The Power of One: Choosing to Make a Difference

High School Students Attend Student Leadership Day – Learn to Confront Bullying and Genocide

Over 100 high school students and educators from across the Midwest joined the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center for its 2010 Student Leadership Day, sponsored by PNC Bank. This year’s theme, “The Power of One: Choosing to Make a Difference,” focused on raising awareness of the history and lessons of genocide, and learning to combat prejudice, bullying and indifference in the students’ local and global communities. “I come here today as a former bully and someone who has been bullied. I look at myself in the mirror everyday and ask myself, how can I be a better person?” said Aavo Reinfeldt, Executive Vice President, Corporate Banking, PNC Bank. “Each of you can stand up and speak out against bullies, you each have a voice.”

Participants engaged in a number of activities, including working with Holocaust survivors. The event featured a keynote address from Carl Wilkens, the former head of Adventist Development and Relief Agency International in Rwanda. In 1994, he was the only American who chose to remain the country after the genocide began. Wilkens’ choice to stay in the country helped to prevent the massacre of hundreds of children over the course of the genocide. “We’ve got to challenge the ‘us and them’ thinking plaguing our minds and our communities,” Wilkens stated. “We tend to divide people, but we all live on one planet.”

Governor Signs Statewide Genocide Commission Legislation at Museum

Over 100 people joined Governor Pat Quinn on July 15, 2010, in the Pritzker Hall of Reflection for the historic signing of House Bill 6059. The Illinois Holocaust and Genocide Commission Act, as the bill is known, creates an 18-member commission to increase public awareness of the Holocaust and other genocides through educational programs, events and outreach efforts. The idea for the new commission was spearheaded by Executive Director, Richard S. Hirschhaut. In addition to Governor Quinn, the bill’s chief sponsors, Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D-12) and Sen. Ira Silverstein (D-8), as well as Skokie-area Rep. Lou Lang (D-16) addressed the crowd.

The commission represents the latest milestone in the State of Illinois’ visionary approach to this subject, which began in 1990 with the passage of the landmark Holocaust Education Act. This legislation was the first of its kind in the nation, mandating the teaching of the Holocaust in public schools. Five years ago, the mandate was expanded to include teaching about historic and contemporary genocides, such as the ongoing crisis in Darfur.
In our fast paced world, driven more than ever by the 24-hour news cycle, social media, and the latest technological “short cut,” it often can be difficult to find time for reflection.

Now in our second year of operation, the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center is not immune to this societal trend. It is an understatement to say that we have been very busy. From an ambitious calendar featuring public programs literally every week, to our dynamic traveling exhibitions, there is rarely a slow time at the Museum.

Yet in early November, amid field trips, teacher trainings, and public events, we identified a need to pause for a moment, to reflect, and most importantly, to hear from those who know us best – our volunteers and docents. Our first ever Town Hall meeting drew over 100 of our most passionate and committed supporters, each of whom treat the Museum as a precious gift. These dedicated and selfless individuals are motivated by the opportunity to be part of a truly extraordinary institution.

A “Town Hall” in name only, the tone of the proceedings on this particular Thursday evening was more akin to the family dinner table. Participants spoke passionately about their experiences at the Museum and shared constructive feedback about what we can do to improve upon the visitor experience. As a professional staff, we are processing the feedback and identifying opportunities to implement these suggestions.

At the end of the day, the outlook for the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center is very bright. We are blessed with thousands of incredible supporters. So on behalf of the Museum’s leadership and staff, we thank you for helping make 2010 an incredible first full year for this remarkable institution. We are grateful for your support and will continue to welcome your valuable input over the coming year.

Richard S. Hirschhaut
Executive Director

Stay connected with the Museum. Send your email address to updates@ilhmec.org

Museum Hosts Press Conference Marking State Department Contribution to Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation

On August 11, the Museum welcomed the Polish Consul General, Zygmunt Matynia, and three members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation, Reps. Luis V. Gutierrez, Jan Schakowsky and Mike Quigley at an event to mark the State Department’s $15 million grant to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation to preserve the memory of the Holocaust. The grant, announced by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in July, resulted in part from a Congressional effort, led by Rep. Gutierrez, to urge the President and the Secretary to fund the preservation of the Museum marking the epicenter of the Holocaust.
Coming Soon: Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow

By the time World War II began on September 1, 1939, Germany had purged itself of its Jewish professors, scientists, and scholars. Some of these academics, deprived of their livelihoods by the Nazis, found refuge in the United States. But in this new world, they faced an uncertain future.

