

**State of New Jersey
Commission on Holocaust/Genocide Education**

P.O. Box 500
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(609) 633-8599 – FAX

holocaust@doe.state.nj.us

<http://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/>



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DR. JOAN RIVITZ

HELEN SIMPKINS

*deceased

September 2016

TO: Executive County Superintendents

FROM: Lawrence M. Glaser, Executive Director
New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education

RE: Summer Mailing to Schools

It would be appreciated if the enclosures to this letter could be sent to your superintendents and other schools in your county for distribution to their principals.

Thank you for your continuous support in the fight against bias, bigotry and intolerance wherever and whenever they exist.

LMG/jab

Enclosures



ENCLOSURES

- Dr. Paul B. Winkler
- Lawrence M. Glaser New Executive Director
- Update
- N.J.S.A. 18A:35-28, Holocaust/Genocide Education
- The Law
- UDL Letter to Educators
- Curriculum Guide Covers
- Publications – Price List and Order Form
- What is Genocide
- Know the ABC's of Reporting Bias Incidents/Hate Crimes
- Teaching Strategies – Holocaust/Genocide Education
- Promoting Diversity in New Jersey's Schools
- How to Subscribe to Our Listserv

• Law Mandating Holocaust/Genocide Education http://www.state.nj.us/education/holocaust/about_us/mandate.html
• Curriculum Guides Available http://www.state.nj.us/education/holocaust/curriculum/
• List of Holocaust/Genocide Resource Centers http://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/centers/holocaust_centers.pdf
• Holocaust Rationale Statement http://www.state.nj.us/education/holocaust/about_us/rationale.html
• Recommended Books and Materials for School Libraries http://www.state.nj.us/education/holocaust/resources/
• The Prakhin International Literary Foundation Annual Award http://www.state.nj.us/education/holocaust/stawards/Prakhin.pdf
• Anniversary Booklet – Significant Anniversaries of Holocaust/Genocide Education and Human Civil Rights http://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/resources/AnniversaryBooklet.pdf
• Sikh Genocide: https://thirdsikhgenocide.wordpress.com/
• Armenian Genocide Society Education Workshop: http://armeniangenocidesociety.com/genocide-education-workshop.html
• Teacher Workshops: (Continuously Updated During the Year) http://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/programs/



DR. PAUL B. WINKLER



November 3, 1936 – July 12, 2016

Philip Kirschner, Chairman and Lawrence M. Glaser, Executive Director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education have announced the passing of Dr. Paul B. Winkler, retired Executive Director of the Commission:

Among the most difficult messages we send to one another are those that tell us of friends, colleagues or relatives who have passed away. On July 12, 2016, Dr. Paul B. Winkler, whose soul is now at peace and whose legacy remains as a blessing to all of us who knew him and marveled at his extraordinary humanity, passed away.

Paul was formally involved in Holocaust/genocide education and prejudice reduction education since 1974. This interest began during his youth and was developed, encouraged, and learned from his parents and grandmother through their community involvement. Starting as a teenager and through the remainder of his adult years he was involved in social causes. After completing his bachelor's degree in education, Paul began his educational experience as an elementary school teacher. He also continued his own education, completing a doctoral degree in educational leadership at Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1974.

His educational activities of over 50 years included teacher, principal, superintendent, Regional Education Director, New Jersey Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Education for Exceptional Children at the New Jersey Department of Education, and Director of a Teacher Training Center. He wrote many articles dealing with Holocaust and genocide education, including articles about "Darfur" published in the 2007 NJEA Review and about Terrorism and 9/11 in 2008. His most recent publication is "Teaching the Unspeakable – The New Jersey Story of Holocaust/Genocide Education." The book tells of the 30 year history of Holocaust/Genocide education in New Jersey.

During all of those experiences, Dr. Winkler coordinated Holocaust/genocide education in the State of New Jersey, sometimes as a volunteer, and then as a part-time employee after retiring in 1990. The efforts have seen a council, and eventually a Commission on Holocaust Education established in New Jersey and the Holocaust/genocide mandate, which was signed into law in 1994. Dr. Winkler, while coordinating all Holocaust/genocide activities, also trained teachers and made direct presentations to students. Under his leadership, many collaborative efforts occurred including the Italian, Armenian and Amistad Commissions, as well as the Martin Luther King Commission. Many curriculum guides were developed under his leadership regarding genocide from Native American to Darfur today.

