Newsletter2014.pdf 1 10/8/2014 10:16:15 AM

Tennessee Holocaust Commission

TENNESSEE HOLOCAUST COMMISSION
2301 VANDERBILT PLACE - PMB 406311
NASHVILLE, TN 37240-6311

615-343-2563 PH
615-343-1171 PH
WWW.TNHOLCOM.ORG

THC Upcoming Events

- **Tuesday, October 28th** – Limor Conference Featuring Survivor Eva Kor & Arthur Allen, Nashville, TN
- **Thursday, October 30th -**
  - Holocaust Education Conference Featuring Ethnomusicologist and Concert Violist Dr. Tamara Freeman, Memphis, TN
  - Fundraising Evening Event with Dr. Tamara Freeman Fundraiser at Belz Museum Memphis, TN
- **February 2015** - Date To Be Announced - Holocaust Education Conference, Knoxville, TN
- **June 18th, 19th, & 20th, 2015** - Jewish Motorcyclist Association *Ride to Remember* to benefit the Commission

Vanderbilt Holocaust Lecture Series Dates

Tuesday, October 7th – Peter Hayes on Science, Technology & the Holocaust
Tuesday, October 14th – Film: ***Amen***
Tuesday, October 21st – Arleen Tuchman on Eugenics
Tuesday, November 4th – Vittorio Luzzati on the Holocaust in Italy / Science & the Holocaust

Tennessee Holocaust Commission

Bill Haslam, Governor
Lawrence Leibowitz, Knoxville, Commission Chair
Gus Kuhn, Nashville, Commission Treasurer
Kevin Huffman, Commissioner of Education
Felicia Anchor, Nashville
Jack Belz, Memphis
Leonard Chill, Chattanooga
Tristan Denley, Tennessee Board of Regents, Nashville
Annette Eskind, Nashville
L. Allen Exelbierd, Memphis,
Jan Groveman, Memphis
Katherine High, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Aileen Katcher, Nashville
Senator Brian Kelsey, Germantown
Josh Lipman, Memphis
Leonid Saharovici, Memphis
Rabbi Mark Schiftan, Nashville
Ronnie Steine, Metro City Council, Nashville
Representative Mark White, Memphis
E. Thomas Wood, Nashville

THC Welcomes New Commissioners

Dr. Tristan Denley
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the Tennessee Board of Regents

Dr. Katie High
Vice President for Academic Affairs, UT Knoxville

Sonja DuBois (Hidden Child) speaking to a class in Lipscomb University at Nashville, TN

Survivors and family members in attendance at the State Annual Day of Remembrance Ceremony

Art Pais (Survivor) with Lipscomb continuing education student in Nashville, TN

Teaching Fellows at Georgetown University at the Jan Karski statue

Tennessee Holocaust Commission

A Year In Review 2013-2014

Reflections...

Much of our work at the Tennessee Holocaust Commission this year has centered around our educational outreach and community awareness programming. Commissioner, Jack Belz celebrated the opening of a new Holocaust Memorial Gallery at the Belz Museum. This gallery gives visitors a rare opportunity to come face to face with local Jewish survivors of the Holocaust via portraits and testimonials from our *"Living On"* exhibit. The Commission has continued work with school districts, community groups, universities, and colleges around the state to provide workshops and speakers for classes, seminars, and conferences. Our partnership with the Nashville Ballet has continued to enhance our outreach goal by introducing students to the story of Anne Frank The use of technology to keep the stories of survivors and liberators alive is critical and the Commission has been working with Tennessee educators to develop a special website to include best practice activities and primary resources that link to local survivor's testimony. We are pleased to announce that Governor Haslam has appointed Larry Leibowitz to serve as Commission Chair and we are confident that Larry's leadership will help us to expand our outreach efforts in east Tennessee. The Tennessee Holocaust Commission mission is dedicated to remembrance. History teaches us that genocide can be prevented if enough people care enough to act. Our choices in response to hatred truly do matter, and together we can help fulfill the promise of "Never Again!"

