



• MCHE •
**CELEBRATING
 OUR 20TH
 ANNIVERSARY
 YEAR**
 1993 - 2013

MIDWEST CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Newsletter

MAKING CHANGES FOR HUMANITY THROUGH EDUCATION

SPRING/SUMMER | 2013

Hollywood and the Holocaust

MCHE'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY FILM SERIES CONTINUES

The depiction of the Holocaust in American films has changed over seven decades as the country's own relationship with this complex history has evolved. To illustrate this—and to commemorate MCHE's 20th anniversary—MCHE has been featuring Academy-Award nominated films as part of a special film series that began in January.

Three films remain in the series, all of which will be presented at 7:00 p.m. in the White Theatre at the Jewish Community Campus, 5801 West 115th Street, Overland Park, KS. Open seating begins at 6:30 p.m.

- **April 23 • *The Pawnbroker* (1965)** – This film tells the story of a survivor who has lost all faith in his fellow man.
- **May 21 • *The Man in the Glass Booth* (1975)** – An irreverent, rich Jewish industrialist living in Manhattan turns out to be a Nazi war criminal.
- **June 11 • *Enemies: A Love Story* (1989)** – Based on an Isaac Bashevis Singer novel, the film focuses on a group of survivors who question religion and a God who could let the Holocaust occur.

Each film will be preceded by an introduction describing how Hollywood's depiction and representation of the Holocaust have evolved and how these films both reflected and impacted popular culture. A light dessert reception will follow each program.

Tickets are available for \$10 each, either in advance or at the door. Packages that include all three films may be purchased for \$25, and sponsorships are available for individual films.

Funding for the film series has been generously provided 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 and by the following series sponsors: Donna Gould Cohen Fund, John and Trudy Jacobson Foundation Fund and Regina M. and William B. Kort Donor Advised Fund, all of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City.



Community Yom HaShoah Service

This year's Yom HaShoah service, commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and the 50th anniversary of the dedication of Kansas City's Memorial to the Six Million, will take place on Sunday, April 7, at 1:30 p.m. in the Lewis and Shirley White Theatre at the Jewish Community Campus in Overland Park.

Sharon Mandelbaum Barber, daughter of Jack Mandelbaum and the late Shirley Mandelbaum, is the chair of this year's program.

Rabbi David Glickman of Congregation Beth Shalom will give the opening remarks; Cantor Paul Silbersher of Temple Sinai will sing *El Mole Rachamim*; and Rabbi Alan Londy of The New Reform Temple will provide closing remarks and recite *Kaddish*.

Because this is also the 55th anniversary of the formation of the New Americans Club—a small group of Holocaust survivors, most of



Members of the New Americans Club in Kansas City, 1963.

whom immigrated to Kansas City shortly after World War II—the program will feature Jewish songs from the period before and after the Holocaust, sung by local cantors.



2013 marks the 50th anniversary of the dedication of Kansas City's Memorial to the Six Million.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about Hollywood and the Holocaust, or to purchase tickets, visit www.mchekc.org/filmseries, call 913-327-8194, or scan the QR code at right. See page 4 for a mail-in order form.



Additional events may be found on page 8 »

Jean Zeldin



Testimonies Will Educate Future Generations

Pictured on the campus of USC: Brian Cowley,
Jean Zeldin and Jessica Rockhold



August 23 will mark 20 years since I began my career with the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education. In my fall message I plan to review what, for me, are the 20 most significant highlights from those 20 years, but I can say now without hesitation that serving as coordinator for “Witnesses to the Holocaust,” MCHE’s inaugural project that recorded the testimonies of nearly 50 local eyewitnesses in conjunction with the Fortunoff Archive at Yale University, has been not only my most personally rewarding experience as executive director but also the most significant in furthering our educational goals.

MCHE’s Witness Archive

The value of those testimonies has been enhanced by our professional program staff, who find creative ways to incorporate them into educational programs and resources. Fran Sternberg, MCHE’s director of university programs and adult education, who will mark her 15th anniversary with MCHE in November, has dedicated herself to enhancing our witness archive by creating both condensed and thematic versions of the recorded testimonies and to ensuring their appropriate contextual application.

Jessica Rockhold, director of school programs and teacher education, who will mark ten years with MCHE in June, has designed and facilitated numerous student programs, teaching units, and courses for educators that promote effective instructional use of these valuable narratives.