He received numerous awards and citations including the Philip Forman Human Relations award from the American Jewish Committee of Central New Jersey, NJEA Humanitarian Award, the MLK Academy of Leaders Award, the outstanding educator award from ASCD, and numerous legislative acknowledgments from the New Jersey State Government. In honor of his 70th birthday and over 50 years in education, his family, friends and colleagues established the Paul B. Winkler Endowment to be awarded to an elementary educator each year.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Cecelia, son Jeffrey and his wife Laura, daughter Sharona, five grandchildren, Elie, Sammy, Racheli, Adam and Amy, one great grandchild, Celeste and brother Henry and his wife Gayle.

Services took place at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at Platt Memorial Chapel, 2001 Haddonfield-Berlin Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003, followed by burial at the Mt. Sharon Cemetery, 502 E. Springfield Road, Springfield, PA 19064.

May we all remember Paul fondly and strive to live up to the example he set and the potential he saw in others.

Memorial contributions can be made to any of the following in Paul's name:

Paul B. Winkler Endowment to be awarded to an elementary educator

Make check payable to: The College of New Jersey

Send check to:

Charles Wright, Director
Office of Development
TCNJ Annual Fund
The College of New Jersey
PO Box 7718
Ewing, NJ 08628

PLEASE NOTE ON CHECK THAT IT IS FOR THE DR. PAUL B. WINKLER ENDOWMENT FUND.

You can also make your donation on-line: <https://community.tcnj.edu/sslpage.aspx?pid=314>

Where it says "Designation" – click the arrow for the pull down menu and click "Paul B. Winkler Endowment Fund"

Dr. Paul Winkler Scholarship Fund

The fund will offer a scholarship each year to a teacher who enrolls in the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education Summer Seminar which takes teachers to sites in Central Europe helping them to better understand the Holocaust, the events leading to it and the goals of German educators today.

Make check payable to: **GHMEC - Dr. Paul Winkler Scholarship Fund**

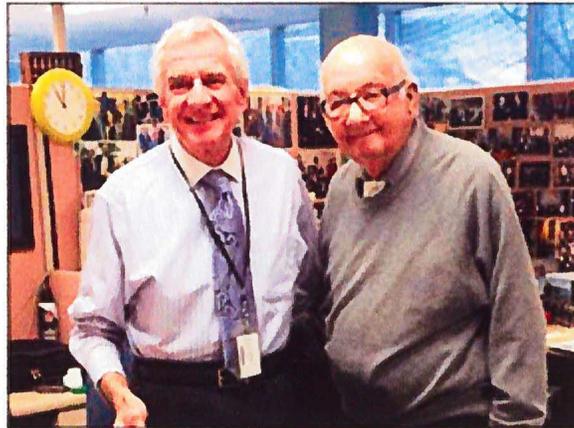
Send check to:

GHMEC
1301 Springdale Road
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

Seashore Gardens Living Center

22 W. Jimmie Leeds Road
Galloway, NJ 08205

The Commission's New Leader



Paul Winkler, right, founding executive director of the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education, who died July 12, and his successor, Lawrence Glaser, in the commission's Trenton office earlier this year.

Photo courtesy NJ Commission on Holocaust Education

LAWRENCE GLASER OF Moorestown became executive director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education after the May 24 retirement of his predecessor, Dr. Paul Winkler, who died July 12.

Glaser told *NJJN* his taking over the position was a “seamless transition,” saying Winkler had begun training him last year.

After stepping down as CEO of a headhunting firm, Glaser attended graduate school at night at Stockton University in Galloway Township to obtain a master’s degree in Holocaust education, then stayed on to teach in the school’s undergraduate program for eight years.

Glaser said while none of his family members were survivors of the Shoa, “all of us have a connection with the Holocaust.” — ROBERT WIENER – New Jersey Jewish News

Lawrence M. Glaser
Executive Director
New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education
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Lawrence.glaser@doe.state.nj.us
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*deceased

September 2016

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter and Renaissance School Lead Persons
Principals
District Curriculum Coordinators

FROM: Lawrence M. Glaser, Executive Director 
New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education

RE: Update

I hope the summer was a pleasant transition both professionally and personally and that the new school year begins well and is successful educationally. Please review and forward this letter and the enclosed information to your school leaders.

New on the Holocaust web site <http://www.state.nj.us/education/holocaust/> is a link under "Resources" to the Sikh Genocide website: <https://thirdsikhgenocide.wordpress.com/> and the Armenian Genocide Society Education Workshop web site: <http://armeniangenocidesociety.com/genocide-education-workshop.html>.

