
Day of Learning

Powell Professional Development Series

June 21, 2022

Session 1: 9-10 AM

Best Practices for Teaching about the Holocaust,
including Resistance & Rescue resources

Presenter

Paul Regelbrugge is the Director of Education for the [Holocaust Center for Humanity](#). Previously, he was an attorney in the midwest for 15 years before becoming an educator. He taught in the inner cities of Chicago and Buffalo, and also taught in Spokane and Kent, Washington. Paul is an adjunct professor at Gonzaga University, a United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Teacher Fellow, Powell Teacher Fellow and Alfred Lerner Teaching Fellow. He is also the author of [The Yellow Star House: The Remarkable Story of One Boy's Survival in a Protected House in Hungary](#), and co-author of the new graphic novel, [More Than Any Child Should Know: A Kindertransport Story of the Holocaust](#).

Description

Participants will learn the impact of quality Holocaust education on students' attitudes towards diversity, tolerance and upstander behavior in the face of hate and intolerance, and on their critical thinking skills. Participants will also learn about the Washington State-required (RCW 28a.300.115) "Best Practices" for teaching the lessons of the Holocaust, and how the Holocaust Center for Humanity and its many resources help prepare them, regardless of prior knowledge and teaching experience, to create such positive, necessary student learning outcomes. The session will also introduce participants to specific resources to support instruction regarding the themes of rescue and resistance.

Session 2: 10-11 AM

Defiant Requiem: Jewish Prisoners Who Used Music to Defy their Oppressors

Presenter

Amanda Greenbacker-Mitchell is a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the University Bands program at Syracuse University, where she is currently pursuing her Master of Music in Wind Conducting. She works directly with the "Pride of the Orange" Syracuse University Marching Band, "Sour Citrus Society" University Pep Band, as well as the Syracuse University Wind Ensemble and Concert Band. Before her appointment at Syracuse University, she served as Director of Instrumental Music at Charlotte Valley Central School in upstate New York. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education (*summa cum laude*) and a minor in Music History and Cultures from Syracuse University (2017).

Ms. Greenbacker-Mitchell is a passionate teacher of music and growing scholar of music and the Holocaust. She has the honor to serve as a Raphael Schächter Teacher Ambassador for the Defiant Requiem Foundation and is currently developing their music performance curriculum module. She is an active guest conductor and lecturer on the repertoire, circumstances, and musicians affected by genocide, having taught the story of Verdi's *Requiem* in Terezín in over fifty classrooms and educational series. She is currently researching ways to teach about the Holocaust and other human atrocities through music performance.

Description

In this session participants will discover the ways music acted as a form of resistance during the Holocaust. Attendees will discuss the role of music in spiritual resistance, bearing witness, and remembrance during the Holocaust, and the unique positioning of music to social and historical studies. Attendees will engage in activities designed to demonstrate how musical resistance by victims of the Holocaust connects to modern iterations of musical defiance and exhibit similar themes across history. Teachers will gain strategies to incorporate themes of music as resistance into their classrooms using modern musical technology, and ideas to expand students' learning through individual exploration.

Session 3: 11AM- 12PM

Choosing to Act – Female Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust

Presenter

Sheri Rosenblum is the Director of Development and Outreach for the Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation. She holds both a BA and an MA in Judaic Studies from UCLA and Brandeis University respectively. Sheri studied for two years under the renowned Dr. Amos Funkenstein (z"l), winner of the coveted Israel Prize for History. She wrote her undergraduate thesis, *Moral Dilemmas of the Judenrat*, under the direction of Dr. Arnold Band, the A. Savitt Fellow at the United States Holocaust Museum. Sheri taught elementary school in the City of Los Angeles and continues teaching both supplementary religious and Hebrew high school in addition to professional development workshops for classroom educators.

Description

"The future historian will have to dedicate an appropriate page to Jewish women in the war. She will take up an important page in Jewish history for her courage and her steadfastness. By her merit, thousands of families have managed to surmount the terror of the times." Emanuel Ringelblum (Jewish Historian 1900-1944) *Notes from the Warsaw Ghetto*

During the Holocaust, Jewish women defied gender roles fighting back as partisans. Summoning tremendous courage and perseverance, they sabotaged bridges and railroads, gathered essential goods and medicine, tended to the wounded, guarded encampments and prepared essential meals. Their tremendous efforts saved lives and hastened the end of the war. Learn about these acts of resistance, and the many other ways that Jewish women resisted during the Holocaust in this one hour workshop.

Session 4: 12-1 PM

Resistance of the Heart (Lunch and Learn)

Presenter

Dr. Mordecai Paldiel, the former Director of the Department of the Righteous at Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust authority, is a lecturer at Yeshiva University and Queens College (CUNY) in New York. Born in Belgium, Dr. Paldiel and his family of six fled to France where they were rescued by a Catholic Priest who was able to smuggle the entire family into Switzerland. Dr. Paldiel is a leading authority on rescue during the Holocaust and is the author of several acclaimed books on rescue and rescuers.

Description

What is amazing in the stories of non-Jewish rescuers of Jews, who are credited with saving thousands of lives, is that they each acted, not in unison, but separately and secretly. Every rescuer who made the courageous decision to shelter Jews, in spite of the risks to himself/herself, for the Nazis threatened them with death or imprisonment, that decision was made without consulting others, but out of one's deeply-held intuitive conviction of every person's right to a full life. They thus rekindled the flame of human values in that most dark period of human history.

For while the Nazis showed us man at his worst, the rescuers of Jews showed us man at his most elevated best – of the rescue of innocent others as the highest form of resistance – of resistance of the heart. Some saved one person; others more. They did not ask for any compensation. Their greatest reward was their pride of having shared in the act of saving someone else's life at high risks to themselves.

Session 5: 1:15-2:15 PM

A Perspective of Rescuers – presented by the daughter of a family of rescuers (last 15 minutes general Q & A, evaluations etc.)

Presenter

Ingrid Kanis Steppic was born in Holland in 1943. Her father, mother and older sisters hid 40 Jews in Holland during the Holocaust. The Kanis family continued to live in Amersfoort after the war was over. Ingrid later married an American soldier and moved to the United States. She is now telling her story of this family of rescuers. Ingrid is a member of the Holocaust Center for Humanity's Speakers Bureau, and presents her family's story to local students and community groups.

Description

Between 20,000 and 30,000 Jews were hidden in Holland during the war. This included the Frank family. Of this number, about 2/3 survived.

Ingrid's family moved to Amersfoort only one day before the Germans invaded Holland on May 10th, 1940. Her father, Jan, was to be the manager of the town post office. His position allowed him to see returned mail and death notices. He realized that the Nazis were killing Jews long before many others found out, and he encouraged many Jews to go into hiding rather than register.

Jan helped Jews hide in Amersfoort or nearby Oldebroek, where he had grown up. He was also involved in the Dutch Underground. On one occasion, Jan was forced to flee the scene and go underground. He was arrested and sent to Dachau in 1944.

Shortly after, Ingrid's older sister, Ali, was found with incriminating receipts from striking railroad workers, and was also arrested. Ali spent the rest of the war in a women's prison, forced to mend clothing for German soldiers.

Without the pay from Jan's job, or Ali's help at home, Jan's wife Nel was hard-pressed to make ends meet during the infamous "Hunger Winter" of 1944-45, especially with a young child, Ingrid. In 1971, Ingrid's parents were honored by Yad Vashem in Israel as "Righteous Among the Nations."