Executive Director, Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky addressing the Metro Nashville Police Recruits at the Nashville Holocaust Memorial

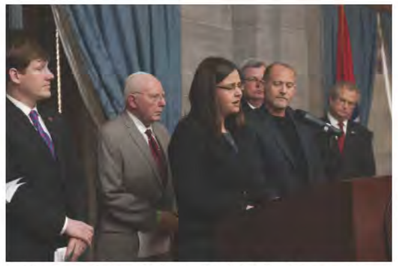
Newsletter2014.pdf 2 10/8/2014 10:16:20 AM

Governor Bill Haslam addresses the audience at the Tennessee State Day of Remembrance Ceremony

Tennessee State Day of Remembrance Ceremony

Survivors, families, friends, and supporters gathered together on April 7, 2014 to commemorate the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust as well as the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution. The ceremony, which took place in the State Capitol, began with welcoming remarks delivered by Governor Bill Haslam, Senator Brian Kelsey, and Representative Mark White.Thoughtful reflections on the meaning of the day, coinciding with the National Day of Observance established by Congress in 1980, were made by Governor Bill Haslam and House Speaker Pro Tempore, Curtis Johnson,. The observance, *"Confronting the Holocaust,"* included reflections read by Isaac and Ilanit Sedek the Great Grandchildren of Survivors Irvin & Elizabeth Limor, Camille Perry and Shira Acklin from the Abintra Montessori School in Nashville, Bethany Woodruff from the Lake Forest Middle School in Cleveland and Grant Carr and Rebecca Reed from the Dyersburg Middle School in Dyersburg. The observance concluded with a symbolic candle lighting by survivors and legislators. The *"Living On"* traveling exhibit was displayed in the main hallway of the State Legislature from April 7-11, 2014.

Allen L. Exebierd, Rep. Mark White, Jack Belz, Roy Shainberg, Rabbi Shai Finkelstein, Leonid Saharovici (Survivor), Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky, and Senator Brian Kelsey



Senator Brian Kelsey, Jack Belz, Cantor Tracy Fishbein, Rabbi Philip Rice, House Speaker Pro Tempore Curtis Johnson, and Rep. Mark White

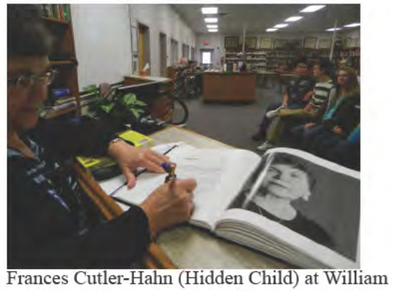
Jack Belz with Belz-Lipman Award Winners Lance McConkey, Kim Gregory, and Wendy VanDyke

Rabbi Shai Finkelstein addresses the audience at the Tennessee State Day of Remembrance Ceremony

Speaking Engagements 2013-2014

Dave Barret with Jack (Survivor) and Sarah-Beth Cohen-Wilcox (2nd Generation) at Millington High School in Millington, TN

Frances Cutler-Hahn (Hidden Child) at William James Middle School in White Bluff, TN



Frances Cutler-Hahn (Hidden Child) at William James Middle School in White Bluff, TN

Jimmy Gentry (Liberator) at Germantown Baptist Church in Germantown, TN

Jimmy Gentry (Liberator) at the Missile Defense Agency in Redstone Arsenal, AL

Max Notowitz (Survivor) with the Senior Class of Christian Brothers High School in Memphis, TN

Eric Rosenfeld (Refugee) at the Temple in Nashville, TN

Newsletter2014.pdf 3 10/8/2014 10:16:23 AM

Speaking Engagements 2013-2014

Jimmy Gentry (Liberator) at Germantown Baptist Church in Germantown, TN

Bonnie Furtig, Rochelle Diatiker (2nd Generation), Danielle Kahane-Kaminksy at AARP Hendersonville Chapter in Hendersonville, TN

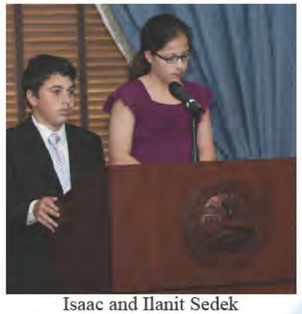
Rochelle Diatiker (2nd Generation) speaking at AARP Hendersonville Chapter in Hendersonville, TN

Art Pais (Survivor) with students from Heritage High School in Maryville, TN

Art Pais (Survivor) addressing the students in Heritage High School in Maryville, TN

Jack Cohen (Refugee) with students and staff from Millington High School, Millington, TN

Student Reflections



Isaac and Ilanit Sedek
Great Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors Irvin and Elizabeth Limor

"...Mothers tried to protect their babies. They were beaten until they bled, and the children were taken away. The children were thrown on to freight cars. A mother, whose three children were brutally torn from her arms, screamed out, beside herself. She did not weep; it was a great howl that pierced the wind from one end of the platform to the other. Silencing all other voices by its terror, it was like the cry of a wounded animal. Even the Germans were shocked, and the officer told her: 'Come quickly into the wagon and take out your child' Our breath stopped for a moment, and the officer added: 'But you have to choose one, do you hear, Jew, only one!'
-Reading From ***Humanity, NOT!***
Ari Babaknia

Grant Carr and Rebecca Reed
Dyersburg Middle School

"As students it is our responsibility to take the lessons learned from the Holocaust and be vigilant that such atrocities never happen again. We must be prepared to take action. Remembering the past and sharing history with younger generations is a must."

