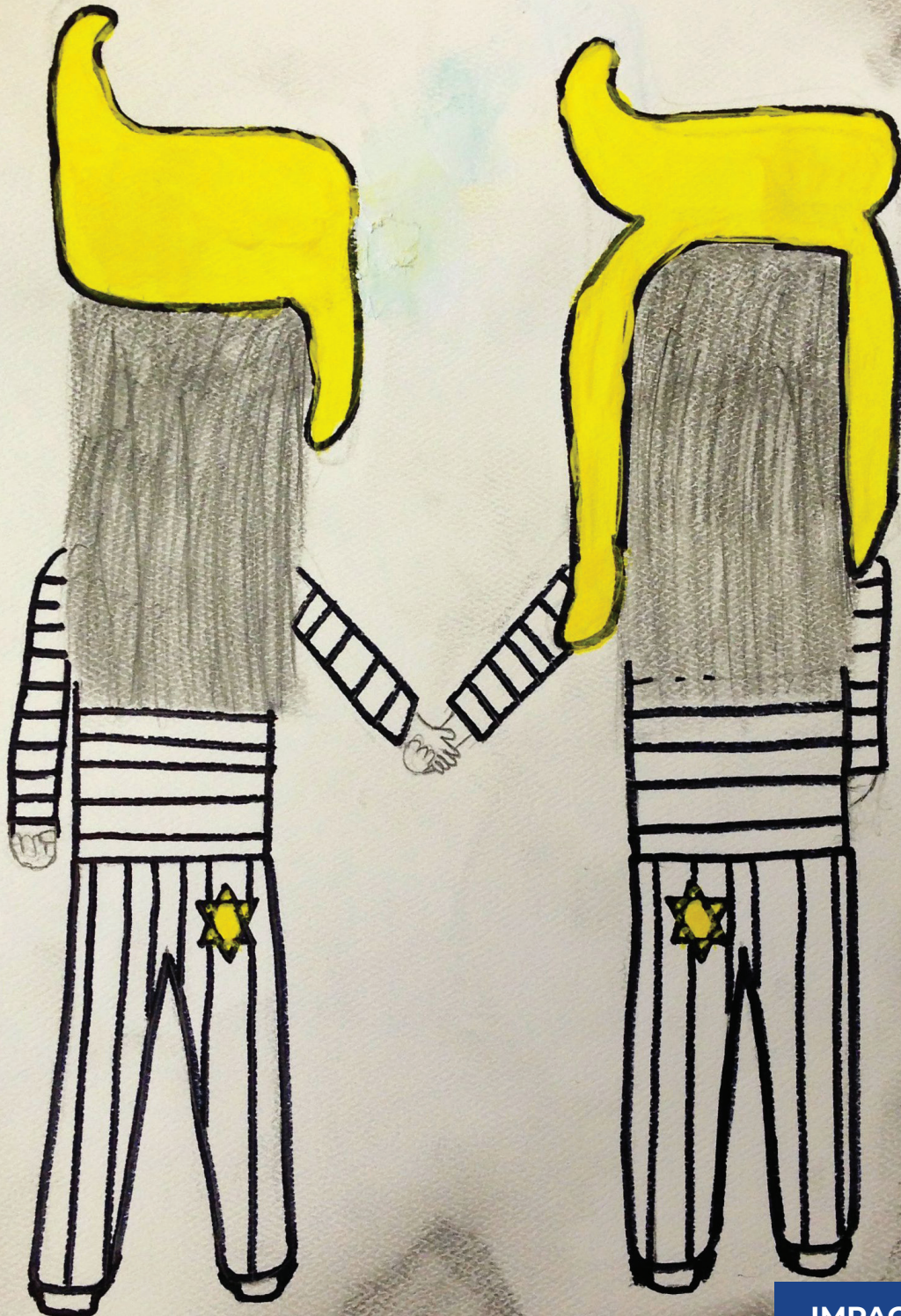


LEGACY

Keeping the History and Lessons of the Holocaust Alive



ALABAMA
HOLOCAUST
EDUCATION
CENTER



IMPACT REPORT 2021

It's No Longer a Secret!



I cannot remember how many times I have heard, "Oh, I did not know there was a Holocaust Education Center in Birmingham." It is no longer a secret! This past year the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center (BHEC), newly renamed the Alabama Holocaust Education Center (AHEC) has, in lightning speed, gained prominence as its plans are in motion to move to its new address, 2100 Highland Avenue South, Suite 101.

