

LEGACY

Keeping the History and Lessons of the Holocaust Alive



BIRMINGHAM
HOLOCAUST
EDUCATION
CENTER

Fall 2018

RMTC Brings the Magic of Theatre to *L'Chaim* 2018



ABOVE: Abijah Cunningham with Steel City Men's Chorus and RMTC Conservatory
RIGHT: *L'Chaim* Co-Chairs Kate Cotton & David Silverstein with Joel Rotenstreich



L'Chaim 2018 honoring Joel Rotenstreich—a collaboration between the BHEC and Red Mountain Theatre Company—was a musical celebration that used the performing arts to deliver a strong message about the mission of the BHEC. As the culmination of a very successful fundraising campaign, *L'Chaim* highlighted the work of the BHEC, the outlook

for our future, and the important role Joel has played in the BHEC and the community at large. "I've learned that with fundraising, family, and business, you accomplish more face to face," Joel has said, giving us the theme for *L'Chaim* 2018: "Face to Face."

[Continued on page 4]

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR FATHERS

Second Generation Survivors Ann Mollengarden and Denise Lewis Visit Their Fathers' Hometowns

We are all born into a story. For the children of Holocaust survivors, that story invariably includes trauma, loss, and grief, along with hope and gratitude at the circumstances that made survival possible. For many second generation survivors, their family histories are too painful for them to share. The BHEC is fortunate that two of its Executive Board members—both the daughters of Holocaust survivors—have made their fathers' stories their own and have dedicated their energies to keeping the history and the lessons of the Holocaust alive. This summer, Ann Mollengarden (VP of Education) and Denise Lewis (VP of Engagement) both had the opportunity to visit their fathers' hometowns in Europe.

[Continued on page 6]



LEFT: Ann Mollengarden's father, Robert May, age 8
BELOW: Denise Lewis' father, Roger Blum



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Deborah Layman

The BHEC is entering an exciting season of change and growth! Our 2018 *L'Chaim* fundraising campaign exceeded our expectations, positioning us to increase our programming, expand our reach, and touch more teachers, students, and community members. We will dream big and even bigger, enter into more partnerships and collaborations with like-minded organizations, and develop new and creative ways to deliver our message. We're deeply grateful to our supporters, and we're committed to being good stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us.

BHEC leadership is also changing, as Interim Executive Director Joyce Spielberg steps down and new Executive Director Thomas Bryant takes the helm in her place. For the last ten months, Joyce has devoted her considerable expertise and energy to setting the BHEC on a true and focused course that has prepared us for this season of growth. Joyce now returns to her well-earned retirement, which was interrupted by her tenure as the BHEC's Interim ED, and she will serve as a member of the BHEC Board and Executive Committee, where her input will continue to be invaluable.

We're delighted to welcome Thomas Bryant as Executive Director. Thomas comes to the BHEC from the Alabama Humanities Foundation (AHF), where he has served for more than sixteen years. During his tenure at AHF, Thomas directed the foundation's educational outreach programs, including a decade of content-based, graduate-level teacher development. For the last seven years, Thomas served as Director of AHF's federal and non-federal re-grants program supporting a vast array of catalytic humanities, arts, and culture educational projects.

"Serving a noble cause and working with passionate people is to me the most fulfilling work imaginable. It is easy to give something your all when you believe in it strongly," Thomas said. "The opportunity to advance BHEC's crucial mission of educating all generations about the perils of ignorance, hatred, and indifference is without question the greatest honor of my career."

As a BHEC Board member and Executive Committee member, Thomas demonstrated a passion for the work and mission of the BHEC. This, combined with his considerable nonprofit experience and his leadership skills, will serve him well in his new role. We're looking forward to a great season of growth and impact for the BHEC!



Thomas Bryant, Executive Director

Message from Joyce Spielberger, Outgoing Executive Director



Joyce Spielberger

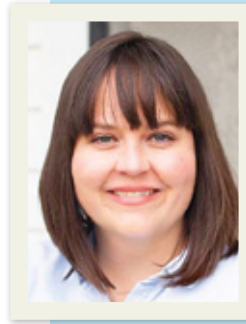
It has been almost a year since I assumed the position of Interim Executive Director of the BHEC, and it has been a time of great transformation, transition, and growth. Though our programming and mission have always been strong, our operations needed updating and upgrading. Through the continued commitment of our

donors, we have been able to transform our office with the addition of a computer network, needed security enhancements, and vital office infrastructure.

