



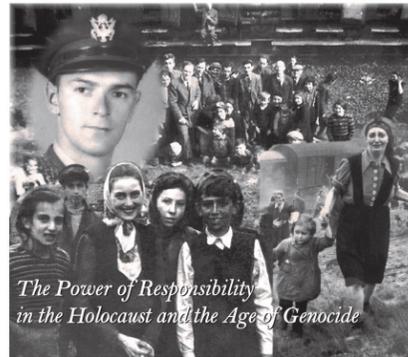
### Conference Registration Now OPEN!

To register for the Nashville Conference please visit: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=4yuorrcab&oeidk=a07e4kv0slmcd99abf8>

To register for the Memphis Conference please visit: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=4yuorrcab&oeidk=a07e415ivxhf076f575>

## Upcoming Events

- August 3-4, 2011 - **Memphis City Practitioners Summit**  
A three hour workshop for middle and high school educators to include practical activities for teaching about the Holocaust accompanied by survivor testimony.
- September 17, 2011 - **5K Walk Fundraising Event**  
Hosted at Fred Miller Park in Morristown, TN by the German Society at Morristown-Hamblen High School.
- October-November 2011 - **Vanderbilt Holocaust Lecture Series (see article page 9)**
- 2011-2012 Holocaust Educational Conferences. Open Registration (see left panel)  
**The Power of Responsibility in the Holocaust and the Age of Genocide**
  - October 25, 2011 - **Nashville & Middle Tennessee**  
Student Life Center, Vanderbilt Campus - Nashville, TN
  - October 27, 2011 - **Memphis City Schools & West Tennessee**  
Teaching and Learning Academy-Memphis City Schools - Memphis, TN
  - Spring 2012 TBA - **Hamilton County Schools & East Tennessee**
    - Belz-Lipman Reunion
  - Spring 2012 TBA - **Knox County Schools & East Tennessee**



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# 2010-2011 A Year In Review



## Reflections on the Year...

Much of our work at the Tennessee Holocaust Commission this year has centered around enhancing and expanding our educational outreach and community awareness throughout the state. We ran a series of conferences this year titled, *Voices From the Holocaust Moving from Reflection to Action-The Decision is Yours*. Our focus was to encourage the use of diaries from the younger voices of the Shoah ultimately moving Tennessee students to reflect on this period in history and to take action rather than standing by passively in the face of global events of the same nature. We exceeded our expectations reaching over 4,000 students, educators, and community members throughout the state. Our local survivors and liberators helped to tell the story so that students received a more personalized understanding and close-up view of life during this time period that historical references often lose.

A partnership with the Nashville Ballet allowed us to enhance our outreach goal by introducing students to the story of Anne Frank. The performance brought to life the joys, tensions, yearnings, and the passion for life expressed by Anne in her own words. The ballet is a dramatic exploration of the spirit and uncanny wisdom of Anne Frank and has been well received by schools throughout the state. Local survivors Arthur Pais and Frances Cutler-Hahn helped the dancers to better understand and interpret the spirit of Anne Frank. Art and music serve as a powerful vehicle for telling the story of the Holocaust and we continue to search for ways to integrate art and music into our work.

The Commission has begun to work with several universities and colleges around the state to provide workshops and speakers for classes, seminars, and conferences. The Niswonger Fellows program at Tusculum College began their programming this year by using local survivor testimony and literature as a focus for a study of "Ethics in Leadership". Workshop presentations and seminars at Aquinas and Walter State Colleges are scheduled for the fall of 2011. Another amazing partnership that developed this year was with the St. George's Episcopal Church Choir. The choir hosted a moving performance of Donald McCullough's Holocaust Cantata and

## Highlights

- Annual Day of Remembrance **P.2**
- Belz-Lipman Awards **P.3**
- Felicia Anchor Steps Down as Chairperson **P.3**
- Program Highlights **P.4-11**
- Remembering Those Lost **P.5**
- Digital Legacy Project **P.7**
- Vanderbilt Holocaust Lecture Series Announced **P.9**
- Upcoming Events **P.12**

helped the Commission to raise much needed funds. We were honored to have Dr. Mark Ring and the choir perform at the State Capitol for the Annual Day of Remembrance ceremony. 5K memory walk fundraising events are now being organized around the state in an effort to raise funds. Our first event will take place on September 24<sup>th</sup> in Morristown, TN. Plans for Nashville, Memphis, and Knoxville areas are underway. The use of technology to keep the stories of survivors and liberators alive is critical and the Commission has been working to develop a special website so that educators can view best practice lessons online and share information with one another. Additionally, work on a "Digital Legacy Project" to develop digitized educational videos using the "Living On" tapes housed in the Tennessee State Archives is planned for the upcoming year.

Eight Tennessee educators attended our annual seminar at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. this summer. Teachers representing all regions of the state accompanied Commission staff to the Museum to learn about Holocaust education directly from museum staff and historians.

