



# MIDWEST CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER  
2011

## To Life! An Evening with Musical Legend Marvin Hamlisch



Photo Credit: Jason Cohn

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**M C H E**  
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## MCHE Celebrates 18 Years

*Honoring Our Community's Holocaust Survivors  
Thursday, November 3, 2011  
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts*

Virtuoso performer, MARVIN HAMLISCH, winner of three Oscars, four Grammys, four Emmys, one Tony, and three Golden Globes, as well as a Pulitzer Prize, will delight MCHE's audience on this special night. Mr. Hamlisch has composed some of our best known and most admired music, including scores for *The Way We Were*, *The Sting*, and *Sophie's Choice*, as well as Broadway musicals *They're Playing Our Song* and the groundbreaking, *A Chorus Line*. Don't miss this grand night of entertainment and celebration.

### 18th Anniversary Co-Chairs

Rich Hastings, *President and CEO of Saint Luke's Health System and MCHE Board Secretary*  
 Judy Hastings, *Writer and Drama Coordinator, Raytown First Baptist Church*  
 Barbra Porter Hill, *Broadcast Journalist and MCHE Board Vice President, Fund Development*  
 Ron Hill, *President and CEO, Redemption Plus*  
*Patron opportunities are available.*



Barbra Porter Hill, Ron Hill,  
Rich Hastings and Judy Hastings  
Photo Credit: Sosland Photography

## Why Chai?

### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF 18

While the celebration of an 18th anniversary may seem arbitrary, in Jewish tradition, it is quite the opposite. To understand the significance of 18, we turn to Jewish mysticism, devoted to finding hidden meanings in the numerical value of words.

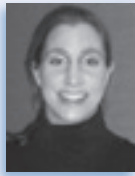
Each letter in the Hebrew alphabet has a numerical equivalent and because of this, every word carries with it a numerical value. The word for "life" in Hebrew is "chai"



(as in *l'chaim*—to life). The two Hebrew letters that form the word "chai" are *chet* and *yud*. In Gematria (the numerical value of Hebrew letters), *chet* is equivalent to 8 and *yud* is equivalent to 10. Together, they equal 18.

Donations to Jewish charities or gifts made in honor of rites of passage are often made in denominations of 18, which is why MCHE's memberships begin at the \$36 level, or double *chai*, and why our 18th anniversary event is to be a Celebration of Life!

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Teaching with Technology— A True World Wide Web

Recently, I was invited to make a presentation via video conference on President Truman's recognition of the State of Israel to a group of teachers in Austin, Texas. The workshop, organized by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, gave me the opportunity to share information from my office in Independence, Missouri, with teachers 1,000 miles away. The teachers also heard presentations from speakers at the Museum and other professionals around the country.

This use of technology to present expert speakers is a growing trend in education as it saves money on travel and related expenses. At the end of my presentation, I was able to answer teachers' questions via video conference and to share with them photographs and primary source documents on the recognition of Israel. The evaluations of the conference were excellent, and teachers saw no difference in the level of interaction compared to a face-to-face conference.

These kinds of technological advances—which enable us to engage speakers from across the country at low costs and provide educators with access to top scholars—are key to the future of organizations like MCHE.

### *Facebook & Blog*

Video conferences, of course, are just one example of how technology is advancing education.

MCHE's efforts in this area over the past 12 months include a Facebook presence and monthly postings on our web site of profiles of local Holocaust survivors. For our Facebook followers, the MCHE staff has creatively added events, profiles of local survivors, anniversary reminders and links to important documents and photographs. I personally have learned a great deal about various aspects of the Holocaust by reading the snippets posted over the past six months on a variety of historical anniversaries. Survivor profiles on Facebook are taken from MCHE's book,

*From the Heart: Life Before and After the Holocaust - A Mosaic of Memories*, published by Kansas City Star Books, and are always well worth reading.



*Mark Adams*

One of the most intriguing aspects of our use of technology is MCHE's educators' blog, hosted on our web site and featuring articles written by members of the Isak Federman Holocaust Teaching Cadre. Recent topics include resources for character development, Holocaust fatigue, White Rose Student Essay Contest advice, and a discussion of the documentary, *A Film Unfinished*. All of the articles were well written and thought provoking, demonstrating the intelligence and dedication of the teachers in the cadre. Launched in October 2009, the blog addresses issues pertinent to the classroom teacher and provides MCHE's professional staff with food for thought in responding to their questions and dilemmas.

