



Legacy



A publication of the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center, a division of the Alabama Holocaust Commission

Summer/Fall 2012

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 26, 2:30 pm

L'Chaim: The BHEC Honors
Phyllis Weinstein
Temple Emanu-El, Birmingham

October/November

Darkness into Life
Troy University,
Montgomery

November 1, 9:00 am

Echoes & Reflections
Workshop, Huntsville

November 8, 9:00 am

Echoes & Reflections
Workshop, Dothan
Troy University, Dothan

January/February 2013

Darkness into Life
Troy University, Troy

March/April 2013

Darkness into Life
Troy University, Dothan

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Darkness into Life</i>	2
<i>Echoes and Reflections</i>	3
<i>Empty Chairs at Empty Tables</i>	3
<i>AHC Remembrance Ceremony</i>	4
<i>Scholarship Recipients</i>	4
<i>Second Generation Reflections</i>	5
<i>Library</i>	6
<i>Gulf Coast Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education</i>	6
<i>Holocaust Memorials</i>	6
<i>Travis Ray Carter: Liberator of Buchenwald</i>	7
<i>Tribute to Helena Lubel</i>	7

The Alabama Holocaust Commission is recognized as a "Center of Excellence" by the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous.



Sunday, August 26, 2012

2:30 – 4:00 pm

Temple Emanu-El, Birmingham

Featuring:

Nancy Patz, author of *Who Was the Woman Who Wore the Hat?*

Special video in honor of Phyllis Weinstein

Musical guests

Dessert reception and book signing following program

Minimum donation of \$100 per person for tickets

Additional donations in honor of Phyllis Weinstein will be gratefully received

(All donations are 100% tax deductible)

Online: www.bhamholocausteducation.org

By Mail: Send check payable to Alabama Holocaust Foundation to

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

Please include the number of tickets you are purchasing.

You will receive written confirmation of your donation.

Phyllis Weinstein's lifelong commitment to community service and her inspiring leadership in the Jewish community have set her apart as a role model for all of us who have been privileged to know and work with her.

For the last 10 years, Phyllis has devoted her energies and talents to initiating and advancing Holocaust education in Alabama. When asked why she took on this task, Phyllis replied simply, "It was something that needed to be done." She has done it as she does everything—with vision, wisdom, and tenacious determination.

Under Phyllis' leadership, the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center has touched the lives of thousands of students and teachers in Alabama with the history and life-changing lessons of the Holocaust.

Join us as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the BHEC and honor Phyllis at a special event to raise funds for our continuing work in Holocaust education.

Yad Vashem

Phyllis G. Weinstein, Chair, AHC and BHEC

This summer, during a visit to my family in Israel, I had an opportunity to meet with Stephanie McMahon Kaye who is the Coordinator of International Studies in English at Yad Vashem. My visit took place just two weeks before the opening of the Annual Conference for Educators, attended by educators from every corner of the world, and I was deeply appreciative of the time she gave me. She described the many educational opportunities available at Yad Vashem and encouraged

(continued page 2)



Alabama Holocaust Survivors Through Photography and Art

BHEC's Educational Treasure

Barbara Solomon, Exhibit Coordinator

Darkness Into Life has been circulating the state since its debut in 2007, impacting well over 20,000 Alabamians. In 2008, it doubled in size, adding 11 survivors from throughout the state to the nine, original Birmingham participants.

Praise for Our Artists

The exhibit is a powerful, masterfully-presented, educational tool. The survivors' stories give insight into life before, during, and after the Holocaust, exploring the atrocities that were suffered and the courage it took to survive. Audiences continue to flock to view the exhibit and praise its content. We, at the BHEC, continue to reap praise on artists Becky Seitel and Mitzi J. Levin, whose paintings and photographs inspire, teach, remember, and touch our hearts.

Teaching Tolerance Throughout Alabama

Hosts of the exhibit report that *Darkness into Life* inspires communities to teach creatively about the Holocaust, as well as tangential issues like social injustice, prejudice, tolerance, peer pressure, and good citizenship. This year's tour began at Hoover High School. It then traveled to the Florence–Lauderdale Library in Florence, Phillips High School in Bear Creek, Birmingham–Southern College, and three months at the Huntsville Museum of Art. Time to catch our breath! Each



Darkness into Life at the Huntsville Museum of Art.

venue requires transportation arrangements, educational, and docent support and training, and help with obtaining speakers from our Speakers' Bureau. All this is done with the work of a small but dedicated team of BHEC volunteers.