With our wonderful staff, I am confident that under the direction of our new Executive Director, Thomas Bryant, we are poised and ready for great growth - both in physical space as well as in scope and outreach. The task that lies ahead for our Board of Directors is to continue to “dream big” as we consider our next steps. Yet the core of our dream will remain constant - to continue to expand our reach and programming so that we may continue to teach the lessons of the Holocaust to promote a more just and humane future for all.

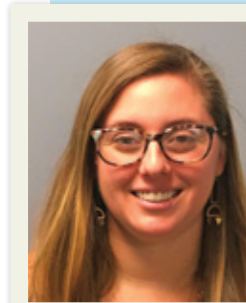
As Interim Executive Director, I have now had the privilege of hearing our survivors speak many times and never does it fail to move me when I hear Dr. Robert May tell students that it is their responsibility to speak up when they witness someone being mistreated because he or she may be considered the “other,” or when Riva Hirsch tells students that they are now witnesses to her story and it is their obligation to carry it forward. Our mission is powerful and in today’s turbulent world, more important than ever.

I am so grateful to have had this important opportunity professionally and will now proudly reassume my position as a member of our Board of Directors. I will continue to work to help insure that Never Again will people allow indifference, hate and bigotry to be acceptable.



Kendall Chew, Outreach Coordinator

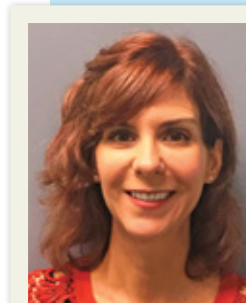
Kendall has worked in the Birmingham nonprofit community for more than thirteen years, including four years with the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. Kendall earned a B.A. in Art History and an M.A. in History from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) with specialties in Southern History, the South in Film, and Media in the Civil Rights Movement. She prides herself on her passion for her city and giving back to its people. As the BHEC’s Outreach Coordinator, Kendall believes it is her mission to tell the stories of local Holocaust survivors to the community so that their stories, courage, and bravery will never be forgotten. kendall@bhecinfo.org



Lauren Lambert, Office Coordinator

Lauren is originally from Pensacola, Florida, moving to Alabama to attend the University of Alabama and compete on the Cross Country and Track team. Lauren was formerly the Director of the Laps for Cystic Fibrosis Foundation supporting the Cystic Fibrosis centers at Children’s of Alabama and UAB. Lauren

is excited to be back in the nonprofit world and working at the BHEC. With her experience in the workings of nonprofits, her expertise in data management, and her excellent organizational skills, Lauren keeps everything running smoothly at the BHEC. office@bhecinfo.org



Melissa Young, Archivist

Melissa is a PhD candidate at the University of Alabama, working on her dissertation on the development of the Jewish community in Birmingham between 1871-1920. She holds master degrees in English and History and taught literature for six years at Wallace State Community College and English

for nine years at Fairview High School before serving as a teaching assistant at University of Alabama for two years. Melissa started at the BHEC as an intern in 2014 and joined the staff in 2016 as Archivist. Under her direction, our collection of historical documents and artifacts has grown in content and scope, and our multimedia collection is now available in a digitized catalogue. archives@bhecinfo.org

RMTC Brings the Magic of Theatre to L'Chaim 2018 continued...

Photos by Nik Layman

From the opening number—"I Will Give," a spoof of the 70s hit "I Will Survive" focused on Joel's penchant for doing his fundraising over lunch—to the finale—James Taylor's powerful "Shed a Little Light" featuring Abijah Cunningham with the Steel City Men's Chorus and students from the RMTC Conservatory—L'Chaim 2018 was a fast-paced 75 minutes of music and spoken word in Joel's honor.

Students from the RMTC Conservatory performed "Face to Face," a series of spoken word pieces by Deborah Layman that focused on the role of

Holocaust and human rights education in mobilizing young people to stand up for what's right and speak out against what's wrong.

Musical selections featured songs with special meaning for Joel, including "Yerushalayim shel Zahav" ("Jerusalem of Gold") performed by Cantor Jessica Roskin and violinist Karalyn Harper, "The Impossible Dream" performed by Caleb Clark and the Steel City Men's Chorus, and "Standing on the Shoulders" performed by Cantor Roskin with accompanying images of our Holocaust survivors.

A video of Joel's eight-year-old grandsons Asher and Noah telling interesting—and sometimes hilarious—facts about their "Papa" was a highlight of the program.

The BHEC is grateful to L'Chaim 2018 Co-Chairs Kate Cotton and David Silverstein for their visionary leadership in our annual fundraising campaign. Thanks to their efforts, the excellent work of our staff and many dedicated volunteers, and the overwhelming generosity of the Birmingham community, the BHEC is poised for a year of growth.

See more photos and the L'Chaim 2018 video at bhecinfo.org.



ANAKIN WHITE, RMTC CONSERVATORY
"We'll draw the circle wide and embrace the world."



JOEL ROTENSTREICH WITH ASHER & NOAH
"My hope is that you will grow up in a more caring, peaceful, and just world."



RMTC CONSERVATORY
"I want to start something...face to face. I think about it every day..."



CANTOR JESSICA ROSKIN
"I'm standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before me..."



CALEB CLARK WITH THE STEEL CITY MEN'S CHORUS
"...to dream the impossible dream..."



KARALYN HARPER
*"Jerusalem of Gold, of bronze and of light,
 I am the violin for all your songs."*



MARCUS GLADNEY
*"Isn't it wonderful that nobody need wait a single
 moment before starting to improve the world."*

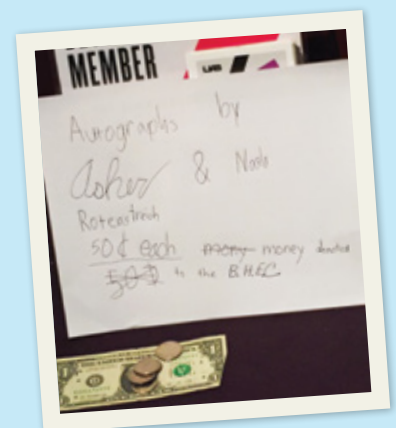


FINALE
"There are ties between us, all men and women living on the earth..."



Asher and Noah Rotenstreich,

Joel Rotenstreich's grandsons, made their video debut at *L'Chaim* 2018, charming us all with their entertaining personalities, earnest intelligence, and love for their Papa and MyGigi. After the show, these young philanthropic entrepreneurs created an impromptu fundraising opportunity: they autographed programs during the reception at 50 cents a pop. Working the crowd enthusiastically, the boys autographed many, many programs and raised \$40. Asher and Noah visited the BHEC office with their mother, Beth, to present their donation and learn more about the work of the BHEC.



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR FATHERS continued...

Ann's father, Dr. Robert May, spent a happy early childhood in Camberg, Germany where his family owned a dry goods store and his father served as unofficial cantor at a small synagogue. In 1933, Hitler came to power, and antisemitism exploded in the town. The neighborhood grocer would no

longer sell to the family. Fear became a part of daily life for Robert when classmates joined the Hitler Youth and taunted him. In 1936, increasing oppression forced his parents to send ten-year-old Robert to live with an aunt in Frankfurt, where he could attend a Jewish school. Camberg was no longer a place of fond memories, and later in life would become the

source of his nightmares. Yet, Dr. May took his three children—and later his grandchildren—to Camberg and told them stories of his lost childhood.

As an adult, Ann has pursued an in-depth, ongoing study of Holocaust history which led her to a deep curiosity about the history of Camberg. She began a correspondence

with Dr. Peter K. Schmidt, author of *Die Judenschaft von Camberg* (The Jewry of Camberg) and through him met Doris Ammelung, another Camberg historian. She spent three days this

ABOVE LEFT: Robert's elementary school
LEFT: Coat hanger from the Mays' dry goods store
BELOW: Site of May family store and home



Robert's first grade classmate with class photo

summer touring Camberg with these two local experts. "I was offered the unique experience of learning the history of my father's home town from two amazing historians whom I now consider dear friends," said Ann. Together, they visited the May family home and store, the elementary school, the site of the former synagogue, and the cemeteries with a focus on understanding the history. They visited the newly renovated *Alte Judische Schule* (Old Jewish Synagogue)—a project on which Schmidt and Ammelung had worked enthusiastically to make a reality.

Ann was invited to speak to a gathering of the Camberg community; she told them her father's story. In the audience was a first-grade classmate of her father (age 92), who brought a copy of their class photo and shared stories. Ann also met a high school student who expressed interest in bringing Dr. May's story to her school. For Ann, who has accompanied Dr. May as he tells his story to students in schools across Alabama, this was especially gratifying.

"What I witnessed," Ann said, "was a concerted effort by this German community to acknowledge its past. My father vicariously enjoyed my undertaking, although he has no desire to reconnect personally with this thorn from his childhood. I am removed just enough that I can face the past head on, study it objectively, try to make some sense of it, and use what I learn to educate future leaders to do the same."