The question asked of me most often over the past two decades has been, “What is MCHE doing to prepare for a time when we will no longer have Holocaust survivors?” While recognizing that no preparation can be truly adequate, this has been a priority of ours since Day One. In addition to the original video recordings, upgraded later to digital format, MCHE has collected and published writings from Holocaust survivors, their children and grandchildren. Audio recordings of pre- and post-war experiences paired with family and individual photographs form the basis of our Portrait 2000 exhibit and *From the Heart: Life Before and After the Holocaust ~ A Mosaic of Memories*.

Treasure Troves of Memory

In January, Jessica and I, along with Brian Cowley, professor of psychology and sociology at Park University and a member of MCHE’s Holocaust Education Academic Roundtable (HEART), attended a stimulating conference at the USC Shoah Foundation Institute, sponsored by the Association of Holocaust Organizations. Following an impressive behind-the-scenes technology tour, we explored IWitness, an exclusive classroom application for students and teachers. From key professionals, we learned of their plans for preserving, disseminating and ensuring the ethical use of testimonies from their Visual History Archive and about the institute’s vision for utilizing eyewitness testimony as a means of preventing and responding to contemporary genocides.

Remarkable advances in technology that we could not have imagined 20 years ago, coupled with the treasure trove of memory that MCHE and other institutions have carefully collected, will ensure that we can continue to tell the story to future generations.

I encourage you to join MCHE as a messenger of that memory. Attend our programs. Read books and view films and testimonies from our resource center. Visit our web site. Introduce others to our work. Invest in our mission. Help us continue to make a difference.

Books and documentaries produced by MCHE and featuring testimony by Kansas City area survivors are available for sale at the MCHE office or at <https://store.mchekc.org>.

HELP MCHE CONTINUE TO TELL THE STORY to future generations through a current or planned gift to our endowment. Your contribution will make a lasting impact, ensuring that the Holocaust remains a touchstone for humanity in the face of indifference and bigotry.

Please contact Jean Zeldin at 913-327-8191 or jeanz@mchekc.org to explore the many charitable options for creating your legacy, including bequests, gifts of life insurance, stock or IRAs.

If you have already included MCHE in your will or trust, please let us recognize your generosity in our fall newsletter, along with others who have already made their special commitment.



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**of blessed memory*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Steve Chick



Some of the Rest of the Story...

As Jean Zeldin celebrates her remarkable 20 years as the founding executive director of Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, so do I mark the past ten years as a community volunteer for MCHE. I was asked to work with my dear friend Gayle Krigel on the celebration of MCHE's Tenth Anniversary and later that year, I was elected to the Board of Governors. Election to the Board of Directors and two vice presidencies followed. Over the years, I've signed thousands of letters asking for donations and thousands more acknowledging our thanks for your generous remembrances.

I am very proud to serve as president of the Board of MCHE and to be able to work with our stellar and dedicated staff. Our Board of Directors and Council of Advocates are filled with wonderful and involved community leaders. I am grateful to our officers who have spent countless hours raising funds and attending meetings to plan our events and our future.

Since our 18th *Chai* Anniversary that honored our community's Holocaust survivors, we have added to our endowment, increased our membership, initiated a strategic plan that will carry us into 2015, and recognized talented young people in our annual White Rose Student Essay Contest. Our cadre of teachers is an invaluable group that works with us year round. We present countless adult education programs, featuring films and authors, in addition to making our resource center available to the public.

Next year, for the third time, MCHE will sponsor a major exhibition from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, partnering once again with the regional office of the National Archives. We will value and appreciate your support as patrons, visitors and volunteer docents.

At each of our board meetings, we hold a moment of silence to cherish the memories of Holocaust survivors who have passed away recently. We will continue to keep their legacy alive, as well as fulfilling the vision of our founders Jack Mandelbaum and Isak Federman, through our activism and presence in this community.

Annual Meeting 2013

MCHE ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

HONORING OUTGOING PRESIDENT STEVE CHICK

Tuesday, June 11, 2013 • 7:00 p.m.

Jewish Community Campus Social Hall • Dessert Reception to Follow

RSVP to 913-327-8196 or rsvp@mchekc.org.

THE HOLOCAUST: Does It Defy Representation?

Fran Sternberg, Director of University Programs and Adult Education • 913-327-8194 • frans@mchekc.org

In 1955, just 10 years after the end of World War II, the German philosopher Theodor W. Adorno famously described the impact of the Holocaust on contemporary culture: "... to write a poem after Auschwitz is barbaric..."

Expressing the Holocaust

Despite Adorno's seminal assessment, the Holocaust has become an inevitable part of the post-Holocaust narrative and has given rise to a vast and constantly growing body of human expression, from written and visual works to public manifestations such as monuments, memorials and commemorative ceremonies.

