

New THC Teacher Guide Distributed

When creating THC's new *Teacher's Guide* to planning lessons on the Holocaust, Paul Fleming of Nashville's Hume-Fogg Academic Magnet School thought like a teacher: "How best could such a book help me?"



Paul Fleming, author of the *Teacher's Guide*, and Prof. Helmut Smith, editor of *The Holocaust and Other Genocides*, hold copies of the books during their distribution to Tennessee high schools in October.

So, as good resources should do, his *Teacher's Guide* to THC's *The Holocaust and Other Genocides: History, Representation, Ethics* aimed to give teachers practical leads. THC had commissioned the book and the guide because "we had a real desire to look at the horrific events of the 20th Century and use the Holocaust as a benchmark to evaluate what occurred in other places at other times," said THC Chair Felicia Anchor. "It gives teachers the tools to provide accurate comparisons and to raise the difficult ethical questions posed by genocide."

Fleming is partial to using "journal prompts": providing a quote from a Holocaust survivor, for example, or from Hitler, and directing the student to reflect and write on it. In writing the guide, Fleming also was influenced by Raul Hilberg's framework of the six stages the Nazis employed in the Holocaust, from identifying their enemies to exterminating them.

This is unlike other guides for teaching the Holocaust, said Fleming, because it incorporates other genocides, including Rwanda and Bosnia.

"You're getting students to think at a higher level, to reflect," he said. "Some elements you use for teaching any topic, you use for teaching the Holocaust."

At the same time, Fleming tailored the guide to be equally relevant to teachers of less achieving students than at his own school, where everyone goes on to college.



Charlotte Stroud and her students from Stratford High School in Nashville are immersed in their copy of *The Holocaust and Other Genocides* during a pause in the Middle Tennessee Educational Outreach Program (EOP).

"I struggled with that, he said. "I wanted the guide to be innovative,

but I didn't want teachers to think, 'It's geared for a higher level of students.' I tried to find a balance. The Holocaust always generates a lot of interest among students, unlike some aspects of history. That creates a higher level of responsibility, so that you don't lead them astray."

Fleming was well equipped to write the teacher guide. He was among the 10 educators--eight college professors and one other high school teacher--who met twice a month during the 1999-2000 school year to compile the book. *The Holocaust and Other Genocides* provides an approach to understanding the mass killings through a variety of disciplines, including art, film and literature. Fleming took another six months to write the guide.

"I had to think how to keep [the guide] useful and not superficial, so that it would help teachers to teach this important history," he said. "Obviously, handing a 350-page book to a teacher is daunting. We didn't want it to be a book that they'd just put on the shelf. The teacher guide is an attempt to help teachers use different strategies when using the book."

Now in its second printing, *The Holocaust and Other Genocides* was published by Vanderbilt University Press in the summer of 2002. With its completion, THC distributed both books to every high school, college and university in Tennessee.

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Comments from the Chair



Felicia Anchor, Commission Chair, welcomes newest THC Board member Rep. Mark Maddox, Dresden.

We're delighted to bring you the latest edition of *The Flame*!

As you can see, we continue to undertake innovative, exciting projects in pursuit of Holocaust education and remembrance. We hope that this issue will give you insights into the day-to-day activities of the THC and our longer-range plans as well--all underway since our last issue of this newsletter.

In particular, I want to call your attention to the survivor/liberator portrait project, "Living On," that is noted "In Brief." We hope that you will be able to assist us by identify-

ing individuals who might agree to participate. One of our greatest challenges in the coming decade is to maintain the powerful impact of first-person testimony for students in their classrooms. Please be in contact if you can help.

This spring we launch our Friends campaign. This effort is partly a response to an expected nine-percent reduction in state funding for the coming year. THC is recognized nationally and internationally for its success in bringing diverse programs to a broad state audience. We hope that you will join this effort and send in your tax-exempt contribution in the enclosed envelope.

With deepest thanks,
Felicia Anchor, THC Commission Chair



2003 Belz-Lipman Holocaust Educators of the Year pose for a group picture in the Old Supreme Court Chamber on April 29. From the left: Jack A. Belz, one of the two donors of the annual award; Sue Chaney Gilmore and Nancy Schwartz, Metro Nashville Schools; Nola Henderson, Jefferson County Schools; Duane Eliff, Hardin County Schools; and Leonid Saharovici, Memphis, Chairman of the Belz-Lipman award committee.

