

The Holocaust/Genocide Project
An End To Intolerance



Armenia
1915-1923



The Holocaust
1933-1945



Darfur
2003-?

This is the cost of silence

June 2007

15th Anniversary

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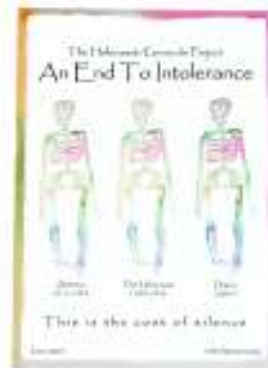
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On the Cover: The watercolor painting on the cover was done by Sofia de Guzman. It represents the victims from past and present genocides. Sofia has been an active member of the HGP for three years and is a graduating senior.

"We wish to give special recognition to Mrs. Shirley Mayer for her invaluable contribution in conceiving and originating Holocaust-Genocide Studies in the Cold Spring Harbor S.D."

Volume 15, June 2007

Cold Spring Harbor High School, New York, USA

A Telecommunications Project on the Israel Education and Resource Network

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Drawing by Matt Capetola

June, 2007

Dear Readers,

We are very excited about this year's edition of *An End to Intolerance*. This is the first year that The Holocaust Genocide Project is under the direction of our new project advisor, Joey Bergida. Our previous advisor, Honey Kern, had been the project advisor for fourteen years and had made a tremendous commitment to promoting tolerance worldwide. We are sorry to see Mrs. Kern stepping down from the role as project advisor, but at the same time we are excited to incorporate all of Ms. Bergida's new ideas into our magazine. Mrs. Kern has had an instrumental role on the development of The Holocaust Genocide Project over the years, which is why we as the editors would like to dedicate this year's edition to Mrs. Kern in appreciation of all the work she has done.

We are also excited because this year's magazine marks the fifteenth anniversary of *An End to Intolerance*. We are thrilled to be part of The Holocaust Genocide Project's team that has been fighting intolerance and human rights violations. This year's edition is particularly crucial, as there are several human rights violations occurring today. Sadly, much of the world is watching as one of the worse genocides in history is occurring. This scenario is not a new one; much of the world did not act during the Holocaust allowing over six million Jews and other persecuted peoples to be murdered. Our goal this year is to spread awareness about the genocide occurring in Darfur in the hopes that, if people have more knowledge of the situation, someone will act. *An End to Intolerance* has always been a medium for information about human right violations and we believe that if enough people become aware of the atrocities taking place, people will begin to take action. Please, do not simply read our magazine, but truly take the contents of this magazine to heart so that the atrocities that took place during the Holocaust are not repeated while the world stands idly by.

For this reason, this year's theme for the magazine is "This is the Cost of Silence." The Holocaust Genocide Project wants to make people realize that stopping the genocide in Sudan as well as other genocides and human right violations around the world can be as simple as speaking out against them. We therefore urge people to take a stand against the injustices in the world and make their voices heard.

Sincerely,

Scott Kaufman and Herman Singh, Cold Spring Harbor High School, New York
www.iearn.org.il/hgp



Celebrating Our 15th Year Anniversary Online

By Honey Kern, Holocaust/Genocide Project Co-Mentor; United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Teaching Fellow

In 1992, I'm not sure we knew what we were doing. After reading Elie Wiesel's memoir, *Night*, for many years with students in my English classes at Cold Spring Harbor High School, New York, a group of six students and I decided to reach out, internationally, to other students over the Internet.

At that time, a colleague was publishing a cooperative Russian/American newspaper, with his students, using an international, educational network. My students and I thought that we, too, might talk with other students from other countries, especially about the Holocaust of WWII, which we were learning about as we read *Night*.

There was no 'world wide web' in those days. We sent an email message in DOS over the network, and one of the first people we heard from was our current project mentor, Gideon Goldstein in Israel. He wrote that he would be "proud" to mentor our project which was previously approved by our high school principal. The plan was to study the Holocaust and do 'common reading' of books with students from other countries. We also wanted to learn about memorials, museums, and other places of Holocaust remembrance in the world.

