



Perspectives

News from the
Holocaust Memorial
Resource and
Education Center
of Florida

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Dinner Of Tribute

Each year the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida hosts a Dinner of Tribute to honor an individual who has made a significant contribution to the well being of the community. We are pleased to announce that this year we will be honoring Governor Bob Graham, Florida's two-term governor (1979-1987) who also served for 18 years in the United States Senate.

A tireless worker for peace and justice, he is now concentrating his efforts on the newly established Bob Graham Center for Public Service at his undergraduate alma mater, the University of Florida. The UF Center, known as the Bob Graham Center for Public Service, is housed in the university's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. It provides students with opportunities to train for future leadership positions, meet current

policymakers and take courses in critical thinking, language learning and studies of world cultures. On February 9, 2008, Pugh Hall was dedicated on the UF campus - funded by longtime friend and fraternity brother of Graham, Jim Pugh, and his wife Alexis - and serves as home to the center, as well as the university's oral history and African and Asian languages programs.

Bob Graham's campaign trademark was to work a full, eight-hour day at various jobs which



GOVERNOR BOB GRAHAM

represented Florida's constituents. He began his "workdays" in 1974, teaching a semester of civics at Miami Carol City Senior High School. Following that teaching experience, he performed 99 additional workdays just in time for his 1986 successful campaign for U.S. Senate.

More recently, he was a Senior Fellow at Harvard University for the 2005-2006 academic year, and now serves as Chairman

of the Commission on the Prevention of WMD proliferation and terrorism. In the Spring of 2009 Bob Graham published a book titled "*America, The Owner's Manual: Making Government Work for You*" which inspires and teaches citizens how they can participate in our democracy in effective ways. The Dinner of Tribute will be held at the Rosen Plaza Hotel on Thursday April 29, 2010. Advance reservations are required; see page 5 for details on sponsorship options.

From the
President

Jim Shapiro

It is extremely challenging to become the president of a non-profit Board of Directors during a very difficult economic time. Fortunately, by being innovative we have been able to move forward despite a somewhat smaller budget.

We have, in fact, added and expanded several programs, like offering monthly rather than quarterly teacher forums. We are strengthening ties with Orange County Public Schools and local civil rights groups, and we have become a leader in aggressively pursuing our anti bullying program because we know that incidents of anti-Semitism, racism, and other forms of prejudice increase when times are tough.

One of our priorities was to take a hard look at our programs to make sure we are doing what we set out to do, and we're doing it in the most efficient way we can. I'm pleased to report that we're doing quite well by that measure.

The other reality is that we have to work harder at our fundraising. One of our decisions in that respect is to change our approach to how we ask for, and how we designate, gifts. We want to make sure that individuals and organizations can more easily fund the parts of our program that are most important to them.

One example that quickly comes to mind would be the donations we received to support the Teachers Institute on Holocaust Studies last summer. In spite of significant cuts in the state funding for the program, we decided to waive tuition for any teacher whose job had been eliminated. Several people stepped up to offer scholarships or to underwrite a portion of this critical weeklong course.

We hope to continue this "earmarking" of some special gifts. You can sponsor a speaker for a community program such as the Kristallnacht or Yom HaShoah commemorations or contribute toward the cost of an art exhibit. You can purchase books, DVDs and posters to replenish the Traveling Teaching Trunks or you can cover the cost of our film series.

If you don't have a preference, by all means just make a general donation, either a gift in memory or in honor of someone you care about, or a contribution to support our Center and its mission. Of course you can also join me by supporting our annual Dinner of Tribute where we will have the pleasure of honoring Governor Bob Graham on Thursday, April 29, 2010.

As always, your gifts are tax-deductible. More important, you will get the warm feeling that comes with knowing you've done something worthwhile to make our community a better place.

We want to make sure that individuals and organizations can more easily fund the parts of our program that are most important to them.



When we were kids on the playground we used to chant "sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me...." Now that I am an adult I realize how far from true that is.

Hateful words - whether calling a classmate "four-eyes" or spray-painting "fag" on a building - can be deadly. The scars from "sticks and stones" are perhaps more visible, but the injury to one's self and one's community through cruel language are just as real and just as lasting.

Our mission is to use the lessons of the Holocaust to create a more just, more compassionate community. One of these lessons is how Jews were robbed of their humanity by the constant references to them as vermin. Other targeted groups were similarly dismissed with labels that set them apart from "ordinary" people. The use of hateful speech has been on my mind a lot the past few weeks. As you may have heard, the Holocaust Center was targeted recently by the Westboro Baptist Church, an ultra-radical group also known as the Philips family. It wasn't a big crowd and they didn't stay long, but the sight of elementary-school-aged children holding "Jews Killed Jesus" and "God sent the shooter" signs will stay with me a long time. My heart breaks for children who are raised in an environment of contempt and ugliness. I worry about what they will think, and what they will become, a decade from now.

In a seemingly unrelated event, the local Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center of Central Florida was targeted in mid-November, as was a nearby gay-owned business. The spray painted swastikas and homophobic slurs stand as a disturbing reminder that not everyone in our community is afforded the acceptance and sense of belonging that most of us take for granted. The community response from the mayor's office and from a number of community-based organizations - including the Holocaust Memorial Center and the Jewish Federation - was swift and decisive. Still, we know that sexual minorities have far to go before crimes like these are halted permanently.

I also think of a recent conversation with one of our new board members who is clearly excited about our growing involvement with ending school bullying. Her child had been taunted relentlessly in school, and she wanted to be part of a solution. We discussed our new partnership with Orange County's SAFE program and Equality Florida in addressing harassment in schools. Her face lit up as we talked about the possibilities that anti-bullying efforts might offer.

When I talk to people about what we do, I remind them that this is not just a place for history and for remembrance. Our Center is about the future, and about doing what we can to turn hatred into hope.

From the
Executive
Director

Pam Kancher

Our Center is about the future, and about doing what we can to turn hatred into hope.



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2010 CULTURAL SEASON

EXHIBITS

January, February and March
Exhibit: "Embracing the Dream"
 Honoring Central Florida men and women involved in the local civil rights movement.

