



The School of Education
and
The Sue and Leonard
Miller Center
for Contemporary Judaic
Studies



Present the

University of Miami
Holocaust Teacher Institute
June 15th -19th, 2009

“Those who teach and encourage the teaching of the Holocaust should be honored and exalted.”

- Elie Wiesel

In cooperation with

American Society for Yad Vashem



**The Jack and Harriet Rosenfeld Foundation
Program in Jewish Education**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Division of Social Sciences & Life Skills



A State of Florida Holocaust Education Task Force Site

Acknowledgments

*We gratefully acknowledge those who have enabled our
Institute to succeed. We thank you all.*

Dr. Donna E. Shalala, President, University of Miami

Dr. Isaac Prilleltensky- Dean, School of Education

The Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies
Dr. Haim Shaked, Director

American Society for Yad Vashem, Eli Zborowski

The Jack and Harriet Rosenfeld Foundation, Dr. Anita Meyer Meinbach

Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Curriculum and Instruction
Social Sciences, John Doyle, Administrative Director

Al Pimienta, Instructional Supervisor, Library Media Services,
M-DCPS

Gerda and Kurt Klein Foundation and Southern Poverty Law
Center/Teaching Tolerance

Mrs. Evelyn Greer

Barry A. Stein, De Cardenas, Freixas, Stein & Zachary, P.A.

Holocaust Studies Summer Institute 2009
Teaching the Holocaust, Human Rights & Social Responsibility

Agenda

Monday, June 15th, 2009
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

8:30 - 9:15 a.m.

Coffee Reception / Meet and Greet / Introductions

Topic: Goals of Institute

**Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff, Director of the
Holocaust Studies Summer Teacher Institute,
School of Education, University of Miami**

9:00 - 10:45 a.m.

*Topic: Historical Overview of the Holocaust as
Presented at the United States Holocaust Museum*

Presenter:

**William F. Meinecke Jr., Ph.D., Historian, Division of
Education, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum**

10:45 - 11:00 a.m.

Break

11:00 - Noon

Historical Overview (continued) - Other Victims

Presenter:

Dr. William Meinecke, Jr.

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Historical Topics of Interest:
Rescue and Resistance

Presenter:

Dr. William Meinecke, Jr.

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Agenda

Tuesday, June 16th, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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|---------------------------|--|
| 8:30 - 8:45 a.m. | Reflections on the Previous Day |
| 8:45 - 10:00 a.m. | <i>Topic: The Twisted Road To Auschwitz
Conspiracy - In The Mind of the Perpetrator</i>

<i>Presenter:</i>
Dr. Michael Berenbaum, Founding Project Director of
the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Author,
Scholar, Film Consultant |
| 10:00 - 10:20 a.m. | Discussion / Break / Book Signing |
| 10:30 - 11:45 a.m. | <i>Topic: What We Know About the Holocaust and
What We Have Yet to Find Out</i>

<i>Presenter:</i>
Dr. Michael Berenbaum |
| 11:45 – Noon | Discussion |
| Noon – 12:50 p.m. | Lunch |
| 12:50 - 2:30 p.m. | <i>Topic: The Power of Film in Holocaust Education:
What Works and What Doesn't</i>

<i>Presenter:</i>
Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff, Education Specialist,
Holocaust Studies, Miami Dade County Public Schools &
co-author "Studying the Holocaust Through Film &
Literature" (Klein Kassenoff & Anita Meyer Meinbach) |
| 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. | Reflections and Discussion |

Holocaust Studies Summer Institute 2009
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Agenda

Wednesday, June 17th, 2009
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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|---------------------------|--|
| 8:30 – 8:45 a.m. | Review and Reflections |
| 8:45 - 10:30 a.m. | <i>Topic: The Use and Abuse of Law During the Holocaust –A Study of the Nuremberg Laws</i>

<i>Presenter:</i>
Professor Harry Reicher, University of Pennsylvania Law School; Scholar-in-Residence, Touro Law Center |
| 10:30 - 10:45 a.m. | Break |
| 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. | <i>Topic: The Nuremberg Trials</i>

<i>Presenter:</i>
Dr. Harry Reicher |
| Noon - 12:50 p.m. | Lunch |
| 12:50 - 2:15 p.m. | <i>Topic: The Power of Perseverance: One Family's Escape from the Nazis</i>

<i>Presenter/Testimony:</i>
Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff, Child Refugee of the Holocaust |
| 2:15 - 2:30 p.m. | Break |
| 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. | <i>Topic: Holocaust Survivor Testimony</i>
David Mermelstein, Survivor of the Holocaust |

Holocaust Studies Summer Institute 2009
Teaching the Holocaust, Human Rights & Social Responsibility

Agenda

Thursday, June 18th, 2009
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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|---------------------------|---|
| 8:30 - 8:45 a.m. | Review and Reflections |
| 8:45 -10:45 a.m. | <i>Topic: Literature of the Holocaust</i>
<i>Comments / Questions / Discussion</i>

<i>Presenter:</i>
Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff |
| 10:45 – 11:00 a.m. | Break |
| 11:00 - Noon | <i>Topic: A Discussion on the Memoir, “Night”</i> |
| Noon - 12:50 p.m. | Lunch |
| 12:50 - 2:30 p.m. | <i>Topic: Surviving the Years of the Nazi Holocaust</i>
Joe Sachs, Survivor of The Holocaust |
| 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. | Effectively Using the Survivor Testimony in the Classroom |

Holocaust Studies Summer Institute 2009
Teaching the Holocaust, Human Rights & Social Responsibility

Agenda
Friday, June 19th, 2009
8:30 a.m. - Close

8:30 - 10:00 a.m. *Topic: Guidelines for Teaching The Holocaust*

10:00 - 11:15 a.m. *Topic: The Sunflower by Simon Wiesenthal*
“A Conversation”

Presenter:

**Dr. Anita Meyer Meinbach, Clinical Assistant
Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Director, The Jack and Harriet Rosenfeld Foundation
Program in Jewish Education & co-author of
Memories of The Night: A Study of the Holocaust and
*The Holocaust Through Film and Literature***

11:15 - Noon **Closing Remarks/Evaluations**

• A special thanks and salute, to Dr. Isaac Prilleltensky for his support and inspiration and for making this Institute possible through his determination so it will live on despite budget cuts!

• To Dr. Haim Shaked for his dedication to keep the Institute an important part of the program of the Sue & Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies.

• Much thanks and appreciation are extended to Dr Marilyn Neff whose support is invaluable and Alissa Pardo Stein for all her hard work and assistance in preparing this Institute.

• We wish to also thank Elaine Segrera who always looks out for the budget so that participants can indeed attend and to Tom Glaser, Educator, supporter of our work, and friend.

• We welcome our new partners this year; Eli Zborowski of American Society for Yad Vashem and Dr. Anita Meyer Meinbach, Director of The Jack and Harriet Rosenfeld Foundation Program in Jewish Education. We thank them for their support and look forward to continued collaboration and partnership.

• Finally, we want to thank the Holocaust Memorial, Greater Miami Jewish Federation and their staff for all their support in Holocaust Education; Jacob Solomon, Carol Brick Turin, Rabbi Sol Schiff, Chair, and Avi Mizrahi.

2009 Holocaust Teacher Institute Speaker Biographies - *In Order of Presentation*

William Frederick Meinecke, Jr.



William Frederick Meinecke, Jr. received his undergraduate degree in German and History from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in 1983. He attended the University of Bonn and Berlin in Germany and received his MA (1988) and his Ph.D. (1998) in history from the University of Maryland at College Park. The title of his dissertation was *Conflicting Loyalties: The Supreme Court in Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1945*. In 1992 William joined the staff of the Wexner Learning Center of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC.

He was on the design team of the center's multi-media program on the Holocaust, the *Historical Atlas of the Holocaust* (Book and CD-ROM) and the Student Learning web site on the Holocaust. In June 2000, William joined the staff of the Museum's Education Division. For the last seven years William has worked with law enforcement officers, judges, prosecutors and attorneys in the Law Enforcement and Society: Lessons of the Holocaust training program. He is currently working in the National Institute for Holocaust Education on Holocaust education for adult professionals. His book, *Nazi Ideology and the Holocaust* was published by the Museum in December, 2007.

Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff - Director



Miriam Klein Kassenoff fled Nazi Europe as a small child in 1941, along with her parents, the late Rabbi Maurice Klein, Sara Klein and infant brother, the late Honorable Judge Ted Klein, all of Blessed Memory. Dr. Klein Kassenoff has studied at *Yad Vashem*, the International Center for Holocaust Studies in Jerusalem, Israel and co-authored *Memories of the Night: A Study of the Holocaust*, as well as *Studying the Holocaust Through Film and Literature* with Dr. Anita Meyer Meinbach. Dr. Klein Kassenoff is the Director of the Summer

Holocaust Teacher Institute at the University of Miami and Co-Chair of Education, Holocaust Memorial, Miami Beach, Florida. As the Education Specialist for Holocaust Studies for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, she is responsible for all staff development/teacher training on teaching the Holocaust. Dr. Klein Kassenoff is an appointee to the Florida Governor's Task Force on Holocaust Education. Currently, Dr. Klein Kassenoff also serves as an Education Consultant for the Florida regional office of American Society for Yad Vashem. In April, 2008, Miriam was awarded the prestigious Paul Hanson Professional Educator of the Year Award by The Miami Dade County Florida Social Studies Council, which consists of 900 educators.