We heard from several students in Spain who wanted to know about Anne Frank; they had never heard of her. Then we received a message from a young man in Israel, who questioned what we could ever know about the Holocaust since his grandmother had died at Dachau.

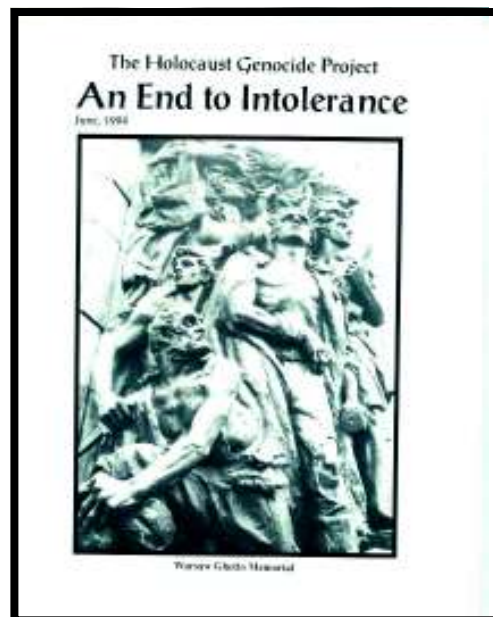
My students could have given up then, but they decided that online dialogue would be interesting and that we could learn from each other while learning about the Holocaust. We exchanged email almost every day, and Gideon set up a 'database' of topics where students and teachers could post their comments. We called our work: the Holocaust Project, and we gained help from students and teachers in Washington State and from Israel. At the end of 1993, the students wanted to publish some of their research and edited a newsletter entitled, *An End to Ignorance* (which was changed the following year to: *An End to Intolerance*).

Holocaust Newsletter: **An End to Ignorance**

May 1993



1994 Poland/Israel Study Trip



1994 HGP magazine

The year, 1993, brought many changes to the Holocaust Project. We changed our name to the Holocaust/Genocide Project (HGP) and took our first two week trip to Poland and Israel; we traveled with Israeli students, teachers, principal and survivor. After visiting Poland and the death camps, ghettos, and museums, my students and I were hosted by Principal Nili Eldar and the entire Kiryat Motzkin community in Israel. Our USA group consisted of parents, a Board of Education member, and many students. It was a real 'study mission' and propelled the students to publish an online magazine, *An End to Intolerance*, in 1994 that grew to include work from 16 schools world wide. Today, you can look at that magazine issue on our own website:

www.learnonline.org.il/hgp, (click on "Student Magazine" at top), and you can peruse all the annual issues including the June, 2006 one.

In 1996, because of the HGP's growing reputation, we were contacted by Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation. Juniors and seniors at our school were invited to take part in the Holocaust survivor videos being filmed in the metropolitan NYC area, the only school to ever take part in this Shoah Project. Sixty students, over a two year period, accompanied professional videographers and interviewers to help gather survivor testimonies. Our students were trained by the Shoah Foundation office from NY, and although they could not mention the names of the Holocaust survivors, students came back to school with stories that were overwhelming. You can read their comments in the 1996 and 1997 issues of *An End to Intolerance*.

Who knew that this independent, 'theme-based project' would not only last for 15 years, but would win awards for its student and teachers' work in Holocaust education? (The HGP was awarded the designation *Program of Excellence-2005* by the New York State English Council and given an International Society of Technology in Education *SIGTEL Online Learning Award, 2005*). Who knew that students and patrons would raise enough money to publish and distribute their online magazine each year? Who knew that students from our school and the USA would take part in five study missions to Poland, Israel, Germany, the Czech Republic and travel with students and teachers from Israel and Australia?

Who knew that Russian teachers and students, Australian teachers and students from Melbourne, and German students would still be advising and contributing to this telecommunications project after 15 years? Who knew that students who graduated from the HGP, from all over the world, would become active alumni of this project?



