



From the Director's Chair

Your HMC membership is a valuable gift to the future.

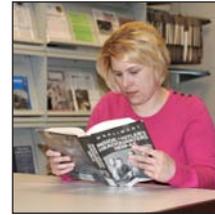
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Holocaust Center Hosts Film

We are pleased to present *Four Seasons Lodge*, April 28, at Birmingham's Palladium Theater.

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Genealogy Gems

Our genealogical collections are convenient, user-friendly, and unparalleled in our area.

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HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTER ZEKELMAN FAMILY CAMPUS

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010

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Samuel Bak's *Icons of Loss*

By Stephen M. Goldman

Next month marks another milestone in the history of the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus. Not only are we continuing to bring you the finest and most interesting and varied exhibitions from around the world, we are fulfilling the mission of the HMCZFC with innovative programs of all types.

When we open *Icons of Loss* on May 23, we will have one of the finest and most celebrated artists living today in attendance. Some of the commentators who know him best, and others, will come to our Center to bring additional perspectives on this truly inspiring and evocative work.

I have known Sam Bak's work for a

number of years and watching the evolution of his coming to grips with his (our) past has been a revelation. His repetition of themes, (in this exhibit the Nazi photograph of a young boy from the Warsaw Ghetto, and Albrecht Dürer's angel from *Melencolia I*) is to art what the chorus is to the musical ballad.



IMAGE: COURTESY OF PUCKER GALLERY

This exhibition presents very differently from the other retrospective exhibitions of Bak's work that I have mounted. These two particularly strong and evocative subjects in repetition speak to one another as well as to us.

We get no relief from the impact of this duet, with no focus, as in other works of Bak, on Stars of David, on crematoria chimneys, or on the tablets of the

Ten Commandments. Many of these elements appear, but as background music, themes from another stanza.

In *Icons of Loss*, we have two indelible icons, certainly, but Bak has set us into so many notes and layers of harmonies, that there is a visual symphony, sometimes discordant, but always striking chords deep within our psyches.

For me, the Warsaw Ghetto boy has always had a particularly personal evocation. Perhaps because when I first entered the Holocaust Museum business, my children were close in age to that anonymous child, and the loss of children is such anathema to me. Perhaps because of the plaintive look on his face. Bak has taken this photograph to a new place beyond the iconography of his own work so familiar to those of us who know it, yet symbolic on its own for those who may be new to Sam. The angel, too, has its own environment in which we are accustomed to seeing

it, but which has an expanded visual vocabulary in Bak's brush.

My profound thanks go to Bernie Pucker of Pucker Gallery in Boston and his staff, and especially to Samuel Bak for his willingness to share his vision, his brilliant work and his *Neshama*, his soul, with us. I have often said of teaching about the Holocaust that, "It is easy to make people cry, it is much more difficult to make them think." Sam's work does that and more; so let us think about this child and all the children who perished in the Shoah and the innocents who are persecuted today, and let us dwell on the *Melachim*, the angels of our brothers and sisters who over the centuries, have died at the hands of oppressors.

We are pleased to bring Sam Bak's work to a Detroit audience. The Holocaust Memorial Center is new to the world of special exhibitions, and his work sets a high bar for the quality of our future programs.

**On exhibit at the HMC
May 23 – August 15**

Symposium to Explore Origins of Altruistic Behavior in Religion

What impels people to risk their safety and lives, even that of their friends and relatives, to help an endangered fellow human being? We need to know, in order to honor such valiant heroes – to keep their memories alive – and to help spread such attitudes, especially among the younger generation, whom our Center serves.

The International Institute of the Righteous at the HMCZFC has pursued these goals since its inception. Throughout the years visitors have acclaimed the success of this mission. Most recently (and very relevantly) a Methodist Pastor from East Lansing wrote us:

In a world where the capacity for racism, hatred and silent compliance

with evil seems to run across through our human DNA, it is very important that we are reminded both of that evil and of human beings who have made great sacrifice to make a positive difference and stand opposed to that evil. Your memorial is a great service to the human family and for that I am grateful.