In this new space, the AHEC will continue to carry out the mission to honor the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust and to pay tribute to our dear Alabama Holocaust survivors by telling their remarkable stories. What an achievement this past year. Opening this summer, the 8,300-square-foot Center will take its place among the major educational and cultural destinations in Jefferson County, serving the Birmingham metro area, the entire state of Alabama, and visitors from all around the world.

Along with this major effort, the Center's mission did not fall behind. The work of educating Alabamians about the history and lessons of the Holocaust continued to impart its critical message throughout the state. Highlights included our participation in the statewide virtual Yom HaShoah observance and L'Chaim.

Outstanding teacher workshops presented via Zoom and some in-person, used survivors' stories and literature to enlighten attendees and broaden educators' skills teaching Holocaust history. The use of archives and photography highlighted the specific challenges and advantages these sources pose to the teacher, researcher, and student, as well as the impact these tools have.

Community programs using Zoom brought together large numbers of viewers from inside and outside Alabama to learn about Jewish history, Jewish societal contributions, and the struggle for equality. Other educational programs involved overseeing the work of student interns who transcribed survivor interviews and researched Alabama newspaper stories during WW II to learn how information about the Holocaust was being told to the American public.

To increase the bandwidth for more outreach, fortunately, we were able to increase our professional team by two individuals who have brought so much to our already invaluable team.

I have said this before, and it bears repeating, organizations are comprised of people. It's about people, the processes, the kinds of interactions that they have, and the influence of leadership working together toward sustainability and a common objective. There is only one dimension of an organization, and it is the human dimension. Our lay leaders, professionals, donors, volunteers, and friends have helped build the AHEC from the seeds planted over two decades ago.

It is because of all of you that I was privileged to serve for 15 months as Interim Executive Director. This organization, which touches all who have direct encounters with its mission, is a gift to the betterment of humanity.

Lynn W. Raviv
Former Interim Executive Director

Looking *Forward*

**“And the old shall dream dreams,
and the youth shall see visions.”**

-Debbie Friedman (based on Joel 3:1)

More than 20 years ago, our founder Phyllis Weinstein (z”l) set off to form an organization that would educate the Birmingham community about the atrocities of the Holocaust to pave a way for greater understanding of the event and the effects that it had on the world. She was also intent on preserving the history of our very own Alabama survivors. Now more than two decades later, we have officially become the Alabama Holocaust Education Center (AHEC) with a new, state-of-the-art home on Highland Avenue. The new building is appropriately named for Phyllis Grusin Weinstein.

The AHEC will be a major educational and cultural center that is focused on awareness, engagement, and immersive learning, as well as telling the strong, resilient stories of our Alabama survivors. It will house the largest collection of Holocaust archives and library volumes in the entire Southeast. Phyllis certainly dreamed of this new reality, and because of her determination, persistence, and vision, a new chapter is now being written for our esteemed Holocaust Education Center.

2022 will bring more than just a new home and a new name, it will also bring a new full-time executive director. The AHEC board has set out on a national search for a new leader. Through the help and services of DRG Talent Advisory Group, our hope is to have our new leader in place later this summer, so that together we can celebrate at our annual L’Chaim event on Sunday, September 18th. The L’Chaim event will honor Sallie Datnoff Downs and Dr. Henry Panion.

In this community, I proudly wear many hats. To be asked to serve the AHEC transitional Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) is a great honor. The board has entrusted me to run operations in preparation for the new dawn that is approaching. Because of the board's and your vision as donors, the AHEC continues to advance Holocaust education to our youth not only here in Birmingham but throughout the state of Alabama via existing teacher trainings and new innovative programming. A dream of so many – for so long – is now a reality.

B'Shalom,
Danny Cohn
Chief Administrative Officer



Holocaust Education: Today & Tomorrow

Preserving the memory of the Holocaust is a daunting task on its own, but alongside that mission, how do we nourish future generations with the tools they need to become good men and women, responsible men and women, who will have the knowledge and fortitude to recognize and warn against transgressions that might test the boundaries of hatred and evil?

