

Nathan & Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center

A program of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation

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Pictured right:
Pinat Hatikvah, A Corner of Hope – an outdoor space dedicated to life after the Holocaust, situated on the Milwaukee Jewish Federation's Karl Jewish Community Campus in Whitefish Bay.

Our Mission

The Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center (HERC) is dedicated to building a better world, embracing diversity, and confronting racism and hatred by teaching the lessons of the Holocaust.



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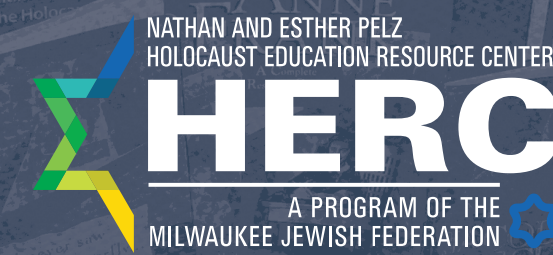
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We thank **Harry and Marilyn Pelz** for years of dedication to HERC and for their generous **Create a Jewish Legacy** gift, helping to secure the future of Holocaust education in Wisconsin.

For more information on Legacy giving to HERC, contact **Dr. Shay Pilnik** at ShayP@MilwaukeeJewish.org



The Nathan & Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center

WINTER 2017 NEWSLETTER

'Hate is a Terrible Thing': The Story of Albert Beder from Kovno

By Jeff Beder

As a member of the Speakers Bureau, my father, Albert Beder, has spoken to dozens of school groups. I have witnessed many of these talks and seen the faces of middle school students as they listened intently to his story of nightmare and survival. Over the years, dad has distilled his presentation to include sufficient detail without overwhelming the students. At the end of his talk, when he asks if there are any questions, someone always asks "what is your message from this experience?" He always responds, "Hate is a terrible thing." His message of tolerance and refusal to blame an entire group of people for the evil actions of some, leaves the students with hope for a better world.

Albert was born in Kovno, Lithuania, on June 13, 1928. From his descriptions, life in Kovno was simple and his family, which comprised his parents, and five siblings, were poor but happy. His father worked in a men's clothing store, and they lived in a one room apartment. Albert experienced anti-Semitism, including when he was enrolled in a Jewish School and reported of the occasional beatings if the local Maccabi soccer team was victorious over the Christian team. At this time, the Russians were in control of Kovno, and the local Jewish population felt a sense of security. This all changed for Albert and the Jews of Kovno on June 21, 1941; the day that the Germans invaded Lithuania.

Albert was 13 years old and had just gone to Palange (a resort town on the Baltic Sea) where he was attending a summer camp. There were many young people from different backgrounds, and it seemed like it was going to be a wonderful experience. Very early in the morning on June 22, 1941, the peace was shattered by the sound of artillery. The Germans had invaded. Albert and the others grabbed their belongings and started running north. But they were quickly overrun, captured and sent back to Palange. There they slept overnight in a barn.

Albert and about 250 other people, including babies, were put into a synagogue for two days with no toilets and little food and water. The crowded inhuman conditions made it hard to breathe. Fortunately, a German officer gave the order to break the windows of the synagogue. While this action defaced the holy building, it provided fresh air for the inhabitants who were choking. They stayed in Palange for two weeks, forced to endure scorn and laughter by the Germans and Lithuanians while having to burn Torahs of the synagogue and Soviet books and flags.

When he returned to Kovno, he discovered that his two older brothers had fled to Russia and his little sister, who had been lost in the confusion, was gone. (He later discovered that she had been adopted by a Lithuanian couple who saved her; she survived the war). Albert also found out that his uncle had been shot by Lithuanians; but at least Albert was back with his mother and father and two sisters.

The Jews were moved to the Slobodka ghetto of Kovno. Thirty thousand people were now crammed inside of barbed wire with armed guards.

Living conditions became desperate because of overcrowding and lack of food; additionally all of their possessions were taken. Thirteen year old Albert burned his beloved stamp collection rather than hand it over to the Nazis. According to Albert, this was a time when the Jews were basically robbed of everything including gold during the Gold Accion (Action). In July of 1941, the first large scale killing took place at the Seventh fort (a military fortification built by the Tsar). Five thousand people were killed. This action was the beginning of the implementation of the Final Solution in this part of Eastern Europe.

