

# LEGACY

Keeping the History and Lessons of the Holocaust Alive



BIRMINGHAM  
HOLOCAUST  
EDUCATION  
CENTER

Spring 2017

## Annual Birmingham Community Yom HaShoah Program Hosted at Temple Beth-El

The BHEC partnered with the Birmingham Jewish Federation, Temple Beth-El, Temple Emanu-El, Kneseth Israel Congregation, and the Levite Jewish Community Center for the 2017 community-wide commemoration of Yom HaShoah program, "Stories Remembered and Retold: The Stories of Deceased Holocaust Survivors as Told by Their Local Descendants." The program was held on April 23, at Temple Beth-El.

Speakers included Kelly Campbell, The Honorable Debra Goldstein, Eli Pinhas, and Dr. Deborah Wiatrak. Each briefly related the stories of family members who survived the Holocaust. This event was the first time their family stories were told in public.

Rabbis from Temple Emanu-El and Temple Beth-El participated, along with Cantor Jessica Roskin, Cantor Michael Horwitz, KI President Martin Stein, and the Temple Emanu-El Quartet. Music included traditional Hebrew prayers and songs along with "Sorrow/Mariposa", a song based on a poem by Edna St. Vincent Millay.

In conjunction with the Yom HaShoah commemoration, the BHEC organized "Unto Every Person There is a Name" a reading of the names of children who perished during the Holocaust. Schools, churches, businesses, community groups, and synagogues participated in the city-wide reading.

"Stories Remembered & Retold" was partially underwritten by the Birmingham Jewish Federation.



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## L'Chaim 2017 — Honoring Cathy O. Friedman

by Deborah Layman, Programming

The BHEC is delighted to announce our *L'Chaim* 2017 honoree will be Cathy O. Friedman. Humanitarian, patron of the arts, and Birmingham's BFF, Cathy has been a devoted laborer and leader in the cause of Holocaust education and human rights. Her tireless work and boundless creative energy have opened doors and initiated partnerships that have greatly expanded the reach and effectiveness of the BHEC. We are grateful for Cathy, and we are excited to honor and celebrate her contributions to the work of the BHEC.

Please plan on joining us Sunday afternoon, August 20, at the Alys Stephens Center for *L'Chaim* 2017!



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Similar to many communities around the world, Birmingham has an annual Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) program. Our Jewish community agencies and synagogues have partnered in presenting this commemoration honoring our local Holocaust survivors and remembering the evil that occurred when six million Jewish people were murdered during the Holocaust. For decades, this program was the primary Holocaust education provided in our greater community.

This began to change 15 years ago, when Phyllis Weinstein decided it was time to truly begin providing Holocaust education in Birmingham and surrounding cities. She gathered a small group of like-minded community members and created the Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee. This all-volunteer committee provided numerous teacher education workshops, worked with Becky Seitel and Mitzi Levin on the creation of the *Darkness into Life* exhibit - seen by thousands of adults and children throughout our state - and developed programs to promote a moral and ethical response to prejudice, hatred, and indifference for the benefit of all humanity.

Today, the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center (BHEC) continues to do all that and more! We have a Speakers Bureau, where a few of our survivors and Second Generation “children of survivors” appear at schools, offices, and community meetings. We are also active in partnering with other local institutions to present Holocaust-related programming through theatre, exhibits, music and/or speakers. Our Board of Directors is a diverse group of local professionals and volunteers, each bringing an interest and expertise to all we do. Our “original” volunteers are still an integral part of BHEC activities – in fact, no one wants to leave!

Personally, I’m delighted to have been part of the BHEC and its growth for 14 years. I’m honored that Phyllis encouraged me to “step into her shoes” and become the President of the BHEC Board. From my perspective, our biggest challenges are choosing what we consider to be the most impactful programming, fundraising for those programs, and continuing to evolve from an all-volunteer committee to a professional staff of three people who now lead the way toward accomplishing our mission. This volunteer and professional partnership creates new possibilities for us all, enabling the BHEC to diligently offer education opportunities throughout Alabama.

The contribution of your time and money helps the BHEC live their mission and teach new generations to apply the lessons of the Holocaust to the construction of a more just, humane, and tolerant future. I hope you will join us.

