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**HOLOCAUST
MUSEUM &
LEARNING CENTER**

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**A DEPARTMENT OF THE JEWISH
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ST. LOUIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM & LEARNING CENTER

IN THE NEWS

SPRING/SUMMER 2019



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Upcoming Events

HMLC FILM SERIES

Conspiracy

Sunday, July 28, 2019
1 pm

The Juggler

Sunday, August 24, 2019
1 pm

No Film in September due to the Jewish Holidays

Stefan Zweig-Farewell to Europe

Sunday, October 27, 2019
1 pm

Forbidden Films

Sunday, November 24, 2019
1 pm

Learn more at HMLC.org.



From Our Chair Fran Poger

Charlottesville. Christchurch. Poway. Charleston. Sri Lanka. Pittsburgh.

Headlines about these horrific crimes and too many others are stark reminders that hate didn't end with the Holocaust.

Whether the killing takes place at a white nationalist rally, a mosque, an African-American church, or a synagogue, it seems that crimes targeting specific groups are on the rise.

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reports that the number of attacks against Jews and Jewish institutions across the country in 2018 was the third highest on record since ADL began tracking such data in the early 1970s. The FBI recorded a 17 percent increase in hate crimes in 2017, the last year for which numbers are available. And the agency noted that nearly 60 percent of all hate crimes were anti-Semitic in nature.

That kind of news can make us feel inadequate. Does what we do make a difference? I believe that it does, because our mission is sadly more relevant than ever. It is time to do more.

We have increased the number of Museum-hosted public events that enable more people to engage with authors, listen to concerts, and to learn and grow together.

Because a growing list of schools and other organizations turn to us for education and understanding, docent-led tours numbered 737 in the last year.

Most importantly, our guests confirm that we are making a difference. Here are comments from students after a tour:

"My visit changed me."

"When I hear people say the Holocaust didn't happen, I can now tell them that I heard a survivor tell her truth."

"I will definitely spread the knowledge."

Now in our 25th year, we are definitely proud of what our Holocaust Museum accomplished:

- We attract teachers and students from across the Midwest.
- We bring in visitors from a surprising number of countries.
- We educate and empower people to stand up, speak out, and actively work against discrimination, hatred, and bigotry.

If you have engaged with us as a donor, volunteer, or visitor, please do more, such as touring the Museum, spreading the word, and giving again. If you have not gotten involved, we invite you to join us.

In the words of Anne Frank, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

Fran Poger
Chair, Holocaust Museum & Learning Center

Holocaust Education and Awareness Commission Holds Commemoration at the Governor's Mansion

Approximately 70 people attended a commemoration for victims of the Holocaust at the Governor's Mansion on April 10 in Jefferson City. Sonia Warshawski (star of *Big Sonia*) gave her testimony describing how as a child she watched her mother walk into the gas chambers at Auschwitz and it was the last time she ever saw her. Sonia's testimony clearly moved the crowd as heads were shaking and tissues were used to dab away tears.

A proclamation signed by Governor Mike Parson was presented to the Chair of the Commission Jean Cavender, declaring the importance of Holocaust Remembrance Education and encouraging all Missourians to educate themselves and others about the Holocaust and work to eliminate anti-Semitism in the State of Missouri.



Sonia Warshawski



Jean Cavender and Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe

HMLC Launches Vida 'Sister' Prince's Oral Histories Project

The Oral Histories Project was conceived in November of 1979 and actually began in 1980. A cadre of volunteers worked on the project, including community members Carl Lyss, David Eidelman, Marge Bilinsky, Lois Gould, Rabbi Robert Jacobs, Richard Kalfus, Vida "Sister" Prince, Jean Shaeffer, Moisey Shopper, and Lorraine Meyer.

Their goal was to study and define what the project was to be, and to understand what this project may mean to each individual survivor, the volunteers, and the educators. The group slowly and carefully began to interview each survivor and their testimonies were recorded on audio cassette tapes, which was the technology in use at the time.

While a number of volunteers began this project, Sister emerged as its leader and continued the work for 40 years. And she continues that work today. In her own words, "Our purpose is to never let those stories die. They establish a record testifying that there was Holocaust and that this tragedy can never be denied nor forgotten. The words of these survivors must be preserved."

On March 24, the HMLC officially launched its Oral Histories Website through the generosity of Sister. The site includes the audio recordings, transcripts, photos, and an interactive map of their journey from Europe to St. Louis.