April, May and June 2010
Exhibit: "In Fitting Memory": Photography by Ira Nowinski
 Holocaust memorials and monuments in Europe, Israel, and the United States photographed by Ira Nowinski with texts by Sybil Milton.

FILMS

February 21, 2010 at 2 PM
Film: "I Have Never Forgotten You: The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal"
 The life and legacy of the concentration camp survivor who became known as the "Conscience of the Holocaust."

May 2, 2010 at 2 PM
Film: "Last Stop Kew Gardens"
 reflects the lives of immigrant children — some at home in the mainstream and some struggling to fit in — documented in their photographs, home movies, and memories.

TEACHER TRAININGS

January 14, 2010 at 5:15 PM
Equality Florida

February 23, 2010 at 5:15 PM
Berlin Remembers the Holocaust by Dr. Ed Harrell

March 25, 2010 at 5:15 PM
The Hitler Youth: Kids' Lives in Nazi Germany - Mitchell Bloomer

April 15, 2010 at 5:15 PM
Christianity and the Holocaust - Paul Chapman

May 13, 2010 at 5:15 PM
The Face of Hate Today - Mitchell Bloomer

SPEAKERS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

April 11, 2010 at 4 PM
Yom HaShoah
 Community Remembrance with Presentation by Stanlee J. Stahl, Executive Vice President of the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous.

April 29, 2010 at 6 PM
Dinner of Tribute
 Honoring former Florida Governor Bob Graham
 Reservation required.

Cultural events are made possible through the support of United Arts of Central Florida, Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando, Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, Darden Restaurants Foundation, and the generosity of our members and friends.

All exhibits, speakers and films at HMREC, 851 N Maitland Ave, Maitland. No admission charged. For more information please go to www.holocaustedu.org or call 407-628-0555.

You are cordially invited to attend the annual Dinner of Tribute

Thursday, April 29, 2010 at 6:00 P.M.
 Rosen Plaza Hotel • 9700 International Drive • Orlando, FL
 Honoring former Florida Governor and United States Senator Bob Graham

DIAMOND \$18,000 AND ABOVE
 Preferred table for 10
 Prominent Listing in Dinner of Tribute invitation
 Special acknowledgement in dinner program

PLATINUM \$10,000
 Preferred table for 10
 Prominent Listing in Dinner of Tribute invitation
 Special acknowledgement in dinner program

GUARDIAN \$5,000
 Preferred table for 10
 Prominent Listing in Dinner of Tribute invitation
 Special acknowledgement in dinner program

GOLD \$3,600
 Table for 10
 Listing in Dinner of Tribute invitation
 Special acknowledgement in dinner program

CORPORATE \$2,500
 Table for 10
 Listing in Dinner of Tribute invitation
 Special acknowledgement in dinner program

FAMILY \$2000
 Table for 8
 Listing in Dinner of Tribute invitation
 Special acknowledgement in dinner program

BENEFACTOR \$600
 Seating for 2
 Listing in Dinner of Tribute invitation
 Acknowledgement in dinner program

PATRON \$180
 Seating for 1

Sponsors at the \$5000 level and above will receive an invitation for two to attend a special reception with Governor Graham before the dinner.

A portion of the cost of the dinner is tax-deductible. For information and reservations, please call 407-628-0555.

NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED AT THE HOLOCAUST CENTER



OFFICERS FOR 2009-2011

Jim Shapiro, President
Lawrence Kolin, First Vice President
Jeffrey Miller, Second Vice President
Mark Freid, Treasurer
Marilyn Marks, Secretary

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Denise Beumer, BB&T Bank
Denise Bates Enos, Writer and Editor
Michelle Feinberg, A Gift for Music
Cynthia Kiffer, Orange County Public Schools
Scott Miller, Broad and Cassel
Hali Posteshman, Community Leader
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Get to Know Us Better

The Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida is proud to be recognized as one of the first nonprofits in Central Florida to be totally transparent. You'll be seeing a lot about a new knowledge base established by the Community Foundation of Central Florida to help donors and philanthropists validate the organizations they support. You can be among the first to visit and see everything from our management, governance, and programs to an in-depth look at our finances that is searchable and validated. The Community Foundation's leadership believes this new site will allow local nonprofits more exposure to the community, new sources of funding and improved performance. To see our Portrait, go to <http://cfcf.guidestar.org/NonprofitProfile.aspx?OrgId=2646>. You'll be asked to establish a login, and then you'll be able to see our portrait. To search the knowledge base or share it with others, visit www.mycfcf.org.



The Community Foundation of Central Florida works with local charitable organizations to provide donors with updated and reviewed information. Look for the "Reviewed" icon for the most current information about a particular organization.

Student Creative Arts Contest Honors The Righteous



The Holocaust Memorial Center sponsors an annual creative arts contest that encourages students to explore issues that arise through the study and remembrance of the Holocaust. Each year a theme is selected to provide the focus for student entries. The theme for the 2010 Yom HaShoah Creative Arts Contest is "The Righteous among the Nations: Legacy and Lessons". Through this theme, students will examine the vital subject of rescue during the Holocaust.

Most people reacted with indifference, or even hostility, toward the victims of Nazi persecution. Those who were sympathetic were often paralyzed by fear. In every country where the Holocaust occurred, however, there were some people who recognized their moral obligation to engage in rescue. They did not see themselves as unusual or courageous, but their actions proved that they were people of exceptional character. Even risks to their own safety did not deter them. They proved that it was possible to live up to the highest ideals, even in the midst of the Nazi terror.

The legacy of rescuers is most clearly seen in the vibrant lives of Holocaust survivors and their families. The best way to honor that legacy is to adopt the same humane values and concern for others that rescuers exemplified in their lives.

Yom HaShoah - Annual Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2010 AT 4:00 PM

The Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida's annual community wide observance of Yom HaShoah, the Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust, will be held on Sunday, April 11, 2010 at 4pm in the gymnasium of the Jewish Community Center located on the Maitland Jewish Community Campus.



SPEAKER
STANLEE STAHL

The program is open to the entire community with no admission charge. The full name of the day commemorating the victims of the Holocaust is "Yom Hashoah Ve-Hagevurah"-literally the "Day of (remembrance of) the Holocaust and the Heroism." While the date was selected by the Knesset (Israeli Parliament), it has become a day commemorated by Jewish communities and individuals worldwide.

