



Holocaust Speakers Bureau

ANNOUNCING

1st Annual Holocaust Commemoration Poster Competition



for North Carolina Middle and High School Students

> Sponsored by The Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Education of North Carolina

This year's poster theme: Defiance—Unarmed Resistance During the Holocaust

This poster competition is open to all North Carolina middle and high school students. The goal of this contest is to encourage students to learn about spiritual resistance, cultural resistance, and political activism during the Holocaust. Whether observing a religious holiday in a concentration camp, transporting a child on a bicycle so she could hide in a Christian home, or sharing recipes to keep spirits bolstered while starving in the woods, Jews and other victims of the Nazis remained hopeful and believed in the future.

Entries must be accompanied by a completed entry form and an essay of approximately 125 words describing why the poster is relevant to the theme. The deadline for poster submissions is January 15, 2018.

Prizes will be awarded in two categories: middle school and high school. In each category, we will award a 1st prize of \$150, 2nd prize of \$75, and honorable mention of \$50.

Winners will be announced on March 1, 2018. Prizes will be awarded at the annual Holocaust commemoration held in Durham, NC, on April 15, 2018. Winning posters and accompanying essays will be displayed at the commemoration.

Details of the competition, including specifications, guidelines, and entry forms, as well as educational resources to help research the topic, can be found on our website. For more information, visit our website at www.holocaustspeakersbureau.org or contact sharon-halperin88@gmail.com.

Free Teacher Workshops

The North Carolina Council on the Holocaust, an agency of NC Department of Public Instruction, offers free one-day, multi-county teacher workshops on the Holocaust throughout the state. (The Council reimburses public school substitute teachers.) The workshop is designed for Social Studies, Language Arts and Media Specialist teachers working with grades 6-12. All NC teachers are encouraged to attend.

These workshops offer .6 CEUs awarded upon completion of the one-day workshop. The workshops include sessions on how to teach the Holocaust using best practices, a presentation by a Holocaust survivor, and in-depth exploration of the Holocaust, anti-Semitism, propaganda and resistance.



Holocaust survivor, Zev Harel, speaks to educators at a recent workshop

The Council has also launched a Holocaust workshop resource website, https://ncholocaustcouncil.org/, for teachers. You can register for 2017-2018 workshops at this website.

Dates and locations of upcoming workshops:

November 28 - Harnett - Lillington November 29 - Tyrrell - Columbia February 6 - Wayne -Goldsboro February 13 - Iredell-Statesville To be scheduled for Spring 2018: Northampton - Jackson and Onslow - Jacksonviille



A teacher workshop sponsored by the Holocaust Speakers Bureau and Carolina K-12/Carolina Public Humanities

Teachers are invited to attend the workshop that is most convenient for their schedule.

The workshops have trained over 10,000 teachers in North Carolina. For more information on the Council, please visit their website: http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/holocaust-council/. Please contact Audrey Krakovitz, Director of Teacher Workshops, NC Council on the Holocaust, for more information.

Local Monument at Burial Site of Ashes From the Dachau Concentration Camp Open to the Public

We encourage you to visit the *Dachau ashes* burial site and kinetic monument created by Mike Roig, a local, award-winning sculptor. The monument is open to the public daily from 9 am to 4 pm at the Durham Hebrew Cemetery. (To download directions to the cemetery, visit http://bit.ly/DHCdirections.)

The flame, made out of reflective metal, rotates as the wind moves it. A sign beside the monument describes the journey of the ashes from the Dachau concentration camp to Durham, NC. The story of this journey is documented in a *New York Times* article written by Samuel Freedman on April 4, 2014:

 $\frac{https://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/05/us/a-resolution-at-last-for-a-fathers-unsettling-legacy.html?mcubz{=}0$

We hope teachers will bring their classes to this historic site. The monument provides an excellent opportunity for local students to learn about the Holocaust in our community. They are the only ashes buried in the US with scientific confirmation of their make up. The ashes were analyzed and determined to contain human protein.

Additional photos of the monument and unveiling ceremony can be viewed on our website, as well as the story of how the ashes came to Durham.



Dachau ashes monument created by sculptor, Mike Roig. www.mikeroig.com/Remember.htm

Meet Rose Mills, Child of Two Holocaust Survivors

Rose Mills is the daughter of two Holocaust survivors (commonly referred to as a "2G" – second generation) from

Berlin, Germany. Her parents had been married only two years before her mother was forced to flee Nazi Germany and escape to London in 1938. At the outbreak of World War II, her father, who was delayed in following her mother to England, lost his chance to flee Germany. He eventually became a slave



factory laborer but later escaped and hid in a tool shack for two years until he was liberated by the Russians in 1945. Her parents were finally reunited in the US after a seven-year separation and settled in Chicago, where Rose was born and raised.

Why do you think it is important for students to hear your story of growing up as a child of two Holocaust survivors? I believe there are many students in our schools who are either immigrants or refugees themselves, or their parents were. They can certainly relate to what it is like to come to a "foreign" country where they do not speak the language and are unfamiliar with the culture. For those students who have no experience with the refugee/immigrant experience, it is important for them to have some understanding of what their fellow students may have gone through and develop or gain greater empathy for them.

What lessons did you learn from being a 2G?

This is a difficult question, as one doesn't often see the significance of certain life experiences until much later in life, when there is greater maturity and understanding. The greatest lesson I learned is both empathy and sympathy for oppressed people seeking freedom, whether it is greater economic opportunity or freedom from fear, hunger, repression, sickness, or intolerance.

Because my parents were given the opportunity to immigrate to the US, I was blessed to have a good life, a good education, and the chance to live the "American Dream"—an opportunity dwindling or non-existent for millions. The second biggest lesson I learned is, as a Jew, I have the responsibility to be grateful for what I have and to "pay it forward" by getting involved in social action and charitable activities.

How can 2Gs work with educators to help deliver a complete picture of a survivor's life post liberation?

I believe that 2Gs can help educators teach history by sharing real-life stories of our parents and family members. Often, these teaching experiences have been healing and beneficial for survivors and 2Gs. The need to share these experiences in the hope of preventing ugly history from repeating itself is certainly strong, and there is a catharsis in talking about personal crises (for some people). But the most important lesson in teaching survivors' post-liberation experiences, in my opinion, is what I mentioned earlier: empathy for other people who have suffered or are still suffering.

