

Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Project©  
(SVHEP)©  
2009/5769 Schedule of Events

Email: [HolocaustEducationProjects@gmail.com](mailto:HolocaustEducationProjects@gmail.com)

Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Project Web Calendar of Events  
[http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=jk009iu5s1qcqddkppbf5o0n6o%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New\\_York](http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=jk009iu5s1qcqddkppbf5o0n6o%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New_York)

The Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Project (SVHEP) is the result of the combined efforts of a consortium of congregations (Churches & Synagogues – and we hope someday soon, Mosques), private and public schools (elementary, middle, & secondary), colleges and universities, organizations, associations, foundations, agencies, and individuals, together bringing into existence the Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Project, under the umbrella of the Foundation for Holocaust Education Projects (Katharine Gorsuch, 817-781-9229; Avi Mizrachi, Executive Director, Holocaust Memorial, Greater Miami Jewish Federation, 1933-1945 Meridian Ave., Miami Beach, FL 33139 305-538-1663; or Rabbi Joe Blair, 540-886-4091).

The vision and purpose of this effort is to present the lessons of the Holocaust to those living in our region. Collectively, we believe that we can help those we reach with these programs to learn from the horrors and mistakes of the past, in order to avoid them in the present or future. Through education, we faithfully believe that all may grow in understanding of each other, and accept our similarities, differences, and diversity without fear, hate, or prejudice. In this way, we can each fight intolerance, bigotry, and indifference in our community and in the world, and work to support the goal that ‘never again’ will such a horrific event come to pass without an outcry and the efforts of many good people to prevent it.

The following is a selection of the public events that are included in the Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Project in the current year. Events that are private or closed to the public are generally not listed here. For a more complete listing, see the Web Calendar of Public Events (linked above).

#### The Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Project 2009 Events List

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Richmond Virginia Holocaust Museum Visit

Sunday, February 22, 2009. Leaving at noon.

Sponsored by the New Covenant Church of Weyers Cave, a group will caravan to the Museum, and meet there for a tour of the museum and a conversation with a survivor. The event is free & open to the public. For more information, contact Lynn Dively at 540-292-2276 or Katharine Gorsuch at 817-781-9229.

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Playwriters & Directors Workshop with Playwrite Kelly Brock.

Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Sponsored by the Foundation for Holocaust Education Projects and Waynesboro High School. This event is by invitation only.

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Performance of "Who Returned My Soul..." with Talkback.

Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009. [Two Locations]

The original play, "Who returned my soul..." by playwright Kelly Brock, directed by Carol Towns, will be performed at:

Harrisonburg's Beth El Congregation, 849 Old Furnace Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-434-2744, on Sunday afternoon, March 8, 2009 at 2:00 pm,

and again at:

New Covenant Church, 78 Somerset Drive, Weyers Cave, Va. 24486 540-234-9641, on Sunday evening, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7 pm.

The public is welcome to join us to share in hearing the experiences of 10 unique eye witness accounts of surviving the Sho'ah (The Holocaust). These stories document the amazing triumph over tragedy, & the efforts of non-Jewish friends & strangers who hid & sheltered those in great peril & grave danger. The stories, personally told to the playwright by the survivors, are their messages for us, relevant to us today & for generations to come.

The director, Carol Towns, and her cast will share these life stories with our community in these performances. For more information, please contact: Rabbi Joe Blair 540-434-2744 at Beth El Congregation, the office at New Covenant Church at 540-234-9641, or Katharine Gorsuch at 817-781-9229.

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Holocaust Survivor Addresses High School Students

Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009. 1-3 pm

Survivor Alex Lebenstein returns to Wilson High School for the 2nd time this school year. Teacher Mrs. Diana Beam contacted The Foundation for Holocaust Education Projects to help bring a survivor to Wilson. Students prepared for the experience, and in October heard for their first time the eye witness accounts of all they had been reading in the weeks before. This was a success from the start, with students seated in awe, leaning in to hear Alex's story of the two worst nights of his life, to the end of the visit, with hugs from the students for Alex as they had a chance to talk with their new "hero." Mrs. Beam knew she wanted her Spring semester students to have the same experience & this will take place during the Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Project (SVHEP) as part of the "Survivor Series," allowing local students to become witnesses to the "living history" of the Holocaust & learn the lessons the survivors share. This event is by invitation only. Questions? Call Katharine Gorsuch 817-781-9229.