As the philosopher George Santayana famously said "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it". The Tennessee Holocaust Commission is dedicated to remembrance. We remember, and share memories, in the cause of promoting understanding so that we and our children are not condemned to repeat the experiences yet so vivid in the memories of Holocaust Survivors and Concentration Camp Liberators more than sixty years after the end of World War II. Our best hope that the right transfer of memory has been made resides with the students and youth in the State of TN. When we educate about the Holocaust we remember the victims. They live again in us and through us and sustain us in working for a world when similar horrific actions will cease to exist.

## Anne Frank Ballet

Through a relationship with the Tennessee Holocaust Commission and Belmont University, Nashville Ballet presents *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*. The 45-minute production includes a cast of five dancers portraying Peter van Pels, Margot Frank and three metaphorical "sides" to Anne's personality. This is part of Nashville Ballet's Outreach and Community Engagement initiative and has been made available to schools and community groups across Tennessee. Utilizing classical dance, drama, music, and visual art this literary, historical, and social masterpiece offers older students an in-depth opportunity to experience ballet from a curriculum based standpoint.



The THC has provided host schools and organizations with Holocaust survivors or witnesses who speak to students and audience members in conjunction with an *Anne Frank* performance.



Survivors and family members attended the Annual Day of Remembrance Ceremony

Survivors, families, friends and supporters gathered together on May 3, 2011 to commemorate the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust as well as the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution. The ceremony began with welcoming remarks delivered by Governor Bill Haslam and Senator Andy Berke. The observance, "We Shall Never Forget" included music and dance from the St. George's Choir, a performance by Dr. Jemmilou Rye (soprano) and Dr. Sandra Cox (flute), Doris Kosmin, and Molly Gibbons of the Nashville Ballet. Held at the State Capitol in the Old Supreme Court Chambers, the traditional Jewish prayer of remembrance was recited and six Belz-Lipman Holocaust Educator of the Year Awards were presented by Mr.

## Upper Cumberland Day of Remembrance Ceremony

The Tennessee Holocaust Commission and the Upper Cumberland Jewish Community hosted a Day of Remembrance Ceremony to memorialize the six million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust, as well as the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution. The ceremony took place on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 1p.m. at the Back Door Playhouse on the Tennessee Technology University Campus. The program included the recitation of the traditional Jewish prayer of remembrance for those who

## Tennessee State Day of Remembrance Ceremony

Jack Belz. These awards were given to secondary school teachers whose excellence in teaching about the Holocaust has impacted students in classrooms throughout the state. The award win-

ning teachers come from Cleveland, Cornersville, Germantown, Morristown, Savannah, and Smyrna, Tennessee. Thoughtful reflections on the meaning of the day, coinciding with the national day of observance established by Congress in 1980, were made by Speaker of the House Beth Harwell. The observance concluded with the symbolic candle



Commission Chair, Felicia Anchor with Governor Bill Haslam

lighting by survivors and legislators. Following the ceremony Senators

## Day of Remembrance Ceremony

died, lead by Cantor Karen Webber Gilat. Local Holocaust survivors Sonja DuBois and Herbert Komguth



provided eyewitness testimony regarding this crisis in our history. Additionally, Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky, Executive Director of the

Andy Berke and Jack Johnson hosted a reception.

The "Living On" exhibit was displayed in the main hallway of the State Legislature from May 2-6, 2011. Commission Chair Felicia Anchor would like to extend her appreciation to all



Jack Belz presents the Belz-Lipman Award to six Tennessee Educators.

whose contributions of time made possible a ceremony of memory which highlights the continued work of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission (THC). The vision for awareness and prevention of prejudice and violence remains the primary focus of the THC. Through educational outreach, this work will reflect on its 26 years of experience and will continue to bring together stories of the Holocaust for its annual Day of Remembrance.

Tennessee Holocaust Commission, made welcoming remarks. Ms. Joyce Cohen introduced Brad Sells and Todd Jarrell of the *Tree Safari Project* to the community. The observance concluded with the lighting of the six memorial candles. The Upper Cumberland Jewish Community hosted a reception at the conclusion of the ceremony.

For more information on the *Tree Safari Project* go to the following website:

<http://www.treesafari.org/journey.php>

## 2011 Belz-Lipman Winners

Since 1995 the 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 six educators from East, West and Middle Tennessee were honored.

**Jill Coble** has been a middle-school Social Studies teacher for twenty years and for the past seven years has taught Social Studies to English Language Learners in the 6th, 7th, & 8th grades. Winning the Belz-Lipman award is especially significant to Jill because of a pledge she made to local Tennessee survivor, Elizabeth Limor, before her death in 2009. Elizabeth Limor asked Jill to ensure that we "never forget." It is in Elizabeth's memory that Jill received this award.

**Julie Knight Cook** has been a Language Arts teacher for 17 years. She currently teaches High School in Cornersville, TN. Julie teaches English I,II, and III honors and regular English classes. She has been married to Brian Cook for eighteen years has two sons and feels blessed to be kept very busy

by her wonderful family. Julie says that "It is bittersweet to learn such valuable yet sad information about the suffering of the Jews."

**Emily Gwinn** graduated from Emory & Henry College with a B.A. in English Literature. She also earned her M.Ed. from Milligan College. She has taught secondary English in the state of Tennessee for seven years. Emily is currently the Interim-English department chair at Morristown-East High School she also teaches an afterschool ACT course, leads the *High Schools That Work* Curriculum focus team, and is a member of the high school's Instructional Leadership Team.

