARE THEIR PARENTS' STORIES

Sharing individual stories of survivors and their families—focusing on how that person or family was impacted by the Holocaust—has been central to the educational efforts of MCHE since its founding in 1993, and for many years the primary responsibility for sharing those stories rested on the shoulders of survivors.

In 2006, children of survivors, organized as MCHE's Second Generation Speakers Bureau, began assuming those responsibilities. Since then, Second Generation speakers, now nine in number, have addressed more than 15,000 students and 2,400 adults.

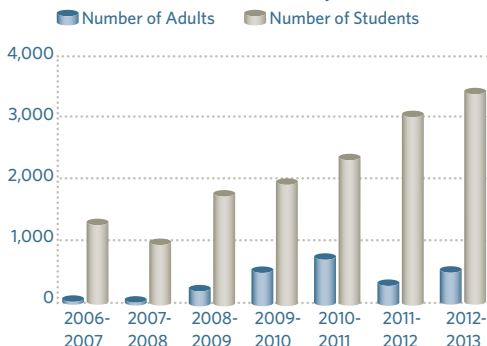
These 2G speakers have organized their family memories into presentations appropriate for student audiences. Where possible, they incorporate at least one segment of a parent's video testimony and utilize both family and archival photographs to further personalize the story. The volunteers share their parents' memories of the Holocaust, as well as their own perspectives about growing up with Holocaust survivors.

Individual speakers are available for one-hour presentations for 7th through 12th grade school audiences within the Greater Kansas City metro area. Additionally, panel discussions by children of survivors will be offered to school groups this fall and next spring at the Jewish Community Campus. Priority for these programs will be given to schools outside the metro area where Holocaust instruction is in place. Presentations for adult audiences also can be scheduled and evening presentations are available. Visit www.mchekc.org/secondgenerationspeakersbureau to learn more or to request a speaker.



At MCHE's Annual Meeting, Steve Cole, Regina Warshawski Kort, Joyce Golad Hess and Sam Devinki, described their parents' experiences.

Growth of the Second Generation Speakers Bureau



75th Anniversary of *Kristallnacht*

This year marks the 75th anniversary of *Kristallnacht* – the “Night of Broken Glass” — a wave of anti-Jewish pogroms that took place on November 9 and 10 throughout Germany, Austria and the recently occupied parts of the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia.

The *Kristallnacht* violence was devised by Joseph Goebbels, Reich Minister of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda, and carried out by Nazi party officials, storm troopers, the SS and the Hitler Youth. They vandalized Jewish homes and businesses, desecrated Jewish cemeteries, imprisoned some 30,000 Jewish men in concentration camps, and murdered nearly 100 others.

They also destroyed some 267 synagogues, many of which were built in the late 19th century during a wave of synagogue construction across Europe. These were magnificent, architecturally significant structures, urban showpieces and tourist destinations, of which all members of the community were proud—non-Jews as well as Jews. But on *Kristallnacht*, they burned through the night as the public and local firefighters looked on, the latter under orders to intervene only when spreading flames threatened nearby buildings.

The burning synagogue has come to be the single most enduring image of *Kristallnacht*, symbolizing the end of normal Jewish life in the German-occupied territories of Central Europe. It is thus fitting that this year’s community-wide observance will take place in a synagogue, Congregation Beth Torah, and feature readings and photographs commemorating the synagogues destroyed during the violence.

Kristallnacht Commemoration *Remembering the Synagogues*

Sunday, November 10 ~ 7:00 p.m.
Congregation Beth Torah
6100 West 127th Street
Overland Park, Kansas

Open to the Community
at no charge
Reservations Requested
913-327-8196 or
rsvp@mchekc.org

The Boerneplatz Synagogue Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, 1881-1938

The synagogue on the Boerneplatz (originally the Jewish marketplace) was built in 1881-1882 and consecrated on September 10, 1882. Also known as the “New Synagogue,” it was designed by the architect Siegfried Kuszitzky and had 520 places for men and 360 for women. In 1901, 400 additional places were added.

Its construction pointed up the prosperity and importance of Frankfurt’s Jews in the 19th and early 20th centuries, as well as the dynamism and diversity of its organized Jewish life. From the 1820s on, Frankfurt was an influential center of the Reform movement. Indeed, by the 1840s, 90 percent of Frankfurt’s Jews were its adherents. They worshipped in the Main Synagogue, which was rebuilt sumptuously in 1853.

Meanwhile, the Orthodox community seemingly languished. In 1851, a breakaway group of Orthodox Jews invited Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch,

founder of the *Israelitische Religionsgesellschaft* (“Israelite Religious Society”), to come to Frankfurt to revive the movement. In 1907, Hirsch’s followers would eventually build Frankfurt’s largest synagogue in the Friedberger Anlage.

For its part, the Boerneplatz Synagogue was built by the official (and non-Hirsch) Orthodox community, at the insistence of Rabbi Markus Horvitz, a Frankfurt native who, in 1878, was elected the rabbi of that community and who made the synagogue’s construction a condition of his acceptance of the position. In so doing, he was pursuing two goals. First, he wanted to place Frankfurt’s official Orthodox movement and its rabbi on an equal footing with Frankfurt’s Reform movement. Second, and as important, he wanted to underscore his congregation’s position as the seat of official orthodoxy in Frankfurt, thus preventing more people from joining Hirsch’s group.

Of course, on *Kristallnacht*, these controversies became moot. All three synagogues were destroyed completely. A fourth synagogue—the Conservative movement’s magnificent West End Synagogue, also built in 1907—survived both *Kristallnacht* and World War II unscathed enough to be rebuilt between 1948 and 1950. Today, this structure serves not only as the religious center of the city’s Jewish community, but also as a place of remembrance and commemoration.



November 10, 1938, Frankfurt-am-Main, the Boerneplatz synagogue in flames

US Holocaust Memorial Museum and Bildarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & GROUP TOUR INFORMATION

Interested individuals are invited to apply through the National Archives and Records Administration. Completed applications must be submitted no later than May 16, 2014.

Docents must be at least 18 years of age, able to attend one of two mandatory daytime training sessions on either June 18, 2014, or June 19, 2014, and should be available to conduct a minimum of ten tours.

Group Tours begin July 1, 2014, and may be scheduled now.

For more information about group tours and docent applications, contact Mickey Ebert at mickey.ebert@nara.gov or 816-268-8013.

STATE OF DECEPTION: THE POWER OF NAZI PROPAGANDA

A TRAVELING EXHIBITION PRODUCED BY THE
UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Presented by the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education

Hosted by the National Archives at Kansas City
400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri

Offered in cooperation with the National World War I Museum

JUNE 24 - OCTOBER 25, 2014

Patron Preview - June 23

State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda utilizes a variety of primary sources and artifacts to examine how the Nazis used propaganda to win broad voter support in Germany's young democracy after World War I, implement radical programs under the party's dictatorship in the 1930s, and justify war and mass murder.

To learn about sponsorship opportunities starting at \$5,000, please contact Jean Zeldin at 913-327-8191.