We have also pursued our goals through our annual symposia. The first five have explored diverse motivations of righteous behaviors, ranging from explanations based on parental upbringing to evolutionary necessity. This year's symposium, scheduled for

Friday May 7, 9 am to 2:30 pm, will explore the role that religion can and ought to play in leading us to altruistic behavior.

We have succeeded in assembling

three outstanding keynote speakers representing three major religions. The Catholic point of view will be advanced by Archbishop Allen Vigneron of Detroit, and Dr. Saeed Khan of Wayne State University



Jeffrey Kluger at the 2009 Symposium

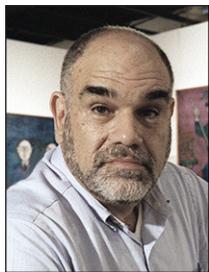
will address Islamic scripture. Professor Everett Fox, the Allen M. Glick Professor of Judaic and Biblical Studies at Clark University, will present the

Jewish tradition and perspective. This event prompts the return of Jeffrey Kluger, Senior Editor of *TIME Magazine* and last year's keynote speaker, who will be the commentator of the forum. Professor Martin Shichtman of the Eastern Michigan University English Department and Director of Jewish Studies, will act as historian.

For the first time the symposium will also be sponsored by the Holocaust Education Coalition and its president, Dr. Rene Lichtman.

The public is most cordially invited to an event which will fill a need of utmost importance at a time when socially responsible behavior and the role of religion have become, once again, the focal point of public discussion.

From the Director's Chair



Stephen M. Goldman

We hope that you enjoyed the first of our quarterly newsletters in the February 25th edition of the Jewish News. The JN was cooperative and very helpful in getting our information out and we have forged a strong relationship to our own very special newspaper.

This month we will begin a new

membership campaign. Members are the one “renewable resource” (to quote the green movement) that we can count on each year to help enable us to continue the important work that we do. 50,000 – 60,000 school children come to the Center each year, over 95% of whom are not Jewish. Each group of middle and high school students and their teachers tours the permanent and temporary exhibits and hears from one of our loyal survivors -- and their lives are changed forever.

The survivor speakers receive hundreds of letters from not just the teachers, but the kids as well: they are moved, inspired and taught. These are the future of our community and, with your commitment and support, will carry their visit here with them into adulthood. Make no mistake, the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus changes lives – for the better.

So, if you are a member, please consider renewing early and at a

higher level. If you are not presently a member, join. You can know that you are doing good. There are benefits to membership: early notices of events, special programs for members only, a discount in the Museum Shop, and... guilt-free visits to our wonderful Holocaust Memorial Center.

The envelope enclosed in this newsletter makes it easy to join, or go online or call. Becoming a member is a simple act that can have a lasting effect on society far into the future.

Join Us At The Movies!

The Holocaust Memorial Center is pleased to present *Four Seasons Lodge* as part of the Jewish Community Center's 12th Annual Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival. Scheduled for

5 p.m. Wednesday, April 28, the film will be shown at the Palladium 12 Theater in Birmingham. Tickets are \$10 and available at the Holocaust Center or at the theater.

From Europe's death camps to New York's Catskills, *Four Seasons Lodge* focuses on a community of Holocaust survivors who come together each summer. Directed by Andrew Jacobs and beautifully captured by a team of cinematographers led by Albert Maysles, this counterintuitive film about the Holocaust captures an intoxicating passion for living.

Since its inception, the Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival has shown films from around the world depicting all types of Jewish life. The festival runs from April 25 – May 6 and features more than 35 films.

For tickets or more information, please contact David Moss at 248.553.2400, ext. 23.



Donating Appreciated Stock Makes Sense

One of the benefits in the U.S. tax code is that you are able to give a lot of money to charitable organizations, while letting Uncle Sam foot the bill for a good portion of your donation. An easy and mutually beneficial way to donate is by gifting appreciated stock and mutual funds. It lets you give much more than you would in cash and costs you a lot less.

When you gift anything—stock, property, automobiles, you get to deduct the fair market value as an itemized deduction. So if you bought \$3,000 worth of XYZ Company stock several years back and it's now worth \$15,000, the IRS doesn't care how much you paid for it when you donate, they only care what it's worth. In this case, your \$15,000 worth of stock is worth the same as if you wrote a \$15,000 check.

