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The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education is recommending and has distributed to its 1,200 middle and high schools a DVD of *A Journey into the Holocaust*

- * *Every NJ teacher can receive a free copy of the Teacher's Guide created for the film*
- * *Every NJ teacher who uses the film will receive a free screening license*
- * *Every NJ teacher has access to the educator's only portion of the website*

A Journey into the Holocaust, a documentary that attempts to answer **why the Holocaust and other genocides happened and why they will continue to happen**, has been accepted as an approved program to teach the Holocaust to New Jersey students. "We have approved and are recommending that teachers use this excellent film and Teacher's Guide to help meet the state's Holocaust education mandate" expressed New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education Executive Director Paul B. Winkler.

The Commission on Holocaust Education will distribute one DVD to every public, private, charter, parochial, vocational and special education middle school and high school in New Jersey. Teachers can then reserve the DVD for use in their classroom for the five days over which the film will be played.

The teacher's guide divides the film into five class periods. The guide starts out with general background on the subject, teaching objectives, some definitions and timelines. Each classroom day is then broken up into several parts as follows:

1. Objectives for the day (for teacher reference only),
2. Vocabulary words for the day (10 minutes of class time per day),
3. Watch several consecutive scenes of the film (12 to 22 minutes of class time per day),
4. Short summary of each scene (for teacher reference only),

5. Discussion questions and answers (the balance of each class period generally 20 to 25 minutes of class time per day).

“This is a film with a purpose,” noted filmmaker Paul S. Bachow, “we’ve relied on Holocaust survivors for years to educate us about the Holocaust. The film will not only enhance those efforts but it will memorialize their stories. The film will also sound the siren to hopefully prevent future genocides. By raising the awareness of the warning signs, hopefully we’ll be able to reduce their future occurrence.” As of today the world post-Holocaust has experienced 90 genocides or mass atrocities, resulting in the deaths of up to 55 million people.

A Journey into the Holocaust includes footage and images, much of which has not been seen widely or at all, and the stories of fourteen Holocaust survivors. Many had never been on camera. The film’s trailer can be seen at <http://www.ajourneyintotheholocaust.com>.

Bachow’s goal for the film is that it be used as an educational tool. “This film has been designed for middle, high school and college students across the country. Adults also usually know very little or nothing about the Holocaust and even less about why it happened.” In addition to the Teacher’s Guide the film’s website contains articles, documents, videos, blogs and images that relate to the Holocaust and prior and current genocides. This wide array of materials is available as an educational resource to anyone interested in studying genocide. Registration for the email distribution list, <http://www.ajourneyintotheholocaust.com>, is free and will generate an occasional email as additional items or information are added to the website.

Educators can also register at <http://www.ajourneyintotheholocaust.com/educators/> and have access to a portion of the site only available to teachers. Here teachers can blog about what teaching ideas they feel work best or do not work well. They can also share collateral materials like images, timelines, maps, articles and documents. To receive the Teacher’s Guide and a personal screening license to show the film in their classroom a New Jersey teacher must register on the website as an educator. The screening license protects teachers from copyright and use agreement liability in their classrooms.

The core mission of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education is to promote Holocaust education in the State of New Jersey. On a continual basis, the Commission surveys the status of Holocaust/Genocide Education; designs, encourages and promotes the implementation of Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; provides programs in New Jersey; and coordinates designated events that provide appropriate memorialization of the Holocaust on a regular basis throughout the state. The Commission provides assistance and advice to public and private schools and meets with county and local school officials, as well as with other interested public and private organizations, to assist with the study of the Holocaust and genocide.

For more information about the film, contact Paul Bachow directly.

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Instructions to Obtain a Teacher's Guide and Classroom Screening License for the film *A Journey into the Holocaust*

The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education has reviewed and is recommending the use of the film *A Journey into the Holocaust* and its teacher's guide to our middle and high schools. This package is a comprehensive multi-day program and will help you meet the state mandate.

Each middle and high school is receiving a DVD of the film without charge. To receive the teacher's guide and a license in your name to screen the film in your classroom, **you must register at:** <http://www.ajourneyintotheholocaust.com/educators/> and enter in the Special Code field on the registration form: NJTG (all capital letters). Upon completion of your registration PDFs of the teacher's guide and screening license will be emailed to you. There is no charge for these PDFs. It is unlawful to screen the film in your classroom without a screening license. If you do not type in NJTG (all capital letters) in the Special Code field you will not receive the teacher's guide and the license.

This film is different than other Holocaust films because it sets forth possible answers to why the Holocaust and other genocides happened and why genocide continues to happen. The film includes high-definition video clips of 14 Survivors as well as discourse from knowledgeable college professors. As the time when Holocaust Survivors can visit classrooms becomes more limited, this film attempts to give students the experience of meeting and hearing from Survivors.

The accompanying website to the film, www.ajourneyintotheholocaust.com, contains a significant amount of educational information. Most of the information are historical images, additional videos, articles, blogs and documents on subjects related to the Holocaust and genocide. Some of the items on the site answer questions raised by the eyewitness testimony in the film.

Your registration at www.ajourneyintotheholocaust.com/educators/ gives you personal access to the **teacher's only** portion of the website. There you can read and post your insights as a Holocaust educator. You can also post quizzes, assignments, projects and collateral materials you have used in your classroom that you want to share with other teachers.

We are very excited to be able to provide this excellent teaching tool to you. Please call our office or email info@ajourneyintotheholocaust.com with any questions.