

The Holocaust/Genocide Project
An End to Intolerance

June, 2004



“Contemplate the Past to Change the Future”

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Dear Readers,

It's been twelve years now since the Holocaust Genocide Project (HGP) was first brought into being, and since then it has gone from a handful of students exchanging e-mail over the internet, to a massive international discussion project. Our annual publication of *An End to Intolerance* is the result of student efforts worldwide.

The HGP produces more than a publication that sends its message once every year; we always do our best to be involved in preaching tolerance and action. Through the International Education and Resource Network (i*EARN), we have been able to create an online center for our project, at www.learn.org/hgp, which also hosts our discussion forums. We also use e-mail to communicate, our address: coldspring@igc.org. Our website does not merely contain information about our project, but rather a wealth of links to other sites rich in information about the Holocaust and other world wide injustices, as well as an archive of every one of our past magazine publications.

Our theme this year is "*Contemplate the Past to Change the Future*". Many lessons can be learned through history, and it is essential that we learn these lessons in order to prevent our past mistakes and travesties from ever occurring again. Lessons also must be learned from the present, as history is already in the process of repeating itself.

The remarkable efforts of the members of our project, and all those who have lent us support over these twelve years are the only reason this project still exists today, as without it, we, the editors, would not be writing you this letter today. For all your support and efforts, we thank you, and hope that the HGP continues to grow as it has, and that it will continue to send its message of open-mindedness and compassion to every corner of the globe for as long as intolerance and hatred exist.

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What's New...

A Message from the HGP Mentor, Gideon Goldstein; i*EARN Coordinator, Israel

As an adult, I always find joy when I have the opportunity to study. I guess that when it is no longer an obligation, school becomes much more of an attraction.

Over the past several years I have been curious of the ever-widening circle of nations that find Holocaust remembrance an important thing. For years now I have been personally involved in education, in Holocaust education, and even more so, in global Holocaust Education. I thought it would be interesting for me to study the relationship between education and remembrance and see what schools are contributing to the remembrance of the Holocaust.

I have to admit that my studies are not over. Yet today, although incomplete, I would like to share with you some of the things I have already learned.

Schools, in many countries teach about the Holocaust. Mostly, they teach about the history of the Second World War, how the Nazi Party took hold of Germany by democratically abolishing its democracy, and how the German Third Reich, under the infamous leadership of one, Adolf Hitler, meticulously devised and employed a murderous mechanism of annihilation and genocide that would make Europe free of Jews and free of other minorities.

Yet, one of the major things I learned is that studying about the Holocaust is not enough to constitute remembrance. There is something extra that needs to happen so that the memory and the commemoration of the Holocaust are not dissolved when one leaves high school.

That extra something is called "Collective Memory". I guess that by next year I would be able to tell you more about it. All I would say for now is that collective memory is sparked and maintained by, among others: reading books, watching movies, reciting poems, going to museums, visiting monuments, holding memorial ceremonies, and listening to survivor testimonies. Yet the most important components of collective memory are that it is indeed "collective" – part of our entire society, and that it is handed from generation to generation.

This year the Holocaust/Genocide Project is forging the hand-down process. Under the leadership of Ms. Honey Kern, our project facilitator, we have called upon HGP alumni to come back and be a part of our "society". We need them to complete our portion of the generation process so that we can do a better job with cultivating remembrance.

We are extremely proud that many of our alumni have chosen to write to us and tell us what they are doing today. I was personally moved by reading many of their writings referring to the impact the HGP had on shaping their future. I am confident that they will all take part in making Holocaust remembrance a part of their societies' collective memory. Their contribution to "our" society is extremely important.

On a very similar note, I was extremely proud to read the interview with Mr. P. Macaluso, Director of College Counseling at Cold Spring Harbor High School. I had the opportunity to hear, in person from Mr. Macaluso, some of the same things Jamie Kates, who held the interview with him, recorded for us in this issue. The fact that good universities and colleges see an advantage in the work HGP graduates have done in their participation echoes and amplifies all that I have said today.



Gideon Goldstein talks to students at Cold Spring Harbor High School