Stanlee Stahl, Executive Vice President of The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous will be the guest speaker. The Foundation, which seeks to fulfill the traditional Jewish commitment of *hakarot hatov*, the searching out and recognition of goodness, has two goals. The first is to repay a debt of gratitude on behalf of the Jewish community to those non-Jews, mainly Christians, who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust when many other people looked away. The JFR has provided financial support to rescuers since 1986. It began funding eight individuals. Over the years, the number of people receiving funds increased steadily as

more individuals were recognized as Righteous Gentiles by Yad Vashem. The number peaked at 1,750 in 2003. Currently, the Foundation provides monthly financial assistance to nearly 1,200 Righteous Gentiles in 26 countries. The Foundation's second goal is to preserve the legacy of the rescuers through

its national Holocaust education program.

"I think I am blessed," says Ms. Stahl. "I get to meet men and women who are just like us, ordinary men and women, who, when the situation required, did extraordinary acts - acts of kindness, acts of courage, acts of self-sacrifice."

At the Yom HaShoah observance awards will be presented to the winners of the Center's Annual Student Creative Arts Contest. The theme for this year's contest is "The Righteous Among the Nations: Lessons and Legacy." Last year over 800 students from the tri-county area participated in the contest.

The commemorative event also includes lighting of memorial candles and prayers for the deceased. The Center will be open before and after the program. The photographic exhibit by Ira Nowinski, "In Fitting Memory", will be on display.

New Website, New “Look” Being Launched



Within the past few years the internet has become a primary medium for communications. We recognized the importance of this

new tool when we launched our website about ten years ago. Funded by the Community Foundation, it was state-of-the-art; about the best that technology could offer.

Of course, since then the website has become seriously outdated. By today's standards it was cumbersome to update, and not nearly fast and broad enough to do the things we dream of, like offering video of our teacher education forums and allowing access to some of our survivor testimonies online.

This fall we were fortunate enough to win a state grant under the Culture Builds Florida program administered through the Division of Cultural Affairs. Because our new website would meet several of the state's priorities – providing opportunities for life-long learning and supporting economic development through introducing a wider audience to our archives, library and programs – our proposal scored well enough to get the full amount we requested.

We've gotten an outstanding partner in Cliff Manspeaker at Drive New Media who has worked diligently to create the new website. Our board member Mark Freid was an invaluable help in the process, making sure the new design was attractive as well as useful.

The new look of our website inspired us to update and redesign our other outreach materials, including letterhead and this newsletter. We hope you like our new look, check our website at www.holocaustedu.org and trust that you will be as pleased as we are at the progress we've been able to make.

Next Generation Group Making Plans

After a recent successful program with Greg Dawson, author of *Hiding in the Spotlight*, the Next Generation Group steering committee met recently to plan future events.

Serving on the committee are Susan Bach, Lisa Feldman, Eve Homburger Jacobs, Amanda Jacobson, Pauline Korman, Joan Pohl, and Michael Tempkins. Dr. Jeffrey Friedman and Mike Nebel are the co-chairs.

Members of the committee are researching a trip to Washington, DC with the highlight being a tour of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. This event would be scheduled for mid-2010.

Additional destinations may include The Lillian & Albert Small Jewish Museum which is located in the Judiciary Square neighborhood of Washington, D.C., and houses the oldest surviving synagogue building in the District; the B'nai B'rith Center for Jewish Culture (CJC) encompassing The National Jewish Museum and the Philip Lax Archive (B'nai B'rith Archives); and the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, under the auspices of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

To be included in the Next Generation Group and for more detailed information about the group's plans and programs please contact Eva Ritt at 407-628-0555.

Holocaust Education Must Include Respect And Civility

BY MITCHELL BLOOMER
HMREC RESOURCE TEACHER

The Florida law that requires Holocaust education declares one of the main goals to be the protection of democratic values. This makes perfect sense. Civil rights and human dignity must be embedded in our values before they can be protected by our institutions. We place a great deal of faith in written constitutions and declarations of rights. We expect the principles expressed therein to be written into the law, enforced by our executives, and protected by our courts. The venerable documents and institutions of democracy offer no protection, however, if we fail to regard our fellow citizens as worthy of respect. After all, Germany in the Weimar period had a democratic government with a constitution and guaranteed human rights. The Nazi movement was able to subvert German democracy, in part, through cynical and destructive use of the democratic process. Part of our job is to teach students to participate constructively in our democratic system for the ongoing purpose of forming a “more perfect union”.

The Nazis opposed democracy because they rejected its most basic principle - that people have the right to think for themselves and to advance their own opinions. They did more than argue against their rivals. They denied the legitimacy of dissent altogether. In the worldview of the Nazis, people with differing views were not honest opponents to be debated; they were enemies seeking to ruin Germany. They were described as unworthy of membership in the community. The goal was not their defeat, but their total destruction. No strategy was too extreme to be used in pursuit of this end.

The language of Nazi propaganda fostered contempt for opponents so that they would be thoroughly and permanently discredited. In this way, verbal and printed assaults were as devastating to democratic ideals as physical violence.

Respectful public discourse is the lifeblood of democracy. People of good will and intelligence frequently disagree on important issues. This is not because one side or the other is stupid, dishonest, or evil. It is because people form their views from divergent experiences and perspectives. This is democracy's greatest strength. The path of wisdom often becomes clear when vigorous debate is valued and encouraged. On the other hand, the democratic process falters when honest disagreement is overshadowed by demonizing political rhetoric. This happens too often these days. Living and working together with people of differing views is the first essential skill required in a properly functioning democratic society. In fact, civility is most important when we don't agree on the road ahead. In politics, expressions of contempt and personal rejection make our common problems harder to solve. We all share the responsibility for elevating the quality of public discourse. In schools, our goal is to teach students to think critically, to express themselves with dignity, and to engage others respectfully. These are the foundations of the democratic values included in Holocaust education. Our job, especially in these contentious times, is to provide young people with plenty of examples showing how these values work in action.