**Stacey Wiefraert** teaches English/Language Arts at Walker Valley High School. Ms. Wiefraert received her B.A. from Lee University in Language Arts and has been teaching for ten years. She has taught 3rd, 4th, and 8th grades in addition to high school in Canada and the United States. Ms. Wiefraert became interested in Holocaust study as a young girl while reading the book *The Hiding Place* written by Corrie Ten Boom. Ms. Wiefraert plans to use the scholarship funds from this award to help students become aware of how to prevent geno-

cide in their generation.

**Michael Robinson** was born and raised in Loretto, Tennessee. He graduated from the University of TN, Knoxville in 1994, with a degree in geography and a minor in history. Michael has been teaching for fifteen years. He currently teaches at Houston High School in Germantown, TN. He has always incorporated Holocaust studies into the curriculum. For the past seven years, Michael has been teaching a *Facing History and Ourselves* elective course, where Holocaust studies is a major component of the curriculum.

**Lucy Burgess** is a lifelong resident of West TN and currently resides in Savannah. She received her B.A. from Freed-Hardeman University and her M.A.T. from the University of Memphis. Mrs. Burgess has taught 8th grade literature for the past eight years, during which she has incorporated a unit of Holocaust education. Her family includes three sons, three grandchildren, and her husband David Burgess. Julie says, "As an educator, I strive to emphasize the importance of mutual respect and the value of all people. I want to ensure that somewhere down the track of history no one will say the Holocaust never happened".

## Commission Chair, Felicia Anchor, Steps Down

After 15 years of dedicated service, Felicia Anchor steps down from the position of Commission Chair.

After long consideration, Felicia Anchor has requested that the Governor appoint another person to serve as the Chair of the Commission. In a letter to fellow Commissioners Felicia stated,

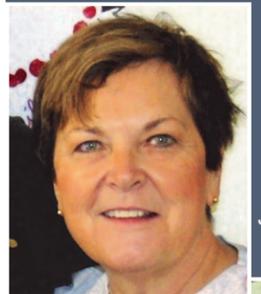


"It has been a personal honor for me to serve but every institution needs new leadership and I have held this position for a long time." Felicia Anchor has been the driving force behind many projects throughout the history of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission. Having been a member on the Panel of Commissioners since the Commission's inception, Felicia had already served as the Education Chair for 12 years before assuming the responsibility of Chair Person in 1996. As the third Commission Chair, Felicia Anchor has brought interna-

tional recognition to the Commission by representing the US at the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust conference and previewing the Commission's acclaimed, "Living On" exhibit at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, Poland and the Auschwitz Concentration Camp Visitor Center. The Commission has participated in the publication of two books during her tenure; "The Holocaust and Other Genocides: History, Representation, Ethics" and "Living On: Portraits of Tennessee Survivors and Liberators".

Felicia will continue to serve as one of the Commissioners on the panel and is determined to maintain the legacy of Tennessee Survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust through spearheading a digital legacy project intended to digitize all remaining raw footage collected and held in the TN state archives. The project goal is to publish survivor testimony and lesson materials that educators can easily integrate into their classroom instruction.

## Photos of the 2011 Winners:



Jill Coble



Julie Knight Cook



Emily Gwinn



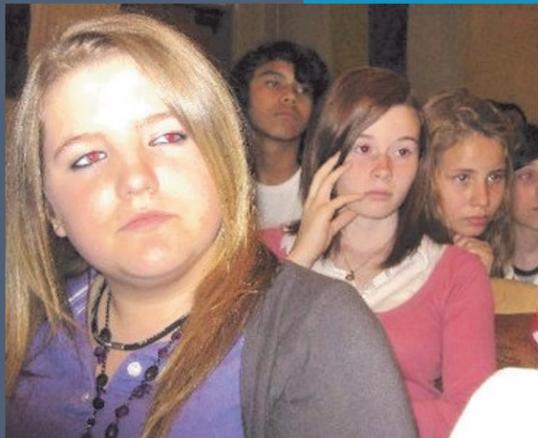
Stacey Wiefraert



Michael Robinson



Lucy Burgess



## Spring Presentations

The Commission fills requests to present educational instruction and provide speakers for a variety of schools, communities, and organizations.

### Collinwood Middle School Collinwood, TN

Jimmy Gentry - 2/7/11

The entire student body at Collinwood Middle School hosted a community-wide, student hosted event featuring, Jimmy Gentry, as a witness from the Holocaust. Following the presentation a reception was available for those wishing to attend.



### Nashville Ballet

Art Pais & Frances Cutler-Hahn - 1/6-7/11

Dancers from the ballet spent time with Frances Cutler-Hahn and Art Pais learning their stories so that they could better interpret Anne Frank's story using movement.

