

e-LEGACY



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HOLOCAUST
EDUCATION
CENTER

Keeping the History and Lessons of the Holocaust Alive

JULY 2020

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Honoring Susan and David Silverstein

Sunday, August 23, 2020

2:00 pm

LIVE Online

L'CHAIM 2020-SPOTLIGHT

Meet our Honorees- Susan and David Silverstein



The BHEC is delighted to honor Susan and David Silverstein at L'Chaim 2020. Their passionate commitment to the BHEC's vision and mission inspire us all.

Susan Silverstein

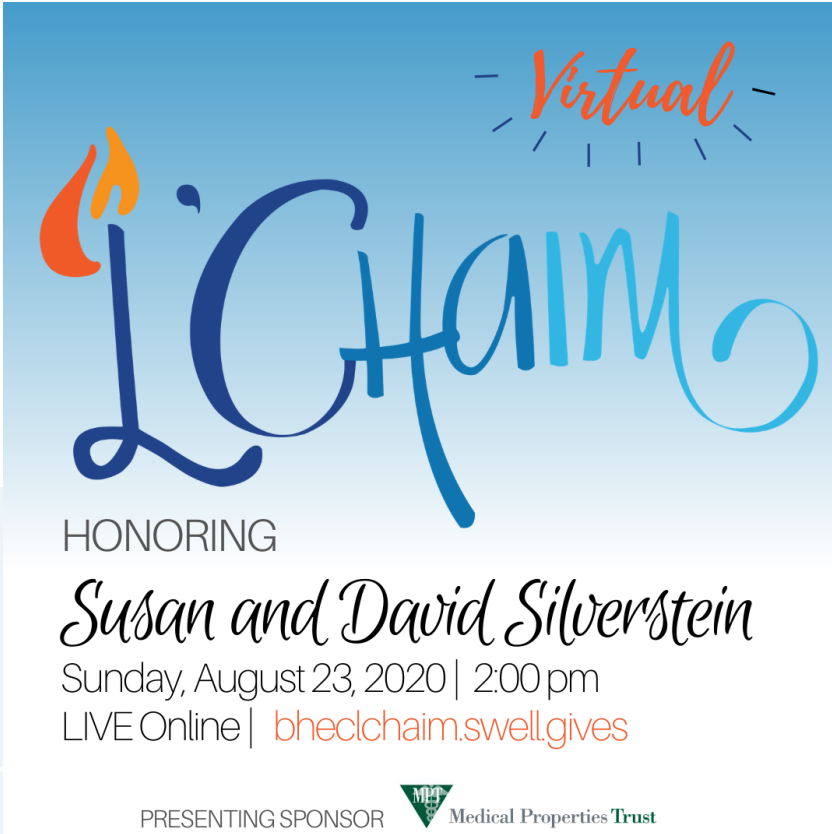
Susan Silverstein is the loving mother to five children and the grandmother to eight grandchildren. Susan's life work is devoted to nurturing her family, faith, and community. Susan's children describe her as the grounding force of their family, while her grandchildren lovingly refer to her as "Susu." She is an active participant in her community through her support of such important causes as the American Heart Association, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, The Exceptional Foundation, and the UAB Comprehensive Diabetes Center. Susan is guided by her deep faith and by her commitment to and love for her husband of 43 years, David Silverstein.

David L. Silverstein

David L. Silverstein is the founder of The FiveStone Group, a newly established commercial real estate firm based in Birmingham, Alabama specializing in the development of mixed-use projects. Prior to forming The FiveStone Group, David was an operating principal at Bayer Properties, LLC, where he directed development efforts and managed Bayer's relationship with governmental entities nationwide, including public-private partnerships, securing TIF and PIF financing, new market historic tax credits, and tax share back agreements. David takes an active role in the community and has served as president of the Alabama Chapters of the American Heart Association and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. He is a member of the Board of Directors for Ascension Alabama, Leadership Alabama and the Red Mountain Theater Company. David is also a member of the Norton Board of Advisors for Birmingham Southern College; The University of Alabama Honors College Board of Visitors; the UAB Comprehensive Diabetes Center Advisory Board and the IBERIABANK Birmingham Advisory Board and co-chairs Leadership Alabama's Birmingham Regional Council. David is married to the former Susan Tilson and they have five children and eight grandchildren. He attended Birmingham University School (B.U.S. now Altamont, 1974), Vanderbilt University (1978), and Cumberland School of Law (1981).