Thank You

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in memory of Ann Meyerhoff

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*in honor of the birth of Tess and Abe Wise
Great-granddaughter Oriyah Wise*

DONATIONS AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2009

Kristallnacht

Each November the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center hosts a community remembrance of Kristallnacht, "the night of broken glass". It commemorates the night of November 9-10, 1938 when organized Nazi militia destroyed Jewish businesses and invaded Jewish homes. That night, 267 synagogues were destroyed and nearly a hundred people killed, and as many as 30,000 people were captured and deported to slave labor camps, an event identified by many historians as the beginning of the Final Solution.

This year, the Center's program featured Dr. Alan Berger, Director of Holocaust and Judaic Studies, Florida Atlantic University. He spoke on Shaping Holocaust Memory: The Second and Third Generations Respond, a reflection on the themes and messages of literature produced by children and grandchildren of Survivors.

Dr. Berger reminded the audience that as Survivors bore and raised children, the Holocaust clearly impacted many of their choices, thoughts and capacities. As this second generation grew to adulthood, the Holocaust meant something different to them: quoting Helen Epstein, author of *Children of the Holocaust*, remembering was not an issue because they were "guardians of a unique and volatile legacy."

Referencing Art Spiegelman's *Maus*, and books by Thane Rosenbaum, as well as the film *Weapons of the Spirit* by Pierre Sauvage, Berger reflected on the special duty and special burdens of these young adults. As he pointed out, to be born from



DR. ALAN BERGER
DIRECTOR OF HOLOCAUST
AND JUDAIC STUDIES,
FLORIDA ATLANTIC
UNIVERSITY

parents who have seen their first children murdered creates very difficult circumstances – in the words of Spiegelman, "silence is the defining motif." Yet these growing children were also the parent's translators and negotiators in a new culture.

Reflecting these very extraordinary childhoods, Berger says, the films, short stories and novels of the second generation are

"an intergenerational transmitter of trauma." They often ask, in poignant ways, who am I as a Jew?

The third generation – grandchildren of Survivors – are only now creating their own unique voice. Their works can create a "post-memory awareness" unique to families born to Survivors.

During a question-and-answer period with the audience, discussion ranged from the power of God to the power of Jihad. In his final words, Berger reminded them that we must keep the memory of the Holocaust alive in useful ways, and that by keeping ourselves – and our legislators – informed, we can best continue our quest for a more peaceful, more compassionate world.

Dr. Berger holds the Raddock Eminent Scholar Chair for Holocaust Studies and directs the Center for the Study of Values and Violence after Auschwitz, as well as the Jewish Studies B.A. Program at Florida Atlantic University. With more than eighty articles, essays and book chapters, Berger has lectured on the Holocaust, Jewish literature, and Christian/Jewish relations throughout America, Europe, Australia, South Africa, and Israel. He is co-director of the Jewish American and Holocaust Literature Conference.

New Policy Regarding the Acknowledgement of Donations and Memberships

The Board of Directors of the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida is truly grateful to everyone who makes a donation of any size to the Center. However, in an effort to further reduce our administrative and printing expenses we will no longer acknowledge donations of less than \$18 in our newsletter. This will allow us to increase the amount of your donation that is used for programs that benefit our students, teachers and the community.

Beginning with this issue all donations and memberships over \$18, other than donations made in memory of or in honor of loved ones, will be acknowledged together in the Summer editions of our newsletter.

Insurance exhibit travels

Last year our Holocaust Center was approached by the Florida Department of Financial Services with a request to create an exhibit on Holocaust-era insurance. Although skeptical about what that might entail – how much could we say about life insurance policies issued 60 or 70 years ago? – we accepted the challenge.

As we researched the history of life insurance written in Europe in the early 1900s, we were disheartened to discover how clearly unjust insurance companies had been. Instead of paying beneficiaries who tried to collect on policies, nearly every major insurer offered only excuses. The Nazis did not issue death certificates for those they murdered. No death certificate, no life insurance payment. Original policies lost or destroyed in the turmoil of the war meant no payment, no matter what other documentation still existed. Nazis even cashed in the policies of some of their victims, leaving surviving families without any recourse.

Only decades later were some courts in the United States willing to intervene, too little and too late for many of the families. Florida was among only a small number of states that created their own mechanism to help families collect on Holocaust-era insurance. States were able to do so by requiring that any company selling insurance in that state had to have a process in place to help families locate and collect long-overdue compensation.

The completed exhibit is now a permanent installation at our Center, and copies are available and touring throughout the state. The Holocaust Center donated duplicates of the exhibit to a number of institutions including: Center for Holocaust & Human Rights Education, College of Education, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton; Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg; Holocaust Documentation Center, Hollywood, FL; The Holocaust Memorial, Miami Beach; Holocaust Museum of Southwest Florida in Naples; League for Educational Awareness of the Holocaust (LEAH), Boca Raton; University of Miami Holocaust Teachers' Institute; The School District of Palm Beach County's Multicultural Education/Holocaust Studies Program in West Palm Beach, FL.

The traveling exhibit has been sent to the Holocaust Center at the Jewish Community Center in Davie Florida; Cagan Crossings Community Library, Clermont; Central Brevard Library, Cocoa; and Rollins College Library, Winter Park. Other venues are scheduled in the coming months.

Any organization that would like to schedule the exhibit at their site should contact Eva Ritt at 407-628-0555. For more information on the Florida Holocaust-Era Insurance project, contact Lynn Grossman, Holocaust Claims Coordinator at the Department of Financial Services, 1-800-388-4069.

Holocaust Redesign Under Consideration.

BY ELLEN LANG

During the summer of 2008 a small group of our board leaders began to investigate the possibilities for updating our Center's museum and exhibitions. When it was founded and designed over 20 years ago, our Holocaust Center and exhibits were



on the cutting edge of Holocaust education and remembrance, but much has changed since then.

We recognize that there has been a wealth of study in the intervening years of Holocaust history and of the causes and effects of its moral and ethical implications for humanity. The group's task is to consider how best to update the Center's exhibits using newer technologies that can significantly enhance the educational and museum experience we provide to the community.

