

Teaching the Holocaust: Voices from Tennessee

Agenda

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in cooperation with
The Tennessee Holocaust Commission

Placing Tennessee Voices from the Holocaust into Historical and Literary Context

Friday, June 2, 2017

The Temple Ohabai Sholom: 5015 Harding Road, Nashville, TN 37205

9:00-9:30

Continental Breakfast

Welcome & Introductions

Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky, Executive Director TN Holocaust Commission

9:30-10:30

Path to Nazi Genocide: A Concise Overview of the Holocaust

One of the USHMM's newest resources examines the Nazis' rise and their consolidation of power in Germany. Using rare footage, the film explores their ideology, propaganda, and persecution of Jews and other victims. It provides a concise overview of the Holocaust and those involved and provokes discussion about the role(s) played by ordinary people, institutions, and nations between 1918 and 1945.

Kim Blevins-Relleva attended training with the creators and producers of this resource, and will provide teachers concrete ways to integrate this resource into their Holocaust curriculum.

Goal: Introduce and provide concrete classroom uses for the DVD ***Path to Nazi Genocide: A Concise Overview of the Holocaust*** provided to attendees by the USHMM

USHMM resource: *Path to Nazi Genocide DVD*

Kim Blevins-Relleva, USHMM Museum Teaching Fellow

Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky, Executive Director THC

10:30-11:15

Introduction to the USHMM Methodological Guidelines

Teaching Holocaust history demands a high level of sensitivity and keen awareness of the complexity of the subject matter. The guidelines developed by the USHMM, while reflecting approaches appropriate for effective teaching in general, are particularly relevant to Holocaust education.

Using the USHMM's *Guidelines for Teaching about the Holocaust* as a reference, Danielle will present a power point she created to instruct the teachers in the basics of sound practices in Holocaust teaching.

Goal: To provide sound guidelines for teachers to frame their Holocaust lessons.

Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky, Executive Director THC

11:15-11:30

Break- Coffee and Snacks

11:30-12:30

Survivor Testimony: Francis Cutler-Hahn, A Hidden Child's Story

A highlight of any study of the Holocaust includes a face-to-face meeting with an eyewitness. Holocaust survivor, Francis Cutler-Hahn, will share her personal experience as a hidden child in the Holocaust. Her testimony prominently features the impact of Nazi propaganda on her personal experience.

Goal: To hear a first hand account of one experience during the Holocaust

Guiding Question: How does the process of genocide, as experienced during the Holocaust impact the individual? How did Nazi propaganda impact her personal experience?

***USHMM resources: *State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda*; *Nuremberg Racial Laws, 1935 poster* ***

Francis Cutler-Hahn, survivor, THC volunteer

12:30-1:30

Catered lunch provided on site

1:30-2:30

USHMM Timeline Activity

Teachers will build a timeline in what we call layers. It's important to understand that each layer should provide content, reveal meaning through context, and ask the participants to reflect on a new level of complexity. As each layer is added, new insights, connections, and questions will emerge. The goal of this activity is not to answer why the Holocaust happened, but rather to allow students to formulate their own questions about why it happened. This activity is highly adaptable and can be completed in a single class period, used as a point of reference throughout an entire unity of study, or have thematic extension activities added to it.

Today, we will include Francis Cutler-Hahn's story to demonstrate how Tennessee survivor voices can be included in this fundamental Holocaust lesson.

Goals: Understand that the Holocaust happened to individuals

Understand that Nazi persecution, culminating in the Holocaust, was incremental and didn't happen all at once

Understand that the events of World War II and the Holocaust are intertwined

Make inferences about the inter-relatedness of time and geographic location to the events that took place, affecting both individuals and victim groups

Identify individuals, organizations, and nations who had opportunities to respond to the events of the Holocaust

Include Tennessee voices in the activity

Kim Blevins-Relleva, USHMM Museum Teaching Fellow

2:30-3:30

Holocaust Testimonies Through Artistic Representation

Leslie J. Klein is a mixed media and fiber artist. She uses airbrush, paint brush, dyes, screen printing, embroidery and embellishments in creating her complex cloth, which she then turns into unique art constructions and wall hangings. She will share the process of creating her exhibition *All That Remains: A Holocaust Exhibition in Fiber*

Artist's Statement: This series began for me in the remnants of Dachau. The quiet pressed down around my ears. I couldn't breathe, afraid to talk too loud among the flat and empty rows of markers. I don't know the ghosts who visit themselves in my fabrics, but they follow me nonetheless.

Goal: To introduce another way the Holocaust can be represented

Leslie J. Klein, Fiber Artist

3:30-4:00

European Antisemitism from its Origins to the Holocaust

We will watch the 13-minute film that is featured in the USHMM's Permanent Exhibition and answer questions after viewing.

From the USHMM: "Antisemitism—prejudice against or hatred of Jews—did not end with the Holocaust. It remains a global problem today, continuing among ordinary citizens, people of influence, and even under state sponsorship. It often echoes the same falsehoods used by the Nazis. Efforts to distort or deny the Holocaust are among the ways that antisemitism is currently expressed."

Goal: to introduce the history of antisemitism from its origins in the days of the early Christian church until the era of the Holocaust in the mid-20th century.

***USHMM resource: *European Antisemitism from its Origins to the Holocaust DVD* ***

***Rabbi Mark Schiftan, Temple Ohabei Sholom
Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky, Executive Director THC
Kim Blevins-Relleva, USHMM Museum Teaching Fellow***

4:00-4:45

Judaism 101

What is Judaism? What does it mean to be a Jew? Is Judaism a race or religion? Rabbi Mark Schiftan will present an overview of Judaism for participants, provide context and understanding for the Shabbat dinner and service, and answer questions.

Rabbi Mark Schiftan, Temple Ohabai Sholom

4:45-5:00

Break

5:00-6:00

Shabbat Dinner

Shabbat traditionally includes three required meals: Friday night **dinner**, Saturday lunch, and the third meal in late afternoon. For non-Orthodox Jews, Friday night **dinner** is the most popular **Shabbat** meal. Typical **Shabbat** foods include challah (braided bread) and wine, which are both blessed before the meal begins. We will share a Shabbat dinner together at the Temple.

6:00-7:00

Shabbat Services

Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath (Day of Rest), begins on Friday evening and concludes on Saturday evening. It is a weekly time (traditionally 25 hours) set apart to focus on what really matters: gratitude for our lives and our communities, and for the growth of the spirit. An important part of that is the opportunity to pray, sing, meditate, and learn together as a community in Shabbat services. Services take place on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings, and sometimes Saturday afternoons and evenings, culminating in a *Havdalah* service which marks the end of Shabbat.

Source: <http://www.reformjudaism.org/what-expect-reform-shabbat-service>