



LIBERATION75

Innovation & Collaboration
in Holocaust Education

Student Holocaust Education Day Symposium

Through the Lens of History: Focusing on the Holocaust Using Film

Grades 4-6

Princess Alice of Greece, a Brave Rescuer During the Holocaust

Kathy Kacer

Live on Zoom – 10 AM

Princess Alice of Greece was a courageous person. During the Second World War, she hid a Jewish family in her residence in Athens, protecting them even when the Gestapo raided her home. Join Kathy Kacer as she talks about this remarkable rescuer and watch as this story is read by Kathy's daughter, Gabi Epstein.

Kathy has written unforgettable stories about the Holocaust. She is an award-winning author who speaks to young people around the world.

The Tattooed Torah

Cindy Kozierok

Live on Zoom – 11 AM

Based on Marvell Ginsburg's beloved children's book of the same name, *The Tattooed Torah* recounts the true story of the rescue and restoration of a small Torah from Brno, Czechoslovakia. In the film, which has already reached over 11,000 classrooms, the Torah is described as the most "precious possession" of the Jewish people—a symbol that represents memories tied to cultural heritage, family, hope and resilience. Narrated by famed actor Ed Asner, the film teaches historical information about the Holocaust in a manner appropriate for a young audience by embedding it in a relatable, profound and touching story. In addition to watching the short film (~20 minutes), this session will also include relevant survivor testimonies from the iWitness platform on the USC Shoah Foundation's website to help students recognize the connection between the film and actual events.

Cindy Kozierok is a teacher in the Toronto District School Board, where she has been teaching for over 30 years. She is also an educational consultant, specializing in Holocaust education in elementary public schools. This unique positioning allows Cindy to combine practical experience with the realities of classroom teaching and an advanced academic background in Holocaust scholarship and educational philosophy. Cindy is a doctoral candidate in the William Davidson School of Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, with a research focus on Holocaust education in elementary public schools. A child of Holocaust survivors, Cindy is proud to serve as the education chair for Liberation75 which provides high-quality education support for teachers engaging in this challenging work.

Hold On To Your Music - Meet the Author and Performer

Mona Golabek

Live on Zoom – 1 PM

Come and learn about the story of Lisa Jura and the "Children of Willesden Lane" during WWII. Concert pianist, author, and Lisa Jura's daughter, Mona Golabek, will share a very special reading of her new children's book, *Hold On to Your Music*, beautifully illustrated by renowned Italian artist, Sonia Possentini. After

Mona Golabek is the founder and president of the Hold On To Your Music Foundation. An author, recording artist, and internationally renowned concert pianist, she learned to play the piano from her mother, Holocaust

<p>the reading, Mona Golabek will be available for questions from students and their teachers.</p>	<p>survivor Lisa Jura, whose stories inspired the critically-acclaimed book, The Children Of Willesden Lane, and the picture book Hold On To Your Music.</p>
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<p>The Story of Simcha: An Introduction to the Holocaust Irene Resenly, Echoes and Reflections <i>Live on Zoom – 2 PM</i></p>	
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<p>This program will introduce students in upper elementary grades to the Holocaust through the story of Simcha Holzberg. After providing an introduction to the topic of the Holocaust and providing some basic context, students will view a short animated film (10 minutes) that conveys the experiences of Simcha Holzberg, a Holocaust survivor from Warsaw, Poland. This short film allows young students to become acquainted with the subject of the Holocaust with an emphasis on spiritual resilience and the values of giving, continuity, and caring for others. Following the film, students will discuss Simcha's story and what they learned about his experiences.</p>	<p>Dr. Irene Ann Resenly is a facilitator for Echoes & Reflections. She is an active classroom teacher and holds a PhD in Curriculum & Instruction with a research focus on Holocaust education.</p>
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<p>Grades 7-9</p>	
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<p>Nobody Told Me Catherin Boyd & Cathy Wilson, Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre <i>On Demand</i></p>	
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<p>When teaching about the dark times in history – it is important to draw attention to those who shared their light with others. Nobody Told Me is a 30-minute documentary created in collaboration with the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre, highlighting the horrific living and working conditions in the Warsaw Ghetto during WWII. The story of Dr Halina Szencier-Rotstein is told through the eyes of her daughter, Wanda and her grandson, Luc, and includes interviews with historians and experts in the field, as well as archive footage of Warsaw during, and post, the war.</p> <p>Wanda and her siblings survived the Holocaust because their mother made the choice to sneak them out of the ghetto with help from friends and colleagues – many of whom would, later, be recognised as Righteous Among the Nations. Dr Halina voluntarily surrendered her “life ticket” and chose to accompany her patients to their deaths in Treblinka 1942. Her act of bravery and selflessness is a story that transcends time and place.</p> <p>This single story allows students to connect to the human impact of the Holocaust while also exploring universal themes such as choices, identity, memory, rescue, commemoration and more. The suggested lesson plan and</p>	<p>Catherine Boyd is the Head of Education, and Cathy Wilson is Educational Facilitator at the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre. Based on the lessons from the Holocaust and the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, they conceptualise and create educational programmes that are specifically developed to teach about the consequences of prejudice, racism and discrimination, and that promote an understanding of the dangers of apathy, silence and indifference.</p>
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workshop is student-led; empowering the participants to trace the narratives that connect with them and explore the themes that interest them - thus facilitating a more meaningful learning experience.

Holocaust Survivor Nate Leipziger's Testimony Presented by His Granddaughter

Jennifer Green, Carrying Testimony from Generation to Generation

On Demand

Jenn shares Nate's story through a combination of personal interviews, a PowerPoint presentation, and her own experiences. She provides historical context, explores his life in Canada, and discusses important lessons about hatred, the misuse of symbols like the swastika, and the dangers of intolerance. Most importantly, she conveys Nate's vision for the future: that true coexistence requires more than mere tolerance—we must mutually accept one another, as long as we allow each other to live in peace.

Nate's Story:

Nate Leipziger was born in Chorzów, Poland, on February 28, 1928, alongside his sister, Linka. In September 1939, the German army invaded Poland, and soon after, Chorzów was declared "Judenrein" (free of Jews). Nate's family was forced to relocate to Sosnowiec, which became a de facto ghetto. They were later deported to Auschwitz, where Nate was separated from his mother and sister, never to see them again.

By chance, Nate's father managed to move him into his line, allowing them to remain together. Nate endured the horrors of multiple concentration camps, including Auschwitz-Birkenau, Funfteichen, Gross-Rosen, Flossenbürg, Leonberg, Mühldorf am Inn, and Waldlager, two sub-camps of Dachau. On May 2, 1945, Nate and his father were liberated. In 1948, they immigrated to Canada, where Nate built a new life. He later married Bernice, and together they raised three daughters. Today, their family includes 9 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, a testament to resilience and hope.

Jenn Green is the granddaughter of Holocaust survivor Nate Leipziger. Jenn has travelled on the March of the Living program 4 times with her grandfather, once as a student, twice as a chaperone and most recently as his survivor liaison. Jenn is a speaker with "Carrying Testimony" and shares Nate's history and lessons for the future with classrooms around the world to preserve Nate's testimony for future generations.

Introducing White Bird- Humanity in the Face of Hatred

Sedda Antekelian, USC Shoah Foundation

On Demand

The USC Shoah Foundation, Lionsgate, and Kingdom Story Company partnered to educate young people about the courage to choose kindness in connection with the film White Bird.

During this session presented by the USC Shoah Foundation, students will be introduced to the film White Bird, learn about the impact of antisemitic Nazi

Sedda Antekelian is the Senior Learning and Development Specialist at the USC Shoah Foundation - Institute for Visual History and Education. Sedda develops multimedia testimony-based resources for various educational programs across the Institute and facilitates training on best practices for teaching with testimony across the curriculum, for educators worldwide.

policies on Jewish communities in Vichy France during the Holocaust and how acts of courage and kindness showed resistance to antisemitism during this period.

Students will engage with featured clips from the film that convey the effect of antisemitism on the key character of the film, Sara Blum, a young French-Jewish girl, and watch audiovisual testimony from survivors of the Holocaust, who lived through similar experiences and discover how acts of kindness made a difference in their life, during this period. By the end of this session, students will reflect on the importance of kindness and write a pledge that shares how they will apply kindness in their daily life.

Glimpses of Jewish Life Before the Holocaust

Jennifer Goss, Echoes & Reflections

On Demand

In this session, students will learn about the richness and diversity of Jewish life in Europe before the Holocaust. They will begin by reflecting on their perceptions of Jewish life prior to the Holocaust before viewing a short film that illustrates the range of experiences of Jewish teenagers in pre-World War II Europe. Following further reflections, students will have the opportunity to learn more about the experiences of specific Jewish teenagers through visual history testimony and additional primary and secondary sources.

Jennifer Goss is the Project Director for Echoes & Reflections, a joint partnership of the ADL, USC Shoah Foundation and Yad Vashem. A veteran classroom educator, Jennifer holds an M.A. in Holocaust and Genocide Studies from West Chester University of Pennsylvania. In her current role, she leads the ADL's Echoes & Reflections team to provide Holocaust education resources and professional development for educators.

Drawing Closer to Testimony

Mariette Doduck, Holocaust Survivor

David Kassan, Artist

Live on Zoom – 1 PM

This “live” Zoom program for grades 7-12 will explore testimony through art with internationally acclaimed artist, David Kassan. Over the past 11 years, David has been painting life-size portraits of Holocaust survivors, preserving their stories through this unique and indelible format. During the program, David will sketch Holocaust survivor, Mariette Doduck, while she recounts her experiences during the Holocaust. Students will watch Mariette’s portrait come alive as they speak.

Mariette Doduck is only five years old when the Nazis invade her hometown of Brussels, Belgium, in 1940. Soon her family is torn apart, and Mariette and her siblings are scattered across the city and countryside, hiding with non-Jews and in convents and orphanages or working for the resistance. Seeing violence and death all around her, Mariette learns the skills she needs to survive — how to throw a knife, jump from a moving vehicle and, most importantly, stay silent. Mariette emerges from the war quick-thinking, fiercely independent and ready to start a new life in Canada. As she navigates a transition to a new identity as Marie — an industrious and resourceful community member, mother and advocate for children’s rights — Mariette, the silent child, begins to find her voice.