Exciting News

The cost of transporting and maintaining *Darkness into Life* is a significant one for the BHEC. The exhibit is over five years old now, and it is taking a beating. Each summer is spent repairing and updating. This summer, we have some very exciting news to share. Last Fall, Betty and Max Steinmetz (Max is a survivor featured in the exhibit) received a substantial donation to the BHEC in Max's honor. They dedicated those funds to help create a more portable, manageable, traveling version of the exhibit. We are in the process of working with a design company to make that dream a reality.

We are proud to announce that this new, traveling format will make its debut at our August 26th L'Chaim event. We hope that will be one more reason to persuade you to attend what promises to be an amazing program!

(continued page 8)

Yad Vashem (continued)

Phyllis G. Weinstein, Chair AHC and BHEC

me to send our teachers to these programs to strengthen their knowledge of the Holocaust while studying in this unique environment. I hope we will be able to do this in coming years.

As an aside, and a coincidence, Rabbi Reuven Tradburks, the spiritual leader of Kneseth Israel Synagogue during the early 1990's who made aliya in 2009 and frequently writes letters to his former congregants and friends of his thoughts and musings about everyday life in Jerusalem where he and his family live, attended a session of the Annual Conference for Educators and wrote the following:

One of the impressions I had was the sheer quality and volume of Holocaust education—in a field that has essentially developed in the past 20 years. It is remarkable how broad and deep the work is that has been done and, hence, the resources available to people like (us) who are bringing the research and work to a practical application. It is a testimony to the determination and focus of leaders who enable this to happen. Very Impressive to me.

The BHEC is part of that growth. Just ten years ago, a small group of five people volunteered to bring information about the Holocaust to the Birmingham community. Today, an amazing group of dedicated, committed men and women, all volunteers, spend countless hours developing and presenting programs on the Holocaust throughout the state. In this issue of *Legacy*, you will learn how many lives we have touched. We continue to encounter those who are learning about the Holocaust for the first time, as well as those thirsting for more information.



Phyllis Weinstein and Stephanie Kaye at Yad Vashem, June 2012.

Please join us Sunday afternoon, August 26, as we celebrate our decade of accomplishments and look forward to continued growth and achievement as we strive to keep the history and lessons of the Holocaust alive.

Echoes & Reflections Teacher Workshop to be in Huntsville/Dothan Ann Mollengarden, Education Coordinator

During the fall of 2011, the Alabama Holocaust Commission (AHC) and the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center (BHEC) embarked on our second, state-wide, teacher education program, bringing the *Echoes & Reflections* curriculum to Birmingham, Florence, Montgomery, and Bay Minette.

Echoes and Reflections, A Multi-Media Curriculum on the Holocaust is an award-winning curriculum created by the ADL, Shoah Foundation, and Yad Vashem. It is used by over 14,000 educators and incorporates compelling visual history testimony to engage students in the lives of survivors, rescuers, and liberators. As well, it promotes contemporary connections to cultural diversity, intolerance, and genocide.

Over 250 teachers attended these events in Alabama and continue to use these materials in their classroom.

The ADL was so pleased with the organization and response in Alabama that they requested two additional 2012 Alabama workshops. We are pleased to announce that workshops will be held in Huntsville on November 1, and Dothan on November 8.

In Huntsville, the Jewish Federation of Huntsville and North Alabama, and in Dothan, Troy University at Dothan, will be partnering with the BHEC to make these workshops a reality. Local funding will provide teachers with snacks and lunches, and most importantly, reimbursement for substitute teachers. The ADL will once again provide the facilitators as well as the curriculum for teachers—a \$100 value.

We applaud all who stepped forward to bring these exciting resources to their communities.

Empty Chairs at Empty Tables: Remembering the Holocaust Sharon Wright, Teacher, Fayetteville High School



Sharon Wright (second from left) with her students

Students don't often identify with the large numbers and statistics that are associated with the massive deaths during the Holocaust. I wanted my students to understand just one survivor's story and be able to translate that story into a concrete reason for every student to study the Holocaust.

