

COPPEL SPEAKERS BUREAU

GEORGE DORIN - SURVIVOR

George Dorin was born July 14, 1936, in Paris, France. His life would forever change when the Nazis invaded France in 1940. After George's father, Max Eli Zlotogorski, was taken by the Nazis, his mother, Regina, made the difficult decision to place George and his sister, Paulette, in hiding separately. George's father was sent to Pithiviers internment camp between 1941 and 1942, then to Auschwitz, where he was murdered. His mother was first taken to Drancy and then to Auschwitz, where she was murdered. Paulette was hidden by various families while George was sent to live on a farm with the Chemin family. Passing as the child of Maria and Louis Chemin, George helped on the farm with their children, Louie Jr. and Denise. When the Nazis advanced near the farm, George was temporarily hidden by a priest in a nearby nunnery until it was safe to return to the Chemin home. In 1947, George was temporarily reunited with his sister before they were adopted by different families. Although separated after the war, George kept in touch with the Chemin family throughout his adult life. In 1948, George immigrated to the United States where he was adopted by Francis and Harry Dorin of New York. He entered the United States Airforce in 1954 and was trained as a medical technician. After his military service, George settled in Ohio where he opened Gedico International Inc., a successful printing company. George met his wife, Marion, in 1990, and together the couple has five children. Today, they live in West Chester and George shares his Holocaust experience with students from the Tri-State area.

HENRY FENICHEL, PH.D. – SURVIVOR

Henry Fenichel was born in The Netherlands in 1938. Shortly after the Nazi rise to power, sensing the danger, Henry's parents sent a request for their relocation to Palestine where his father's family resided. After Henry's father was deported and murdered by the Nazis in Auschwitz, Henry and his mother still had no response to their request to immigrate. They then went into hiding. When Henry was four years old, he and his mother's hiding place was discovered and they were transported to the Westerbork transit camp. Shortly after arriving, they learned of a prisoner exchange that would allow a select number of Jews to escape to Palestine. Through a miraculous series of events, Henry's mother was able to get them on the list for "transport 222". In June 1944, Henry, his mother and 220 other Dutch individuals left Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, eventually arriving to freedom in British Mandate Palestine. Upon arriving in Palestine, Henry was placed in a children's home. His mother remarried, and with the help of his step-father's family, came to America in 1953. Henry taught Physics at the University of Cincinnati for 38 years.

AL MILLER – SURVIVOR

Dr. Al Miller was born in Berlin, Germany in 1922. His family owned a successful clothing company, and he has many happy memories of his early childhood. As an active youth, he enjoyed sports until one day he arrived at his favorite recreation center to find it forbidden to Jews. He also was an enthusiastic student. He remembers many of his childhood friends joining the Hitler Youth and wearing their uniforms with pride and cutting him out of their lives for being Jewish. He was the last Jewish student to remain in his class until it was made

too uncomfortable for him to stay. In 1936, Al attended the infamous Berlin Olympics in which American runner Jesse Owens won four medals. As conditions became worse for the Jews of Germany, his family put together a plan to leave the country and resettle elsewhere. Al departed Nazi Germany in 1937 for Switzerland, while his brother was sent to England. His parents remained in Germany, enduring Kristallnacht and hiding in a friend's home. The family was eventually to reunite in England before immigrating to America in 1939. Al settled in Hamilton, Ohio where he practiced optometry until his retirement.

DR. RENATE NEEMAN – SURVIVOR

Renate Neeman was born in Hildesheim, Germany in 1926. She and her parents fled to the Netherlands before Kristallnacht in 1938; they were permitted to stay. After Germany occupied the Netherlands in May 1940, the situation for the Jews became as severe as in Germany, but it was after the Jewish transports to the east began that Renate and her parents went into hiding. The Dutch underground placed them separately for safety; Renate was “passing” with false identity papers as a maid with a Christian family in the city of Amersfoort while her parents were hidden in a fraternity house with eight other Jews at Amsterdam University. All those hidden in both groups survived. Two weeks after the end of WWII, Renate was reunited with her parents. In 1946, Renate and her parents immigrated to America where they were reunited with Renate's older half-sister who had immigrated in 1937. Renate's career as an occupational therapist took her to Buffalo, NY, where she met her husband, Dr. Moshe Neeman, with whom she had four children. Before moving to Cincinnati in 2014, she was a speaker for the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo, NY.