A few dozen refugee scholars unexpectedly found positions in historically black colleges in the American South. There, as recent escapees from persecution in Nazi Germany, they came face to face with the absurdities of a rigidly segregated Jim Crow society. In their new positions, they met, taught, and interacted with students who had grown up in, and struggled with, this racist environment.

Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow explores the unlikely coming together of these two groups, each the object of exclusion and hatred, and examines the ongoing encounter between them as they navigated the challenges of life in the segregated South.

Through historical objects, photographs, texts, and artworks such as The Gleaners by John Biggers, visitors are invited to learn the stories of two disenfranchised groups brought together in search of opportunity and freedom.

Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugees at Black Colleges was created and is circulated by the Museum of Jewish Heritage--A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. This exhibition is made possible through major funding from the Leon Levy Foundation. Additional support provided by the Helen Bader Foundation; The Lupin Foundation; The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation; public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; the Alpern Family Foundation; and the Charles and Mildred Schnurmacher Foundation.

The MLK Project: The Fight for Civil Rights

The MLK Project: The Fight For Civil Rights, is a touring one-woman show, presented by the award winning Writer’s Theatre of Glencoe, that weaves together poetry, hip-hop and history, that follows a young girl’s search for truth and self-discovery through the American Civil Rights movement. This cross-cultural, multi-media performance interweaves personal interviews of Chicago-based civil rights activists, and includes both the celebrated and unsung heroes, such as Reverend Samuel “Billy” Kyles, founder of the DuSable Museum of African American History, Dr. Margaret Taylor Goss Burroughs, Reverend Jesse Jackson, and Puerto Rican poet and activist David Hernandez, among others. Check www.ilholocaustmuseum.org for ticket information.

Comcast’s Chicago Program Featuring the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center Wins National Awards

Site of Remembrance, a 30-minute TV program produced by Comcast about the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, won prestigious awards at the 52nd Chicago/Midwest Emmy Awards and the national CableFAX’s Program Awards. The program provides viewers with an in-depth look at the Museum and features engaging interviews by Comcast anchor Paul Lisnek with Fritzie Fritzshall, Museum President; Sam Harris, President Emeritus; Richard Hirschhaut, Executive Director; and J.B. Pritzker, Chairman, Board of Trustees. For information regarding future broadcasts of Site of Remembrance visit www.cntv100.tv/site_of_remembrance.aspx.
Women’s Leadership Committee, Summer Event

On July 29, the Women’s Leadership Committee hosted a fundraiser in conjunction with the traveling exhibition *Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race*. The evening included tours of the exhibition and a conversation with historian Dr. Patricia Heberer and Holocaust survivor, Helen Rappaport. Significant funds were raised from the event and the Women’s Leadership Committee would like to thank our generous sponsors: Susan L. Karkomi and Marvin Leavitt; Aviv; Grund & Leavitt; Elements Chicago; Cathy Robbins and Kim Schwartz; Philip and Ellen Glass; and Bull & Bear Bar and Grill. For more information about the Women’s Leadership Committee, please email WLC@ilhmec.org.

Pictured left to right: Anita Scanlon; Dr. Patricia Heberer; Helen Rappaport and Jackie Diels. Anita and Jackie are daughters of Helen Rappaport, Holocaust survivor.

Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race Dynamic Programming

*Matt Roloff*

*Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race* has offered opportunities for unique programming including *Overcoming Adversity: Surviving as a Little Person in a Big World*, featuring Matt Roloff, patriarch of the Roloff Family on TLC’s hit reality series *Little People, Big World*. Another remarkable program was *Emmanuel’s Gift: In Conversation With… Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah* an inspiring discussion with Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah, a triathlete and advocate for the disabled population in his native country of Ghana. The evening with Yeboah was generously sponsored by Bank of America with additional support provided by Northwestern Memorial Foundation and United Airlines.

Pictured left to right: Michael Marcovici, Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah and Ken Cooper.

Illinois Holocaust Museum Establishes Gift Annuity Program

A charitable gift annuity is a simple and convenient way to receive income for yourself or others, defer taxes, and make a gift to the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center. In return for a gift of cash or property to the Museum, you will receive regular, fixed income payments for life from a highly-rated insurance company.