DAVID SILVERSTEIN FULL BIO

**Will you be there to help us virtually
celebrate the Silversteins at L'Chaim 2020?**

The poster features a light blue background with a stylized graphic of a lit candle on the left, with the flame in orange and yellow. The word "L'Chaim" is written in a large, blue, cursive script. Above it, the word "Virtual" is written in a smaller, orange, cursive script with radiating lines. Below the main title, the text "HONORING" is in a small, blue, sans-serif font, followed by "Susan and David Silverstein" in a large, black, cursive script. Below that, the date and time "Sunday, August 23, 2020 | 2:00 pm" are in a small, black, sans-serif font, followed by "LIVE Online | bheclchaim.swell.gives" in a small, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the text "PRESENTING SPONSOR" is in a small, black, sans-serif font, followed by the logo for the Medical Properties Trust, which consists of a green triangle with the letters "MPT" inside, and the text "Medical Properties Trust" to its right.

Virtual


L'Chaim

HONORING

Susan and David Silverstein

Sunday, August 23, 2020 | 2:00 pm

LIVE Online | bheclchaim.swell.gives

PRESENTING SPONSOR  Medical Properties Trust

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L'CHAIM 2020 Keynote Speakers



BHEC WELCOMES

Former U.S. Secretary of State

**Madeleine
Albright**

&

Auburn University's Head Men's
Basketball Coach

Bruce Pearl

as Guest Speakers for



[READ THE FULL PRESS RELEASE HERE!](#)

SNAPSHOT: A GLIMPSE INTO THE BHEC ARCHIVES

**Margaret Schultz,
Research Assistant/
Archives Digitization Project**

We're proud to launch our first installment of "Snapshot: A Glimpse into the BHEC Archives," featuring two of the many fascinating artifacts in our collection. The scissors discussed in this video were generously donated by Mr. Jim Sokol.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)



WEAVING TOGETHER THE PAST AND PRESENT

Rachel Jones Lopez- BHEC Archivist and Librarian

Heidi Damsky of Birmingham is a talented knitter, a devoted grandmother, and a globetrotter, well-versed in the history of the Holocaust. All of these characteristics converged serendipitously when a friend of Mrs. Damsky's shared a pattern for a very special child's sweater. The pattern replicates a green sweater worn by Krystyna Chiger while hiding from the Nazis in the sewers of Lvov, Poland, from 1943 to 1944. Knitted by her beloved grandmother before the war, the sweater survived Krystyna's harrowing experience. Mrs. Damsky had just purchased yarn in the exact same shade of green to knit something for her granddaughter. She completed the sweater and decided to donate her beautiful replica of the green sweater to the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center's archives.

Krystyna Chiger and her family lived for fourteen months in the sewer with several other Jews, aided by Catholic sewer workers, who were able to provide meager rations. Conditions were extremely cramped and squalid, and the hidden families lived with the threats of rushing water, disease, rats, and of course the never-ending fear of being caught. All the while, the sweater gave young Krystyna a small amount of warmth and comfort throughout. Lvov was liberated by the Soviet Army in 1944, and the Chiger family moved to Krakow, and eventually to Israel. Krystyna later immigrated to the United States.

The original sweater is housed at the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#), where it remains in remarkably good condition considering its age, although it has rarely been displayed due to the fragility of textiles. However, in 2014, expert knitter, Dr. Lea Stern was moved by the story of the original and set out to create a pattern for knitters everywhere to keep the experiences of children in the Holocaust alive. Dr. Stern sought the approval of Krystyna Chiger, now known as Dr. Kristine Keren, for her project. The pattern is now sold at the USHMM gift shop, along with Dr. Keren's book, [The Girl in the Green Sweater](#), published in 2008.



