Arkansas Holocaust Education Committee’s 25th Annual Conference
Jones Center for Families – Springdale, Arkansas

Out of the Ashes
Friday, October 28, 2016
8:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

*Registration: Must be received before October 24, 2016 cut-off
*Teacher Note: Conference is approved for Professional Development credit via Arkansas Department of Education
For information: Grace Donoho 479-750-4930
Email: ar.holocaustconference@gmail.com

Keynote Speakers
- Morning Plenary Session
  “The Path to Nazi Genocide”
  by Dr. Kevin Simpson, Professor of Psychology, John Brown University
  Join us for a short film that provides an excellent overview of the Holocaust as we begin the conference and our day-long study of the causes and consequences of the worst genocide in human history. Learn about the rise of Nazism and the consolidation of power by the Nazis where millions would soon perish in a program of systematic persecution and murder. By pausing the film at key points for reflection and discussion, we will seek a deeper understanding of how ordinary people and institutions were brought into the Nazis’ vision for the genocide of six million Jewish people and countless others deemed unworthy of life.

- Afternoon Plenary Session
  Narrative from a Holocaust Survivor:
  “Hear My Voice” – Steen Metz, Holocaust Survivor’s Testimony

Outline of the Format and Schedule of Events

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Concurrent Sessions

THE FOLLOWING SESSIONS ARE DESIGNED FOR EDUCATORS, COLLEGE STUDENTS AND 5th - 12th GRADE STUDENTS

- “Freedom to Choose Their Own Way” (Janus Korczak): On the Jewish Children and Young Adults Who Survived the Holocaust & Their Struggles to Make New Lives: Presenter - Kenneth Elkins
  Most of our focus for the session will be on the personal accounts by youthful survivors and about their struggles to make new lives despite their debilitating experiences during and bitter memories of the Holocaust. Through our interactive approaches to this material, we will seek to answer three key questions. **First**, how much and what types of help did they receive in their efforts to move on with their lives? Who helped them? Further, were they more likely to receive such help than adult survivors? Why? **Second**, why and to what other countries did they emigrate while they continued to learn how to live with the painful memories of what they had endured? How else did this help them? **Third**, what can we learn from these young survivors and the lives they led as they sought to rise out of the ashes of the Holocaust? How might we use these lessons today?
Mr. Kenneth Elkin’s doctoral fields, prior to 1993, are at the University of Washington, Seattle, in Modern Jewish History and the Holocaust. In 1995 he participated in the 1st annual Educator’s Conference at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM). In 2009 Mr. Elkins became a Museum Teacher Fellow with the USHMM. Before retiring from the Springfield Public Schools in 2012, he helped establish and write the curriculum for a new semester elective course on the Holocaust for juniors and seniors in five high schools, which he taught for three years. Currently he teaches courses on the Holocaust for Missouri State U. & Ozarks Technical Community College. For the last 20 years Mr. Elkins has been involved with the local Holocaust Remembrance Services as well as more recently with Hillel, the Jewish Student Council for two local universities and one college. Last spring he completed an online course on The Holocaust & Human Behavior with Facing History and Ourselves, one of its major offerings for over 20+ years.

  In 1945 thousands of child survivors, like adult survivors waited to find family members. Very often the wait was in vain. Where were these children to go? How were they to recover and grow into adulthood? My session will deal with the efforts of such organizations HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aide Society), UNRRA, and the United States Committee for the Care of European Children, to name a few, who worked on finding countries that would accept these orphaned children. To this group he would add those children who were born right after the war in DP camps and hospitals but found themselves abandoned. Some of these children would eventually come into the United States under the umbrella of “Orphaned and Unaccompanied Children.” My session will feature documentary excerpts as well as primary source documents. In addition Mr. Factor will be using my personal story as an example and for documents.

Sol Factor has been a Holocaust Educator for over 40 years. He previously taught at Cleveland Heights High School where he taught a history elective entitled, “The Lessons of the Holocaust.” In 1998 he was selected to be a Mandel Fellow through the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Mr. Factor has traveled frequently to the sites of the Holocaust in both Western and Eastern Europe. He has written teacher guides for several publications and documentaries among which are the teacher guides for *Tell Them We Remember* and the documentary, *Hidden: Poland Part 1*. Mr. Factor has conducted workshops on the subject of the Holocaust, and has presented at national conferences on the subject of “The Many Roles of Children During the Holocaust.” He is currently a part-time instructor at Kent State University.

- Defiance in the Ashes: Revolts in the Death Camps: Presenter - Lance Jones
  Resilience can take many forms. The allegation that the Jews of Europe went meekly to their deaths, the proverbial “lams to the slaughter” image, is not true. However, the acts of armed, physical resistance to the German machinery of death is often overlooked in a basic look at the Holocaust, leaving students with the impression that no one fought back. The revolts in Treblinka, Sobibor and Auschwitz-Birkenau during 1943 and 1955 give lie to that impression. To honor the memory of the men and women who, even on the edge of the pit, struck back with armed force against their oppressors deserves to be told to this audience.

Lance D. Jones is a USHMM Teacher Fellow, a Fellow of the Memorial Library (New York) and a member of the Holocaust Educators Network (HEN). He has attended the Holocaust Educational Foundation Summer Institute, the USHMM Hess and Silberman Seminars, the Rosen Symposium and numerous other Holocaust conferences. Mr. Jones has presented at several events including the 2015 Arkansas Holocaust Conference. Mr. Jones teaches at Casper College, Casper WY.

