



StandWithUs

Holocaust
Education
Center

SPREAD THE LIGHT

FALL 2025 PROGRAM MENU

Free In-Person and Zoom Seminars for Students and Communities

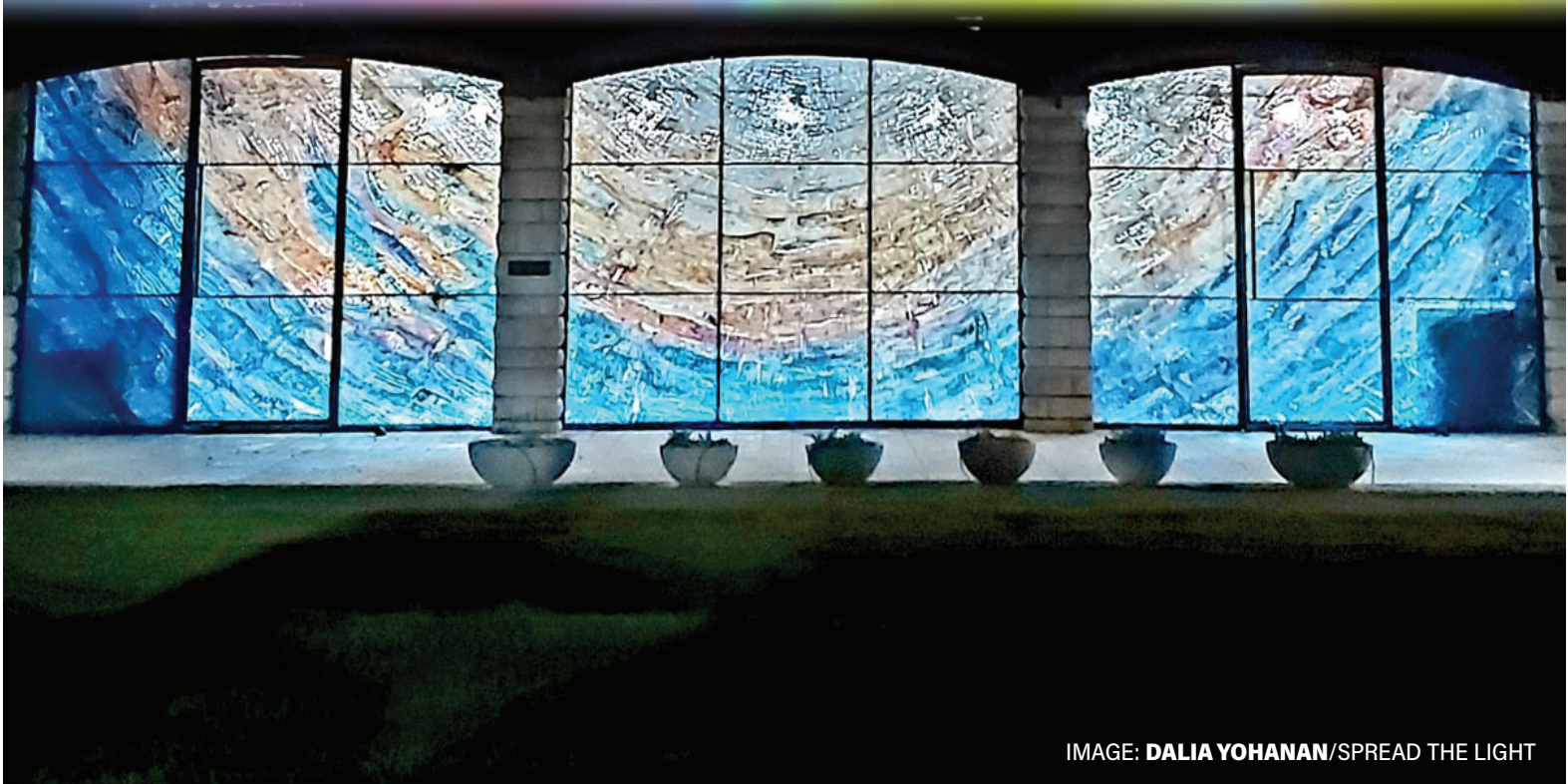


IMAGE: DALIA YOHANAN/SPREAD THE LIGHT

SPREAD THE LIGHT

WE ARE LIVING THROUGH SOME OF THE DARKEST TIMES for the Jewish people in living memory. The Night of Broken Glass, or Kristallnacht, was Nazi Germany's organized prelude to the Holocaust. Despite the street carnage and incarceration of thousands of Jewish men in concentration camps, few governments around the world condemned—or acknowledged—the modern pogrom perpetrated on German Jews the night of November 9, 1938. Only the United States recalled its ambassador to Germany in protest.