What is the most important aspect of your parents' stories to share with students?

My parents would not have survived, let alone prospered, had it not been for others who, at great risk to themselves, helped them in their time of need. This taught me that, whenever possible, stand up for your fellow students, your neighbors, your friends, your family. Be kind and generous. We live in a very different world today than in my parents' time. In many ways, it is better world, but not for everyone. In even small acts of kindness, there is a way to improve the world for someone—one person at a time.

Rose is available for speaking engagements and is happy to come to your school, community organization, local library or museum. Her topics include her parents' experiences during the war in Germany and England, their immigration to the United States and what is was like growing up as a child of Holocaust survivors.

Traveling Exhibits Available Free of Charge

The North Carolina Council on the Holocaust partners with the the Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Education of North Carolina to provide speakers and traveling exhibits. Eleven exhibits on various topics are available for use at no charge in public libraries and in middle and high schools across the state. Please visit: http://www.ncpublicschools.org/holocaust-council/exhibits/ to learn more about the traveling exhibits available and how to contact the coordinator in your part of North Carolina to arrange for the loan.



Panels of the Kindertransport traveling exhibit

Finding Family After the Holocaust

By Deborah Long, Daughter of Survivors

At the end of 2008, I began to experience how utterly addicting genealogy can be when a researcher begins to make major discoveries. I have been looking for relatives for more than 50 years, but prior to the advent of Internet research tools, such as Google Translate, I made little progress. This was partly due to my inability to read Hebrew, Polish, Hungarian, Yiddish or German, languages that were necessary to make any steps forward in my family's history.

Both of my parents were Holocaust survivors, and with the exception of my father's mother, none of my aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents survived. Until the day my mother died, she kept trying to find remaining fragments of her Polish family. My father never spoke of his losses, perhaps considering himself fortunate that his Hungarian mother had survived Auschwitz and other unspeakable places. So my quest for information about my family's past was largely an effort to understand what had happened to my parents' families and their lives before and during the war.

After my mother's death in 2008, I picked up the pieces of information that I had about my mother and father's family and discovered JewishGen, JRI-Poland, Google Translate and other Internet resources, and much to my amazement and utter joy, within six months, I had acquired some precious photographs of three of my mother's siblings. A few months later during a remarkable trip to Poland, Hungary, and Germany, I discovered many documents which helped me to assemble the family tree. Within a year, thanks to the staff of the U.S. Holocaust Museum and the wisdom gleaned at an International Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) conference, I found the descendants of my mother's uncle now living in Sweden, descendants of my maternal grandmother's sister living in Canada, and my father's granduncle's descendants in a small town in Hungary. (You can listen to MY STORY on National Public Radio:http://www.thestory.org/stories/2009-10/ connecting-separated-family.)

During my research and journey, I was both discouraged and inspired. Many of my mother's friends, now in their late 80s, could not fathom why I would return to Europe. "It's nothing but a big cemetery," they would say. They also believed that everything, everything, had been destroyed: buildings, documents, artifacts, and their families. Even members of my own family felt that I should not stir up the past.

But, they were wrong. While the Jews of Eastern Europe have largely been wiped out, some Jewish communities remain. My father's city of Budapest has a thriving Jewish population, in spite of the anti-Semitism there. Polish individuals are restoring cemeteries and synagogues. Germans have done a particularly good job of what I call "memory work," creating inspiring museums and monuments and carefully preserving the record of unspeakable horrors committed on their soil and elsewhere. In fact, many millions of records remain about the Holocaust. Birth, marriage and death records also are intact, waiting to be discovered.

I was moved by the many kindnesses of town librarians and state and city archivists who helped me search for the smallest fragments that could complete my family history. I remember young people who worked in a Lodz hotel surrounding me as I worked on my family tree spread out over several kitchen tables; they wanted to know what had happened not only to my family but then in whispered tones, told me about their Jewish grandmother or grandfather. And I will never forget my German friend who sat in his car outside the Dora Nordhausen's concentration camp



Debbie's mother and father on their wedding day taken at a Displaced Persons Camp near Frankfurt, Germany, September 1945.

where my father had been left for dead. Unable to drive after seeing the camp, he wept with me as we contemplated human cruelty beyond description.

When I am asked why do I continue to work on my family's tragic history, I cite the inspirational words of Jewish genealogist Arthur Kurzweil:

"The fact of six million Jews being killed during the Holocaust is unfathomable to us. I don't know what to do with the Holocaust. Most people in the world don't know quite what to do with the Holocaust. But I think we genealogists have found out what to do with the Holocaust. We remember names. When the Nazis rounded us up, they took away our names and they gave us numbers. What we are involved with doing is taking away the numbers and giving them back their names."

MAKE A DONATION

We provide all our services for free but gladly accept donations or gifts in any amount to help us to continue our work.

http://bit.ly/HSBDonate

Neo-Nazis in America

By Peter Stein

Recently, a Jewish family living in Charlotte, NC was targeted by anti-Semites. The family found a swastika and profanity on their door after returning home from a Rosh Hashanah service. The next day the words "see you" were on their windows and "White Power" was written on the walls of their synagogue terrible threats intended for the family.

Tragically, the Charlotte incident is just one example of the growth of anti-Semitism and hate groups throughout the US. Currently, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, there are 917 Hate Groups in the US—the Ku Klux Klan, white supremacists, nationalists, Neo-Nazis and Anti-Muslim groups are among the major ones. The march in Charlottesville at the University of Virginia this past August is the most troubling antisemitic incident among the many that have taken place recently.

Self-proclaimed white nationalists carried torches through Charlottesville which invoked the racist legacy of Nazi Germany, such as the January 30, 1933, torchlight parade when Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany. By November 1938, Nazis were burning synagogues and Torah scrolls, vandalizing Jewish businesses, and arresting Jewish men. During the Holocaust, the Nazis burnt the bodies of millions of human beings.