### *Web Site Enhancement*

Raising money through grants and donations to redesign and expand our web site presence and to enhance its content is a top priority for MCHE. Fundraising efforts have largely been successful, and we are nearing our goal. We are now able to accept membership dues and donations securely through the web site, which is a step in the right direction.

The web site provides a portal for educators and the general community to learn about MCHE's programs, resources and events and to further inform the public about our mission. I hope that within the next 12 months we are able to take the web site to the next level, providing even greater resources and materials—including digitized survivor testimonies—not only to our local community, but to a worldwide network.



**EDUCATORS' BLOG**

<http://holocausteducators.blogspot.com>



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK**

# From Omaha Beach to Omaha

Each January for nearly two decades, I have been privileged to attend the winter seminar of the Association of Holocaust Organizations (AHO) at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. This year, for the first time, the seminar was held in Paris, France, at the Memorial de la Shoah, where international scholars presented Holocaust history from the perspective of countries that experienced it firsthand. A group tour of Normandy and Omaha Beach brought greater meaning to the role played by the United States and its Allies.

Each June, the AHO also sponsors an annual conference, which travels from city to city and was hosted by MCHE in 2000. My participation has taken me from coast to coast as well as to Montreal and Toronto, where my colleagues and I have been inspired by distinguished scholars and educators and by each other's resources and programs. This year's conference in Omaha, Nebraska, will afford new opportunities to network, to discuss issues of fundraising and security, and to explore topics ranging from Holocaust education in China to contemporary genocides.

I am honored to serve as treasurer of the AHO. My fellow directors, eight in number, are either individual members or representatives of member organizations. I have invited our board president, Dr. William Shulman, to contribute the following remarks about this important organization.

## *Association of Holocaust Organizations A Brief History*

Dr. William Shulman, AHO President

The Association of Holocaust Organizations (AHO) was formally established in 1985 as a world-wide network of organizations for the advancement of Holocaust education, remembrance and research. Of the 25 or so of us who met in New York for two days to define the purpose of the organization, only two came from outside the United States, one from Canada and the other from Israel.

The founding group decided that the AHO should function as a meeting-ground for professional Holocaust educators, scholars, museum center directors and staffs, also including survivor and second generation



*Jean Zeldin and Bill Shulman at Omaha Beach*

organizations as potential members. Current mechanisms for this are annual conferences and seminars, a dedicated listserv, an annual directory for all those who can use the information, and a web site, which provides members' contact information, an archive of past conferences, and a listing of traveling exhibits.

When I was elected president in 1988, the AHO membership had grown to 48 member organizations, but still there were only a handful of centers from outside the United States. This has changed dramatically. As of January 1, 2011, there were 291 member organizations and 48 individual members. Member organizations are located in 39 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, with approximately 25 percent outside the United States.

New organizations continue to join the AHO, which is the only international organization of its kind. The main function of these organizations is education, both formal, in terms of teacher training and teaching students, and informal, in terms of exhibits and other public events.

An affiliate member of the International Task Force for Cooperation in Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF), the AHO has become a leading global organization in its field. This is due to the fact that more and more organizations around the world see the need to be linked to their counterparts in other countries.

Because of the growing international component, this year, for the first time in AHO's history, we held a major seminar outside North America. Based on the success of that program, we are planning to hold a seminar in Austria and Germany in November of 2012, and we have invitations to do the same in China in 2013 and South Africa in 2014.

## INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS OF THE AHO

Argentina	Ireland
Australia	Israel
Austria	Italy
Belgium	Japan
Brazil	Lithuania
Canada	Mexico
Chile	Netherlands
China	Norway
Croatia	Poland
Czech Republic	Russia
Denmark	South Africa
France	Sweden
Germany	Ukraine
Greece	United Kingdom
Hungary	Uruguay



To learn more about the Association of Holocaust Organizations, visit [www.ahoinfo.org](http://www.ahoinfo.org). For additional information about the work of the International Task Force, visit <http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/>



## MCHE HOURS

Monday through Friday  
8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Office Closings:

- April 19, 20, 25, 26 (Passover)
- May 30 (Memorial Day)
- June 8, 9 (Shavuot)
- July 4

MCHE's resource center will be open until 7 p.m. on Wednesdays through May 18.