Now say you decide instead that you want to sell your XYZ Company shares and give the proceeds to your

favorite non-profit—maybe the Holocaust Memorial Center. When you sell the stock, you'll be hit with a \$12,000 long term gain typically taxed at 15%. And if you live in a state with a high tax rate, you could be hit with up to another 9% tax. Put these two together and you are paying 24% tax on your earnings. At 24%, the taxes on \$12,000 add up to \$2,880 - leaving you with less to donate. In addition, your allowed itemized charitable deduction will be limited to the \$12,120 you donate to charity. If you gift the stock outright, you can deduct the full \$15,000 current value of the stock – a definite win for you and a win for the Holocaust Center.

Remember that the opposite is true for donating stock that has lost value. In this instance, sell the stock and donate the cash. You will get to claim the capital loss, as well as the benefit of the charitable deduction.

Membership Matters



David M. Moss

It's springtime in Michigan -technically at least. Passover is behind us and kids are already contemplating summer break.

For some 60,000 teens from across Michigan, this current school year was a little different than years past. This year, they visited our Holocaust Memorial Center. These students learned about remembrance. They learned about antisemitism and hate. They learned about the importance of standing up for what is right.

Toward the end of their tour, they visited the Harry & Wanda Zekelman International Institute of

the Righteous where they pondered ethical themes-- and wrote about how their visit will affect them personally.

I'm glad I live in a free society... I'm glad I came and saw the David Horodok exhibit, because that's where my family came from... I first visited in middle school. I'm now in college and working to become a history teacher... I'm glad I learned about the tragedy of the Holocaust and that I'm keeping it from happening again... I will never forget.

When students leave the Institute of the Righteous, their next step is a talk with a Holocaust survivor. Sadly, this generation may be the last to have the opportunity to interact with a living witness to the Holocaust.

What can you do to help ensure

that students of all backgrounds continue to learn the lessons of the Holocaust?

You can become a member of this museum. If you are already a member, you can renew and even upgrade.

When you support the Holocaust Center, you help inspire a whole generation of young people.

A Holocaust Memorial Center membership shows your commitment to remembrance, and that you want to help others remember. Membership demonstrates a passion for keeping our doors open so that people of all faiths can learn about this tragic period of history, while also experiencing a lesson in the richness of European Jewish life and culture.

Members receive benefits too.

A Holocaust Museum membership entitles you to free admission, our newsletter, event notices, and special members-only programs. Members at higher levels can become *Life Members* and receive special recognition.

With your support, we can continue to teach and inspire more than 120,000 people each year. Your donation pays tribute to the survivors and memorializes the victims. Without your support, *Never Again* are just two words.

Please join today.

For more information about membership, contact David Moss at 248.553.2400, ext. 23, or david.moss@holocaustcenter.org

Genealogy Gems in the Library Archive

On February 21, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Michigan (JGSMI) met at the HMCZFC Library Archive to learn about new resources available. A recent researcher said, "I come to the Center often and every time I think that I know what happened to the family, it hits me that there is more to find out!" On that particular day, the researcher found relatives who were on a ghetto list and discovered the names of a survivor's siblings, their birth dates, mother's maiden name and deportation destination...AUSCHWITZ. The purpose of the February meeting was to acquaint the JGSMI members with recent additions as well as to advise new members about collection highlights. It is not unusual to hear gasps of delight and wonder, as family members and researchers find the names of relatives. It is also not unusual to see tears of anguish and sorrow.

Important resources are appearing all the time at an amazing rate. The Library Archive strives to acquire and make them available to our community, on-site and via our website. One may access our cataloged book collection via our website. Also on our website is the listing of cities for which we have Memorial Books and the "Tracing Holocaust Survivors/Victims: A Brief Guide." The Guide is a reference sheet that is also available in the Library Archive at no charge. It is updated as information becomes available.