ZAHAVA RENDLER – SURVIVOR

Zahava Rendler was born in Stryi, Poland just before the Nazi invasion. A Polish neighbor named Stachek hid her, her parents, and about 30 other people in an underground bunker, and brought food about once a week. Zahava was only a baby, and the bunker had to remain quiet, so the adults would give Zahava sleeping pills to muffle her cries. After hiding there for about a year, her parents gave Zahava to a Polish woman participating in the Resistance movement, then a Polish Catholic family in Lvov took her. When it became too dangerous to hide her in their home, the family sent her to live in a nearby convent. Zahava had false papers, which gave her the name “Olga Pachulchak. At the conclusion of the war, her parents, having also survived in hiding, were eventually able to retrieve her at the convent. Zahava and her family attempted to illegally settle in Palestine, but were caught by the British, and detained on the island of Cyprus. Eventually, the family was allowed to settle in Haifa, and finally, Cincinnati.

CONRAD WEINER – SURVIVOR

Conrad was born in Storojinetz, a small town in Bucovina, once part of Romania (currently part of the Ukraine) in 1938. After a brief occupation of the region by the Soviet Army in 1941, Romanian authorities in alliance with German forces, started a massive campaign of annihilation and deportation of Jews to Transnistria. They were taken by cattle car, a journey of two days and one night, and then forced to walk for two weeks in snow and mud to the forced labor camp, Budi. Conrad was 3 1/2 years old at the time. While in Budi, Conrad fell very ill. Many of the prisoners advised his mother to give up. Her response was that a mother does not give up on her child. Eventually, he was nursed back to health by his mother. In 1944, at the age of six, Conrad and the 300 surviving prisoners at Budi were

liberated by the advancing Soviet Army and repatriated to Romania. In 1946, Romania became a Communist country. It wasn't until July 1960 that the paperwork was approved and Conrad's family was able to come to America. He settled in Cincinnati and graduated from Indiana University with a B.A. in German and Russian Language and Literature. In 1968, he obtained a M.B.A. from the University of Cincinnati on a full-ride scholarship.

ANNELIESE & MATT YOSAFAT — SURVIVORS

Anneliese and Matt met in 1955 through a mutual friend. They soon learned that their meeting was fate when they discovered both had been children in hiding during the war. Anneliese was born in Leipzig, Germany, in 1937 and Matt was born in Katerini, Greece, in 1936. After being notified of deportation in 1942, Anneliese and her family went into hiding. That same year, the Yosafats went into hiding with the Nazi occupation of Greece. Anneliese and her family hid in 13 different locations during the war before fleeing to Bludenz and using falsified documents to pass themselves off as Christians. The Yosafats hid in places including a cave and tobacco shelter, rarely safe and often separated. Ultimately, the Yosafat family reunited in Katerini and were liberated, but the outbreak of a civil war led the family to emigrate to the United States in 1951. In 1955, he met Anneliese — who had arrived in the United States with her family shortly after the war — and they were soon married in 1959.