### Tigrett Middle School Jackson, TN

Allen Exelbierd - 1/14/11

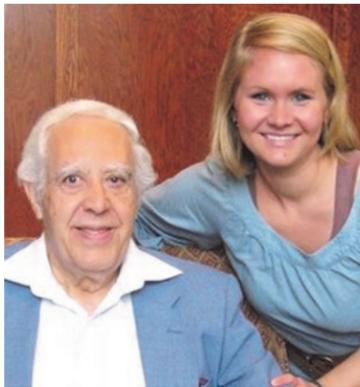
Allen Exelbierd shared the story of his father, Joseph Exelbierd, a refugee of the Holocaust, to a classroom of 8th grade students.



### Nashville School of the Arts Nashville, TN

Jimmy Gentry - 1/20/11

An auditorium of high school students 9th-12th grade listened as Jimmy Gentry shared his memory as a young U.S. soldier during the liberation of Dauchau Concentration Camp. The student body had a variety of Holocaust studies, but each one was drawn in by his captivating account.



### Cain Ridge High School Antioch, TN

Esther Loeb - 1/21/11

In the informal classroom setting Esther Loeb took the opportunity to address each individual student when she spoke to the class of high school students.

### Seven Pillars Academy Knoxville, TN

Sonja DuBois - 3/4/11

Sonja DuBois shared her experience with middle school students from the Trinity Christian Academy Home School Cooperative.

### TN Council for the Social Studies (TCSS) Annual Conference for Educators Franklin, TN

Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky - 3/11/11

Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky presented at the annual conference held in Franklin, TN at the Marriott. The presentation detailed the rationale for teaching about the Holocaust and other genocides in connection with TN State and National Standards. Discussion regarding best practice in Holocaust instruction and appropriate methodological considerations were the focal point of this workshop.



### Dekalb Middle School Smithville, TN

Jimmy Gentry & Esther Loeb - 3/17/11

Jimmy and Esther shared their experiences with the entire 8th grade class in Dekalb County as an introduction to the Anne Frank Ballet. After the performance a reception was hosted for the survivors and performers.

### Harris Middle School Bedford County, TN

Frances Cutler-Hahn - 3/17/11

Frances, a hidden child during the Holocaust, spoke to all the 8th grade students. Approximately 250 students had just completed a two month unit studying the Holocaust.

*Continued on page 10*

## Washington D.C. Seminar

Seven teachers from around the state accompanied Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky and Dr. Paul Fleming on a three day trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum from June 7th to the 9th. The generous support of Ms. Lilian Kittower and the Niswonger Foundation allowed us to take teachers from all regions of the state for this seminar experience. The itinerary included a full day of professional development for

teachers provided by museum educators and a half day workshop to familiarize teachers with primary sources related to Holocaust Education. Teachers were able to enjoy a bit of sightseeing in the D.C. area and a good time was had by all. Participating teachers will be required to develop and share written mini-lessons and activities for future professional development to be utilized by the Commission.



(Left) Dr. Joseph White, USHMM Historian, shares his research.

(Right Top) Christina E. Chavarria gives direction on teaching the Holocaust.

(Right) Our group standing on the steps inside the USHMM.



## Remembering those Lost: Esther Loeb, Sara Seidner & Nesy Marks

**Esther Loeb** held fast to a mission to make sure people remembered the Holocaust, a goal she pursued nearly until her death on May 5. Born in 1924, she survived the Holocaust when she and her family fled their native Poland for Russia after the Nazi takeover in 1939. She survived a Siberian forced labor camp and eventually came to create a new life in Nashville. Esther believed that survivors were reborn through freedom and that they had a commitment and promise to fulfill so that the 6 million Jews who lost their lives in the Holocaust did not die in vain.



**Sara Slomovic Seidner**, who with her sister Leah Slomovic Naft survived Sekernice ghetto, Stutthof Slave Labor Camp and Auschwitz before building families in Nashville, died peacefully at home on May 24. Sara was committed to Holocaust education to combat prejudice and hatred so that a Holocaust could never happen again. Sara will be missed by all who knew her, but her memories and reflections will live on to inspire and comfort others for years to come. Sara was born in 1927 in Czechoslovakia. The two sisters survived and lived life to its fullest.



**Nesy Marks** had four friends when the Nazis came. They made a pact that whoever survived must tell the tale, must make sure the world doesn't forget them. It wasn't a story she enjoyed telling, but a promise is a promise. She told the story of her life thousands of times before she died on July 20. She was born in Lithuania and was 14 when the Nazis invaded. Her family never had a chance to leave. She escaped a labor camp and hid with a Catholic family for a while. Eventually, she went to work in an orphanage in Vilnius. The orphanage administrator found out that she was Jewish and he helped her escape. She hid in a German farm town, working on a farm for the rest of the war. Of her four friends, Nesy was the only survivor. After the war, Nesy came to America and settled in Nashville. She married and raised a family in Memphis and she kept her promise.



## Teacher Tube

In addition to our presence on the Internet, Facebook, and Twitter, the Tennessee Holocaust Commission will launch a Teacher/Tube page this summer designed to give teachers a safe place to ask questions and get help with Holocaust Education. The TeacherTube portal is designed so that teachers can view best practice lessons live online from TN Master Teachers in the field of Holocaust education. Additionally, educators will have the opportunity to become part of an online learning community where they can post and share lesson activities, blog, and learn together. The TeacherTube portal will enable the Commission to extend its outreach and programming throughout the State using state of the art technology to communicate our mission.