To begin our unit, we watched a clip from the 50th anniversary performance of *Les Miserables* in which Marius sings the mournful song "Empty Chairs at Empty Tables" after losing most of his friends in a battle. I explained that the words Marius sings could be applied to many situations. We brainstormed some situations in which a person would have lost several friends at one time. Inevitably, the Holocaust was mentioned. This was a catalyst for the next part of our discussion in which we learned more about the Holocaust and what it must have been like to have your life changed suddenly and irrevocably.

Students worked in literature circles, each group reading a different book, researching a different aspect of the Holocaust, and focusing on a single Holocaust survivor by completing a video testimony lesson through the Shoah Foundation's new website Iwitness (iwitness.usc.edu). The group that read *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry researched rescuers and flight and completed a survivor video testimony lesson featuring Mette Shayne, who was just a girl when her

family escaped Denmark in the hull of a fishing boat. The group that read *Night* by Elie Weisel researched conditions in concentration camps and completed a survivor video testimony lesson featuring Martin Schiller, a survivor of three different camps. The group that read *Briar Rose* by Jane Yolen researched how survivors are remembered today and focused on Renee Firestone, a contributing survivor and speaker on the Iwitness website, and Max Herzel, a survivor who spoke to our class. The group that read *Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen researched Nazi propaganda and focused on Ruth Silten, who was present in the Theresienstadt Ghetto during the filming of a propaganda movie.

After completing their novels, research, and Iwitness video survivor testimony lessons, students began creating their end products. Each group designed and made a cardboard chair, painting it to represent the theme of their novel. They also created a project board to present research findings about their survivor and their specific aspect of the Holocaust. During their Iwitness lesson, each group created a video of survivor testimony along with their own video response to the survivor's story.

On presentation day, each group displayed their chair around an empty table and lit a single "candle" in memory of those who did not survive. Also on display were their project boards, and as visitor's entered the display area, groups shared their video creations.

My students learned that remembering the Holocaust is essential in our lives today because, as one student said, "If we don't remember, who will?" As educators, we have a duty to make sure that our students remember and pass the importance of remembering on to others, so that no one ever forgets what happened to the millions of people, or to just one person, during the Holocaust.

Sharon Wright was a 2009 Brenda and Fred Friedman Scholarship recipient. She went on in 2011 to become a USC Shoah Foundation Institute Master Teacher.

AHC Remembrance Ceremony Held in Montgomery



Holocaust survivors Aisic and Riva Hirsch receive a proclamation from Alabama's Lieutenant Governor Kay Ivey (center).

The Alabama Holocaust Commission (AHC) officially commemorated the Holocaust on April 17 during the U.S. Days of Remembrance. The ceremony, held in Montgomery in the Old House Chamber of the State Capitol, was attended by AHC members, Holocaust survivors, community dignitaries, and others. Kay Ivey, Alabama's Lieutenant Governor, presented a proclamation noting the importance of remembering the events of the Holocaust. A similar resolution was presented by Rep. Paul DeMarco on behalf of the House of Representatives.

The AHC would like to thank the following participants in our program: Rev. David Rice, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Anniston; Elisha Benjamin, flutist, student, University of Alabama; John Wright, Jr., thespian, Birmingham; Cantor Daniel Gale, Temple Beth-El, Birmingham; Max Steinmetz, Holocaust Survivor, Birmingham; and Rabbi Scott Kramer, Agudath Israel-Etz Ahayem Synagogue, Montgomery.

The AHC, established in 1999 by the State Legislature, is charged with education and remembrance of the Holocaust.

2012 Brenda & Fred Friedman Scholarship Recipients

Laurie Elmets, Scholarship Coordinator

Five dedicated Alabama teachers received scholarships to attend Holocaust education conferences this year.

Amy McDonald, Shades Valley High School, and Ken Wiggins, Ranburne High School, attended the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous' (JFR) Advanced Seminar in January. This was an in-depth follow-up to the JFR Summer Institute they attended last summer. Ken first received scholarship funding to attend the 2010 Belfer Conference for Educators at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and continued his quest for Holocaust education this summer, studying with the Holocaust Educators Network in New York.

Amy Spinks, Kingwood Christian School, and Logan Green, Pinson Valley High School, received scholarships to attend

the 2012 JFR Summer Institute. Both attended the Belfer Conference for Educators at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2010 and 2011, respectively. In addition, Amy McDonald and Amy Spinks also received a subsidy for participation in the JFR European Study Program in July.