CURRENT MCHE MEMBERS AS OF MARCH 31, 2011 • THANK YOU!

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\*of blessed memory



# Purchase MCHE Films For Your School or Home Library

Featured in MCHE's 18th Anniversary Film Series, these documentaries combine personal testimonies by Kansas City area survivors and other local eyewitnesses to the Holocaust with archival photographs and maps. Each is appropriate for both home viewing and classroom settings, grades 7 and up.

Full-length versions of nearly 50 individual testimonies are available for on-site viewing, by appointment, at the MCHE resource center, and condensed versions are available for free loan.

## MCHE 18TH ANNIVERSARY FILM SERIES

In celebration of 18 years of service to the community and in appreciation of the community's strong and generous support, MCHE launched a free monthly film series beginning in January.

Based on more than 100 hours of video testimonies by local Holocaust survivors and other eyewitnesses, the six featured films comprise part of MCHE's Witnesses to the Holocaust Archive.

Two films remain to be screened at 7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Campus, 5801 West 115th Street, Overland Park, Kansas:

- *In Hiding*—May 19 (White Theatre)
- *Liberation and Aftermath*—June 23 (Social Hall)

Each film is preceded by a topic-appropriate introduction and followed by a question-and-answer session, light reception and DVD sales. There is no charge for admission, but reservations are requested three days in advance for planning purposes (913-327-8196 or [rsvp@mchekc.org](mailto:rsvp@mchekc.org)).

Funding for the Witnesses to the Holocaust Project and the Archive has been provided by the William T. Kemper Foundation, David Woods Kemper Memorial Foundation, Oppenstein Brothers Foundation, Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City, and Jewish Heritage Foundation—with special consideration from Outpost Worldwide.

The film series is funded, in part, by a grant from the White Theatre Grantor Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City.

### FILM SERIES ORDER FORM

*Mail your completed order form to the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, 5801 West 115th Street, Suite 106, Overland Park, KS 66211 or use the attached envelope. Please allow 3 weeks for delivery. To save time and shipping charges, you may purchase DVDs in person at the MCHE office, M-F 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. We recommend that you call 913-327-8192 to confirm availability.*

*The Holocaust: Through Our Own Eyes* presents an overview of the Holocaust from the end of World War I through liberation and arrival in the United States.

- School Version (38 minutes)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Community Version (58 minutes)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Thematic programs listed below are available in both auto-play and chaptered versions (recommended for schools). Please indicate your preferred format:

- Kristallnacht* (47 minutes)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- The Ghettos* (34 minutes)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Auschwitz* (44 minutes)  
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- In Hiding* (70 minutes)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Liberation and After* (38 minutes)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Purchase**                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Special newsletter discount for MCHE members (-10%) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*Not sure if you're a member?  
 See page 4. Join now to receive your discount and support MCHE!*

**Sub-total**                                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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Kansas residents add 8.65% tax \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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## HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

### Time to Remember

This year's community Yom HaShoah service will take place on Sunday, May 1 at 1:30 p.m. in the Lewis and Shirley White Theatre at the Jewish Community Campus in Overland Park, Kansas.

In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the destruction of the "Jewish Heartland"—the communities of Eastern Europe, this year's program will feature readings from first-person accounts of Jewish life before the Holocaust.

This annual commemoration is organized by the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee, and the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, with financial support from local Jewish agencies and congregations.

### Community Programs

#### April 27 • Yom HaShoah Service

Rockhurst University  
Kansas City, Missouri  
Reading of Names 8:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Prayer Service 2:45 - 3:15 p.m.  
Mabee Chapel, Massman Hall

#### May 2 • State of Kansas Commemoration

Kansas State Historical Museum  
Topeka, Kansas  
1:00 - 2:15 p.m.  
Sponsored by the Kansas Holocaust Commission  
Call 785-272-6040 for more information • Seating limited to 200

#### May 3 • The Story of the Arts of the Holocaust

Maple Woods Community College  
Kansas City, Missouri  
Campus Center Arbor Room  
6:30 p.m.  
Contact: Jim Murray, 816-604-3305  
or jim.murray@mcckc.edu

All events are free and open to the public.