*Karen Allen*

## Reorganizing the BHEC Staff

by Rebecca Dobrinski, Executive Director

Over the past year the BHEC has experienced some growing pains, including adding a part time staff member in Office Coordinator Rachel McElroy, whom you met in the previous issue of *Legacy*. Rachel has become an integral part of the BHEC’s social media and marketing presence by taking our Facebook and Instagram accounts and transforming them into not only an information source, but also a face of what we do and who we are.

Unfortunately, we said goodbye to Programs Administrator Kendall Chew in March, and we are looking forward to working with her at the Alabama Humanities Foundation. This gave us the opportunity to really look at the staff strategically and decide where our needs were and what we needed to focus on. Our new Programs Administrator, Aaryn Johnson, comes to us from a sales background and, by taking over the logistics of many of our programs and events, we know Aaryn will help us continue to improve how we continue to advance our mission.

# Names Not Numbers

by Lynn Raviv, NE Miles Jewish Day School

The Upper School students at NE Miles Jewish Day School were selected to participate in the “Better Together *Names, Not Numbers* Program®” an interactive multi-media Holocaust project created by educator, Tova Fish-Rosenberg of Yeshiva University.

The project culminates as two films: “Names, Not Numbers: A Movie in the Making,” which documents the work, and “Names Not Numbers,” documenting the students’ interviews of our local survivors, Max Herzel and Robert May, and second generation survivors, Sheryl Perlstein, the daughter of Aisic Hirsch, z”l, and Jessica Roskin, daughter of Ingrid Roskin. Upon completion, the films will be archived at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and at the BHEC. Homewood Public Library will host a public premiere on May 2.

The year-long program involved the students diving deeply into Holocaust history, and, more specifically, into the lives of the survivors, before, during, and after the war. The students were fortunate to have studied the Holocaust with the BHEC’s Ann Mollengarden. In addition, Michele Forman, documentary filmmaker and Director of UAB Media Studies Program, spent several sessions teaching the students about oral history, documentary films, and interviewing techniques. Saul Sudin, New York filmmaker, brought the skills of filmmaking to life as he instructed the students in using the camera and digital editing equipment. All this knowledge and these skills were critical on this extraordinary journey.

Through this experience, the students learned about the Holocaust from those who experienced it, thus helping preserve survivors’ stories for future generations. At the same time, they formed intergenerational friendships with their interview subjects. *Names, Not Numbers*® is an important learning experience as it engages students in the essential moral question of man’s relationship to his fellow man and of making difficult decisions in hard times.

We are deeply grateful to the Abroms Center for Lifetime Learning, the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center, the Birmingham Jewish Foundation, the Alabama Holocaust Commission, and the Homewood Public Library for their support.

The “Better Together *Names, Not Numbers*® Program” is generously supported by a prominent national Foundation.

## Save the Date

The N.E. Miles Jewish Day School,  
the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center,  
and the Homewood Library invite you to  
the premiere screening of

## Better Together Names, Not Numbers®

*a student oral history project which takes the teachings of the  
Holocaust and its lessons beyond the classroom to address the  
questions of each individual’s responsibility to humanity.*

Tuesday, May 2, 2017, 6:30 pm, Homewood Library

Email [lraviv@nemjds.org](mailto:lraviv@nemjds.org) for more information.



The Better Together Names, Not Numbers® project is an interactive, multi-media Holocaust project created by educator, Tova Fish-Rosenberg.  
The Better Together Names, Not Numbers® Program is generously supported by a prominent national foundation.



# Theresienstadt and Verdi's Requiem

Last year, after hearing about plans for the Alabama Symphony Orchestra (ASO) to perform Verdi's *Requiem*, the BHEC staff approached the ASO about partnering on an educational program in conjunction with the performance. They were just as excited about a partnership as we were and, after some discussion, it was decided a talk about this history at the "Concert Comments" prior to the performance would be appropriate.

BHEC Executive Director Rebecca Dobrinski prepared a short talk about the history of Theresienstadt concentration camp and the performance of *Requiem* to a delegation from the International and Danish Red Cross. This performance was part of a larger charade the Nazis had developed. Excerpts from her talk are below. The entire talk will eventually be published on the forthcoming blog pages of the new BHEC web site.

Theresienstadt is just north of Prague and served as a transit camp. Jews from Czechoslovakia and other parts of Europe were sent to Theresienstadt before being deported to other camps. For those who were not sent elsewhere, it was also a ghetto / labor camp for those who were publicly well known and "might be missed".