Marching with torches in the American South has a uniquely terrifying meaning for African-Americans—nights of fire bombs and lynchings. In the 1920s and 1930s, white-hooded Ku Klux Klan members marched in torchlight parades, spreading terror. In Charlottesville, marchers displayed swastikas on banners and shouted slogans drawn from Nazi ideology. Demonstrators claimed that "this city is run by Jewish communists and criminal niggers." As Jewish men, women and children prayed at a local synagogue, Congregation Beth Israel, across the street Neo-Nazis dressed in fatigues carried semi-automatic rifles. Neo-Nazi websites urged burning the synagogue. In fear congregants hurriedly removed

America in 2017 is not Germany in 1933, but the chants about "blood and soil," the flaming torches, the Nazi salutes, the violence against those who objected —the entire display of armed ethnonationalism—remind us of a tragic past.

building.

1)"Blood and Soil" (blud und boden) is a founding concept of Nazism referring to the racial struggle between Nazis and non-Aryans, primarily Jews, a racial struggle for territory. For Neo-Nazis, politics starts with violence (witness various hate crimes and their conduct in Charlottesville) because they do not believe in law or the government or religious freedom—these do not matter. Blood and soil was also the foundation of Lebensraum or "living space," the belief that the German people must reclaim historically German areas of Eastern Europe into which they could expand and did during WWII.

What were the Neo-Nazis chanting?

2)"Jews will not replace us."—For Hitler and the Nazis, Jews were the primary enemies. Jews were outsiders and foreigners who must be "cleared out" at the start of the racial struggle. Why the Jews? Because Jews espouse a common humanity, democracy, and equality as a source of ideas and laws that oppose racial conflict. Neo-Nazi themes can also be seen in the speeches and writings of David Duke a white nationalist Holocaust denier and former Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, who told a large crowd in Charlottesville that "the American media, and the American political system, and the American Federal Reserve, are dominated by a tiny minority of Jewish Zionists."

The white supremacist group also attacked African-Americans, velling anti-black chants inciting violence. Some protesters shouted, "Dylan Roof was a hero!" referring to the white supremacist who killed nine African-Americans in a church in Charleston, SC in 2015.

This is **hate speech**—attacks on individuals and groups on the basis of their race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or gender. Charlottesville can be understood as a Nazi rally that led to domestic terrorism. All of us at the Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Education, of course, hope that no Holocaust or other genocides will ever happen again. Yet even though Hitler and Nazis were defeated in 1945, the Nazi view of the world is still accepted by some Americans today.

> We seek to bear witness to the Holocaust to understand what happened then and what is happening today. Are the events in Charlottesville and Charlotte and elsewhere early warning signs that we should explore? Do we need to take a moral stand and call certain events evil? We cannot make evil relative by suggesting that there are good bullies and bad bullies, good racists and bad racists, and good Nazis and bad Nazis. False distinctions prevent us from seeing the truth and making sound judgments. We need to clearly understand that bullies, racists, homophobes, and Neo-Nazis are dangerous and should not be tolerated.



Charlottesville "Unite the Right" rally, August 12, 2017

Uncovering Stories of Americans Who Helped Jews Escape When US Policies Were Restrictive

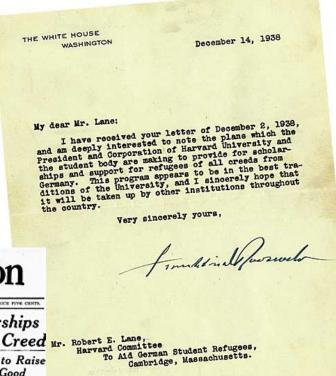
How many times have we thought, "Why didn't American Jews do more to help rescue our brothers and sisters in Europe during the Holocaust?"

A special exhibition on American responses to the Nazi threat will open at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in the Spring of 2018, just in time for the museum's 25th anniver-

The curators of this exhibit, together with archivists and educators, have uncovered little-known stories of Americans who chose to help Jewish refugees at a time when US immigration policies were very restrictive. The Americans' actions ranged in scope and extent of personal and collective risk, but they all saved lives.

One example of heretofore little known acts of heroism and activism is the story of Harvard University students who heard about Kristallnacht in November 1938 and organized a protest meeting. They issued a statement condemning the "exclusion of Jewish students from German universities." Two days later, student leaders decided they would "attempt to get Catholic and Jewish victims of Nazi persecution out of Germany and will pay for their room and board in Cambridge." After reaching out to other institutions, the Intercollegiate Committee to Aid Student Refugees was formed. By March 1939, more than 170 colleges in 39 states were actively involved. More than 200 scholarships were granted and room and board provided. The Harvard students eventually raised the necessary funds to sponsor 21 refugees, but US immigration restrictions made it difficult for the university to fill those slots. In the end, the effort brought 14 refugees to campus. They went on to become professors, diplomats, economists, a pediatrician, and a chemist.





The Harvard Crimson

Corporation Votes \$10,000 in Scholarships Over For 20 Nazi Refugees, Regardless of Creed Mr. Robert E. Lane, Robert E. Lane, Harvard Committee Harvard Committee Harvard Committee Harvard Committee Cambridge, Massachusetts. the Wire

REFUGEE DONATION Watch Paris Strike fearty Support of Plan of efugee Committee as Well As University Action

PRAISES CONANT

Frost Will Give Readings of His Like Sum to Make Good University Offer

GUARDIAN TO SPONSOR PUBLIC SERVICE PARLEY Trong then who were refuged

Current Activities at the USHMM

As an avid follower of all things published by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), I want to share with you some of the most exciting developments of this national treasure located in Washington, DC. Inspired by Nobel Laureate and Holocaust survivor, Elie Wiesel, the museum (part of the Smithsonian Institution) was founded in 1980. The US Congress unanimously voted to form the USHMM. The museum's mandate was the creation of a living memorial to the 6 million Jews and millions of other victims who died during the Holocaust. The museum is now providing us with the opportunity to view artifacts and historical material previously unavailable for public viewing.

Wiesel's words reminding us to prepare for a time when there will no longer be any survivors of the Holocaust weighs all too heavy on my mind with each passing day.