On October 28th, all remaining twenty seven thousand ghetto residents were ordered to appear in a large field called Democratic Square. A sergeant named Rauca sat in the middle of the field deciding which families would go to the left and live and which would go to the right and die. It was that simple, with the pointing of his finger he made the determination. Ten thousand people sent to the right, ended up in the Ninth Fort, where they were murdered. Fortunately, Albert and family were selected to go to the left. Now, it was up to his ability to work that would determine his survival. Being young and strong, Albert worked hard at an airfield, sometimes working double shifts for others including his father. His older sister Luba helped bring in food by sneaking out of the ghetto to bring back potatoes. One day, she got caught because her footprints in the snow left a trail. She was beaten severely for that action. Albert felt responsible for her punishment because he was supposed to cover up her tracks. He always felt bad about it.

He was wise enough to know that hate is a terrible thing and hating the hater only hurts oneself. Maybe forgiveness isn't the right word, but refusing to harbor hate and blame allows for peace in one's soul.

In October of 1942, the family was moved out of the ghetto to the city of Riga in Latvia. The city had become a labor camp run by the Luftwaffe, the German air force. In September of 1943, the SS took over command and the camp now became part of a larger concentration camp known as Kaiserwald. Conditions worsened as the commandant named Zorge would call evening roll calls (Appelplatz), where people had to stand outside in the cold and listen to him cuss and belittle them. He would always warn them that at in the last five minutes they would all perish. During this period, Albert's father fell ill and passed away. Through all of this, Albert maintained his will to survive.

In May of 1944, Albert worked at an airfield in Ponyenvich. Later, they were sent to Stuthoff in Northern Germany. It was there that he saw his mother and sisters for the last time; they did not survive.

Continued on page 7



Albert Beder

From the Chair

The Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center is dedicated to remembering and honoring the victims and survivors of the Holocaust. The organization is committed to reaching out to children, youth, universities and our communities to inspire people to be tolerant and respectful. We encourage an understanding and appreciation of individual differences. The lessons we teach learned from the horrors of the Holocaust are needed, unfortunately, more today than ever before. Working with approximately 100 schools per year, HERC partners with both public and parochial schools, with the Milwaukee Public School system (MPS), the largest district in the state, and with the smallest ones, in communities lying dozens of miles away from our city. We partner with churches and synagogues, community centers, museums, public libraries, senior centers and more. We reach people from our state's southern communities to as far north as Pulaski, reaching over 20,000 plus people each year. We do this with only two staff members, a couple of interns, and a small team of fantastic and extremely dedicated educators and volunteers. Our goal is to reach everyone in Wisconsin and beyond to mitigate and eliminate the increase in hate crimes, violence, bullying and abuse that we see throughout our country today.

I am immeasurably grateful to our precious survivors and their Speaker Series, to our volunteers, staff and board. Our board is dedicated and proud to serve our organization especially during these challenging times. We see and have documented changes in behaviors in middle schools after our volunteers and staff teach the students about the Holocaust and the necessity of respect for ALL people. HERC is making a positive difference every day.



Bev Greenberg

Please consider volunteering for HERC. Please consider donating to HERC to help us reach out to students throughout our state NOW. Please know that your time, talents and resources will be used to help make our world a better, more tolerant place in which to live for ALL of us.

Bev

Bev Greenberg

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

Sunday, March 5

Film: Phoenix

3pm | Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC Community Hall

This suspenseful drama follows a Holocaust survivor who returns home to Germany to discover whether her gentile husband had betrayed her to the Nazis.

Co-Sponsor: Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC

Sunday, March 19

Holocaust Stories: In their Honor featuring Howard Melton

10am | Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC Community Hall

This program allows community members, both teens and adults, an opportunity to listen to the testimonies of our local Holocaust survivors.

Co-Sponsor: Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC

Sunday, March 26

The Sidney & Nina Widell Annual Memorial Lecture We Knew Then That the Jews Would be Shot: The Wehrmacht's Role in the Holocaust by Bullets

3pm | Jewish Museum Milwaukee

Join Dr. Waitman Beorn as he moves far beyond the vague concept of "complicity" to explore the myriad ways in which ordinary Germany soldiers participated in the Nazi genocidal project in the east.