These articulations communicate different approaches to looking at, remembering and interpreting the Holocaust, not only because

they emerge from specific perspectives and contexts, but also because they address different audiences. At the same time, they construct, reconstruct and circulate meanings.

"Representation" is the process whereby such meanings are constructed. Representation of the Holocaust refers to the way in which the meaning of the Holocaust shifts for different generations, audiences and contexts. Although this process operates with respect to all forms of human expression, it is most often discussed (perhaps because it is most easily understood and accessed) regarding literature and the arts, especially popular art forms such as theater and film.

Conventions and Constraints

Building on Adorno, some scholars, such as Berel Lang, ask whether certain forms of aesthetic expression are "out of bounds" for the Holocaust and wonder if artists should be constrained by the "reality" of history. Others, like Alvin H. Rosenfeld, go further, insisting that cultural expressions over the years have appropriated the Holocaust in the service of a variety of social, ideological and political agendas. He calls this the "immorality of false analogy and 'memory' of the Shoah."

As a result, many maintain that because the Holocaust's extraordinary moral weight renders it unique, representation of the Holocaust—unlike, perhaps, the Civil War—*must* be limited by ethical and historical constraints.

Continued on page 8 »

SEE PAGE 1 FOR PROGRAM DETAILS.

» HOLLYWOOD AND THE HOLOCAUST | TICKET ORDER FORM

Please complete this form and mail it with your check or payment information to:

MCHE, 5801 West 115th Street, Suite 106
Overland Park, KS 66211

You may also call **913-327-8194** or visit www.mchekc.org/filmseries. All sales are final.

SINGLE FILM SPONSOR - \$100 PER FILM

- Up to 2 tickets for each sponsored film*
- Recognition in the film program

- The Pawnbroker*
- The Man in the Glass Booth*
- Enemies: A Love Story*

Total number of sponsorships _____ x \$100 = \$ _____

**Non tax-deductible portion is \$10 per ticket.*

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS - \$10

Number of tickets requested:

- ____ *The Pawnbroker*
- ____ *The Man in the Glass Booth*
- ____ *Enemies: A Love Story*

Total number of tickets _____ x \$10 = \$ _____

3-FILM PACKAGE - \$25

Total number of packages . . . _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

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PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- Please accept my sponsorship as a 100% charitable donation. I decline any sponsor tickets.
- Please hold my tickets at the door.
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Name: _____

Address: _____

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PAYMENT INFORMATION (PLEASE COMPLETE)

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MCHE annual memberships are scheduled for renewal in either June or December, depending upon the donation date. June renewals are indicated by italics. Please use the attached envelope to become an MCHE member, to reactivate a lapsed membership, or to renew your current membership. Those received by June 30, 2013, will be recognized in both our fall donor listing and by level in next spring's newsletter and will be current through June 30, 2014.

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*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.

Professional Development Opportunities Summer 2013

History of the Holocaust: Teaching the Core

June 17-19



This course centers on a chronological survey of Holocaust history with emphasis on the evolution of Nazi policy. Teachers will gain hands-on practice with primary source analysis and leave with increased

knowledge of Holocaust history, usable classroom activities with ties to Common Core Standards and familiarity with age-appropriate resources, including testimonies of local Holocaust survivors.

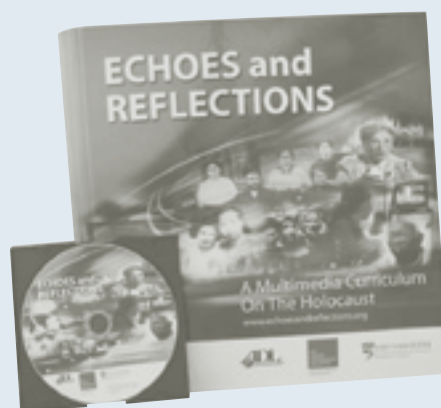
Content and activities are appropriate for junior high, middle school and high school educators ONLY. A \$60 registration fee payable to MCHE by June 3, 2013, covers all course materials. Continuing education credit will be available for an additional fee. Complete details and a registration form are available at www.mchekc.org/HOH.

Echoes and Reflections Curriculum Workshop

July 8

This workshop prepares 7th through 12th grade teachers to utilize the *Echoes and Reflections* curriculum. An educator from the USC Shoah Foundation Institute will lead an interactive demonstration of IWitness (see below).