Ellen Lang and Bruce Gould are jointly chairing this effort and have put together a team of talented individuals who bring to the group their particular expertise in education (Susan Keogh), technology and philanthropy (Stephen Goldman), museum design (Jay Jensen) and architecture (Alan Helman) together with members of the Center's board. Our goal is to find the very best and most up-to-date instructional techniques, exhibits, and museum design through visiting similar institutions and by researching appropriate technologies. What we learn will be incorporated into our re-design, with

the focus on providing an educational experience that can be tailored to the age and knowledge level of each visitor.

During the summer some of the committee members visited the WWII Museum in New Orleans and met with

the Vice President of Education and Strategic Planning who provided a wealth of information and resource contacts. In November, Susan Mitchell, the Center's grant writer in residence, completed and submitted a museum planning grant proposal for the Institute for Museum and Library Services, from whom the Center has previously successfully obtained grant funding. We are currently looking forward to a visit to the newly opened Holocaust Museum in Skokie, Illinois, and we would welcome suggestions for other innovative exhibit installations and museums which might help us in the re-invention process.

We know that in a challenging economic climate it will be several years before funding might be found to make the changes we envision a reality. Still, we are convinced that the time is ripe to pursue the re-design process so that we will be ready when the opportunity is presented.

Please contact Pam Kancher, Executive Director, to express your interest in this project.



We all know that area schools have had to significantly cut budgets, so one of our concerns has been the possibility that far fewer schools would be able to visit. As it turns out, most of the schools that have been annual visitors, as well as some new groups, understand the importance of their field trips to the Center. As the buses pull into our parking lot, day after day and week after week, we know what we do is making a difference.

2010 Teachers Institute Planning Underway

Florida's Education statutes require that every student be taught about the Holocaust in a manner that leads to an investigation of human nature, an understanding of racism, prejudice and stereotyping, and an examination of what it means to be a responsible, respectful person. Unfortunately, that mandate came without the necessary structure to guide teachers through this very difficult task. The Holocaust is a complex part of history, and even well-trained teachers may have difficulty meeting this standard in a way that is appropriate and effective.

For the past fourteen years, the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center has been providing extensive teacher training to address this need. With a week-long 40-hour training course, open to teachers from throughout Central Florida, the Center provides information, materials, and hands-on practice so that students will be able to understand the importance of this watershed event.

As in the past, this year's Teachers Institute will include Jewish culture and history, the



rise of the Nazi party, major events during and after the war, and contemporary genocide and ethnic conflicts. Materials include curriculum guides, lesson plans, bibliographies, and PowerPoint slides. Also included in the week is a tour of the museum with information on the best use of field-trip time.

Many of the sessions are led by scholars who have trained at Yad Vashem (Israel's Holocaust Memorial Center in Jerusalem), and most are returning from previous years. This core curriculum has been adapted to benefit teachers in a number of different disciplines, and separate pedagogy sessions for elementary, middle and high school age students are offered. Teachers who have participated in past Teachers Institutes have often called it a "life changing" experience. They return to their classes with a

deeper appreciation of the lessons to be gained from understanding the Holocaust. Equally important, they have the tools and the confidence they need to meet the highest standards of Holocaust education.

This year's Teachers Institute is scheduled for June 21-25. Sessions begin at 8 am and end at 4 pm. Tuition is \$100 (\$75 for early registration) which covers the cost of lunches and all materials. Scholarships and reduced rates are available, and any teacher driving more than one hour each way can qualify for free housing.

Recently we were notified that the state funding for this program has been eliminated, so we are asking our members and friends to consider supporting this critical effort. Contact Pam Kanher at 407-628-0555 for specific ways you can provide sponsorship for the Teachers Institute so we can continue to provide area teachers with the information and support they need.



Boys And Girls Club

Since the summer of 2008, the Holocaust Center has been involved in a promising partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Florida. The mission of this remarkable youth organization is "to inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens." This dovetails very nicely with the goal of Holocaust education, which includes a mandate to promote responsible and respectful citizenship.

This program began with a grant from the Kiwanis club to support enrichment activities provided by the Holocaust Center to local Boys and Girls Clubs during their summer or after-school meeting times. Several clubs from across the Central Florida area have visited the Holocaust Center, and others have received educational programming at their regular meeting locations. The students

involved have learned lessons from the Holocaust era about how ideas of prejudice are formed and spread and about the terrible consequences of discrimination. They have also studied examples of moral courage and the importance of taking a stand against hatred in any form, even against incidents of teasing and bullying that they might see on any given day. They have participated in activities designed to teach them to avoid stereotyping and to treat others with dignity and respect. In short, they have witnessed the contrast between the closed, exclusive society envisioned by the Nazis and the supportive, inclusive, and tolerant community that we seek to build here. Most importantly, they have seen that the task of building that community is carried forward by every generation and in all locations. Hopefully, they will accept the idea that the challenge begins now, in their schools and neighborhoods every day.

ADULT EDUCATION COURSE CHRISTIANITY AND THE HOLOCAUST



A new adult education course is being offered at the Center. Taught by Valencia Community College Professor Paul Chapman, it will be held at 1 to 3 pm beginning on Tuesday Feb. 3 and meeting for 6 weeks.

Entitled *Christianity And The Holocaust* this course will provide a general historic overview of the Catholic and Protestant responses to Nazism and the Holocaust. It will also explore theological issues, Jewish-Christian relations and post-Holocaust efforts within the Christian community for reconciliation and the promotion of better understanding and cooperation between the two faiths.

The course will use historical documents, articles, video and discussion to deepen understanding of these issues. The text will be *The Holocaust and the Christian World: Reflections on the Past, Challenges for the Future* edited by Carol Rittner, Stephen D. Smith and Irene Steinfeldt, (published by Yad Vashem). **Cost of the course is \$15 for HMREC members and \$25 for non-members, and includes the cost of the textbook.**

SPRING EXHIBIT FEATURES MEMORIAL PHOTOGRAPHS



Remembering the past can take many forms. Recollections can be preserved in history books and in song, in fine art and

in family stories. Yet it seems that there are few touchstones to the past as powerful as statutes and memorials constructed to remember the millions of lives that were lost at the hands of the Nazis.