Co-Sponsor: Jewish Museum Milwaukee, Ovation Communities

APRIL

Thursday, March 30

The Mitzvah Project

7pm | Carroll University

Roger Grunwald returns to Wisconsin to perform a one-person play which addresses the more than a hundred thousand German men classified as mishlinge, the derogatory term the Nazis used to describe those descended from one or two Jewish grandparents, who fought in the German armed forces.

Co-Sponsor: Carroll University

Sunday, April 2

Film: To Life!

2pm | Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC

An aging Holocaust survivor and a young man with a secret, form an intense bond as they help each other find a reason and purpose to live.

Co-Sponsor: Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC

Thursday, April 6

Surviving Terezin: Strength of the Creative Spirit

7pm | Jewish Museum Milwaukee

Elizabeth Hlavek will explore the art created during the Holocaust – with some focus on creativity within Terezin where many artists, writers, musicians and scientists were imprisoned – and how it demonstrates resiliency and humanity regardless of the oppressive conditions.

Co-Sponsors: Jewish Museum Milwaukee, Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC, Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid

APRIL

Sunday, April 23

Community Yom Hashoah

3pm | Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC Community Hall

Join community members in an annual commemoration of the Holocaust.

Co-Sponsors: Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC, Milwaukee Jewish Federation

Sunday, April 30

Lecture: Linda Hooper

2pm | Congregation Shalom

Former principal Linda Hooper tells the moving story of how students at Tennessee's Whitwell Middle School responded to what had been to them a completely unfamiliar piece of history – the Holocaust.

Co-Sponsor: Congregation Shalom

MAY

Wednesday, May 10

Surviving Terezin: Almost Snuffed Out, The Story of the Extraordinary Terezin Children's Musical "Fireflies"

7pm | Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC Community Hall

Brin Ingber's presentation is a compelling illustration of the enduring power of the arts and the strength of the human spirit, especially in the case of the children of Terezin.

Co-Sponsors: Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC, Jewish Museum Milwaukee, Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid

Sunday, May 21

Film: Fire Birds

4pm | Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC

An elderly man with a tattooed arm is found stabbed and murdered in this Israeli murder-mystery which involves Holocaust survivors and a second generation detective.

Co-Sponsor: Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC

JUNE

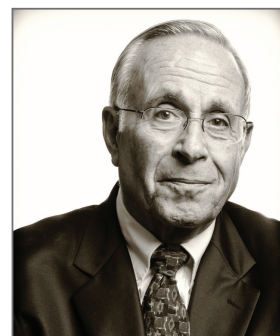
Thursday, June 8

Surviving Terezin: Steen Metz, A Survivor of Terezin

7pm | Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid

Steen Metz was only eight years old when he and his parents were arrested and deported from his home in Denmark to the Terezin Concentration Camp. Join us as Steen recounts his experiences and how he found strength in Terezin.

Co-Sponsors: Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid, Jewish Museum Milwaukee, Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC



Steen Metz

For more information contact: Brittany R. Hager McNeely,
Director of Education & Engagement

414-963-2714 | BrittanyH@MilwaukeeJewish.org
HolocaustCenterMilwaukee.org

We would like to thank the following people for supporting the **Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center** in 2016.

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In August, Albert was placed on a transport to a camp in Southern Bavaria; a satellite camp of Dachau. On April 20th, they got orders to march to Dachau; it took two days to walk there. Upon arrival, they did get some bread and took showers and also saw trains with thousands of dead bodies. They only stayed one night and now had to march south toward the Tyrolean Mountains. At one point Albert fell to the ground exhausted, but was awakened by a barking dog that got him up and walking again. They walked nights and slept days to avoid the strafing of American planes. On May 1st, they arrived in the small town of Badtelz where they were ordered to lie down in a ravine surrounded by machine guns; this they thought was the end. But no order to shoot was given. On May 2nd, they woke up in a field covered with snow and the Germans were gone. A few hours later, American tanks arrived and the nightmare was coming to an end. Everyone was laughing, kissing and hugging. Liberation!

Although the immediate danger was over, Albert still had to survive a bout with typhoid and was in hospitals for several weeks until he recovered.