Mrs. Kern with some HGP members in 2006

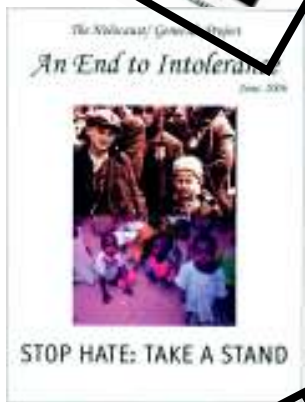
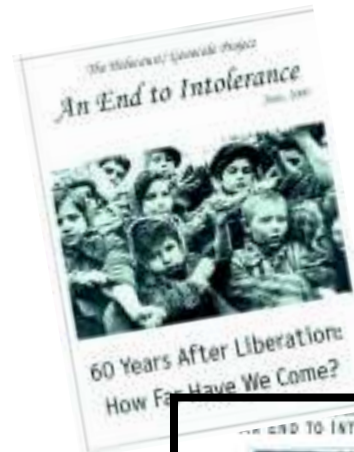
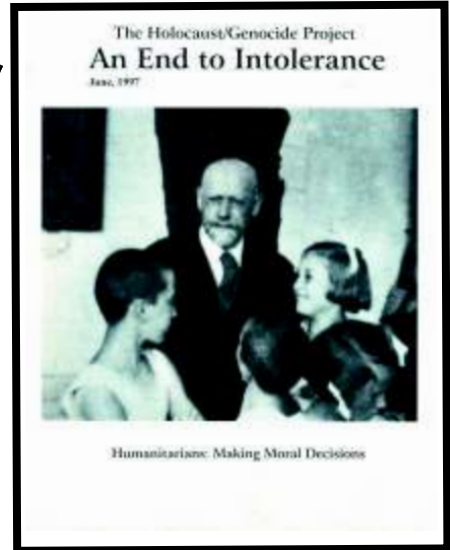
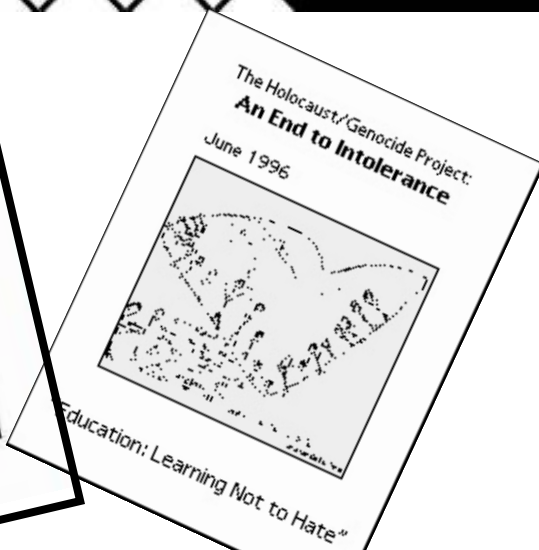
Over the past 15 years, the HGP has been presented at many educational sites and conferences: NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English), Boston; Yad Vashem in Jerusalem; Tel-Ed, Albuquerque; the Melbourne Holocaust Museum, Australia; NCSS (National Council of Teachers of Social Studies), Washington, DC. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum,

Washington, DC; New York University, New York; NYSEC (New York State English Council), Albany; Council of Holocaust Educators (CHE), New Jersey; C.W. Post College, New York; and the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County, N.Y.

The HGP has always been 'student driven'; students' research has been published in professional journals and on web sites; they have made presentations for teachers-in-training; they were the pilot for an "Adopt a Survivor" program; their work has been recognized by the Facing History and Ourselves organization and survivor/authors: Ruth Minsky Sender, Elie Wiesel, and Gerda Weissmann Klein. Students have raised funds to help rebuild burning churches in the USA; for earthquake and hurricane victims, and to help people in Sudan/Darfur.

Fifteen years ago, we might not have known what we were doing; we were only a handful of students and teachers. Now we face the reality of continued genocide in the world, a rise of anti-Semitism and hate crimes, the harsh words of the President of Iran who denies the Holocaust, and the news that the UK may 'drop the study of the Holocaust' so not to offend students of other religions. Now, more than ever, the Holocaust/Genocide Project (HGP) seems so important. Thank you all for your heartfelt wishes and support as we continue our work in the years ahead.

Website: www.learnonline.org.il/hgp



A Touch of Honey in this World

By Sevan Angacian, Georgetown University, Washington D.C.

