

Dr. Ruth Westheimer to speak at Holocaust Memorial Center's Anniversary Dinner

By Anne Runkle

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Dr. Ruth Westheimer, a Holocaust survivor and celebrity sex therapist, will be the keynote speaker at the Holocaust Memorial Center's 35th Anniversary Dinner Nov. 17. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served at 5 p.m. A seated dinner and program will begin at 5:45 p.m. at the event at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave. in Novi.

Westheimer will deliver a speech on her rescue from the Holocaust and how her survival affected her choices in life. A dessert afterglow will follow.

The fundraiser will benefit the Holocaust Memorial Center, 28123 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

Westheimer, 91, has given advice on TV, radio and online for decades and has written numerous books.

She was born in Frankfurt, Germany, the only child in a privileged Orthodox Jewish family. The Nazis took her father during Kristallnacht, or Night of Broken Glass, in 1938. The following year, her family sent her to Switzerland on the Kindertransport, a rescue effort that saved thousands of children from the Nazis.

Westheimer was sent to a Swiss school, which later evolved into an orphanage for Jewish refugee girls. She never saw her family again, and believes they perished in Auschwitz concentration camp.

Westheimer emigrated to the United States and earned a master's degree in sociology and a doctorate in education from Columbia University.



Dr. Ruth Westheimer, a celebrity sex therapist and Holocaust survivor, will be the keynote speaker at the Holocaust Memorial Center's Anniversary Dinner.

Photo courtesy of Amazon Publishing

She became a celebrity with a syndicated radio show, and has received many honorary degrees and accolades for her work.

At age 91, she continues to maintain a busy schedule, including a strong social media presence.

Also at the Anniversary Dinner, the Holocaust Memorial Center will honor Nina and Bernie Kent for their work in Holocaust education.

Bernie Kent is the son of two Holocaust survivors. His mother grew up in Lodz, Poland and survived Auschwitz and other concentration camps. His father left Poland for Russia after the Nazi invasion and served in the Russian army.

In 1979, Bernie Kent was a founding member of Children of Holocaust Survivors Association In Michigan and the International Network of Children of Holocaust Survivors, where he served as president and vice president, respectively.

He chairs the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit Investment Committee and the Oakland University Judaic Studies Committee.

Nina Kent's grandparents emigrated to the United States in the early 1900s. Both of her parents served in the American military during World War II.

Since 2008, Nina and Bernie Kent's endowment of an Israel Travel Fund at Oakland University has enabled students and faculty to spend three weeks in Israel each summer excavating at a significant archeological site. Since its inception, more than 100 students have participated.

Anniversary Dinner ticket prices:

Benefactor, \$360

Patron, \$250

Age 35 and under, \$136

Registration is required. For tickets or more information, call 248-536-9601, or visit www.holocaustcenter.org.