



9th Annual Human Rights Institute For High School Student Leaders

On March 17, the HHREC hosted our ninth **All Day Human Rights Institute for High School Leaders**. The HHREC gratefully acknowledges the funders for the Human Rights Institute: the Louise & Ardé Bulova Fund, the Lowenstein Family Foundation, Mindy and Howard Unger, Paula and

Jeffrey Yormak and the Heller Family Foundation. This year the Duchesne Center of Manhattanville College co-sponsored this program. Students and educators from 22 regional high schools, numbering over 300, brought Manhattanville's campus alive as they educated themselves and their peers about the human rights crises of the 21st century. They grappled with the complexities and gravity of local and global events with the determination of true leaders.

The day began with a presentation by keynote speakers **Omékongo Dibinga** and **Michael Andrews**. Their goal is to empower individuals and communities with the tools to prevent and stop genocide as well as building a permanent anti-genocide constituency. Next, 55 juniors and seniors who attended the Institute during the last two years led twelve workshops about human rights concerns. In the workshops these upperclassmen educated sophomores attending the Institute for the first time about issues as diverse as Homelessness in the US, Domestic Violence, Immigration Detention, Child Soldiers, Honor Killings, Hate Crimes, Human Trafficking Sex Trade and Women's Rights.



While the sophomores attended the morning workshops, educators and administrators participating in this event attended a professional development workshop given by **Dr. Marlene Yahalom**, Director of Education of the HHREC. The teachers learned more about the connection between the Holocaust and Human Rights. Resources for classroom use were distributed and participants viewed part of the documentary film "Testimony of the Human Spirit" and learned how to effectively incorporate this valuable educational tool into their lesson plans.

During lunch each school met to develop an action plan to follow up after the Institute. Some schools chose to increase their presence in their school while others preferred to organize human rights type clubs. All attending students also received a list of clubs from ten schools who are willing to share their work with the other schools and hopefully formulate some joint activities.

The program concluded with the showing of Chapter I, Indoctrination & Discrimination, of Testimony of the Human Spirit and the Holocaust Survivors featured in this section of the documentary film, **Sel Hubert** and **Susan Rothschild**, answered questions from the audience.

For more information about this program and how your school can be a part of this event next year, please contact our offices at 914 696 0738, info@hhrecny.org



above: Keynote speakers Michael Andrews (left) and Omékongo Dibinga.
below: Holocaust survivors Susan Rothschild and Sel Hubert answered questions from the student audience.

More photos from this program on the back cover...



Honor a Loved One with our Book Naming Project

The HHREC recognizes the following individuals for their support of our Book Naming Project. Anyone can participate in the project. With each gift of \$36, a book in our collection is dedicated in honor or memory of a loved one. After a donation is received, a bookplate is placed in one of our volumes, and an acknowledgement is sent to the honoree or his or her family as requested. This is meaningful way to mark a Bar Mitzvah, Bat Mitzvah, Yahrzeit, birthday, or other significant milestone and to support Holocaust and Human Rights education at the same time.

Contact the office at 914.696.0738 or visit our website at www.hhrecny.org to make a donation.

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HHREC Appoints New Board and Advisory Board Members

The HHREC is happy to announce **David A. Alpert** as the newest Board member and **Kenneth M. Donato** as the newest Advisory Board member.

David A. Alpert is Senior Vice President of Riverside Memorial Chapel. **Alpert** also serves on the Board of Governors at Yeshiva University's Wurzweiler School of Social Work, is vice president of the Advisory Board of the New York Board of Rabbis and serves on the advisory council of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. **Alpert** is a past president of the Free Synagogue of Westchester and the Westchester Putnam Council of B'nai B'rith. He sits on the Board of Directors at the International Synagogue of JFK International Airport and the Advisory Council of Mourners After Care Institute.

Kenneth M. Donato is currently the Executive Director of the United Way Westchester and Putnam 2-1-1 Hudson Valley Region which connects people in need to agencies and other organizations that can help them. **Donato** is also retired Chief of Police in the Town of Ossining Police Department. He has dedicated his career to public service with many professional affiliations as a member of the Westchester County Chief's of Police Association, Westchester County Domestic Violence Council, Westchester County Protect the Kids Committee and Westchester County Elder Abuse Coalition.

www.hhrecny.org



Dr. Michael Berenbaum

Michael Berenbaum to Present Distinguished Lecture

The HHREC's Distinguished Lecture Series will conclude its 2009-2010 season on April 15 when **Dr. Michael Berenbaum's** topic will be "The Uses, The Abuses & The Denial of the Holocaust." An international scholar in Holocaust education, commemoration and remembrance, Dr. Berenbaum served as the Deputy Director of the President's Commission on the Holocaust, Project Director for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and president of the Shoah Visual History Foundation. Dr. Berenbaum is currently Director of the Sigi Ziering Institute at the American Jewish University in Los Angeles.