I have included a number of items with this letter (enclosed and available on the web) that should be forwarded to appropriate personnel in your school in relation to the Holocaust/genocide mandate and the entire issue of teaching about character education, anti-bullying and bias/prejudice reduction.

Before the issues fade from the memory, please review material on 9/11 for instruction in the classroom - <http://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/911/>.

The Holocaust/Genocide Resource Centers reported their programs for students, educators, survivors and the community and the information was sent to the Governor as part of the Commission's "End of Year – 2014/15 Report." The following are the totals for all Centers: 479 Programs servicing 54,488 students, 7,694 educators, 3,151 survivors and 74,491 community members.

During the 2015/16 school year, the Commission continued to coordinate programs bringing together students and survivors. Thousands of students have been involved in the process over the past year. It is recommended that programs be implemented in the schools bringing together students and survivors.

Thank you for your continued support in the battle against bias, prejudice and intolerance wherever and whenever they exist and if the materials are not age appropriate for students in your school, please pass on to other interested persons.

LMG/jab

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September 2016

TO: Chief School Administrators
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Principals
District Curriculum Coordinators

FROM: Lawrence M. Glaser, Executive Director 
New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education

RE: N.J.S.A. 18A:35-28, Holocaust/Genocide Education

The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education has received a number of inquiries from educators on whether or not school districts and charter schools must include instruction on the Holocaust and genocides in elementary and secondary education.

As a reminder, in 1994 the legislature voted unanimously in favor of an act requiring education on the Holocaust and genocide in elementary and secondary education and it subsequently signed into law by Governor Whitman. The law indicates that issues of bias, prejudice and bigotry, including bullying through the teaching of the Holocaust and genocide, shall be included for all children from K-12th grade. Because this is a law and in Statute any changes in standards would not impact the requirement of education on this topic in all New Jersey public schools.

This Statute remains current and must be incorporated when developing new or revised curriculum. A review of the English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical subjects suggests that it can be used as a framework in developing a well articulated multi-disciplinary K-12 Holocaust/genocide program of study.

For recommendations of incorporating Holocaust and genocide education into grades K – 12 curriculum, the Commission encourages educators to use the study guides available on the Commission website at, [New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education - Curriculum](http://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/). Please do not hesitate to contact the Commission at holocaust@doe.state.nj.us if you need more information on the law or additional resources.

Attachment

LMG/jab

Christine Todd Whitman

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, Nos. 760, 621, and 563

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ADOPTED MARCH 10, 1994

Sponsored by Senators EWING, McGREEVEY and SINAGRA

1 AN ACT regarding genocide education in the public schools and
2 supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4
5 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the
6 State of New Jersey:

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. New Jersey has recently become the focal point of national
9 attention for the most venomous and vile of ethnic hate speeches.

10 b. There is an inescapable link between violence and vandalism
11 and ethnic and racial intolerance. The New Jersey Department
12 of Education itself has formally recognized the existence of the
13 magnitude of this problem in New Jersey schools by the
14 formation of a Commissioner's Task Force on Violence and
15 Vandalism.

16 c. New Jersey is proud of its enormous cultural diversity. The
17 teaching of tolerance must be made a priority if that cultural
18 diversity is to remain one of the State's strengths.

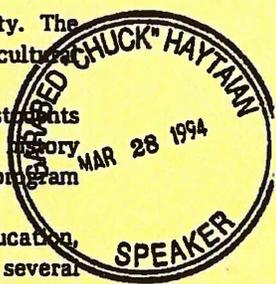
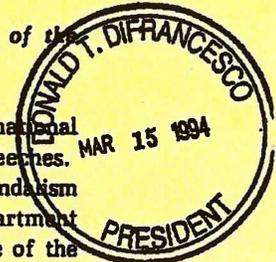
19 d. National studies indicate that fewer than 25% of students
20 have an understanding of organized attempts throughout history
21 to eliminate various ethnic groups through a systematic program
22 of mass killing or genocide.

23 e. The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education,
24 created pursuant to P.L.1991, c.193 (C.18A:4A-1 et seq.), several
25 years ago expanded its mission to study and recommend
26 curricular material on a wide range of genocides. The Holocaust
27 Commission is an ideal agency to recommend curricular materials
28 to local districts.

29 2. a. Every board of education shall include instruction on the
30 Holocaust and genocides in an appropriate place in the curriculum
31 of all elementary and secondary school pupils.