Some of our key resources include:

- **Bedzin Ghetto** Internees with photo ID, address and date of birth
- **Bereznitz** Landsmanschaft letters

Scanned, organized by date, and being translated

- **Brzesc (Brest-Litovsk, Brisk) Ghetto Internees List** (also available on Jewish Gen), described in previous *HMC Newsletter*.
- **German Communities** Klaus-Dieter, Alicke. *Lexikon der juedischen Gemeinden im deutschen Sprachraum*. 3 volumes. Encyclopedia of German and German-speaking communities arranged alphabetically.
- **German and German - speaking locations:** Volunteer Max Kahn prepared an extensive in-house guide to the **LBI Institute Yearbook's** bibliographies arranged by city, area, and region in 3 looseleaves.
- **Ghettos** *Yad Vashem Encyclopedia of the Ghettos during the Holocaust*. Jerusalem, Yad Vashem, 2009.
- **Grunberg – Neusaltz** Death March to Volary and Bergen Belsen. Includes lists of women who were on the death march and what happened to them.
- **Hungarian Microfilm collection** donated by Randolph Braham. Documents filmed for use in his monumental work, *Politics of Genocide*, 168 reels.
- **Hungarian Jewish Communities Encyclopedia** Braham, Randolph. *A Magyarországi Holokauszt Földrajzi Enciklopédiaja*. 3 volumes. Comprehensive treatment of communities and regions in Hungarian-speaking areas.
- **Hungary/Transylvania/Romania** Volunteer Mrs. Freda Fleisch in-

dexed an expanded edition of *Sefer Marmarosh and Toldot ha-Kehillot be-Transylvania*. Both have Hungarian/Yiddish /Romanian names for towns listed.

- **Poland** Central Committee of **Polish Jews'** Department of Statistics. *300,000 Polish Holocaust Survivors* on microfilm, 1946. Typed alphabetical list of names, birth-date, parents' names and previous address
- **Rovne (Vohlyn) Ghetto List** 5,000 Hebrew names, arranged by family name, given name, father's name, date of birth, place of birth, occupation, marital status and address compiled by Aharon Weisberg, Yad Vashem volunteer
- **Simleu Silvaniei (Szilagy-Somlyo), Zalau (Zilah), Ileanda (Nagyilonda)** Birth, Death, Marriage Records on DVD purchased by Deanna Tachna in January, 2010
- **Satu Mare (Satmar) Cemetery Register, 1858-2000(!)** Courtesy of Deanna Tachna who had it copied with permission of the Town Record Keeper. Alphabetical list of surnames written in Roman script and given names in Hebrew with father's name and date of death, gave location and occasionally occupation and place of origin.
- **Shanghai Refugees:** *Exil Shanghai:* on CD

Local Survivor Files:

- **Jewish Family Service:** Inactive Files
- **Edward Glazek Files:** Displaced Persons who applied for admission



to the US in Upper Austria with Detroit connections

- **Dr. Hans Bamberger** Client File

No genealogy discussion would be complete without a discussion of **Concentration Camp Records**.

We have:

- **On Microfilm:** Auschwitz, Bergen Belsen, Buchenwald, Constanz (Feldkirch), Dachau (also online), Flossenberg, Gross-Rosen, Lieberose (Sachsenhausen subcamp), Mauthausen, Mittelbau Sangerhausen, Natzweiler, Sanbostel (Bremerford), Stutthof (also online), Theresienstadt, Zwiegerge,
- **Book form:** Auschwitz, Bergen Belsen, Dachau, Gross Rosen, Klooga, Stutthof, Theresienstadt

Although we specialize in Holocaust and European Jewish history, we have an abundance of other materials which has helped many a visitor trace his/her roots. The HMCZFC collection and the JGSMI collection housed here make genealogy research convenient and unparalleled in our area.

Visitor Survey Seeks Feedback

On February 15, an official visitor survey went online. This questionnaire will help us better understand the effectiveness of our facility and help us make decisions regarding our future growth.

The idea for the survey came from two realizations. First, as time goes on, Holocaust museums will take on a more and more important role in keeping the lessons of the Holocaust alive. Second, most museums have not studied their effectiveness. Getting feedback from visitors so that each museum can best meet its mission statements seems critical.

While the survey is by no means complete, some early results indicate that teachers consider the HMC an

effective tool in teaching the history, lessons, and legacy of the Holocaust.