THC Pioneers Unique Adult Education Curriculum

Marva Doremus remembers teaching in an adult literacy program in Sumner County several years ago that incorporated Holocaust lessons in the curriculum. Now coordinator of Holocaust projects for the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development Office of Adult Education, Doremus hopes that an organized program on teaching the Holocaust will generate interest among a larger pool of adults.

The department's effort reflects a unique partnership between it, the THC, the Washington-based United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) and the University of Tennessee's Center for Literacy Studies (CLS). It is the first adult education program in the country to include lessons in Holocaust history in its classes. By the fall of 2003 the curriculum and training model the four partners pioneered will be in use in all adult education classrooms in Tennessee.



Griff Watson, consultant to the USHMM Adult Literacy pilot project and a Nashville-area educator, makes a presentation on the use of historical photographs to AE teachers.

Thirteen veteran teachers from 13 counties were handpicked and trained by the project partners to use the special *Lessons from the Holocaust* toolkit in the course of the year. In July they will help spearhead the training of their peers, in tandem with the expert guidance of USHMM historians, when all 700 adult education teachers gather for a three-day



Micki Greer from McNairy County Adult Education and Brian Douglas from Coker County Adult Education programs--two of the thirteen teachers learning to train their teacher colleagues--take part in a lively discussion on Holocaust education teaching techniques.

seminar in Nashville. Participating teachers will be expected to take Holocaust education among their six required classes.

"This model is wonderful--doing intense work within a community," said Lynn Williams, USHMM's director of community partnerships. "What we learn we'll want to take to other states." The museum, for which training of primary and secondary educators is a principal mission, had never before been involved in adult education programming.

"We are starting with our teachers, so that they can create an awareness in the classroom of tolerance and diversity," said Doremus.

In many cases, adult students say that they can relate to exclusion. Their lack of formal education makes them feel inferior, she added.

"It's important to let Tennesseans know that people moving here who are different are entitled to their civil liberties," said Barbara Eubank, CLS's project coordinator. "Hitler's ideas about the separation and exclusion of minorities spread in wider and wider circles with horrifying results. We would like to encourage the message of respect and inclusion in adult education classrooms in Tennessee."

With discrimination frequently feeding on ignorance, state educators believe in the importance of bringing messages of tolerance, diversity and critical thinking to adults.

"Our four-way partnership," remarked Ruth Tanner, THC executive director, "has been a dynamic collaboration. Each partner has contributed to the development of the training model in ways that reflect their unique strengths. Over the course of the year, the lessons were enriched by the practical insights of the thirteen adult education teachers who piloted the material with their classes. The results are superlative."

Annual EOP Features Mira Kimmelman

For Mira Kimmelman, speaking about her experiences during World War II is an ordeal of telling audiences about her early life: her childhood in and around Danzig, the family's expulsion from its apartment, being sent to Warsaw and then to the ghetto of Tomaszow, transport to the Blitzen concentration camp (part of Majdanek) and then to Auschwitz, and finally, trekking on a death march to Bergen-Belsen and her liberation there in early 1945.



Mira Kimmelman

"I relive it every time I speak about it," said the Oak Ridge resident, a former teacher. "It is torture every time. It does not become easier. You see it in front of you over and over again."

Her commitment to conveying the Holocaust's history through her own experiences made Kimmelman an important speaker for THC's 2002 Educational Outreach Program (EOP). This annual conference hosted by Vanderbilt University brings teachers and their handpicked students to an intensive full day immersion in Holocaust history.

"The EOP," said Ruth Tanner, executive director "has become a magnet for teachers because of the extraordinary quality of the presenters--survivors, scholars and filmmakers--for the professional contacts made there and for the classroom teaching aids that are provided teachers and students."

Harriett Heard, a teacher at Jo Byrn's School in Cedar Hill and the chairman of the EOP teacher planning committee, said that hearing Kimmelman's story "kept her mesmerized." Heard said that she felt inspired by Kimmelman's October EOP presentation, and was glad that teachers from 20 counties in the state took part.

The first time she was asked to speak, in 1971, before high school juniors and seniors, "it was difficult to say yes," Kimmelman said. Since then, she has spoken twice a month during the school year, addressing students from middle school through university ages across Tennessee. She meets civic groups in summer.

Kimmelman tells her story, she said, because "I consider it my obligation...in memory of those slaughtered. I survived. I was one of the lucky ones. I have an obligation to the future, so that it doesn't happen again."