David Kassan is an internationally recognized artist known for his deeply expressive and life-like portraiture. Over the past decade, he has painted

	<p>more than 30 Holocaust survivors, preserving their stories through his work. His art blends classical techniques with contemporary themes, focusing on the human experience and historical memory. Kassan teaches and exhibits worldwide, with his paintings featured in major museums and collections.</p>
<p>Grades 10-12</p>	
<p>Dignity and Rights Ashley Doering, Canadian Museum for Human Rights <i>On Demand</i></p>	
<p>Students will learn about the role that othering plays in the denial of dignity and rights. In a journey through our galleries and a viewing of the film Canada, Antisemitism and the Holocaust, students will examine the Holocaust and recognize othering as a starting point for many human rights violations, including genocide.</p>	<p>Ashley Doering is an Interpretive Program Developer at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR). Ashley holds a B.A. in French Studies and a B.Ed. from the University of Winnipeg. In her role at the CMHR she supports the development of K-12 education programs with a focus on virtual and national programs and educator workshops.</p>
<p>Exploring the Holocaust Through Survivor Testimony: The Howard Chandler Journey Dr. Josh Andy & Ellen Resnek, Classrooms Without Borders <i>On Demand</i></p>	
<p>This session will immerse students in Holocaust history through the powerful testimony of Howard Chandler, a 96-year-old Holocaust survivor from Toronto, Canada, featured in the "Journey with Howard Chandler" app. Led by Dr. Josh Andy, the session combines Howard's personal story with historical context using filmed testimony, digital mapping, and interactive analysis. Students will explore key moments of Howard's journey, deepening their understanding of the Holocaust, antisemitism, and the importance of remembrance. Emphasizing critical thinking, empathy, and media literacy, the session will guide students in analyzing survivor testimony within a broader historical framework.</p>	<p>Dr. Josh Andy is a distinguished educator and scholar with a deep commitment to Holocaust education and social justice. His work focuses on utilizing history and personal testimony to inspire empathy and understanding in today's students, empowering them to combat hate and discrimination.</p> <p>Ellen Resnek is a passionate educator with extensive experience in nonprofit work, curriculum development, and Holocaust education. As a facilitator and advocate for community-based learning, she strives to empower educators and students to create a more inclusive and compassionate world.</p>
<p>Echoes of Survival - Surviving Against All Odds: The Holocaust Testimony of Jack Borenstein, Shared by His Granddaughter Danya Koplowitz, Carrying Testimony From Generation to Generation <i>On Demand</i></p>	
<p>In this presentation, Danya Koplowitz recounts her grandfather's experiences during the Holocaust. Born in 1924 in Ostrowiec, Poland, Jack Borenstein was spared during the mass deportation in 1942 due to a work permit his father secured for him at a local steel factory. He remained there until 1944, when he was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau and later transferred to Buna, where he</p>	<p>Danya Koplowitz is a dedicated educator and community leader based in Toronto. With a Masters of Science in Education and a Masters of Jewish Professional Studies, Danya has cultivated a rich professional background over her 20-plus years in the fields of education and the Jewish community. As the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, she carries a</p>

was forced to disarm unexploded bombs. Jack endured multiple camp transfers before being liberated on April 30, 1945, at the Feldafing Hitler Youth Camp in Germany. He immigrated to Toronto in 1950, where he built a successful life, running a popular diner and raising a family.

profound legacy that informs her work and commitment to preserving Jewish history and values. Born and raised in Toronto, Danya is a proud mother of three children, balancing her family life with her passion for fostering learning and engagement within her community. Her dedication to education and her deep-rooted connection to Jewish traditions continue to inspire those around her.

Reflecting on Liberation: Tragedy or Triumph?

Sheryl Ochayon, Echoes & Reflections

On Demand

January 27, 2025 marked 80 years since the liberation of Auschwitz, now commemorated as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Was liberation the happy ending we think it was? Did the liberators and the survivors feel a sense of triumph? Join Sheryl Ochayon, Project Director for Echoes & Reflections at Yad Vashem, to explore filmed testimonies, photographs and other primary sources that tell the more complicated story of liberation as it really was, for the survivors and the liberators.

Sheryl Ochayon holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School, a B.A. in History from the State University of New York at Binghamton and a Certificate in Holocaust and Genocide Studies from Stockton University. After working for many years as an attorney, she became a Holocaust educator in 2005 when she began guiding in Yad Vashem's Holocaust History Museum. She has worked in Yad Vashem's Educational Technologies Department, writing content for the video toolbox series and for internet courses, taken by students all over the world. She has led student and adult groups in Poland since 2006 and has represented Yad Vashem internationally, speaking at seminars, conferences, and at the United Nations. She is currently the Project Director of Echoes & Reflections for Yad Vashem.

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