Curating artifacts at the USHMM

"A survivor sees himself or herself as a messenger and guardian of secrets entrusted by the dead. A survivor fears he or she may be the last to remember, the last to warn, the last to tell the tale that cannot be told, the tale that must be told in totality, before it is too late, before the last witness leaves the stages and takes his awesome testimony back to the dead."

The museum has now built an extension to the world's most comprehensive collection on the Holocaust. Curators are working feverishly to "rescue the evidence" while it is still possible. There are 19,000 artifacts in the museum's collection, called "object witnesses." Each one tells a unique story. For conservators, the question is how to house each artifact in a way that it can be safely moved to its new space and its preservation enhanced for as long as possible.

In addition to artifacts, the collection includes some 96 million archival pages, over 190 million images from the International



Tracing Service, 111,000 historical photographs, 985 hours of historic film footage, 110,000 published works in 61 languages and more than 15,000 testimonies from survivors, witnesses, collaborators and perpetrators.

The four-year project will culminate in moving the documentation into the new 103,000 sq. ft. David and Fela Shapell Family Collections, Conservation and Research Center. All but 10% of the museum's collection has already been moved safely into its permanent home. The magnitude and importance of this initiative is summarized by Randy Davis, Collections Move Project Manager: "You get one chance to do this, and it has to be right. Nothing in our collection is replaceable. Period."

HISTORY UNFOLDÉD

JS NEWSPAPERS AND THE HOLOCAUS



Interior view of newspaper delivery room showing man taking stack of newspapers from machine. Courtesy of Library of Congress

The USSHM invites "citizen historians" to join together to research how local newspapers reported on events during the Holocaust. Assisted by librarians and Museum staff, participants can use online databases and microfilm holdings to find relevant news stories, enter their findings into a centralized online database, and have an opportunity to discuss what they find as a group.

Data collected through this project will help the Museum identify trends in American reporting on the Holocaust and deepen understanding about American responses to it. The data will also inform the Museum's upcoming exhibition about Americans and the Holocaust, slated to open in 2018. Everyone is welcome to participate.

This is a unique opportunity to help the Museum develop a new initiative. The project is in its beta stage and is available at newspapers.ushmm.org. The Museum will continue to develop the project based on feedback from participants, and more events will be added. Contact David Klevan at dklevan@ushmm.org with questions or for more information.



International archival files

Do You Know What Countries are Experiencing Genocide?

Genocide Watch exists to predict, prevent, stop, and punish genocide and other forms of mass murder. They seek to raise awareness and influence public policy concerning potential and actual genocide. Their purpose is to build an international movement to prevent and stop genocide.

Genocide Watch has three levels of Genocide Alerts.

- A **Genocide Watch** is declared when early warning signs indicate the danger of mass killing or genocide.
- A Genocide Warning is called when politicide or genocide is imminent, often indicated by genocidal massacres.
- A Genocide Emergency is declared when genocide is actually underway.

Current Alerts

Genocide Emergency

Syria - Since the first uprisings began in the Syrian Arab Republic in early March 2011, President Bashar al-Assad's government has violently repressed civilian



Syrian boy amid rubble

protests and launched attacks on both rebel forces and Sunni Arab civilians. Data collected by the UN Human Rights office estimates the death toll to be greater than 60,000 people. According to the UN Refugee Agency, over 700,000 registered Syrian refugees have fled to neighboring countries, mainly Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey, with thousands more leaving daily. President Assad continues to label the armed rebel forces as "terrorists" and has rejected the offer of peace talks made by Sheik Ahmad Moaz al-Khatib, the main opposition leader. Nations should call for a cease-fire, convince Assad to step down, and bring in more humanitarian assistance. If Assad will not stop bombing his own nation into rubble, NATO forces led by Turkey should destroy his air force.

Sudan - Since the Bush Administration first recognized the genocide in Darfur, at least 250,000 more men, women, and children have died. Using its own military and the Janjaweed militia, Sudan's regime has conducted a systematic campaign to kill and drive out Darfur's ethnic Fur, Massalit, and Zhagawa peoples. Supported by aircraft and helicopter gunships, the Janjaweed attack towns, villages, and refugee camps, kill the men and boys, rape the women and girls, and poison the wells. Their goal is to replace these African peoples with Arab herders.

Democratic Republic of the Congo - The DRC is plagued by enduring conflict in its eastern provinces. Formally the second Congolese war came to an end in 2002. However, in practice the conflict drags on and is the most deadliest since the second World War. Estimates of the dead range from three to five million persons. The victims are civilians, in particular women and girls, and ethnic groups such as the Banyamulenge, the Hutu Banyarwanda, the Hema and the Lendu. Many of the killers and rapists are former genocidists who escaped into the DRC from the Rwandan genocide.

Ethiopia - In September 2008, Genocide Watch declared a Genocide Warning regarding the war that was being waged against small ethnic minority called Burji in a town of Hagre Mariam by an ethnic Oromo group called Guji. Since then the Guji Oromo have continued to wage protracted war against Burji in various localities, especially in towns and villages surrounding the city of Soyama, which is 60 Km west of the city of Hagremariam. Over the course of the last several months there have been heavy loss of lives and damage to Guji properties including destruction of crops and farm equipment. In January 2009, there were reports of heavy fighting on three different fronts, namely Nadale/Chuluse front and Gara and Tisho vicinities. News from Hagremariam stated that Guji Oromo warriers were advancing towards Soyama in great numbers. According to Genocide Watch sources, Guji/ Oromo attacks on Buji began on January 22, 2009. The situation continues to be dire, and urgent action must be taken to avert further attacks.

Burma/Myanmar - Burma, Southeast Asia's most oppressed nation, remains under the 43-year tyranny of a military junta and should be a grave concern to the international community. Abuse of ethnic minorities, mass rape of women, mandatory relocations, extrajudicial state executions, military recruitment of children, and forced labor are only a few of the many violations of human rights currently practiced in the resource rich but economically impoverished nation. The

regime change of 2004, which deposed General Khin Nyunt in favor of Lieutenant General Soe Win, continues to suppress the strong movement for democracy, keeping Burma in a cyclical state of tyranny.