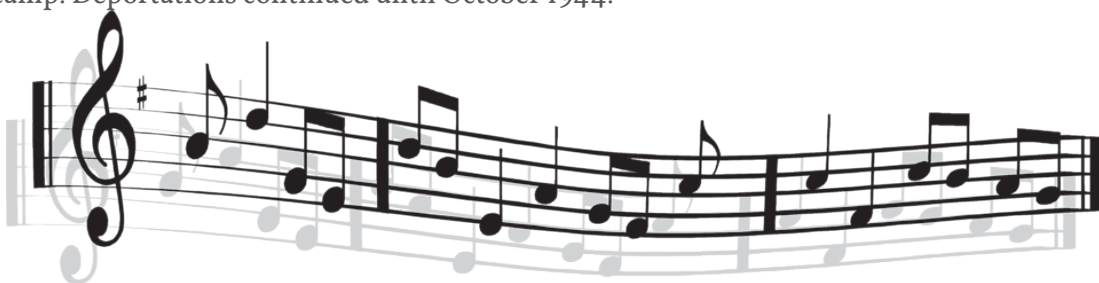
Theresienstadt was a tool. It was propaganda. To the public Theresienstadt was simply a place for Jews to assemble before they were resettled. It was an explanation for Germans who questioned the deportation of German and Austrian Jews who were elderly, disabled war veterans, or locally known musicians and artists. According to Nazi propaganda, Theresienstadt was a "spa town" where elderly Jews could safely "retire" to live out their golden years.

As the film *Defiant Requiem* points out, the performance at Theresienstadt was probably the most dramatic example of intellectual and artistic courage in the camp during World War II.

In 1941, Czech conductor Rafael Schachter was arrested and sent to Theresienstadt. Schachter was determined to sustain courage and hope for his fellow prisoners, and through his leadership, he enriched their souls through music. In his most extraordinary act, Schachter recruited 150 of his fellow prisoners and taught them Verdi's *Requiem*. While gathered in a dank cellar to rehearse – often after long days of forced labor – he used a single score to teach them. The final, and most infamous, performance was on June 23, 1944, before the high-ranking SS officers and the Red Cross delegates as part of the charade to demonstrate the benevolence of the Nazis as well as how prisoners flourished at the "spa camp".

During rehearsals for *Requiem*, survivor Marianka Zadikow May – a singer in the chorus – remembers Schachter telling their fellow prisoners: "...that we were going to do something totally unique. We were going to sing the most beautiful music Verdi ever wrote. He explained to us, 'this was our battle, good against evil, music against violence and death. And we will survive. This music will be put to the highest heights from the deepest depths because in such a place like this it was never sung before.'"

The performance of Verdi's *Requiem* was the prisoners' way of telling the Germans that "all will be judged by God upon their death". Shortly before the delegation visited, the Nazis had experienced the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. In order to prevent another uprising from happening at Theresienstadt, the Nazis deported every able-bodied person out of the camp. Deportations continued until October 1944.



## Education News

By Ann Mollengarden, Education Coordinator

### 2017 Brenda & Fred Friedman Teacher Scholarship

Through the generosity of Brenda & Fred Friedman, the BHEC has the unique opportunity to provide teachers in our state with advanced learning opportunities at some of the top Holocaust educational institutions in our country. These scholarship teachers, invigorated with new knowledge and enthusiasm for teaching the Holocaust, return to their classrooms and motivate their students to new heights.

This year marks the 14th year of this scholarship program that has already awarded 104 scholarships to esteemed institutions such as the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, Facing History & Ourselves, the Jan Karski Institute, the Jewish Labor Committee, the Memorial Library, and Appalachian State University.

Please join us in congratulating this year's Friedman Scholarship winners:

Jessical Badio, Berry Middle School, Birmingham  
 Steve Benton, Thompson Sixth Grade Center, Birmingham  
 Corey Evans, Southeastern School, Remlap  
 Kaetlyn Hermann, James Clemons High School, Madison  
 Amanda Kennedy, Parrish Elementary, Parrish  
 Amy McDonald, Shades Valley High School, Birmingham  
 Brian Pike, Central High School of Clay County, Lineville  
 Maryann Pledger, Shades Valley High School, Birmingham  
 Rachel Povlacs, Carroll High School, Dothan  
 Tricia Skelton, Opelika Middle School, Opelika  
 Kathryn Woddail, Park Crossing High School, Montgomery  
 Gail Yeilding, Chelsea High School, Birmingham

We will hold our annual Friedman Scholars Reception on Sunday, July 30, 2:00 pm, at the BHEC. Please join us to learn about these amazing educators.