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Holocaust Survivor Addresses High School Students

Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009. 10-11:30 am

This is the first opportunity for Buffalo Gap students to experience the eye witness account of Holocaust Survivor Alex Lebenstein. AP History teacher Tracey Michael

read the local paper's account of Mr. Lebenstein's October visit to Wilson High. She contacted the SVHEP asking how to bring a survivor to Buffalo Gap. The Foundation for Holocaust Education Projects is pleased to assist The Gap's AP History classes by offering this once in a life time experience. This lecture is part of the "Survivors Series" during the "Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Project" This event is by invitation only. Questions? Call Katharine Gorsuch 817-781-9229.

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Documentary: The Power of Good

Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Approximately 7:30 pm

Sponsored by Beth El Congregation, 849 Old Furnace Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-434-2744.

There will be a dinner for sale at 6:30 (please RSVP so we have a sense of numbers), followed by a Havdalah ritual to mark the end of the Sabbath, then the showing of the documentary film, the Power of Good. This is an uplifting and inspiring documentary related to the efforts of a Gentile man to save Jewish children during the Holocaust. He never spoke of his actions, and no one seemed to know about them, but almost sixty years later, those whom he had saved came together to express their appreciation to him, and to let him know how they had tried to repay his work by living in a way that would embody the values he had demonstrated by his actions. Cost for the meal; the showing of the film is Free and Open to the Public.

For more information contact Rabbi Joe Blair at 540-434-2744.

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American Liberator of the Concentration Camps: Mr. Leon Bass

A US G.I. and a liberator of the concentration camps shares his reflections and story.

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. Bass will address students at a local school. This event is by invitation only.

Questions? Call Katharine Gorsuch 817-781-9229.

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American Liberator of the Concentration Camps: Mr. Leon Bass

A US G.I. and a liberator of the concentration camps will share his reflections and story.

Tuesday, March 17, 2009, 7:00 pm

Sponsored by Temple House of Israel, 15 N. Market Street, Staunton VA 24401 540-886-4091. The event is Free and Open to the Public.

U.S. Private Leon Bass entered Buchenwald within days of the liberation on April 11th, 1945, and witnessed "the walking dead" and forms of death in and all around the camp. His personal experience refutes Holocaust denial; & he witnesses to the truth through his accounts of all that he saw.

As an African-American soldier, he relates his experience of defending his Country - which was still segregating troops along racial lines. He shares his feelings of prejudice & bigotry as a young boy, & then as a soldier fighting for his Country, which saw him as "different, and less than." He compares these feelings to those of the "walking dead" surrounding him in Buchenwald - and relates that as a result, his world changed forever. This is just the outline of his story. The public is welcome & encouraged to hear, learn

from, and experience this amazing man and the journey he has taken in life. This American hero, a member of the 'greatest generation', tells of his own experiences, and what he has learned about prejudice and hatred. Come join us to hear his first-hand story. Mr. Bass will speak at Temple House of Israel in Staunton on Tuesday evening, March 17th, at 7 pm. This will be the only public presentation he will make in our area. This experience should not be missed.

For details or further information, please call Rabbi Joe Blair: (540) 886-4091; visit [www.thoi.org](http://www.thoi.org); or call Katharine Gorsuch: 817-781-9229.

The Temple House of Israel in Staunton Virginia, The Foundation for Holocaust Education Projects, and The Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Project (SVHEP) proudly bring this event to the Shenandoah Valley. This Community event is free and open to the public.

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The Displaced: Miracle at St. Otilien

Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 [At Two Locations]

9:45 – 11 am Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1904 Mt Vernon Street,  
Waynesboro, VA 22980 540-942-1145 Pastor Jon Lovelace.

3 – 5 pm, Temple House of Israel, 15 N. Market Street, Staunton VA 24401  
540-886-4091. Rabbi Joe Blair.

An award winning documentary film entitled “Creating Harmony”, which focuses on the Displaced Persons’ Orchestra that was formed at St. Otilien. It is an uplifting narrative of the journey of several of the musicians from the ghettos of Vilna and Kovno to Dachau, Buchenwald, and other concentration camps, finally assembling the survivors in the displaced persons camp and hospital at St. Otilien in Bavaria Germany. This is a story of hope, and human triumph. We are in the process of working to bring one of the producers of the film to address the audience at this time.