He spent more than two years in Germany with his childhood friend and fellow survivor Howard Melton. From DP camps to working in an office, Albert found his way to the United States by way of a quota that President Truman signed allowing orphans 19 years old and younger to immigrate to the United States. In December of 1947, Albert landed in New York and soon after was helped by Jewish Family Services in his move to Milwaukee. In 1952, Albert was drafted and was sent to Germany as a soldier in the United States Army. After returning to Milwaukee and securing employment, Albert married Ruth Turner in 1953 and soon after started a family consisting of three sons and one daughter. In addition Albert was able to reunite with his little sister Regina and his older brother Lazar.

As a child of a survivor I am very thankful that my father was able to survive the Holocaust and then thrive in this country. His nightmare lasted four years but with liberation he was able to move on and make a wonderful life for himself and family. He was wise enough to know that hate is a terrible thing and hating the hater only hurts oneself. Maybe forgiveness isn't the right word, but refusing to harbor hate and blame allows for peace in one's soul.

Repairing the Glass

By Tziporah Altman-Shafer

Time is a strange thing. Sometimes the days seem long, but the weeks and months speed by. Each person experiences time in their own way. For the many years that I was a classroom teacher, my students gave me a new perspective of time: what I thought of as recent world events, they viewed as history. I remember the transition from the time when my students remembered 9-11 to teaching students who were not yet born when it happened. Their understanding of that tragic day was very different.

This challenge of time affects the way young people today remember Kristallnacht. In the 1990s, I worked at a synagogue in Cleveland, Ohio that was started by German Jews who came to the US just after Kristallnacht. When that congregation commemorated Kristallnacht, they were remembering their own experiences and that of their families. The emotion at those ceremonies was palpable. In Milwaukee today most students see Kristallnacht as a piece of history; for many of them it feels as far away from their lives as the Spanish Inquisition or the Exodus from Egypt.

How, then, to make sure that the next generation remembers Kristallnacht and that the memory of those who were brutally murdered continues to live on into the future. In order to rise to that challenge, the Holocaust Education Resource Center and the Coalition for Jewish Learning, both programs of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, developed a program called "Repairing the Glass."

Through "Repairing the Glass," Dr. Shay Pilnik and I worked with middle school students from Bader Hillel Academy to help them understand Kristallnacht not just as history, but as a part of their own lives. While remembering the past and the broken glass of Kristallnacht, we wanted to begin to Repair the Glass by looking forward to the future.

The "Repairing the Glass" program had four components:

- 1) In November, Shay and I led a workshop for Bader Hillel Academy Students about the history of Jewish life in Germany. This session focused on the beginning of German Jewish life in the Middle Ages and demonstrated the success of Jews in Germany. While this discussion explored the roots of anti-Semitism, that was not the focus. We also looked at pictures of famous German synagogues and reflected on these buildings as symbols of a flourishing Jewish life in Germany.
- 2) A couple weeks later, students from Bader Hillel Academy met at Pinat Hativkah to hear from a member of the HERC Speakers' Bureau, Betsy Maier Reilly. Betsy read from her mother's diary which described her experiences during Kristallnacht. Then the students went inside

and had a Skype call with Rabbi Balla from Leipzig, Germany. Rabbi Balla spoke to the group from inside the only synagogue in Leipzig that survived the fires on Kristallnacht. The students asked him questions about Jewish life in Germany today.

- 3) With their art teacher, Jackie Redlich, Bader Hillel Academy students created three-dimensional pieces of art that depicted German synagogues that were destroyed on Kristallnacht. In preparation for the art project, Mrs. Redlich and the students looked at pictures of many German synagogues. In the end, the students created 11 beautiful pieces that were displayed at the community Kristallnacht Commemoration.
- 4) Three Bader Hillel Academy students: Jaycelan Stewart, Natan Bushee and Yosef Lerer, spoke at the community Kristallnacht Commemoration. They explained the purpose of "Repairing the Glass" and shared what they learned from the process. They spoke beautifully and added to an already meaningful program.

Each year, our community gathers to remember the suffering and destruction of Kristallnacht. We commemorate not only the suffering of those two days, but also the catastrophe that followed in its wake, the Holocaust. We reflect on a time in history when people chose the wrong path. We all know that it is essential to remember the past, to recognize the horror, and to honor the victims.



Last fall, the Holocaust Education Resource Center, the Coalition for Jewish Learning, and the students of Bader Hillel Academy worked together to add a new dimension to how we experienced this day. While remembering the past and the broken glass of Kristallnacht, we began to Repair the Glass by looking forward to the future.

