



## The Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center

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The Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center (HHREC) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization based in White Plains, New York that serves area schools, synagogues, colleges, churches and civic centers in Westchester and the greater Hudson Valley area. Our mission is to enhance the teaching and learning of the lessons of the Holocaust and the right of all people to be treated with dignity and respect. HHREC works with teachers and students to help schools fulfill the New York State mandate that the Holocaust and other human rights abuses be included in their curriculum. We encourage students to speak up and act against all forms of bigotry and prejudice.

### HHREC Teacher Education Programs

- Since 1994, HHREC has brought the lessons of the Holocaust, genocide and human rights crimes to **more than 3,000 teachers**, and through them to **thousands of middle and high school students** in Westchester County and the Hudson Valley.
- The [HHREC Educators Program Committee](#) is comprised of teachers who work with the HHREC staff to develop programs, plan professional development, and design curriculum that enrich teachers' knowledge about the Holocaust and human rights issues.
- HHREC offers [Professional Development Conferences](#), full day Institutes for educators who teach grades 7-12 in English, Social Studies or Interdisciplinary Teams. The day may include a keynote speaker and Holocaust and human rights workshops.
- The HHREC [Summer Educators' Tour](#) educational trip to Germany and Poland offers teachers an opportunity to learn about the Holocaust. The program is designed to offer insight into the history of the Jews in these countries, trace the origin and progression of the Holocaust, and visit memorial sites through a series of interactive workshops and guided tours with experts in the field.
- **The Teacher Grant Program sponsored by Sunnyside Federal Savings and Loan** provides for schools to enrich student learning experiences, subsidize special programs, and help to meet instructional needs for schools not otherwise supported by their budgets.

## HHREC Student Programs

- HHREC [Human Rights Institutes](#) attract students from Hudson Valley area middle schools and high schools, as keynote speakers and interactive workshops cover important topics including the universal declaration of human rights and the importance of youth leadership in confronting prejudice and discrimination.
- The HHREC [Living History Project](#) offers an opportunity for students to participate in an intergenerational program connecting high school students with the children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors.
- The [Ben Ferencz Writing and Creative Expression Competition](#) enables students to explore, analyze and use varied means to communicate their comprehension of human rights violations and/or responses to evil that demonstrate moral courage.
- The HHREC [Twin with a Survivor Program](#) provides students the opportunity to make personal connections to extraordinary models of human courage and resilience who exemplify continued commitment to the Jewish community.

## HHREC Speakers Bureau

- The **HHREC Speakers Bureau** offers a unique resource for educators. Speakers include [Holocaust Survivors](#) and [GenerationsForward](#) second and third generation speakers. In the past academic year 29 speakers appeared at area schools (approximately 13,000 students).
- In 2023, over 1,000 people from around the world attended the **HHREC Memory Keepers Story Hour** on Zoom that featured HHREC *GenerationsForward* Speakers.

## HHREC Events and Presentations

- HHREC and Westchester Jewish Council present the [Annual Westchester Countywide Yom Hashoah Holocaust Commemoration](#) at the [Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center Garden of Remembrance](#) to commemorate the approximately six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust by Nazi Germany and its collaborators.
- HHREC offers a [Kristallnacht \(Night of Broken Glass\) Commemoration](#) and [Yom Hashoah \(Day of Holocaust Remembrance\) Commemoration](#) each year in partnership with Iona University.
- [HHREC Presentations and Workshops](#) provide educators and communities with a clear understanding of the symbols and language associated with hatred, especially antisemitism and support teachers interested in integrating these themes into their classroom instruction modules.

## The HHREC Library and Exhibits

- **The HHREC Anna & Nicholas Elefant Library** in White Plains, NY offers a unique education resource about the Holocaust and human rights for area teachers, and includes over 4,400 volumes of books curated by HHREC.
- Hudson Valley area teachers have adopted books from our library to include in their curricula to help them educate their students about historical reference points and lessons about the Holocaust, including the [Annotated Book Lists for Young Readers](#).
- **HHREC Exhibitor Panels** offer a unique educational resource that help tell stories of the Holocaust. These illustrations are provided on loan to schools, synagogues, colleges, churches and civic centers, and include [The Courage to Remember](#), [Cartoonists Against the Holocaust](#), [13 Driver's Licenses](#), and [Agi Keleti: The Jewish Olympian's Story of Survival and Triumph](#).
- [Testimony of the Human Spirit](#) is a four-part documentary film that interweaves personal accounts of six Westchester residents. Teachers can access this film and stream it at no charge.

## HHREC Partnerships

HHREC engages with community partners to collaborate on events, programs and activities that support our respective missions. Major partner organizations we have worked with for many years include:

- Association of Holocaust Organizations
- Clark Center at Manhattanville College
- Community of Holocaust Education Centers (USHMM)
- Emil A. and Jenny Fish Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies Center at Yeshiva University
- Hillels of Westchester
- Iona University
- Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County
- Nonprofit Westchester
- Purchase College, State University of New York
- Sunnyside Federal Savings and Loan
- Westchester County Government
- Westchester Business Council
- Westchester Jewish Community Services
- Westchester Jewish Council