



Legacy



A publication of the Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee, a division of the Alabama Holocaust Foundation



Fall /Winter 2008

DATES TO REMEMBER:
Birmingham Civil Rights Institute:

EXPANDED
Darkness into Life Exhibit
Sunday, September 7, 2008 -
Sunday, October 26, 2008

Holocaust Program Schedule:

Thursday, September 11, 2008
6:00 p.m.
Martin Aaron, Survivor

Thursday, September 25, 2008
6:00 p.m.
Mitzi J. Levin, Artist
Becky Seitel, Photojournalist

Sunday, September 28, 2008
3:00 p.m.
Theodore Haddin, Violinist

Sunday, October 12, 2008
3:00 p.m.
The Children of the Holocaust
A Film Documentary of Birmingham Holocaust Survivors

Thursday, October 23, 2008
6:00 p.m.
Riva & Aisic Hirsch,
Survivors

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On April 1, 2007, *Darkness into Life: The Birmingham Area Holocaust Survivors Through Photography and Art* by Becky Seitel and Mitzi J. Levin opened at the Levite Jewish Community Center in Birmingham, Alabama, and depicted the lives of nine Holocaust survivors from the Birmingham area. The art and photography dealt with different stages of their experiences. Mitzi's paintings focused on life before and during imprisonment or hiding, as well as escape or liberation. Becky's photographs told stories about the survivors' lives today as well as their Holocaust experiences depicted in a photojournalistic style.

State-wide Endeavor

Since then, the exhibit has grown to become a state-wide endeavor and currently includes twenty Holocaust survivors living throughout Alabama in Birmingham, Huntsville, Montgomery, Mobile, and Opelika. Newly-created survivor biographies and maps provide an additional historical dimension to the exhibit. The format for sharing the survivors' experiences continues the original format: art and photography depicting the stages of their experiences...all different...all important to the story of the Holocaust.

Expanded Exhibit

The Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee (BHEC) is pleased to announce the premier of the expanded exhibit: *Darkness into Life: Alabama Holocaust Survivors through Photography and Art*. The exhibit will be on display at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Odessa Woolfolk Gallery, Sunday, September 7 - Sunday, October 26. The opening reception will be Sunday, September 7 from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. with a brief ceremony at 2:30 p.m.

Allow This Exhibit to Move You

Through the stories of these Alabama Holocaust survivors, we hope to impart this

history, as well as a richer understanding of its Impact on these individuals and their families. View their pictures. Read their stories. Allow this exhibition to move you.



Left to right: Phyllis Weinstein, BHEC; Brian Kurlander, Slaughter Group; Becky Seitel, photographer; Ann Mollengarden, BHEC; Mitzi Levin, artist, Ahmad Ward, BCRI Head of Education; and Jim Sokol, BCRI Board Member. Photo by : Heather Clark

Viewing Dates and Times

The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute is located at 520 16th Street North. The exhibit may be viewed during regular hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. Admission is free each Sunday. Tuesday - Saturday admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for college students, free for under 17.

For more information about the exhibit, please contact Ann Mollengarden, agmoll@bellsouth.net. For information regarding school or special tours, please contact the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute Group Tour Coordinator, 205-328-9696, Ext. 222.

Presented by:

The exhibit is presented by Brenda and Fred Friedman; The Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee, a Regional Division of the Alabama Holocaust Commission; Sterne Agee; Ronne and Donald Hess Foundation; The Gail and Jeffrey Bayer; The Kimerling Foundation and Sirote & Permutt.

Education comes in many shapes and forms, particularly with respect to Holocaust Education. First and foremost we seek to educate students. To teach the history, but more importantly, to teach the lessons of the Holocaust. Reaching the students is a multi-pronged approach.

Teach the Teachers

We must teach the teachers who teach the students. This summer the BHEC was fortunate to be able to send three teachers to national Holocaust education workshops. Peter Sanders from Berry Middle School attended the Alfred Lerner Fellowship program of the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous. Lisa Byrd and Ann Mollengarden attended *Facing History and Ourselves*. All shared their experiences at a teacher reception on August 5 and will continue to share with other teachers through the BHEC Teacher Cadre. Scholarships were sponsored by a generous grant from the Frank and Fred Friedman Fund.