## Publication of THC History Announced

The Commission is proud to announce that we have contracted with Mr. Thomas Wood, a local historian and author here in Nashville, to write a history of the Commission. The generous support of Commissioner Jack Belz has allowed the THC to preserve our history as one of the oldest and most innovative Commissions in the United States. The Commissioners are very excited about this project and believe it will be a valuable tool for explaining the mission and vision of the THC.



## Educational Conferences

Along with our many other programs, the THC brought an interactive conference to three locations across the state...

Tim Burchett in Knoxville, by Congressman Jim Cooper in Nashville, and by Congressman Steve Cohen in Memphis. Our local survivors and liberators helped to tell the story through a panel discussion at the end of each conference. Our panelists this year included Clark Blatteis, Frances Cutler-Hahn, James Dorris, Trudy Dreyer, Allen Exelbierd, Sonja DuBois, Jimmy Gentry, Paula Kelman, Esther Loeb, Arthur Pais, and Leonid Saharovi. Every year without fail, our panelists receive the highest praise as they allow our students to receive a more personalized understanding and close-up view of life during this

time period that historical references often lose.

Plans are underway to add a fourth conference to next year's schedule, to be located in the Chattanooga area and hosted by the Hamilton County School Dis-



trict. Plans for this conference include a Belz-Lipman Educator of the Year Award Reunion designed to reunite all of our Belz-Lipman award winners from 1995 to the present. We would love to hear from Belz-Lipman educators who are interested in helping to plan for this special occasion please contact Danielle or Meghan at the THC at 615-343-2563 or email [danielle.kahane-kaminsky@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:danielle.kahane-kaminsky@vanderbilt.edu).

## Voices from the Holocaust

Moving from Reflection to Action—The Decision is Yours

The Commission was excited to host three conferences around the state of Tennessee this year. The conferences were held in Nashville at the Nashville Public Library, in Knoxville at the Knox County School District Sarah Simpson Professional Development Center, and in the Memphis City School District at the Teaching and Learning Academy. The conference series entitled, *Voices From the Holocaust Moving from Reflection to Action-The Decision is Yours*,

approximately 4,000 students, educators, and community members being reached throughout this school year. Alexandra Zapruder served as our keynote speaker for all

focused on the use of diaries from the younger voices of the Shoah challenging Tennessee students to reflect on this period in history and to take action rather than standing by passively in the face of global events of the



same nature. One of the goals of the conference series was to expand our outreach beyond middle Tennessee and into the east and west Tennessee areas. We exceeded our expectations by reaching approximately 700 students, educators, and community members throughout the state through the conference series alone. These conferences inspired several follow-up visits and workshops to schools and community organizations, increasing our presence in several communities, resulting in

vaged *Pages: Young Writers' Diaries of the Holocaust*, which won the National Jewish Book Award in the Holocaust category. Welcoming remarks were made by Mayor



## Niswonger Foundation Hosts Seminar on Ethics in Leadership, Featuring the THC.

The Tennessee Holocaust Commission is excited to participate in a partnership with the Niswonger Foundation and Scholars program at Tusculum College this year. The goal of the scholarship and leadership training program is to identify and equip a talented network of young people for future service in Northeast TN.

Niswonger Scholars are chosen primarily for their leadership potential, commitment to personal excellence and to service in their home communities. The scholarship provides the opportunity to attend the college or

exceptional leadership ability, exemplary personal character, and strong dedication to serving others. The Niswonger Scholarship is designed to benefit both the recipient



and the community in which he or she lives. Scholars are not limited to a particular college or area of study. In exchange for each year of financial support, recipients pledge to return to

university of the recipient's choice. The goal is that at the end of their experience as a Niswonger Scholar, they will embody the values most important to the mission of the Foun-

their home communities for at least one year of service in the career of their choice. The hope is that by enabling these students to study their passions and by cultivating their lead-

ership abilities, they will return to their homes to be leaders in their professions and an inspiration and catalyst for future change. All Scholars are required to participate in community

building activities and leadership training. This year, the focus of the training is "Ethics in Leadership." The THC implemented a workshop with this theme that began with local survivor Art Pais, providing testimony about his experiences in the Dachau

Concentration Camp and the Kovno Ghetto. The Scholars worked on activities involving assessing and defining responsibility of perpetrators from the Holocaust, and a study of the Nuremberg Trials. The Scholars concluded the workshop with the development of an action plan to increase genocide awareness on their college campuses around the country.

A special thanks is due to the Niswonger Foundation for a donation which sent two East Tennessee teachers on the 2011 Washington D.C. Seminar.