For the AHEC professionals, our work is based on the history of one of the most researched periods of our time. The vast array of historical information from our many partners across the world, along with our survivors' passionate pleas for "Never Again," provides the basis of our work. We have had to change and modify with the times, pivoting with new research, new methodologies, and new "normals."

In this academic year (September 2021-August 2022), the AHEC has offered a diverse palate of enriching workshops and webinars for teachers across the state. Our programs focused on the personal stories of Holocaust survivors – putting names and faces to this watershed event in history. For example, our workshop "Teaching with Stories-Romania" explored historical context and its impact on the individual lives of three survivors. We emphasized how to teach Holocaust history using survivor stories and the benefits Holocaust literature can bring.

We also explored many of the lesser understood victim groups of the Holocaust and did deep dives specifically into artifacts and photographs and how to enhance teaching utilizing these tools – making it more relatable, more personal. We also explored the latest research on "The Holocaust by Bullets" – the often-overlooked events that took place during the German invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic for the last two years, most of AHEC programs were virtual, and using the Zoom platform had its benefits, allowing us to present a more varied array of programs and speakers to larger audiences. Six teacher workshops were offered this year – a new record. Additionally, continuing education credits for teachers were available

for our many other online programs. Their evaluations reinforced our benchmarks, revealing that teachers learned:

- new Holocaust historical information
- how to make the lessons of the Holocaust relevant to students
- how to find/use classroom materials on the Holocaust
- how to better teach the Holocaust
- how to include survivor stories in Holocaust lessons
- more about AHEC resources, programs, and events available on our website

An environment of quality education and training is of utmost importance. If we can identify teachers who are committed to learning the subject matter and provide them with the resources and training needed, we will be able to continue to develop passionate, educated teachers who are dedicated to teach this sensitive, complex subject. As for their students, a 2020 Anti-Defamation League (ADL) survey of 1,500 college students found that students with Holocaust education have a more pluralistic attitude and are more open to differing viewpoints.

Together with our teachers, the AHEC is committed to teaching the history and the lessons of the Holocaust, so that we can honor and fulfill the plea of our Alabama Holocaust survivors -

"Never Again."

"This was so powerful. The thoroughness of the investigation is riveting. I was spellbound. There is a question that asks how many class periods you focus on the Holocaust. My response was less than one week. After this workshop, that number will increase, and I will identify how I can use it at various times during the school year with the standards in both Civics and Geography."

Teacher Workshops & Webinars 2021-2022

Teacher Workshop: "Word Smugglers – A Story of Resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto"
Facilitator: Amy McDonald, AHEC Education Consultant and Teacher/Shades Valley High School

Teacher Cadre: "The Importance of Teaching Holocaust Literature to Middle & High School Students"
Facilitator: Dr. Eric Sterling, Auburn University in Montgomery (AUM)

Teacher Workshop: "Teaching with Stories – Romania"
Facilitators: Logan Greene, Amy McDonald, Ann Mollengarden

Teacher Workshop: "Visual Echoes – Holocaust Photography in Teaching & Research"
Facilitator: Dr. Valerie Hébert, Lakehead University, Orillia / Ontario

Teacher Cadre: "The Struggle for Jewish Equality before the Holocaust"
Facilitator: Dr. David Meola, University of South Alabama

Teacher Workshop: "Teaching with Stories – Romania"
Facilitators: Logan Greene, Amy McDonald, Ann Mollengarden

Teacher Webinar: "Part I – Holocaust by Bullets in Central and Eastern Europe"
Facilitators: Ewa Schaller & Todd Hennessy, Yahad - In Unum

Teacher Webinar: Part II – "It Happened in a Village of Eastern Europe, a Case Study"
Facilitator: Ewa Schaller and Todd Hennessy, Yahad - In Unum

Speaker's Bureau

2021

Roanoke Middle School/Zoom
Roanoke, AL
Esther Levy

Brookwood Forest School/Zoom
Mountain Brook, AL
Ann Mollengarden

Helena United Methodist Church
Helena, AL
Denise Lewis

Alabama German Partnership/Zoom
Birmingham, AL
Ann Mollengarden

Tuscaloosa High School
Tuscaloosa, AL
Abe Schuster

Alex City Book Club
Alexander City, AL
Denise Lewis

Jacksonville State University/Zoom
Jacksonville, AL
Ann Mollengarden

Capital High School/Zoom
Santa Fe, NM
Ann Mollengarden

New College Studies
University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, AL
Ann Mollengarden

