

Special Edition

Legacy

A publication of the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center. *October 2014*



L'Chaim 2014 was a huge success for the BHEC in both fundraising and celebration. The campaign led by Co-Chairs Cathy Friedman and Edgar Marx Jr. generated donations totaling more than \$168,000! This greatly exceeded our goals and expectations, and we are deeply grateful to all who contributed. The event honoring Jeffrey Bayer was attended by nearly 500 people who responded enthusiastically to the diverse program of education and entertainment. In particular, Jeffrey Bayer's remarks resonated with all who attended, and we'd like to share these with all of you.

"The opportunity to be standing here today is a blessing, and the Bayer family is certainly appreciative to be receiving this recognition. However, I also would like to include my business partners, the Silverstein and Rotenstreich families, for it is the three of us who have provided a home to the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center for their most important work.

So why have we provided a home for the Center for 10 years?

While we listen to the press and the world, focus on Israel and the Palestinians, we as members of the Jewish faith focus on antisemitism and what it may lead to, again. However, those same persons, as well as the news organizations, are deafeningly silent as Christians are being slaughtered in the Middle East and Africa, and the Christian communities are being eliminated after living in peace for centuries. Muslims are killing Muslims.

There seems to be evil everywhere. We, as people of morality, just don't understand how others live this way. People have asked for decades why European Jews silently went to be slaughtered. Was it because they just could not comprehend that there were people in the world who believed in such a totality of evil?

Yes, the Jewish people have a mission not to let the world forget, and to deliver a message that it will never happen again, but the Center has a much broader mission, in my opinion. We as free people cannot live quietly as zealots around the world state their mission, which is to destroy us. Hitler clearly told the world of his intentions, and so many pretended that nothing was happening.

Today ISIS is clearly articulating that same message...they are intent on destroying civilization as we know it. There will always be evil in the world, but the question is, "What will all of us do about it?" That really is why we are all here today. People of many walks of life, coming together to join hands, so the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center may deliver our joint message....we must not, we cannot let these atrocities continue to happen to any of us, not just to people of the Jewish faith.

If we do not do our small part in making this a better, safer world for the generations to come, who will? That is why our three families have made a commitment to the Center. We have a shared responsibility to turn the world from evil and not let history repeat itself. The world needs us. We must be heard!!!!" - *Jeffrey Bayer*

Birmingham Holocaust Education Center Receives 501(c)(3) Status

The BHEC is thrilled to announce that we have gained official recognition as our own 501(c)(3) organization. For the past 12 years, the BHEC has operated as a regional educational division of the Alabama Holocaust Commission under their 501(c)(3) status. Under the diligent guidance of Barbara Bonfield, we began the process of seeking non-profit status in June 2013. For the BHEC, independent 501(c)(3) status will simplify both our bookkeeping and our public identity. As our own non-profit entity, we will continue to work closely with the Alabama Holocaust Commission, continuing our efforts to provide Holocaust education programming throughout the state of Alabama. Treasurer Max Herzl welcomes our new 501(c)(3) status. Our grateful thanks to Barbara Bonfield for preparing the application documents.

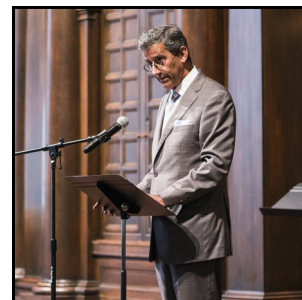


Max Herzl, Barbara Bonfield

L'Chaim 2014 - Photos by Nik Layman



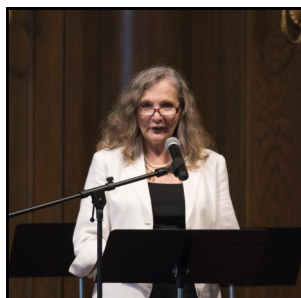
Eric Essix

The Seasoned Performers and Hoover H.S. Theatre
present "The Slippery Slope"

Jeffrey Bayer

Cantor Jessica Roskin sings a
Yiddish song from the DP camps

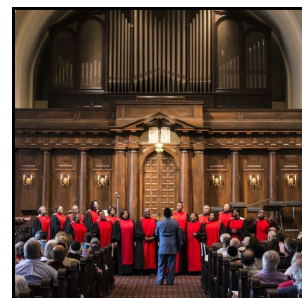
The Eric Essix Trio plays a jazz medley to a full house

Teacher Lisa Byrd talks about the
sad aftermath of the Holocaust

Emcee Deborah Layman



Phyllis Weinstein, Jeffrey Bayer, Cathy Friedman

The Birmingham Community Mass Choir
sings "May the Lord God Bless You"

We Thank Our L'Chaim 2014 Host Committee

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To Each Of Our *L'Chaim* 2014 Donors, We Extend Our Grateful Thanks

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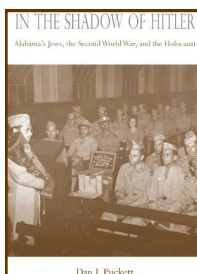
BHEC MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by Alabama Holocaust survivors, whose presence in our community makes us mindful of the injustices in their past, the BHEC is committed to preserving their memories and continuing their legacies. The lessons of the Holocaust are profound and relevant, providing a platform to explore important ethical and moral issues. Our goal is to keep the history of the Holocaust alive by providing engaging resources, programs, and initiatives to the students, teachers, and communities of Alabama. Through Holocaust education, we hope to ensure that new generations will apply the lessons of the Holocaust to the construction of a more just, humane, and tolerant future.

Remembering Kristallnacht

**Remembering Kristallnacht—
What Did We Know? What Did We Do?
Sunday, November 9, 3:00 pm
Homewood Public Library**

Join us for a fascinating program featuring Alabama Holocaust Commission members Maury Shevin and Dr. Dan Puckett.



Maury Shevin will share recent discoveries from the Birmingham Public Library archives about what was in the local news during the events of *Kristallnacht* in November 1938.

Dr. Dan Puckett of Troy University will share insights into how the Birmingham community responded to news reports from Europe. He will also discuss why so many Jewish immigrants came to settle in Birmingham and the issues they faced. After the program, Dr. Puckett will sign copies of his new book, *In the Shadow of Hitler: Alabama's Jews, the Second World War and the Holocaust*.

Light refreshments will follow. There is no charge to attend.

IN MEMORIAM

Semen Zinger
May 3, 1926
to
August 27, 2014



*To those who celebrate,
L'Shanah Tovah!
Happy New Year!*



Legacy is available online and via email. **Sign up on our website!**

To view our L'Chaim 2014 program in its entirety, visit our website at:
<http://bhamholocausteducation.org/>

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