



StandWithUs

**Holocaust  
Education  
Center**

# **INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY**

**WINTER 2026 PROGRAM MENU**

**Free In-Person and Zoom Seminars for Students and Communities**



Image: Druze Israeli artist Bothaina Halabi, *Renewal*



INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY (IHRD) was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005. Observed annually on January 27, the day Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated by the Allies, IHRD is intended to educate about the German-led genocide in which six million Jews, one in three Jews living in 1939, were murdered.

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Although Israel's war of self-defense against Hamas ended last fall, Jews around the world are facing an explosion of antisemitic hatred. From the massacre of 15 Jews at Bondi Beach to the firebombing of Hillel Houses, antisemitic hate and vitriol have been allowed to flourish unchecked around the globe.

Very often, Jew-haters invoke the Holocaust to demonize Israel and Jewish people. Most prominent is the outrageous canard that Israel perpetrated a genocide in Gaza, a territory whose population is higher today than it was in 2023. In places where Jews are demonized in this manner, Holocaust "inversion" is used against Israel to put the world's only Jewish state on the docket for defending itself.

The presenters in this seminar menu are each available to meet with your class or group on Zoom to discuss their project as featured here. Please consider commemorating IHRD with one of these seminars or another StandWithUs Holocaust Education Center project.

*Please visit [www.standwithus.com/holocaust-education-center](http://www.standwithus.com/holocaust-education-center) for a list of our 12 core presentations that are available year-round.*



## 1 Suppressed Composers of the Holocaust

What happens when brilliant European composers are suddenly forbidden from having their music performed or from teaching at universities? This was



the fate of artists labeled "degenerate" by the Nazi regime. Under Entartete Musik, the Nazis banned modernist, jazz-influenced, or politically dissident music, silencing composers that today would have their music widely played. Their exceptional works were practically erased from cultural memory and remain mostly forgotten today. Yet these pieces endure as powerful acts of creative

courage. A presentation featuring such remarkable music is a vital step toward restoring these composers' voices to the broader public, honoring the artists' resilience under tyranny. Presenter: international composer and conductor Flavio Chamis.

## 2 Edut 710 - Listening as a Moral Response

Since the October 7 attacks, educators and students worldwide have been confronting rising antisemitism, polarization, and misinformation, creating an urgent need for grounded, human voices.



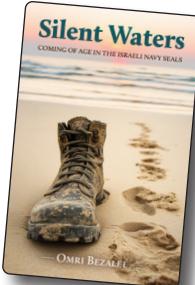
Edut 710 is an Israeli initiative committed to listening, documenting, and amplifying firsthand testimonies from those who experienced the October 7 events. These testimonies serve as powerful educational tools, opening conversations on Jewish history, moral responsibility, human behavior in crisis, resilience, and compassion.

Drawing on an extensive testimony archive and two years of accumulated knowledge and experience, Edut 710 collaborates with educational systems, teachers, students, and communities to develop customized lectures, encounters, and commemorative ceremonies, ensuring these voices are heard and resonate widely.

## 3 Silent Waters - Coming of Age in the Israeli Navy SEALs

Omri Bezalel moved with his family from Dallas to Israel at age nine and later served in Shayetet 13, Israel's Navy SEALs, taking part in covert operations and the Second Lebanon War.

His novel, *Silent Waters*, blends autobiography and fiction to explore what it means to navigate both American and Israeli identities while serving in an elite combat unit. In this talk, Omri shares the realities of training, the friendships and pressures inside special forces, and how October 7 has reframed Israeli identity, military service, and national responsibility.



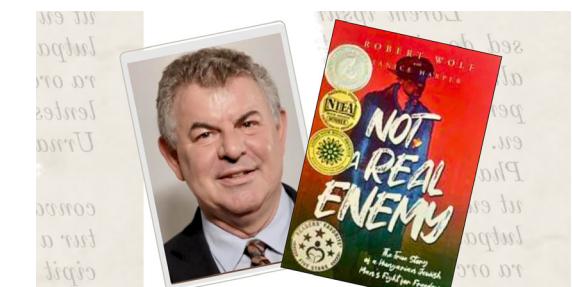
## 4 An Israeli Hero - Nina Gorodetsky

Award-winning filmmaker Ravit Markus will discuss her Israeli documentary feature, *Nina is an Athlete*, which won the Audience Award at the Los Angeles and Austin Jewish Film Festivals and garnered stellar reviews. The warm, humorous documentary is about Nina Gorodetsky, Israel's champion of wheelchair badminton, and her three-year journey to the Paralympics. It explores her complex identity as an immigrant from the USSR, where she and her coach faced antisemitism, as a disabled person navigating a world not designed for her, and as a woman in a predominantly male arena. It's a pleasure to watch Nina take it all with stride.



## 5 Seeds of Doubt

*Seeds of Doubt* is a 12-minute film that explores antisemitism by examining its root causes. Through the personal stories of people who once held extreme beliefs but began to question them, the film encourages viewers to reflect on their own assumptions without shame or defensiveness. It challenges black-and-white thinking, "us vs. them" mentalities, and the danger of accepting ideas without asking questions. *Seeds of Doubt* sparks discussion and critical thinking to help prevent dehumanization. Visit [seedsofdoubtfilms.org](http://seedsofdoubtfilms.org) to schedule a screening with an expert-led discussion or panel.



## 6 Not A Real Enemy - The Holocaust in Hungary

Dr. Robert Wolf grew up as the only child of Ervin and Judit Wolf. Their stories, including their escape from communist Hungary and his father's tragic history of surviving the Nazis twice while his own parents were deported to Auschwitz, inspired Robert to document their experiences and share them with Jewish communities and audiences throughout the U.S.

In *Not a Real Enemy*, Robert shares his family saga and the forgotten history of the nearly half million Hungarian Jews who were deported and killed during the Holocaust. The narrative unfolds as an epic and inspiring tale of daring escapes, terrifying oppression, tragedy, and triumph.



## 7 RISE the Rock Musical

StandWithUs is proud to partner with **Rise! The Rock Musical**, a touring rock musical about women resisters during the Holocaust. You can book a seminar with an HEC educator and the play's creator and producer, Joshua Daniel Hershfield, where your students will view clips from the musical and learn the real-life stories of women who prepared groundwork for revolts in the ghettos by, for example, smuggling arms and messages across Nazi-occupied Poland.



## 8 October 7

### Couldn't Kill the Abraham Accords

Even after the horrors of October 7, the historic Abraham Accords, signed

in September 2020, remain an anchor of hope for Israel and the broader Middle East. The UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco have stood firm, demonstrating that moral courage and a shared vision can endure even in times of crisis. This alliance has proven its strategic and human significance: during Iran's attack on Israel in April 2024, regional partners supported defensive efforts, while cooperation also enabled humanitarian coordination for Gaza.



The Abraham Accords are far more than normalization agreements. They embody a vision and a long-term commitment to a more stable and peaceful Middle East. Though not without challenges, this alliance stands as living proof that dialogue, partnership, and a shared future remain possible. Presented by Yaara Segal, an Abraham Accords specialist and MENA strategy and communications consultant, formerly Senior Advisor to Israel's Ambassador to the UAE.



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