The \$30 course fee* includes a complimentary copy of the curriculum (\$100 retail value), lunch and snacks, and valuable handouts and resource materials. Full details and registration are available at www.mchekc.org/Echoes.



Telling the Story: Teaching with Witness Testimony

July 9-11

This course focuses on the effective integration of primary source testimony. It will begin with a plenary session led by a USC Shoah Foundation Institute educator, exploring issues relevant to Holocaust testimony, including how to “read” testimony and a demonstration of IWitness (see below). Subsequent sessions will relate directly to MCHE’s six-part documentary series featuring Kansas City survivors in the Witnesses to the Holocaust Archive. Special attention will be paid to analyzing testimony, determining the role of memory in history, and personalizing the Holocaust. Participants will gain hands-on practice with primary source analysis and access to related lesson plans.

Continuing education credit will be available for an additional fee. A \$100 registration fee*, payable to MCHE, includes materials, three lunches and daily snacks. Full details and registration are available at www.mchekc.org/testimonycourse.

*** Enroll in both “Echoes and Reflections Workshop” and “Telling the Story: Teaching with Witness Testimony” for a total of \$115 (a \$15 savings).**

Shoah Foundation IWitness Testimonies Now Available to Educators

Jessica Rockhold, Director of School Programs and Teacher Education
913-327-8195 • jessicar@mchekc.org

No matter how many Holocaust resources we share with teachers, we always return to survivor testimony. No other resource connects with students as profoundly as a Holocaust survivor telling his or her personal story. For students, testimony isn’t about remembering the details or facts about the Holocaust. It is about understanding how that history affected one person—how it disrupted and completely reshaped the life that person would lead. Within this context, students are able to personalize the history and focus on an individual rather than being overwhelmed by an impersonal and incomprehensible number, such as six million.

Recognizing the importance of primary source testimony to both the historical record and to education, the USC Shoah Foundation Institute has, since its inception, made Holocaust testimony its sole focus. During its early years, under the direction of Steven Spielberg, the foundation’s priority was to collect testimonies, ultimately recording nearly 52,000 narratives consisting of more than 100,000 hours of video.

Yet, the question of accessibility to this remarkable collection still needed to be addressed.

For teachers, the Shoah Foundation has now created IWitness, an online archive and teaching resource containing approximately 1,100 testimonies. In addition to providing access to entire testimonies, the site includes a fully indexed and searchable database, with testimonies keyword coded literally by the minute. There are also lessons that allow students to explore individual testimonies and to create their own documentaries—all within the safety of the IWitness page.

Any professional educator may register at www.iwitness.usc.edu to utilize these features. Middle and high school educators also may learn more about IWitness at *Echoes and Reflections* trainings offered by MCHE or at www.mchekc.org/Echoes.

No other resource connects with students as profoundly as a Holocaust survivor telling his or her personal story.

HolocaustEDU 2013

MCHE'S SECOND BI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY-LEVEL FACULTY

Post secondary educators in our region—from graduate students to university faculty—are increasingly interested in incorporating the Holocaust into their courses. Yet many, for reasons of time and distance, are unable to attend regular meetings of MCHE's Holocaust Education Academic Roundtable (HEART). HEART meets twice each semester and serves as a forum for exploring the place of the Holocaust in higher education, exchanging ideas on the problems and challenges of teaching the Holocaust in diverse interdisciplinary contexts, and examining the scope of options and resources available.



The Treblinka Memorial, surrounded by a field of 17,000 stones, representing the lost Jewish communities.

Photo ©FCIT/University of South Florida

Keynote speakers

Dr. Andrew S. Bergerson

Department of History,
University of Missouri -
Kansas City

*Toward a Conceptual
Framework of Holocaust
Representation*

Dr. Brian J. Cowley

Department of
Psychology and Sociology,
Park University

*The Utility of Recorded
Testimonies: The USC
Shoah Foundation Institute's
Visual History Archive*

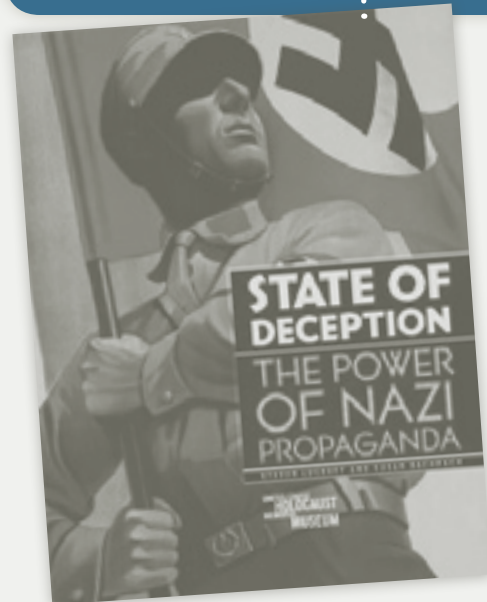
Responding to the needs of regional educators and scholars, MCHE and HEART presented HolocaustEDU for the first time in 2011.