## Digital Legacy Project

With the recent passing of three prominent Tennessee Holocaust Survivors, Felicia Anchor, THC Chair, feels an urgency to maintain their legacy through a digital legacy project intended to digitize all remaining raw footage collected and held in the TN state archives. The project goal is to publish survivor testimony and lesson materials that educators can integrate into their classroom instruction. It is intended to provide for an electronic

curriculum that can be delivered online and accompanied by a written curriculum manual for classroom use. The content will be derived from the remaining historical footage and research currently stored in the TN State Archives. Our ultimate goal will be to provide this information electronically and through the Internet providing for multiple uses to include museum application, audio-visual curriculum, and all types of resource sharing. The com-

mission will begin this project utilizing the professional expertise of the firm Earnhardt Pirkle, Inc. The THC is currently looking for community members and foundations to fund or underwrite portions of this worthwhile and innovative project.



5K Walk, Fundraising Event, Planned by The German Society at Morristown-Hamblen High School East to Benefit the THC

The THC is excited to announce that the German Society at Morristown-Hamblen High School East will host a 5K Walk to benefit the Commission. The walk is planned for September 17, 2011 at Fred Miller Park in Morristown, TN. Give Back +Conscience Gear, and commemorative bracelets created by student artists, and THC publications will be on sale. An instructor will be on location to warm up the crowd prior to the walk.



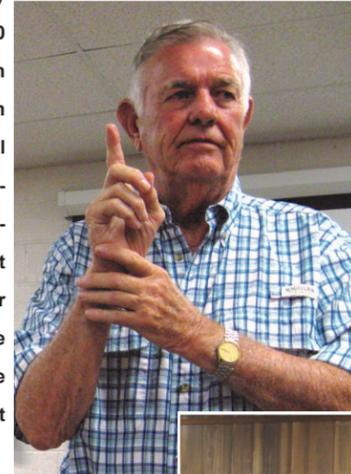
## St. George's Choir

The THC was fortunate to participate in a partnership this year with the St. George's Episcopal Church Choir. Under the direction of conductor Dr. Mark Ring, the choir hosted a moving performance of Donald McCullough's Holocaust Cantata and helped the Commission raise much needed funds. We were honored to have Dr. Mark Ring and the choir perform at the State Capitol for the Annual Day of Remembrance ceremony this year.



## Robertson County Mini Conference: Teaching the Holocaust, Workshop Series

Teachers from Robertson County School District and surrounding areas were invited to attend a mini conference presented by the Tennessee Holocaust Commission at the Robertson County School Board, July 20 and 21, 2011. Each session included an in depth professional development workshop aimed at teaching students about the Holocaust. Over 100 teachers were reached during the two day Holocaust Series.



*Holocaust; Transforming History, Social Studies, and Language Arts Instruction*, participants experienced our multimedia "Living On Exhibit" of survivor and liberator testimonies with accompanying educational resources. Participants had the opportunity hear Holocaust survivor, Arthur Pais and liberator, Jimmy Gentry give their eyewitness accounts in person.

The Thursday morning session, *Going Beyond Anne Frank Bridging Generations and Transforming Instruction*, focused on the instructional use of the diaries of young people produced in



adolescents who witnessed the Holocaust in their instruction. Each teacher received a copy of the book, *Salvaged Pages* by Alexandra Zapruder. Writing activities for language arts classes as well as using primary source materials to write to a document-based question were explored as part of this seminar. Additionally, Frances Cutler-Hahn, who survived the Holocaust as a hidden child, and Robert Mamlin, a liberator told the teachers about their personal experiences with the Holocaust.



Four sessions were taught by Executive Director, Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky. During the Wednesday morning session, *How To Teach About the Holocaust*, teachers experienced an interactive presentation detailing the rationale for teaching about the Holocaust and other genocides in connection with Tennessee State and National Standards. Discussion about best practice in Holocaust instruction and appropriate methodological considerations were the focus of this workshop. During the afternoon session, *Voices from the*

this time of extreme crisis. Emphasis was placed on the value of these literary fragments as part of the historical record of the Holocaust. Teachers learned to use collections of personal writings from children and



The final session presented was *Teaching Anne Frank – The Holocaust's Most Famous Diarist*. As part of this workshop, several resources were introduced to educators including a PowerPoint presentation titled, *Remembering Anne Frank*, a history of the diary, a synopsis of the story, a timeline of Anne Frank's life, a resource guide, along with educational activities and extensions to assist in the classroom.



## 2011 Vanderbilt University Holocaust Lecture Series Announced

The 34<sup>th</sup> annual Vanderbilt Holocaust Lecture Series theme this year is *Holocaust Remains*. This theme reminds us of the atrocities committed during the Holocaust and of the pain, sorrow and danger that still remain.

The following speakers will be featured as part of the series this year:

### Jen Marlowe – Sunday, October 2, 2011 – the Sarratt Cinema, Vanderbilt Campus

With the words "never again" in mind, genocide happening in our world today will be considered. A viewing of photographers of the *Darfur/Darfur exhibit of Art Works Projects* will convey the reality of Darfur today. Using a series of multi-panel projections and a special music performance by Blair's Professor Greg Barz, Darfur/Darfur places the brutal realities faced in Darfur in context with the region's vibrant culture and people. Immediately following the multi-media presentation, Jen Marlowe, a human rights advocate, filmmaker and writer will discuss the current situation in Darfur. Her award-winning documentary films include *Darfur Diaries: Message from Home and Rebuilding Hope*. Her books include *Darfur Diaries: Stories of Survival* (Nation Books, 2006.)