A Rohingya refugee family cross the Naf River at the Bangladesh-Myanmar border in Palong Khali, near Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh November 1, 2017. © 2017 Reuters/Adnan Abidi

(Genocide Alerts continued on next page)

Detailed information on the situation in each of these areas is available on the Genocide Watch Alliance website.

Genocide Warning

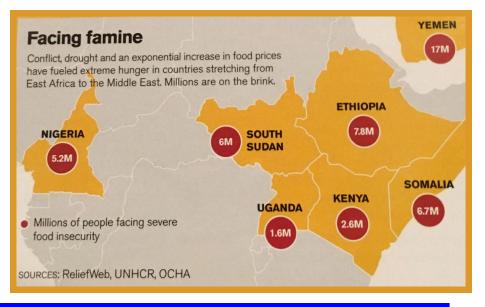
- •Nigeria
- Chad
- Equatorial Guinea
- •Yemen
- •Kenya
- •Central African Republic



Genocide in the Central African Republic

Genocide Watch

- •Uzbekistan
- Burundi
- •Iran
- •Côte d'Ivoire
- •Mali
- •South Africa
- •Rwanda
- •Angola
- •Sri Lanka
- •India



GENOCIDE WATCH ALLIANCE AGAINST GENOCIDE Pledge Against Genocide

- 1. I pledge to do my part to end genocide: the intentional destruction, in whole or in part, of a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group.
- 2. I commit myself never to be a passive bystander to genocide anywhere.
- 3. I promise to report any signs of the approach of a genocide to government officials, to the press, and to organizations that can take action to prevent it.
- 4. I will protest the acts of planners and perpetrators of genocide. I will not remain silent about their incitement of hate crimes, mass murders and other acts of genocide.
- 5. I will assist the victims of genocide and will help them escape from their killers. I will support the victims with humanitarian relief.
- 6. I will not stop my protests against genocide until that genocide is stopped.
- 7. I will support lawful measures to prevent, suppress and punish the crime of genocide in accordance with the Genocide Convention.

Take this pledge online at: http://genocidewatch.net/get-involved-2/pledge-against-genocide/

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Phone: 1-202-643-1405 E-mail: communications@genocidewatch.org Website: www.genocidewatch.net

Secret Hitler, a Game That Simulates Fascism's Rise, Becomes a Hit

By Jonah Engel Bromwich
Originally published in Business Day

I was house-sitting for my brother this summer when I saw something suspicious: a box in his living room emblazoned with the words "Secret Hitler."

On his return, I confronted him. "What in God's name is that?" I asked, pointing at the box.

"It's a board game," he said, rolling his eyes.

More specifically, Secret Hitler is a social deduction game, one that has caught on quickly since it began to ship to players last summer. It's like Mafia, or Werewolf, or other games in which players try to identify a traitor in their midst.

In this version, anywhere between 5 and 10 players are divided into two uneven teams: a larger team of liberals and a smaller team of fascists. (There are no antifa.) One player is chosen as Secret Hitler. The fascists, aware of their leader's identity, work to install him by fooling the liberals, who are kept in the dark.

The makers of the game have raised close to \$1.5 million since announcing it on Kickstarter in November 2015. It briefly became the top-selling item in the toy and game category on Amazon when it launched, and it recently sold out its second print run. (The company does not publish sales data, but the money they have raised suggests that they have sold tens of thousands of copies.)

The game was conceived in early 2015 and is boosted by its association with Max Temkin, 30, who is one of the creators of the provocative party game Cards Against Humanity. But Secret Hitler benefited from another, unforeseen trend: a significant surge in interest in fascism around the 2016 election, which also saw brisk sales of dystopian literary classics and a rejuvenated discussion of the movement that brought leaders like Hitler and Mussolini to power.

Secret Hitler also arrived amid a renaissance for tabletop games, which have found new purchase among adult consumers. According to Evelyn Rodriguez, a market researcher at Euromonitor International, people 18 and over have been steadily playing more board games in the last several years, with sales continuing to pick up for titles like Settlers of Catan and Enigma.



Independent games in particular have grown in popularity, Euromonitor data showed, as Kickstarter has become a hub for creators with ideas that may be too risky or too strange for traditional publishers.

Pieces of the game Secret Hitler.— Brent Knepper

On the crowdfunding platform, creators can raise money while also finding an audience for idiosyncratic titles and getting feedback from potential buyers as games are still in development.

The secret ingredient in Secret Hitler's development was a round of binge-watching. Sometime in late February or early March of 2015, one of its creators, Mike Boxleiter, 32, spent a weekend with the Steven Spielberg-produced World War II mini-series "Band of Brothers."

Mr. Boxleiter, Mr. Temkin and a third creator, Tommy Maranges, had been obsessing over the intricacies of deception games. When Mr. Boxleiter returned to their shared office on



Monday after having watched 705 minutes of Americans battling Germans, he had an idea for a new game, based on Hitler's rise to power. The group had a playable prototype of Secret Hitler 48 hours later.

"It was a month before even Hillary announced," Mr. Maranges, 27, said. "It truly was like, what if we made a game about the past, and not about any other time in history."

They set up a Kickstarter campaign on Nov. 23, 2015, with a goal of raising \$54,450 to print its first run of the game, with art by Mackenzie Schubert. In 24 hours, it had raised more than twice that amount. By the time the game began shipping, in August 2016, it had attracted more than 30,000 backers, making it one of the five most widely supported tabletop games in Kickstarter's history. (The game is not yet available overseas, but it does not include any Nazi symbols or images of Hitler, making it more likely to be accepted in countries like Germany.)

Though it is easier for edgy games to find support at Kickstarter, even people at the crowdfunding site were unpersuaded by the name at first.

"I advised them not to call it that," said Luke Crane, Kickstarter's head of games. "I said don't call it that. My exact words were perhaps a bit more colorful."

He said that even with the success of the game, he still knew some people who would not play it because of its name. But he added that it was clear that the game's creators had tapped into a topic of discussion in a way that was difficult to achieve, even among the subset that reach to do so.

Secret Hitler's creators are aware that some consumers will not find any humor in the game's title, either because Nazis are not a laughing matter or because of fears about the growing visibility of white supremacists and other extremists since the November 2016 election.