David Brown a U.S. history teacher at Rossvie High School in Clarksville-Montgomery

County, who invited Kimmelman to speak to his classes, said in an article in *The (Clarksville) Leaf-Chronicle*: "The message from her generation is so important because they are leaving us pretty quickly. If students can hear it firsthand, they can put a face with the story, and that's vital to getting the word out."



Students at Rossvie High School in Clarksville listen intently to Mira Kimmelman. (Photo: Alicia Archuleta, The Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle.)

Kimmelman is one of only 70 Holocaust survivors living in Tennessee and the only one in Oak Ridge. One testament to her effectiveness as a speaker is that teachers will drive more than 150 miles in each direction to bring her to their classes as a guest. At age 79, she plans to speaking about the Holocaust for as long as her health permits. Kimmelman is working on a book about her life since the Holocaust; in the mid-1990s she wrote *Echoes from the Holocaust*, a memoir of her experiences then.

IN BRIEF

THC Seeks All Tennessee Survivors and Liberators

You can help! THC is soliciting assistance in locating every Holocaust survivor and concentration camp liberator who lives in Tennessee to take part in a photography/biography portrait project. THC hopes to document their experiences and combine them in an exhibit called "Living On: Reflections of Tennessee Survivors and Liberators."

Exhibitions of the pictures and short biographical essays will travel to community and school groups throughout the state. Target date for completion of the project is next spring, Yom HaShoah 2004.

UT Knoxville photojournalism professor Rob Heller is coordinating the portrait exhibition project. THC hopes to locate interviewees through articles in Jewish community newspapers and publications, through the general press and by word of mouth.

THC considers survivors to be anyone living in Europe after Kristallnacht (November 1938). Liberators are those who fought to liberate a concentration camp or who visited a death or concentration camp within 30 days of its liberation.

Please contact THC to pass on any leads: (615) 343-2563 or tnholcom@vanderbilt.edu.

Tennessee Days of Remembrance Spotlights Rabbi Melchior

Denmark's former Chief Rabbi, Bent Melchior, who fled from the Nazis and lived as a refugee in Sweden, visited Tennessee in April for a series of events commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Danish rescue of Jews. Melchior came to Tennessee as a guest of THC. He spoke at the state's annual Day of Remembrance ceremony on April 29 and in other venues, including the Nashville Jewish community's Yom HaShoah program and at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) in an interfaith dialogue about his rescue by Danish Christians.



Rabbi Bent Melchior greets Gov. Phil Bredesen at the State Days of Remembrance observance on April 29.

Rabbi Melchior fought for the Israel Defense Forces in the War of Liberation in 1948, taught in Copenhagen's Jewish schools for 10 years, was ordained in London and went on to lead Copenhagen's and later Denmark's Jewish communities. He also has held leadership positions in international Jewish organizations. Following his visit to Tennessee, Rabbi Melchior has accepted the invitation of the European Union to speak at a conference in Brussels on the importance of developing interfaith relationships.



*Danish Rescue Boat
This boat and others like it were used to rescue Danish Jews for transport to Sweden. Courtesy of USHMM. Photo by Arnold Kramer*



Jewish refugees are ferried out of Denmark aboard Danish fishing boats bound for Sweden. Courtesy of USHMM

IN BRIEF

4th Annual Teacher Seminar Planned for June

From Carter to Lewis counties, from Johnson City to Memphis, 25 secondary school teachers have registered to take part in THC's fourth annual training seminar to be held at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., between June 16 and 19. True to form, registration is at capacity.

The seminar will be led by museum specialists and will focus on teaching content and methodology. Specialized tours will be led of the museum exhibits, and participants will speak with a Holocaust survivor. Tennessee teachers Paul Fleming and Griff Watson, who helped produce a resource guide for teaching the Holocaust, will lead additional sessions on using the new book in the classroom.

Each participant will receive a \$275 THC grant toward the \$550 cost of airfare and hotel. The remainder of the fee typically is borne by the teacher's school or school system.

THC's Resource Catalog Online

THC's Resource Catalog is now online, at www.tennesseeholocaustcommission.org. The materials in the catalog will be available for teachers and faculty in Tennessee to borrow without charge. The service to borrowers is free, except for return mail and possible late fees. Contact Stacey Knight, THC's administrative assistant, with requests at (615) 343-1171 or by e-mail to stacey.l.knight@vanderbilt.edu



*Stacey Knight, THC administrative assistant, distributes copies of *The Holocaust and Other Genocides and the Teacher Guide* to principals and superintendents at the Lead Tennessee conference in October.*