Bessemer Academy
Bessemer, AL
Abe Schuster

Prince of Peace Catholic School
Hoover, AL
Eli Pinhas
UAB Health Professionals

Birmingham, AL
Ann Mollengarden

Pensacola Cordova Rotary Club/
Zoom
Pensacola, FL
Ann Mollengarden

Cahaba River Retirement Community
Birmingham, AL
Esther Levy

Samford University Freshman
Birmingham, AL
Ann Mollengarden

Retired Teachers Service Organization
Birmingham, AL
Denise Lewis

United Way of Central Alabama
Birmingham, AL
Esther Levy

Veritas Christian School
Alexander City, AL
Denise Lewis



If you are interested in requesting a speaker, click on the URL or scan the QR code.

<https://ahecinfo.org/outreach/request-a-speaker/>

Open to the public in early Fall!

"Thank you AHEC for providing me with the opportunity to participate in such an enriching workshop. I really enjoyed every moment. I also learned so much more and I am eager to learn more."

"[The AHEC] made what can seem daunting (organizing Holocaust events) into something I can actually use."

L'Chaim 2021:



Phyllis Grusin Weinstein

L'Chaim 2021 was an afternoon to remember on August 22nd as we honored AHEC founder, Phyllis Grusin Weinstein, and her indelible and far-reaching legacy in our community.

L'Chaim was performed LIVE and streamed online via SWELL, with a small audience gathered in the Judy and Hal Abrams Discovery Theatre at the new Red Mountain Theatre (RMT). We celebrated Phyllis' life, her leadership, character, and perseverance. And her grape shears to boot!

L'Chaim was hosted by Alison Goldstein Lebovitz who is a motivational speaker, podcaster, author, and TV host of "The A List with Alison Lebovitz," as well as the daughter of Arlene and Milton Goldstein.

L'Chaim musical performances included Phyllis' favorite genres: classical, Gershwin, and gospel musical selections. Shannon Boutwell, a young violinist who participated in "Violins of Hope" in 2018, performed a solo, "Sweet Remembrance," a Mendelssohn classic. Performances by Alie B. Gorrie and the Red Mountain Performing Ensemble were most entertaining, as well as Esther Schuster's one-on-one interview with Wolf Blitzer, who grew up with the Schusters in Buffalo, NY and was also a child of Holocaust survivors.

Tricia Skelton, an Opelika Middle School teacher, spoke about the importance of Holocaust education in today's world. Lynn Raviv, AHEC Interim Executive Director and Ann Mollengarden, Education Director spoke about the AHEC's relevance for today and tomorrow. AHEC President, Karen Allen, gave her message and a fundraising report.

A special thanks to 2021 L'Chaim Co-Chairs, Pam Baugh and Arlene Goldstein, the Host Committee, presenting sponsor Medical Properties Trust, and the many generous individual and corporate donors. And a big round of applause for Producer Deborah Layman and Keith Cromwell, RMT Executive Director, for their amazing creativity and showmanship.

L'Chaim, the AHEC's only annual fundraising event, raised over \$300,000 last year that is 100 percent dedicated to our operating budget. Because of Phyllis' incredible vision over 20 years ago, and

her continued dedication and leadership, the AHEC is proud to take occupancy in its new home with its new name – serving all of Alabama. The AHEC is proud to say, "Now more than ever...Never again!"

**The "Grape Shears" story: Alison recalled a time when she was at her Aunt Phyllis' house and foolheartedly plucked some grapes situated in a bowl on the dining room table. Alison said, "Aunt Phyllis quickly stopped me – mid-pluck – handed me a pair of grape shears and suggested that I cut as many servings as I'd like." She continues, "I realize this, in many ways, perfectly encapsulates the woman, leader, and changemaker that we all knew Phyllis Weinstein to be. Yes, this one incident is indicative of the many 'fruits' of Aunt Phyllis' tireless labor. It exemplifies her attention to detail. Her commitment to beauty and order. Her dedication to educating others. Her desire to always inspire others and leave the world (or in this case a grape bowl) better than the way they found it. And of course, her legacy as a pioneer."*



Esther Schuster interviewing childhood friend, Wolf Blitzer, CNN's host of The Situation Room.



L'Chaim Emcee, Alison Lebovitz, TV host, podcaster & author.