# Wyandotte County Historical Museum Hosts Exhibition on Nazi Book Burnings

## OUR JEWISH PAST EXHIBITION ALSO ON DISPLAY

From April 20 through June 17, the Wyandotte County Historical Museum, 631 North 126th, Bonner Springs, Kansas, will host the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's traveling exhibition *Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings*. Using documents, film, video and newsreel footage, the exhibition provides a vivid look at the first steps the Nazis took to suppress freedom of expression and the strong response that occurred in the United States



Helen Keller's work, *Wie ich Sozialisten wurde (How I Became a Socialist)* was banned by the Nazi regime.  
Credit: Courtesy U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum/Library of Congress

both immediately and in the years thereafter.

In conjunction with *Fighting the Fires of Hate*, the Wyandotte County Historical Museum will display *Our Jewish Past*,

highlighting contributions made by the Jewish community to the county's history, including businesses, synagogues and individuals of Wyandotte County.

Support for *Fighting the Fires of Hate* and *Our Jewish Past* has been provided by the Kansas Humanities Council, the Barton P. and Mary D. Cohen Charitable Trust, Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, and Kansas City Kansas Public Library. For more information on the exhibition and related programs, visit [www.wycomuseum.wordpress.com](http://www.wycomuseum.wordpress.com).



Rabbi Miller and Confirmation Class of 1953. Ohev Sholom, Kansas City, Kansas  
From *Our Jewish Past*

## Special Programs Enhance Book Burning Exhibition

### *Third Reich/2010: Censorship Then and Now* • May 10, 6:30 p.m., Wyandotte County Museum

Join Ronda Hassig, member of MCHE's teaching cadre, in exploring the books that were burned as well as issues of censorship.

### *Witnesses to the Holocaust: Kristallnacht* • May 12, 6:30 p.m., George Meyn Community Center

Dr. Frances Sternberg, MCHE's director of university programs and adult education, will provide historical context for this documentary film featuring survivors from the Kansas City community.

### *The Nazi Book Burnings: The Third Reich's Prelude to the Destruction of European Jewry* May 26, 6:30 p.m., Wyandotte County Museum

UMKC graduate students Kevin Baker and Kelsey Rosborough offer their insights to the 1933 book burnings.

### *Red Cross Tracing Services* • June 9, 5:30 p.m., Wyandotte County Museum

Jennifer Tarwater, Director of Disaster Services, will discuss the work of the Holocaust and War Victims Tracing Services.

### *Second Generation Presentation* • June 12, 2:00 p.m., George Meyn Community Center

Steve Cole, a child of survivors and member of MCHE's Speakers Bureau, will talk about his family's history as it relates to the Holocaust.

To schedule group tours, call 913-573-5002 or email [pschurkamp@wycokck.org](mailto:pschurkamp@wycokck.org). Educational resources and teaching suggestions related to *Fighting the Fires of Hate* are available at <http://www.mchekc.org/bookburningteachingmaterials.htm>.

# Summer Programs Feature Renowned Historians

## *Auschwitz in the Courtroom*

Presented by Dr. Robert Jan van Pelt

July 19, 7:30 p.m. • Jewish Community  
Campus Social Hall • Overland Park, Kansas



Dr. Robert  
Jan van Pelt

Dr. Robert Jan van Pelt holds degrees from the University of Leiden in art history and classical archaeology, architectural history, and the history of ideas. His interest in biographies of the architects of Auschwitz led him to study the history of the camp, and in 2000, acknowledged as the world's leading expert on Auschwitz, he participated in Deborah Lipstadt's defense team in the civil suit brought by British Holocaust denier David Irving, who was ultimately defeated.

Dr. van Pelt has authored numerous highly acclaimed books, including the award-winning, *Auschwitz 1270 to the Present*, and has recently completed a fully annotated edition of one of the very few concentration camp diaries to come out of the Holocaust. David Koker's *At The Edge of the Abyss: Concentration Camp Diary, 1943-44* will be published by Northwestern University Press later this year. He has also contributed countless numbers of essays to books and journals over the past 25 years and has appeared in numerous films and television documentaries. He is a professor at the School of Architecture of the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada.