These committed and passionate teachers were honored at a reception on July 26. Brenda and Fred Friedman, sponsors of this scholarship program, were presented with a booklet of thoughts and reflections submitted by this year's scholarship recipients. We graciously acknowledge the financial support of Brenda and Fred Friedman in providing area teachers with the opportunity to further their Holocaust education studies. Through their daily efforts, these teachers are keeping the history and lessons of the Holocaust alive.

Oral History Project, Montgomery, AL

Louisa Weinrib

Between 1989 and 1991, I created an oral history project interviewing Holocaust survivors in the Montgomery area. I had just finished an oral history project about the early years of the League of Women Voters with a friend. I recognized I enjoyed interviewing people and draw memories from them.

On the 45th anniversary of D-Day, Jim Levy, a Montgomery friend, wrote a very personal and moving article for the *Montgomery Advertiser* on his experience landing on Omaha Beach. I realized the time was rapidly approaching that people with first-hand experience of WWII and the Holocaust would soon be gone, and historic revisionists were already denying that the Holocaust ever happened.

I knew several people in Montgomery who escaped Germany before it was too late, been American military liberators of camps, and heard of others who had been incarcerated and survived. I devised a questionnaire to standardize interviews while allowing flexibility and asked four professionals to critique my questionnaire and advise me.

Two advising me knew of potential interviewees and asked if I would like for them to approach them for me. Of course, I said "yes" and discovered the people had never talked about

their experiences before, not even to their spouses or children.

Our interviews were in a comfortable place, mostly in their home or mine and began with inquiries about their family, neighborhood, education, growing up, plus food and familiar smells around their home. These memories put them at ease, and then we began talking about difficult and tragic times. I took snapshots of each person, but we did not use a video camera because that would have been too intrusive.

In this period, I interviewed 16 people and transcribed the tapes verbatim. Some people gave me personal items and photos of family to keep in their file. The people I interviewed fell into four categories: concentration camp survivors, people who left before it was too late, American military liberators of camps, and one child of survivors.

Ed Bridges, Director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, one of my advisors, was enthused about my work and said he would like to house my collection in the Archives, where it is today. The audio is being digitized for the Archives' website, and my transcribed version will soon be on the BHEC website.

Second Generation Recollections

Abe Schuster

My first memory of being different begins with my leaving home and entering the world of kindergarten. It was the first time I noticed that my parents talked funny—different from other adults. *What language or languages were they speaking anyway? Why do I, at five years old, seem to understand so much of what they are saying? Was I different, too, and should I be embarrassed?*

I don't recall my parents announcing to me in plain whatever-language-they-spoke that they had survived the Holocaust. It was just something that seeped into my consciousness and became part of the defining fabric of my life.

Growing up as a child of survivors provoked questions that grew in complexity as I got older. *Why do the families we celebrate holidays with speak the same kind of 'funny' English? Why don't we have holiday meals with relatives?*

Except for my mother's Tante Bayla, and her two daughters who we dutifully visited, but never shared a holiday meal with, we didn't have any close relatives in our lives, not even one grandparent! Supposedly, we had real aunts and uncles, but all I knew of them was that they sent weird, tissue-thin letters in a language I couldn't read. My parents poured over them and spoke of them in voices colored with emotional intensity beyond my ability to comprehend.

And what about those weekly, late-into-the-night poker games? The camaraderie they had.. drinking, eating, smoking cigarettes, laughing, shouting, telling stories and playing poker like their lives depended on it...and all the guys had tattoos numbered on their arms.

Clothes and food, the basics in life, always warranted an undue amount of fretting. *Make sure you're warm Aby. Let me give you food to take with you.* It wasn't like I was about to freeze or starve to death. One day, in 5th grade, I conducted an experiment. I left my coat at home "accidentally" just to see what might happen. I arrived at school a little uncomfortable, but never came close to freezing to death on my 20-minute walk. We all use the words hungry, tired, cold, and lonely. Even though I was still a child, I understood that these words had different meanings to my parents.

Eventually, we learned about the Holocaust in school. We saw film strips and movies showing piles of emaciated, dead Jews. Those grainy, black and white pictures and films of people I didn't know were *my* relatives. The pieces started coming together.

