



## Tennessee State Day of Remembrance Ceremony



Survivors and family members attended the Annual Day of Remembrance Ceremony

Survivors, families, friends and supporters gathered together on April 2, 2012 to commemorate the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust as well as the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution. The ceremony was held in Legislative Plaza and began with welcoming remarks delivered by Governor Bill Haslam, and Senator

Andy Berke. Thoughtful reflections on the meaning of the day, coinciding with the national day of observance established by Congress in 1980, were made by Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey and Speaker of the House Beth Harwell. The observance, “L’Dor V’Dor – From Generation to Generation” included readings of poetry and thoughts by Ms. Laura Morris’s fifth grade students from Glenellen Elementary in Clarksville; Molly McKinney from the Cumberland County Playhouse Children’s Theater, Ms. Carrie Mills, who shared a song inspired by Anne Frank; Erin Rausch, an eighth grade student from Dyersburg Middle School; and Ryan Johnson, a student from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.



Jack Belz and Senator Andy Berke



Senator Beverly Marrero, Sally Wolkoff, Robert Mamlin, and Allen Exelbierd



Senator Thelma Harper, and Commissioner Leonid Saharovici



Robert Mamlin and Sam Weinreich embrace at the ceremony



April 2, 2012 Tennessee State Day of Remembrance Ceremony

# 2012 Belz-Lipman Winners



Pictured left to right- Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky, Tom Hopkins, Shari Scott, Trevor Fuller, Jack Belz, Leonid Saharovici, Josh Lipman

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 four educators were honored. Mr. Jack Belz and Mr. Josh Lipman presented awards to: Shari Scott, Tennessee School for the Blind, Clarksville, TN; Trevor Fuller, Soddy Daisy High School, Soddy Daisy, TN; Tom Hopkins, Hancock County High School, Sneedville, TN; Dave Barrett, Millington High School, Millington, TN



Mr. Jack Belz and Mr. Josh Lipman

## Commissioners Felicia Anchor and Tom Wood Attend White House Presidential Medal of Honor Ceremony

*Reflections on this special event by  
Commission Chair, Felicia Anchor:*



Felicia Anchor with Secretary Albritton

It was an honor and special privilege to be invited to the White House on May 29 to witness the presentation of the Presidential Medal of Honor to twelve distinguished individuals. The Presidential Medal of Honor is the highest civilian honor bestowed by the United States. Among the recipients were Bob Dylan; John Doar a distinguished civil rights advocate; Madeline Albright, the first female Secretary of State; Pat Summit, our own Tennessee most winning coach; Shimon Peres, the President of Israel and Jan Karski (posthumously), a witness to the atrocity of the Holocaust who came to America to alert the US Government of the systematic murder of Europe's Jewish Community.

The ceremony took place in the East Room of the White House. Congressmen Steve Cohen of Tennessee and John Lewis of Georgia attended along with a number of Cabinet Members. Each honoree was recognized and announced. Then the President of the United States, Barak Obama, entered to the music of "Hail to the Chief" and presided over a ceremony lauding the impressive accomplishments of each individual and presenting the medals. President Peres was unable to attend and received his medal at another time.

After the ceremony, a beautiful reception was held for the honorees. They were gracious, posing for photos and engaging in conversation with the guests. I had the opportunity to have wonderful conversations with Mr. Doar, Secretary Albright, Senator Glenn and Coach Summit. Professor Karski's recognition wafted through the White House. His legacy of advocacy on behalf of those victims unable to speak for themselves reminded us that true heroism is a selfless act.

As I left the reception, I walked through the Rose Garden chatting with Secretary Albright and her granddaughters. I asked the Secretary how it felt to be back at the White House. She said it was wonderful and brought the best of memories.... I agreed.



Statue of Jan Karski  
Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky  
with her certificate.

## Kahane-Kaminsky Selected to Attend Jan Karski Institute

Executive Director Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky attended the The Jan Karski Institute for Holocaust Education at Georgetown University. The program was geared to the specific curricular and pedagogical needs of educators. The course was held on the campus of Georgetown University and taught by Georgetown faculty and visiting experts in the field of Holocaust studies. It included lecturers from think tanks, government and non-governmental agencies, authors, independent scholars, and clergy combined with visits to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Library of Congress, State Department, Capitol Hill, embassies, and a synagogue. Nineteen participants were selected to attend from around the country and included teachers from public and private schools, museum educators, researchers, and Holocaust center directors.

# 2012 Belz-Lipman Winners



## Anne Frank Ballet Hosted By The THC at The Cumberland County Playhouse

In a collaborative effort to raise awareness across Tennessee about the Holocaust, the Tennessee Holocaust Commission, the Cumberland County Playhouse and the Nashville Ballet presented three performances of the ballet *Anne Frank* along with dramatic readings and dance by the Cumberland County Playhouse Children's Theater on Monday, May 7. Felicia Anchor, Frances Cutler-Hahn, Jimmy Gentry, and Art Pais spoke to audience members about their own personal experiences with the Holocaust and the "Living On" exhibit was displayed during all three performances. All proceeds earned will be used for the Holocaust Memories Film Archive Project to enable Tennessee Educators to attend an Annual Seminar at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

*"Combining a performance with the exhibit of survivor stories and a live discussion provides a comprehensive set of perspectives on this momentous part of history and helps students learn about it," Executive Director of The Tennessee Holocaust Commission Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky said. "And partnering with local organizations helps to make this piece of history more relevant and understandable."*

\*Pictured are Jimmy Gentry, Frances Cutler-Hahn, Art Pais, and members of the Nashville Ballet participating in a "talk-back" session at the Cumberland County Playhouse event



Dave Barrett



Shari Scott



Tom Hopkins



Trevor Fuller

To view a short film featuring each of the winners google:  
**Belz-Lipman Award 2012**

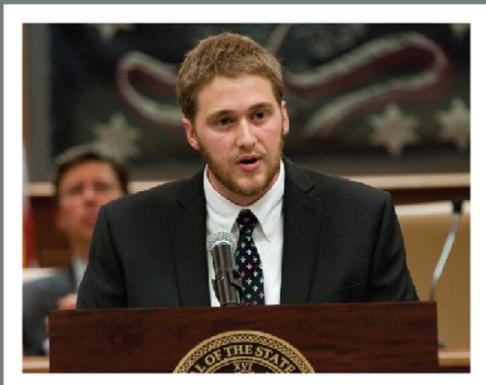




## Holocaust Memories Film Archive

*“After looking at and studying the **Living On** website I found myself amazed at the profound affect it had on me. The first thing that my eyes were drawn to were the pictures of the survivors, the wrinkles, the strong and proud facial expressions, the different hair styles. The pictures portrayed to me, more than any movie or book has, that this is not a myth or some story trying to bring across the dangers of hatred and judgment, this was real and the men and women who endured this were real too.”*

### An excerpt from Ryan Johnson's Essay.



With the recent passing of three prominent Tennessee Holocaust Survivors, the urgency to maintain the legacy of their eyewitness testimony along with all information stored in the Tennessee State Archives is essential. Therefore, the Tennessee Holocaust Commission, in partnership with Earnhardt Films, LLC, has been working to preserve filmed interviews of Tennesseans who were eyewitnesses to this dark period in history. The project consists of updating and editing footage from its current archive status to digital platforms and formats, where the footage will be easily accessible. It will be an educational resource that preserves, sustains, and teaches this important legacy through educational DVDs and online materials as well as accompanying curricular resources. Through the generosity of the Assisi Foundation, the Memorial Foundation, Cracker Barrel, Temple Beth El in Knoxville, TN, and individual donations, a promotional film and a short film sample have been developed as the first stage of the project. However, the THC continues to need your support to bring these films into the classroom and to the community. Commission staff is available to share this project with your organization. If you know of sponsorship opportunities, please contact Mrs. Kahane-Kaminsky.

