

Program Name: The Holocaust and the Heroes Among Us

Artist: Dianne Moran

## Special Requirements:

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Large cleared space; long table for display items

## Special Points of Interest:

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The U.S. government knew about the critical situation for Germany's Jews. In 1938, the Evian Conference met to decide if the U.S. would take Jewish immigrants into our country; the U.S. voted no and immigrants were refused entrance into the U.S.

## Performance Description

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It is April, the year is 1945 and WWII has just ended. Dressed in period clothing, Dianne, as an American Jew, will engage the students as though they are her neighbors. She discusses with them the truth of what really happened to Jews and others under Hitler's reign of terror. Students are encouraged to use improvisation and role-playing as they interact with Dianne. Facts of concentration camp life and death are examined and students are asked if they believe what they've just heard is true.

Dianne will ask for three volunteers to dress as a camp liberating U.S. GI, a Jewish boy, and a girl student. Through role-playing, a closer look at daily life will be shown for all three. Discrimination is everywhere and volunteers will be encouraged to imagine what it would be like to be ostracized from life as they knew it before the war. Questions of why no one

(not even Americans) came to defend the Jews will also be discussed.

Laws were enacted against the Jewish people in a gradual way, thereby delaying cause for alarm among the people. Resistance did not begin until the Jewish ghettos were established and the possibility of fighting back was most difficult, but not impossible. The resistance fighters were everyday Jewish people and others who were incredibly brave and included little children, students, Germans, Danes, Italians, and some Americans. These people did what they knew to be right to fight against hatred.

The students will be led in a discussion of how discrimination is apparent even today and what they can do to fight against it. A display table of war memorabilia will be shown with a question and answer period to conclude the program.

## Educational Objectives & Standards

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### Students will:

- learn the historic atmosphere of Germany before and during the war
- understand their own power as they speak out against prejudice and their own sense of what is right and wrong in the world today

### Standards addressed:

- Knows major physical and human features of places as they are represented on maps and globes
- Knows what individuals and groups have played major roles in historical events and what were their aims, challenges and accomplishments

## Artist Bio: Dianne Moran

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Dianne Moran is an award-winning storyteller who has worked with audiences for 35 years as a folklorist/naturalist. She lives in the Missouri Ozarks where she owns *Earth Ways Farm*, an environmental camp. Her programs may include Mt. Dulcimer and relics, as well as her live animals which serve as metaphors for her stories.

Dianne performs *Chautauqua* programs as a Civil War and Lewis & Clark scholar throughout the Midwest. She has produced numerous CDs, tapes

and videos of her living histories.

Her programs receive funding from the Missouri Arts Council, Missouri Humanities Council, and received the *Program Award for Artistic Excellence and Educational Effectiveness* from Young Audiences of St. Louis. Dianne has performed for hundreds of school programs, workshops, and residencies, making her a curriculum regular for thousands of school children in Missouri and throughout the midwest.

## Vocabulary

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### List of Resources:

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#### Books:

Wiesel, Elie. *Night*; Hill and Wang, 2006.  
ISBN: 0374500010

Holliday, Laurel. *Children in the Holocaust and World War II: Their Secret Diaries*; Washington Square Press, 1996. ISBN: 0671520555

Frank, Anne. *The Diary of a Young Girl*; Pocket Books, 1958. ISBN: 0671835467

#### Videos:

[American Experience - America and the Holocaust](#). PBS, 1994.

[Partisans of Vilna](#). Dir. Joshua Waletzky. Perf. Roberta Wallach and Abba Kovner. 1986.

[Into The Arms Of Strangers - Stories Of The Kindertransport](#). Dir. Mark Jonathan Harris. Perf. Inge Sadan and Kurt Fuchel. 2000.

Contact KCYA for more information about this and other programs

816.531.4022  
KCYA.org

**Aryan Race:** The Nazi term for Northern European races.

**Auschwitz:** Largest Nazi concentration camp near Krakow, Poland.

**Concentration Camps:** Nazi generic term for all camps, including death, slave labor, internment, transit and punishment.

**Genocide:** Nazi-planned mass murder of the Jews

**Holocaust:** WWII destruction and murder of six million Jewish people by Hitler

**Jewish Star:** A yellow cloth star all Jews were required by law to wear.

**Nuremberg Laws:** 1935 anti-Jewish laws which robbed German Jews of citizenship and basic human rights.

**Partisans:** Irregular guerilla troops/citizens who fought against the Nazis

**SS:** Hitler's Nazi soldier units organized to destroy the Jews.

**Wannsee Conference:** A Berlin meeting in 1942 to discuss and coordinate the "Final Solution" or the mass murder of 6 million people.

**The White Rose:** A German student organization which protested the Nazis with printed leaflets and whose leaders were found out and executed for treason.

## Post-Performance Activities

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1. Visit one of the following Holocaust Museums/Learning Centers:

- Holocaust Learning Center/Museum St. Louis, MO  
314-432-0020
- Midwest Center For Holocaust Education Overland Park, KS  
913-327-8190
- Miller/Nichols Library for Holocaust Studies Kansas City, MO  
816-235-1534