*Seating is limited and complimentary advance tickets are required. Please call 913-327-8196, email [rsvp@mchekc.org](mailto:rsvp@mchekc.org), or stop by the MCHE office after May 1.*

## *James McDonald and the Refugee Crisis 1933-1946*

Presented by Dr. Severin Hochberg  
July 21, 7:00 p.m. • Truman Library  
Independence, Missouri



Dr. Severin  
Hochberg

Co-editor of *Refugees and Rescue: The Diaries and Papers of James G. McDonald*, Dr. Hochberg will discuss the private diaries of James G. McDonald, chairman of Franklin D. Roosevelt's advisory committee on refugees from May 1938 until nearly the end World War II. The writings offer a unique and hitherto unknown insight into the early history of the Nazi regime and the Roosevelt administration's reactions to Nazi persecution of German Jews.

Dr. Hochberg earned his Ph.D. in European History at New York University and taught at Sarah Lawrence College. He was a historian at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for 17 years, helping in the years 1990-1993 to create their permanent exhibition. He currently teaches Holocaust history, Modern European History, and the Origins of Anti-Semitism at George Washington University. He specializes in refugee issues during the Holocaust and is a primary editor of a projected three-volume work based on the diaries and papers of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's confidant James G. McDonald.

A book signing and reception will follow the program. This event is sponsored by the Harry S. Truman Library and the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education.

*This event is free but reservations are strongly suggested as space is limited. Please call 816-268-8200 to reserve your seats today.*

## The History Behind the Nazi Book Burnings

On the night of May 10, 1933, just months after Adolf Hitler and the Nazis had come to power, right-wing students in 34 university towns across Germany marched in torchlight parades "against the un-German spirit" and called for Nazi officials, university faculty and chaplains, and student leaders to address the participants and spectators.

Then, singing songs and taking "fire oaths" as band music played, in large open-air

bonfires, the students burned thousands of "un-German books," taken in raids on public and university libraries, private collections and bookstores. The events also received widespread media attention—not only newspaper coverage, but also "live" radio broadcasts of the songs and speeches.

*This article continues at <http://www.mchekc.org/Bookburninghistory.htm>.*

## Course for Educators RESPONSES TO THE HOLOCAUST: PERPETRATORS, VICTIMS, BYSTANDERS

July 18-21, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.,  
Jewish Community Campus

July 18-19—Through lecture and discussion, based on his book *Holocaust: A History*, Dr. Robert van Pelt will focus on the responses of the perpetrators and of Jewish victims.

July 20—Dr. Severin Hochberg will provide an in-depth analysis of the international response to the Holocaust, including a focus on refugee issues, bystanders and the responses of the churches.

July 21—Through the use of web-based testimonies, Mitch Braff, director of the Jewish Partisan Education Foundation, will explore Jewish responses to the Holocaust, specifically armed and unarmed resistance.

A registration fee of \$75 (\$65 if paid by May 16) covers course materials, including *Holocaust: A History*, lunch on site Monday and Tuesday, and snacks each day, with lunch on your own Wednesday and Thursday. Two hours of optional graduate credit will be available from Baker University. A separate enrollment fee, payable to Baker University, will be collected on the first day of class. Full details and registration form are available at <http://www.mchekc.org/Responsescourse.htm>.

*Funding for this course has been provided by the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City and by the Oppenstein Brothers Foundation. Additional support for MCHE's 2010-2011 School Outreach and Teacher Education programs has been provided by the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City and by the Menorah Legacy Foundation of Greater Kansas City.*

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Go to [www.mchekc.org](http://www.mchekc.org)  
for an online version of this  
newsletter plus additional  
history and resources.

## MCHE Annual Meeting and Elections

This event is open to the community. Invitations will be mailed in May to current MCHE members. Call 913-327-8196 or email [rspv@mchekc.org](mailto:rspv@mchekc.org) to make reservations.

If you are not an MCHE member and wish to join, please use the remittance envelope located between pages 4 and 5. You may also make your secure donation online at <http://mchekc.org/JoinContribute.htm> or call 913-327-8192 to charge by phone.

*As part of a recent by-laws and policy review, the MCHE Board of Directors voted to move the annual meeting from its traditional time in January. Other changes, to be implemented in June, include the creation of a Council of Advocates in lieu of the Board of Governors.*

06•06•11

**MONDAY**  
**JUNE 6, 2011**  
**7 P.M.**

**Jewish Community Campus**

•  
**Honoring**  
Mark Adams, Outgoing President

•  
**Featured Speaker**  
Tim Rives, Assistant Director  
Eisenhower Presidential Library  
and Museum

•  
**Topic**  
Not-So-Famous Last Words:  
What Did Ike Say When He Ordered  
the D-Day Invasion?