Camille Perry and Shira Acklin
Abintra Montessori School

"It is the responsibility of our current generation of students to remember and teach the Holocaust. This responsibility is carried out by the students and schools who teach about it. It is our responsibility to respect and reflect on this one-of-a-kind horrific event and to honor the victims respectfully."

Bethany Woodruff
Lake Forest Middle School

"Worked, starved,
and left to suffer
Though all the hardships make them tougher
Forced to slave
with knife and gun
Knowing that
they cannot run
Without hope and
consumed with dread
With constant thoughts of death hanging
over their heads."

Excerpt from Bethany's poem titled
Holding On

2014 Belz-Lipman Winners

Since 1995 the Tennessee Holocaust Commission (THC) has sponsored the Belz-Lipman Holocaust Educator Award. Established by Memphis entrepreneurs and philanthropists Jack A. Belz and Ira Lipman, the award recognizes outstanding educators who excel in the teaching of the Holocaust. This year four educators were honored.

Kim Gregory, Davidson Academy, Nashville, TN

Keith Wood, Christian Brothers High School, Memphis, TN

Lance McConkey, Sequoyah High School, Madisonville, TN

Wendy VanDyke, Fayette Academy, Somerville, TN

To view a short film featuring each of the winners, Google *"Belz-Lipman Award 2014."*

Newsletter2014.pdf 4 10/8/2014 10:16:26 AM

Benefit Concert at Belz Museum

Thursday, October 30th, 2014
6:45p-8:00p
@ Belz Museum of Asian and Jewish Art
119 South Main Street
Memphis, TN

$75: Individual Ticket
$150 Patron Ticket

To purchase tickets, please mail checks to
Tennessee Holocaust Commission
2501 Vanderbilt Place
PMB 406511
Nashville, TN 37240

For more informationa, please contact Danielle Kaminsky at Danielle.kahane-kaminsky@vanderbilt.edu or 615-499-0047.

White Station High School Honor Women's Choir practicing for their performance with Dr. Freeman

Arthur Allen

Eva Kor

Limor Conference will feature survivor Eva Kor & Arthur Allen

This year's Irvin and Elizabeth Limor educational outreach program will feature Eva Kor who is a survivor of Auschwitz. Eva along with her twin sister Miriam, was subjected to human experimentation under Josef Mengele at Auschwitz. Both of her parents and two older sisters were killed at the camp; only she and Miriam survived. In 1984 Kor founded the organization CANDLES (an acronym for "Children of Auschwitz Nazi Deadly Lab Experiments Survivors"), through which she located 122 other living Mengele twins, as the experiment survivors came to be known.

The conference will also feature, Arthur Allen and his new book, *The Fantastic Laboratory of Dr. Weigl*. Drawing on extensive research and interviews with survivors, Arthur Allen tells the harrowing story of two brave scientists—a Christian and a Jew— who put their expertise regarding the typhus vaccine to the best possible use, at the highest personal danger.

Memphis Holocaust Education Conference to Feature ethnomusicologist and concert violist Dr. Tamara Freeman

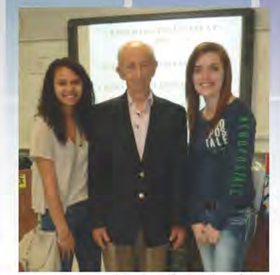
Dr. Tamara Freeman

Dr. Freeman performs Holocaust music lecture-recitals on her 1935 Joseph Bausch viola, which is a relic of the Shoah. Her Holocaust presentation venues have included the Chautauqua, NY Summer Institution, Café Europa Survivors' reunions, and the NJ State House Assembly Chambers for the 2006 Kristallnacht Commemoration with Governor John Corzine. Dr. Freeman specializes in communicating lessons of morality and courage through her Holocaust music classes and performances.

