

Summer 2011

**MISSION:** The Voice/Vision Archive promotes cultural, racial and religious understanding through unprecedented worldwide access to its collection of Holocaust survivor narratives. Our educational resources, programs and outreach provide quality Holocaust education to the metropolitan Detroit and global communities through engagement with teachers, civic groups and religious organizations.

**VISION:** The Voice/Vision Holocaust Survivor Oral History Archive seeks to strengthen the University of Michigan-Dearborn's position as a welcoming and nurturing institution, which supports diversity among its students, faculty, staff, and scholarship. To accomplish this goal it is our vision to:

- Enable immediate connections to powerful, oral histories of survivors who experienced the Holocaust
- Reach out to Michigan's K-12 students and educators by offering guided discussions and focused dialogues
- Conduct content-specific workshops and colloquia aimed at metropolitan area educators
- Reach out to the metropolitan community's civic and religious organizations
- Provide an online Holocaust education curriculum
- Support Holocaust research
- Preserve the voices and memories of Holocaust survivors for future generations

# THE VOICE

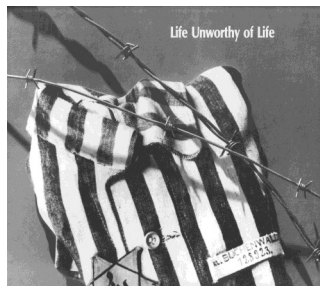
“We die twice when men forget.”  
—*Simonides of Ceos (c.556 - 468 BC)*

**M** UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN



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## Voice/Vision Archive Publishes Digital Holocaust Curriculum



In 1987, the Center for the Study of the Child published a unique guide for educators interested in teaching the Holocaust. "Life Unworthy of Life: A Holocaust Curriculum", represented a new approach to the study of the Holocaust, emphasizing not only the actions of the perpetrators but also the voices and stories of those who survived. The curriculum informed students about the essence of the Holocaust: the loss of families, a multi-faceted culture, children, lives, and lifestyles. By combining text with videotape, the curriculum was one of the first and only of its kind to personalize the history of the Holocaust. It was highly praised by Holocaust scholars and made part of the National Diffusion Network, a U.S. Department of Education funded project aimed at identifying and sharing exemplary educational practices and programs. Unfortunately, only a limited number of curricula were printed and are no longer available. The Voice/Vision Holocaust Survivor Oral History Archive has digitized this unique curriculum and posted it on the World Wide Web in order to make it accessible to teachers.

The project addresses the need for quality, pedagogically sound Holocaust education materials that are both flexible in approach and easily accessible. (continued on page 4)

## Collaboration Between the Jewish Ensemble Theatre and Voice/Vision Continues

During March and April, curator Dr. Jamie Wraight attended four performances of the Jewish Ensemble Theatre's (JET) production of "The Diary of Anne Frank." More than 4,000 students from schools and youth groups viewed the play, and Wraight joined the actors and JET Outreach Coordinator, Mary Davis, in discussions with the students that followed each performance.



Dr. Wraight addresses students from Brownell Middle School in 1500 SSB

This was the second year the archive has worked with Davis on the discussion panel. Davis told the University of Michigan-Dearborn "Reporter" that she is "very pleased to be able to collaborate with Dr. Wraight and the University of Michigan-Dearborn on such a worthwhile project," adding that she anticipates the archive's participation "will be an integral piece of our annual production."

After the JET's final performance on April 5, the archive hosted 223 students from Brownell Middle School of Grosse Pointe. Wraight gave a brief overview of how the Holocaust evolved. The main focus of his talk, however, was the experience at Auschwitz and what it might have looked like at the time of Anne Frank's deportation there. To illustrate this, Wraight used maps, photographs, and excerpts from survivor interviews.

Collaboration with JET and presentations to school groups continue to be part of our commitment to educational outreach and the metropolitan vision of the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Since September 2010, Wraight has given 13 presentations to over 330 students. For more information about the Jewish Ensemble Theatre visit: [www.jettheatre.org](http://www.jettheatre.org)

## Prizewinning Second Generation Author Visits Campus

On November 6, The Voice/Vision Archive, the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program, and the Mardigian Library co-sponsored an evening with writer [Lev Raphael](#). Raphael, the son of Holocaust survivors, is a prizewinning pioneer in American Jewish literature about the Second Generation. He has authored 19 books, including 2003's "The German Money."