Resource for Teachers and Communities

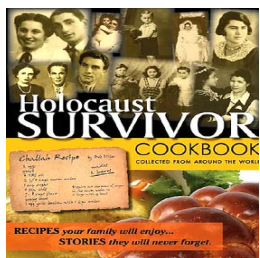
We must be a resource for teachers and communities. To that end, we were able to arrange for the Cullman City Schools to host ADL's Multimedia Curriculum on the *Holocaust: Echoes & Reflections*. This will be a one-day workshop on September 26. In addition, during the month of October, the Huntsville Multicultural Center will host the BHEC's "Courage to Care" poster exhibit as part of a teaching workshop.

Create Long-Term Teaching Materials

We must create long-term teaching materials. Two new BHEC Powerpoints are now on our website: "A Basic Guide to Judaism" and "Hitler's Rise to Power." The BHEC Powerpoints have been a powerful, one-stop tool for classroom teachers.

Visit Expanded Darkness into Life Exhibit at BCRI

And speaking of long-term teaching materials, we hope you will visit the expanded "Darkness into Life" exhibit at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in September/October. There are new biographies of the survivors as well as new maps to enhance this expanded, state-wide exhibit. We are working on booking the exhibit throughout the state. It is already booked at the Mary G. Hardin Center for the Cultural Arts in Gadsden for March and April 2009.



Holocaust Survivor Cookbook Order Form
Recipes collected from around the world
Copyright 2007, Published in USA

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (_____) _____; 2nd TELEPHONE NUMBER (_____) _____

\$36 each, plus \$10 shipping and handling Number Ordered _____ Total amount of purchase _____

Mail to: Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee P. O. Box 130577 Birmingham, AL 35213

BHEC gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our supporters: Bayer Properties, B & B Print Shop, Birmingham Jewish Federation, Deep South Jewish Voice, Frank and Fred Friedman Fund, Steve Goldman Web Design, Sirote & Permutt

Holocaust education in our city, and yes, our state, has been revolutionized by the most profound Art and Photographic exhibit, DARKNESS INTO LIFE, a project conceived and executed by artist, Mitzi J. Levin and photographer, Becky Seitel. This exhibit was viewed by over 5,000 people when it was displayed at the Levite Jewish Community Center, Cullman Middle School and the Old Supreme Court Library in the State Capitol Building in Montgomery. The ripple effect from this viewing has created venues, now in the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and next spring in Gadsden, in connection with the Gadsden Cultural Arts Center's "Big Read" program, centering on a Holocaust novel, 'The Shawl' by Cynthia Ozick.

Opening the Door for Wider Holocaust Education

In the countless hours Mitzi and Becky spent interviewing Birmingham Holocaust survivors, and now traveling to visit Holocaust survivors throughout the state, in their gentle and sensitive questioning they have extracted the essence of each of the survivor's lives. Mitzi and Becky have brought these images to us in the work of their hands. Convinced that their experiences must be known and never forgotten, they have given us this treasure for remembrance. The DARKNESS INTO LIFE exhibit has opened the door wider for Holocaust education.

PowerPoint Program

To capture that interest, a group of educators, Ann

Mollengarden, the Education Coordinator for BHEC, along with two high school teachers, Lisa Byrd of Mortimer-Jordan High School and Randy Hubbard of Springville High School, have created a PowerPoint program, entitled "The Holocaust". Recently, a teacher who attended a summer international workshop impressed his colleagues with his knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust. He credited the information in this PowerPoint and the general information on our webpage with fortifying his interest, knowledge and enthusiasm in teaching his students. He said, "You just do not realize the impact this program is having." Recently, Ann completed a section on a basic guide to Judaism to add to the PowerPoint program, and soon, a section on anti-Semitism will be added. Check it out on our website: bhamholocausteducation.org.

Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee

The extraordinary women and men, members of The Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee, have made this organization a force in our community. We continually attract new, dedicated people, all volunteers, who keep the wheels moving in a smooth, focused goal of increasing and improving Holocaust education in our schools and community.

BECOME A FRIEND

We hope you will join our efforts, and become a Friend of the Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO REMEMBRANCE DAY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 22 & 23, 2008

Barbara Bonfield, Program Coordinator

The University of Montevallo will "honor the bravery of the United States military from the Second World War and recognize the indomitable spirit of the survivors of the Holocaust" in a program to be held on October 21 - October 22, 2008 at the university. Chaired by Dr. Randall Scott, Professor of Communication Arts, a committee, including a number of university departments and a representative of the Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee, has completed plans for the two-day event.

Make Your Reservations

There is no admission charge, but seating is limited for the event that will take place in Merchants and Planters Bank Auditorium, Comer Hall. Reservations may be made by e-mail to scott@montevallo.edu. The program is open to the community, middle and high school and college students.

Dr. Phillip C. Williams Introduces Daily Programs

Each day the program will open with an introduction by President, University of Montevallo, Dr. Phillip C. Williams. A panel featuring history faculty, veterans of both

the Atlantic and Pacific theaters, and a representative of Rosie the Riveters Association will provide discussion of World War II events in which they were involved. Helena Lubel, Birmingham, a member of the Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee, will participate, representing Rosie the Riveters. Dr. Fran Carter, founder of Rosie the Riveters, will discuss her work at an aircraft factory during World War II.

Holocaust Educators and Academics Featured

Following a luncheon, a second panel will feature Holocaust educators and academicians in Holocaust studies. Janie Hubbard, Professor in the Department of Education, who recently attended special training for faculty in higher education institutions sponsored by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, will chair the first day's Holocaust panel. Ann Mollengarden, Education Coordinator, Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee, is also a member of the panel. Survivors who will discuss their experiences as concentration camp survivors are Jack Bass, Adamsville and Max Steinmetz, Birmingham.

The Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee will sponsor a series of foreign films on a variety of topics dealing with the Holocaust and its effects on both the victims and the societies of the countries in which it took place.

Films Shown Sunday Afternoons

The films will be shown on Sunday afternoons at the Norton Theater on the campus of Birmingham-Southern College on the following dates and times:

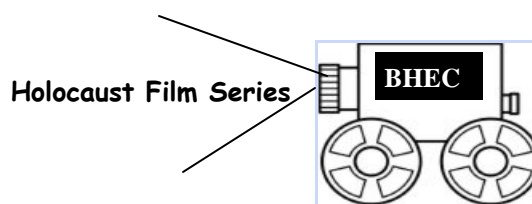
- September 14, 2008--2:30 p.m.—4:00 p.m.
“Night and Fog”, Alain Resnais, director, France
- November 2, 2008--2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.
“The Nasty Girl”, Michael Verhoeven, director, West Germany
- February 1, 2009--2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.
“The Legacy of Jedwabne”, Slawomir Grunberg, director, Poland
- March 15, 2009--2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.
“The Grey Zone”, Tim Blake Nelson, director, United States

Dr. Matthew Levey

Dr. Matthew Levey is a Professor at Birmingham-Southern College where he teaches a course based on his continuing research and writing about World War II and the Holocaust. His course entitled: *“Remembering World War II: the War in Europe and the Holocaust”* covers American, French, German, Polish and Soviet memory of the war. Following each showing, he will lead a discussion which will further the understanding of the history of the country and the story of the film.

Continuing Education Credits Available

Continuing education credits for teachers may be available for each of the movies. For further information, contact the Holocaust Education Committee: holocaustedbham@yahoo.com



BHEC MISSION STATEMENT: *The Committee seeks to facilitate education and understanding of the Holocaust by providing information, materials, speakers, teachers’ workshops, community events, and programming. The Holocaust, the most significant event in recent world history, revealed both the peaks of heroism and the depths of cruelty and depravity that humans can experience. The Committee hopes that, by learning from the past, students will fortify their knowledge and will be leaders in preventing such evil from recurring.*

**Alabama Holocaust Foundation
 Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee**

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