To view the promotional video Google:  
Holocaust Memories Film Archive Project



# Remembering Those Lost

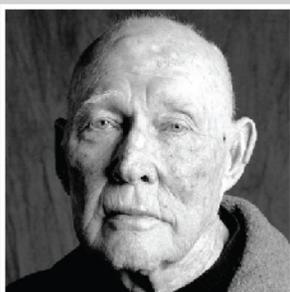


## Fred Jarvis

Fred was smuggled out of a French concentration camp in 1942 when he was seven years old. His earliest memory is of the Gestapo coming to his home in 1940 and telling him and his family to pack. Fred and his parents (his older brother had been on the last Kindertransport to England) and several hundred other Jews were shipped on cattle cars to Gurs, a French concentration camp near the Pyrenees. A year later, they were transferred to nearby Rivesaltes. With the help of a cousin, they escaped, driving toward Switzerland to find the border closed. As deportations to Auschwitz began, the OSE (Society for the Rescue of Jewish Children) surreptitiously collected the small children. Fred was given a new identity and taken to a farm. Madame Burra was very good to me, Fred recalls, She took me in as her supposed nephew at the risk of her own life. In school, he had to speak French. We had to learn very rapidly, without making the slightest mistake. Mistakes were fatal, he says. At war's end, his brother Joseph located him through the Red Cross and found that their parents had perished at Auschwitz. An aunt in New York City sponsored Fred's immigration to America. Fred felt it was important to tell his story so that the Jews who lost their lives did not die in vain.

## Jack Fried

Five-year-old Jack worked twelve hours a day in the Chorostkow Ghetto in Poland with his mother and sister to provide food for inmates and German guards. He knew that "taking food was punishable by death." Jack's father was a prominent businessman prior to the German occupation and was forced to dig graves and pave roads. Jack recalled, "It was very hard work and many did not survive it." He spoke to many Tennesseans about his experiences during the Holocaust. Jack believed that it was important to remind people that prejudice, hatred, and violence, as manifested in the Holocaust and other genocides, leads to the destruction of a humane society.



## Harry Snodgrass

As Harry Snodgrass toured the Buchenwald concentration camp with a Lithuanian inmate he recalled, "It was in the commander's office. There were lampshades made from the skin of Jews. In the crematorium they used the ashes of the inmates to fertilize the fields—the ashes of dead people. After an hour, it just became too much. I was stunned...just stunned. We don't even treat dogs like this." Harry's unit retreated and moved on to Berlin as ordered. For Harry, the hour at Buchenwald became six decades of nightmares. He had enlisted in the army at age twenty, and although he knew of the hate the Germans had for the Jews, he was shocked at the atrocities. Harry Snodgrass dedicated his time to speaking to schools and gatherings about what he saw as a liberator. He stressed the danger of racial and religious divisiveness. "I tell them what I have known all my life...for evil to exist it just takes good people to do nothing."

# Belz-Lipman Reunion

A Reunion for Belz-Lipman Educators was held on April 2nd and 3rd to honor the 69 recipients of the Belz-Lipman Award since it's inception in 1995. The reunion events began with the TN State Day of Remembrance ceremony, held this year at Legislative Plaza. Following the ceremony, the Tennessee Holocaust Commission hosted a dinner at the Student Life

Center on the Vanderbilt campus featuring Matthew Rozell, who spoke about the *Teaching History Matters Project*. Commission Chair Felicia Anchor was honored for her twenty-seven years of service to the Commission. The event culminated with a tour of the *PaperClips Project* in Whitwell, TN.