I am grateful to HERC for inviting CJL to work on this amazing project. HERC and CJL plan to continue this project in the future. It is our hope that next year, other local day schools will also participate in the "Repairing the Glass" experience. In this way, we will assure that the next generation not only remembers Kristallnacht, but feels a deep connection to this part of Jewish history.

Deborah Lipstadt and History on Trial

By Brittany R. Hager McNeely



On the evening of Tuesday, September 20th four hundred community members came together to hear from renowned Holocaust historian Deborah Lipsadt. Speaking to a standing- room only crowd at Cardinal Stritch University, Dr. Lipstadt's visit to Milwaukee preceded the American release of a feature film, *Denial*, starring Rachel Weisz and Tom Wilkinson, which was based on her monumental victory against notorious Holocaust denier David Irving.

Two years after the 1993 publication of her book *Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory*, Irving filed a libel suit against Lipstadt in the British court of law, where the burden of proof is placed upon the defendant. Lipstadt assembled a team of attorneys and historians to orchestrate her defense, who enlisted expert witnesses including acclaimed modern European historian Dr. Richard J. Evans of Cambridge University and American Holocaust historian Dr. Christopher Browning. After approximately four months of trial, the presiding Judge Charles Gray, handed down his judgement, a written text of three hundred and forty nine pages, which outlined his conclusion that David Irving is an anti-semitic and racist, that he associates with right-wing extremists, and

that he ultimately falsified and misrepresented historical evidence. In the years following her extraordinary victory in court Deborah Lipstadt, who has close connections in Milwaukee with HERC's Immediate Past Chair Betty Chrustowski, recounted her experiences in the 2006 book *History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier*.

Nearly two decades after the momentous decision of Judge Gray in declaring judgement for Dr. Lipstadt, this trial has remained an important moment in history. The *Daily Telegraph* of London described the trial as having "...done for the new century what the Nuremberg tribunals or the Eichmann trial did for earlier generations." Elie Wiesel, of blessed memory, said about Deborah's narrative that it "...will be read with interest and gratitude by future generations."

As she spoke to her captive audience at Cardinal Stritch, Dr. Lipstadt pointed out that despite her victory, anti-semitism is alive and well not only in the United States but around the world. She concluded her talk by inspiring every person in attendance to "...differentiate between truth and fact, opinions and lies...and to be willing to stand up to forms of anti-semitism, bigotry, and hatred."

(The film *Denial* is now available on DVD and is streaming on Amazon.)

Executive Director's Notes



Dr. Shay Pilnik

I suspect that very few of us living in Milwaukee, or any other part of our state, have failed to notice the disturbing atmosphere that accompanied our recent election season. From my first strides as a Holocaust educator I always felt that effective conversations about the Holocaust take place in calm times, in a climate of receptiveness to our call: to help build a society resting on the values of tolerance and diversity, dignity and respect toward all human beings. Unfortunately, the recent uptick in incidents of intolerance in our city, state and nation have made the mission of HERC more acute than ever. A Hispanic student being taunted by their classmates to "go to your home," a young Muslim woman jeered and spat on by a passerby just because she dared to leave her house wearing her traditional garb, or a middle school student who expresses sympathy for Adolf Hitler, in the presence of his Jewish classmates – these are mere examples of behaviors that, as I am told by my senior leaders, had been unheard of in Milwaukee for decades.

I am appalled by every single such case that comes to our attention and am confident that all of our supporters and volunteers are equally disturbed by these developments. Of course, one must be careful when comparing every such incident of intolerance and hate with the legacy of the Nazis, whose ideology of racism and industrial mass murder still defies

Meet One of our Interns

My name is Alaina Winston. I was born and raised in Milwaukee. I am a junior in the Scholars Program at the Lubar School of Business at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Currently, I am working towards a Pre-Law and Finance major and an International Business minor. I am hoping to continue onto graduate school and receive a joint JD/MBA. I enjoy traveling, reading, fashion, cooking and sports. I am the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor and find interning for

the human imagination. I do believe, however, that Holocaust education, though focused on a historic event that happened neither in this century nor on this continent, can help young people turn away from the destructive path of intolerance. When addressing any incident of intolerance in our community, I may liken Holocaust education to a two-ended stick. On one of its ends the Holocaust is a distinct event – any comparison between the abovementioned hate crimes would pale in comparison with the indescribable brutality of the Nazis and their collaborators. Students and teachers need to understand that, lest we inadvertently trivialize the enormity of the crime perpetrated by Adolf Hitler and his associates. At the same time, we must hold on to the other end of the stick – and not lose sight of the small steps, the boycott of stores, the burning of books, the daily harassment on the streets that gathered momentum between 1933 and 1945 that escalated into the what we know today as the Holocaust.