- A Home for Us All – The Land of Israel: Presenter - Jacqueline Littlefield
  From 1945 to 1952 more than 250,000 Jewish Displaced Persons (DPs) lived in camps in Germany, Austria and Italy. Most Jewish survivors, who had survived concentration camps or had been in hiding, were unable or unwilling to return to eastern Europe because of postwar anti-Semitism and the destruction of their communities during the Holocaust. In increasing numbers Jewish survivors, their nationalism heightened by a lack of self-determination in the camps and having few destinations available, chose British-controlled Palestine as their desired destination. Since the number of immigrants allowed to enter Palestine was limited, for many *Aliyah Bet*, clandestine immigration, was the only route. Using testimonies, photographs and video, participants will examine Zionism, the movement to return to the Jewish homeland, *Bricha*, the network established to aid illegal immigration to Palestine and the barriers to success, and the formation of the Jewish state of Israel.

Jacqueline Littlefield served as the Education Coordinator for the Holocaust & Human Rights Center of Maine proving Holocaust and human rights programming for schools and community organizations throughout the state. She serves as a consulting trainer for the Anti-Defamation League offering workshops of the *Echoes and Reflections* multimedia curriculum on the Holocaust. With 10 other *Echoes and Reflections* trainers, she was selected to attend a 10-day seminar for *Echoes and Reflections* trainers at the Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust Education. Mrs. Littlefield is a USMM Teacher Fellow and a Maine Holocaust Educator of the Year. The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous selected Mrs. Littlefield as an Alfred Lerner Fellow. She has studied the Holocaust at historical sites in Germany, Poland and at Yad Vashem and the Ghetto Fighters’ house in Israel.

- What is Justice: Nuremberg and Tokyo Tribunals and Beyond: Presenter - Chad Austin
  This session will include a brief description of the Nuremberg and Tokyo Tribunals, how they were established, the crimes they tried (their jurisdictions) and tribunal results. Successive tribunals as they have evolved in international law, leading up to the International Criminal Court, will also be addressed. The major question that will be discussed is the place courts have in providing “justice” to victims of horrendous crimes, controversies surrounding the idea of legal justice, and alternative methods of justice and reconciliation such as the gacaca councils of Rwanda.
Chad Austin is a Professor of Law in the Department of Law at the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado. Courses he has taught include National Security Law; International Law; International Humanitarian Law; War Crimes, Genocide & Human Rights; and Law for the Air Force Officer. His scholarship has focused on International; Humanitarian Law and teaching pedagogy and he has presented on a wide variety of topics throughout the world. He is a JAG in the Air Force Reserve and holds the rank of Colonel. He was the recipient of the Outstanding Reserve Judge Advocate of the Year for 2008. He deployed to the Law & Order Task Force at FOB Shield, Baghdad, Iraq where he worked with Iraqis on restoring judicial capacity and the prosecution of suspected terrorists.

- **Soccer Under the Swastika: Triumph of the Survivor: Presenter - Dr. Kevin E. Simpson**

  As the world’s game, soccer captivates the dreams and imaginations of untold millions. Passion for the game first intensified in the 1930s and 1940s when soccer in Europe came to epitomize the struggles between the political forces which eventually swept the continent into another world war. This session addresses the legacy of the Holocaust through the telling of the story of soccer in the Nazi German concentration camps and in the aftermath of the Nazi genocide. By including poignant memoir accounts of life and soccer in the KZ, we witness the life-sustaining effects of sport culture that emerged in these destinations of destruction. As survivors attempted to reclaim their lives and begin anew at the end of the war, we also explore the inspiration of organized soccer in the Jewish DP (displaced persons”) camps. The ever-growing popularity of world soccer offers a unique opportunity to link the past to the present. Illuminating the endurance of the human spirit embodied in the prisoner-athletes caught up in the Holocaust offers hope for those committed to preventing genocide today. Note: Special emphasis will be given to teaching the Holocaust at the high school level by using biography and memoir excerpts, archival photography, and suggested reading lists from this little known chapter in Holocaust history.

Dr. Kevin E. Simpson is a professor of psychology at John Brown University and recipient of several fellowships and grants from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Yad Vashem (Israel), the Defiant Requiem Foundation, and the Holocaust Education Foundation of Northwestern University (Illinois). He has published and presented widely to academic and popular audiences in sport psychology and in the teaching of the psychology of the Holocaust, among other topics. He feels fortunate to have taken a number of student groups to visit many of the key concentration camps and Holocaust memorial sites in Poland, Germany, Austria, and the former Czechoslovakia. His first book, Soccer Under the Swastika: Hidden Stories of Survival and Resistance During the Holocaust, is set to be published in Fall 2016 by Rowman & Littlefield.

- **Music and Musicians of the Holocaust: Presenter - Deb Smith**

  Through interactive activities participants will learn about the importance of music during the Holocaust. Topics such as degenerate vs. Nazi music, music of the camps and ghettos, politics and propaganda, and important musicians will be discussed. Interactive PowerPoints, activities, lesson plans and music will be shared in this session.

Deb Smith is a USHMM Teacher Fellow, a USHMM Belfer Participant, and a Jewish Federation for the Righteous Fellow. She has a Masters in Holocaust and Genocide Studies from Gratz College and has presented a workshop of Music and Musicians of the Holocaust at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Conference and at the Organization of American Kodaly Educators Eastern Division Conference. Additionally, she has hosted Holocaust Youth Symposiums, Holocaust survivor speakers, a Middle School Holocaust Book Club, a high school elective on music and musicians of the Holocaust and sponsors a STAND (anti genocide) club at the high school.

Sponsors

![Arkansas Humanities Council](image)

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This project is supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities