

HOLOCAUST CENTER *for* HUMANITY

Educate. Inspire. Take Action.

B'nai Mitzvah Projects

Studying the Holocaust challenges students and citizens of all ages to promote human dignity, confront hatred, and work to prevent genocide. Choose a *b'nai mitzvah* project that focuses on an aspect of the Holocaust. YOU have the opportunity to take actions that will have a positive effect on our world now and on our future.

The Holocaust Center for Humanity offers Bar/Bat Mitzvah Project ideas that:

- Provide a way to get involved with Jewish history, heritage, community and the future.
- Provide a Jewish *tikkun olam* project option.
- Provide a vehicle to remember and relate to the Holocaust in an age-appropriate way.
- Connect to a tragic period in Jewish history and use its lessons to create positive and forward-thinking actions, appropriate for youth of today.
- Connect young students to the reality of modern genocide.

Adopt-A-Trunk

The Center has a program of traveling Holocaust Teaching Trunks that provide materials for students all over the state to learn about the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights. Trunks contain a complete Holocaust unit – including books for an entire class, books for various reading levels, activities, maps, posters, DVD's, and guides for teachers. Trunks are sent to classes in Washington State at no charge to the school. About 9,000 students use these trunk materials each year.



Students who choose this project have an opportunity to be involved in the trunk program with students all around the state.

- Make an appointment to visit the Holocaust Center for Humanity to learn more.
- Pick out a grade level, age-appropriate book to read or view a DVD. Write a review or journal your thoughts about the book/film.
- Review your book or film with your class, or write a review for the Holocaust Center's website.
- **OR** – Interview students who have used a trunk about their experiences and what stood out to them. The Holocaust Center will connect you with classes/students who have used the trunks in our state.
- Share your interview with the Holocaust Center and help us to collect information from students on the impact of the Holocaust Trunks.



- Optional Fundraising Component--Raise money to maintain, update and add to the Teaching Trunk (any amount helps!)
- Include the book(s) you read or the DVD you saw in your *D'var Torah* at your Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Adopt-An-Artifact

The Holocaust Center has, and continues to receive, a large collection of artifacts from the Holocaust. These photographs, household items, Jewish ritual objects, etc. belonged to local residents. These artifacts are recognized as a record of human experience and historical documentation. Separately and together these artifacts enrich and tell a story about the everyday life of people who lived during this time in history. Most are donated by survivors or families of survivors.



Students who choose this project have an opportunity to learn about the history through primary sources, develop a deeper connection to this period of Jewish history, do some research, and share what they learn with others.

- Visit the Holocaust Center for Humanity in Seattle to see and learn about some of the artifacts in the Center's collection.
- Learn the story of one artifact and/or the people who owned it. Share this with your classmates.
- Write a short note about why you chose to study this artifact. The Center will put this info from you on our website.
- The student may be able to connect with the family who donated or owned the artifact.
- If a connection can be made between the chosen artifact and your Bar/Bat mitzvah study, you can mention it in your *D'var Torah*.
- Optional: Raise money to preserve current artifacts and to add to the collection.

Adopt-a-Survivor

Contemporary *B'nai Mitzvah* candidates may be the last generation to meet and speak with survivors. Students who choose this project will be able to hear a story, create a valuable relationship with the person they visit, and fulfill several mitzvot, including honoring the elderly.



Students who choose this project will have the opportunity to make a personal connection with a Holocaust survivor, or if you choose, a son or daughter of a survivor.

- Use the Holocaust Center's website to read stories of survivors and listen to their testimonies.
- Meet with Holocaust Center staff to talk about which survivor you would be able to meet.
- Meet with a survivor if possible, and record or journal about the visit(s).
- Share what you've learned with your classmates and/or incorporate what you've learned into your *D'var Torah*.
- Optional: Raise money to help the Holocaust Center record local survivor testimony and edit it for use on the Holocaust Center's website.

For more information please contact Ilana Cone Kennedy, Director of Education, at ilana@HolocaustCenterSeattle.org or 206-582-3000.