32 b. The instruction shall enable pupils to identify and analyze
33 applicable theories concerning human nature and behavior; to
34 understand that genocide is a consequence of prejudice and
35 discrimination; and to understand that issues of moral dilemma
36 and conscience have a profound impact on life. The instruction
37 shall further emphasize the personal responsibility that each
38 citizen bears to fight racism and hatred whenever and wherever
39 it happens.

40 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply
41 to curriculum offerings in the 1994-95 school year.



Attest
Peter Verniero
PETER VERNIERO
CHIEF COUNSEL TO THE GOVERNOR

APPROVED
274 DAY OF APRIL 19 94
Christine Todd Whitman
CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN
GOVERNOR

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*deceased

September, 2016

Dear Educator:

The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education is committed to teaching ALL students the importance of the simple human dignity bestowed upon each of us and to practice respect for all people expressed through our thoughts, our words and our actions to build a more responsible, humane citizenry. To this end, the Commission collaborated with New Jersey educators and the Office of Special Education Programs in the Division of Learning Supports and Specialized Services at the New Jersey Department of Education to create *Teaching about the Holocaust/Genocide, Prejudice and Bullying Using UDL (Universal Design for Learning)*.

The lesson plans were developed by New Jersey educators utilizing the principles of UDL – Teaching the Diverse Classroom. The lessons deal with the subject of the Holocaust/genocide, prejudice, discrimination and bullying prevention, as well as, acceptance, perseverance, and making choices.

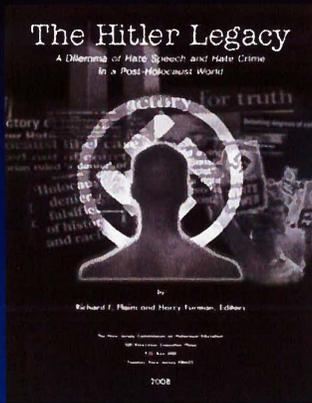
We believe that they will be a valuable resource for classroom instruction as teachers implement the required curriculum and to facilitate a positive school climate. The Commission values your input for future revisions and also requests other lessons to implement other curriculum developed by the Commission utilizing the UDL concept. The suggestions may be sent to (holocaust@doe.state.nj.us.) The lesson plans and other material about the Holocaust and genocide may be viewed on our website <http://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/>.