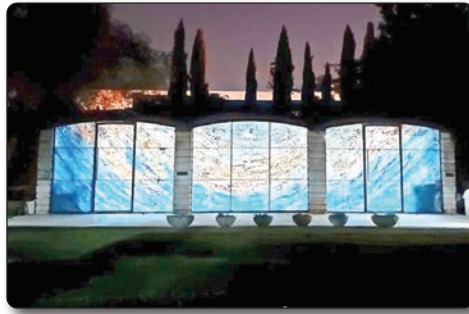
Eight decades after Kristallnacht, Jews and the Jewish state are again in the crosshairs of antisemites and their apologists. In the U.S., for example, synagogues are regularly torched, while Jewish students are increasingly isolated on college campuses. Support for Israel among young adults is at an all-time low, and so is young adults' knowledge of World War II and the Holocaust. A significant portion of Americans believe the Hamas atrocities of October 7, 2023, were greatly exaggerated—or invented—by Israel.

This year's commemoration of Kristallnacht is an opportunity to "Spread the Light," which is the name of an Israeli initiative for synagogues and other Jewish building to keep their lights on during Kristallnacht. The StandWithUs Holocaust Education Center (HEC) is proud to partner with Spread the Light and its mission of elevating resilience and Jewish unity while commemorating Kristallnacht. The creators of Spread the Light are available to speak (on Zoom) to your group, class, or school about the project.

All of the Holocaust memory workers in this menu similarly agreed to present to your group—free of charge—about their HEC-endorsed projects. Please contact the HEC to learn more about bringing Holocaust memory work to your students or to book one of our acclaimed core seminars.

Please visit www.StandWithUs.com/holocaust-education-center for a list of our 12 core presentations that are available year-round.





1 Spread the Light

The Kristallnacht massacre was an explicit attempt to destroy the Jewish spirit.

On November 9, 1938, Nazis and their supporters obliterated and burned synagogues, holy books, and Jewish institutions and business all over Germany and Austria. Every year, Jewish communities commemorate Kristallnacht in the USA, Israel, and around the world. The **Spread the Light** initiative's mission is to educate and commemorate by leaving the light on during the night of November 9-10 so that light shines over darkness in synagogues, community centers, and cultural centers. In addition to shining a light, many communities gather for a ceremony or learning. More than a thousand synagogues around the world have participated, and you are invited too! Since the October 7 massacre, we all feel the connection between the Jewish past and present. The Spread the Light initiative is a reminder of Jewish identity, Holocaust remembrance, and our hope for a better and safer future for the whole world.

**SPREAD
THE LIGHT**



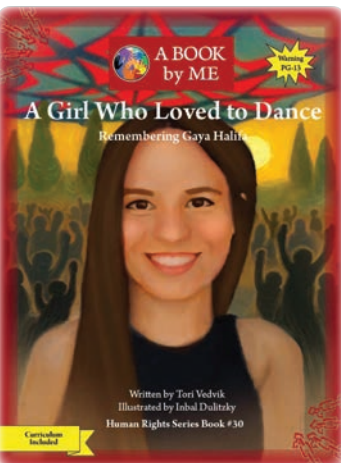
3 Lives Eliminated, Dreams Illuminated

The **Lives Eliminated, Dreams Illuminated** (LEDI) program is a powerful educational initiative and exhibition that brings Holocaust history to life through the paintings and music that tell the stories of young women and girls whose stories were tragically cut short. By combining art, history, and technology, LEDI creates a space for middle and high school students to engage deeply with themes of identity, resilience, and the dangers of hate. Exploring these stories through LEDI's guided learning experience empowers students to stand up against antisemitism and all forms of prejudice while becoming compassionate leaders for the future. Visit livesdreams.com.



2 Understanding Works

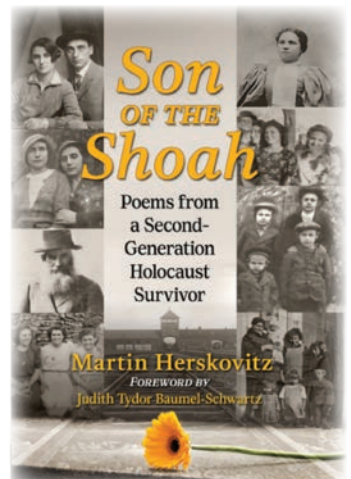
Since 2003, the intergenerational storytelling initiative A BOOK by ME has brought history to life by preserving stories of Holocaust survivors, camp liberators, and others through the perspectives of young authors and illustrators. Students, in person or via Zoom, set out to research, write, and illustrate the story of a survivor. Writing coaches and other mentors have helped bring 140 true stories to the public life through this project. Since October 7, 2023, students began exploring the moving stories of Israeli resilience, exemplified by the work on Nova Festival victim **Gaya Halifa z"l**. You can book a seminar with Deb Bowen, founder, and/or order a set of books



with teaching materials included. Learn more at understandingworks.org.

