

It's All About Our Humanity

Dear HERC Friends,

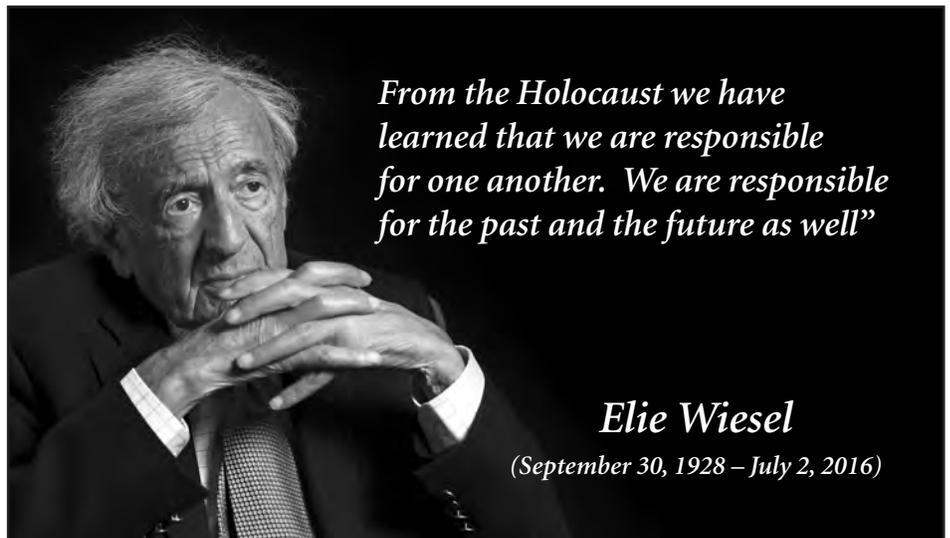
Our Democracy is fragile and I am hoping that our country finds peace in the near future.

Recent events demonstrate the immense need for Holocaust education. Holocaust education teaches us to understand and learn from history in order to arrest the cycle of violence. The Capitol riots where five people were killed was a level of violence that should never have happened, especially during a day when elected officials were carrying out a process of Democracy.

That is why Holocaust education is essential at this time.

In his opening statement at the meeting of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council on May 28, 1980, the late Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel said,

“In an age tainted by violence, we must teach this generation and those that follow the origins and consequences of violence. In a society of distrust, skepticism, and moral anguish, we must tell our contemporaries that whatever the answer, it must



From the Holocaust we have learned that we are responsible for one another. We are responsible for the past and the future as well”

Elie Wiesel

(September 30, 1928 – July 2, 2016)

Elie Wiesel was a Romanian-born American writer, professor, political activist, Nobel laureate, and Holocaust survivor. He authored 57 books, including “Night”, a work based on his experiences as a Jewish prisoner in the Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps.

grow out of human compassion and reflect man’s basic quest for justice. The Holocaust was possible because the law was violated by the state itself and its principles distorted by its leaders. From the Holocaust we have learned that we are responsible for one another. We are responsible for the past and the future as well.”

Forty years later, these words still resonate and set the agenda for Holocaust education.

In light of recent increases in antisemitism, hate speech, and racially motivated violence, understanding the past along with its impact on the present

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You can make a difference today and donate to HERC at
<http://holocaustresources.org/donate>





Meaningful Messages: *What People Are Saying About HERC*

The T- shirt Camp Auschwitz has made the news lately. A place that has become synonymous with evil, sadness, and pain should never be trivialized or viewed with a distorted sense of humor. Bigotry and anti-Semitism must be combatted every day and in every location. This is why HERC’s mission is important. These are trying times where fear and the lack of human connection are as much a danger as the plague, but the struggle must continue. Please take a moment to support HERC.

— *Steve Birtman*

Watching our country torn with violence is frighteningly reminiscent of the strife that led to WWII. The work and mission of HERC grows more critical each day. Their commitment and hard work are deserving of our support.

— *Paula Smith*

“Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” Recent events in our nation confirm the truth of this statement. Never has the work of HERC been more important. HERC is more than teaching school children about the consequences of hate and discrimination that took place in Germany in the past. The lessons learned from the Holocaust serve to remind all of us that our future is vulnerable when we ignore the rule of law. By continuing to educate both youth and adults about the Holocaust, HERC more than any other organization helps to ensure that history will not repeat itself.