Denise Lewis's father, the late Roger Blum, was born in the small town of Brumath in the Alsace region of France in 1920. His father, Henri Blum, owned a butcher shop on the Rue des Juifs (Street of the Jews). In the summer of 1939, trouble was brewing for the Jews, and so Roger, at the age of 19, was sent to Birmingham, Alabama, to live with cousins.

In September of 1939, the Nazis entered Brumath. The Blum family was sent to a labor camp; Roger's mother, father, and older sister escaped with the unexpected help of a German guard. They fled to Nyons in the south of France, where they hid for five years in caves, homes, and forests with the help of the townspeople.

In 1942, Roger signed up for the U.S. draft and was sent to active duty in France. When he heard that there were families from Brumath hiding in Nyons, he got permission to go and look for his family; against all odds, he was reunited with his parents and sister in Nyons.

Denise still has family in France, including her first cousin Annick Levy, the daughter of her father's older sister, Felecie.

In August, Denise traveled to Paris with her sister-in-law Suzanne Blum and her nieces Catherine and Caroline Blum for the Bat Mitzvah of her cousin Annick's granddaughter. After the happy family occasion, Annick joined Denise and the others on a train and road trip to the Alsace region. Denise had visited Brumath on earlier trips to France; she remembers meeting her grandparents and her Aunt Felecie when she was eight years old and had visited her cousin Annick several times. It was the first "family history" trip for Suzanne and her daughters.



ABOVE LEFT: Cousins at the Jewish Cemetery in Crehange

ABOVE: Henri Blum and his butcher shop in Brumath

RIGHT: Denise & Annick in front of their grandfather's former shop

BELOW RIGHT: Strasbourg Square, where Denise's father went to dances

Their first stop was Faulquemont, a small Alsatian town where the Blum family lived after the war. In the Jewish cemetery in nearby Crehange, the cousins visited the family graves.

In Brumath, where their parents had been born, the cousins walked the narrow and picturesque streets. "It was very emotional for me," Denise said. "These were the streets my dad walked. And the street they lived and work on is still called Rue des Juifs."

Denise and Annick posed together in front of their grandfather's butcher shop, which is now a garage. Denise's dad worked there as a delivery boy; when he came to Birmingham, his first job was in a butcher shop on Morris Avenue.

Leaving Brumath, the group continued on to Strasbourg, the small city where Roger and Felecie had attended school. Denise remembers the stories her father told about happy times in Strasbourg, and she visited the square where her dad used to go dancing. The road trip continued with a drive through the beautiful Alsatian region, where they sampled delicious specialties in each little town.

The trip was a powerful and emotional experience for Denise and



Annick. The two cousins spent a lot of time talking about the family and its history. In the Blum household after the war, the subject of the Holocaust was off-limits, so Annick had never had anyone to talk to about it. "You're the closest thing I have to a sister," she told Denise.

Catherine and Caroline, the younger Blum cousins on the trip, were also affected deeply. "It was very special to be able to see where my granddaddy grew up and to visit the cemetery where my great-grandparents are buried," Caroline said. "It was so moving to me."



Tom Kertesz
with the Herend
porcelain figurine of
Mrs. Déry, a legendary
Hungarian actress

Holocaust Survivor Tom Kertesz Moves to Birmingham with His Unique Story

by Ann Mollengarden, VP of Education

Every Holocaust story is unique, teaching us a bit of history, a bit of human nature, and a bit of the sheer luck that it took to survive the Holocaust. The story of Tom Kertesz does all of that and more.

Survivor Tom Kertesz and his wife Liliane recently moved to Birmingham from Monterey, CA to be near their son, Dr. Stefan Kertesz. Tom is from Kalocsa, Hungary, the “Paprika Capital of the World.” While Tom’s busy work schedule in Monterey kept him from sharing his full testimony or speaking to schools or community groups, he hopes to begin telling his story in Birmingham.

Born in 1935, Tom was the only child of István and Ibolya Kertesz. World War II started for him on March 16, 1939, when his father, a first lieutenant in the Hungarian Army Reserve, was called up to fight in the wake of the German dismemberment of Czechoslovakia. Tom’s father remained on active duty

until 1941, when all Jewish officers, including his father and uncle, were decommissioned. He was sent to the Soviet front in the spring of 1942 as member of one of the Jewish labor battalions, where he was killed in early 1943 during the battle of Stalingrad.

In March 1944, when Germany occupied Hungary, life for the Jews of Kalosca took a drastic turn. They were forced to relocate to a mainly Jewish street in the town—what we now know as a ghetto. Before Tom’s family left, a neighbor asked if she could keep anything for safekeeping. Tom’s mother gave the neighbor a Herend porcelain figurine that had been a gift from her husband on their wedding day.