Buddhist Activist Calls for Jews to Help Myanmar's Rohingya People

By Matthew Gindin, Pacific Correspondent

In March, London-based Burmese Buddhist and human rights activist Maung Zarni stood on the train tracks outside of Auschwitz and asked his companion to press record on his video camera as he appeals to the international community to help the Rohingya people.

"Hello, my name is Zarni," he began, "and I am a human rights campaigner from Burma. I am making this personal appeal to European citizens. You have made the pledge 'never again' since 1945, when the Holocaust ended. My country, which calls itself 'Buddhist,' is now committing a slow genocide. The UNHCR has called it 'very likely crimes against humanity.' We are committing a genocide, a slow genocide against over one million Rohingya Muslim people in my country."

Zarni then asked people to tell their elected representatives to take action to pressure Myanmar to stop the genocidal violence he claimed was unfolding, and "to make 'never again' a real pledge, not just an empty slogan."



The urgency of Zarni's call has only become clearer in the light of recent events. On August 25, a stream of Rohingya refugees began arriving in Bangladesh. Since then, almost 600,000 Rohingya, the majority women and children, have fled. They are running from their homes in Myanmar's Rakhine State,

escaping a surge of violence against their communities that began after attacks were launched on dozens of state security stations by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on August 25, which killed 12 people. Government sources claim to have killed hundreds of insurgents in reprisal. Other sources claim that villagers have been massacred and there are reports of widespread arson, rape and violence perpetrated by government soldiers.

Despite their documented presence in Myanmar since the 18th century, modern Myanmar denies the Rohingya citizenship, Zarni told *The CJN*. "And they are regarded by most Burmese as descended from itinerant Bengali labourers who never went home."

According to the human rights group Fortify Rights, Rohingya are subject to discriminatory restrictions on marriage, family size and movement. Their religious buildings have been destroyed and Myanmar has repeatedly restricted humanitarian assistance and media access to the area. The Kutupalong Refugee Camp in Bangladesh is home to hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims who have fled persecution in Myanmar.

In recent years, Zarni has turned his attention to preventing his own people – Burmese Buddhists – from committing genocide against the Rohingya. It is that quest that brought him to the haunted railroad tracks outside of Auschwitz, which he calls "the dark temple of genocide."

"In Myanmar, we have taken up a Nazi frame of mind," said Zarni, "where an entire ethnicity is viewed as 'pests,' or 'leeches,' who must be expelled."

Although Zarni and others have been calling this a "genocide" for years, many others have been reluctant to do so. According to international legal scholar and activist Katherine Southwick, "Tepid policies toward Myanmar and the Rohingya betray a deep-seated reluctance to label these



crimes as genocide, for fear of subverting the narrative so many in the world have waited for – an enlightened democratic transition. The notion of genocide in Myanmar risks turning the country back into an international pariah, rather than an international darling."

Zarni has also made video appeals to his own people in Burma, as well as writing and speaking internationally on the issue. He says he is happy to now be talking to the Jewish community about what is happening in Myanmar.

"If anyone would understand what is happening to the Rohingya, it would be you, the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, the survivors and their families."



The Holocaust: So What's This Got to Do With Me? (Answers on page 13)

- 1. Approximately six million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust by the Nazi regime and their collaborators.
- 2. Other victims of Nazi persecution included Roma (Gypsies), some Slavic peoples, the disabled, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, and political opponents such as Communists and Socialists.
- 3. Jews made up 25 percent of the population in prewar Germany.
- 4. Jews are a race as well as a religious group.
- 5. All concentration camps were located in Germany.
- 6. The latest research indicates that the Nazis and their allies ran over 42,000 camps, ghettos, and other sites of detention, persecution, forced labor, and murder during the Holocaust.
- If Jews converted to Christianity, they were not sent to ghettos or concentration camps.
- 8. The Nazis established ghettos as havens against the anti-Semitism of local populations in Poland and other Eastern European countries.
- 9. Before 1939, the US, Canada, and western European countries had an open door policy for all German-Jewish refugees, but Hitler refused them permission to emigrate.
- 10. The government of the US was aware of the mass executions of Jews during the war.
- 11. The Holocaust would not have been possible without the support of local populations in countries occupied by the Nazis.
- 12. Students study the Holocaust solely to learn about the persecution of Jews.
- 13. Hitler was part Jewish.
- 14. The Nuremberg Laws generally protected Jews from being arrested.
- 15. There was no Jewish resistance during the Holocaust.
- 16. Before World War II, most Jews lived and worked on farms and very few lived in urban areas.
- 17. The only way any people can resist is by having guns and other weapons.
- 18. The only people who rescued Jews during the Holocaust were other Jews.

11

Local Refugee Support Center Changing Lives

We are fortunate to have in our local community a vital support agency dedicated to helping recent refugees from all countries, including Syria, Burma and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Flicka Bateman, director of the **Refugee Support Center** (RSC), leads efforts to assist refugees with employment, housing, transportation, immigration legal assistance, health care and social services access and advocacy. Located in an apartment complex where many refugees live, RSC also provides ongoing ESL and citizenship instruction, after-school tutoring, a free law clinic and monthly diaper distributions.



RSC is a 501 (c)(3), volunteer-based organization established to serve and to promote the self-sufficiency of refugees who live or work in Orange County, NC. Founded in July 2012 and recipient of the 2016 North Carolina Peace Prize, RSC served over 900 refugees in 2016.

During their first three months after arrival, refugees are assisted by resettlement agencies which have cooperative agreements with the Department of State to provide reception and placement services to newly arrived refugees. After 90 days, these agencies typically must phase out. RSC services are most often sought immediately after this 90-day period and continue on an as-needed basis.

It is estimated that Orange County is home to approximately 1,200 refugees. The native country of over 1,100 of these refugees is Burma. The vast majority of them came from refugee camps on the Thai-Burma border, but others fled to Malaysia or India where they lived until obtaining refugee status. The remaining 100 in our community are refugees from Syria or Congo.

Consider a donation, as RSC receives no federal funding. Tutoring and mentoring as well as providing transportation are other ways to help.