RUTH BARNETT — DAUGHTER OF A SURVIVOR

Ruth tells the moving story of her mother Irene Levin who was born Josepha Weil in 1927. Josepha was a child of a large, prosperous, secular family in the Sudetenland, a German corridor of western Czechoslovakia. Josepha was just over eleven years old when her father died, and Hitler walked through the Sudetenland. By December 1941, Josepha, her mother, Irena, and stepfather, Georg, were deported to Terezin, where they spent over two years. Deportation to Auschwitz and slave labor at a sub-camp called Christianstadt followed. In January 1945, with the Russians advancing, Josepha and her mother were forced on a Death March, which would span 200 miles in ice and snow. Then they were loaded into a cattle car to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, where Irena was carried to her death upon arrival. The British liberated Bergen-Belsen in April 1945. After several months of recovery from typhus, Josepha returned to Prague. Only Georg and one cousin returned. In 1947, Josepha immigrated to America and adopted her mother's name, Irene. In 1949, Irene met and married her husband, Joe Levin, and raised three children. In 2017, as Ruth just retired from a career as a Quality Assurance professional, her father died. Ruth brought Irene to live in Mason. It was this time with her mother that got Ruth actively involved with her mother's photos, memoirs, and sharing this important story of survival. It is Ruth's belief that in this time of Holocaust denial and politicization, it is up to the generation of survivor children to assume the mantle of sharing these firsthand accounts of the realities of hate.

STEVE BOYMEL — SON OF SURVIVORS

Steve was born in a displaced persons camp immediately following the end of World War Two. As a son of Holocaust survivors born in its immediate aftermath, Steve shares his family's story and the impact it had on him. Steve's father Sam, was born in Turszysk, Poland and witnessed the massacre of his family, Jewish friends and neighbors. Rachel, Steve's mother, was born in Ozierany, Poland and was the only girl to attend Cheder (school for Jewish children). Together, Sam and Rachel's stories narrate life during the Holocaust

including living in a ghetto, being on the run and in hiding. He also describes his family's immigration to America and the struggle to build a life and business in Cincinnati.

DR. GARY BROOKS — SON OF A SURVIVOR

Dr. Gary Brooks tells the story of his grandfather Ivan, grandmother Marija, aunt Dela, and mother Hildegard who were devout Catholics living in Belgrade in the former Yugoslavia (now Serbia). In October 1941, the family was sent to the Lodz Ghetto in Poland. From there, they were removed to a succession of forced labor camps throughout Poland and Germany. Of his four family members, only Ivan and Hildegard survived the war. Separated from the rest of her family after the Allied victory, Gary's mother was sent to a displaced person's camp in 1945. Hildegard located her father nearly ten years after the war ended, but they were never reunited. Hildegard met and married a Cincinnati airman and came to America through Union Terminal in 1948, where she was greeted by Gary's paternal grandfather, a baggage clerk at Union Terminal. Dr. Brooks is a professional watercolor artist and retired educator, having been a teacher, principal, and superintendent for more than three decades.

STEVE COPPEL — SON OF SURVIVORS

Steve Coppel is the son of two Holocaust Survivors, Trudy and Werner Coppel. Both his parents have an amazing story of survival, perseverance, rebuilding and love which is featured throughout the Nancy and David Wolf Holocaust and Humanity Center. Steve's Dad (Werner) was a survivor of Auschwitz. He was the first Holocaust Survivor in Cincinnati to speak publicly about his experiences. Starting in the early 1970's, Werner spoke at schools, churches, meetings and public gatherings stressing the ills of hate and prejudice but also encouraging his audiences to stand up to them even when they didn't apply to them personally. Steve's goal is to continue carrying this message because it is so vital. Steve retired from a career in manufacturing and is one of the exhibit Interpreters at HHC as well as a member of the Coppel Speakers' Bureau which was named in memory of his parents.

CHERYL HECHT — DAUGHTER OF A SURVIVOR

Cheryl Hecht tells the story of her father, David Hochstein, a Holocaust survivor from Cologne, Germany. Rescued by a Kindertransport, he was taken to London when he was 15. The Kindertransport movement was unique in that people of many religions came together to rescue 10,000 mostly Jewish children, bringing them to Great Britain. David's story is one example of a teenager's resilience, perseverance, and strength, during the Holocaust. Cheryl has worked as a professional and volunteer in the Jewish community. A graphic designer, she recently retired from the Mayerson JCC after 19 years.

MARK HEIMAN — SON OF SURVIVORS

Mark tells the story of his family, originally from Demmelsdorf, a small farming community in Bavaria. Mark's grandfather, Karl, served in the German army in WWI. He later moved to Munich where he established a textile business and raised a family. Mark's father, Paul, was 12 years old when he witnessed his Jewish school being burned down the day after Kristallnacht. Arrested on Kristallnacht, Karl was interned in Dachau concentration camp. After 30 days, Karl left Dachau and was given 48 hours to leave Germany. The journey took

the family to Switzerland, France, England, and finally to Cincinnati where they settled and thrived. Mark also discusses events leading to the Holocaust and its relevance today.

ANDREA HERZIG

Andrea Angell Herzig is a retired educator and author of “Courage in the Little Suitcase.” The novel, written for middle grades, is historical fiction that centers on her distant relative, Mordechai Anielewicz, leader of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. At 20 years old, Anielewicz led 300 to 500 young men and women between the ages of 13 and 30 to fight back against the Nazis during the liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto. Andrea shares this heroic, but tragic story, and also inspires audiences to stand up for what is just and morally right. Andrea lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she is an active volunteer, including as a speaker and interpreter for the Holocaust and Humanity Center.

SANDY KALTMAN - DAUGHTER OF SURVIVORS

Sandy tells the story of her mother and Holocaust survivor, Roma Kaltman. Roma was born in Lodz, Poland in 1926. She was 13 years old when Nazi Germany invaded her homeland. Roma and her family were forced into the Lodz ghetto in October, where she lived for five years. Roma’s brother, Simon, worked in the ghetto’s Bureau of Vital Statistics which helped him provide for the family after their mother died of malnutrition. In August 1944, Lodz was liquidated and Roma was sent to Auschwitz. Here she spent about seven to eight weeks. Roma her sister, Rozalia, and friend, Danka, were then sent from Auschwitz to Stutthof. Once the Allies advanced towards Stutthof, the Nazis forced all prisoners out of the camp onto a death march. They walked for about a week when finally Roma, Rozalia, and Danka escaped the death march by rolling into a ravine alongside the road. Turning their coats inside out so that they could not be identified as escapees, they wandered into a town called Putzik. They stayed in Putzik for several months, recovering from typhoid. They then began their trip home to Lodz to look for surviving family. A few years later, Roma was reunited with her boyfriend Sam, from the Lodz ghetto. They married and came to live in Cincinnati. Roma earned her Bachelors of Science degree from the University of Cincinnati.

HAGIT LIMOR - DAUGHTER OF A SURVIVOR

Hagit Limor is the daughter of Holocaust survivor Menachem "Moniek" Limor, who was only 8 years old when the Nazis invaded his hometown of Czestochowa, Poland in 1939. Through a series of miracles he survived the ghetto, several hideouts, a labor camp, and a cattle car train to Buchenwald Concentration Camp, where ultimately, American soldiers liberated him in 1945. Of 200 extended family members before the war, only five survived. Hagit just told his story in a special report on WCPO-TV <https://youtu.be/UgjU8gvScI8> as she readies a project HHC is sponsoring. *Moniek's Legacy* seeks to empower people to fight bigotry today. Hagit is a ten-time Emmy Award winning freelance journalist after years working for network affiliates. She also serves as a full professor at the University of Cincinnati CCM Electronic Media Division.

BARBARA MCCOUCHA - DAUGHTER OF A SURVIVOR

Barbara tells the story of her mother, Vera Gutin, a Holocaust survivor. Vera’s earliest memories begin with the events of Kristallnacht in her hometown of Trier, Germany. After experiencing the violence of Kristallnacht, Vera’s family relocated to nearby Luxembourg and eventually France in an attempt to stay ahead of the Nazis. Vera would spend the duration of

the war in Vichy, France passing as a French child with the help of OSE, the French Resistance, and the care of a small French village. Barbara uses Vera's personal notes, photos, and documents, presenting the story her mother shared before her, with additional information Barbara gathered on her own journey to Europe in 2018. Barbara is a senior support specialist at a local elementary school and spends her weekends volunteering as a storyteller in her temple's library. She hopes her mother's story of survival, risk, and the care of strangers will inspire people today to care for strangers in need.