To view L'Chaim 2021, scan this QR code or click on the URL.

<https://ahecinfo.org/community-programs/lchaim-2021/>





L-R: Robert & Pam Baugh (Co-Chair), their daughter Kat; Arlene (Co-Chair) & Milton Goldstein, their daughter, Alison Lebovitz, her husband, Alan and their son, Levi.



Red Mountain Performing Ensemble.



"I Got Rythym" - Alie B. Gorrie with Red Mountain Performing Ensemble

Speaker's Bureau 2022

Speakers' Bureau 2022 engagements have already exceeded pre-pandemic numbers.

January 20

Birmingham City Council
Birmingham, AL
Robert May

January 27

Vestavia Hills City Council
Birmingham, AL
Esther Levy

January 28

Williams Intermediate
Pell City, AL
Abe Schuster

February 10

Brookwood Forest School
Birmingham, AL
Ann Mollengarden

February 15

Susan Moore High School
Blountsville, AL
Esther Levy

February 19

Samford University -play cast
Birmingham, AL
Ann Mollengarden

February 23

Gordo High School
Gordo, AL
Denise Lewis

March 8

Tuscaloosa Academy
Tuscaloosa, AL
Eli Pinhas **March 11**
Alba Middle School
Bayou La Batre, AL
Abe Schuster

March 13

Friendship Force Senior Citizens
Group
North Shelby Library
Birmingham, AL
Riva Hirsch

March 23

John Carroll High School
Birmingham, AL
James Sedlis

April 5

Jacksonville State University
Jacksonville, AL
Eli Pinhas

April 20

Hillel-Birmingham Southern
Birmingham, AL
Ann Mollengarden

April 28

Hillel @ Birmingham-Southern College
Ann Mollengarden

October 11

Birmingham Jewish Federation Youth
Program
Birmingham, AL
Esther Levy

Upcoming Community Events

Further details about all AHEC events can be found on our website.
<https://bhcecinfo.org/community-programs/upcoming-events/>

President's Message

The Alabama Holocaust Education Center (AHEC) is at a momentous turning point. All the education, teacher training, outreach, programing, and presentations these past 20 years have led us to this incredible moment. We fully recognize that only by learning the history and lessons of the Holocaust, can we hope for a more just and compassionate world.

Since construction on our new site began 10 months ago, it has been quite evident that our community leaders, corporate businesses and nonprofit organizations, local city officials and educators, friends, and many others, are inspired by what we are creating – through both financial support and ideas for the future. Further discussions center around providing deeper education to teachers, students, adults, and city government employees throughout our state. Over 100 people have toured our facility as it has been built out. Every single person has been truly impressed and lauds our mission of teaching “Never Again.” They all recognize that only through education, can we hope to recognize the dignity, potential, and humanity of every individual.

I am proud of all we have accomplished and plan to accomplish together. Yes, much time over these past 18 months has been devoted to our relocation. No less than 30 people — volunteers, staff, and professionals — have contributed to the design and development of our new Center. Simultaneously, the number of people participating in ongoing programs, despite the COVID pandemic, has grown exponentially. Our impact reaches across Alabama, and our vision of being present and offering education to every county and corner of our state continues to grow.

Our board of directors continue to be dedicated, involved, informed, and participatory on many levels. These are some of the comments we have heard from visitors when presented with our lobby and exhibit space designs: “Breathtaking.” “Blown away.” “Wonderful.” “While learning about the Holocaust, we are also learning how to better respond to the turmoil and intolerance that we see today.” And “This brings life to all those who suffered and/or were exterminated.”

We are an education center. We are not a museum. Every single photo, artifact and/or saying is an educational opportunity. For instance, if you see a spoon displayed, this is a potential teaching opportunity – some concentration camp prisoners used spoons

to dig tunnels trying to escape. They felt more dignity if they were lucky enough to have a spoon to eat the watery soup they were fed. Sometimes the spoons were used as a bartering tool with other prisoners. Who would have thought that an ordinary spoon, something we take for granted, had so much more significance?

I speak for all of us at the AHEC, when I say how fortunate we are that the Birmingham Jewish Federation has loaned Danny Cohn to us as a transitional Chief Administrative Officer for six months. He’s quick. He’s smart. He’s a leader. And even though he’s only in our office one day a week, he is preparing us all for a new and permanent executive director. I do believe that Phyllis Weinstein is “watching over us” and must be so pleased with all we are accomplishing.

