

**TOGETHER WE WILL REMEMBER:
HOW COLLABORATION AND COMMITMENT
HAVE BROUGHT A COMMUNITY
TOGETHER AROUND HOLOCAUST STUDY
--FOR TWENTY YEARS!**

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Description: For over twenty years, Akron, Ohio’s Jewish Community and the Akron-Summit County Public Library have worked collaboratively to offer middle and high school educators (from urban and suburban public, private, and parochial schools) and interested community members an annual opportunity to engage in learning and dialogue around topics of Holocaust study. This community seminar has welcomed keynote speakers from art institutions, USHMM, local universities, the Northern Cheyenne Nation, and more, along with local survivors, liberators, and Second Generation family to bear witness to the events that have shaped and inform their lives. Seminar topics are wide-ranging, from the experiences of women and children in the Holocaust to the role of Helpers and Bystanders, and more. This presentation will focus on the strengths and strategies of collaboration, the evolution of the seminar to address state mandates for public education and a changing demographic, and best practices in conveying the lessons of the Holocaust to new generations of students through dialogue and print, media, and e-media resources.

Esther Hexter has shared her extensive knowledge and enthusiasm for learning with the Jewish communities of Akron, Canton, and Cleveland. Retired Director of Akron’s Jewish Resource Center, Esther continues to serve and educate through her work as museum consultant and docent (Massillon Art Museum, Akron Art Museum, Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage), committee member of the Shaw JCC Yom Hashoah Committee and the City of Akron Holocaust Commemoration Committee, Board member of the Ohio Council on Holocaust and Genocide Education, lecturer on the Jewish-American literary experience and on Jewish and Holocaust history, and chief organizer of the annual JCBA Holocaust Seminar for educators and community members. Esther was honored in 2015 by the Cleveland Jewish News as one of “18 Difference Makers,” and in 2016 as the Jewish Community Board of Akron’s Volunteer of the Year.

Barb White has worked at both the Main and branch libraries of the Akron-Summit County Public Library in various roles - teen librarian, audiovisual and adult services librarian, early childhood librarian, branch manager, and, now, as Neighborhood Services Manager. Barb worked in publishing in NY and Chicago before beginning her career in library services. She has presented at local, national, and international workshops and conferences on a variety of topics including Holocaust Studies and Education; Community Engagement, Collaboration, and Social Justice; Shared Inquiry and Inquiry-Based Learning; Professional Development and the Study Group Process; Emergent and Family Literacy; and Reggio-Inspired Early Childhood Education and Library Practice. She is co-editor of *The Power of We: The Ohio Study Group Experience*, and has authored or co-authored articles for professional publications. Barb currently serves on the City of Akron’s Holocaust Commemoration Committee and the Executive Board of Ohio Voices for Learning, and as Chair of the AkronReads Steering Committee (Akron Public Schools).