



JEWISH COMMUNITY
RELATIONS COUNCIL
MINNESOTA & THE DAKOTAS

UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM



Teaching About the Holocaust Symposium

hosted by Harrisburg School District

Tuesday, August 6, 2024, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Harrisburg North Middle School

2201 W 95th St, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57108

Presented by:

Harrisburg School District

Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota & the Dakotas

US Holocaust Memorial Museum

SIOUX FALLS, SD – Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas, in partnership with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Harrisburg School District, are proud to announce the *Teaching about the Holocaust* Symposium. This significant event aims to enhance educators' understanding and teaching of Holocaust history.

Symposium Highlights:

- **Presenters:** The event will feature some of the nation's leading experts on Holocaust education (bios below).
- **Instructional Resources:** All participants will receive instructional resources to aid in their teaching efforts, including books, lesson materials, and access to national experts in the field.
- **Graduate Credit Opportunity:** Attendees can register for graduate credit by attending the conference and creating lesson plans to implement what they have learned.

Symposium

Registration Event Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/WE9z8fh2WUHyWbRj7>

Graduate Credit or CEU Attendees will have the opportunity to register for one graduate credit (\$45) or 8 CEUs (free) for attending the conference. Graduate credit will also require submission of a formulated lesson plan related to symposium content.

Symposium Agenda

8:30 am **Welcome, Introductions, and Workshop Goals**

Michael Amolins, Harrisburg School District
Susie Greenberg, JCRC Director of Holocaust Education

9:00 – 9:45 U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Guidelines for Teaching about The Holocaust and Museum Resources

Teaching Holocaust history demands a high level of sensitivity and keen awareness of the complexity of the subject matter. The guidelines, while highlighting pedagogical approaches appropriate for effective teaching in general, are particularly relevant to Holocaust education. The Guidelines can also guide teachers in the process of selecting historically accurate, age-appropriate classroom resources and writing one’s rationale for teaching about the Holocaust. In this session, participants will also be introduced to a variety of resources available through the Museum.

***Kristin Thompson,
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
Teacher Fellow, 2003-04***

9:45 -10:00 Break

10:00 - 11:30 Interactive Timeline Activity

An important component of teaching about the Holocaust is to provide accurate historical context. This serves not only to contextualize the complexity of WWII and the Holocaust, but also provides a nuanced, deeper understanding of events when placed within the larger context. We will examine several layers of the Timeline Activity, including literature-based layers that utilize the Museum’s Guidelines, photo archives, ITS documents, oral testimony, and the Holocaust Encyclopedia.

Timeline continuation with South Dakota-Specific History

Timeline Activity with South Dakota Extension (Including: people, companies that worked for the war effort, and Edgar Peterson)

Sam Goldberg, Director of Education HERC Milwaukee

11:30 - 12:30 Lunch and School Leadership Roundtable on Antisemitism

Facilitated by Steve Hunegs, Executive Director of JCRC,

this conversation is for school administrators to talk about the rise in antisemitism and the unique, dangerous ways anti- Jewish bias manifests today. Topics will also include the challenges school communities face, and the responses necessary.

12:30 -1:30 *Americans and the Holocaust*

What did the U.S. government and the American people know about the threats posed by Nazi Germany? What responses were possible? And when? This session examines the motives, pressures, and fears that shaped Americans’ responses to Nazism, war, and genocide.

***Scott Littky, Executive Director,
Institute for Holocaust Education, Omaha, NE***

1:30 - 2:30 *Intro to Some Were Neighbors: Collaboration and Complicity in the Holocaust and Oath and Opposition: Education Under the Third Reich*

A central question regarding the Holocaust is “*How was it possible?*” The Museum’s online exhibit, [*Some Were Neighbors: Collaboration and Complicity in the Holocaust*](#), expands the lens by which we see the Holocaust. We’ll explore the roles and responsibilities of individuals and institutions during the Holocaust, the motives and pressures that influenced their choices, and the options that were (& are) available when confronted with hatred, racism, and genocide.

We’ll also examine, [*Oath and Opposition: Education Under the Third Reich*](#), a case study module that explores the range of choices made by teachers during the Holocaust. By closely examining and scrutinizing the past, this lesson strengthens critical thinking about one’s role in society today and one’s responsibility as an active, engaged citizen in a democracy.

***Kristin Thompson, Founding Director,
Humanus Network, Holocaust and Human Rights Education Consulting***

2:30 – 2:45 **Break**

2:45 – 3:45 ***State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda***

The Nazis effectively used propaganda to win the support of millions of Germans in a democracy and, later in a dictatorship, to facilitate persecution, war, and ultimately genocide. The stereotypes and images found in Nazi propaganda were not new but were already familiar to their intended audience.

Christina Chavarria, USHMM (virtual)

3:45 Closing Remarks / Evaluations / Resource Bags / Follow up contact

Susie Greenberg & Michael Amolins

Symposium Presenters

Susie Greenberg

Director of Holocaust Education, Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of MN and the Dakotas, St. Louis Park, MN

Susie Greenberg is Director of Holocaust education at the JCRC. She implements programming around Holocaust education, focusing on the local community and beyond via an active speakers’ bureau, community trainings, charter trips to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and other Twin City-wide programming such as the annual *Yom HaShoah* Commemoration. As the consensus public affairs voice of the Jewish community, JCRC builds relationships to fight antisemitism and bigotry; educates

about Judaism, Israel, antisemitism, and the Holocaust; advocates for Jewish values and priorities; and safeguards our community.

Kristin Thompson, Founding Director, *Humanus Network*, Holocaust and Human Rights Education Consulting, Two Harbors, MN

Kristin is currently the founding director of [*Humanus Network*](#), a consulting firm dedicated to professional development training and creating resources for Holocaust educators. Prior to this work, she was an Education Program Coordinator at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. where she led the Museum's teacher training programs for over five years. During her tenure at the Museum, she researched and created a learning module, [*Oath and Opposition: Education Under the Third Reich*](#), that critically examines the role of teachers during the Holocaust and its applicable lessons for today. Kristin was also a classroom history teacher in MN for 19 years. She holds a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership, a BA in History and Political Science, BS in Social Studies Education, and specialized licensure in Curriculum and Instruction.

Sam Goldberg

Director of Education, HERC Center, Milwaukee, WI

Sam Goldberg graduated with her Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide studies at Uppsala University in Sweden. Since October 2020, she has been working as the director of education at the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center (HERC) in Milwaukee, WI. During this time Sam has helped to launch HERC's digital toolkit, the Holocaust Education Map, and has led numerous professional development and student workshops throughout the state.

Scott Littky

Executive Director, Institute for Holocaust Education, Omaha, NE

Scott Littky holds a BA in History from Wayne State University and did his graduate work in education and Judaic Studies. He served as a Jewish educator and education director for over 34 years in Detroit, Omaha, Ann Arbor, and Alexandria, VA. Scott is a trained Yad Vashem educator with a background in training educators and writing curriculum for Holocaust studies, mainly for use in supplementary schools. Scott has been with the Institute for Holocaust Education in Omaha, NE since the summer of 2018.

Christina Chavarria

Program Coordinator, William Levine Family Institute for Holocaust Education, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C.

Christina Chavarria is a Program Coordinator in the Levine Institute for Holocaust Education at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where she has worked since December 2006. She holds a BA and MA in Comparative Literature from the University of Dallas. Her interests lie in Holocaust literature, engaging new audiences and partners, and studying and disseminating information on the impact and history of the Holocaust in the Ibero-American world (Spain, Portugal, Latin America, US Latinx).