During his presentation, Raphael read from his 2009 book "My Germany: A Jewish Writer Returns to the World His Parents Escaped." The book explores Raphael's search for the missing pieces of his family history (and how those pieces shaped his identity) while on a book tour through Germany.

A reception and refreshments followed the reading, during which Raphael answered questions from attendees. Prior to the reading, Raphael dined with students from the Master of Liberal Arts program, and answered questions about his life and work.



Lev Raphael, prizewinning author of, "My Germany: A Jewish Writer Returns to the World His Parents Escaped."

## From the Director

For 40 years, Erna Blitzer Gorman remained silent about her experience as a hidden child during World War II. When she finally agreed to an interview, a deluge of emotion, memory, and insight burst forth. She began to speak at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills and at schools in the metropolitan Detroit area. She completed several audio and video interviews for Voice/Vision. Word of her passion and eloquence spread, and invitations from outside of Michigan arrived. Never an easy task, Gorman chose to speak because of her dedication to Holocaust education and her hope that some similar catastrophe might be averted. Because of her work with students and teachers, Northern Michigan University contacted her and what followed was a remarkable series of events including a day dedicated to commemorating the Holocaust. In December 2009, Gorman received an honorary Ph.D. from Northern Michigan and delivered the commencement address to some 1,500 people there. She also received an honorary Ph.D. from Baker College in June 2011 and was the commencement speaker for the Owosso campus.



With the assistance of UM-Dearborn librarian, Barbara Kriigel, and the support of the Mardigian Library, and the Voice/Vision Archive, Gorman has published her memoir "[While Other Children Played: A Hidden Child Remembers the Holocaust](#)." One can hear her voice in the text, captured perfectly by Kriigel, with its characteristic compassion and honesty. Voice/Vision is honored to have been able to help Dr. Gorman end her silence and contribute so much to the advocacy of Holocaust education.

As Dr. Gorman has done, Dr. Jamie Wraight, Voice/Vision curator, has been active in speaking to schools and groups around the state and beyond. His perseverance and knowledge of the Holocaust are extraordinary. Thanks to Jamie and his student assistants, there are several new interviews online.

Sidney Bolkosky

## Internships Engage Students in Oral History Preservation

The Voice/Vision Archive has begun collaborating with the [History Internship Office at the University of Michigan-Dearborn](#). Since January, the archive has hosted three student interns from the program.

The interns gain valuable work experience and are provided a unique opportunity to learn about collecting and preserving oral history interviews. They are also able to gain a deeper understanding of the Holocaust by working directly with the interviews. Student engagement is another important piece of our educational outreach efforts. The student interns learn about the Holocaust while developing an understanding of the day-to-day management and preservation of the archive's collection. "Working with the history internship office is a 'win/win situation' for the archive and the students," said curator Dr. Jamie Wraight. "The students gain hands-on experience and the archive is able to do more in terms of outreach and transcribing of the interviews."

## Claims Conference Continues Support for Voice/Vision Archive

The Archive received another grant from the [Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany](#). This year's \$25,000 grant marks the third time Voice/Vision's Claims Conference grant application has been accepted. The funds come from the Conference's Rabbi Israel Miller Fund for Shoah Research, Documentation and Education.

"The continued support from the Claims Conference has enabled the archive to fulfill its mission and vision by giving us the ability to increase our educational and public outreach programs as well as enhance our website to include our special collections," said curator Dr. Jamie Wraight. "All of our outreach revolves around the interviews and the experiences of the survivors, and this grant allows us to transcribe, digitize, and catalog more interviews than ever. Visits to schools, sponsored events and presentations both on and off campus have increased tremendously in the last few years. That increase is due, in part, to the support of the Claims Conference."

## Annual Commemoration Focuses on the Psychology of Genocide

On April 11, over 80 community members, students, faculty, and staff gathered for a presentation by [Dr. Steven K. Baum](#), the featured speaker for the annual Holocaust and Armenian Genocide Commemoration. The event, co-sponsored by the Mardigian Library and the Voice/Vision Holocaust Survivor Oral History Archive, was held at University of Michigan-Dearborn's Fairlane Center.

Dr. Baum's presentation, "Understanding Why: The Psychology of Genocide," addressed the conditions necessary for genocide to occur and how social myths reinforced by the media are the basis for genocide. According to Baum, "Hate is viral. Hate is catchy." He added that children do not need to be taught hate because they learn from hearing it just one time. Although schools are doing a better job educating children about genocide and hate, we still need to pay attention to the media's influence over our children, especially with the Internet.