Now anyone can use this precious resource for research or for those who are just interested in hearing the testimony of Holocaust survivors who immigrated to the St. Louis community. The site allows visitors to search the oral histories by name, nationality, location, or experience. To access this website, go to HMLC.org/Oral-Histories.



Letter from Nicole

Dear Mrs. Miller,

Thanks so much for coming to Helias Catholic to speak and tell your story! It was attention-grabbing and unique. Afterwards, some of my classmates were saying things like that was the longest I have ever gone without talking. It was definitely a story worth telling. Out of everything, though, what shocked me the most is that you personally have met people (7th graders, in fact) that whole heartedly did not believe in the Holocaust. The thought that there are already children growing up thinking that did not happen is chilling. If I ever meet someone like that, I'll remember your story and try to change their mind. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

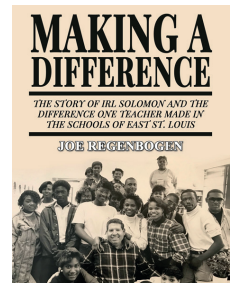
Nicole Landwehr



Irl Solomon Lauded for 1,000th Tour and New Biography

HMLC docent celebrated two milestones/honors on May 19: Irl Solomon recently recorded his 1,000th tour at the Holocaust Museum, where he has been a volunteer for 17 years. In addition, Irl's long career as an educator in East St. Louis was described in the recently published book, *Making a Difference: The Story of Irl Solomon and the Difference One Teacher Made In The Schools of East St. Louis*, by author Joe Regenbogen.

The capacity crowd was moved when Irl introduced several of his students, who acknowledged Irl's influence in their successful post-school careers. Irl also introduced fellow educators from his years in East St. Louis. Irl was honored for "making a difference" – as an educator and as a docent teaching the history and lessons of the Holocaust.



Gale Lecture Examines Polish 'History Laws'



Ellen Gale, John Grabowski, and Dr. Arthur Gale

The Annual Gale Family Lecture was held on March 10. This year's program focused on The History of the Holocaust in Poland & the Polish 'History Laws,' presented by Jan Grabowski, Professor of History at the University of Ottawa. Dr. Grabowski discussed the complicity of the Polish "blue" policemen in the persecution and murder of Polish Jewry and the current Polish government's attempts to stifle discussions of Polish responsibility and collaboration during the Holocaust. This lecture is sponsored every year by Dr. Arthur Gale and family in loving memory of Marilyn Gale.

'Thriller' Tells Mendel Rosenberg's Incredible Journey

Mendel Rosenberg had always wanted to write his memoir but he just needed a little help. Enter Jerry Schlichter, who was introduced to Mendel at a casual lunch by then HMLC Chair Myrna Meyer. Mendel remembers saying, "who would want to hear my story?" and Jerry said "everyone."

The rest is history. Jerry graciously hired journalist Dick Weiss to help Mendel write his story and publish it this year. The memoir entitled *Thriller: My Journey Through Holocaust Nightmare to American Dream* was debuted on Sunday, March 31, at the Holocaust Museum & Learning Center.

Mendel was born in Königsberg, Germany, in 1928 and grew up in Siauliai, Lithuania. In 1941, Mendel's father was murdered as part of a mass killing of the prominent Jewish men of the town. Separated from his mother, Mendel and his brother were in camps in Stutthof and Dachau, both in Germany. His brother was murdered by a kapo in Dachau.

Mendel was liberated and reunited with his mother. After coming to America, Mendel served in the U.S. Army in Korea, 1951 to 1952. Mendel did not speak about his experiences for 35 years. He now speaks at the Holocaust Museum, around St. Louis, and all over the country.

Mendel and Dick had a conversation about how the book came to be in front of approximately 250 people, including his family members.



Dick Weiss, Mendel Rosenberg, and Jerry Schlichter



Ed Asner Brings *Soap Myth* to Temple Israel to Kick Off Holocaust Remembrance Week

The Soap Myth was performed at Temple Israel, in their sanctuary, on Thursday, May 2. This powerful concert reading challenges the idea of who has the right to write history – those people who have lived it and remembered like Holocaust survivor Milton Saltzman, played by legendary actor Ed Asner, or Holocaust scholars, played by Ned Eisenberg and Dee Pelletier.

The reading was a very powerful kick-off to Holocaust education week that was co-sponsored by Temple Israel and HMLC. The week included a showing of the documentary *Big Sonia*, starring Holocaust survivor Sonia Warshawski of Kansas City, at Temple Israel, HMLC's Yom HaShoah Commemoration at Shaare Emeth, and a private event for HMLC and TI's major donors.