For three months, Tom, his mother, maternal grandmother, and paternal grandparents were confined to their ghetto home; there was no school and no work. One sweltering June morning, the family was marched to the local railway station for

deportation. Their destination was an abandoned brickyard in nearby Szeged.

After only a week in the deplorable conditions at Szeged, the family was sent back to the trains. Intuitively realizing that these trains brought little hope of a better place, Tom’s mother deliberately delayed the inevitable and boarded at the last minute. A couple of days into the journey, the last few boxcars were uncoupled from the others and were re-directed to the Austrian slave labor camp of Strasshof. The others went on to Auschwitz.

Call it luck, call it fate; we now know that this turn of events was the work of Rudolf (Rezső) Kasztner, a Hungarian-Jewish journalist and Labor Zionist activist in Hungary known for his controversial efforts to help Jewish refugees escape from Hungary in 1944. In an agreement with Adolf Eichmann known as “Blood for Goods,” laborers needed to work in industry and agriculture in Austria were exchanged for money and/or goods like trucks. Tom’s train car was part of that exchange. 20,000 Jews survived through the Strasshof route.

The family was moved from Strasshof to Moosbierbaum (a sub-camp of Mauthausen), and then to Deutsch-Wagram. While his mother labored in an oil refinery, shoveled coal, and built airstrips, Tom, who was only nine years old, mostly “wandered around.” His grandparents worked in the kitchen and cared for him. The family was liberated by the Russians on April 14, 1945.

The porcelain figurine was returned by the faithful neighbor who kept it safe. Today, it represents Tom’s sole connection to his childhood and the life he once had. It is a reminder of the goodness of some during this inhumane time.

The BHEC welcomes Tom and Liliane to the Birmingham community. We look forward to learning more details of his story of survival.



COMING IN JANUARY!

STITCHING • HISTORY • FROM THE HOLOCAUST

January 7 – March 9
Abroms-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts

The Holocaust deprived the world of the contributions of millions of individuals. “Stitching History from the Holocaust” highlights one of these lost lives whose potential was never fully realized.

Prague 1939: Hitler’s army invades Czechoslovakia, and the worst fears of Czech Jews become reality. Paul Strnad writes to his cousin Alvin in Milwaukee asking for help in getting visas for himself and his wife Hedy, a talented dress designer, to emigrate to the US. He includes eight samples of Hedy’s dress designs. Sadly, Alvin’s efforts to help Paul and Hedy are unsuccessful and the couple perish in the Holocaust.

Milwaukee 1968: Alvin Strnad passes away, and his son finds Paul’s letter and Hedy’s sketches in the basement of the house. He donates them to the Jewish Museum Milwaukee.

Jewish Museum Milwaukee 2014: The Museum brings Hedy’s work to life with the help of the costume shop at Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, which meticulously crafts the eight dresses from Hedy’s drawings, and “Stitching History from the Holocaust”—a detailed personal and historical exhibit—is born.

Watch for more announcements about the upcoming exhibit, gallery talks, guided tours, and more!



**Hedy and
Paul Strnad**

Uncovering a Lost Family Story

by Kendall Chew, Outreach Coordinator

Some families are lucky enough to be able to trace their ancestry for many centuries, including pictures, letters, and artifacts that map out the journey. Families who fell victim to the Holocaust do not have this luxury, unfortunately. Seventy-three years after the end of World War II, second, third, and fourth generation Holocaust survivors are still trying to piece together their family trees despite the massive omissions this genocide created in personal history.

One such man is Birmingham native Andrew Sperling, who now lives in Washington, DC.

A torch bearer for his family's legacy, Andrew Sperling grew more and more curious about his family's journey after talking to his Aunt Dvorah at dinner one evening. "You know," she said, "there are just no Sperling relatives out there." Andrew later asked his father David, "What did Aunt Dvorah mean by 'no Sperling relatives?'"

Andrew knew the Sperling family settled in Alabama at the turn of the 20th century when Andrew's grandfather Isadore—Dvorah's father—came to Tuscaloosa. Isadore was born in Poland in 1884 and was able to bring his younger brother (born in 1886) to Alabama from Palestine in 1921.

On a recent trip to Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Israel, Andrew began to investigate family members who perished in the Holocaust. He discovered a woman named *Rjwka Shperling* or *Szperling* who was born in Warsaw in 1890. When Andrew saw her photograph, he recognized a family resemblance and felt an immediate connection. He learned that she had lived in the Plonsk Ghetto in Poland and was sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Aunt Dvorah had told him how upset her father Isadore would get when asked about his family. "It was too painful for him," Andrew recalls. He became determined to confirm that Rjwka was indeed his great aunt whose loss in the Holocaust was too painful for his grandfather to talk about.