4 Poetry Workshop – Real people not just names or numbers

Martin Herskovitz, a second-generation Holocaust survivor and a poet in Rehovot, Israel, is offering to run a poetry workshop based on his poems from his book *Son of the Shoah*. The purpose of the workshop is to connect students to his process of remembering the lives and legacy of his family in the Holocaust via poetry. By connecting to the lives of the people themselves and not just the events of the Holocaust, the students are able to form an empathetic connection to Holocaust memory, a connection that fosters resilience, not trauma.



5 Author's Talk—*Dark Shadows Hover* By Jordan Steven Sher

Imagine that your world is shattered by war and being targeted for extermination. Imagine being separated from your family, not knowing if they are alive. This was the reality for Moris Albahari, who found himself facing such trauma during the Holocaust in the former Yugoslavia. This biographical fiction tells the story of a Sephardic Jewish boy during his early adolescence, fighting the Nazis and their collaborators with Tito's resistance, the Partisans. Moris' story takes the reader through the chilling events of World War II in the Balkans. Few people have a clear understanding of this awful time

in this region. Visit jordanstevensher.com for further information about the author.

6 Judaic Books

Judaic Books (JudaicBooks.com) empowers students and communities to become published authors of their own Judaic works. Through guided authorship, participants explore Jewish history, texts, and values while creating books that strengthen knowledge, pride, and identity. Each finished book

becomes a lasting legacy shared with families, schools, and communities worldwide. With expert support and accessible publishing tools, JudaicBooks.com transforms learning into

living knowledge that inspires creativity and connection. Programs for day schools, Hebrew schools, and organizations cover topics such as Jewish pride, Israel, Holocaust education, Tefillah, combating antisemitism, and more. Programs are offered in one-, two-, four-, and eight-hour formats.



JudaicBooks.com



7 Auschwitz VR

The HEC has partnered with an organization that launched innovative virtual reality tours of Auschwitz-Birkenau, specifically for students. While wearing VR headsets, students learn about the evolution of the former German death camp, where Polish villages were erased to build the largest Holocaust death camp. One million Jews were murdered there, alongside 100,000 victims of other nationalities.

8 We Must Not Forget

We Must Not Forget is an international project that matches Holocaust survivors with churches, schools, and synagogues so sponsoring organizations may create books about the survivors' lives. Partnered with Yad Vashem in Israel, the initiative is seeking sponsoring organizations to meet the goal of publishing 100 survivor biographies. So far, 20 survivors have been profiled. The HEC can connect you with the project's creators or help you hold a Zoom program for your community to learn more. Visit understandingworks.org



9 Danville Station Danville, Iowa, has a connection to Anne Frank through a pen pal exchange in 1940.

Anne wrote in her letter to a Danville student, Juanita Wagner, that she collected picture cards and already had about 800. Each year, our students have a project of collecting postcards with a goal of gathering **1.5 million** postcards to represent the children killed during the Holocaust. Yes, you read that right, one million five hundred thousand: 1.5 million! That is how many children under the age of 16 that were killed during the Holocaust.

To date, we have 72,000 postcards to commemorate the lost lives. Please help us reach our goal by sending us a postcard and include something about yourself or something that you have learned about Anne Frank or about the Holocaust! Please send your postcards to Danville Station, PO Box 304, Danville, IA. 52623



10 Bram's Violin

This is the story of Bram Rodrigues and the violin that returned to his family 76 years after it left his hands. In 2019, author David Groen was contacted by the son of Bram's wartime friend, who had protected the violin since Bram's death in Auschwitz in 1943. That summer of 2019, in Amsterdam, the instrument was returned to Bram's descendants. Now restored, it once again brings music, beauty, and hope. David's presentation shares this remarkable journey—his family's history before the war, Bram's life and friendships, and the violin's return—featuring a PowerPoint presentation with photos, historical images, and an optional performance on the violin that survived the Holocaust. Visit help25.org.



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Matthew Lebovic
DIRECTOR
MatthewL@StandWithUs.com

Dr. Nili Alon Amit
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
NiliA@StandWithUs.com