Sponsored by the Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Temple House of Israel, and the Foundation for Holocaust Education Projects, with assistance from the Miami Holocaust Memorial Museum. For more information, please contact: Pastor Jon Lovelace at 540-942-1145, Rabbi Joe Blair at 540-886-4091, or Katharine Gorsuch at 817-781-9229.

The event, a presentation of the Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Project, is Free and Open to the Public.

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Remembering the U.S.S. Indianapolis

Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 @ 7 pm & Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 @ 10 am.

Plecker Workforce Center, Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC) Campus

This event is free and open to the public.

Survivors from the USS INDIANAPOLIS share their memories of transporting the first atomic bomb to the Enola Gay, the tragic sinking of an unescorted heavy cruiser by a Japanese submarine during the closing days of World War II, the five days spent in

shark-infested waters, and the harrowing rescue & recovery operations that followed. Live the Indianapolis story through a multimedia presentation and the stories of survivors and rescuers who recall firsthand the greatest disaster at sea ever suffered by the U.S. Navy.

Sponsored by Blue Ridge Community College, Box 80, One College Lane, Weyers Cave, VA 24486 (540) 453-2215 from Harrisonburg • (540) 213-7022 from Staunton • (540) 941-3742 from Waynesboro • (540) 234-9261/(540) 213-7002/(540) 943-7002 • Other/VA Toll-Free: (888) 750-2722 • <http://www.brcc.edu/fac/09/ussi.htm>  
[www.brcc.edu/fac](http://www.brcc.edu/fac). For further information please contact Ann Leatherwood [LeatherwoodA@brcc.edu](mailto:LeatherwoodA@brcc.edu). Presented by Blue Ridge Community College, and in cooperation with the Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Project (SVHEP).

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Echoes & Reflections: A Multimedia Curriculum on the Holocaust

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 10 am – 1 pm

[www.echoesandreflections.org](http://www.echoesandreflections.org)

This program is a 3 hour teacher training in compliance with the curriculum for the SOLs, and continuing education credit is available. It includes a 3 part curriculum providing 10 adaptable lesson plans, online resources, and video for use in teaching the Holocaust, with connections to cultural diversity, intolerance, prejudice, and genocide in historical and contemporary contexts.

Sponsored by The Spencer Center for Civic and Global Engagement, Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, VA 24401 (540) 887-7111. For more information contact Steve Grande, Director of Civic Engagement, [sgrande@mbc.edu](mailto:sgrande@mbc.edu), [www.mbc.edu/spencercenter/](http://www.mbc.edu/spencercenter/), course Instructor Danielle Goldberg, Assistant Director, ADL A World of Difference Institute, 1100 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington DC 20036, 202-296-8310 202-296-2371 (Fax) [dgoldberg@adl.org](mailto:dgoldberg@adl.org), or Katharine Gorsuch at 817-781-9229. Intended for public and private school teachers who will offer classroom lessons based on the Holocaust to address issues of cultural diversity, tolerance, reducing prejudice, and preventing tragedies such as in Darfur, Rwanda, Chad, and other places in recent memory.

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The Staunton Jewish Film Festival: Bridging Gaps

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> (Friday – Sunday)

All screenings at the Visulite Cinemas in Staunton, Va.

A series of five films will be screened twice each during the three day festival. Four of the films have some relation to the Holocaust or its aftermath, and tie in to the SVHEP. Tickets to individual screenings are \$10, a festival pass for all showings is \$45. The relevant films include:

The Band's Visit, a comedy about an Egyptian Police Band that are to play at the dedication of an Arab cultural center in Israel, but mistakenly arrive at a tiny desert town far from anything or anyone, and try to make their way in that setting among the Israelis who live there. Screening Friday at 7, with a speaker to follow, & Saturday at 5.

Promises is a documentary film which follows Palestinian and Israeli youths living nearby one another but in separate worlds, who dare to cross lines to meet each

other. The film follows them over several years. Screening Saturday at 2:30, with a speaker to follow, & Sunday at 5.

Everything is Illuminated is a comedy/drama about a young Jewish American who returns to the Ukraine on a quest to seek his grandfather's past and learn what happened to the family before and during the war. Screening Friday at 9, & Sunday at 2:30 with a speaker to follow.

Emotional Arithmetic is a drama about redemption, healing, and reconciliation, triggered by the reunion of three survivors of Drancy (an internment camp outside of Paris). The past explodes into the present, unfolding into a love story, and the 'emotional arithmetic' with which the characters must struggle to face the past, and to move on. Screening Saturday at 7, with a speaker to follow, & Sunday at 9.