When the parents of Mrs. Honey Kern named their infant daughter, Honey, they could not have known how fitting a name it would be for their child. Mrs. Kern is among the sweetest people I know, and yet, she is beyond your average kind human being: she is a peacemaker. Mrs. Kern began her career as a high school English teacher, but went on to start a project that now incorporates over 35 countries throughout the world and helps promote peace and understanding among youth. This project, known today as the

when the HGP was started, she realized she could not work towards both a Ph.D. and the Project. When she looks back and reflects upon whether or not she regrets her decision to drop out of the program, she says that she is fully satisfied with her life and the immense success of the HGP through her “beloved students.”

The HGP encourages students from Cold Spring Harbor High School to begin conversations through an online forum with students throughout the world. The countries who participate in

this peace-building program are incredibly diverse and include nations from all continents.¹ Included in this vast list of countries are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Germany, India, Israel, Poland, Russia, Sierra Leone, Czech Republic and Sri Lanka. The issues addressed in these conversations include human rights and their violations, the Holocaust, genocides, and tolerance in general. Towards the mid-way point of each school year, Mrs. Kern and her staff compile these conversations and collect essays from students, as well as artwork and poetry, to form the internationally-acclaimed magazine, *An End to Intolerance*.²



Mrs. Kern with the 1997 HGP Staff

Holocaust-Genocide Project (HGP), was begun in 1992 with the help of several of her students and a mentor from Israel. As an American of Jewish descent, Mrs. Kern has always felt a strong attachment to the principles of tolerance, understanding, and peace. What began as a class project to promote conversation among students world-wide about Elie Wiesel’s book, *Night*, which recounts the horrific experience of several Jewish people during the Holocaust, soon became an award-winning, internationally acclaimed venture into peacemaking.

Mrs. Kern attended public school in Brooklyn, New York as a young child. When she was older, her family moved to the suburbs, at which point she went to school in Queens and Long Island. She received her B.A. from C.W. Post of Long Island and an M.A. from SUNY at Stony Brook. She held a job as well as attended classes, something she says contributed to her current character and who she is today by teaching self-reliance and time management. When she was at Stony Brook, she was teaching English classes and working towards getting her Ph.D. However,

Specifically, the magazine includes articles, research, artwork, interviews, as well as book, movie, and website reviews. Mrs. Kern also takes pride in noting that all funds for this project have

“The issues addressed in these conversations include human rights and their violations, the Holocaust, genocides, and tolerance in general.”

been raised by students and parents. This magazine is now showcased in various colleges and museums, including the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in our nation’s capital. This end result of each school year’s compilation of students’

contributions is Mrs. Kern's testimony to her peacemaking among today's youth.

Mrs. Kern attributes her compassion and strong desire to make the world more peaceful to the teachings of her parents. She quoted a Jewish saying, "tikkun olam," which roughly translates to "fixing the world, making it better" as the motto by which she leads her life. She was taught by her parents to be compassionate, to help others, and to speak out when things are wrong. In her humble manner, she states, "I hope I've done the right things so far" in keeping with the motto of her religious and cultural backgrounds.

When asked the question, "How does one make peace in this world," Mrs. Kern thoughtfully replies that although she wishes she could answer the question more definitively, she is sure that "we must sit down and talk with each other; we must learn about each other." She notes that there needs to be a greater amount of listening and compromise in order to achieve peace in this complex and diverse world in which we live. It is under the very definition of peacemaking that she, herself, supplies that one can identify Honey Kern as a peacemaker. Through the HGP and the annual magazine produced by the HGP's contributors, today's youth and tomorrow's leaders are learning about one another and understanding others' ways of looking at life and various situations concerning intolerance.

Mrs. Kern evaluates the success of her peacemaking endeavors by several standards. Firstly, she notes that when HGP alumni keep in touch and when graduates write back and continue to contribute, she believes success has been achieved on a certain level related to the HGP. Knowing that her previous students are still involved in advocating human rights gives Mrs. Kern a satisfaction in seeing that her peacemaking efforts are continuing on through my generation. By keeping in touch, students are maintaining social networks and contributing to social movements which contain a shared vision for change in the world. Mrs. Kern also measures success by the great growth of the project, which is beginning its 15th year online, and by the eager participation of

the teachers and students who "drive this project." On a broader level, Mrs. Kern notes that when students take action to educate and inform others about atrocities such as the Armenian Genocide, the invisible children of Uganda, the situation in Rwanda, and today's tragedy in the Darfur region of Sudan, success is realized on a more global scale.