Speaking Engagements 2013-2014

Belz-Lipman Award Winner Keith Wood with Leonid Saharovici (Survivor) at Christian Brothers High School in Memphis, TN

Jimmy Gentry (Liberator) at Spring Hill Public Library in Spring Hill, TN



George Hahn (Refugee) with students from Marshall County High School in Lewisburg, TN

Jimmy Gentry (Liberator) with students from Marshall County High School in Lewisburg, TN

Frances Cutler-Hahn (Hidden Child) with the Anne Frank Ballet dancers in Cadiz, KY

Paula Kelman (Survivor) with students in Memphis, TN

Frances Cutler-Hahn (Hidden Child) speaking at a training for Crisis Response International in Nashville, TN

Art Pais (Survivor), Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky, and Jimmy Gentry (Liberator) in Springfield, TN

Jimmy Gentry (Liberator) at Germantown Baptist Church in Germantown, TN

Newsletter2014.pdf 5 10/8/2014 10:16:30 AM

Film Archive Project Curriculum Development Underway

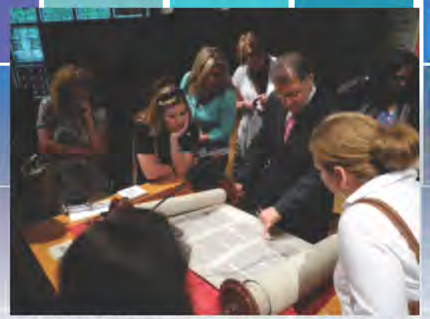
Nothing has been more compelling to classroom students and teachers than to have a Holocaust survivor, refugee, or liberator speak directly with students and share his or her story. Teacher after teacher has said that their students' experiences hearing directly from a survivor changed their lives. The reality, an obvious truth that we all know, is that the number of survivors who are living is dwindling year after year. With each passing year there are fewer opportunities for survivors to go to classes and share their stories. The Holocaust Memories Film Archive Project will keep the legacy of these Tennesseans alive so that we can continue to share their first-hand stories. Commission Staff and teachers from around the state are working together to develop curriculum to accompany these films. The curriculum is designed to help expand upon the individual films so that different stories themes and historical events can be examined by playing portions of several eyewitness testimonies. Each webpage and film links to different resources so that instruction can be tailored to fit the individual teacher's objectives and needs. The curriculum reflects the philosophy that a complete study of the Holocaust provides students the opportunity to learn about this crisis in history through eyewitness testimony from several different perspectives. These resources will allow students and teachers to explore meaningful lessons and ponder important and often difficult and disturbing questions regarding the actions of individuals and governments.

Alyson Bass, Kim Blevins-Relleva, Bob Eisenstein (Army Witness), and Jill Coble

Mimi & Art Pais (Survivor), Julie Mitchell, Tamatha Smith, and Lex Suite

Anita Puckett, Dave Barrett, Kim Gregory with Jerry Snodgrass (2nd Generation)

Kim Gregory with Rabbi Lustig at Washington Hebrew Congregation



Teaching Fellows with Rabbi Lustig at Washington Hebrew Congregation

New Class of THC Teaching Fellows Study Together In Washington, D.C.

A new class of THC Teaching Fellows accompanied Executive Director Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky to Washington, D.C. to study at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Georgetown University. The Teaching Fellows program trains Master Holocaust Educators throughout the state of Tennessee so that they may serve as liaisons of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission in their area of the state. This will be the second class of educators trained for this work. The itinerary included two days of professional development for teachers provided by USHMM senior historian Dr. Peter Black and museum educator Joanna Wasserman, early entry into the museum to view the permanent collection and a tour of the exhibit *Some Were Neighbors: : Collaboration and Complicity during the Holocaust*. The group also visited The Washington Hebrew Congregation and met with Senior Rabbi Bruce Lustig. Rabbi Lustig arranged for the group to meet with survivor and museum volunteer, Nessie Godin. A full day of learning also took place at Georgetown University at the Jan Karski Institute. Presentations at Georgetown included:

- **Melissa Weinberg Spence** - Jan Karski Program-Georgetown University
- **Father McManus**-Visiting Associate Professor- Georgetown Program for Jewish Civilization in the School of Foreign Service, where he offers courses in the history of Christian-Jewish conflict.
- **Alexandra Zapruder**- author of the book *Salvaged Pages*

Teachers were able to enjoy a bit of sightseeing in the D.C. area and a good time was had by all. The new class is working to assist in the development of curriculum for the Holocaust Memories Film Archive Project.