Andrew approached the BHEC when he began his research. "I want to find out when the Plonsk Ghetto fell," Andrew said. "I want to find out what SS soldier was responsible for its fall and the murder of its inhabitants."

Andrew hopes to uncover the details of Rjwka's story and bring closure to his questions about Sperling family members lost in the Holocaust. Andrews' new-found interest in Holocaust history and family stories led to a very generous grant from the Sperling Family Foundation to the work of the BHEC. Andrew has expressed a desire to have a tribute to Rjwka at our Center, and we would be honored to display such a tribute and to assist in uncovering the answers he seeks. As Andrew continues his research, we encourage other families to do the same. If the BHEC can be of assistance in these efforts, please contact us.

YAD VASHEM
and Heroes' Remembrance Authority

יד ושם
רשות הזיכרון לשואה ולגבורה

היכל השמות

Page of Testimony דף עדות

דף עד לרישום והצגה של הנספים בשואה; נא למלא דף עבור כל נספה בנפרד, בכתב כרוז

חוק זיכרון השואה והגבורה-תש"ל 1953 קובע בסעיף מס' 2 כי "תפקידו של יד ושם הוא לאסוף כל אלה מבני העם היהודי שנפלו ומסדרו את נפשם, נלחמו ומרדו באויב הנאצי ובעוזריו ולהציג לארגונים ולמוסדות שנחרבו בגלל השתייכותם לעם היהודי."

שם משפחה של הנספה: **SHPERLING / SZPERLING**
שם משפחה לפני הגירוש: **KUPFER / KUPHER**
שם פרטי (חובה / כתיב): **רִיבְּקָה**
שם משפחה קודם / אחר: **קופר**
שם משפחה קודם / אחר: **קופר**
תאריך לידה: **1890**
מקום לידה: **פולין**
מקום מגורים קודם: **פולין**
מקום מגורים לפני הגירוש: **פולין**
שם אביו של הנספה (פרטי): **אברהם**
שם אמו של הנספה (פרטי): **דבורה**
מס' ילדים: **1**
מס' משפחה: **62004**
שם בן/בת הנספה (פרטי): **דבורה**
שם משפחה לפני הגירוש: **קופר**
שם משפחה קודם / אחר: **קופר**
חבר בארגון / תנועה: **הצלב האדום**
אירועים / מקומות בנסן המלחמה (ספר / בירוש / נס / מנה / צעדת מוות / מסחר / בריחה / התנגדות / ליהודים): **1942 - 1943**
מקום המוות: **אוסטריה**
גטו / מחנה: **פלונסק**
אם הת'ם נצטרף / ה' בוח ב' הגדה שמספרו על פרישה מנחם ואמונתו לר' מרדכי יצחקי והביתו.
שם פרטי: **דבורה**
שם משפחה: **קופר**
שם משפחה קודם: **קופר**
מס' בית: **4**
מס' סלון: **62004**
מס' חדר: **03-605657**
הצב / ציוד / שואה: **הצב / ציוד / שואה**
הקריבה (המשפחה / אחרת) לנספה: **הצב / ציוד / שואה**
בוסן המלחמה הייתי במנה / במסחר / בוחת בדיה / ביישור / במחנות:

תאריך: **16.9.2008**
מקום: **תל-אביב**
חתימה: **יגאל**

"ונתתי להם בביתי ובחובותי יד ושם... אשר לא יכרת" ישיבתנו ב"ה

SPEAKERS BUREAU UPDATE

by Denise Lewis, VP of Engagement

Over the last few months, our Survivors and Guardians of Remembrance had the following speaking engagements:

MAY

Max Steinmetz - Mississippi College, Clinton, MS, via SKYPE

Dr. Robert May - Albertville High School, via SKYPE

Riva Hirsch - Open House at the BHEC office; Homewood Middle School

Eli Pinhas - Douglas High School & Boaz High School

Esther Levy - Regency Retirement Village; Shades Valley Masonic Lodge

JUNE

Ruth Siegler - Brookdale Senior Living

JULY

Max Steinmetz - Open House for Bayer Properties employees at the BHEC office

Ann Mollengarden - Mountain Brook Kiwanis Club

AUGUST

Max Steinmetz - Visitors from New Site, AL and other guests at the BHEC office

Riva Hirsch - Brookdale Senior Living

To schedule a speaker for your school, office, or organization, visit bhecinfo.org.