While the reality of planet Auschwitz is, fortunately, far removed from our world, we might find ourselves walking on the path that led to it, if we are not careful and responsible, and if the feelings and dignity of other peaceful and innocent human beings are not dearest to our hearts. After a tumultuous season, I hope that this new year will bring with it calmer times. We can certainly look back at history and learn from it: that respecting others, agreeing to disagree in a dignified manner and working together to sustain the well-being of our social fabric, are priceless good practices that will help us avoid slipping down a slope, the depth of which, we, like the residents of Weimer Germany in the early 1920s, do not really know.

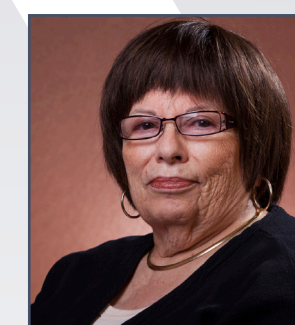
Dr. Shay Pilnik



Alaina Winston

HERC to not only be meaningful on a community level, but also on a personal level. My Grandfather, Cantor Tibor Moses, was one of the first speakers for HERC and I am honored to continue his legacy and excited to be interning for such a great organization.

Meet our Chair-Elect Arleen Peltz



Arleen Peltz

In 1972, I married Walter Peltz, the first Holocaust Survivor I had ever met. Being a third generation American, I had read about the *Shoah*, but had never come in contact with any of the survivors. In 1975, Walter and I made our first trip to Poland. He had not been there since (1944/the war). The purpose was to find the Christian families who had hid him for six months during the war before being captured by the Nazis and sent to one of the six death camps: Majdanek. The families were found and celebrated his return. I for the first time walked the grounds of Majdanek and Auschwitz-Birkenau. Nothing in my life after that was the same. I made a promise to myself that I would not take for granted being born and raised in America. Also, it became even more important to understand and respect the survivors, and how they had the courage to start a new life here in America after such horrific experiences and loss.

Working side by side with my husband 6 days a week did not allow a great deal of time for volunteering. Walter was busy speaking to schools all over the state while I stayed at the business. The Jewish War Veterans was very

important to both of us, and during this time, for 15 years, I chaired the Guten Auxiliary Scholarship Program. Prior to my marriage, I had worked at the UCLA Medical Center, Milprint, Loewi and Co., and Marcus Corp.

Since Walter passed away in 2003 I've spent my time at the Jewish Home and Care Center and the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Research Center. At the Home, I am past Chair of the Hand In Hand Volunteer program, past Chair of the Board and of the Foundation, of which I remain on both Boards plus many committees too numerous to mention. At HERC, I am a member of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Governance, and Education Committees. I also Chair the Survivors Speakers Bureau. In 2004, Sandy Hoffman, of blessed memory, encouraged me to carry on my husband's legacy as a speaker, so for the past 12 years I've traveled throughout the state speaking to groups of students about Walter's story of survival during the Holocaust. It is an honor for me to represent HERC at many schools and organizations. In my spare time, I am President of RUACH, on the boards of the Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear, Lux Center and my condo association.

I am honored and humbled to be elected as HERC's next Chair. I will bring my organizational skills, my compassion and understanding of people from all walks of life, and I will serve with dignity promoting HERC's mission.

A LOOK BACK...



During the month of June, HERC offered the Holocaust Study Institute a powerful exploration of the Holocaust and the rebirth of the Jewish people's ancestral homeland with a uniquely designed two-week trip to Israel for Catholic educators and laymen. Led by Dr. Shay Pilnik and Dr. Richard Lux, founding director of the Lux Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, the trip weaved together the history of the Jewish people in the ancient period, the history of Jews in the modern era including the birth of Zionism, and the history of the Holocaust.



On October 16th 48 students from UW-Milwaukee, UW-Oshkosh, Kettle Moraine High School, Cardinal Stritch, and Marquette University joined HERC on its third DiverCity trip. On a Sunday afternoon they visited Pinat Hatikvah, the JCC, Rehoboth New Life Center (an Apostolic church in the inner city), and the Islamic Society of Milwaukee West.



Nashalee Rodriguez

An interfaith and diverse community gathered at the Jewish Home and Care Center on November 6th to commemorate the 78th anniversary of Kristallnacht. Representatives from different faith communities in Milwaukee held candles in solidarity to make a stand against hatred, bigotry, and intolerance while students from Bader Hillel Academy and Arts@Large shared their reflective artwork and poetry.



HERC Chair Bev Greenberg hosted a luncheon for volunteers and members of the Speakers Bureau at the Wisconsin Club on September 23rd. Survivors and their family members shared reflections on their meaningful experiences as volunteer speakers.



On Thursday, May 5, students from Winneconee High School, West Milwaukee Intermediate School, Holy Family Parish School, ELS Language Centers, & Renaissance School joined HERC at Congregation Shalom where they learned about Judaism, the history of anti-Semitism, and heard from Speakers Bureau member Howard Melton.



On November 9th, HERC, in partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), hosted at Cardinal Stritch University a teacher training for 35 MPS teachers from local middle and high schools. The training focused on the racism and hatred that was incited by Nazi propaganda and featured lectures from local experts in the fields of history, sociology, and political science. Members of the community were invited to join for the keynote address, which featured Dr. Gregory Wegner and a discussion on anti-Semitism within the schools under the Third Reich.



The 2016 Holocaust Essay Contest winners before their June 14th visit of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC.



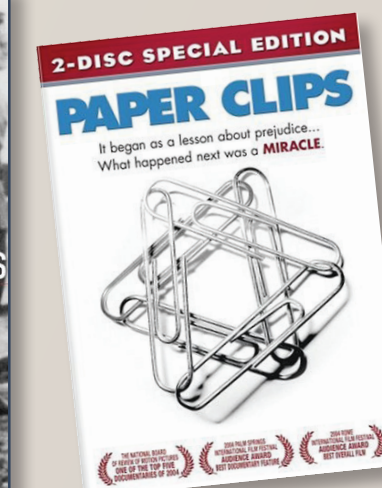
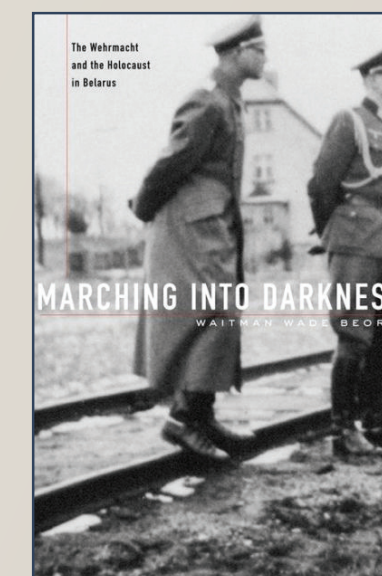
On Sunday, January 29th, Nancy Kennedy Barnett, shared the incredible story of her father, George Kennedy, and his survival of the Holocaust. One program attendee, Aimee Hansen, reflected that "...there is something about this personal connection that makes it real... sharing what happened and reminding people to stop the hate and unkindness is a lesson we should constantly be sharing, regardless of race or religion."



HERC was honored to welcome renowned historian Dr. Deborah Lipstadt to Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee on Tuesday, September 20th, where she spoke about her fight against Holocaust denial and anti-Semitism.



Howard Melton



...and AHEAD

On Sunday, March 19th Howard Melton will be the featured speaker in the Holocaust Stories: In their Honor series, co-sponsored by HERC and the Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC.

HERC and the Jewish Museum Milwaukee will host a spring teacher training workshop for middle and high school teachers on Sunday, March 26th on the topic of the Holocaust in the Soviet Union, as preparation for the upcoming Holocaust by Bullets exhibit. The workshop will be followed by the first Sidney & Nina Widell Annual Memorial Lecture, featuring Dr. Waitman Beorn, which is free and open to the public.

The third annual HERC and Congregation Shalom speaker series will be held on Sunday, April 30th and will feature former Principal Linda Hooper. Hooper is known for the Paper Clip project in which the middle school students of Whitwell, TN collected paper clips in memory of the victims of the Holocaust to create a memorial.