The Holocaust Genocide Project is an enormously rewarding endeavor that Mrs. Kern and I would immediately and without caution recommend to all those who are interested in educating

themselves and others in order to take an active role to make a more peaceful world through tolerance and learning. It is essential that we learn to take a broader and more comprehensive view of events that have occurred in the past, and learn from them to make a brighter future. As former Executive Editor, I had the honor of choosing the cover to the magazine for the 2004 issue and entitling it "Contemplate the Past to Change the Future." I think that is the most important lesson to be learned from

"This magazine is now showcased in various colleges and museums, including the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in our nation's capital. This end result of each school year's compilation of students' contributions is Mrs. Kern's testimony to her peacemaking among today's youth."

participating in the HGP. One must not deny or forget one's past if the future is to be saved from intolerance and injustice. Mrs. Kern's admirable and honorable contributions to promoting peace throughout our world are encompassed in the HGP and *An End to Intolerance*. For peace to propagate throughout, we as the human race must look up to individuals such as Honey Kern and truly understand the meaning of peace and the contributions each individual can make to see a change in the world.

(Footnotes)

¹ Excluding Antarctica.

² See attached magazine for the 2004 edition of *An End to Intolerance*.

A New Beginning for *An End to Intolerance*

By Gideon Goldstein, Holocaust/Genocide Project Co-Mentor, Israel

Every new edition of *An End to Intolerance* allows me to look back in retrospect at the wonderful accomplishments the HGP has achieved over the years.

This year's edition of *AETI* does not only celebrate fifteen but marks the changing of the guard in the facilitation of the Holocaust Genocide Project. Ms. Honey Kern, the visionary founder of the HGP, the person who for over fifteen years had become synonymous with the project, chose to retire last summer and handed the reins to Ms. Joey Bergida.

As Ms. Kern joins me in co-mentoring the HGP, I would like, on behalf of all those who have been involved with our project during these many years to both congratulate Ms. Kern on a stupendous endeavor and wish her all the best in her new role.

I had the honor to assist Ms. Kern in guiding the HGP over the many years. I remember a morning in New York's Central Park, where the founding group of the HGP assembled to design the future of the project. Everyone was eager to advise and contribute.

Nothing reflects more luminously on Ms. Kern's success than her successor. Ms. Bergida is not only a graduate of Cold Spring Harbor High School, the hosting home for the project and our publication, but is also a graduate of the HGP, a co-editor in chief of *AETI* and a pilgrim on our very first Poland-Israel Study Mission.

Ms. Bergida's return as a teacher to CSHHS maybe a

natural choice for a graduate, but her willingness to assume the responsibility for the HGP and for *AETI* hopefully signifies the characteristics of excellence, leadership and responsibility we are proud to associate with our influence on the students who came through our doors. On behalf of the HGP, our participants and alumni and the several contributors to the project and to *AETI*,

I welcome Ms. Bergida as our facilitator and wish her many industrious years in leading the HGP.

Sixty years ago, the Second World War was long over. The enormous death toll of the war and the Holocaust was becoming evident and the living victims, the survivors, were coming to the cross-roads of their personal anguish and catastrophe with the hopes and horizons of their future.

Many survivors have had the opportunity to tell their stories. Many testimonies have been recorded for posterity. These testimonies, prejudicial

and subjective as they may be, are, in many cases, the only recollection of the ever-ending puzzle of the Holocaust. The memory of these individuals may be the only way we can write the history of the atrocities.

I am aware of the on-going debate criticizing personal testimonies as historical records. I believe this discussion is of merit, especially in cases where no objective source exists to tell the facts as they were. I would like to ask our new facilitator and the *AETI* editorial staff to consider placing the clash between memory and history as a leading theme for *AETI* of 2008.



Gideon Goldstein talks to students at Cold Spring Harbor High School in 2004