Sincerely,

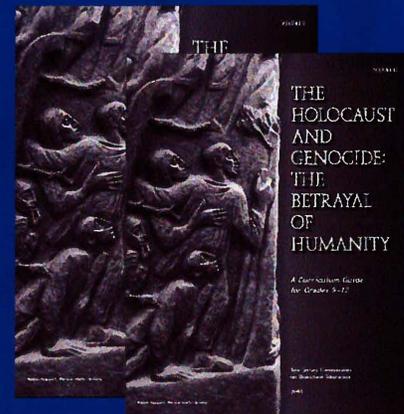
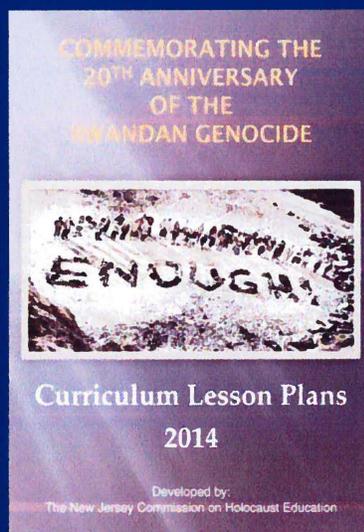
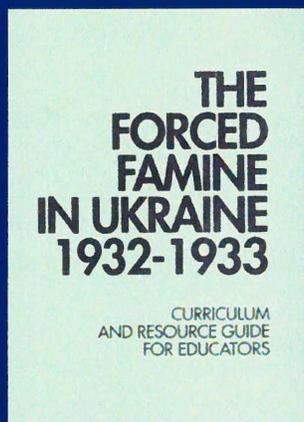
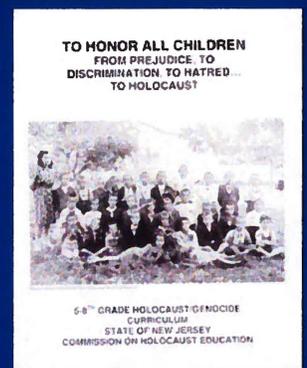
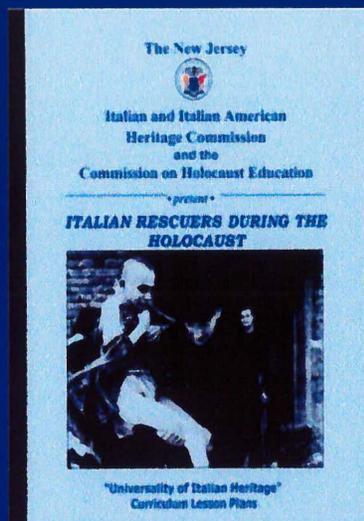
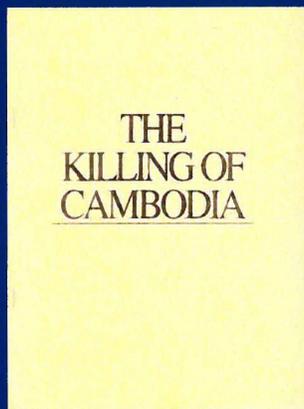
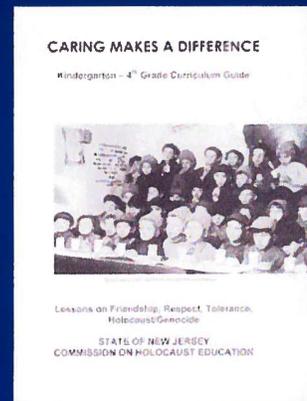
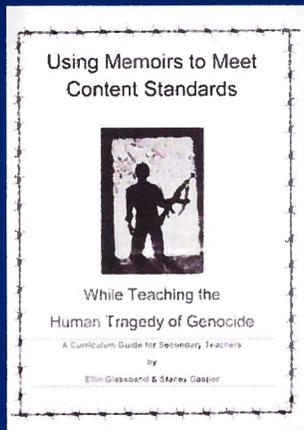
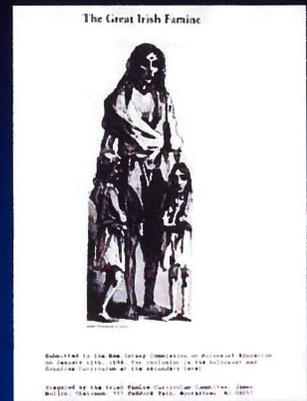
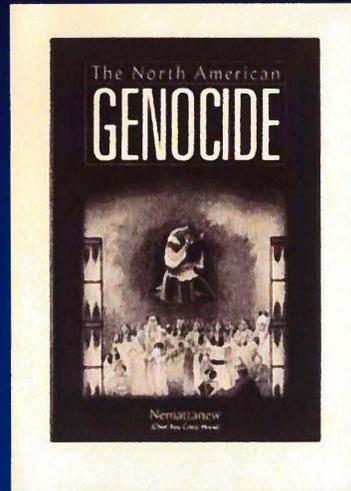
Lawrence M. Glaser
Executive Director
New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education

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New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education Curriculum Guides



Curriculum Guides



NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625

September 2016

Holocaust Publication Price List



TITLE	AVAILABLE ON WEB SITE	GRADE LEVEL	DESCRIPTION	PRICE/HARD COPY	PRICE/DVD
K – 4 Caring Makes a Difference	Yes	K – 4	Curriculum guide	\$17.00 (currently unavailable)	\$5.00
5 – 8 To Honor All Children	Yes	5 – 8	Curriculum guide	\$19.00 (currently unavailable)	\$5.00
9 – 12 The Holocaust and Genocide: The Betrayal of Humanity (Volume I & II)	Yes	9 – 12	Curriculum guide	\$26.00 (currently unavailable)	\$5.00
Hitler Legacy	Yes	9 – 12	Curriculum guide	\$10.00	N/A
Italians and the Holocaust	Yes	8 – 12	Curriculum guide	\$ 6.00	N/A
The North American Genocide	Yes	6 – 12	Curriculum guide	\$10.00	N/A
Nanking Massacre (Volume I & II)	Yes	9 – 12	Curriculum guide	\$15.00	N/A
Armenian	Yes	9 – 12	Curriculum guide	\$15.00	N/A
Darfur	Yes	9 – 12	Curriculum guide	\$10.00	N/A
Irish Famine	Yes	9 – 12	Curriculum guide	\$10.00	N/A
Forced Famine in Ukraine	Yes	9 – 12	Curriculum guide	\$10.00	N/A
Cambodian (2 books)	Yes	9 – 12	Curriculum guide	\$15.00	N/A
Slavery and Genocide	Yes	9 – 12	Curriculum guide	\$10.00	N/A
Greece Prior to During and After the Holocaust	Yes	9 – 12	Curriculum guide	\$20.00	\$5.00
Learning from the Challenges of Our Times: Global Security, Terrorism & 9/11 in the Classroom	Yes	K – 12	Curriculum guide	\$20.00	N/A
Commemorating the 20 th Anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide	Yes	7 – 12	Curriculum guide	\$10.00	N/A
Stalin & His Repressive Regime	Yes	9 – 12	Curriculum guide	\$20.00	\$5.00
Words for All Times	No	5 – 12	Letters from students to Holocaust survivors after hearing presentations	Can be ordered from Comteq Publishing: http://www.comteqpublishing.com/book_detail.php?70	
Teaching the Unspeakable The NJ Story of Holocaust & Genocide Education	No		The history of Holocaust education in New Jersey	\$20.00	N/A