Photographs of some of the world's most striking Holocaust memorials have been collected as an exhibit, *In Fitting Memory*, on exhibit April through June at the Holocaust Center.

The photographs, taken by Ira Nowinski, were commissioned by the Judah L. Magnes Museum of Berkeley, California to accompany the book *In Fitting Memory: the Art and Politics of Holocaust Memorials* by Sybil Milton.

The design and content of these memorials reflect national differences, but collectively they preserve the public memory of the mass murder of Jews and others. Installed in seven European countries, the United States and Israel, these public works of art provide a unique symbol of the world's willingness to face the past.

Nowinski is an independent photographer residing in San Francisco. His work is represented in permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Library of Congress, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the National Museum in England, the Lund Museum in Sweden, Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of Performing Arts at Lincoln Center and the New York Jewish Museum. His photographs have appeared in numerous books, magazines and newspapers.

This collection was donated to the Holocaust Memorial Center in 1991 in memory of Dr. Mitchell Shapiro by his family: his wife, Dr. Marilyn Shapiro; his mother, Mrs. Sybil Shapiro of Orlando; and his brother, William Shapiro of Oregon.

Books Presented to Center Library

Harry A. Jacobs, author of the recently published book *The Pentagon Brank*, and his family presented three volumes of the *Trials of War Criminals* before the Nuernberg Military Tribunals, Volumes XII, XIII, XIV, to the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida.



These books are part of the 15-volume series also known as *The Green Series*. They chronicle twelve trials of almost 200 defendants, including diplomats, politicians and jurists. Included in the record are Ernst von Weizsaecker, the State Secretary of the Foreign Office; the directors of the German chemical conglomerate I.G. Farben; and physicians, such as Gerhard Rose, who performed medical experiments on prisoners in camps.

The trials were conducted in English and German and were carried out under the direct authority of the Allied Control, Law No.10. They lasted two and a half years, and produced more than 300,000 pages of testimony and evidence.

During the early 1950's Harry Jacobs was employed by the Army's Office of the Judge Advocate General in the Pentagon. He was an editor of the records of the trial proceedings and instrumental in compiling the transcripts into *The Green Series*.

The presentation was made on November 24th by Harry's son Brad Jacobs, Brad's wife Eve Homburger Jacobs, and son Marc Homburger Jacobs on behalf of the Harry A. Jacobs family. They were accompanied by Ed and Barbara Elkes of Lake Mary.

Executive Director Pamela Kancher accepted the books on behalf of the Center, where they will be available to scholars and researchers using the Center's library.

Teacher Forums provide a variety of enlightening topics

Teacher Forums provide a variety of enlightening topics. One of the most important components of the Center's programs is teacher education. Our Summer Teachers Institute provides a broad, comprehensive, hands-on experience to support best classroom practices. For teachers who want either ongoing education or a briefer opportunity, we began offering quarterly Teacher Forums several years ago.

Teacher forums are now offered monthly during the school year, and have attracted a number of new participants. The first presentation of the 2009-2010 school year was a 6-hour introduction to the Echoes and Reflections curriculum sponsored in August by the Anti-Defamation League.

The first of the 2-hour forums was presented in October. Led by HMREC Resource Teacher Mitch Bloomer, it focused on the life and the diary of Petr Ginz, a Czechoslovakian teenager who perished in Auschwitz at age 16. His writings were hidden in a friend's attic and found some 50 years after his death. His diary, translated and published in English for the first time in 2007, lends a surprisingly mature voice and sly wit to the life of an



NADINE SMITH OF EQUALITY FLORIDA SPEAKS AT JANUARY TEACHER FORUM

University. He addressed the issue of *Elie Wiesel's Quarrel With God*, asking Wiesel's ultimate question: Where was God in Auschwitz? The experiences of this renowned Holocaust survivor and master storyteller forced him to reevaluate the God of his childhood. Dr. Berger discussed Wiesel's writings, including the paradoxes of traditional Jewish beliefs and the purpose of religion in finding meaning in both life and death. He concluded with Emil Fackenheim's query – has God stopped speaking, or has man stopped listening?

In December the topic was *What Children's Art Teaches us About the Holocaust and Genocide*, taught by Mitch Bloomer. Instructive to classroom teachers at all levels, it shed light on the messages children send in their

creative efforts.

Future forums will include a presentation on February 23 by Dr. Ed Harrell of Rollins College about how architecture, politics and history converged in determining how Berlin memorializes the Holocaust. On March 25 Mitch Bloomer will provide information on the Hitler Youth Movement; the April 15 program, led by Paul Chapman, will address Christianity and the Holocaust, weighing the role of organized religion in creating a foundation of anti-Semitism and modern efforts to support reconciliation and understanding; and on May 13 Mitch Bloomer will provide information on *The Face of Hate Today*. Teachers can make arrangements for inservice credits by contacting Mitch Bloomer at 406-628-0555.

Although created primarily for educators, these forums are open to the general public as well when space is available. They begin at 5:15 pm, and light refreshments are available. Reservations are strongly encouraged.

YIZKOR: A Message to the Second and Third Generations

BY LORRAINE R. KAUFMAN
**Reprinted With Permission*

We have been experiencing something our whole lives that we have never understood. The Holocaust has been like an ongoing leak into our lives – even in the most joyous moments, the Holocaust seeped into our joy and remains an elusive shadow that helped define who we are, how we see the world and the choices we’ve made throughout our lives. Intellectually we think we know Auschwitz but we will never know Auschwitz. Whatever we think we know about our parents’ experiences pales in comparison to what really happened.

We have never felt such sustained humiliation, fear, hunger and cold. We have never felt the ripping separations. Our imagination falls way short of reality. After all these years we can only say to our parents – we understand more than others but none of us can completely understand the horrors of your youth.

We tried to fill our parents’ days with love, laughter, and joy but their nights were in the death camps, ghettos, labor camps and forests. We shared our parents with their tortured childhood and in some ways, our parents have always stayed behind the barbed wire. It has never left them and it will never leave us. It is the strongest thread in the fabric of our lives and it will bind us forever.