At some point, I made a decision that I would be proud of my parents, their peculiar languages and unique ways of living. I also began to understand that food probably tasted better to those who had experienced hunger. Joy came easier and was experienced more deeply by those who had suffered immensely. In our family, all emotions were more intense.

When I was in high school, my father would sometimes tell my friends and me "war stories." These poignant, fragmented vignettes usually cast him as a clueless underdog who eventually emerged victorious by sheer luck.

This was probably more accurate than I understood at the time. Most memorable were his childhood stories from Sarny, Poland. My father always embellished the colorfulness of the local citizenry. The child version of my Dad always benefited from his quick thinking, impulsiveness, and extraordinary good fortune, regardless of the merit of his decisions.

Sometimes he would share stories of post-war bliss. The young adult version of my Dad enjoyed love, family building, soccer, and the beach by the "paradise" of a displaced persons camp in Italy.

In 1967, we were informed by the Red Cross that one of my father's brothers had survived the war and was alive in the Soviet Union. Ten Cold War years and \$1400 later, Uncle Litman arrived at our home to spend a month catching up with his brother. They went to work together every day; smoked, drank, and played checkers every night. I learned that I had 2 cousins. One was a coal miner and the other drove a truck. Litman returned to the Soviet Union with suitcases filled with gifts for his family.

As an adult, I tried to put these pieces together to create a coherent family history. At 21, I traveled to Israel and met my father's sister, who had left her family in the 1930's for Palestine. I also met my father's brother, who shared a bunk with my dad in the displaced persons camp in Italy. I met seven first cousins, many of their children, and attended numerous family events filled with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Being with my aunt and uncle in Israel, who were raised by the same parents and in the same town as my father, and seeing their families—my first cousins—was like coming home. My parent's customs and behaviors made complete sense.

At 42, I traveled to the Ukraine to meet my other cousins and their children. We ate, drank, and road-tripped for 12 hours to Sarny. We stood together on the mass graves where our grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins rest not quite in peace. We walked the streets where our parents walked as children. We watched young Ukrainians play soccer on the field where the Jewish cemetery once stood. With a little effort, I learned about, and eventually met, every living descendant of our Schuster Family from Sarny.

Finally, I undertook the project of translating *Kehillat Sarny*. This book, *In Memory of the Community of Sarny*, details the history of this Jewish shtetl from its inception in 1903, to its liquidation by the Nazi Einsatzgruppen. I learned about the establishment of the community, its economy and values, and its social and religious structure. I also learned of the Nazi occupation and Sarny's eventual liquidation on August 28, 1942—16 years to the day before my birth.

I have reconstructed my father's journey from shtetl to America. I have found and met all the living remnants of his family, and we are now firmly in touch and intact. This story of survival may or may not be interesting to others. However, it has certainly brought me a long way in answering the fundamental questions of who I am and where I come from.

Library

Judy Mills, Librarian

We are making progress in the BHEC Library. To date, 419 books have been catalogued. This number includes 60 educational study guides and curriculum materials that will be used by teachers and others developing Holocaust units in schools. Processing all these titles and getting them shelf ready will begin soon. Cataloguing audiovisual materials will also begin in the next couple of weeks. Once completed, this diverse and important collection of materials will support and enhance the work of the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center. And, it will be the basis for a collection of materials that will expand as new materials are donated and/or purchased for the Center. Please feel free to drop by and take a look at how this new project is coming along.

We are actively seeking donations of books/videos/archival materials related to the Holocaust, World War II, and antisemitism. If you have materials you would like to donate, please contact our office at 205-795-4176.

Gulf Coast Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education

Donald Berry, Director

In connection with the Mobile Jewish Film Festival, the Mobile Area Jewish Federation brought Japanese educator Fumiko Ishioka to Mobile. In January, she offered an afternoon workshop for teachers: "Inside Hana's Suitcase: Guiding Students in Holocaust Research." "Inside Hana's Suitcase" tells the present-day story of a group of Japanese children and how their passionate and tenacious teacher, Fumiko Ishioka, helped them solve the mystery of Hana Brady, whose name was painted on an old battered suitcase that they received from Auschwitz. Teachers at St. Mary's Catholic School brought this curriculum to their 6th grade students, creating their own suitcases for a public exhibit. Agnes Tennenbaum, an Auschwitz survivor, visited and told her story.

