

e-LEGACY



BIRMINGHAM
HOLOCAUST
EDUCATION
CENTER

Keeping the History and Lessons of the Holocaust Alive

JUNE 2020

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L'CHAIM 2020



We invite you to join us for BHEC's virtual *L'Chaim* event on Sunday, August 23, at 2:00 pm. Set your device to bheclchaim.swell.gives, and join us as we honor **Susan and David Silverstein** for their strong commitment to our vision and mission. You will also be inspired by music and words from very special, surprise guests. Plan a WATCH PARTY with your family and friends, and help us broaden our circle of giving and involvement. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to "seeing" you online August 23rd.

CONTRIBUTE ONLINE NOW!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

It's nearly time for *L'Chaim* 2020, and you have hopefully received your invitation to this year's virtual event! We are excited to honor BHEC friends and longtime supporters, and community volunteers extraordinaire, Susan and David Silverstein on Sunday, August 23, at 2:00 pm online at bheclchaim.swell.gives. We are very excited to include inspiring music and drama from friends at [RMTC](#), and words of

hope and empowerment from two nationally and internationally recognized leaders. You don't want to miss this year's *L'Chaim!*

If you have already made a contribution to *L'Chaim*, thank you for your support! If you would like to make a contribution to sustain our vital work, visit the [event website](#), or mail a check to BHEC at the address listed below. Because of COVID-19 challenges, our staff continues to work remotely, but we are happy to assist you at any time. [Email us](#) or call the office, and we will be in touch with you.

Now *more than ever*, the BHEC is dedicated to preserving and sharing our Alabama Holocaust Survivors' stories, which are powerful reminders to us all of the consequences of hate, and of silence in the face of hate. Even during this challenging COVID-19 pandemic, we are empowering teachers through Holocaust education online workshops. And we are strategizing with young adults about ways to engage more young people, who are our greatest hope for taking the lessons of the Holocaust and utilizing them to construct more just and accepting communities. Several young people are currently volunteering as transcribers of our survivors' digitized testimonies, and we look forward to hearing about their summer journey with this work. Our Siegler Fellow, Kendall Criswell, will soon present her research into some of our Holocaust survivors for whom we have less information. We are encouraged by our younger partners and look forward to learning more from them. If you know of a young adult (18-35 years old) who might be interested in joining our efforts, please let us know!

Thank you for your steadfast support. Stay healthy and safe.

Melissa

THIS MONTH IN HOLOCAUST HISTORY

June was Pride Month, a time when LGBTQ+ communities and allies from around the world come together to celebrate.

Before the Nazis came to power, Berlin was home to a vibrant gay community. Within weeks of the party's rise in

March 1933, the Nazis drove this population underground and waged a violent campaign against homosexuality.



View the USHMM's digital program, *The Nazi Persecution of Gay People*.

[VIEW PROGRAM](#)

ARCHIVES AT HOME (UPCOMING PROGRAM)

Presented by Dr. Knurr &
Rachel Lopez

Learn the story of the Knurr family's escape from Nazi Germany through the rare and unique collection of artifacts he has generously donated to BHEC. From a comfortable life in Aurich, Germany, to hardships endured under the Nuremberg Laws, and finally to building a new life in Montgomery, Alabama, there is much to be learned from the Knurr family's experiences.

ARCHIVES AT HOME:

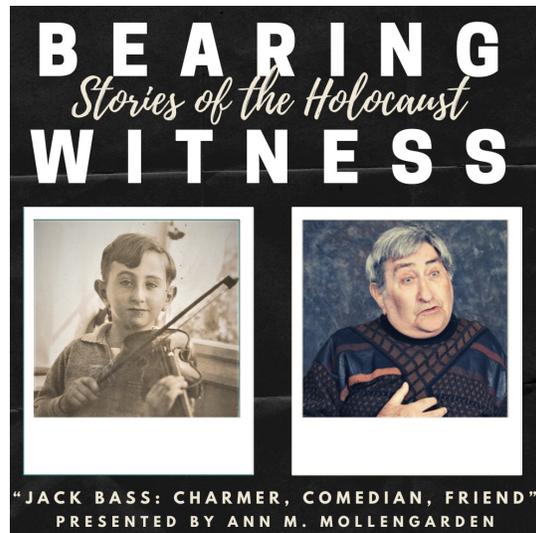
THE DR. WERNER KNURR COLLECTION

[REGISTER HERE](#)