The Staunton Jewish Film Festival (SJFF) is sponsored by Temple House of Israel (THOI), 15 N. Market Street, Staunton VA 24401 540-886-4091. For information on the Staunton Jewish Film Festival, please contact SJFF @ Temple House of Israel by telephone at 540-886-4091, or email Laurie Berman, the SJFF Chair at [SJFF@thoi.org](mailto:SJFF@thoi.org), Beth Young, THOI President at [president@thoi.org](mailto:president@thoi.org), or Rabbi Joe Blair at [rabbi@thoi.org](mailto:rabbi@thoi.org).

All screenings and tickets for the SJFF are at the Visulite Cinemas. For information, or to purchase tickets, call (540) 885-9959, visit the Visulite Cinemas at 12 N. Augusta Street, Staunton VA 24401, or visit the theater website online at <http://www.visulitecinemas.com/>.

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#### Holocaust Survivor Addresses the Public

Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009. 10 am to noon

Blue Ridge Church of Christ, 1275 Goose Creek Rd., Fishersville, Va 22939 540-949-7956.

A Holocaust Survivor will speak in a public forum at the Blue Ridge Church of Christ. Since Holocaust Survivor Joe Dzuibak shared his experience in the Valley 2 years ago, pastor Todd Brown has hoped to share the Survivors' message of triumph over tragedy with Blue Ridge Church of Christ members and the community. The church is honored to host this event and encourages all to attend. Refreshments will offered afterward for a time to talk with a Holocaust Survivor.

Sponsored by the Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Project (SVHEP) as part of the "Survivor Series," allowing local residents to become witnesses to the "living history" of the Holocaust & learn the lessons that the survivors share. This event will be Free and Open to the Public. For more information: contact Pastor Todd Brown, Blue Ridge Church of Christ, 540-949-7956 or Katharine Gorsuch 817-781-9229.

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#### Echoes & Reflections: A Multimedia Curriculum on the Holocaust

April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 2:30-5:30 pm

Location TBA

[www.echoesandreflections.org](http://www.echoesandreflections.org)

3 part curriculum providing: 10 adaptable lesson plans, online resources, and video for use in teaching the Holocaust, with connections to cultural diversity, intolerance, prejudice, and genocide in historical and contemporary contexts. This program is a 3 hour teacher training in compliance with the curriculum for the SOLs, and continuing education credit is available.

Sponsored by TBA.

For more information contact Katharine Gorsuch at 817-781-9229, or course Instructor Danielle Goldberg, Assistant Director, ADL A World of Difference Institute, 1100 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington DC 20036, 202-296-8310 202-296-2371 (Fax) [dgoldberg@adl.org](mailto:dgoldberg@adl.org). Intended for public and private school teachers who will offer classroom lessons based on the Holocaust to address issues of cultural diversity, tolerance, reducing prejudice, and preventing tragedies such as in Darfur, Rwanda, Chad, and other places, in recent memory.

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Yom HaSho'ah/Holocaust Remembrance Day.

April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

A day noted in commemoration of the horrific events known as the Sho'ah.

Various events at numerous locations.

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Faith in War

A Memorial Day Weekend Panel Discussion by four WW II Vets on their experiences of faith, war, and G-d.

Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 11 am – 2 pm

Sponsored by Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1904 Mt Vernon St, Waynesboro VA 22980. For more information, please call Pastor Jon Lovelace (540) 942-1145. Free and Open to the Public.

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Richmond Virginia Holocaust Museum Visit

TENTATIVE At this time

Sunday, May 24th, 2009. Leaving at 10 am.

Sponsored by the Temple House of Israel, 15 N. Market Street, Staunton VA 24401 540-886-4091 and Beth El Congregation, 849 Old Furnace Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801, 540-43402744.

A group will caravan to the Museum, and meet there for a tour of the museum and a conversation with a survivor. The event is free & open to the public.

For more information, contact Rabbi Joe Blair at (540) 886-4091 or (540) 434-2744, or Katharine Gorsuch (817) 781-9229.

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Kindertransport

A play, performed by high school aged students. We plan a 'talkback' following the performance with the director, some of the performers, and a Holocaust Survivor.

Watch for more information on days and times to be announced soon.

Sponsored by TBA

For more information, please contact Katharine Gorsuch 817-781-9229.

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