The original green sweater worn by Krystyna Chiger while hiding in the sewers of Lvov, Poland from 1943-1944.
Image from the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#)



Heidi Damsky's hand-knitted replica of Krystyna Chiger's green sweater, generously donated to the BHEC Archives.

To learn more about the Chiger family's experience during the Holocaust,

collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/irn515606

To purchase the green sweater pattern online,

www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/the-green-sweater

For more information about the BHEC Archives and Special Collections, please email archives@bhecinfo.org.

EDUCATION CORNER

Amy McDonald, Education Consultant

With conferences, seminars, and study programs being cancelled because of the pandemic, there have still been an astounding number of opportunities for teachers to continue their professional development. Just to provide an example, the following is a list of online seminars I have attended since March:

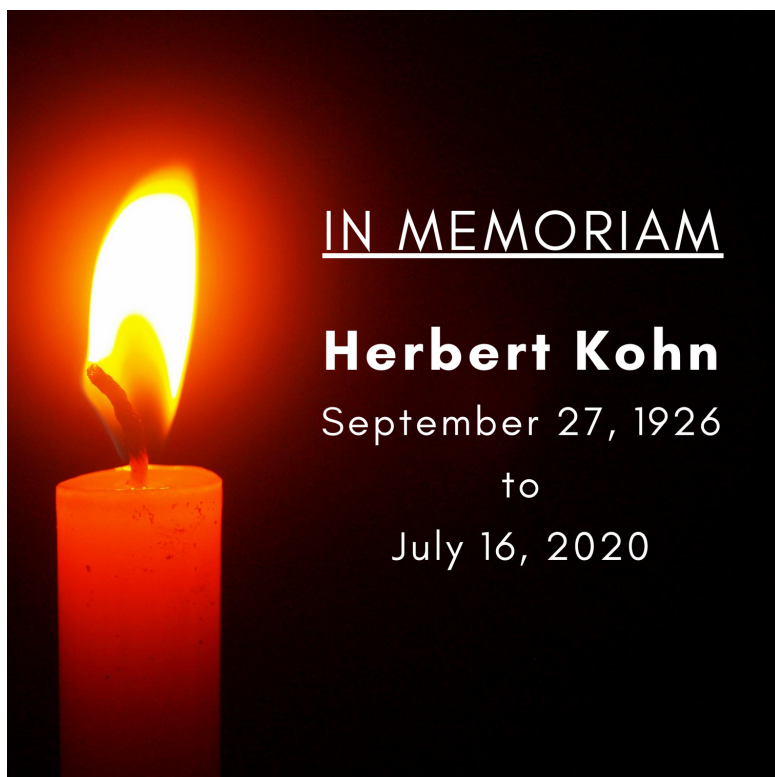
- Echoes and Reflections: Who Will Write Our History- A Special Conversation with Director Roberta Grossman; March 30
- Facing History and Ourselves: Who Will Write Our History - A Conversation with Filmmaker Roberta Grossman; April 6
- USC Shoah Foundation: Resilience in Times of Change - Webinar Featuring Mona Golabek; April 21
- BHEC Bearing Witness: Stories of the Holocaust - Jack Bass; Ann Mollengarden; June 25
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum New Museum Teacher Fellows and Mentors Seminar; July 7
- Rafael Schachter Summer Seminar hosted by The Defiant Requiem Foundation; July 19-July 24
- USHMM Belfer National Conference for Educators; July 20-21

This list is not exhaustive. And these online seminars were all at maximum registration capacities. This is just a small sampling of how teachers in Alabama and across the country are continuing to broaden and deepen their own knowledge of the Holocaust and promote Holocaust education.

IN MEMORIAM

"The lessons of the Holocaust must be passed on to our children, grandchildren and others to learn how to prevent and stop crimes against humanity from happening again and again."

