

Preserving the Personal Voices of the Holocaust Experience

Who will bear witness to the Holocaust in the year 2030?

The urgency to keep alive the experiences of the Holocaust survivors and liberators can be told by the numbers. In 2005, 1,500 Auschwitz survivors attended the ceremony of the camp's liberation. In 2015, 70 years after the last Nazi camps were liberated, the number dwindled to 300.

But it will take more than just living survivors and liberators to teach future generations about the Holocaust. That's why the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center (HHREC) is on the cutting edge of a movement to preserve the personal voices of the Holocaust experience for posterity.

Through its Generations Forward program, HHREC is grooming its next generation of speakers --the children and grandchildren of survivors--to keep alive these personal eyewitness accounts of mankind's greatest genocide for the next several decades.

At the same time, the ranks of survivors in the HHREC Speakers Bureau are actually expanding, with the addition of six new speakers for 2016. HHREC actively seeks more survivors, and their families to participate in their efforts to keep the story of the Holocaust a living history.

"There is no substitute for living history," says Millie Jasper, executive director of HHREC. "In 2015, our speakers' bureau, comprising both Holocaust survivors and liberators grew to reach a record total audience of 20,000 schoolchildren." To continue reaching more schoolchildren in the years ahead, HHREC is training children and grandchildren of survivors through a 14-part workshop where they are learning to tell their parents' and grandparents' stories.

Generations Forward meets regularly to exchange ideas and provide mutual support, has emerged as a strong, coherent group, determined to shine the light of truth on the Holocaust by ensuring that the Shoah is not trivialized, distorted or subject to deniers.

The HHREC Generations Forward group is also compiling a book based on letters that their parents wrote during the Holocaust.

"Twin-With-A-Survivor," another HHREC program that currently has 25 bar and bat mitzvah students in groups who are studying with Holocaust survivors to earn a historic perspective on their passage into adulthood. HHREC is partnering with New Jersey's Holocaust Council of Greater MetroWest's "Twin-With-a-Survivor" program.

"Twin-With-A-Survivor" program provides Bar/Bat Mitzvah students with the rare opportunity to make personal connections to these extraordinary models of human courage and resilience who exemplify continued commitment to the Jewish community," explains Jasper.

The Survivor Legacy Education Project, an HHREC-funded interactive database to record the oral history of Westchester survivors for use by teachers with their students and adults, too. UJA-Federation /Westchester Program Services Cabinet and private donors fund this project. HHREC is interviewing survivors and creating both audio and visual accounts of their stories. The interviews will be edited into a 25-30 minute program in which their personal effects: photographs, letters, artifacts of their childhood and the war years, personal papers to illustrate the lives of these individuals.

HHREC also provides training for educators who teach the Holocaust in middle school, high school and college, fulfilling New York State's unfunded Holocaust curriculum mandate. On February 9th, HHREC will hold a full day Teacher Institute on the theme, "The Lessons of the Holocaust: Man's Inhumanity to Man." Participating middle and high school teachers receive a certificate for five hours of professional development.

Survivors and liberators and their next generation families interested in keeping the personal stories of the Holocaust alive, and teachers interested in professional development on the Holocaust curriculum, may contact Millie Jasper, executive director at 914.696.0738 or mjasper@hhrecny.org.



Millie Jasper, executive director of HHREC

William Pitt and Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty President and CEO Paul Breunich Joins Brand at Podium in Ringing the NYSE Closing Bell



William Pitt and Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty announced that the firm's President and CEO, Paul Breunich, was recently invited to join Sotheby's International Realty Affiliates, LLC at the podium for the ringing of the Closing Bell at the New York Stock Exchange. The event took place on December 29th, 2015, and marked the Sotheby's International Realty brand's 40th anniversary, a milestone in the luxury residential real estate brokerage business.

Breunich along with President and CEO of Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty Patricia Petersen were the only two Sotheby's International Realty affiliate representatives asked to be honorary guests at the bell ringing event, as the two companies were among the brand's original members and supporters. Sotheby's International Realty was originally founded in 1976

by the renowned Sotheby's Auction House—the oldest company listed on the New York Stock Exchange—and adopted an affiliate model in 2004, with William Pitt and Julia B. Fee as well as Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty joining as two of the brand's first affiliates. The two were invited in recognition of the early and continued momentum they helped to provide in Sotheby's International Realty achieving its vision of becoming the preeminent luxury real estate brand in the world.

"I was truly honored to be a part of this monumental brand event," said Breunich. "Ringing the Closing Bell at the New York Stock Exchange was a once-in-a-lifetime-experience, and a perfect way to bring in the New Year. I couldn't be prouder to be standing among such a talented and professional group. The brand has come so far over the past 40

years, and I am humbled to be associated with Sotheby's International Realty's unparalleled growth, capabilities, network and services in the luxury residential real estate industry."

"I am very proud of the journey we have taken together with our global luxury real estate network to bring the brand where it is today," said Phillip White, President and CEO of Sotheby's International Realty Affiliates, LLC. "The Sotheby's International Realty brokerage network was built to connect the finest independent residential real estate companies to the most prestigious and discerning clientele in the world. We are honored to be celebrating this milestone by ringing the Closing Bell at the New York Stock Exchange."

To mark the event, Philip White additionally appeared on CNBC's Closing Bell to discuss the luxury real estate market.

Call 914-738-7869 to reserve space in the next Harrison Herald. Deadline: February 16, 2016