A gift annuity can be funded with cash or appreciated securities that have been held for at least one year, and can be established with a minimum contribution of $50,000. For additional information, please contact the Development Office at 847-967-4821 or development@ilhmec.org.

MEMORIALIZE OR HONOR A LOVED ONE ON OUR NEW TREE OF LIFE

*Be among the first to recognize a loved one on our Tree of Life wall in Museum Hall. Plaques are available in the amount of $1,000, $5,000, or $10,000. To learn more, please contact the Development Office at 847-967-4821 or development@ilhmec.org.*
Jagellonian University/
Illinois Holocaust
Museum Summer
Institute Partnership

The Polish Summer Institute takes place annually in Krakow with the generous support from the Conference on Jewish Materials Claims Against Germany, Inc. This year 65 teachers attended from across Poland. They visited the Auschwitz/Birkenau State Museum, the Jewish Quarter in Krakow and the Galicia Jewish Museum during the course of the program. Noreen Brand, Museum Education Director, facilitated sessions during the week of study.

This year Museum Vice President, Aaron Elster traveled with Noreen, first stopping in Sokolow-Podaki where the family that saved Aaron was recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations. The ceremony took place in the town’s cultural center and the entire community was invited to attend the ceremony. Aaron then joined Noreen at the institute in Krakow, where he shared his story, answered questions and signed his book for the teachers. A Polish translation of Aaron’s book, I Still See Her Haunting Eyes, was also distributed to all of the teachers in the institute.

“My gift. You have given me a precious gift. You have expanded my thinking and given me terrific resources and ideas that I hope I can in turn give back to my students. Thank you!”

~ Summer Institute Participant 2010

Teacher Open House

On September 30, the Museum was filled with hundreds of vibrant voices, much excitement and very energized docents. The school year got off to a wonderful start with over 250 educators visiting to preview our exhibits, and to learn about our educational programs for the 2010-11 school year. Dominick’s donated reusable bags, which we filled with materials for each teacher. Many expressed interest in teaching trunks, field trips and teacher trainings. With funding provided by the Polk Bros. Foundation, we provided a round-trip bus from downtown Chicago to the Museum for the program.

Teaching Trunks Now Available

The trunks are on the trucks! We launched our Teaching Trunk program with the beginning of the 2010-11 school year. These literature-based materials assist teachers in providing the widest array of award winning literature, posters and DVDs for their students, as well as a curriculum framework that contains an introduction to the literature, rationales for use, and alignment to state and national standards and benchmarks. At our annual educator open house, hundreds of teachers previewed the materials and offered very positive feedback.

Kindergarten ESL students at Woodland Primary School in Gages Lake, IL, were among the first to receive an Illinois Holocaust Museum teaching trunk.
Noreen Brand, Director of Education, was honored as the outstanding educator of the year by the Anne Frank Center, USA. Noreen’s accomplishments in the field of teaching about the Holocaust, genocide and human rights over the past decade earned her this distinguished honor. She has served the Museum with distinction for nearly four years. Congratulations, Noreen!

On Thursday, November 11, the Inaugural Pfeffer Family Lecture featured Northwestern University Professor Peter Hayes. Dr. Hayes, the Theodore Zev Weiss Holocaust Educational Foundation Professor of Holocaust Studies, directed his attention to *The Holocaust: Myths and Misconceptions*. He described what he referred to as eight “consoling fallacies” that have arisen from popular and faulty understanding of the Holocaust. One such misconception is that the Allies could have saved more Jewish lives than they did, when in truth, three-quarters of the victims were dead by February 1943, when the tide of war turned. More than 150 audience members listened, learned and engaged in spirited Q&A following the presentation.

On Tuesday, November 9, nearly 150 people gathered at the Museum to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of Kristallnacht. The evening included a special tribute to the courageous acts of Holocaust rescuers in an “Appreciation of the Righteous” ceremony (pictured), during which the Museum unveiled five new additions to its Ferro Fountain of the Righteous.

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**SAVE THE DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011**

**Annual Humanitarian Awards Dinner**

**2010 Spirit of Anne Frank Outstanding Educator Award Recipient: Noreen Brand**

Noreen Brand, Director of Education, was honored as the outstanding educator of the year by the Anne Frank Center, USA. Noreen’s accomplishments in the field of teaching about the Holocaust, genocide and human rights over the past decade earned her this distinguished honor. She has served the Museum with distinction for nearly four years. Congratulations, Noreen!