Chair Felicia Anchor and Teaching Fellow Christiane Schmidt



THC Teaching Fellows, Lyn Newman, Julie Mitchell, Monnie DeBerry, and Duanne Eliff, singing a song in honor of Chair Felicia Anchor



Keynote Speaker, Matthew Rozell, addressing Belz-Lipman Educators



Reunion participants visiting the Paperclips Project in Whitwell, TN

## USHMM Summer Seminar for Tennessee Educators



2012 USHMM Seminar Participants standing outside the museum

Fifteen teachers from around the state accompanied Executive Director Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum from June 4th to the 7th. The generous support of the Niswonger Foundation and an anonymous donor allowed us to take teachers from all regions of the state to this seminar experience. The itinerary included two days of professional development

for teachers provided by museum educators, early entry into the museum to view the permanent collection and a tour of the exhibit *State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda*. 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 a lesson plan, activity, or student project that can be shared with other teachers. These instructional materials will be available for future professional development from the Commission.

# Educational Outreach Programs held in Nashville, Memphis, Knoxville, Chattanooga

The Commission hosted a series of four conferences this year. The series titled, *The Power of Responsibility in the Holocaust and the Age of Genocide*, highlighted the *Teaching History Matters Project*, the work of Matthew Rozell, a United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Teaching Fellow. Mr. Rozell, along with his students, began studying information about a "Death Train" that was liberated at Farsleben, Germany near Magdeburg. The class posted an online journal in an attempt to reconnect this train transport of 2,500 Holocaust survivors with the American soldiers who liberated them on April 13, 1945. To date over 200 survivors and liberators from this train have been located and reunited because of this class project. Our local survivors and liberators helped to tell the story through a panel discussion at the end of each conference. 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.



Claire Kahane, Allen Exelbierd, Monnie DeBerry, Paula Kelman, and Duanne Eliff at the Memphis Conference



Students at the Nashville Conference work to rank and determine responsibility for the Holocaust



Keynote Speaker, Frank Towers, pictured with students at the Memphis Conference



Teachers work together to connect historical photographs related to Elie Wiesel's memoir Night



Students participating in a reflective writing exercise at the Memphis Conference



Nashville panelists Eric Rosenfeld, Jimmy Gentry, Frances Cutler-Hahn, and Art Pais



Jack Cohen, Billy Rosenberg, Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky, Leonid Saharovici, Clark Blatteis, and Allen Exelbierd at the Memphis Conference

# 2011-2012 Speaking Engagements

Our speakers this year were:

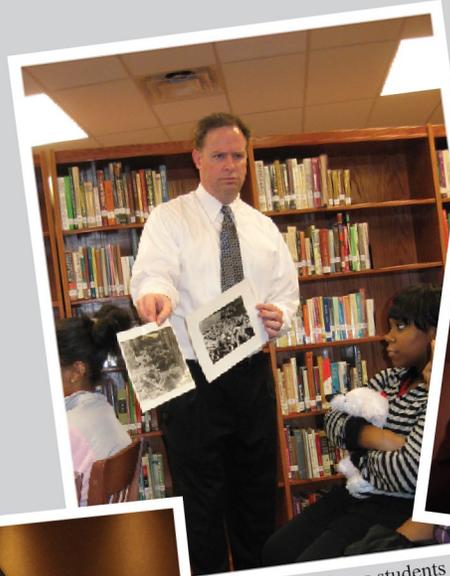
- Felicia Anchor
- Clark Blatteis
- Christina E. Chavarría
- Jack Cohen
- Sarah Beth Cohen
- James F. Dorris
- Trudy Naumann Dreyer
- Sonja Dubois
- Robert Eisenstein
- Allen Exelbierd
- Paul Fleming
- Henry Fribourg
- Jimmy Gentry
- Frances Cutler-Hahn
- George Hahn
- Robert Heller
- Claire Kahane
- Paula Kelman
- Susan Knowles
- Robert Mamlin
- Arthur Pais
- Eric Rosenfeld
- Matthew Rozell
- Leonid Saharovici
- Naomi Limor Sedek
- George Somjen
- Micha Tomkiewicz
- Frank Towers
- Sam Weinreich