We, the second generation carry our parents’ agonizing memories in our pockets, the loose change of our lives that always jingles – to remind us of what was and of what could be.

And like our parents, we, the second generation, have chosen love over hatred, optimism over pessimism and have chosen to

give back to society rather than take. Jewish history will note that the second generation after the Holocaust upheld the legacy of remembrance as well as a legacy committed to healing the world – tikkun olam.

My final words are to the Third Generation. In your lifetime, something terribly sad will happen – your generation will lose all of the eye witnesses to the Holocaust- the Survivors, the liberators, the murderers and the co-conspirators.

REMEMBER:

Don’t be afraid to ask questions but the time is late and the Survivors are fewer each day. Keep asking questions.

The Holocaust is not just history – it’s your history. Somewhere in Europe lie the ashes of your families.

The history of your family and the history of our people did not start and did not end in Auschwitz.

(REMEMBER CONTINUED)

You will never fully understand the Holocaust, not intellectually and not emotionally – learn whatever you can, so you know as much of the truth as possible to be able to refute Holocaust revisionists and deniers.

Be ever vigilant. Be proactive. On every continent bigotry, intolerance and indifference are thriving. The world needs you because your neshama, your soul, understands the sad and devastating result of bigotry, intolerance and indifference.

Each third generation must now become a soldier in the war on justice and truth. You will become Holocaust defenders - trying to keep the revisionists and hate-mongers from distorting and destroying the truth about the murdered and the murderers.

I am very sorry to say that the world overall has not learned much from the Holocaust. How sad! But you have learned. I know you have and in your hands the Legacy of Remembrance is safe.

You, the third generation, are the most educated generation since the Holocaust. Among you are and will be doctors, lawyers, accountants, scientists, teachers, and judges. Just remember, that it was doctors, lawyers, accountants, scientists, teachers and judges that permeated the Nazi death machine.

You are the most tech savvy generation ever in our history. Your lives are dependent on computers and IPODs, iPhones and Blackberrys. Just remember that there are Holocaust revisionists and deniers that use the same technology to communicate their messages of bigotry, hatred and intolerance.

Your job will be the hardest. You will have children, many of whom will never know the trembling voice or see the tears of any Survivor. How do you relate their stories? How do you tell your children about the cruelty and the murders? I am not sure how you will do it but I am sure that you will. The Holocaust and the lessons of the Holocaust are threaded in your lives as they are in ours.

Many of your children will carry the names of Survivors. Their stories will only be kept alive by teaching your children their full family history – a history of brutality, resistance, courage and rebirth.

While the second generation may have been the generation that Hitler wanted to destroy, the third generation, your generation, is the generation that Hitler never imagined.

Remember what happened to our families. They did not “perish”, and they did not “pass away.” Remind a world that does not feel and does not remember that our families were systematically murdered, gassed, burned, starved, shot, tortured and exterminated.

Live the lessons of your grandparents. Chazak, Chazak ...be strong, be courageous and never be silent in the face of injustice.

Sentinel Columnist Greg Dawson Shares His Mother's Story



Orlando Sentinel columnist Greg Dawson – well-known for his pun-filled consumer advocacy column, “The Last Resort” – shared his mother Zhanna’s inspiring story with a capacity crowd at the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center on September 10. Close to 350 people attended the program held at the Hy and Harriett Lake Auditorium.

Dawson has just published a book, *Hiding in the Spotlight*, which chronicles his mother’s amazing escape from death during the Holocaust. In 1941, when she was 14, she and her family were rounded up with other Jews in the small Ukrainian community of Kharkov.

Zhanna was able to escape from a march toward death because of a bribe offered to a guard by her father.

She fled back to the neighborhood where her family had lived, and was sheltered by a nearby Christian family, the Boganchas. Zhanna’s 12-year-old sister Frina, who fled from the Nazis shortly after Zhanna’s escape, arrived at the same family’s doorstep several days later. They helped the girls establish new identities, and arranged for them to

enter a safe orphanage where their musical talent led to being recruited by a troupe of performers who entertained Nazis during the war.

During the presentation, much of the family story was told through a documentary, produced by Dawson’s wife Candy, that chronicled Greg’s trips to research his mother’s life. The video provided the audience with scenes of Dawson at the door of the house where his mother lived as a child, and followed him as he walked the halls of the music conservatory in Kharkov where she and her sister had studied. Most touching, it documented Dawson’s visit to the memorial at Drobitsky Yar, a monument memorializing the 30,000 Jews murdered there. On a wall displaying the names of the dead, Dawson was shocked to find his mother listed there. It was really then, he told listeners, that he then realized how tenuous survival had been.

In response to questions from the audience, Dawson discussed his reaction to hearing his mother’s story for the first time only as an adult including discovering – when he was in his 20’s – that he was Jewish. He also talked about the genesis of the book and uncovering Zhanna’s story: a class assignment by Ron Hartle, Dawson’s daughter’s social studies teacher, who asked students to interview someone about their experiences in WWII. Zhanna’s response to her granddaughter’s request was a 4-page letter that, for the first time, disclosed details of her life during the Holocaust.

Dawson invited Hartle to the front of the auditorium, and presented him with a copy of *Hiding in the Spotlight* with a personal inscription from Greg’s daughter Aimee.

(Greg Dawson continued)

One theme emerged throughout the presentation, that of how individual lives are intertwined.

Zhanna Arkashyna is just one face, one voice, and one story among the millions whose lives were changed forever by Hitler’s Final Solution.

She first survived because of her father’s resourcefulness and a guard’s willingness to look aside, then a neighbor’s courage in providing shelter to the girls. Her talent was recognized by several onlookers who took the time to guide her toward situations in which she could flourish.

Her story might have been lost had it not been for a local teacher who asked his students to find out for themselves about living in the shadow of history.

And the local community has been enriched by a devoted son, Greg Dawson, who took on the extraordinary task of documenting his mother’s life. His book is rich in detail, and in its pages you can see his mother’s courage and will to survive. It is an honest, and painfully necessary, reminder of the human cost of prejudice and indifference; it is a reason for us work toward creating a more just, more compassionate world.

Study Guide

Teachers who use the book *Hiding in the Spotlight* in their classes are encouraged to use these discussion questions suggested by the author.