Dr. Michael Berenbaum



Michael Berenbaum is a writer, lecturer, and teacher consulting in the conceptual development of museums and the content and conceptual development of historical films. He is director of the Sigi Ziering Institute: Exploring the Ethical and Religious Implications of the Holocaust and an [adjunct] Professor of Theology at the University of Judaism. Berenbaum was the Executive Editor of the *New Encyclopaedia Judaica*, a second edition of the monumental 1972 work that now consists of 22 volumes. For three years, he was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation. Then he served as the Director of the United States Holocaust Research Institute at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and from 1988–93 he served as Project Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, overseeing its creation. Berenbaum is the author and editor of sixteen books, scores of scholarly articles, and hundreds of journalistic pieces. His most recent books include: *A Promise to Remember: The Holocaust in the Words and Voices of Its Survivors* and *After the Passion Has Passed: American Religious Consequences*, a collection of essays on Jews, Judaism and Christianity, Religious Tolerance and Pluralism occasioned by the controversy that swirled around Mel Gibson's film, "The Passion."



Dr. Harry Reicher

As Director of International Affairs and Representative to the United Nations of Agudath Israel World Organization from 1995-2005, Harry Reicher practiced international law and diplomacy in the field of human rights, with particular emphasis on freedom of religion. In addition, he has been heavily involved in Holocaust-era restitution, reparations and compensation, and the plethora of litigation arising therefrom. Harry Reicher has graduate law degrees from the University of Melbourne and Harvard Law School. He has argued cases before a range of courts and tribunals, including the High Court of Australia, and the courts of England, up to the House of Lords (and also in the United States). These have resulted in numerous precedent-setting judgments in the areas of international law (environmental law and human rights), taxation and corporate law. He has taught a range of international law and taxation courses at law schools in Australia and the US. He has taught at Penn Law School since 1995, and has pioneered what is effectively a new academic discipline, combining Holocaust studies and law. In 2004, President Bush appointed him to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, on which he served until 2008. He continues as a member of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum's Academic Committee and Committee on Conscience. He has published in the *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law*, is the editor of *Australian International Law: Cases and Materials*, the first-ever indigenous Australian Casebook on international law, and is the international law columnist

for The National Law Journal. His book, *Holocaust Law: Materials and Commentary*, will shortly be ready for publication. Reicher is also a Scholar-in-Residence at Touro Law Center.

Dr. Anita Meyer Meinbach



Anita Meyer Meinbach is currently a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning at the University of Miami, School of Education. Additionally, she is the Director of the Jack and Harriet Rosenfeld Foundation Program in Jewish Education. She was selected as the Miami-Dade County's "Teacher of the Year, 2003" and was named to the USA All-Teacher Team, 2002, one of twenty teachers selected nationwide by *U.S.A. Today*.

Dr. Meinbach worked for the Dade County Public Schools for over 15 years as a classroom teacher, curriculum writer, and teacher trainer, providing seminars and guidance in curriculum development.

The author of several textbooks and numerous resource books in reading and language arts, Dr. Meinbach is also the coauthor of *Memories of the Night: A Study of the Holocaust* and *The Holocaust Through Film and Literature* (both coauthored with Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff). A frequent presenter at teacher workshops and professional conferences, Dr. Meinbach speaks on a variety of topics, often dealing with children's literature, the interdisciplinary approach to learning, and curriculum development.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR TESTIMONY PRESENTERS

Both David Mermelstein and Joe Sachs are Holocaust Survivors from Eastern Europe. Joe was born in Poland and David in Czechoslovakia. Each survived in different ways and their testimony is an incredible memoir of strength, faith and determination which we will hear during this Institute. Both David and Joe are today very active in the national and international community of Holocaust Survivor issues dealing with restitution claims. We welcome their presence and contributions to this Institute of 2009.



Joe Sachs

Joe Sachs was born and raised in the Southwestern part of Poland. With Nazi German occupation at the outbreak of World War II. Joe, was of age 13 at the time, and lived with his family in the Sosnowiec ghetto from 1939/42. Enduring three more years of imprisonment at various concentration camps, Joe was liberated on May 8th of 1945. Upon recovering from the long ordeal he set out to search for members of his immediate family; unfortunately, none survived.

After settling in the U.S.A. Joe attended N.Y.C.C. (University of New York City) to further his formal education.

As founder and member of local and national organizations, Joe devotes full time to many worthy causes on behalf of Holocaust Survivors since his retirement nearly 15 years ago. Joe and his wife Marcia reside in Sunny Isles Beach, Florida.



David Mermelstein

David Mermelstein was born in Kivjzsd, Czechoslovakia, where the family business was taken away in 1940. Forced to wear a Star of David, by 1942, he was no longer allowed to attend school. He worked weaving baskets until April, 1944, when he was taken to the ghetto, Beregsaz , for one month. Later, David was sent by cattle car to Auschwitz - a trip which took two days. After that, David and his two brothers went to Gross Rosen. One brother remained there, while David and his older brother were sent to Volzberg. As the Russians were approaching, David was sent on a death march from Volzberg to Enensee. He remained there from December, 1944 until May, 1945 when he was liberated by the Third Army of the USA. David is on the Board of Jewish Family Service and is the President of the Coalition of South Florida Holocaust Survivors. Formerly he was the President of the New American Jewish Social Club.