WHAT IS GENOCIDE

Although the term genocide was coined in the twentieth century, it describes a phenomenon that is as old as recorded history. Baillet (1912, 151-152) tells us that genocides were common in predynastic Egypt; the Assyrians (Chalk and Jonassohn 1990, 58-61) claim to have practiced it, if we are to accept their own reports; and several cases are to be found in the Old Testament (Chalk and Jonassohn 1990, 61-63).

The Old Testament contains several quite specific descriptions that are of interest to us. The Amalekites are reported to have been annihilated several times, which might raise questions about the historical accuracy of the reports or about the completeness with which the annihilations were carried out. Our interest is not so much in these details as in the style in which they were reported. That style allows us to conclude that the physical destruction of the entire people of defeated opponents was not unusual at that time, nor that it evoked any humanitarian outrage. The victims seemed to have accepted their fate as the usual lot of the losers at the same time as they were lamenting their losses.

The origins of genocide are shrouded in the unrecorded past. In antiquity, because it is always reported in connection with wars, we can make an educated guess about its roots. City-states and empires were very small by modern standards; many of them were located in the so-called golden triangle, the modern Middle East. The geopolitical dimensions of this area seemed to have been designed to produce almost continuous warfare. The valleys of the Tigris and the Euphrates are very fertile with few natural boundaries. The region lies across the trade routes between Asia, Europe, and Africa. Similar criteria apply to the Nile Valley. Thus, opportunities for competition and conflicts leading to wars seemed to be ever present. However, these wars initially did not settle anything; the defeated party went home, recruited and trained another army, produced more and sometimes better weapons, and then returned to fight another war in order to recoup losses and wreak revenge. It did not take much imagination for someone to decide that the only way to preserve a victory was to annihilate the vanquished enemy entirely, not only the combat forces. Baillet (1912, 167-168) argues that this method of concluding a victorious campaign lasted for about 1,000 years in Egypt before it fell into disuse. This change is not the result of any rise in humanitarian concerns, but rather the realization that the victims would be much more valuable alive than dead.

The states in the fertile crescent were extraordinarily labor intensive because their fertile valleys required elaborate irrigation systems; because the large number of gods they worshipped all required temples; and because few rulers were content with the palaces of their predecessors and therefore spent huge resources on new palaces, or burial sites in Egypt, to glorify their reign.

Thus, the new realization that the captives of a conquered enemy were much more useful as slaves than as corpses became widespread in the area.

Genocides continued to be performed by states and empires in order to eliminate a real or perceived threat, in order to terrorize a real or imaginary enemy, or in order to acquire economic resources that others owned but which could not be carried off as loot or booty. These three motives were usually present at the same time, although one of them tended to predominate in any particular situation. Of course, the farther we go back into the past, the more difficult it becomes to obtain evidence of the motives of the perpetrators.

In antiquity it is particularly difficult to account for the fates of peoples. From inscriptions, clay tablets, and *parchments we know a great many names of peoples about whom hardly anything else is known. Even when we know something of their history, some of them have disappeared without our knowing what happened to them. The classic illustration is the story of the Hittites who are well known to us from scripture and Egyptian records (Chalk and Jonassohn 1990, 6061). We know that they conquered their neighbors and built an empire that competed with Assyria and Egypt. Then they disappeared from history without a trace. In fact, it is only in modern times that the remains of their capital were*

discovered; it had been burned to the ground and cursed to prevent it from being resettled. Their writing was deciphered, and the peace treaty that they negotiated with Ramses II was decoded. However, we still have no idea what happened to the Hittite people. Were they dispersed to other areas? Did they assimilate into the culture of their conquerors? Or were they slaughtered? Only the development of an archeology of genocide holds any promise of solving that riddle.

