

Central Valley Holocaust Educators' Network

NEWSLETTER

CVHEN HOLOCAUST LIBRARY AND RESOURCE CENTER HOURS:

SUNDAY: 9:00 - 1:00
WEDNESDAY: 1:00 - 6:00
THURSDAY: 10:00 - 1:00

Or by appointment,
email liz@cvhen.com



Spring 2017

About the 2nd Generation

Under Maria Winkler's leadership, membership in the 2nd Gen group continues to grow. Children of survivors find the monthly meetings socially, personally, and culturally enriching. Friendships have been developed in the welcoming atmosphere of the meetings, where each month a different member can take the first steps in telling their parents' stories in a supportive environment. Some members also meet with Diane Weber, a certified clinical social worker, in a small breakout group prior to the general meeting, to address any emotional issues before they are able to share their stories with the whole group. Personal stories of survival can open doors to lesser-known aspects of the Holocaust, or spark an interest in further research to complete their story.

Monthly meetings include a social period, speakers, special presentations, and lively discussion. They are held at the CVHEN library, where books and films are easily available to meet the need for additional resources. Encouraged by the group, and their improved ability to contextualize their parents' stories, 2nd Gens are ready to become Holocaust speakers, to answer the growing demand for connecting personal stories to Holocaust History and current events. To date, CVHEN speakers have told their personal stories as far north as Chico, as far south as Stockton, westward to Davis and Vacaville, and eastward to Auburn. Their audiences range from several hundred people, to as few as twenty. They might be military personnel, church groups, or most importantly, teachers and students from Advanced Placement History and English classes to 6th graders in a rural school.

CVHEN Holocaust Library and Resource Center Welcomes Visitors, Students, Young and Old

From Liz Igra, President, CVHEN:

One day, I met one of the students who came to our library and we discussed how to approach her project. She was guided by her teacher, and our CVHEN Fellow, Jody Cooperman, to determine the scope of her project. She chose and borrowed reference books in order to write a paper that she will share with another student from a different school. Both wrote on the same topic. Such collaboration re-enforces what they learn and exposes them to a variety of perspectives that expand their knowledge and understanding. This approach not only offers an opportunity for deeper understanding of history, but improves methods of inquiry in general and impacts future behavior. Recently, I taught a small group of 5th and 6th graders who visited the library. Their knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust after only a few lessons is amazing. My goal after the next few lessons is to have them realize that there are more questions, more to learn.

CVHEN Holocaust Library collection offers access to a wide range of resources to students, teachers, descendants of victims of the Holocaust and the community. Experienced Holocaust educators and a detailed catalog assist patrons in their search across the many aspects of the complex history of the Holocaust.

The next meeting of the 2nd Gen group will be on Sunday, June 25, 2017, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the CVHEN library. For more information, contact Maria Winkler mpwinkler@yahoo.com.

CVHEN Events, Winter 2017



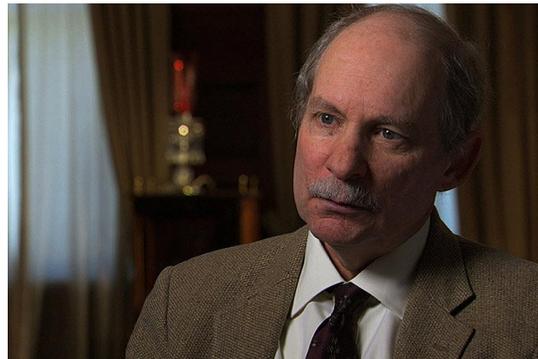
In January, Jennifer Craig-Norton, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Regional Education Corps Fellow and Outreach Educator, presented a teachers

workshop entitled *Testimony and Archive: Using Holocaust Resources Critically in the Classroom*. The workshop was attended by teachers from the Sacramento City Unified School District.

Later in January, Dr. Norton also gave a talk to the public at the KOH Library and Cultural Center about the more than 20,000 Jewish women refugees who went to the UK in 1933-1939 as domestics and nurses, and were saved from the Holocaust through servitude.

In March, the Central Valley Holocaust Educators Network and the Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation (JPEF) collaborated in presenting a program for teachers called *Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust*, to inspire students, and to transform stereotypes through the exploration of many forms of resistance.

The Central Valley Holocaust Educators' Network is a charitable tax-exempt organization pursuant to section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax-deductible.



Fred Rosenbaum

YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION

Sacramento's commemoration of Yom Hashoah, the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day held on April 23 at Congregation B'nai Israel, was enriched by a talk by Fred Rosenbaum about resistance during the Holocaust, both physical and spiritual. Mr. Rosenbaum, founding director of Lehrhaus Judaica, has written four books on Bay Area Jewish history and three books on the Jewish partisans during the Shoah. His book, co-authored with Mira Shelub, describes Mira's life as a partisan, "in the forest we did not only fight a physical battle, but also a spiritual battle. We were sitting around the fire, singing songs together, supporting each other and dreaming about....a better tomorrow." Mira's group engaged in sabotage against the Nazis...by disrupting communication and transportation to the war front.

The evening's moving commemoration began when area Holocaust survivors and their descendants entered the sanctuary carrying memorial candles.

The Communitywide Yom Hashoah Commemoration was sponsored by the JCRC with the support of the Sacramento Board of Rabbis and CVHEN. Refreshments were provided by Congregation Beth Shalom.

Time Capsule in a Milk Can



CVHEN was privileged to sponsor two performances of *Time Capsule in a Milk Can*: Emanuel Ringelblum and the Secret Archives of the Warsaw Ghetto, on Saturday and Sunday, March 25 and 26, 2017, at Congregation B'nai Israel here in Sacramento, California.