### BHEC Partners with Facing History & Ourselves

The BHEC will be hosting four day-long teacher workshops in November with our new partner, Facing History & Ourselves. Their unique curriculum, Holocaust and Human Behavior, leads students through an examination of the history of the Holocaust while fostering the skills in ethical reasoning, critical thinking, empathy, and civic engagement. By focusing on the choices of individuals who experienced this history – through primary sources, eyewitness testimonies, personal reflections, poetry, and images – students are given a lens to thoughtfully examine the universal themes and questions about human behavior inherent in a study of the Holocaust. Students are also prompted to draw connections between history and the world today. Teachers will receive a copy of the full curriculum as well as access to Facing History's online resources.



People make choices. Choices make history.

Not a month goes by without some tidbit of history falling into our lap. Each fascinating piece of the puzzle adds to the story of our local survivors and is archived for future generations.

Mary Kimerling of Birmingham shared this with us recently:

"I've walked through Elmwood Cemetery, Block 40, Temple Beth-El Section many times. This day was different: I spent time reading the foot stones. How could I have missed this? "Margot Eva Klappholz Limmer Fuld - Our Dearest Oma - Holocaust Survivor." My cellphone in hand, I snapped a photo - texted and emailed it to three very knowledgeable Holocaust experts. Not one knew her story. Whoever she was, her family had determined to honor her life with important pieces of information written on stone. It tells us that she lived long enough to become a dearly loved grandmother after being a witness and survivor of the Holocaust. I imagine that her family chose to leave this as testimony to us. The last word carved in Hebrew says, "Shalom." Rest in peace Margot Eva Klappholz Limmer Fuld. She is buried close to other survivors: Dora & Max Nesselroth, Nachama Herzel Schlosberg, and Aisic Hirsch. Block 40 is also where a memorial foot stone for Oscar Herzel who died in Buchenwald is located.

The BHEC had no record of Margot. We have since learned that Margot was the grandmother of Rhonda Rich, who moved away from Birmingham several years ago. We are in the process of learning more about her story.

The BHEC continues to fill in the historical gaps of the many survivors that have lived in our state. We hope that you, our readers, will continue to share your stories and artifacts to help develop the BHEC archives.



# Book Signing Program for *Determined to Survive*

by Courtney Haynes, BHEC Intern & UAB Student

On February 12, 2017, hundreds gathered at Temple Emanu-El to celebrate the release of Amy McDonald's book *Determined to Survive: A Story of Survival and One Teacher's Passion to Bring That Story to Life* about Holocaust survivor Max Steinmetz.

To a standing room only crowd, Max spoke about his time in concentration camps, and warned the crowd that the genocide of millions of people can happen again. Also, he thanked Amy for everything she did, not only for the book, but for him personally, such as finding the grave of his brother.

As Amy took the floor, she thanked a few people in the audience for their time and the overwhelming support she has received. The two-year process of writing the book involved traveling to different places, and she focused on two of these special places in her presentation. The first location was Landsburg, Germany, where Max and his brother, Henry, were imprisoned in slave labor camps. Amy was introduced to a lieutenant colonel in the German military who was also a historian. He went to great lengths to show Amy the camps, museums, and more. It was here that Max lost his brother Henry just three months before liberation. Prior to leaving Germany, Amy found out there was a mass grave where people from these camps were buried. With help from her newfound military historian friend, Amy determined that this was Henry's grave, and she lit a yahrzeit candle from Max and his wife, Betty.

The second location Amy spoke about was Max's hometown of Targu Lapus, Romania. Amy and the teachers of

Targu Lapus worked together after Amy's visit by starting a blog and reading *Night* by Elie Wiesel. The students of Targu Lapus created a video for Amy, telling her how much it meant to them to learn about a Holocaust survivor from their town, and how they will never allow that to happen again. Amy showed a picture of the students holding signs that read, "We Remember." She then said, "This new generation stands on a new bridge and sends messages of admiration and respect."

Amy concluded her presentation by turning to Max, "I thank you for all that you've shared and your patience with me. And it has been one of the greatest honors to have been allowed the privilege for us to have walk this road together."

*"Determined to Survive"*  
can be purchased at the BHEC.  
Please call 205.795.4176  
for information.



Max Steinmetz, BHEC Board Member Cathy Friedman, and Amy McDonald.

*"I thank you for all that you've shared and your patience with me. And it has been one of the greatest honors to have been allowed the privilege for us to walk this road together."*



Standing room only in Abrams Hall at Temple Emanu-El..

# Reviewing *Determined to Survive*

Introduction by Rachel McElroy

*When preparing for the Determined to Survive book signing program at Temple Emanu-El, I invited many of my Facebook friends to attend the event. Richard Norton and his wife, Anita, accepted my invitation. Several weeks later, I noticed a post reviewing the book and his experience. The experience truly touched him, and he told his Facebook family about it.*

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of hearing a brief talk by Max Steinmetz. He is one of a small group of Holocaust survivors still alive and living in the Birmingham area. He is 91. Also speaking was Amy McDonald, a social studies teacher at Shades Valley High School. McDonald has written a powerful book about Steinmetz and his life, *Determined to Survive*. I think a lot of this is important, and know that many will never read the book...so that's why I post this.

Max Steinmetz grew up in a small Romanian town. There was a synagogue there, but apparently, there were fewer Jewish people than others. When he was a young teenager the Nazis came. His immediate family included his parents, a six-year-old sister, and younger brother Henry. The family was first sent to one of the many ghettos where Jews could be watched and controlled. Later they were put on board one of the many trains we have heard about. The conditions were awful and they were on the train for several days. The family managed to remain together in the boxcar. They arrived at Auschwitz Birkenau death camp. If you have seen or read any history you know as prisoners would disembark the train, there was a long line. At the front of the line they were separated into two groups: a slave labor group and, the other group. The other group were told they were getting a "shower". Max and Henry went into the slave labor group. He never saw his parents or sister again.

The conditions of the camp are described in detail in the book. There are simply no words, and Max says this. If we use our imagination of the worst, it was many times worse.

Max and Henry managed to remain together as slave laborers, with Max at times holding Henry up. If you fell and did not get up you were shot in the back of the neck. After some time, they were sent to another camp, Dachau. They managed to continue to stay together again as slave laborers. . .until one morning Henry could not get up. Max went to ask the camp "Doctor" to check on Henry. When Max returned in the evening, Henry was gone. When he went to see the Doctor, he was told it was over.

Max barely survived and was liberated by Americans in May 1945. He spent a long time in displaced persons' hospitals and finally got healthy. He was asked if he wanted to return to his hometown. He did not. His immediate family was gone. He had distant cousins in New York and, with much help from social service agencies, he was put in touch with them. They agreed to have him come to America and stay with them. Years and many miles later he relocated and raised a family in Birmingham. He retired years ago as an executive with a major company and still lives here. He has a wife, children, and grandchildren, he adores. . .and who adore him.

Max would never talk about his life to anyone, including his family, for many years. Then a daughter went to Israel to study. When she came back, she and other family members persuaded him to talk about it. He did. He has spoken to high school and college classes in many places about what happened to him. He always answers questions. This is where McDonald comes into the story. Some years ago, she decided that she wanted a survivor to begin speaking with her classes. Over time she became good friends with Max and his family. Last year, through a national teachers grant, she went (on Max's behalf) to the areas where he had been. She spoke to school children in his hometown. She left a candle at the mass grave where Henry is buried. She made friends with school teachers in the area. Her journey and Max's story are what is detailed in the book.

The book is available at the Birmingham Holocaust Center in Birmingham. If you google Max's name you can find more info, including an interview.

A few FINAL thoughts. . .

When Max spoke, he said he did not wish to discuss politics. . .but the message was emphasized over and over. Do not think it can't happen here. It can. They thought it would never happen then and there. It CAN happen again.

In his final thoughts in the book he says that the way to keep things like this from happening is to be vigilant and that people need to find ways to get along.

Max admits to being a stubborn man. He feels he owes his life to that stubbornness.

Max feels some resentment toward the people in his home town, who knew what was happening and never stood up for he and the others. He also seems to feel that it is not likely that the Germans living near the camps had no knowledge.

There are few Holocaust survivors left. Soon they will all be gone. Amy McDonald and Max Steinmetz have done what they could to keep the stories alive. The stories must never die.