Ed Asner flanked by actors Liba Vaynberg and Ned Eisenberg

Shaare Emeth Hosts Yom HaShoah Commemoration

Yom HaShoah, the annual community-wide Holocaust commemoration coordinated by the HMLC, was on Sunday, May 5, at Shaare Emeth Congregation. The program, entitled Why We Speak: To Listen to a Witness is to Become a Witness, featured testimony from survivors Rachel Miller and Mendel Rosenberg, as well as author and filmmaker Lou Baczewski, relating his grandfather's experiences as a liberator of several camps.



Leslie Wolf and Kent Hirschfelder

Yom HaShoah, Chaired by Michelle Drabin, also featured a Holocaust Torah procession, a candle-lighting ceremony, liturgical readings, memorial prayers, and music featuring Samantha Seigel and Elegant Ensembles.

Special thanks to the family of Leo and Sarah Wolf for their ongoing support of this program and to Gloria Feldman for sponsoring a reception for survivors and their families following the commemoration.



George and Pat Spooner



Sigfried and Carol Adler

Exhibit, Performances Highlight Unique Story of Gregor's Violin

Gregor's Violin, a concert with narration, was presented at the HMLC on February 17 and March 17, in conjunction with an exhibition that shared the same title. On exhibit was the violin carried by Gregor Braitberg throughout Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union during World War II.

On more than one occasion, Gregor's violin and musical ability literally saved his life.

This same violin was played by Gregor's granddaughter Tova, who performed musical selections with her father, Mischa Braitberg. Both are noted musicians. The

performances and exhibition, curated by Diane Everman and Dan Reich, provided a unique look at one man's survival, largely due to the power of music.



Two Dozen Students Honored for Holocaust Art & Writing

Twenty-four middle and high school students from around the country were presented with awards for their submissions to the HMLC's 17th annual Art & Writing Contest on Monday, May 13. The judges made difficult decisions, reading and reviewing the hundreds of essays, poems, creative writing, drawings, paintings, collages, and DVDs.



First Place winner Lauren Bickel with her proud parents

Contest Chair Rachel Katzman noted, "This contest gives students the opportunity to respond creatively to what they have seen in the Museum or studied in the classroom." This important outreach program is dedicated to the memory of the 1.5 million children who perished in the Holocaust, and in honor of the grandchildren of Dr. Ira (of blessed memory) and Judith Gall.

What Our Visitors are Saying....

"Before we left the Museum, I made a mental note to never forget my experience at the Museum; to one day tell my children the things I learned and to bring them here. You made me realize that it is always important to have respect for others. Before our visit, I would listen to stereotypes, laugh at mean and cruel jokes that were not so funny, and that did not build people up. You helped me understand that those things lead to hatred, which in turn leads to a downward spiral of cruelty. Thank you for taking the time out of your day and life to teach and show me those things. I will try and never forget."

-Note to HMLC docent Devy Goldenberg from a student from the Pattonville School District

Jewish Motorcyclist Alliance Comes to St. Louis

A couple of years ago, I received a call from Steve Aroesty asking us to help submit a proposal to the Jewish Motorcyclist Alliance (JMA) to vie for their upcoming annual conference to be held in St. Louis. I certainly knew Steve but I had never heard of JMA. I googled the name and was surprised to find that the JMA is an international organization made up of Jewish riders who come together to enjoy each other's company and to raise money for the local Holocaust Museums.

More than 160 people came to St. Louis from across the United States, Canada, Israel, and Australia.

Pledges are made through their Ride 2 Remember event which took place on Friday, May 17. Riders ask family and friends to pledge so much money per mile and then whatever is raised is given to the local museum.

The proceeds from this year's ride will go to our Law Enforcement and Society Program, a collaboration between HMLC and ADL Heartland. The program is designed to help law enforcement officials to better understand individual and group bias through the history and lessons of the Holocaust.

HMLC hosted a lunch for 150 riders and Holocaust survivors Mendel Rosenberg, Rachel Miller, Gloria Feldman, and Sig Adler joined them. Mendel and Rachel answered questions about their Holocaust experiences and the crowd gave them a standing ovation at the conclusion of their remarks.

The whole event was out of the ordinary, fun, and a great way to raise money for Holocaust education.