I invite you all to tour and participate with us in our new home. We have much work that lies ahead, and I reach out to you to become involved and help make a difference for a better future. As long as we continue to partner and learn together, the future is ours.



Karen Allen
AHEC President

“While learning about the Holocaust, we are also learning how to better respond to the turmoil and intolerance that we see today.”



If you are interested in requesting a speaker, click on the URL or scan the QR code.

<https://ahecinfo.org/outreach/request-a-speaker/>

Yom HaShoah Name Reading

Unto Every Person There is a Name



Stories Remembered & Retold

Birmingham's Community Yom HaShoah Commemoration

Ann Mollengarden & Mike McConnell

The Alabama Holocaust Education Center (AHEC) hosted this year's Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance) Commemoration at Temple Beth-El and via Livestream. This community remembrance was made possible by the support of Temple Beth-El, Temple Emanu-El, Knesseth Israel Congregation, Chabad of Alabama, The Birmingham Jewish Federation, and the Jewish Federation of Huntsville and North Alabama.

Ron Levitt, President of Temple Beth-El, graciously welcomed everyone and reminded us of the importance of remembrance. This message was echoed by Cantor Robby Wittner of Temple Emanu-El, who recalled his childhood immersed in the New York survivor community of his grandparents, and how their stories inspired him to remain ever vigilant against the dangers of antisemitism.

George Nathan, our keynote speaker from Atlanta, joined us via Zoom. After several years of research both online and on location, George pieced together his parents' stories of survival and their eventual settlement in Anniston and Birmingham. Sophie & Henry Nathan were both from the German community of Emmerich, but their stories highlight how random decisions during these precarious times were often the determinants of fate. For those who were not able to be with us, his full presentation can be found on the AHEC's Vimeo page, <https://vimeo.com/704928168>.

During our candle lighting ceremony of remembrance led by Rabbi Moshe Rube of Knesseth Israel Congregation, we recalled the over 100 deceased survivors who made their home in Alabama with a video montage. The 6-candle Hecht Yom HaShoah menorah donated by Congregation Beth Israel of Gadsden was lit as we recalled the 6 million Jewish victims as well as the millions of additional victims who were not of the Jewish faith. A special thank you to those who participated in this ceremony: Ann Mollengarden, AHEC Education Director; Eli Pinhas, Second Generation and AHEC Speaker; Hampton Doobrow, great-grandson of Holocaust survivor Riva Hirsch and Aisic Hirsch (of blessed memory); Dr. Tina Kempin Reuter, Director of UAB's Institute for Human Rights; Mike Gadilhe, retired John Carroll Catholic High School teacher; and Joyce Shevin, Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Birmingham Jewish Federation. Punctuating the entire program was the inspiring music of Kristine Hurst-Wajszczyk, soprano, and Denise Gainey, clarinet as well as Jennifer Whittle on violin accompanied by Becky Thornton on piano.

While we are dedicated to remembering, the AHEC is equally dedicated to teaching. Mitzi J. Levin and Becky Seitel (of blessed memory), gifted the AHEC with one of our most powerful teaching tools, the Darkness into Life exhibit. In a program new to the AHEC this year, "Remembrance & Art," teachers were asked to take their students on a journey to learn more about the Holocaust using this exhibit, and ultimately to create artistic impressions of what they learned. A selection of these submissions were on

display at Temple Beth-El. Mitzi had the honor of judging our submissions and announcing the First Place Winner, Hope Marney, and Honorable Mention Winner, Wren Skillman, both from Williams Intermediate School in Pell City.

In closing, Rabbi Rube and Dr. Jonathan Wiesen, Chair of the University of Alabama at Birmingham's History Department, led a special mourner's Kaddish that honored the victims of the Holocaust. Lynn Raviv, former AHEC Executive Director then offered a special prayer for the future, and a call to action for each of us to help prevent such horrors from happening in the future.

To view the entire program online, please visit Temple Beth-El's YouTube Channel.

DID YOU KNOW?

Yom HaShoah, also known as Holocaust Remembrance Day, is a day set aside for all people across the world to commemorate the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust. The name is derived from the Hebrew word 'Shoah,' which means 'whirlwind.' Yom HaShoah was established by law in 1959 in Israel. It falls on the 27th of the Jewish month of Nissan, a date chosen because it is the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.



2021-22 AHEC Capital Campaign

Now More Than Ever: Never Again!

By Mike McConnell, AHEC Manager of Special Projects

The Alabama Holocaust Education Center (AHEC) is pleased to announce that our first-ever Capital Campaign chaired by David Silverstein and co-chaired by Karen Allen, Fran Godchaux, Lisa Steinmetz Morchower, Bruce Pearl, and Sallie Datnoff Downs, continues to receive wonderful support. To date, the Campaign steering Committee has secured over 100 donations from members of our community, including individual donors, businesses, and foundations. The funds raised are supporting the establishment of the AHEC's permanent home located on Highland Avenue in Birmingham.

In 2020, after studying multiple sites, the board of directors approved a long-term lease with Temple Emanu-El and worked with architects Gray Plosser and Liz Hunsicker of KPS Group to design a renovation carried out by Rives Construction Company at the site of the Temple's former Discovery School. The 8,320-square-foot space doubled the size of AHEC's former home in the Bayer Building and now includes a lobby, exhibit space, an education/program meeting room, library, archive, and an administrative suite.

The lobby, designed by Ralph Applebaum Associates (RAA) of New York, in conjunction with local firm Method-1, will examine the robust Jewish life that existed before the Holocaust. Pre-war images, video, and archival material from Alabama survivors will be featured on a wall honoring the 173 known survivors who resettled in Alabama. In the adjoining room, the 1,850-square-foot exhibit gallery features two permanent exhibits. The first, Darkness into Life is the beloved exhibit designed by photographer Becky Seitel and artist Mitzi J. Levin that tells the stories of 20 Alabama survivors. The second, Passing the Torch, is a collection of Holocaust-themed paintings by the Israeli artist David Boskovich. And the conference reception hall leading to the library has two alcoves – one is our "Fallen Heroes" exhibit honoring those Alabama servicemen and women who lost their lives in World War II. The second alcove portrays those Alabamians who helped liberate the concentration camps.

The 1,300-square-foot library provides space for researchers while over 3,000 volumes of reading material make the AHEC Holocaust library the largest in the Southeast. The archival suite includes a 400-square-foot climate-controlled archive to house the 8,000 inventoried artifacts and documents donated to the AHEC. The real hub of our Center is the Education Resource room a 1,060-square-foot program room equipped with state-of-the-art AV technology designed to welcome educators and visitors for workshops, lectures, and other community events.

Recently, the AHEC exhibit team toured Method-1's facilities to view their extensive operations, including design, museum displays, and state of the art fabrication/installation that creates thoughtful, impressive environments. We learned of local projects, such as the Negro Southern League Museum, as well as many other national projects. Walking through their print shop and design space, we learned about their techniques, creation process, and various kinds of materials they use, including a two-piece "armor wall" panel that protects images, which Method-1 initially developed for Children's Hospital of Alabama. The team left inspired and excited about the future, as our AHEC exhibit space comes to life with Method-1.

As David Silverstein, AHEC Vice President of Development remarked, "The new home of the Alabama Holocaust Education Center will allow the AHEC to be more accessible to the public as it furthers its mission of educating the people of Alabama about the impact of extremism and the lived experience of antisemitism."

The Campaign Planning and Steering Committee invite and encourage you to join us in support of AHEC's relocation to our new, permanent home. Here we are positioned to educate teachers, students, visitors, and the community about the lessons of the Holocaust, reaching across Alabama to help combat antisemitism, bigotry, and intolerance. Please be a part of this historical chapter and make a tax-deductible donation to our capital campaign. Your gift can be made online at <https://ahecinfo.org/donations-tribute-gifts/> or by scanning the QR code below.