SONIA MILROD - DAUGHTER OF A SURVIVORS

Over 20,000 European Jews survived the Holocaust by escaping to Shanghai, China. Sonia Milrod's parents were among them. Her father, Jerry Milrod, fled Lodz, Poland when the German's invaded and made it to Vilno, Lithuania. From there, he, his brother, and several friends were among over a thousand who made it to Kobe, Japan based on a transit visa signed by Chiune Sugihara, and then to Shanghai. Her mother, Lydia Hernball, escaped with her family from Berlin right after Kristallnacht - first to Bangkok and then to Shanghai. Sonia will tell the amazing story of their very different journeys and also how they met and married in Shanghai. Sonia is a professional educator, having been a classroom teacher, language arts supervisor, curriculum director, and assistant superintendent in California, Kentucky, and Ohio. Retired after 47 years in education, she continues to work part-time administering Mayerson Academy's internationally accredited Orton-Gillingham Multisensory Reading Program.

JOEL NAHARI — SON OF SURVIVORS

Joel's parents both escaped the Holocaust as children. His mother, Ruth Dresel was born in Germany in 1926, and experienced anti-Semitism before escaping to Israel with her family at age 9. Eight members of her family were murdered in the Holocaust, and the few known survivors escaped to Israel, China, England, Chile, and the United States. Joel's father, Uri Nahari, was born in Czechoslovakia in 1924 and he too witnessed and experienced the brutality of the Nazis before escaping alone to Palestine in 1939 at age 14 where he was reunited with his sister who had escaped earlier. The Nazis murdered his entire immediate family with the exception of his sister, an aunt and 2 cousins. Both of Joel's parents joined the Jewish underground Army who were fighting the British and the Arab nations, and helped Israel gain independence in 1948. Joel and his family immigrated to the United States in 1967 and settled in upstate New York.

RAY WARREN — SON OF SURVIVORS

Ray tells the inspirational story of his mother and father, both Holocaust survivors, and how it has impacted his life. His search for his parents' history, repressed in part by his parents, takes him on journeys to Communist Poland and Israel, the internet, and ultimately swings back to his parents. Ray's mother, Fannie, was born in the small town of Zwolen, Poland in 1916 and was one of five children born to Rubin and Mindel Hofman. She was married shortly after the war began in 1940. After working in a labor camp in Policzna, they were sent to an ammunitions camp at Skarzysko, where her husband was murdered. She was transported to another ammunitions factory in Częstochowa before being sent to Bergen Belsen (Germany) in the winter of 1944. She was finally liberated by the British army on April 15, 1945. Of her family, only she and her brother Chaim, survived. Ray's father, Max, was born in the city of Lodz, Poland in 1905, and was the youngest of six children born to Raphael and Kayla

Worobejczyk. He was married in 1935, and a son was born in 1937. At the start of the war, Max was captured by the Russians in eastern Poland, and spent the next several years in prison in Bialystok and in Siberia. Of his family, only a nephew, Raymond, survived the war. Max and Fannie were married in Germany in 1947. They immigrated to the US in 1949.

SARAH WEISS — GRANDDAUGHTER OF SURVIVORS

Sarah is the Director of HHC and has served on the staff since 2004. As the granddaughter (3G) of survivors, Sarah is dedicated to Holocaust awareness and education and offers knowledge of programs, workshops and the Mapping Our Tears exhibit. She is available to give presentations on a variety of themes related to the Holocaust and its lessons. Sarah has participated in extensive Holocaust and diversity training with numerous institutions including the Anti-Defamation League, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Columbia University, and Israel's International Holocaust Museum, Yad Vashem. She has led several groups to Poland and Israel, is a Lerner Fellow through the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous Sarah is the recipient of the Public Allies "Changemaker" award, the Jewish Federation "Weston Avodah" award, the FBI's "Director's Leadership Award," and was named "One to Watch" by Cincinnati Magazine as well as a YWCA "Rising Star." Sarah is on the board of the International Association of Holocaust Organizations and the World Federation of Child Holocaust Survivors.