Thanks to JMA for coming to our community. What a day!

-Jean Cavender



THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR TRIBUTES

TRIBUTES

**October 26, 2018 to
May 31, 2019**

IN MEMORY OF:

Allyn Aach

Jerry & Joan
Kaskowitz

Allyn Jay Aach

Ellen Nettles

The countless members of Doris Abrams' family that perished in the Shoah

Doris Abrams

Ilse Altman

Stephen & Darien
Arnstein
Rosalie & Jerome
Brasch
Rosemary Cooper
Anne Delautre
Kay Diamant
Joyce Eisenberg
Gloria Feldman
Lenny & Julie
Frankel
Betsy Rubenstein
& Randy Garland
Alan & Jacqueline
Gerson
Dorette & Ed
Goldberg
Oscar Goldberg
Devy Goldenberg
Rabbi Howard &
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Harvey Greenstein
& Esther Lyss-
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Oberman

Fran Poger

Marsha Poster

Vida Prince

Doug & Judy

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Janice & David

Rifkin

Barry Rosenberg

Marci Rosenberg

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Spitzer

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Swillinger

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Pat Theivagt

Charles Tzinberg

Paul Walkinshaw

Joshua Wallach

Janet, Fran, &

Marc Weinberg

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Weintraub

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Witte

Judy Zafft

Stuart & Betsy

Zimbalist

Jacob Barenholtz

William

Barenholtz

Marilyn & Buddy

Cooper

Jane Kahn

Ann Lenga

Richard Baron

Fran Poger

Irene Belksy

Vivan & Alan

Zarkowsky

Melvin Bloom

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Judy Allen

Buddy & Marilyn

Cooper

Jay Cohn

Jerry & Joan

Kaskowitz

Jain Cohen

Susan Boxerman

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Hero

Charlotte

Rosenblum

Richard Drazner

Melanie & Tom

Litz

Sidney Early

Buddy & Marilyn

Cooper

Stanley Erman

Warren & Sharon

Danziger

Richard Edwards

Fran Poger

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placed in the Holocaust Museum
Kopolow Memorial Garden.**

- Inscribe the name of a loved one
- Honor special lifetime events
- Memorialize family members

Please contact Jean Cavender at
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Gloria Feldman's Birthday

Joyce Eisenberg

Dr. Lewis Fischbein

Janet King

Roslyn Glaser

Eugene & Dale Corn

Naomi Green

Deanna Witt

The Bar Mitzvah of Max Gross

Marilyn Warren

95th Birthday of Sidney Guller

Judge Arthur & Adele Litz

Sidney Guller

Lenore Pepper

Bat Mitzvah of Audrey Hoffman

Betsy & Spencer Garland

Oksar Jakob Speaking at Maryville University Hillel

Maryville University

Jewish Motorcyclists Alliance

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Irl Solomon's 1000th Tour & Book Launch

Barb Hoffman

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Bud Rosenbaum

Beverly Stuhlman's Bat Mitzvah

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Shirley Weiss' Grandson's Bar Mitzvah

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Julie Williams for Being an "Unsung Hero"

Devy Goldenberg

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Ronald Maniscalco

Harriett Shapiro

Bud Rosenbaum

Evelyn Meyer

Sharon Henry

Linda Woolf speaking to the St. Louis Holocaust Survivors & Descendants Group

St. Louis Holocaust Survivors & Descendants Group

Bat Mitzvah of Sadie Isabel Rosenberg, daughter of Rabbi Brigitte and Lee Rosenberg

Ruth & Don Solomon

Fran Poger serving as Chairman of the HMLC

Irv & Ileana Fagin

Sister Vida Prince

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Robin Rickerman receiving JPro Recognition

Marilyn Warren

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A special thank you to Marci Rosenberg and Dan Reich for their help in making the 2019 Yom Hashoah a great success

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Carol Staenberg and Gloria Feldman for their Leadership, Vision, and Support

Brian Pultman

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Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Zucke's Marriage

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Call for Artifacts and Memorabilia

Survivors, veterans, and descendants: Please consider donating memorabilia relating to the Holocaust or pre-WWII life, documents, immigration papers, or artifacts brought back from the war. Those crumbling papers and military souvenirs, so important to a parent or grandparent, would be a welcome addition to the HMLC's archival collection. Documents and artifacts would be respectfully preserved.

Some limitations based on size and volume. Contact Dan Reich at 314-442-3714 or DReich@JFedSTL.org for further information.