-Richard Norton, Birmingham



# BHEC Speakers Continue to Educate

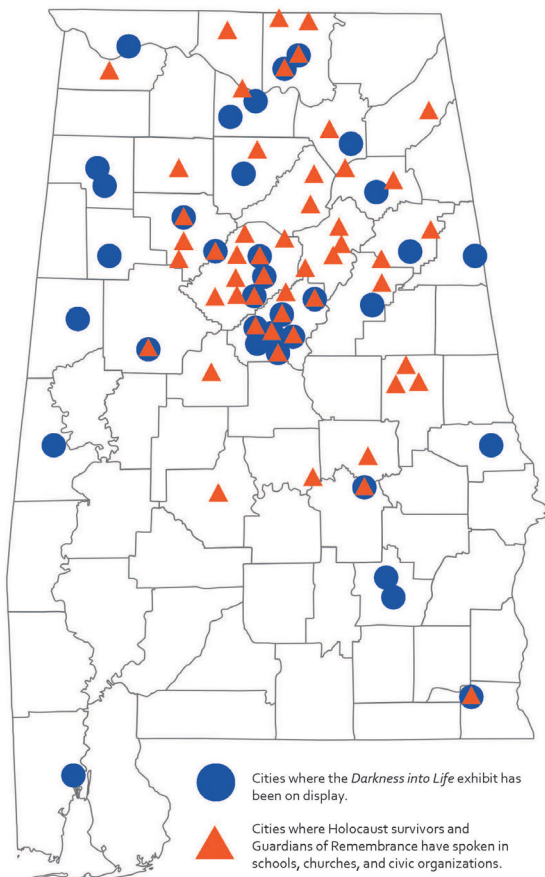
by Denise Lewis, Engagement

The BHEC gets speaker requests from schools, community groups, companies, and organizations throughout the state. If you or someone you know are interested in scheduling a speaker, please visit the BHEC web site and fill out the request form found on the “Speakers Bureau” page.

Recently, BHEC speakers have spoken to Sipsey Valley Middle School (Esther Levy), McElwain Baptist Church (Riva Hirsch), Brookwood Forest Elementary School (Robert May), Homewood Middle School (Riva Hirsch), Etowah Middle School (Robert May), Cherokee Bend School (Denise Lewis), University of Alabama at Birmingham (Rebecca Dobrinski), Riverchase Middle School (Riva Hirsch), Red Mountain Theatre (Rebecca Dobrinski, Kendall Chew), Trussville Rotary Club (Esther Levy), Nobel School (Ann Mollengarden), Zarzaur & Schwartz (Rebecca Dobrinski), Military Officers Association (Ann Mollengarden), the Alabama Symphony Orchestra (Rebecca Dobrinski), and Mountain Brook Boy Scouts (Robert May).



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Upcoming speaking events include:

Childersburg High School (Robert May)  
Corner High School (Esther Levy)  
Jacksonville State University (James Sedlis)  
Meadowbrook Baptist Church (Ann Mollengarden)  
Mortimer Jordan High School (Robert May)  
Mountain View Christian Academy (Riva Hirsch)  
Optimist Club (Rebecca Dobrinski)  
Pell City Library (Robert May)  
Redstone Arsenal (James Sedlis)  
Saks High School (Max Herzel)  
Social Security Administration Office (Riva Hirsch)  
South Highland Presbyterian Church (Robert May)

*Since 2009, BHEC Speakers have spoken at nearly 200 engagements and the traveling version of Darkness Into Life has been shown at over 68 venues. The BHEC continues to make an impact on students and their larger communities throughout the state of Alabama.*

Next Page, Host Committee Reception:

Row 1, L-R: Guin Robinson, Joan Stelling, & Cathy Friedman; Lanier Isom, Cathy Friedman, Bunny Rotenstreich, & Gail Bayer; Sheryl Perlstein & Riva Hirsch. // Row 2, L-R: Tad Lidikay, Jeannette & Will Hightower; Betty Goldstein & Paul Friedman, Jr.; Dennis Leonard, Donald Watkins, Jr.; Paul & Cathy Friedman, Jeanetta & Bill Keller. // Row 3, L-R: Sherri & David Romanoff; Lanier Isom & Cameron Vowell; Carole Pizitz, Betty Goldstein, & Brenda Friedman.

Photos by Joe DeScoise Photography



# BSC Student Spends Mini-Term with BHEC

by Bryan Moseley

Any individual wishing to take part in an internship should remain in a constant search for interesting opportunities which provide challenging but stimulating tasks as well as prospects to increase one's own knowledge and appreciation for any given subject. At the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center, I experienced both of these characteristics to a great extent.

I am a second-year student majoring in History and minoring in Classical Studies at Birmingham-Southern College. In January 2017, I eagerly accepted an internship at the BHEC, which maintains a distinctive devotion to keeping the history and lessons of the Holocaust alive. I was tasked with creating a PowerPoint presentation based on the story of Riva Hirsch, an 83-year-old Holocaust survivor from Romania. Mrs. Hirsch, though only seven years old at the time, managed to cling to life as she and her family were forcibly shuffled from city to city by Nazi soldiers. Later rescued from a work camp and safely hidden away in a bunker by Catholic nuns, Mrs. Hirsch's story is certainly one worth telling. I was fortunate enough to meet Mrs. Hirsch when she came to the BHEC to tell her story to an eager group of students. It is one thing to sit behind a computer and learn about a person from watching videos and reading articles, but it is quite another to speak to and shake hands with a living, breathing piece of history. I will treasure my short time with Riva as long as I live.

Using the research techniques I learned from my professors, I formed a presentation placing Mrs. Hirsch's story within the greater geopolitical context of war-torn Europe. In the future, as Mrs. Hirsch's story continues to be told, educators will be able to use this presentation to convey the significance of remembrance to students across the state.

Later in the month, I took part in a reorganizational effort led by Rachel McElroy, the BHEC's office coordinator. Together with Ms. McElroy, I integrated the newly-donated books and DVDs into the organization's library. Ms. McElroy and I also prepared the Reading Room, a new feature at the BHEC which houses survivor testimonies as well as rare books.

Though we, as privileged Americans living comfortable lives, might be unable to come to grips with the atrocities committed in the past, we at the very least are required to dutifully respect the past and its lessons in order that the events which unfortunately occurred might not happen a second time. The volunteers and staff at the BHEC serve as a living testament to this obligation. I am truly grateful for my time at the BHEC, and I pray that their significant work might continue well into the future.

Scenes from the *L'Chaim* 2017 Host Committee Reception at the BHEC.



# Alabama Holocaust Commission Update

by Dan Puckett, Commission Chair

It's that time of year once again—the Alabama legislature is working on the state's annual budget. To quote the Imperial German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, "Laws are like sausages, it is better not to see them being made." He could have been talking about the legislative budgeting process as well. Fortunately for Holocaust education in Alabama, the legislature values what we do. Because of the generous support last year to the tune of \$40,000 (the largest amount the Alabama Holocaust Commission has ever received), we have been able to distribute more funds to the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center and the Gulf Coast Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education than ever before. As a result, Holocaust education has been expanding throughout the state. This year, we'll be seeking another increase in the AHC budget. With the efforts of Commission members Rep. David Faulkner and Sen. Jabo Waggoner (both from Birmingham), I'm optimistic that we'll have more funds to distribute, which will mean more programs, more scholarships, and more lectures offered to teachers, students, and communities around the state.

The key to our budgetary success begins with the House Ways and Means Education Committee and the Senate Education and Youth Affairs Committee. Please contact the members of these committees and urge their support of the AHC and Holocaust education!

## *Members of the House Ways and Means Education Committee:*

Bill Poole, Chair (District 63, Tuscaloosa Co.)  
Steve McMillan, Vice-Chair (District 95, Baldwin Co.)  
James Buskey (District 99, Mobile Co.)  
Alan Baker (District 66, Baldwin/Escambia Co.)  
Donnie Chesteen (District 87, Geneva/Houston Co.)  
Terri Collins (District 8, Morgan Co.)  
Craig Ford (District 28, Etowah Co.)  
Danny Garrett (District 44, Jefferson Co.)  
Joe Lovvorn (District 79, Lee Co.)  
Jim Patterson (District 21, Madison Co.)  
John Rogers (District 52, Jefferson Co.)  
Rod Scott (District 55, Jefferson Co.)  
Patricia Todd (District 54, Jefferson Co.)  
Mark Tuggle (District 81, Chilton/Coosa/Tallapoosa Co.)  
Phil Williams (District 6, Limestone/Madison Co.)

## *Members of the Senate Education and Youth Affairs Committee:*

Dick Brewbaker, Chair (District 25, Montgomery/Crenshaw/Elmore Co.,  
Quinton Ross, Vice-Chair (District 26, Montgomery Co.)  
Paul Bussman (District 4, Cullman, Lawrence, Winston, Marion Co.)  
Vivian Figures (District 33, Mobile Co.)  
Del Marsh (District 12, Calhoun, Clay, Talladega Co.)  
Jim McClendon (District 11, Shelby, St. Clair, Talladega Co.)  
Trip Pittman (District 32, Baldwin Co.)  
Hank Sanders (District 23, Selma and Black Belt Counties)  
Shay Shelnett (District 17, Jefferson, Blount, St. Clair, Talladega Co.)



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## 2017 Yom HaShoah Commemoration at the State Capitol

On April 25, the state will hold its annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration in the Old House Chamber at the State Capitol in Montgomery, at 11:00 am. Dr. Lynne Goldsmith, Rabbi of Temple Emanu-El in Dothan, will provide the keynote speech that examines the enduring legacy of antisemitism. We expect Governor Kay Ivey and members of the Alabama Legislature to be in attendance, in addition to students from area high schools.



# Did you know. . .

You can make a gift to the BHEC in honor or memory of a friend, colleague, or loved one. The BHEC has a tribute card program designed for you to make a lasting impact to Holocaust education in Alabama. When you make a tribute gift, a card is designed with a short message of your choosing and sent to the honored recipient (or their family). Funds from tribute gifts help pay for programs for students and our community.

Tribute forms can be found on the envelope inserted in this issue of *Legacy*, or please call the BHEC at 205.795.4176 to make a donation over the phone.



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Keeping the History and Lessons  
of the Holocaust Alive

*A donation has been made  
In Honor Of*

*Ruth Siegler  
Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday!!*

*From,  
Your Friends at the BHEC  
PO Box 130805  
Birmingham, AL 35213*

Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center as your charitable organization. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of every eligible purchase to the BHEC!

**amazon**smile  
You Shop. **Amazon Gives.**

## *Thank You to Our Community Partners*

A+ College Ready  
Alabama Association of Nonprofits  
Alabama Holocaust Commission  
Alabama Museums Association  
Alabama National Cemetery  
Alabama School of Fine Arts  
Ardmore High School  
Association of Holocaust  
Organizations  
Birmingham Civil Rights Institute  
Birmingham Jewish Federation  
Birmingham Jewish Foundation  
Birmingham Southern College  
Chabad of Birmingham

Chelsea High School  
Cherokee County High School  
Church Street Coffee & Books  
Daughters of the American  
Revolution  
Emmet O'Neal Library  
Fultondale High School  
Golden Eagles Seniors Group  
Homewood Middle School  
Jefferson County Medical Society  
Jewish Foundation for the Righteous  
Jewish Partisans Education  
Foundation  
John Carroll Catholic High School

Knesseth-Israel Congregation  
Leadership Birmingham  
Levite Jewish Community Center  
Mountain Brook Elementary School  
Pell City Library  
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
Riverchase United Methodist  
Church  
Samford University  
Shades Valley High School  
Sipsey Middle School  
Social Security Administration  
TEDxBirmingham  
Temple Beth-El

Temple Emanu-El  
Trussville Rotary Club  
UAB's Alys Stephens Center for the  
Performing Arts  
United States Holocaust Memorial  
Museum  
University of Alabama at  
Birmingham  
University of Alabama in Huntsville  
University of North Alabama  
University of South Alabama

**Thank you to our supporters and partners! We appreciate everything you do to help us carry out our mission to honor those who perished and those who survived, and to keep the history and lessons of the Holocaust alive for future generations.**





BIRMINGHAM  
HOLOCAUST  
EDUCATION  
CENTER

Keeping the History  
and Lessons of the  
Holocaust Alive

P.O. Box 130805 • Birmingham, AL 35213-0805

#### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

#### CONTACT US:

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### *Come visit with us:*

2222 Arlington Avenue South • Birmingham, AL 35205  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday, Fridays by appointment

## *Dates to Remember*

### **Yom HaShoah / Holocaust Remembrance Programs**

Birmingham, Temple Beth-El April 23  
State of Alabama, Montgomery April 25

### **Scholarship Reception**

**L'Chaim 2017** August 20  
Alys Stephens Center

### **AHC Meetings**

Spring, Montgomery April 25  
Summer, Birmingham July 23  
Fall, Montgomery October 29

### **BHEC Meetings**

Executive Committee	April 20
Full Board	May 23
Executive Committee	June 20
Full Board	July 17
Executive Committee	August 22
Full Board	September 12
Executive Committee	October 17
Full Board	November 14
Annual Meeting	December 5

### **Fall Teacher Workshops**

November 7, 8, 14, 15

## *Stay Tuned for some exciting news about new Fall Programs!*

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.