If you would like to donate to or help with help their important work, please visit the website for details: www.refugeesupportcenter.org.



10 Ways to Fight Hate

Southern Poverty Law Center

A young white man opens fire and kills nine African Americans who welcomed him into Bible study at a church in Charleston, South Carolina, telling his victims, "I have to do it." A Muslim

woman is seated on a bench in front of a coffee shop in Washington, D.C., when a woman begins screaming anti-Muslim epithets. A swastika and other anti-Semitic



graffiti appear at an elementary school in Stapleton, Colorado. A lone gunman carrying an assault rifle and a handgun storms a well-known gay club in Orlando, Florida, killing 49 people and wounding 53 others.

Bias is a human condition, and American history is rife with prejudice against groups and individuals because of their race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or other characteristics. As a nation, we've made a lot of progress, but stereotyping and unequal treatment persist.

When bias motivates an unlawful act, it is considered a hate crime. Most hate crimes are inspired by race and religion, but hate today wears many faces. Bias incidents (eruptions of hate where no crime is committed) also tear communities apart and can escalate into actual crimes.

Since 2010, law enforcement agencies have reported an average of about 6,000 hate crime incidents per year to the FBI. But government studies show that the real number is far higher — an estimated 260,000 per year. Many hate crimes never get reported, in large part because the victims are reluctant to go to the police. In addition, many law enforcement agencies are not fully trained to recognize or investigate hate crimes, and many simply do not collect or report hate crime data to the FBI.

The good news is, all over the country people are fighting hate, standing up to promote tolerance and inclusion. More often than not, when hate flares up, good people rise up against it — often in greater numbers and with stronger voices.

Download this guide that sets out 10 principles for fighting hate in our communities:

https://www.splcenter.org/20170814/ten-ways-fight-hate-community-response-guide

Former White House Press Secretary Remark Sparks a Movement

By Mike Segar, Reuters

Sean Spicer's gaffe about the Holocaust—when during a press briefing he erroneously claimed that Adolf Hitler had never used chemical weapons against his own people and used the confusing and seemingly made-up term "Holocaust centers"—made him an accidental poster boy for Holocaust education. His comments not only sparked a maelstrom of criticism and calls for him to be fired, but also spurred the New York-based Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect to launch the "50 State Genocide Education Project."

"Our project was oddly inspired by Sean Spicer's ignorance," says Steven Goldstein, the organization's executive director. On second thought, "inspired" isn't exactly the right word, he says, since it has a positive connotation. "But it was certainly triggered by Sean Spicer's comments," he adds. "We looked at the bigger picture. How could someone like Sean Spicer make his way through an education system and not know about the Holocaust? Where did the American education system go wrong in Sean Spicer's case? Because clearly it went wrong."

The Anne Frank Center's announcement lists New York, New Jersey, Florida, Illinois, California, Rhode Island, Michigan and Indiana as the states that already have laws requiring some form of Holocaust and genocide education. Pennsylvania was not included in its list, though the state passed a law in 2014 that is essentially a mandate. The Anne Frank Center has now obtained commitments from lawmakers in Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Virginia and a dozen other states.



Anne Frank Center, New York City

"We believe that educating people about genocide is so vital that it requires federal legislation," says Goldstein. He explains that although education matters are left mostly to the states, there are ways to achieve change nationwide, such as by tying education funding to instruction about genocide. The Anne Frank Center's announcement came one day before U.S. Representative Brendan Boyle (D-Pa.) introduced a resolution in the House supporting nationwide Holocaust education. It "commends Holocaust education activists on their longstanding efforts to include Holocaust education in States' public school curricula across the country; and encourages more States to enact legislation mandating Holocaust education in their schools and support continued efforts to move this initiative forward."

"All genocide begins with hate and prejudice. That's how it begins and then it escalates," Goldstein says. "Our schools need to be early sentinels of 'Never again' before 'Never again' becomes 'Once again."

TRUE or FALSE

Answers for quiz on page 11

1-T

2-T

3-F Jews made up 8% percent of the population in prewar Germany. Jews constituted less than one percent of the population of Germany during the Weimar Republic

4-F Jews are not a race. Jews are a religious group as are Catholics, Protestants, and Muslims.

5-F A majority of camps were located in Poland; only about 20% of the camps were in Germany.

6-7

7-F Jews were not permitted to convert to Christianity. Children born to a Jewish mother or father were considered racially Jewish by the Nazis.

8-F Jews were herded into ghettos with very limited food, housing, and medical supplies and most were eventually sent to their deaths in concentration camps.

9-F Jews were allowed to leave Germany up to 1939, but most European countries limited or forbade their entrance. The US government refused to change their very small quotas to admit Jewish refugees from Europe.

10-T

11-T

12-F The study of genocide generally and the Holocaust specifically helps students understand the persecution of a number of different groups both historically and in the current world.

13-F There is no credible evidence to support the idea that he was partly Jewish.

14-F The Nuremberg Laws were racial laws that consisted of two pieces of legislation: the Reich Citizenship Law and the Law for t he Protection of German Blood and German Honor. These laws institutionalized Nazi racial ideology and provided the legal framework for the systematic persecution of Jews in Germany.

15-F Jews carried out acts of resistance against impossible odds--in ghettos, concentration camps, killing centers and in many ways. Organized armed resistance was the most forceful form of Jewish opposition to Nazi policies. Jews used armed resistance in over 100 ghettos in occupied Poland and the Soviet Union.

16-F Most of the Jews of Western Europe lived in cities. In Eastern Europe, Jews also lived in urban areas, but others lived in smaller cities or marketing villages known as "shtetls".

17-F Resistance can take many forms besides armed resistance, including escaping, hiding, creating written records or art that live on beyond the death of the creators, assisting others, rescue, and spiritual resistance.

18-F People in every European country and from all religious backgrounds risked their lives to help Jews. Rescue efforts ranged from the isolated actions of individuals to small or large organized networks.