Dr. Berenbaum's presentation is part of the HHREC's annual Yom Hashoah lecture and commemoration, which features a candle lighting in honor of the

victims of the Holocaust. It is also the evening that the HHREC presents our Susan J. Goldberg Memorial Teacher Award to an educator in our region from our Educators Planning Committee whose work exemplifies Susan's passion to eradicate bigotry and hatred. The award was established in 2003 in honor of Susan's memory and her profound professional and personal dedication to Holocaust and Human Rights education. This year's award will be presented to Garfield Charles of Greenwich High School. Garfield has spent the past six years of his twenty year career teaching English at the Greenwich High school and is a member of the HHREC Educators Planning Committee.



Garfield Charles, Greenwich High School English Educator and Educators Planning Committee Member, HHREC.

The HHREC is grateful to our underwriters for the lecture, the New York Council for the Humanities and the Jack Chester Foundation. The lecture is free and open to the public and begins at 7:30 pm in Reid Hall at Manhattanville College. To ensure adequate seating, reservations are required of groups and requested of individuals. RSVP to the HHREC at 914.696.0738 or email info@hhrecny.org.

The Duchesne Center of Manhattanville College and the Jewish Student Association joins us in co-sponsoring this event.

MISSION:

The Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center is an interfaith, not-for-profit organization serving Westchester, Putnam and Fairfield Counties. Our mission is to enhance the teaching and learning of the lessons of the Holocaust and the right of all people to be treated with dignity and respect. We encourage students to speak up and act against all forms of bigotry and prejudice.



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The Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center

2900 Purchase Street Purchase, NY 10577

Phone: 914.696.0738 • Fax: 914.696.0843

Email: info@hhrecny.org

www.hhrecny.org

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March 17, 2010



Keynote speakers Michael Andrews (left) and Omékongo Dibinga (right) with Dr. Marlene Yahalom (center)



Sel Hubert greets students at the Human Rights Institute.



Keynote speakers Michael Andrews (left) and Omékongo Dibinga (right) worked together in presenting human rights awareness at the Human Rights Institute.

News Briefs

Voices of Remembrance Commemoration

Join the HHREC and Westchester Jewish Conference for Westchester County's Annual Yom Hashoah Commemoration on April 11, 2010 at The Hebrew Institute of White Plains. Keynote Speaker will be **Dr. Moshe Avital**, a child survivor of Buchenwald and Israeli Freedom Fighter. This event coincides with the 65th anniversary of Dr. Avital's liberation from Buchenwald. Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino will offer remarks and the Solomon Schechter School of Westchester Choir will perform. The program begins at 1:30 pm. The commemoration is co-sponsored by American Jewish Committee, Beth El Synagogue Center of New Rochelle, Congregation Sons of Israel, Shaarei Tikvah-The Scarsdale Conservative Congregation, Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester, Temple Israel of New Rochelle, Westchester Community for Humanistic Judaism, J Teen Leadership and Westchester Jewish Conference. Please contact the HHREC at 914.696.0738 for further information. **We gratefully acknowledge the Irwin Weiner Charitable Foundation, Harris Markhoff, President, for support of this program.**



Dr. Moshe Avital

19th Annual Community Interfaith Holocaust and Human Rights Commemoration

On April 22, the Eastchester-Bronxville-Tuckahoe Coalition for Building Bridges for Better Understanding will hold its 19th annual Holocaust Commemoration. This year HHREC board member and Westchester County Human Rights Commissioner **Delores Scott Brathwaite** will give the keynote address at the event, which will be held at the Bronxville Reformed Church, beginning at 7:30pm. Once again the HHREC is also sponsoring an art and essay contest for the Bronxville, Eastchester and Tuckahoe high schools. The theme of this year's contest is **"Making a Difference Today Can Be Influenced By Remembering Events of the Past."** The evening will also feature a candle lighting led by six survivors—Betty Knoop, Clara Knopfler, Ed Lessing, Jack Polak, Lilly Singer, and Jay Sommer—who are active in the HHREC Speakers Bureau program coordinated by Susan Rothschild. For more information, please call the HHREC at 914.696.0738.