The event was also co-sponsored by the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, the Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies at Wayne State University, and the Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan.

## Upgrades to Website Provide Links to Special Collections

The archive's website underwent some changes in the last year. We recently designed two new sections: [Special Collections](#) and [For Educators](#). The Special Collections area highlights two special research collections: [The Erwin and Riva Baker Memorial Collection](#), and [The Henry and Mala Dorfman Endowment](#). Links have also been added to [The Linda Fredin/Cavaleiro Mid-High Digital Children's Book Collection](#) and [Nicholas Winton and the Power of Good](#), which honors Sir Nicholas Winton and highlights the interviews conducted with several of the children rescued by Winton. The digital children's book collection contains 35 books written from the 2008-2010 school years. Another 40 books have been received from the 2010-11 school year and we are currently in the process of adding these to the website.

The other new section, For Educators, exhibits some of the ways teachers have used the interviews in their classrooms. It contains a link to the 2007 podcast produced by Victoria Monacelli's eighth grade language arts class from Warren G. Harden Middle School in Philadelphia, Pa. It also links to an online version of the award winning, "[Life Unworthy of Life: A Holocaust Curriculum](#)" and provides links to other online educational resources.

We also added the short video "[Why They Speak](#)" to the website. The video, which features excerpts from some of the interviews in the collection, is part of our efforts to digitize and post all of the videos in the archive. The video can be found on our homepage: [holocaust.umd.umich.edu](http://holocaust.umd.umich.edu)

## YouTube, Google, AdWords, and the Archive

The Voice/Vision Holocaust Survivor Oral History Archive received two important distinctions last fall. In October, the archive was given nonprofit status on the media sharing site YouTube. Nonprofit status allows us to post the entire collection of our videotaped interviews on YouTube. We are currently digitizing the videos and posting them to YouTube. Once the work is completed, we will provide links to the videos via the Voice/Vision website.

In November, the archive was approved for a Google AdWords grant, which provides free publicity, worth \$330 per day, via the Google search engine. The publicity grant works by assigning keywords to Google searches like "Holocaust, survivors, and interviews" and providing a special link to the Voice/Vision website on the right-hand side of the page, where people searching these terms are more likely to see it. We are very excited to be working with YouTube to enhance our website and Google to raise awareness of our website.



**"Hate is viral. Hate is catchy."**  
Dr. Steven K. Baum addresses the audience at the Annual Holocaust and Armenian Genocide Commemoration



The Erwin and Riva Baker Memorial Collection

## Wraight Wins Award for "Excellence in Experiential Education"

We are excited to announce that Dr. Jamie Wraight was named "Mentor of the Year, Winter 2011" by the History Internship Office at the University of Michigan-Dearborn for his work with student interns.

## Curriculum (continued)

It includes step-by-step instructions to teachers, meticulous lesson plans, and carefully chosen resource material.

By digitizing the curriculum and its component parts (video lessons, student readings, and tests), this project provides teachers with a tool that enables them to successfully approach and present the Holocaust in a way that makes it and its implications real and affecting for students.

This curriculum is offered freely to any educator who wishes to utilize it, and is meant to be a cost-neutral resource for schools and educators around the world. Although the curriculum contains 18 one-hour lessons, it is also structured to allow teachers to employ a shorter version of the unit involving as few as four selected lessons. To access this unique resource, visit:

[holocaust.umd.umich.edu/lul](http://holocaust.umd.umich.edu/lul)

**We Need Your Help!**

## Secure the Archive's Future!

You can help to build the endowed fund of the Voice/Vision Archive. Your generous support of this important project is sincerely appreciated. Please detach and mail this form to:

The Voice/Vision Archive  
University of Michigan-Dearborn  
4901 Evergreen Road 1040AB  
Dearborn, Michigan 48128-1491

### I have enclosed:

\_\_\_\_\_ My/our check payable to the University of Michigan-Dearborn for the first payment of a \$5,000 pledge to support the Voice/Vision Archive endowed fund. I/we will make gift payments: \_\_\_\_\_ monthly \_\_\_\_\_ quarterly \_\_\_\_\_ semi-annually \_\_\_\_\_ annually over a period of 5 years beginning in 2011-2012.

\_\_\_\_\_ My/our check payable to the University of Michigan-Dearborn for a gift of:  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ Other

\_\_\_\_\_ My/my spouse's matching gift form

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