BEARING WITNESS: Stories of the Holocaust

Jack Bass: Charmer, Comedian, Friend
Presented by Ann M. Mollengarden

Jack was imprisoned at Auschwitz III/ Buna, Auschwitz I, Dachau, and Mühldorf. And yet despite his terrifying youth and loss of family, he retained a wonderful sense of humor, love of music, and joie de vivre. Join Ann Mollengarden, BHEC Education Coordinator, as we meet Jack and learn from his life experiences.

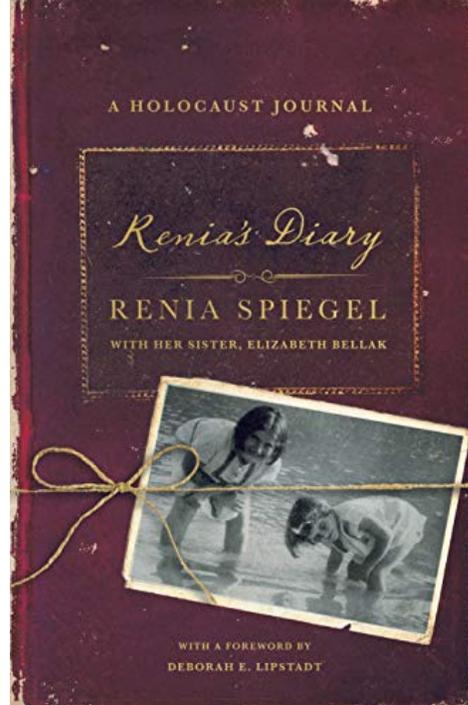


[VIEW PROGRAM](#)

RECOMMENDED READING FROM THE BHEC

Renia's Diary: A Holocaust Journal by Renia Spiegel
The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank, along with its stage and

screen adaptations, has remained arguably the most popular work of Holocaust literature. For many, Anne Frank's seminal diary is an entry point for Holocaust education, in part due to Frank's relatable, adolescent voice, even as she records her vivid impressions of the horrors of war. Like Anne Frank, Renia Spiegel was a young Jewish woman who came of age under Nazi occupation, recording her experiences and reflections in a diary. *Renia's Diary: A Holocaust Journey* was long hidden and translated to English for the first time in 2019. Spiegel was born in 1924 and began her diary in 1939, the year she was separated from much of her family to live with her grandmother. Spiegel was eventually forced to live in a ghetto and was secretly smuggled out, although this act of resistance did not save her, and she was unfortunately killed by Nazis in 1942 at just 18 years old. *Renia's Diary* is a remarkable historical document, recording everything from ordinary teenage feelings about school and boys, to the terrors of invading armies and forced relocation. The diary contains Spiegel's poignant poetry along with prose, both powerfully bearing witness to the tragic events of the Holocaust.



The collection of BHEC Holocaust Studies Library is currently inaccessible, but *Renia's Diary: A Holocaust Journal*, is widely available at Jefferson County public libraries and through most booksellers.



Honoring Susan and David Silverstein

Sunday, August 23, 2020

2:00 pm

LIVE Online

The Birmingham Holocaust Education Center relies on the generous support of donors to do the important work of teaching and preserving the lessons of the Holocaust. It is our hope that through this work, future generations will understand the danger of remaining silent in the face of hatred and bigotry.

Click on the DONATE button below to help empower our mission.

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P.O. Box 130805
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If you have moved or recently changed your email address please let us know at
office@bhecinfo.org or 205-795-4176