Merrol Hyde Magnet School students listen to Jimmy Gentry



LEAD Academy students listen to George Hahn



Dave Barrett shows students at Millington High School pictures from speaker Leonid Saharovici



Clark Blatteis presenting at the Memphis Conference



Teaching Fellow, Jill Coble and friend at the Tennessee Reading Association Conference



Robert Eisenstein addresses the audience at TriStar bank in Dickson, TN



Eric and Eva Rosenfeld at a workshop for Rutherford County teachers

# 2011-2012 Speaking Engagements



Robert Mamlin and Robert Eisenstein at TriStar bank in Dickson, TN



Sonja DuBois at the Knoxville Walk for Remembrance



Jack Cohen with students in Russellville, Kentucky



Henry Fribourg and students at the Chattanooga Conference



Leonid Saharovici with Millington High School students and teacher, Dave Barrett, and Principal, Mark Neal

## July

Robertson County School District  
Covenant Presbyterian Church  
August  
Memphis City Schools Practitioners Summit  
Teaching Fellows Retreat at Scarritt-Bennett Center  
Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church

## September

Big Picture School  
Temple Micah Nashville Warsaw Ghetto Building Blocks Program  
MLK Magnet School  
Clinton Women's Club  
October  
MTSU Holocaust Conference  
Cane Ridge High School

## November

Belmont United Methodist Church  
Soddy Daisy High School Sunflower Symposium  
Anne Frank Ballet at the Nashville Gordon JCC for NCJW

## December

Heritage High School  
Tennessee Reading Association  
Glasgow County Kentucky Schools  
Cleveland State Community College  
Zion Christian Academy  
Spring Station Middle School  
Clarksburg High School

## January

Nashville School for the Arts  
Cedar Bluff Middle School  
Madison Campus Elementary School  
Brentwood High School

## February

Glenellen Elementary School  
South Doyle Middle School  
Oliver Middle School  
LEAD Academy  
Federated Women's Club  
Millington High School  
West High School  
First Baptist Church  
Ossoly Group

## March

Harris Middle School  
DeKalb Middle School  
Daughters of the American Revolution  
Crockett County Middle School  
Tuckers Crossroads School  
Nashville School for the Arts  
Tennessee School for the Blind  
Sevierville High School  
Knoxville Catholic High School  
Dutch Valley Elementary School  
Farragut Library  
Upperman High School  
Heska Amuna Synagogue  
Rocky Hill Baptist Church

## April

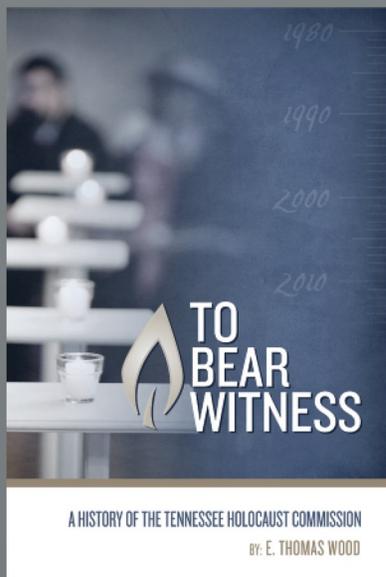
Nashville School for the Arts  
J.T. Moore Middle School  
Middle Tennessee Geographic Alliance  
Rutherford County Boys and Girls Club  
Rolling Hills Community Church  
Tri Star Bank  
Martin Methodist College  
Dyersburg State Community College  
Trust Corporation  
Temple Micah  
Fort Campbell  
Fort Knox, Kentucky  
Merrol Hyde Magnet School  
Knoxville March for Remembrance Event  
Central High School  
West View Middle School  
Walker Valley High School

## May

Saint Bernard Academy  
Lenoir City Middle School  
Sweetwater Junior High School  
Russellville  
Antioch Middle School  
Kingsbury High School  
Brentwood Academy  
Sunset Middle School  
Ravenwood High School  
Hunter Middle School  
Powell Elementary School  
U.S. Army Processing Center  
Heritage High School  
Rocky Hill Elementary School

# Commission History Published

The Commission is proud to announce the publication of *To Bear Witness: A History of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission*. A year ago, Mr. Thomas Wood, a local historian and author in Nashville, began the process of researching and writing a history of the Commission. Through the generous support of Commissioner Jack Belz, a record of our history as one of the oldest and most innovative Commissions in the United States has been published. The Commissioners believe this will serve as a valuable tool for explaining our mission and vision.