— *Marjorie Turnbull*

As a co-founder of HERC, I have seen firsthand HERC’s impact in our community and beyond. We should be proud of our accomplishments.

However, the recent heartbreaking daily events show us there is much more to do. In these challenging times HERC’s educational programs have never been more important. Perhaps, more than ever we should remember Margaret Mead’s words:

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

— *Rita Blank*

With the increasing rate of ignorance, racism, hate-related crimes, bullying, etc., ever-present through the world, we cannot forget or deny our past.

Linda and I have found that through HERC, we can additionally fulfill both an obligation and responsibility to educate & ensure that both current and future generations understand the historical truth of the Holocaust.

Over the past few years, we have been honored to be amongst the many who support HERC, its mission and its vision of educating our school children on the lesson learned from the past. As has often been said, “Children are a living message we send to a future we’ll never see”. Like you, we want to do all we can to ensure that the message being taught is focused on historical fact, equality, respect for each other and love of one another.

— *Steve Evans*



#WeRemember

**International
Holocaust
Remembrance Day
Commemoration**

January 27

It's Baaaaaack!

by Paula Walborsky

Antisemitism never really goes away. It is always there, a current running sometimes quietly and sometimes furiously through the lives of Jews. Every Jew everywhere, even in Israel has stories to tell of people they were sure were friends, people they trusted, even loved, until one revealing day when their real feelings emerged. I am not going to go into my entire extensive repertoire, but I had a girlfriend I met in fifth grade who continued to be my penpal when I moved away. For years we wrote back and forth until the day a letter arrived asking me why I had killed Jesus. Well, she was a child you might argue. As the twig is bent so grows the tree, I say. Had a dear friend who with her family joined us for Thanksgiving many years until one day enjoying a lunch together she asked if she could make an offering of me to Billy Graham who would be seeking converts at the Civic Center.

The professor who introduced all the young women in our class to her handsome, single son. All except me. As she explained, I would be happier with my own kind. Or the scholarship withdrawn when it was revealed that I am a Jew. The swastikas that were spray painted on my office buildings. And the K-word. Kike. These are just personal disappointments. I could go on and on. The current running quietly through my life. My feelings were hurt. I cried. The reasons I cried are because I was

personally deeply hurt, but also because anti-Semitism stubbornly refuses to die. I cried as much from exasperation and frustration as I did from personal pain. These are not uneducated rubes. These are relatively worldly people who have known me and my family as intimately as friends can know one another. But these



unkindnesses are nothing compared to the massacre at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue. Fifty-nine people killed. This is the roar and fury of the current that sees people killed, cemeteries desecrated, lives threatened.

In Charlottesville young men with torches like the monster-chasing villagers in an old horror movie, chanted "The Jews shall not replace us." The monsters were carrying the torches this time. It is back.

Anti-Semitism is centuries old. In England the Jews were expelled from English lands in 1290. They were expelled from France in 1394 and Spain in 1492. Again, surely this is just humanity's childhood. The actions of uneducated, fearful peoples who believed in witchcraft. It runs quietly for a while making sensitive little girls cry. Slowly it's

senseless noise and hate build again into a roaring holocaust. As the twig is bent, so grows the tree.

Like every non-indigenous person in the United States the Jews came to the USA seeking safety. They could own land here, they could vote, own their own businesses, worship according to their laws. And for many years the current whispered along. My grandparents arrived from what is now Lithuania, then Russia, with four of their children. Two more children were born here in this very state. My grandparents adored this country, this state. They loved its relative fairness, its freedom to just be

who you are, and the fact it never, ever snowed. They sent all five of their sons to the second world war and when the horrors of the concentration camps were fully revealed they swore, as did every single other Jew: never again.

In the last few weeks we have seen men attacking the Capitol wearing tee shirts. One said Camp Auschwitz, as if it were a sleep-away camp. And there were those that said 6MWNE. It means 6 Million Were Not Enough. I would like to say there has never been a time so important for Holocaust Education. In fact, there have been many times. But we swore: never again. I prefer education to armed warfare. Make no mistake. They were always with us just waiting for the dog whistles that invited them out from under their rocks. We must make a difference. We must. As the twig is bent, so grows the tree.

The Holocaust Education Resource Council,
along with Yahad – In Unum, present the

"HOLOCAUST BY BULLETS IN THE OCCUPIED SOVIET TERRITORIES."

A 90-MINUTE TEACHER WEBINAR
ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 3:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. EST

WHAT IS THE HOLOCAUST BY BULLETS?

On June 22, 1941, Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union. This act of war sounded the death bell for the Jewish populations of Eastern Europe. More than two million Jews were killed through the use of bullets by Nazi mobile-killing units and their collaborators. This extermination practice has come to be designated as the "Holocaust by bullets" or "genocide by mass shooting." The executioners massacred the victims in their villages, before the eyes of their neighbors.

WEBINAR AGENDA:

- 1) A short overview of the Holocaust by Bullets as a mobile and public crime.
- 2) A short summary of Yahad – In Unum's investigative methodology.
- 3) Viewing and analysis of an excerpt from an eyewitness testimony.
- 4) Analysis of the five steps of the crime typical of nearly every mass-shooting perpetrated by the Einsatzgruppen in the former Soviet Union.
- 5) Presentation of In Evidence, the interactive map of the killing site identified by Yahad – In Unum and of different ways for its pedagogical use.
- 6) A Presentation of Yahad – In Unum's Study Guide for Educators and its various activities to be used in a virtual or face-to-face classroom setting.

PROGRAM GOALS:

Through this 90-minute webinar, Yahad-In Unum aims to provide classroom teachers with a condensed overview of this little-known chapter of the Holocaust history, an outline of our research methodology, and several educational tools that can be used in an online or face-to-face classroom setting.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

This workshop is recommended for current high school teachers who have not previously completed a Yahad-In Unum seminar in person or online. The workshop will be held via Zoom; participants will be sent a link before the webinar.

For more information contact: barbara@holocaustresources.org • Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZllc-moqDwrHNKdcwDVz6fGcZfGsNCNtnWs>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



**THIS IS A FREE WEBINAR AND
LIMITED TO 30 PARTICIPANTS.**

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and the future has become even more important. How should we meet these challenges today?

January 27th is International Holocaust Remembrance Day commemorating the tragedy of the Holocaust that occurred during the Second World War. It was on January 27, 1945, that Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration and death camp, was liberated by the Red Army. This January 27th marks the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps and thus the end of the Holocaust.

Today we stand at a turning point. We are losing our best teachers, the survivors of these concentration camps, just as antisemitism, hate, and Holocaust denial are on the rise. In this time of transition, it is up to us to ensure that the story of the Holocaust is told for generations



It was on January 27, 1945, that Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration and death camp, was liberated by the Red Army.

to come, and that the promise of Never Again will one day be fulfilled. I hope you will join us in this important work. Your support will make a real difference.

Please read the messages from HERC supporters – “What People

are saying about HERC.” It will show you why our work must continue.

Best to All for a Healthy Year,

Barbara

Barbara Goldstein,
Executive Director

International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the **Victims of the Holocaust**





Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Email: _____

I am interested in information on these HERC committees:

Book club _____ Film Series _____ Holocaust Remembrance _____

Memorial _____ Community Outreach _____

Teacher Workshop _____ Membership _____

MEMBERSHIP ENTITLES YOU TO:

- – Attend programs, films, and scholars’ lectures – at reduced rates or no charge
- – Receive notice of ongoing programs and invitations to special events
- – Borrow from our extensive collection of Holocaust books, media, research files, and curricula
- – Affirm your personal commitment to our mission and help us reach our goal

HERC is making a difference in our community, but we cannot continue to do so without your support. We urge you to join us at whatever membership level is most comfortable for you.

HERC OFFERS VARIOUS LEVELS OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: Please select a membership level.

___\$36 (Life) This membership level is for individuals and helps purchase a DVD, book, or periodical for our school Resource

___\$54 (Tolerance) This membership level is for individuals and helps purchase a DVD, book, or periodical for our school

___\$100 (Peace) This membership level is for individuals and/or families and helps provide for a student outreach program

___ \$250 (Courage) This membership level is for individuals and/or families and helps buy a set of books for a school classroom

___ \$500 (Remembrance) This membership level is for individuals and/or families and helps to sponsor a speaker for Professional Learning Opportunities.

PLEASE SEND CHECKS TO:

Holocaust Education Resource Council
P.O. Box 16282
Tallahassee, FL 32317

Donations can be submitted by PayPal on HERC website www.holocaustresources.org