**Drop-in Docent-Led Tours for the General Public!**

Beginning Sunday, November 28

Docent-led tours became available to the general public on a drop-in basis beginning Sunday, November 28, 2010. The tours will take place every Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday (times below). A maximum of 12 people will be accommodated during each time slot. No reservations required – tours are “first come, first served.” Free with Museum admission.

Tuesday – 2:00 PM
Thursday – 2:00 PM & 6:00 PM
Sunday – 11:30 PM & 1:30 PM

Groups of 20 or more can schedule private, docent-led tours by visiting www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/grouptours.
Welcome Aboard!

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Karen Goodman Minter as Director of Marketing. Karen brings over 10 years of senior experience in both corporate and non-profit brand management, marketing strategy and public relations to this position. Most recently, Karen served as Director of Communications for the Lillian and Larry Goodman Foundations which is dedicated to strengthening Jewish life in the U.S. and Israel, as well as supporting organizations that address hunger issues and drug abuse prevention. Previously, Karen was Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations for a national real estate development company where she oversaw and directed all branding, marketing, interactive media and collateral packages for the firm.

We are excited to introduce Amanda Friedeman as Miller Family Youth Educator. Amanda has worked in education at several local museums, most recently Spertus Museum. She has also worked with students and teachers at the Art Institute of Chicago and Chicago Children’s Museum and with pre-service teachers in Erikson Institute’s Infant Studies Program. During the 2009-2010 school year, she taught in an elementary classroom at Children of Peace School on Chicago’s Near West Side. Amanda earned her B.A. in Art History from Princeton University and her M.A. in Art Education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

We are pleased to welcome John Tweedie as Exhibitions Manager. John most recently worked as Exhibitions Manager for the Spertus Museum. Throughout his 13 years of exhibition experience, John has worked as a freelance exhibition consultant, assistant registrar, gallery director, auction house consignment specialist, property manager and museum technician, traversing the spectrum of museums such as the Art Institute of Chicago and Chicago History Museum to private collectors and the gallery world. He received his B.A. in Studio Art and English Literature from Lake Forest College and continuing education coursework in Graphic Design and Art History from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Volunteer Spotlight

The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center relies on hundreds of dedicated volunteers to support its daily operations. Their energy, passion, and commitment enrich the experience of all who visit the Museum. A retired shoe salesman and Holocaust survivor, Joe Koenig is a fixture at the Museum’s Legacy Shop. You can regularly find Joe among book displays, schmoozing with visitors and introducing them to In Our Voices, a remarkable Museum publication featuring reflections of local Holocaust survivors – including Joe. His favorite part of working at the Museum is having the opportunity to connect with young people, explaining what happened in the past and how atrocities can happen again if we do not stand up. We thank Joe for his support and encourage you to stop by to hear more of his remarkable story!
From 1933-1945, Nazi Germany carried out a campaign to “cleanse” German society of individuals viewed as biological threats to the nation’s “health.” This temporary exhibition examines how Nazi leadership, in collaboration with individuals in the professions traditionally charged with healing and the public good, used science to help legitimize persecution, murder and, ultimately, genocide.

Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race was produced by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Deadly Medicine is sponsored in part by the Samberg Family Foundation, the Dorot Foundation, the Viterbi Family Foundation of the Jewish Community of San Diego, and the Rosenbluth Foundation.

Dr. Otmar von Verschuer examines twins at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute. As the head of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute’s Department for Human Heredity, Verschuer, a physician and geneticist, examined hundreds of pairs of twins to study whether criminality, feeble-mindedness, tuberculosis, and cancer were inheritable.

Credit: Archiv zur Geschichte der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Berlin-Dahlem

Enjoy Member Double Discount Days!

Visit The Legacy Shop for a dazzling array of gifts and homewares. Plus join the Museum today and receive 20% off of all items through January 7, 2011!

- Exceptional designer jewelry and purses
- Third world artisan-made homewares and accessories
- Books for adults and children on the Holocaust and respecting differences
- Unique Judaica from around the world
- Museum admission fee not required to visit The Legacy Shop

Open during regular Museum hours. All proceeds benefit the Museum. For more information, call 847-967-4806.