Keynote Speaker Micha Tomkiewicz speaks with students at the Knoxville Conference



Art Pais and Trudy Dreyer at the Knoxville Conference



Sonja DuBois and Meghan Bohannon with a student at the Chattanooga Conference



Sam Weinreich speaks to Millington High School Students



Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky and Rutherford County teachers



Jack Cohen and Clark Blatteis at the Memphis Conference



Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky speaking with a local news reporter in Chattanooga



Micha Tomkiewicz addresses the audience at the Knoxville Conference



Christina Chavarria pictured with Leonid Saharovic and Allen Exelbierd



Student "talk-back" session at the Chattanooga Conference



Jimmy Gentry speaks with students at Harris Middle School



Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky, Robert Eisenstein, Robert Mamlin, and Ted Williams at TriStar Bank in Dickson, TN



Jack and Sarah Beth Cohen speak with students at Dyersburg State Community College



Sam Weinreich with Millington High School Teachers

# Poetry and Reflections From Glenellen Students

Laura Morris's 5th grade class used the THC *Living On* web site to study the stories of Holocaust Survivors from Tennessee. As part of their project the students created a book of poems dedicated to the survivors, refugees, hidden children, and liberators featured online. The students were invited to read their poetry at the TN State Day of Remembrance ceremony. To hear the students reading their poems google: **Glenellen Holocaust Poems**



Taryn Closen  
From Laura Morris's 5th grade class

## Upcoming Events:

- MTSU Professional Development Program for Teachers- September 20, 2012
- Educational Outreach Program Conference in Middle TN/Nashville– October 30, 2012
- Educational Outreach Program Conference in West TN/Memphis- October 31, 2012
- MTSU Professional Development Program for Teachers- January 17, 2013
- Educational Outreach Program Conference in East TN-Spring 2013

### Tennessee Holocaust Commission

Bill Haslam, Governor  
Felicia Anchor, Commission Chair  
Gus Kuhn, Commission Treasurer  
Kevin Huffman, Commissioner of Education  
Lior Klirs, Department of Education  
Jack Belz, Memphis  
Senator Andy Berke, Chattanooga  
Leonard Chill, Chattanooga  
Kay Clark, Tennessee Boards of Regents  
Gene Davenport, Jackson  
Annette Eskin, Nashville  
L. Allen Exelbierd, Memphis  
Jan Groveman, Memphis  
Aileen Katcher, Nashville  
Lawrence Leibowitz, Knoxville  
Leonid Saharovici, Memphis  
Rabbi Mark Schifftan, Nashville  
Gilya Schmidt, Knoxville  
Ronnie Steine, Nashville  
E. Thomas Wood, Nashville  
Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky, Executive Director  
Ariana Ramos, Administrative Assistant

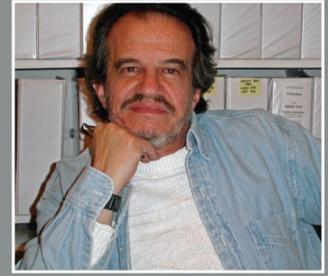


Governor Bill Haslam addresses the audience at the Tennessee State Day of Remembrance Ceremony



2012 Commission Photograph

## Featured Speaker Pierre Sauvage To Speak at Nashville Conference



*Pierre Sauvage, a child survivor of the Holocaust, and an Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker will serve as the keynote speaker along with Nelly Trocmé at the Middle TN Educational Outreach Program scheduled for October 30th.*



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