New Film Screenings at USHMM

The following films on the Holocaust and genocide will be screened at the USHMM this fall:

"The Path to Nazi Genocide"



Jewish women and children from Subcarpathian Rus who have been selected for death at Auschwitz-Birkenau, walk toward the gas chambers in May 1944. US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Yad Vashem

This 38-minute film examines the Nazis' rise and their consolidation of power in Germany. Using rare footage, the film explores their ideology, propaganda, and persecution of Jews and other victims. It also outlines the path by which the Nazis and their collaborators led a state to war and to the murder of millions of people. (Available on YouTube)

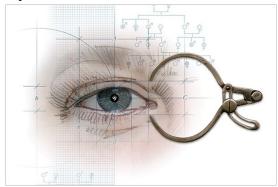
"Defying Genocide"

Damas Gisimba poses for a portrait at Gisimba Memorial, an orphanage in Kigali, Rwanda, in April 2014. *Laura Elizabeth Pohl for the USHMM*



This 19-minute film explores what it takes to defy genocide through two stories, one about the Holocaust and the other about the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. (Available on YouTube)

"Deadly Medicine"



Calipers. Deutsches Historisches Museum Berlin

This 22-minute film examines how Nazi leadership, in collaboration with individuals in professions traditionally charged with healing and the public good, used science to help legitimize persecution, murder, and, ultimately, genocide. Some examples shown in this program include: forced sterilization, euthanasia, and twins research and experiments.

"Liberation 1945"



Survivors at the Dachau concentration camp cheer the arrival of American liberators in April 1945. *USHMM, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park*

This 15-minute film includes personal testimony about the moment of liberation from Holocaust survivors and American soldiers who liberated concentration camps.

Jewish Sparks

Jewish Sparks is a public access television program broadcast in Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Durham and Raleigh. Produced by Sheldon Becker, Jewish Sparks presents interviews and recordings of Jewish scholars, important Jewish leaders, and Jewish educational events. The goal of the program is to promote a better understanding of important Jewish issues within both the Jewish and general communities.

Visit www.jewishsparks.net for the current broadcast schedule and offerings. Past programs can be accessed on the website as well, including interviews with Holocaust survivors and other Holocaust educational events.

Upcoming Events and Programs

Please visit our website, www.holocaustspeakersbureau.org, regularly for a complete list of upcoming events.

Panel Discussion

January 31, Duke University www.jewishstudies.duke.edu

The Center for Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Education of North Carolina is co sponsoring a panel discussion with Duke University's Center for Jewish Studies and the Duke Law School. A distinguished panel will discuss: "NUREMBERG TRIALS: It's Impact on International Jurisprudence And Contemporary Human Atrocities."

Location, time & more information forthcoming.



"Bad Jews" A Play

The Jewish Federation of Durham-Chapel Hill and A Big Wig Production would like to invite you to attend Joshua Harmon's play "BAD JEWS." While the title of this play may be disconcerting, Harmon's hilarious script is a contemporary look at young Jewish adults and their various perspectives on Jewish life and legacy. Without giving too much away, the play revolves around three Jewish cousins (in their 20s) who convene in a Manhattan condo for the funeral of their "Poppy." Poppy, a Holocaust survivor, has bequeathed an important family heirloom. The plot revolves around which cousin will be the new owner.

February 8th, 10th, 11th*, 15th, 17th, 18th, 22nd, 24th, and 25th 2018

*Ticket sale proceeds from the February 11th evening show will go to the Holocaust Speaker's Bureau.

Thursday evenings, Saturday evening and two shows on Sundays (matinee and evening). Levin Jewish Community Center, 1937 W Cornwallis Road, Durham

Tickets for this regional premiere for adults are \$18.00 and \$10.00 for students. Tickets can be purchased by calling Brian Yandle at A Big Wig Production (919) 753-6626 or emailing Sharon Halperin at sharonhalperin88@gmail.com.





Gov. Roy Cooper graciously hosted a staged reading of the play at the Governor's Mansion earlier this year.

Yom Hashoah community events:

- * State of NC Holocaust Commemoration: Sunday, **April 8**, 2018. Meredith College. Time TBD www.ncpublicschools.org/holocaust-council/commemoration/
- * Don Greenbaum (from Patton's 3rd Army, and the troop that liberated Dachau) will be speaking with his friend, Ernie Gross, a Romanian Dachau survivor on **April 11**, 2018 Yom Hashoah. Presented by the Duke Center for Jewish Studies. Details forthcoming.: www.jewishstudies.duke.edu
- * Durham-Chapel Hill Holocaust Commemoration: Sunday, **April 15**, 2018, 4:00pm at Judea Reform Congregation, 1933 West Cornwallis Road, Durham.



http://bit.ly/HSBMail

In Gratitude

At this time of year, we give our heartfelt thanks to all of our donors! Your donations make our work possible and ensure that the memories and lessons of the Holocaust continue to be passed down from generation to generation. You can find a list of our Donors on our website.

The Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights of North Carolina (Holocaust Speakers Bureau) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that relies solely on individual and corporate donations to operate. Your tax deductible donations help us to arrange speaking engagements, develop classroom activities for local schools, plan community events and Holocaust remembrance programs and produce state of the art digital material.

As Thanksgiving and the end of the calendar year nears, please consider donating to our Center. You may <u>donate online</u> or you can mail us a check (address below). Let us know if your donation is in memory or in honor of a loved one (notifications will be sent out as requested).

Checks should be made payable to the Holocaust Speakers Bureau and mailed to:

Sharon Halperin 109 Half Moon Point Chapel Hill, NC 27514



We are currently seeking the children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, refugees and concentration camp liberators, who reside in North Carolina and who are willing to visit schools, houses of worship, and organizations to share their experiences. We can assist prospective speakers with presentation material and coaching.

We need volunteer drivers who can provide safe and reliable transportation for our aging Holocaust survivor speakers to schools and other venues within an hour drive of the Triangle. Mileage can be reimbursed.

Please contact Sharon Halperin if you are interested in volunteering.

Join us on Facebook



Holocaust Speakers Bureau @Hspeakersbureau.org



<u>Like our Facebook</u> page to stay informed about our upcoming events and workshops and to receive the latest news regarding Holocaust and genocide education. We regularly post news, articles and commentaries, ranging from current events around the world to remembrances of the past. We also provide summaries of past Center events.