HolocaustEDU 2013 will be held on April 28, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Campus, 5801 West 115th Street, Overland Park, KS. Participants will explore how the Holocaust is remembered and represented and its impact on and implications for contemporary culture and expression.

Workshop topics, presented by HEART participants, include Anticipatory Memory, Art After the Holocaust, Gender and Gendering in Holocaust Representation, German Public Memory and the Crimes of the Wehrmacht, The Holocaust and Contemporary Genocides, Psychology and Complicity, Second and Third Generation Memory, and Theology After the Holocaust.

HolocaustEDU is part of MCHE's Higher Education Initiative, which is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City.

COMING IN
JUNE 2014



A Traveling Exhibition from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Sponsored by the Midwest Center
for Holocaust Education

Hosted by the National Archives
at Kansas City

- Patron Preview
- Group Tours
- Teacher Workshops
- Online Lesson Plans
- Public Programs
- Docent Opportunities

Watch for details in MCHE's fall
newsletter and on our web site.

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
HolocaustEDU 2013
SCAN THE QR CODE AT RIGHT.



EDUCATORS' BLOG • holocausteducators.blogspot.com



FACEBOOK • facebook.com/MidwestCenterforHolocaustEducation

Holocaust Representation

continued from page 4

They consider such constraints especially crucial as contemporary authors, artists and filmmakers, increasingly reaching beyond the standard conventions, seem to violate these constraints and lapse into sentimentality or melodrama, cliché or kitsch. The controversies surrounding narrative films such as *Schindler's List*, *Life Is Beautiful*, *Inglourious Basterds* and *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* come to mind as examples of this.

Indeed, at an extreme, it has been argued that the moral and historical enormity of Holocaust

... many maintain that because the Holocaust's extraordinary moral weight renders it unique, representation of the Holocaust—unlike, perhaps, the Civil War—must be limited by ethical and historical constraints.

is such that, defying comprehension, it also defies representation and therefore is most appropriately expressed by the absence of representation—that is by silence.



Midwest Center for Holocaust Education

5801 West 115th Street Suite 106
Overland Park, KS 66211-1800

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Go to mchekc.org
for an online version
of this newsletter.

Community Programs

Through April 10*

Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945

A Traveling Exhibition from the
U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
Dean's Gallery, UMKC Miller Nichols Library
800 East 51st Street, Kansas City, MO

Through May 19*

Ours to Fight For: Kansas City During World War II

Wartime posters
Kansas City Museum
3218 Gladstone, Kansas City, MO

*For exhibit hours and tours, call 816-483-8300
or go to kansascitymuseum.org.

April 6-14

Anne Frank, a stage adaptation

Jewish Community Center, White Theatre
5801 West 115th Street, Overland Park, KS
Additional information at jcckc.org,
or call 913-327-8054

April 8, 1:00 p.m.

State of Kansas Commemoration

Kansas Poet Laureate Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg
Kansas State Historical Museum
6425 Southwest 6th Avenue, Topeka, KS
Sponsored by the Kansas State
Holocaust Commission
Contact: 785-262-6040

April 17

Yom HaShoah Service

Rockhurst University
1100 Rockhurst Road, Kansas City, MO

- Reading of Names, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.,
Kinerk Commons
- Prayer Service, 2:30-3:00 p.m.,
Greenlease Gallery, featuring student
choirs from the Hyman Brand Hebrew
Academy and Rockhurst University

Contact Bill Kriege at bill.kriege@rockhurst.edu,
or 816-501-4885

April 18, 7:30 p.m.

Recipes Remembered

Author and food archivist June Feiss Hersh
shares recipes from Holocaust survivors
and their families.
Jewish Community Campus
5801 West 115th Street, Overland Park, KS
Presented by the Jewish Federation of
Greater Kansas City in collaboration
with MCHE
Additional information at jewishkansascity.org,
or call 913-327-8108

May 7, 6:30 p.m.

Days of Remembrance: Remembering the Holocaust Through Music

Maple Woods Community College
2601 Northeast Barry Road, Kansas City, MO
Contact Jim Murray at jim.murray@mccck.edu,
or 816-604-3305