HOW GERMANY HAS COME TO TERMS WITH ITS PAST

FEATURED SPEAKER: STEFAN SCHLÜTER
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY, BERLIN

PANEL DISCUSSION WITH LOCAL EDUCATORS

MODERATED BY
TINA KEMPIN REUTER,
UAB INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

RECEPTION AT 5:30 PM
PROGRAM AT 6:00 PM

BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS INSTITUTE
ODESSA WOOLFOLK GALLERY
520 16TH STREET NORTH
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203



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GERMANY



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THE HOLOCAUST IN FILM 2019

SUNDAY 01/13 AT 2:00 P.M.
THURSDAY 01/17 AT 6:30 P.M.
THURSDAY 01/24 AT 6:30 P.M.
SUNDAY 01/27 AT 2:00 P.M.

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BIRMINGHAM TEACHER WORKSHOP

TEACHING WITH STORIES

Monday, November 5

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Emmet O'Neal Library

CEU Credit: 6 hours

Local Holocaust educators Ann Mollengarden, Amy McDonald, Kate Gholston, and Jeremy Brown will profile the journeys of Anne Frank and local Holocaust survivors Robert May and Ruth Siegler to model the use of survivor testimony and historical context as a classroom strategy. The workshop will also highlight two key topics: Kristallnacht and American & the Holocaust.

The workshop is free for teachers, and the cost of substitute teachers will be covered. Lunch will be provided.

To register, visit bhecinfo.org.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR SERIES

2222 ARLINGTON AVE S. 5:00 PM.

SEPT. 27 & DEC. 13, 2018

MAR. 14 & MAY 9, 2019

**FEATURING LOCAL
HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS
& THEIR TESTIMONIES**



**BIRMINGHAM
HOLOCAUST
EDUCATION
CENTER**

BHEC Intern Leads on Archive Digitization and Translation

by Kendall Chew, Outreach Coordinator

Dwyer Freeman was first introduced to the BHEC in the summer of 2017 as a University of Alabama student researching a project on journalist coverage of White Nationalist and Nazi sympathizer Richard Spencer's speech at Auburn University. Dwyer's interest in the archives and valuable skill sets led to an internship that helped take our fledgling archives to the next level.

Dwyer worked with BHEC Archivist Melissa Young on planning and implementing the process of archive digitization including the creation of a digital catalogue which allows online searches of the multimedia materials in the archives. Melissa and Dwyer defined the needs of our archives, then Dwyer researched the various options available for digitization software and prepared a report which was presented to the BHEC Board. A software system was selected, and Dwyer then catalogued the entirety of the BHEC's multimedia archive amounting to more than 1,500 items.

One of the greatest talents Dwyer brought to the BHEC was knowledge of the German language. Freeman helped translate and contextualize various German-language documents in the archives including family letters of local survivors documenting the last years of the Holocaust and the first years of Israeli-occupied Palestine.

Dwyer graduated magna cum laude from the University of Alabama in May with a B.A. in German Language and Literature. The next stop for Dwyer is Germany as a Fulbright Teaching Assistant at an upper level high school in Hamburg.

Interns continue to be a valuable resource for our organization. If you would like to know more about becoming a BHEC intern, please visit our website at www.bhecinfo.org.



Dwyer Freeman with a presentation on the Nazis and "Degenerate Music" at the annual German Undergraduate Conference at Illinois Wesleyan University in 2017.

2018-19 COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERIES

Join us for the BHEC's Community Education Series beginning in October. Monthly sessions will be on weekday evenings, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., at the BHEC.

Registration is now open for the series and is required. Your purchase of the text (\$40 through the BHEC) covers the cost of registration. You will receive weekly reading assignments.

If you can't attend the entire series, feel free to drop in and learn with us. We ask that you let us know you're coming so we can plan accordingly.

Our text will be *How Was It Possible? A Holocaust Reader*, edited by Peter Hayes and published by the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous. This anthology is organized around key issues of the Holocaust, from the historical context for antisemitism to the impediments to escaping

Nazi Germany, and from the logistics of the death camps and the carrying out of genocide to the subsequent struggles of the displaced survivors in the aftermath. This very comprehensive book will be used for two years.