Dr. Peter Black with the Teaching Fellows at USHMM

Father McManus addressing the teachers while at Georgetown

Nessie Godin (Survivor) speaks to Teaching Fellow at USHMM

Newsletter2014.pdf 6 10/8/2014 10:16:32 AM

Governor Haslam Appoints Larry Leibowitz to Serve as Commission Chairperson

The Tennessee Holocaust Commission is happy to announce that, Governor Bill Haslam has appointed Larry Leibowitz to the position of Chairman of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission. Larry will serve as the Commission's fifth Chair and his term begins immediately.

A member of the Tennessee State Holocaust Commission since 2006, Mr. Leibowitz graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1969 and has practiced law in Knoxville since 1970. He taught trial practice at the University of Tennessee College of Law from 1970-1972. He is admitted to practice law in all Tennessee State Courts and The Federal Courts for Eastern and Middle Tennessee as well as the Federal Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Leibowitz was a founding partner in the law firm of Leibowitz & Cohen and now has founded the Leibowitz Law Firm, PLLC.

In an email to all Commissioners Larry said, "I am honored to serve as Chair of one of the oldest and most recognized Commissions in the United States. The Commission is proud of its past work and accomplishments and looks forward to continuing efforts to educate Tennesseans about the history of the Holocaust, seeking to remind citizens that prejudice, hatred, and violence, as manifested in the Holocaust and other genocides, lead to the destruction of a humane society." All of the Commissioners from around the state send their good wishes to Larry as he begins his new position

Belz Museum Opens New Holocaust Memorial Gallery

On Sunday April 6th, the Belz Museum celebrated the opening of a new Holocaust Memorial Gallery. The gallery gives visitors a rare opportunity to come face to face with Jewish survivors of the Holocaust via portraits and testimonials from the "Living On" exhibit. The photographer worked with the Tennessee Holocaust Commission to give voice to the survivors, refugees, and liberators now living in Tennessee. These faces reveal not only their own stories, but the stories of loved ones who did not survive to be heard. Other displays in the gallery: Jewish ghetto currency, photographs of Jews in concentration camps, sculptures and artwork, World War II information panels and timeline, and other personal memorabilia. The gallery's purpose is not to memorialize the Holocaust as a whole tragedy, but rather to share with visitors the personal tragedies and experiences of these individuals, which ultimately define the Holocaust. One day, these witnesses will no longer be available to share their first-hand knowledge with the rest of the world. The Holocaust Memorial Gallery has been created to connect all generations; for each successive generation will face the responsibility of bearing witness. While individual experiences may seem insignificant to the greater world, human beings seek connection and understanding; thus shared struggles lead to the discovery that what haunts one haunts us all.

Jack Belz addressing the audience during the Belz Museum Opening

Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky, Jack, and Marilyn Belz at Belz Museum Opening

Jack Belz addressing the audience during the Belz Museum Opening

Michael Strahan and Kelly Ripa presenting Athena Davis her award

Holocaust Chest for Athena Davis' Class

Athena Davis addressing her students at Cleveland High School

Teaching Fellow Athena Davis Featured As A Top Teacher On *Live With Kelly and Michael*

THC Teaching Fellow, Athena Davis was featured as a top Teacher on the *Live With Kelly and Michael Show.* It was her Holocaust Literature class that initially caught the attention of one of the show's producers. Davis' work with the Commission began in 2007 when she was accepted into the first class of Teacher Fellows. Davis stated, "That first year, each of the fellows took on a project. My project became my class. I wrote the curriculum for my Holocaust history class. I don't know if the program was supposed to last a year, but it has lasted ever since."

The 13-year veteran of classroom teaching said the Holocaust has always interested her, but she never saw herself developing the passion that now guides her."I think one thing that pulled me to it educationally is I saw, and I see, in the Holocaust two things. One, I saw how my kids were drawn into this subject. Kids who hadn't really been interested in anything we've done were pulled in," she said. "What I see in the Holocaust is — There is not anything else that I've seen in English education that you can use for such valuable life lessons."

The subject offers teachers an opportunity to use an historical event to teach about it through literature, "and to show them this is not just 1940s Europe. You can take it down to its basic level of someone dropping books in the hall. Do you stop and pick them up?" In this day of school violence and shootings, "just being kind to people, you really and truly don't know what crisis you are averting. I think the Holocaust is really important to remember, memorialize and learn about, but I think you can take it (life lessons) so much further and to me that's what it is all about."

For finishing in the top five, the TV show gave 30 Intel powered HP X360 touch-screen computers to Cleveland City High School and Athena and her husband received an eight-day, seven-night trip to Israel.

To see Ms. Davis on *Live With Kelly and Michael* go to:
http://bcove.me/yw6b986d