Jerry Darring, Associate Director of the Gulf Coast Center and librarian for the Alabama Gulf Coast Holocaust Library, authored a new book, *Dead Even Before Death: The*

Holocaust and the Human Person which is available for purchase through amazon.com. The Center celebrated by hosting a reception and book signing. Jerry is currently working on his third Holocaust volume, *Jewish Experiences of the Holocaust in Their Own Words*.

Donald Berry attended an *Echoes & Reflections* seminar for Education Directors, and as a result, the Gulf Coast Center can now offer training in this curriculum. To date, the Center has offered two workshops in the Mobile area, has another scheduled for August 1 featuring Stephanie Kaye of Yad Vashem, and has tentative plans for a third in Mississippi.

The Gulf Coast Center is grateful for the dedicated efforts of Ravid Steinpress, our local *Shlich*a (emissary from Israel). The Center expresses its gratitude to the Mobile Area Jewish Federation, whose financial support make all of our activities possible.

Help Us Locate Holocaust Memorials in Alabama

Our last issue of *Legacy* featured a Holocaust memorial in Demopolis. Our readers answered our call for information on additional memorials.

1—Title/Sculptor/Date: "Lest We Forget," Larry Godwin, 1976

Location: Meyer Blumberg Social Hall, Temple Emanu-El, Dothan, AL

Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Herman Blumberg, in memory of the six million Jews murdered during the Nazi Holocaust.

2—Title/Date: "Roots of Courage; Branches of Hope," 2010

Location: Kelly Ingram Park, Birmingham, AL

Donor: Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Birmingham Public Library, Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, the Birmingham

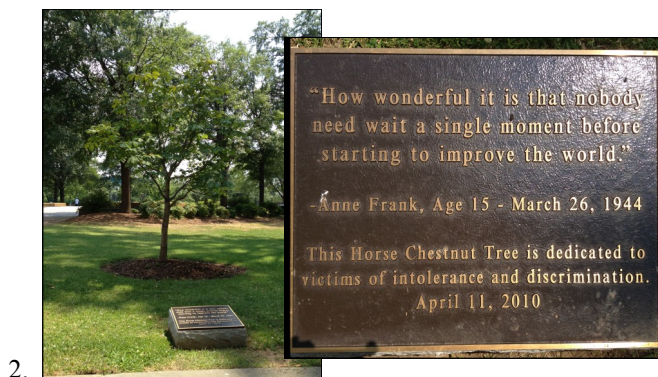
Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Relations Committee, and the BHEC.

3—Title/Sculptor/Date: "In Memory of the Six Million," Cordray Parker, 1982

Location: Temple Emanu-El, Birmingham, AL

Donor: Dorothy Steiner, on the congregation's 100th anniversary.

If you know of other memorials in Alabama, email a high-resolution digital photo; physical location/address; dedication date and by whom; and any pertinent details you have to information@bhamholocausteducation.org. This information will soon be featured on our website.



Travis Ray Carter, Liberator of Buchenwald

Amy McDonald, BHEC Teacher Cadre

Two years ago, I met Travis Ray Carter from Winfield, AL, on one of Honor Flight Birmingham's trips to the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. Mr. Carter stood out, not only because of the stories he told, but because of the scrapbook he brought along. Being a high school history teacher, this scrapbook of photographs stopped me in my tracks. The pictures, taken with a small camera he purchased as his unit marched across France, showed images of barbarism and cruelty one usually sees only in textbooks, museums, or historical documentaries. As part of the 512 Military Police attached to General George Patton's Third Army, Mr. Carter and his unit were the first U.S. forces to reach and liberate Buchenwald concentration camp outside Weimar, Germany.

In May, Mr. Carter drove from Winfield to speak to my Holocaust Studies class at Shades Valley High School. Pretty amazing at almost 88 years old! He told about growing up in a rural Alabama town where the main occupations were farming and sawmilling. The day after graduating from high school, he and 46 classmates received their notices and reported for military duty. Little did he know that his military

service would lead him across Scotland, England, France, Belgium, Germany, and Czechoslovakia, or that he would play a role in such places as Normandy, St. Lo, Bastogne, the Battle of the Bulge, and Buchenwald. Mr. Carter minimized his role in these monumental events, as so many of his generation often do. His goal was to promote the positive in the presence of young people...but I knew there had to be more to the story.