The survey will be available until April 30. You can access the survey online at www.holocaustcenter.org by clicking on "Visitor Survey." We encourage your participation!



We've Gone Social!

You may have noticed that the Holocaust Center has begun using social media as a means to reach out beyond our traditional constituency. With more and more people getting their news and connecting with friends online, this seems like a natural next step.

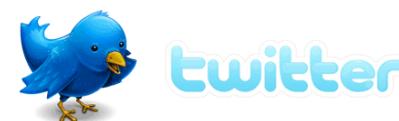
Our *Facebook* page has been up for 9 months, and has more than 1,500 fans as of this printing. We also recently took the plunge and are tweeting on *Twitter*. If we have your e-mail address, you have probably seen our e-newsletter. And if you regularly post or read reviews on *Yelp*, you may have stumbled across us as well.

Please become a fan, follow us,

post a review of your experience, and help us spread the word. This is your Holocaust museum. Be a part of it!

www.facebook.com/hmczfc

www.twitter.com/HolocaustMI



Hold the Date
May 23, 2010
Icons of Loss
Exhibit Opening

President's Message



Gary Karp

As spring brings brighter and longer days, the Holocaust Memorial Center is expanding its message of hope and tolerance to people in all of our surrounding communities.

The vitality of our committed membership is an essential element that enables the Center to touch and educate over 60,000 middle and high school students annually, from various backgrounds. Each group tours

our exhibits and hears from one of our devoted survivors -- and their lives are changed forever. The impact of their experience is reflected in survey responses and many comments. With your support, even more students and teachers will have the opportunity to remember the past and secure the future by embracing the ideals of the HMC.

So, if you are a member, please consider renewing early and at a higher level. If you are not presently a member, please join. The testimonials are evidence of the good that you are helping to create. There are other benefits

to membership such as early notices of events, special programs for members and discounts in the Museum Shop. Day sponsorships by banks, businesses and insurance agencies, among others, are another way to enlighten the community while supporting our common mission.

As we continue to forge relationships with schools, universities, religious institutions and community organizations, our largest and most critical asset is you.

Teacher Profile

By Alyssa Escobedo

The Holocaust is one of the most tragic and remembered events of history. I got the chance to not only learn more and expand my experience of this topic, but also interview Mary Blair, a teacher of English and History at Andover High School. I had the chance to sit down with her, get inside her head, and learn more about teaching the Holocaust.

Q: How did you decide to teach about the Holocaust?

A: Well, I was actually asked to do it. I feel like it's a different class because it helps kids become better people.

Q: Were you always interested in history?

A: No, I never had an interest until college when I had really good professors.

Q: What inspires you about history and the Holocaust?

A: Well, history is the study of human behavior, and watching people

evolve and change is fascinating. I think it's important to know and understand how we got here.

Q: Have you ever visited Germany?

A: Yes, Berlin. I visited the Jewish museum and the German memorial. Also I went to Anne Frank's house and the Topography of Terror, which is the ruin of the SS headquarters.

Q: How long have you been teaching history and how long have you been teaching Holocaust?

A: 7 years and 1 year, respectively.

Q: What are some of your favorite memories about teaching this class?

A: There are three things that really get to me. One is when students are really inquisitive. Second, when we go to the Holocaust Memorial Center and listen to a Survivor. Finally, when the students come up and thank me at the end of the year for teaching them.

Q: Have you had any special guest speakers visit your class?

A: Yes, We've had a few. One was a professor from the University of

Michigan. Also, we've had a Holocaust Survivor and a photographic artist named Monnie Must, who interviewed and photographed Holocaust Survivors, come in.

Q: Have you visited the National Holocaust Memorial?

A: No! I have not been yet, but I would love to go see it.

Q: What advice can you give to a student like myself, who is interested in the Holocaust and teaching?

A: You just really need to read books, study movies, and websites about the Holocaust. Also, shadow a teacher, be inquisitive, and even visit with survivors.

Q: Is there any other information that you would like to share with me?

A: I just want to stress how important this class is and I'm really happy this article is being written so it brings more awareness and more support for this class.

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