2018-19 SCHEDULE

All Sessions 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 9 / The Context /
Blake McKinney, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Alabama

Thursday, November 8 / Nazism in Power /
Jeremy Brown, Oakman High School

Wednesday, December 5 / Impediments to Escape /
Dr. Janek Wasserman, University of Alabama

Tuesday, January 8 / The New Order in Europe /
Dr. Clark Hultquist, University of Montevallo

Thursday, February 7 / Jews in the Nazi Grip /
Amy McDonald, Shades Valley High School

Thursday, March 7 / The German Killers and
Their Methods / *Ann Mollengarden, BHEC*

Thursday, April 11 / Collaboration and Its Limits /
Dr. Dominique Linchet

Tuesday, May 7 / Rescuing Jews—Means and
Obstacles / *Rabbi Steven Jacobs, University of Alabama*

**To reserve your place and receive a copy
of the text for \$40, contact Kendall,
kendall@bhecinfo.org, 205.795.4181**

TRIBUTES

March – August 2018

In Memory Of:

Leslie Allen

Sharon & Edward Bromberg
Carol & Robert Hynson
Mitzi & Barry Levin
Lenora Pate & Steven Brickman
Lee & Jack Schniper

Conrad S. Cypress

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Garrett L. Simmons
Edward J. Clare, Jr.

Marius Sznajderman

Phyllis Weinstein
50 members of Ronald Vinik's family murdered in Girkalnis, Lithuania, August 21, 1941
Sandra & Ronald Vinik

In Honor Of:

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Special Birthday of Linda Cohn

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Thank you to her dear friends for her birthday party

Cathy Friedman

Special Birthday of Albert Gaulden

Cathy & Paul Friedman

70th Anniversary of Cissy & Leonard Held

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Ruth Siegler

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Joyce Spielberger

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Ruth Siegler

Catherine Styslinger

Betty & Paul Steinmetz

Birth of Melissa & Melvin Zivitz's grandchild

Rosalyn Bloomston



ALABAMA HOLOCAUST COMMISSION

The Alabama Holocaust Commission (AHC) was established in 1999 by the Alabama Legislature in order to foster remembrance of the horrible atrocities committed during the Holocaust and other times in human history as the result of bigotry, discrimination, and the abuse of power; and to foster understanding, through education and awareness, of the basic principles of human rights and equal protection under the law.

STATE HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTERS

Birmingham Holocaust Education Center

Gulf Coast Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education

ALABAMA HOLOCAUST COMMISSION (AHC) EDUCATION GRANTS

The AHC accepts grant proposals for Holocaust education programs and projects which:

- Educate the community
- Educate educators
- Educate students
- Are Alabama-based
- Benefit the people of Alabama
- Are free and open to the public

Grant requests are reviewed and awarded on a rolling basis throughout the AHC fiscal year (October 1-September 30). Requests received after July 1 will fall into the next fiscal year.

Grants generally range from \$300 - \$3,000.

To apply, visit alabamaholocaustcommission.org.



**BIRMINGHAM
HOLOCAUST
EDUCATION
CENTER**

Keeping the History
and Lessons of the
Holocaust Alive

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Dates to Remember

Community Education Series:

How Was It Possible?

<i>The Context</i>	October 9
<i>Nazism in Power</i>	November 8
<i>Impediments to Escape</i>	December 5
<i>The New Order in Europe</i>	January 8
<i>Jews in the Nazi Grip</i>	February 7
<i>The German Killers</i>	
<i>and their Methods</i>	March 7
<i>Collaboration and Its Limits</i>	April 11
<i>Rescuing Jews –</i>	
<i>Means and Obstacles</i>	May 7

Special Event

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
How Germany Has Come to
Terms with its Past October 18

Teacher Cadre

How Germany Has Come to
Terms with its Past October 18
Beware the Beginnings: The Power
of Nazi Propaganda November 27
Topic TBA January 31
Onlookers February 6

Teacher Workshop

Emmet O'Neal Library
Teaching with Stories November 5

Holocaust Survivor Series December 13
March 14
May 9

The Holocaust in Film

Emmet O'Neal Library
There Once Was January 13
Divided We Fall January 17
Forgotten Transports January 24
Tale of Love and Darkness January 27

Stitching History from the Holocaust

Abroms-Engel Institute for
the Visual Arts January 9 – March 9

Yom HaShoah Commemoration

April 28

The mission of the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center (BHEC) is to educate the people of Alabama about the history of the Holocaust so that new generations will apply the lessons of the Holocaust to the construction of a more just, humane, and tolerant future. By preserving and sharing the stories of local Holocaust survivors and commemorating the events of the Holocaust and the lives of those who perished, the BHEC seeks to promote a moral and ethical response to prejudice, hatred, and indifference for the benefit of all humanity.