As part of the BHEC Teacher Cadre, I share many of my classroom experiences with Ann Mollengarden, the center's Education Coordinator. Ann was very interested in arranging an interview with Mr. Carter for the Center's archives and contacted Michelle Forman, Co-Director of the Digital Studies Program at UAB, to be our videographer. On June 29, Ann, Michelle, and I set off for Winfield to conduct the interview. It was an incredibly meaningful experience, full of factual information, emotion, laughter, and tears. After the war, the scrapbook was put in a closet as life attempted to get back to normal. It was 20 or 30 years before he talked about his war experiences. "I just couldn't," he said.



After a wonderful, home-cooked lunch from the garden and blackberry cobbler, we bade Mr. Carter goodbye. He also sent each of us home with a "Travis Ray Carter's Famous Rum Cake." Haven't I already mentioned that he is amazing? As we talked on the drive home, we had all been touched by different parts of his story. I was impacted by his inner strength, servant's heart, and generosity of spirit...and the bittersweet fact that this truly was "the greatest generation."

Amy McDonald
Teacher, Shades Valley H.S. (AP U.S. History, Holocaust Studies); Co-Director, Honor Flight Birmingham; Birmingham Holocaust Center Teacher Cadre
(left) A page from Mr. Carter's scrapbook.

Tribute to Helena Lubel, BHEC Volunteer

With deep sadness, we pay tribute to the memory of our dear friend, Helena Lubel, who died in June after a brief illness.

Helena personified volunteerism: she was steadfast in her support of the goals of the BHEC since its inception, and even before our committee became an active force in our community, she concerned herself with Holocaust-related matters on the local and state level. She had a special relationship with our Holocaust survivor community; she was sensitive to their needs as she arranged speaking engagements when requests were made from schools, civic groups, and others who wished to learn more about this dark period in human history from one who could speak first-hand

of their experiences. But more than that, Helena was an active participant in all of the programs of the BHEC, especially using her special talent to proofread printed material that we published—which she did so graciously.

Helena was an avid reader of Holocaust-related books, and used our lending library continually. For that reason, we who wish to remember her with a lasting tribute will be purchasing books in her memory for our ever-growing library. We feel that this will be a meaningful way to keep her good works alive.

We will miss Helena. May her memory be a blessing.

**Alabama Holocaust Foundation
Birmingham Holocaust Education Center**

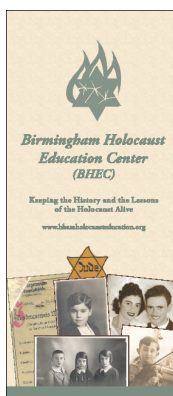
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BHEC MISSION STATEMENT: *The lessons of the Holocaust are profound and relevant, providing a platform to explore important ethical and moral issues. Our goal is to keep the history of the Holocaust alive by providing engaging resources, programs, and 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.*

New BHEC Brochure



We are pleased to introduce our new BHEC brochure, designed and produced by Becky Seitel, Ann Mollengarden, and Deborah Layman. The brochure succinctly tells the BHEC story and lists the educational resources we offer to the teachers, students, and residents of Alabama. It features a detachable poster that can be used in classrooms as a reminder to “Remember, Educate, and Inspire.” If you would like to have some brochures to distribute, please contact Jackie Michel, BHEC Office Manager, at 205-795-4176.

Sign Up to Receive Legacy via Email

Go green and receive our newsletter in your inbox instead of your mailbox.

Sign up online at www.bhamholocausteducation.org. In the right column of the home page, click “Sign Up Now,” and follow the prompts.



BHEC's Educational Treasure (continued)

Barbara Solomon, Exhibit Coordinator

Home for the Summer

The exhibit will hang in the BHEC offices in the Bayer Properties Building for the summer. You are welcome to visit the exhibit. Simply call ahead to let us know you would like to visit. It is booked for next year, traveling to all three campuses of the Troy College system. Please check our website for information regarding the schedule as well as for any information regarding borrowing the exhibit for your community—www.bhamholocausteducation.org.

Thank You!

We gratefully appreciate our in-kind supporters: Bayer Properties; Joe Preston, B & B Print Shop; Bruce Downs, CPA; and David Michel, CIO, Burr Forman.