### Avraham Burg – Tuesday, October 25, 2011, 7 p.m. – the Student Life Center, Vanderbilt Campus

Burg, former speaker of the Israeli parliament and son of a Holocaust survivor, is the author of *The Holocaust Is Over; We Must Rise From Its Ashes*. In his book, Burg argues that it is time for Jews to "rise from the ashes" of World War II. Jews and Israelis alike must remember the Holocaust, but not continue to identify as victims for generations to come. Burg passionately writes that the oft stated expression "never again" is not only a response to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, but for any people who suffer around the globe today.

### Jacqueline Murekatete & Justin Semahoro Kimenyera – Thursday, October 27, 2011, 7 p.m. - Sarratt Cinema, Vanderbilt Campus

*The Last Survivor*, a documentary film, and two of the featured survivors, Jacqueline Murekatete and Justin Semahoro Kimenyera, will tell (after the documentary) how they have moved forward with their lives. Jacqueline Murekatete is internationally recognized for her work as a youth leader and humanitarian, speaking out for victims and survivors of genocide. Born in Rwanda in 1984, Jacqueline was not yet ten when she lost her immediate and extended family in the 1994 genocide. Justin Semahoro Kimenyera is a member of the Banyamulenge tribe of South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He was born in the small village of the Minembwe and lived there until 1996 when his village was attacked in the middle of the night. Separated from his family, Justin fled from the Congo alone into neighboring Burundi before moving on the Rwanda and then Nairobi.

### Dr. Aron Rodrigue – Tuesday, November 1, 2011 – Wilson 103, Vanderbilt Campus

Dr. Rodrigue is the Director of the Stanford University Humanities Center and a Professor in Jewish Studies. Dr. Rodrigue will speak on the persecution of Sephardi Jewry during the Holocaust.

### Isaac Nehama – Sunday, November 13, 2011 – Multipurpose Room of the Commons Center, Vanderbilt Campus

Isaac Nehama, a survivor of the Holocaust, was still in high school when Athens was occupied by the Axis powers in 1941. Because Athens was administered by the Italians, the Jewish population did not initially suffer. Yet in September of 1943, when German troops began to occupy the area, the situation for the Jewish population took a turn for the worse. Aware of what had already happened to other Jews, Isaac's father, mother, brother and maternal grandmother went into hiding. Isaac fled to Thessaly and joined a partisan enclave there.

For more information visit Vanderbilt's website:

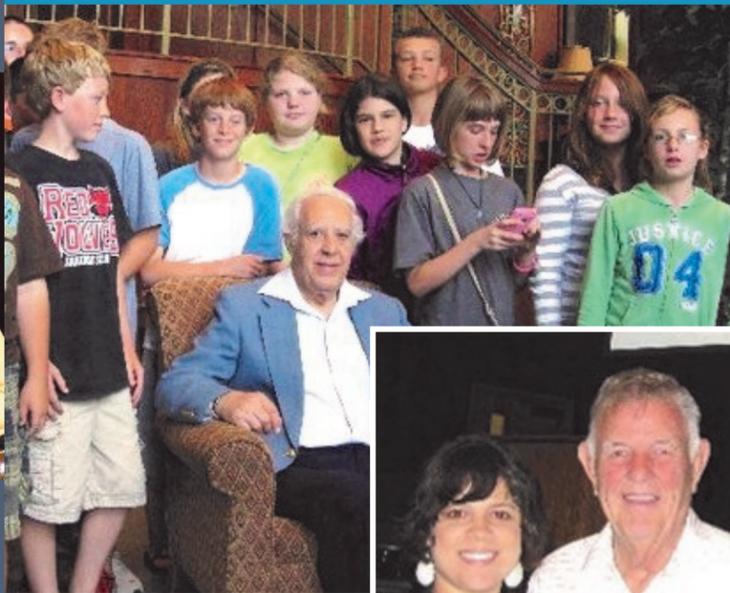
<http://calendar.vanderbilt.edu/calendar/2011/10/25/2011-holocaust-lecture-series-the-future-of-the-holocaust.136732>

THC's Teaching Fellow and Belz-Lipman Winner Invited to Belfer National Conference at USHMM:

Tennessee Holocaust Commission Teaching Fellow, Christiane Schmidt and Belz-Lipman Award Winner, Emily Gwinn were invited to attend the Arthur and Rochelle Belfer National Conference sponsored by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Gerda Weissmann Klein, a Holocaust survivor and former USHMM Council member, was the closing speaker at the conference. Museum educators and scholars shared strategies, and approaches for teaching about the Holocaust. Sessions were designed for middle and high school teachers as well as community college faculty. Participants were given time to view the Museum's permanent collections and other special exhibitions. Schmidt and Gwinn commented, that the information gained through their experience at Belfer will greatly benefit their instruction and students in the future.



Christiane Schmidt, Emily Gwinn and Museum Educator Christina C. Chavarria pictured at the Belfer Conference.