1. Describe Zhanna as a young child. How do you think her personality and experiences helped her survive during the war?
2. Zhanna started out not wanting to practice the piano. Have you ever had to practice something you didn’t like? Have you had to “persevere” (struggle on, be persistent) through obstacles but knew that things would get better if you did?
3. Some people helped Zhanna and Frina along the way but others did not. Do you think you would have tried to help them or would it have been too dangerous?
4. This is a story about a very sad and scary time, but the author showed some funny things that happened. What do you remember as humorous situations?
5. Zhanna and her sister’s relationship had its ups and downs. What words can you use to describe each girl and do you think they changed over time?
6. How do you think Frina escaped? Why do you think she has never told anyone?
7. Why do you think it took Zhanna so long to tell anyone about her past?
8. How do you think Zhanna and Frina were able to come through so much grief and turmoil in their lives to go on and be happy, successful people?
9. How did music help shape these girls’ personalities from the time they were very young and also during the war?
10. Look up the following words – bias, bigotry, racism – and tell how we can all make a difference in the world by fighting these tendencies. Think of times when you may have suffered from them or may have caused someone else to suffer.

Exhibit Honors Local Civil Rights Heroes

“I Have a Dream.” With those four words, Dr. Martin Luther King described the world that all people of conscience strive for: a world without barriers based on prejudices and intolerance.

His dream began long before that acclaimed 1963 speech; it continued well beyond his death five years later. The dream of justice lives in the hearts of all of us whose efforts, great and small, create a safer, more tolerant community.

In 2005 the Holocaust Memorial Center, in partnership with the Wells’Built Museum of African-American History and Culture, created an exhibit, Embracing the Dream, funded in part by a grant from the Florida Humanities Council.

The dream of justice lives in the hearts of all of us whose efforts, great and small, create a safer, more tolerant community.

Illustrated with biographical sketches and photos from the time, the exhibit honors the lives of twenty-two local individuals who helped end racial segregation in Central Florida in the 1950’s and 1960’s.

Included in the exhibit are the stories of several people who are well-known in the Jewish community: Bea Ettinger, Flossie Gluckman, Jerry and Rita Bornstein, Joseph Brechner, Robert Petree and Wolf Kahn. Along with many others, they challenged racism our community, and helped bring about a more principled and more tolerant society.

We continue to honor the promise of Dr. King’s dream – and to honor those who embraced his vision – by exhibiting Embracing the Dream once again. It will be at the Center in January through March, reminding us of the courage and persistence that progress has required, and encouraging us to keep the dream alive.

Helen Greenspun



One of the most effective ways to teach about the Holocaust is through the first-hand stories of survivors and witnesses. Our Holocaust Center is fortunate to have a very dedicated and effective speaker, Helen Greenspun, who meets with thousands of students each year. She says she shares her personal history of abduction, camps, starvation, and loss of loved ones because “I speak for my father, for all the girls in camps with me who died, and all the others who are not here to speak for themselves.”

Holocaust Survivors Gather at Annual Luncheon



Thirty local Holocaust survivors gathered for the annual luncheon at the Holocaust Memorial Center on Tuesday, October 13th. There, local men and women survivors had the opportunity to visit with each other and keep up with the latest activities at the Center

Tess Wise, Chairman of the Board, welcomed them by noting that the luncheon’s purpose is to reach out to survivors, keep them connected to the community and show them how important they are to the present.

Pam Kancher, Executive Director of the Center, extended her greetings then introduced Joan Pohl, who welcomed the Holocaust survivors on behalf of the Next Generation Group. She then shared some of her own background as a child of Holocaust survivors.

The Center looks forward to welcoming local Holocaust Survivors at future events.

Any Holocaust survivors who are new to the Central Florida community are urged to contact the Center so that they will be included in our mailing list and next year’s luncheon. Please contact Eva Ritt at 407-628-0555 extension 285.

Grant funding provides substantial support

The Holocaust Center, like nearly all non-profit organizations, has been impacted by changes in the economy. Fortunately, it recently has received several significant grants that will help make up for some of the decreased income.

In October the Center was awarded \$17,400 from the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs “Culture Builds Florida” grant program. The Center’s proposal was ranked 33rd out of 277 applicants, and the money will be applied to expanding and updating the organization’s website.

Usually the Center receives funding through a competitive DCA grant which provides general operating revenue, but that funding was eliminated by the legislature last year. Although that meant cuts for many projects around the state, it provided a unique opportunity to expand our internet presence.

There was also good news from the grant panel of United Arts of Central Florida. For the fourth straight year the Holocaust Center’s proposal earned a perfect score. United Arts funding is used to pay for exhibits, speakers, and films.

Other recent grants include Darden Restaurants Foundation, Disney Helping Kids Shine Foundation, Kiwanis Club International, Wachovia Bank Foundation, Florida Task Force on Holocaust Education, and the Ernest and Matilda Lefkowitz Philanthropic Fund. The Center also received special funding from the Florida Division of Financial Services to publicize the new exhibit, designed by the Center, on Holocaust-era insurance.

Holocaust

MEMORIAL RESOURCE & EDUCATION
CENTER OF FLORIDA



851 North Maitland Avenue
Maitland, Florida 32751

Mission Statement

The Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Central Florida is a not-for-profit, interfaith, multicultural organization. Its mission is to provide educational and cultural experiences - to examine the past in order to learn from it and to help people become aware of and alert to present dangers to our freedoms, our human rights and our lives by learning the lessons of the Holocaust.

The vision of a just community in a diverse, multicultural setting engaged in combating the dark forces of prejudice and anti-Semitism is the focus of our work, which we undertake for the benefit of present and future generations. Thus, "memory is transformed into study and study into memory" (Elie Wiesel) in hopes that oppression and genocide will be combated and shall never happen again to any minority group.

The Center is an appointed member of the Florida Education Commissioner's Task Force on Holocaust Education. Since April 1994, when the Florida legislature passed the Mandate to teach the Holocaust in the classrooms, the Center is charged with implementation of the Mandate in Central Florida and beyond. To this end, a Summer Teachers Institute is offered each year, training teachers and providing resources.

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