The history of empires, right into the modern period, is punctuated by periodic persecutions, sometimes escalating into genocides, which were performed either to build up an empire or to maintain it. One of the important characteristics of these types of genocides is that the victim groups were always located outside the perpetrator society, physically and socially. The campaigns of Athens against Melos, of Rome against Carthage, of Genghis Kahn against several peoples (Chalk and Jonassohn 1990), and of the Crusaders against populations of Antioch and Jerusalem (Runciman 1962), may serve as examples.

Some believe that genocide has become the ultimate human rights problem of the modern world. The term *genocide* was first used by Raphael Lemkin in 1944 during World War II, in which more civilians had died than soldiers. Lemkin, a professor of law in Poland who escaped the Nazis, used the term to describe a "...coordinated plan of different actions aiming at the destruction of essential foundations of the life of national groups with the aim of annihilating the groups themselves." Raphael Lemkin (1900-1959) devoted his life to a single goal: the outlawing of a crime so extraordinary that language had not yet recognized its existence. In 1944, Lemkin made one step towards his goal when he created the word "genocide" taking the word 'geno' from the Greek meaning "tribe" and 'cide' from the Latin meaning "death" which meant, in his words, "the destruction of a nation or an ethnic group." While he had lived long enough to see his word popularized and the Genocide Conventions adopted by most of the world, recent history serves as a reminder that laws and treaties are not enough to prevent genocide. On December 9, 1948, the United Nations adopted the Genocide Convention, which defined genocide as follows:

...genocide means any of the following acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group as such: (a) killing members of the group; (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; and (e) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

While the limitation of Lemkin's definition is its broad nature, that of the United Nations has been criticized as being both broad and narrow (Totten, Parsons, Charny, 1997, p. xxiv). Because neither of these definitions has satisfied many who have sought to apply them to very serious acts against groups of people, we are now confronted with many definitions of genocide, a phenomenon that can be puzzling to young people who are seeking their own set of criteria to help them evaluate the numerous violations of human rights around the world today.

In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

1. Killing members of the group;
2. Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
3. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
4. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
5. Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Post

KNOW THE A B C's OF REPORTING BIAS INCIDENTS/HATE CRIMES

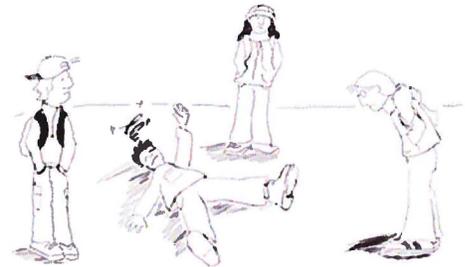
Don't be a bystander



Be an upstander!

Take action, document and report the following:

- A) WRITTEN OR VERBAL WORDS that target...**
- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Religion | Physical Characteristics |
| Race | Disabilities/Challenges |
| Gender | National Origin |
| Sexual Orientation | Culture |
- B) AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR (Based on A)**
- Fights
 - Sexual Harassment
 - Gang Activity
- C) VANDALISM/GRAFITTI (Based on A)**



BE SURE TO PRESERVE THE EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENT IT!

HOW TO REPORT

- IN SCHOOL*** - Guidance and/or the Principal
OUT OF SCHOOL* - The local police and/or the school

**The county prosecutor is an excellent office to call toward determining the level of the incident (possible hate crime) and recommendations for next step.*

REMEMBER
**"Victims should know that they are not alone
 and that they have an ally—Be that ally!"**

Schools must create a safe environment

**The New Jersey Commission
 on Holocaust Education
 P.O. Box 500
 Trenton, NJ 08625**



Teaching Strategies Holocaust/Genocide Education



Simulations –

These activities are not recommended as a strategy to teach students about the issues of bias, prejudice and the Holocaust/genocide.