**Avery Trace Middle School  
Cookeville, TN**

Sonja DuBois - 5/2011  
A large group of around 300 8th graders were reached by the compelling account of Sonja DuBois, who survived the Holocaust as a hidden child.

**Hampton Elementary  
Carter County, TN**

Sonja DuBois - 5/2011  
Sonja DuBois, who survived as a hidden child, spoke to 8th graders in Carter County. The students had been exposed to several pieces of literature from the Holocaust and World War II.



**Military Entrance Processing  
Station  
Knoxville, TN**

Art Pais - 5/2011  
As part of Holocaust Remembrance Week Art Pais spoke to a small group of military personnel and members of the community.

**Valley View Middle School  
Jonesboro, AK**

Jack & Sarah Beth Cohen - 5/4/11  
Jack and Sarah Beth Cohen spoke with Middle School students at Valley View Middle School. Jack shared his



survival experience in Greece during this time period. The THC wishes to thank the Middle School and the local community for their generous donation of \$400 to help continue funding THC outreach projects.

**Frank R. Strang  
Senior Center  
Knoxville, TN**

Art Pais - 5/2011  
Art Pais was requested to speak to the 50 plus active seniors at the Strang Senior Center.

**Fort Campbell, KY**

Eric Rosenfeld - 5/6/11  
Eric Rosenfeld met with the "Eagle Medics" in Fort Campbell, Kentucky to mark Fort Campbell's Annual Day of Remembrance Ceremony.

**Sweetwater Jr. High School  
Sweetwater, TN**

Art Pais - 5/4/11  
The 8th grade students of Sweetwater had just finished reading and studying "Night" by Elie Wiesel when Art Pais came to speak to them to make a personal connection to the past.

**Ravenwood High School  
Brentwood, TN**

Jimmy Gentry - 5/11/11  
Jimmy Gentry addressed the entire 10th grade class. The students were studying World War II.



**Heritage High School  
Maryville, TN**

Art Pais - 5/12/11  
The 11th grade honors U.S. History class had a great opportunity to hear Art Pais share his story.

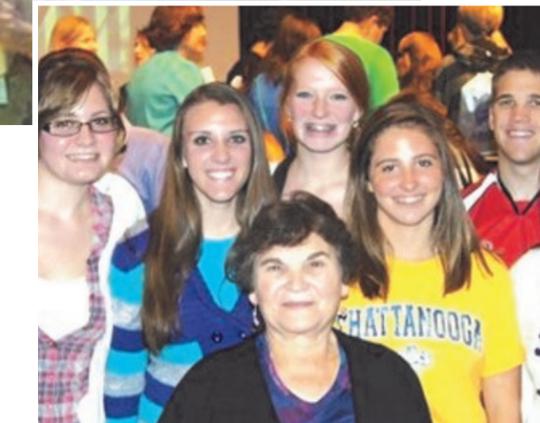
**East Hickman Middle School  
Lyles, TN**

Eric Rosenfeld - 5/13/11  
Eric Rosenfeld served as the first guest speaker ever to address the 8th grade students in rural Lyles, TN, telling his story of survival and hope.



**Soddy Daisy High School  
Soddy Daisy, TN**

Art Pais - 5/16/11  
Art Pais spoke to Soddy Daisy High School's gifted students about his experiences in Dachau Concentration Camp and the Kovno Ghetto. The television show "This and That" interviewed Art following his presentation.



**Cheatham Middle School  
Ashland City, TN**

Jimmy Gentry - 5/17/11  
Jimmy spoke to 7th grade students about growing up in Franklin, TN, the horrors of war, and the Holocaust.



**Blackman Middle School  
Murfreesboro, TN**

Jimmy Gentry - 5/18/11  
Jimmy spoke to 7th graders as part of an extensive unit on genocide, with a focus on the events of the Holocaust.

**West End Middle School  
Nashville, TN**

Jimmy Gentry & Sarah Beth Cohen - 5/26/11  
Jimmy and Sarah Beth shared two perspectives on the Holocaust as a crisis in world history with middle school students at West End Middle School.



**Madison Middle School  
Mt. Juliet, TN**

Jimmy Gentry - 5/26/11  
Ms. Whitehurst's 5th grade class learned first hand about the Holocaust through Jimmy Gentry's account as a foot soldier in World War II. The class has been engaged in a year long study of this period in history and was honored to have Mr. Gentry visit.



**Upperman High School  
Baxter, TN**

Art Pais - 3/21/11  
Art Pais told his story of survival to students at Upperman High School and throughout Baxter, TN utilizing the virtual classroom that is set up at Upperman.

**Hampton High School  
Hampton, TN**

Fred Jarvis - 3/22/11  
Fred Jarvis, a survivor of the Holocaust who was just a young boy during World War II, spoke to the students in the North Eastern Tennessee High School.

**Congregation Micah  
Nashville, TN**

Frances Cutler-Hahn - 4/29/11  
Frances Cutler-Hahn shared her story of survival with members of Congregation Micah as part of their Yom Hashoah Commemoration.



*For information about having someone visit your school or organization please visit our website at [www.tnhol.com.org](http://www.tnhol.com.org) and search for Speakers Bureau.*