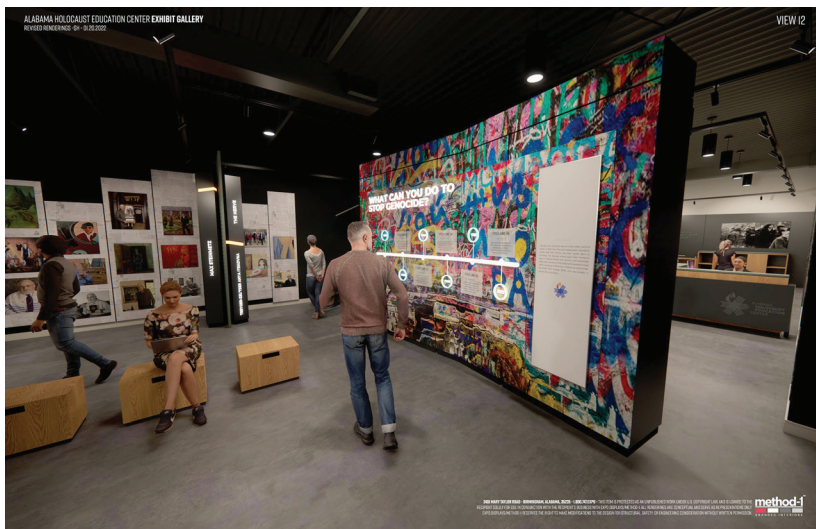
Be a part of our historic year and donate to our "Now More than Ever: Never Again Campaign click on URL or scan the QR code [www.ahecinfo.org/donations-tribute-gifts/](https://ahecinfo.org/donations-tribute-gifts/)



"The new home of the Alabama Holocaust Education Center will allow the AHEC to be more accessible to the public as it furthers its mission of educating the people of Alabama about the impact of extremism and the lived experience of antisemitism."



Pictured are the 3D rendering prototypes of the new AHEC lobby and exhibit gallery by Method-1. Featuring beloved AHEC exhibit, Darkness into Life and Passing the Torch, by Israeli artist David Boskovich..



To make a tax-deductible donation to AHEC, click on URL or scan the QR code
www.bhecinfo.org/donations-tribute-gifts/



Upcoming Community Events

"The Holocaust in Film" Series

"Hitler's Hollywood-German Cinema in the Age of Propaganda 1933-45"

"Europa Europa"

"My Italian Secret-The Forgotten Heroes"

"Denial"

Facilitator: Michele Forman, UAB
Sidewalk Film Center & Cinema

"My Broken Doll"

A play produced by Baleigh Nelson, former AHEC Intern
Red Mountain Theatre

"Remembering the Holocaust:

Honoring and remembering Max Steinmetz"

Keynote Speaker: Amy McDonald
University of Alabama Student Center Theatre-Tuscaloosa

Birmingham Yom HaShoah Commemoration:

"Stories Remembered & Retold"

Temple Beth-El

AHEC Community Programs 2021-2022

Bearing Witness:

"Why Document Survivor Stories?"

Facilitator: Minna Goldberg, AHEC Intern

In the News:

"The Holocaust Revealed in Birmingham Newspapers"

Facilitators: Emma Herr and Chris Bertolini, AHEC Interns

"The Holocaust and the Victims of Nazi Persecution"

Facilitator: Dr. William F. Meinecke Jr., Historian, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM)

"Survivors"

A play by Deborah R. Layman
Red Mountain Theatre

"Lesbians, Gay Men, and Trans Men and Women in Nazi Germany"

Facilitator: Dr. Laurie Marhoefer, University of Washington

"Paragraph 175"

Community Film Screening

Kristallnacht Commemorative Lecture:

"On the Knife's Edge: Resisting the Holocaust from within the SS – The Story of Kurt Gerstein"

Facilitator: Dr. Valerie Hébert, Lakehead University, Orillia/Ontario

Archives at Home:

"Threads of the Past – Recreating Clothing of Holocaust Survivors"

Facilitator: Heidi Damsky

International Holocaust

Remembrance Day Commemoration

Facilitator: Esther Gerson Levy, 2nd Generation



Further details about all AHEC events can be found on our website or by scanning this QR code.

<https://ahecinfo.org/community-programs/upcoming-events/>

L'Chaim Donors

January 1, 2021 – March 15, 2022

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Brenda Friedman
Pat & Michael Levine
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- Max Steinmetz 1925-2021
- Max Herzel 1930-2021

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The mission of the Alabama Holocaust Education Center (AHEC) is to educate the people of Alabama about the history and lessons of the Holocaust to create a more just and compassionate world that recognizes the dignity, potential, and humanity of every individual. By preserving and sharing the stories of Holocaust survivors and commemorating the lives of those who perished, the AHEC promotes an ethical response to contemporary instances of antisemitism, bigotry, and indifference.

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