The one-man play describes a secret project undertaken by the historian Emanuel Ringelblum to chronicle life in the Warsaw Ghetto by collecting the writings of Ghetto inhabitants in milk cans and metal boxes and burying them underground. The play was written and compiled by Roberta Gasbarre in collaboration with Marc Spiegel, who also performed the role of Emanuel Ringelblum, and was originally produced by The Smithsonian Associates' Discovery Theater for the 10th anniversary of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2003.

Time Capsule in a Milk Can was appreciated by almost 300 people on Saturday evening, and by over 200 students and teachers on Sunday morning. Proceeds will benefit the community's annual Yom HaShoah programming and the Central Valley Holocaust Educators' Network (CVHEN).

A film about the archives of the secret Oneg Shabbat organization, called *Who Will Write Our History?* is in post-production and is expected to be released in Spring 2018.

AND NOW A WORD FROM A TEACHER.....

"This seminar was one of the most — if not the most — helpful, useful and enlightening seminars I've been to. All resources will be extremely useful in class with minimal modification. Also answered one question my students always have and I could not answer — Why the Jews? I appreciate the tact and care in presenting such a heavy topic."

— JOEL SHIN, HARRIET EDDY MIDDLE SCHOOL

NEED SOMEONE TO SPEAK TO YOUR GROUP?

The Jewish community gets many requests from various groups, including schools, to provide Holocaust survivors who can speak about their experiences. As the number of survivors dwindles, CVHEN has also established a speakers bureau of adult children of Holocaust survivors to give voice to their parents' personal experiences.

The **CVHEN 2nd Gen Speakers Bureau** works with adult children of Holocaust survivors to help them put their parents' experiences in historical context for students and civic groups, adjust their presentations for different audiences, and permanently organize their parents' stories, photographs, letters, testimony and documents.

For more information about past presentations, go to <http://www.cvhen.com>. To arrange for a speaker, contact Liz Igra at Liz@cvhen.com or (916) 335-7217.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE WEEK AT THE STATE CAPITOL



Liz and Susan await Holocaust Ceremony

Every year during Holocaust Remembrance Week the state Assembly holds a special ceremony to recognize a Holocaust survivor, liberator, or a child of a survivor from each of the Assembly districts in California. This year, California Assemblyman Kevin McCarty invited Liz Igra to attend the ceremony held at the state Capitol on April 24. 2nd Gen members, Susan Solarz and Muriel Brounstein, were also honored by their assemblymen.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Liz Igra

I recently had the opportunity to speak to a group of college students. Many of them are the first in their families to attend college. Here are some questions put forth by 14 students who are 19 or 20 years old. Most of them are from Sacramento; other areas include Stockton, Healdsburg, Woodland, and Arbuckle. We met at the end of a 6-week course on reading, rhetoric, and writing using *David and Goliath*, as the core text.

What was your side of the story during the Holocaust?

How did you feel when you found out that most of your family had been killed?

Did you think that you were going to die in the camps like your family?

What do you think led to so much hate?

What can we as individuals do to prevent a similar situation from happening again?

Why do you think people actually listened to Hitler?

Do you ever have flashbacks? Are you still affected today? How are you able to live day by day when the thought of the Holocaust continues to run through your mind?

Please speak about others like André Trocmé who protected the Jews and others? What prompted them to do so?

How did you react when some people stated that the Holocaust was just a conspiracy?

Have you forgiven the people who hurt you and the Jewish people? What about forgetting?

What gave you the strength to escape? What has kept you alive/motivated to keep going?

Reading these questions coming from young adults, the need for CVHEN's activities becomes abundantly clear. These questions will have to be answered now and in the future. Our organizational mission is to establish CVHEN as a lasting resource in California's Central Valley for teachers, students and other researchers. Our mission involves providing teacher workshops, training 2nd Generation speakers and maintaining a Holocaust speakers bureau, planning and participating in Holocaust Remembrance programs, responding to deniers, and mitigating ignorance of this history. In addition, we need to develop suitable access to resources through connections to other established organizations and/or educational institutions e.g. colleges, institutes, museums, associations and other organizations that are providing services for preserving and teaching Holocaust history.



Check out the CVHEN website – we think you'll like it! Log on to www.cvhen.com



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

Figure 1: Student research at the CVHEN Library and Resource Center

Figure 2: CVHEN Teacher's Workshop

Figure 3: Judy Persin, Teven Laxer, Taliah Berger and Liz Igra gather at 2nd Gen monthly meeting

Figure 4: Members of 2nd Gen Group meet at CVHEN Library in May

Figure 5: Teven Laxer and Liz Igra, all smiles, after presentation of major donation of proceeds from *Time Capsule in a Milkcan* for use by CVHEN and for Yom Hashoah commemoration.

Who we are

We envision a world in which diverse peoples live together in peace. We believe that effectively teaching children about tolerance and human rights, the Holocaust and other genocides will help them recognize the conditions under which genocides arise and how to make wise moral choices when they grow up. We work with teachers of elementary through high school grades throughout the Central Valley.

Our Mission

The Central Valley Holocaust Educators' Network is dedicated to supporting teachers in effectively implementing a Holocaust curriculum that meets California Social Studies and Language Arts Standards. With an understanding of the constraints that teachers face, we help them respond to a variety of challenges that this complex curriculum presents. We offer ongoing follow-up training and resources that build upon the foundation laid by acclaimed programs that offer Holocaust education seminars.



Liz Igra, President of the Central Valley Holocaust Educators' Network