[LEARN MORE ABOUT
HERBERT KOHN](#)

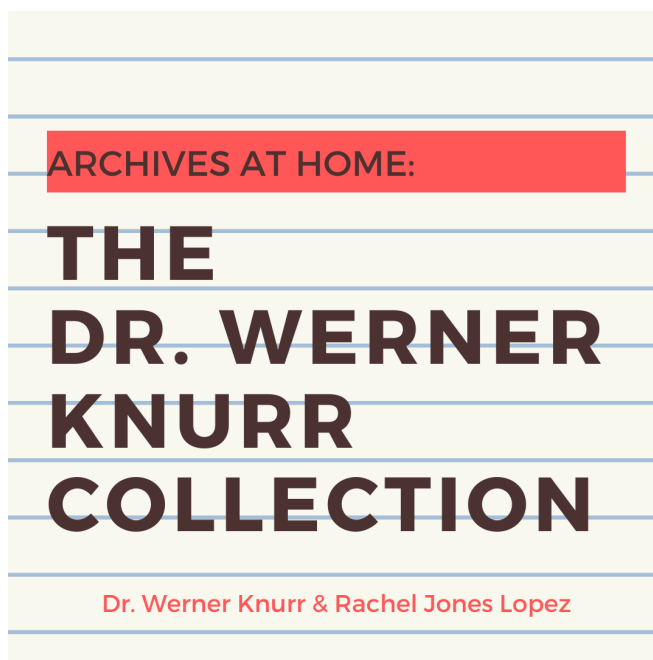


ARCHIVES AT HOME

Presented by Dr. Knurr & Rachel Jones Lopez

Miss the program? No problem, all our online programs are recorded. Learn the story of the Knurr family's escape from Nazi Germany through the rare and unique collection of artifacts he has generously donated to BHEC. From a comfortable life in Aurich, Germany, to hardships endured under the Nuremberg Laws, and finally to building a new life in Montgomery, Alabama, there is much to be learned from the Knurr family's experience.

PROGRAM VIDEO

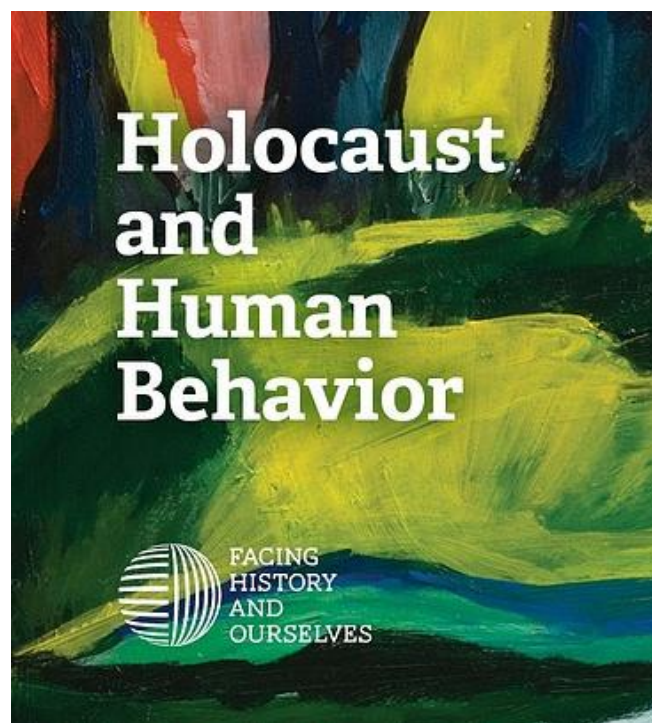


TEACHER WORKSHOP: HOLOCAUST & HUMAN BEHAVIORS

Facing History and Ourselves

This month BHEC staff, along with educators from across the state and country, had the opportunity to participate in Facing History and Ourselves' "Holocaust & Human Behavior" teacher workshop. The seminar lasted four days and included large group sessions, breakout groups, and independent study time. The seminar helped to answer how studying the Holocaust allows students to wrestle with profound moral questions raised by this history and fosters their skills in ethical reasoning, critical thinking, empathy, and civic engagement- all of which are critical for sustaining democracy.

RESOURCE FROM FACING HISTORY



The Birmingham Holocaust Education Center relies on the generous support of donors to do the important work of teaching and preserving the lessons of the Holocaust. It is our hope that through this work, future generations will understand the danger of remaining silent in the face of hatred and bigotry.