There are many other ways to provide content and effective approaches in the classroom. While on the surface it might sound like a good idea to have children simulate a death camp, a beating, etc., but it does not have a positive or lasting impact and might harm the child psychologically and prohibit real learning from taking place. For instance, you would not or should not have an individual be Hitler, a slave owner or a terrorist for the same reason and it may cause others to criticize that youngster. Films, stories, debates, trials, readings, first-hand accounts, discussions, etc., are much better and have a deeper, longer and lasting impact on the students. Teachers should consider their goal of the activity and what type of student learning they anticipate. For example, why reproduce the hate and discomfort when it would be so much better to explore the choices people made and why, and what the impact of those choices was. The bottom line is no matter how prepared the simulation it can never truly replicate the horror. We recommend simulation not be utilized, but the more in-depth approach that the students may learn and fully understand be utilized.

Fictional Material –

The use of fictional material sounds like a good approach to reach students rather than through non-fiction documentaries, first-hand accounts, but it will work only if the fiction is first presented in a historical or factual context. The students may then utilize skills such as critical thinking, comparing, analysis, etc., when reading or viewing the fictional accounts. To just read the fictional account will not give the students a solid foundation of study as suggested in an excerpt from Lindquist, D. (1998). *Developing Holocaust curricula: The content decision-making process. The Clearing House*, 82(1), 27-33.

The matter of historical accuracy is especially critical when using literature to teach the Holocaust. Teachers must draw a careful distinction between historical truth and literary truth. Historical truth—the acknowledged factual record regarding a given situation—must coexist with literary truth—the establishment of the essence of a particular event—while allowing for literary license to be used as a means of advancing both the story line and the reader’s understanding of the situation. The historical record thus establishes what happened, whereas literary truth, if properly and carefully applied, addresses the tone of what happened. Several problems arise as Holocaust educators attempt to establish an appropriate balance between the imperative of historical accuracy and the ability of literature to enhance student learning through its power to express truths about the human experience.

When using literature to teach history, it is necessary to suspend belief at some level if the literature is to be allowed to develop fully. It is vital, however, that literature used to teach the Holocaust fulfills “the promise of truthfulness” (Wyschogrod 1998, 10), so that historical accuracy is maintained.

September 2016

TO: New Jersey Educators
FROM: New Jersey Human Relations Council
New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education
RE: Promoting Diversity in New Jersey's Schools



New Jersey is one of the most diverse states in the nation. Our state is home to people from many racial and ethnic backgrounds, varied religious affiliations and we speak over 120 different languages. We in New Jersey should be proud of this diversity, for learning about others is a very important way to reduce bias, bigotry and intolerance. However, New Jersey ranks number two (2) in the country in the number of hate crimes reported by its citizens against people or their property.

One of the factors preventing students from greater understanding and appreciation of one another is that only four other states have more segregated school systems than New Jersey. Former Chief Justice Deborah Poritz, when speaking about a state Supreme Court ruling, cited a "constitutional imperative to prevent segregation in our public schools"; "as a state, we are losing ground," Poritz wrote. "We have paid lip service to the idea of diversity in our schools, but in the real world we have not succeeded. Students attending racially imbalanced schools are denied the benefits that come from learning and associating with students from different backgrounds, races and cultures, and as research has demonstrated this understanding reduces prejudice."

In spite of the many efforts of citizens, educational institutions, the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government, and human services agencies and organizations, the housing patterns of New Jersey continue to keep many of our school districts segregated. Therefore, since changing the housing patterns in New Jersey will take many years, it is up to the schools to work toward integration NOW, not just thinking that housing, busing, school redistricting or open enrollment will effect a cure for our segregated schools.

We would like to suggest some school exchange opportunities for suburban, rural and urban students that are easily available to support the goal of integration:

- Mix It Up At Lunch
- Special Programs and Assemblies
- Teacher In-Service Days
- Cultural Diversity Days



- Study Circles
- Trips
- Informal Sports Program
- School Exchange Days

It all begins with a phone call, e-mail, or text message to a fellow school educator in another district. There is no better way to reduce prejudice than by having OPEN AND HONEST DIALOGUE in order to have the educational community partnering to rid our schools and community of bias, bigotry and intolerance

We look forward to establishing greater communications on this process in order to promote better understanding of the needs and expectations of the diverse population in New Jersey.



Post

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SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MAILING LIST

**RECEIVE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING
PROGRAMS/EVENTS**

To receive updated information regarding the Commission via e-mail, please subscribe by logging onto the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education web site: <http://www.state.nj.us/njded/holocaust/> and entering your e-mail address under “**Subscribe to our mailing list**”.

Also all upcoming events/programs, etc. can be viewed on this site.

Remember

Remembrance is Continuing the Resistance
NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION