

April 2021 Spokane Diversity/Cultural Events

Multicultural Communications Month

Multicultural communication may seem difficult at first – differences in languages, backgrounds, customs, and the like all seem a challenge. By learning more about our different cultures, it becomes easier to interact. This month has been dedicated to further this cause. Five keys to Effective Multicultural Communication:

<https://unitedlanguagegroup.com/blog/five-keys-to-effective-multicultural-communication/>.

15th Annual Stand Against Racism - 2021 theme “From Declarations to Change: Addressing Racism as a Public Health Crisis”

Join the YWCA in taking a stand against racism from April 22-April 25, 2021. Organizations in Spokane County are invited to become a participating site by hosting their own “Stand Against Racism” or by joining the YWCA and their virtual activities on Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. For more information visit

<http://standagainstracism.org>.

Art Hour

Day: Tuesday

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

program includes in-depth interviews with local artists, cultural commentary, and announcements for the creative community and their fans. Hosted by Mike and Eric. On KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Can You Queer Me Now?

Day: Tuesday

Time: 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Hear voices directly from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, and Questioning community right here in the Inland Northwest. You will hear more about current events, local groups, and perspectives directly from the queer youth community. Hosted by Ian Sullivan on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Democracy Now

Day: Monday-Friday

Time: 8:00 am – 9:00 am & 5:00 pm-6:00 pm

A national, daily, independent, award-winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez. Pioneering the largest public media collaboration in the U.S. Link <https://www.democracynow.org/>. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Democracy Now! Headlines in Spanish

Date: Saturday

Time: 7:00 am – 8:00 am

Democracy Now! is a national, daily, independent, award winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: www.kyrs.org or www.democracynow.org.

Dragonflies on Thin Air

Day: Sunday

Time: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

One of the few elementary age children’s radio shows produced by kids for kids in the country. The program is fun and educational for children and adults, and includes a mix of jokes, music, guests, stories, poetry, trivia and more. includes Alice, Elenor C., Lily, Rowan, Sicely, Finn, Eleanor M., Sophia, Aleric and Amara. They all go to Spokane Public Montessori elementary school. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Irish Music on Tap**Day: Wednesday**

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Music from Ireland, Scotland and England as well as Celtic Brittany and Canada. Hosted by Don and Rick, on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Ke Buena.

Spanish language station. Oz 95.7.

Latin Lounge**Day: Monday**

Time: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

A wide spectrum of Latin music. Hosted by “Corazon” on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Layali Arabia**Day: Monday**

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Arabic songs from a multitude of different genres to come out of the Arab World. Hosted by Rachel on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Queens of Noise**Day: Wednesday**

Time: 8:00 pm-10:00 pm

You will hear best in female vocalist/musicians. Hosted by Luscious Duchess, KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

QueerSounds**Day: Thursday**

Time: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

QueerSounds is radio show dedicated to playing music by and for LGBTQ people. Music, interviews, community events and forums. KYRS FM 92.3 or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

The Persian Hour**Day: Saturday**

Time: noon – 1:00 pm

The Persian Hour’s consists of a variety of Iranian music from hip hop to traditional, Jazz, blues, rock and roll and the usual. Also, they will share stories, recipes, and interviews. Hosted by Shahrokh, KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Raise Your Voice**Day: Friday**

Time: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

A teenage-run music and current events program. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

The Science of Poverty**Day: Saturday**

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Explores the topic of poverty. Hosted by Jesse Quintana, official Facebook site. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

SOS-Spokane

Day: Thursday

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

The show addresses critical issues facing the Inland Northwest via research, in-depth news, information, analysis, and reasoned opinion. Hosted by Paul Potocky. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Sounds of Science

Day: Sunday

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Lively discussion of what’s happening in the world of science, from how it is affecting our lives to the ways we are shaping it. Hosted by Blake, Amaya and Adam. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>,

Two Brown Ladies and a Microphone

Day: Sunday

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Soul conversations. Life advice. Things that make us think, reflect, cope and ultimately stay the course. Hosted by Duncan & Brown. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Welcome Home

Day: Thursday

Time: 10:00 am – noon

A multi-genre roots based folk show. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Women’s Media Center Live

Day: Wednesday

Time: noon – 1:00 pm

WMC Live with Robin Morgan tackles today’s hottest topics; whether it be sex, politics, art, humor, religion, culture, or news stories that go unreported, each is engaged regularly, insightfully, and intelligently. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Workin’ Woman Blues

Day: Sunday

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Tunes to help you shake the blues out of your hair with a mix of Funk, R&B, Soul and Blues. Hosted by Jukebox Jennie. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

Have a library card, check out **Spokane County District Library at (www.sclid.org)**. They have large digital resources including eBooks/audio books with Overdrive/Libby. With Flipster browse, download and read digital magazines and with hoopla stream popular movies, music, audiobooks, eBooks, comics and tv shows along, with many other online services. They offer curbside pickup and yes, you can still request a library card. As of March 8, 2021, the libraries are open with COVID-19 precautions from noon-6:00 pm Monday-Saturday.

If you have a library card to **Spokane Public Library (<http://www.spokanelibrary.org/>)**, they also have a large digital Library resources including eBooks/audio books with Overdrive/Libby. Along with hoopla, Kanopy (movies and tv) and RBDigital (magazines) and other online resources. They also offer curbside pickup and yes, you can still request a library card. Starting March 2, 2021, we will open for [limited computer access by appointment](#).

What Your Home Says about the World

Join sociologist and writer Michelle Janning to explore how what you decide to keep - and not keep - in your home provides deep insights about you, your family, and society itself. Ms Janning earned a PhD in Sociology from the University of Notre Dame and has been a professor at Whitman College for two decades. She is the author of *The Stuff of Family Life: How our Homes Reflect Our Lives*

Date: Thursday, April 1, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Virtual-On-line

Cost: Free, must register to receive link.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-what-your-home-says-about-the-world-3/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Cowlitz County Historical Museum.

Sometimes Heroes: America's Changing Relationship with Its Veterans

"Support our troops" is a common phrase, seen on lawn signs and bumper stickers across America. Veterans are welcomed home by enthusiastic crowds, and thousands of service organizations help veterans find jobs, secure housing, and heal from the experience of war.

But it wasn't always this way. Veterans returning from Vietnam were often greeted by mobs accusing them of being "baby killers." Veterans from Korea felt their war was forgotten and unknown. And veterans from World War I, destitute during the Great Depression, were treated like criminals by their government.

Why and how has America's treatment of its veterans changed over time? How have the country's citizens responded to the call of duty from one war to the next? This presentation examines America's relationship to wars and veterans over the last century, and what shapes our current national consciousness towards veterans and the wars they fight in our name. Jeb Wyman has been a faculty member for over twenty years at Seattle Central College.

Dates: Monday, April 5, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register, visit their website below.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-sometimes-heroes-americas-changing-relationship-with-its-veterans-5/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries.

From Crime to the Classroom: How Education Changes Lives

According to statistics, Omari Amili's story should have turned out much differently. His parents suffered from addiction which led to him growing up in poverty and struggling in school. Eventually, he ended up serving prison time. Though Amili was a product of what's often referred to as the "school-to-prison pipeline," it was ultimately education that changed Amili's life. Blending his personal story and scholarship, Amili leads a discussion on the benefits of another path: the "prison-to-college pipeline," where incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people can take college courses and receive a degree. Studies have shown that education is one of the best ways to reduce the chance of returning to prison, and Omari explores how we all benefit—as individuals and a society—from the new perspective, sense of direction, and confidence education provides.

Omari Amili earned a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Washington Tacoma, where his research focused on the benefits of college education for formerly incarcerated people.

Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register, visit the website below.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-from-crime-to-the-classroom-how-education-changes-lives-8/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted Rotary Club of Mercer Island.

From Crime to the Classroom: How Education Changes Lives

See information provided on their April 6, 2021 program.

Date: Wednesday, April 7 2021

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register, visit the website below.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-from-crime-to-the-classroom-how-education-changes-lives-7/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted Walla Walla Community College.

Civil Conversation in an Angry Age

At what point does a conversation become a battle? Why do some opinions inflame our emotions, leading to anger, fights, and even the end of relationships with family and friends? Philosopher David E. Smith takes a deep look at those moments when civility breaks down. Smith explores how we can have meaningful, respectful conversations on notoriously difficult topics like politics, religion, and morality. In our increasingly polarized political environment, Smith provides participants with the tools needed to embark upon more thoughtful, fruitful discussions. David Smith holds a PhD in religious studies from Temple University. He currently teaches at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Washington.

Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Time: 2:30 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-civil-conversation-in-an-angry-age-6/>. for more information and to register. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Seattle Parks and Recreation, Lifelong Recreation.

What's Age Got to Do With It?

"You look good for your age." "You're too young to understand."

In employment decisions, family discussions, medical care, and even in birthday cards, assumptions about being "over the hill" or "a lazy kid" are common. What do you wish society would stop saying about your generation? How can we talk about age and aging in a more positive, affirming way? In this interactive and fun talk, Dori Gillam welcomes individuals from every generation to explore how we can begin valuing all ages—including our own. Dori Gillam has researched and spoken on ageism and aging for over 30 years.

Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register, visit website below.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-whats-age-got-to-do-with-it-6/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Timberland Regional Library.

Spokane Community Observance of the Holocaust

The Seattle Holocaust Center for Humanity invites everyone to join them for their one-hour Zoom event. Spokane rabbi Tamar Malino will be one of the featured speakers.

Ingrid and Maud: A Holocaust Story of a Rescuer and the Rescued - Featuring special guests Ingrid Steppic and Maud Dahme. Ingrid and Maud met when they were young girls - one Jewish and seeking refuge from the Nazis, the other part of a family helping to hide Jewish people. Join us for a live conversation with these two women for Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Date: Thursday, April 8, 2019

Time: 12:00 pm (noon)

Location: Via Zoom

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information and to register, visit <https://holocaustcenterseattle.org/programs-events/645-yom-hashoah-holocaust-remembrance-day-community-event>.

Bridge to Heritage

A special virtual celebration presented by the Asian American Union and the Filipino American Student Union. Purchase Asian food at the link below and pick-up on April 10, 2021 at Gonzaga University. The deadline to purchase food is Sunday, April 4, 2021.

Date: Thursday, April 8, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register

For more information and to register, visit www.linktree/ee/gufestival. Questions, contact Miranda at mabunimeh@zagmil.gonzaga.edu. All registered attendees will be entered to win prizes in their giveaway.

Get Lit Festival

Authors Jess Walter, Esi Edugyan, Aimee Nezhukumatathil, Robin Wall Kimmerer, and many others.

April 12: Conversations Over Coffee (9am), Disrupting Stereotypes: Older Women in Contemporary Literature (2pm), Unmaking the Patriarchy of the Mibd (5:30pm), We the Indigenous (7pm), etc. Visit schedule link below.

Date: Monday, April 12-18, 2021

Time: time varies

Location: Virtual

Cost: Most of the events are free by viewing them on their YouTube Channel and do not require registration, however there are four exceptions. Visit website below.

For more information visit <https://inside.ewu.edu/getlit/>. Schedule, visit <https://getlitfestival2021.sched.com/>.

Civil Conversation in an Angry Age

See information provided on their April 7, 2021 program.

Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-civil-conversation-in-an-angry-age-7/>. for more information and to register. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Walla Walla Community College.

An Evening with NASA's Ryan Prouty – Gonzaga University

An evening with NASA's Ryan Prouty. Prouty is the Assistant Center Director for Vision and Strategy at NASA Johnson Space Center. In this role, she leads the strategy, planning, and execution of JSC's Dare. Unite. Explore. Vision., driving initiatives and activities centered on the exciting and ever evolving future of human spaceflight in the Space City. She will offer insight into her extensive background in space and human space exploration, and an introduction to a STEM-focused career and her journey as a woman in leadership. Prouty will be joined by Gonzaga University's Deans: Rosemarie Hunter of Leadership Studies, Annmarie Caño of the College of Arts & Sciences, Yolanda Gallardo of the School of Education, and Ken Anderson of the School of Business Administration.

Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: Virtual

Cost: Free, must register

For more information and to register, visit https://gonzaga.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ojLA2_VpTHazvoz4w-FeAg.

Is Truth Really Dead in America

As immigration has become more hotly debated in the United States, the arguments have become cartoonish, with one side often painted as naïve and another as xenophobic. What has become lost is the human story of immigration to America, with all its complexity, heartache, and hope.

Alternative facts, fake news, post-truth—these phrases have flooded the American conversation over the past several years. But how bad is it really, and what can we, as a society and as individuals, do to be better informed? WSU professor Steven Stehr investigates the roots and consequences of the erosion of truth, with a focus on politics and science. From the rise of conspiracy theories to the echo chamber of social media, Stehr leads a conversation that asks to what extent are we living in a post-truth world? Have both political parties used deception to their advantage? How does the use of knowledge and facts vary in different policy debates? Taking us through real-world examples of conspiracy theories, junk science, and fake news, Stehr shows audiences how to find facts in a world of misinformation.

Steven Stehr is the Sam Reed Distinguished Professor in Civic Education and Public Civility. He earned his PhD in political science from the University of California, Berkeley.

Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register at website below.

Email arielb@phinneyceter.org with questions. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-is-truth-really-dead-in-america-4/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Greenwood Senior Center.

Hispanic Business/Professional Association Membership Meeting

Sabes Qué? TBA

Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Time: 5:00 pm– 6:00 pm

Location: Via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85346163890?pwd=SmhyQitiVHF1MUZrVENCOTkvTjJmUT09>

Cost: Free

For more information visit their website at www.hbpaofspokane.org.

From Mexican to Mexican-American: A Family Immigration Story – SCC Hagan Center

As immigration has become more hotly debated in the United States, the arguments have become cartoonish, with one side often painted as naïve and another as xenophobic. What has become lost is the human story of immigration to America, with all its complexity, heartache, and hope.

Professor Carlos Gil sought to understand immigration by tracing his family's history from the 1920s to the 1970s. In the process, he discovered the excitement, culture shock, inter-family conflict, and questions of identity that many immigrants face when seeking a better life in another country. Based on his book, *We Became Mexican-American: How Our Immigrant Family Survived to Pursue the American Dream*, this talk explores Mexican immigration by spotlighting his own family's experience in southern California, including parallels with Washington State. Carlos Gil is an Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Washington, where he has taught the history of Latin America for over thirty years.

Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: On-line – this presentation will be in English and in Spanish

Cost: Free

For more information and to register (registration to come), visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/from-mexican-to-mexican-american-a-family-immigration-story-25/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted the SCC Hagan Center, watch <https://scc.spokane.edu/News-Events/Live-Events> for program.

Heating Up: The Ethics of Climate Change

Ethicist Brian G. Henning discusses how global warming itself is not the only problem—it's a symptom of a larger issue concerning how we conceive of ourselves and our relationship to the natural world. Brian G. Henning is a professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies at Gonzaga University and has earned a PhD in philosophy.

Dates: Thursday, April 15, 2021

Time: 11:15 am

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-heating-up-the-ethics-of-climate-change-11/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Cascadia College.

Chocolate & Champagne Gala ~ Legacy of Hope (Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCS NW))

For 65 years, the programs of LCS Northwest's Inland Northwest District, including the Sexual Assault and Family Trauma (SAFeT) Response Center, have offered hope, resources, and healing to thousands of Spokane-area citizens whose lives have been altered by trauma and violent crime.

They help vulnerable children, families, immigrants and others overcome life's most difficult challenges to become flourishing members of society. Thanks to the support of their donors, they save lives and create thriving communities enriched by the diversity and strengths of people who have triumphed over adversity.

Dates: Friday, April 16, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm (live music), 6:30-7:30 pm (program)

Location: Virtual

Cost: Free, must register

For more information visit www.ccgalspokane.org to register for free or purchase your Gala-To-Go Swag Bag stuffed full of all the essentials to party for a purpose!

15th Annual HBPA Foundation Viva Vino & Brew (Scholarship Fundraiser)

HBPA celebrates their 26th year awarding scholarships to Spokane County high school seniors and undergraduate college/university students at their annual Graduate and Young Scholar Recognition Ceremony. Sponsor a table and/or donate to their scholarship funds.

Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Virtual

Cost: Check website for sponsorship

For live auction, contact hbpa.vvb@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.hbpaofspokane.org.

Heating Up: The Ethics of Climate Change

See information provided on their April 15, 2021 program.

Dates: Thursday, April 19, 2021

Time: 11:15 am

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-heating-up-the-ethics-of-climate-change-11/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Cascadia College.

Tangled: Why Your Hair Matters to Society

Hair is simply a collection of protein filaments that sprout from our scalp, yet it carries great meaning for us and our society. From twists and tapers to braids and buns, what's on top of our head and how it is received by others often reflects society's standards of beauty and desirability. Using song, video, poetry, and imagery, this interactive presentation encourages us to examine our cultural conceptions of gender, class, and race. Why, for example, is one kind of hair or hair style understood as "better" than another? Who says so? What are the consequences of sporting an unruly doo, and how has that changed over the years?

Join professor Anu Taranath to untangle the meaning of hair, and better understand the stories we tell about beauty, bias, and belonging. Anu Taranath is a professor at the University of Washington specializing in global literature, identity, race, and equity.

Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021

Time: 12:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register (registration info to come)

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-tangled-why-your-hair-matters-to-society-4/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Lower Columbia College.

NAACP General Membership Meeting

Date: Monday, April 19, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: On-line via Zoom

Cost: Free, meeting open to everyone.

For more information visit their Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/spokane.naACP/> or visit their website at <http://spokanenaACP.com/>.

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting in the Principal's Office Together?

Presentation by Daudi Abe. Beginning as early as preschool, Black students are disproportionately suspended and expelled from school. As many of these students reach adulthood, these punishments can lead to legal trouble, creating what some call the "school-to-prison pipeline" that affects many Black communities.

In a state where 90% of teachers are White and the student body is only 56% White, would a more diverse teaching staff help? Does the discipline gap affect other communities of color? And what solutions can we learn to help ALL students succeed? Daudi Abe is a professor, writer, and historian who has taught and written about race, gender, education, hip-hop, and sports for over 20 years.

Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register at website below.

For more information and to register, <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-why-are-all-the-black-kids-sitting-together-in-the-principals-office-8/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Walla Walla Community College.

She Traveled Solo: Strong Women in the Early 20th Century

During a 5,000-mile solo bicycle ride from southern California to Maine, Tessa Hulls heard the same thing daily: that a woman can't travel alone. Using historical photographs, primary documents, and hand-drawn illustrations, Hulls takes participants into the lives of intrepid female adventurers who lived through the turn of the 20th century—before the right to vote or the right to own property. In sharing these stories and her own, Hulls illuminates the power of history in today's world and demonstrates why female role models are vital in affecting social change.

Tessa Hulls is a multidisciplinary artist, writer, and outdoorswoman who focuses on women's stories, and her writing has appeared in the Washington Post and Atlas Obscura's Kickass Women series.

Dates: Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register at website below (registration info to come):

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-she-traveled-solo-strong-women-in-the-early-20th-century-4/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Anacortes Public Library.

Stand Against Racism - 2021 theme "From Declarations to Change: Addressing Racism as a Public Health Crisis"

Date: Thursday, April 22, 2021

Time: 5:30 pm 7:30 pm | 5:30-6:00 pm Celebrate Local Artists, 6:00 pm-7:00 pm panel discussion

Location: Virtual Event

Cost: Free and open to the public, registration required

For more information visit their website at <https://ywcaspokane.org> or email SAR@ywcaspokane.org or call 509.789.9304.

Higher Power: The History of Evangelicals in American Politics

Explore the history and meaning behind a uniquely American movement: Evangelical Christianity. Evangelicals are the strongest religious voting bloc in America, despite being a relatively new coalition. How did they come to hold such power?

In this balanced and respectful talk, WSU professor Matthew Sutton traces the history of the religious right in America, from its early roots to its rise to power under Ronald Reagan and into the current era. Feeling concerned about the rise in secularism, evangelicals have taken to the pulpit and the airwaves to explain how Biblical end-times prophecies make sense of a troubled modern world. How does this history help us understand our current political system? Matthew Sutton is the Edward R. Meyer Distinguished Professor of History at Washington State University.

Dates: Thursday, April 22, 2021

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register at website below (registration to come).

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-higher-power-the-history-of-evangelicals-in-american-politics-4/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by The Libraries of Stevens County.

Let It Not Happen Again: Lessons of the Japanese American Exclusion

In March of 1942, 227 Japanese Americans were forcibly removed from their homes on Bainbridge Island by the US Army. Starting with this small community, a national strategy began, with more than 120,000 Japanese American men, women, and children forcibly removed and incarcerated during World War II.

Clarence Moriwaki shares the story of Bainbridge Island—the origin point of the Japanese American exclusion—to provide a human, historical account of this national tragedy, and to ask the question: Are there parallels to what's happening in America now? Moriwaki is the president of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community and a founder and former president of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association.

Date: Thursday, April 22, 2021

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register at website below.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-let-it-not-happen-again-lessons-of-the-japanese-american-exclusion-9/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture (MAC).

Heating Up: The Ethics of Climate Change

See information provided on their April 15, 2021 program.

Dates: Friday, April 23, 2021

Time: 1:30 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register at website below.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-heating-up-the-ethics-of-climate-change-12/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Narrows Glen.

What's Age Got to Do With It?

See information provided on their April 7, 2021 program.

Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Time: 10:30 am

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register, visit website below.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-whats-age-got-to-do-with-it-6/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Endless Opportunities/Temple de Hirsch Sinai.

SCC Hagan Center, Author Angie Thomas of *The Hate That U Give*

Angie Thomas was born, raised, and still resides in Jackson. She is a former teen rapper; holds a BFA in Creative Writing from Belhaven University and an unofficial degree in Hip Hop. She can also still rap if needed. She is an inaugural winner of the Walter Dean Myers Grant 2015, awarded by We Need Diverse Books. Her award-winning, acclaimed debut novel, *The Hate U Give*, is a #1 *New York Times* bestseller and major motion picture.

Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free

To view the presentation, visit <https://scc.spokane.edu/News-Events/Live-Events>.

Let It Not Happen Again: Lessons of the Japanese American Exclusion

See information provided on their April 22, 2021 program.

Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register at website below.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-let-it-not-happen-again-lessons-of-the-japanese-american-exclusion-10/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Walla Walla Community College.

From Crime to the Classroom: How Education Changes Lives

See information provided on their April 6, 2021 program.

Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-from-crime-to-the-classroom-how-education-changes-lives-6/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Tumwater Timberland Library.

SAVE THE DATE**26th Annual Hispanic/Latino Graduate and Young Scholar Recognition Ceremony**

All Hispanic/Latino(a) graduating students and young scholars (grades 7-11 with 3.0 gpa) from Spokane County schools and colleges/universities are invited to participate via on-line.

Date: Thursday, May 13, 2021, deadline to register to be recognized is May 1, 2021.

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Virtual, on-line

Cost: Free

For more information email hbpacceremony@gmail.com, visit their website at www.hbpaofspokane.org.

Other Diversity/Cultural Information

Hispanic Business/Professional Association (HBPA) Foundation is accepting applications for their **scholarships** for graduating high school seniors and college/university undergraduates for the 2021/2022 year. Visit www.hbpaofspokane.org for information and scholarship letter/application, deadline April 23, 2021. For more information email hbpaasholars@gmail.com.

If you know of diversity/cultural event open to the public that you would like added to the monthly calendar, please e-mail Yvonne C. Montoya Zamora at yvonnecmz04@gmail.com with event details. For other events, visit www.visitspokane.com or <http://www.spokane7.com/>.

April 2021 National/International Cultural Celebrations

April 1

April Fools' Day - Canada, UK, USA, England

Celebrated as a day when people play practical jokes and hoaxes on each other. The jokes and their victims are known as "April fools".

Holy Thursday – Christian

On this day, Jesus ate the Last Supper and washed the feet of his disciples prior to his arrest and crucifixion.

Kha B’Nissan - Assyria

Originally celebrated for twelve days, Assyrians place a bunch of green grass at the threshold of their homes to welcome fertility and prosperity in the New Year. On the tenth day, groups of new brides visit every house and receive presents that are then distributed amongst themselves.

Farvardin – Iran

It is the 13th day after Nowruz or New Year. The number 13 is considered an unlucky number for the Persians, and therefore everyone leaves home for the day to go on picnics or trips.

April 2

World Autism Awareness Day – UN

On World Autism Awareness Day and throughout April, which is Autism Awareness Month, local organizations hold a variety of events and educational activities to help the public learn more about autism spectrum disorder. Part of [Light it Up Blue](#) campaign, spearheaded by the autism community that aims to foster understanding and acceptance for those with autism. Supporters are encouraged to wear blue clothing and post to social media using the hashtag #LightItUpBlue to raise awareness.

Good Friday – Christian

This day commemorates the passion and death by crucifixion of Jesus. Italian Catholics have a procession call the Way of the Cross.

April 4

Easter – Christian

This day celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from his grave. Most Christians welcome Easter Sunday with a sunrise service.

Independence Day – Senegal

Senegal gained partial independence from France today in 1960, with complete independence achieved upon the dissolution of the Mali Federation on August 20th of the same year.

- April 4** **Ching Ming Festival - China/Taiwan**
A national holiday when family graves are visited to ask for the blessings of the departed spirits.
- April 5** **Easter Monday – Christian**
Commemorates the meeting of women at Jesus’ tomb with an angel who assured them that Jesus had been resurrected from death. It is observed as a holiday in some countries.
- April 6** **Chakri Day - Thailand**
A national holiday honoring King Rama I, who in 1782 founded the Chakri dynasty (which still rules the country) and established Bangkok as the country’s capital.
- Organization of the Church – Christian-Mormon**
The Church of Latter-day Saints was founded on the sixth of April 1830 at Fayette, New York.
- April 7** **World Health Day - UN**
At least half of the world’s people do not receive the essential health services they need. All UN member states have agreed to try to achieve universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Developments Goals.
- Day of Pink – LGBT**
Communities across the world unite in celebrating diversity and raising awareness to stop homophobic, transphobic & all forms of bullying.
- Jalal (2nd month) - Baha’i**
The first day of the second Baha’i month. The English translation of Jalal (Arabic) is Glory.
- April 8** **Yom HaSoah – Israel, Jewish**
Holocaust Memorial Day commemorates the death of 6-million Jews by the Nazis.
- April 9** **Independence Day – Georgia**
- April 13** **Songkran/New Year- Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand**
In Southeast Asia, Songkran is recognized as the New Year for Buddhists. For Thais, it is a three-day religious festival in which homes are routinely cleaned, and water is sprinkled on monks paying visits and on statues of Buddha.
- Ramadan Begins – Islam**
This is the holiest month in the Islamic Year and begins at the sighting of the new moon. It commemorates the period during which Prophet Mohammad received divine revelations. Observing Muslims fast between the hours of sunrise and sunset during the entire month, read the Qu ‘ran and worship in the mosque or at home.
- Ugadi – India, Mauritius, Nepal**
Ugadi marks the beginning of the new Hindu lunar calendar. Celebrated mainly in the southern states of India, people awake before the break of day, bathe and decorate the entrance of their homes with mango leaves. They eat bitter Neem leaves with sweet jaggery to signify the bitter and sweet of life.
- April 14** **Baisakhi - Bangladesh, Sikh, Hindu**
The first day of the solar year, this is an agricultural festival celebrating the harvest especially in North India. In Kerala, South India this day is called Vishu. Especially important to the Sikhs, it marks this day in 1699, when the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, established the order of ‘Khalsa’. The festival is a mixture of feasting, dancing and worship.

- April 14** **Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day)- Israel**
This is Israel's Memorial Day honoring soldiers who died fighting for their country.
- Boun Pinai - New Year – Laos**
Lasts for 3-days. The last day of the festival marks the start of the new year.
- April 15** **Adam's Peak Pilgrimage - Sri Lanka**
It is an ancient pilgrimage site to the sacred mountain, Sri Pada. According to legend, when Buddha visited Sri Lanka, he planted one foot on the north of the royal city and the other foot on Sumana-Kuta (Adam's Peak), about a hundred miles distance.
- Yom HaAtzma'ut Independence Day – Israel**
Israel's Independence Day is celebrated on the fifth day of the month of Iyar, which is the Hebrew date of the formal establishment of the State of Israel.
- Father Damien Day – Hawaii**
Anniversary date of Father Damien, a Roman Catholic priest and missionary's death of Hansen's disease on the island of Molokai, HI. He cared for sufferers of this disease, also known as Leprosy, continuing his missionary work on the island.
- April 17** **Independence Day – Syria**
In remembrance of the date that French troops left the country in 1946.
- April 18** **Independence Day – Zimbabwe**
Independence from Britain was finally achieved this date in 1980.
- April 20-** **Feast of Ridvan thru May 2 - Baha'i**
Ridvan means paradise and the 12-day festival is the holiest time for the Baha'is. Commemorates Baha'u'llah's stay in the Garden of Ridvan in the last days of his exile in Baghdad and announced he was the prophet who's coming had been foretold. Baha'is do not work on the 1st, 9th, and 12th days of Ridvan.
- April 21** **Ram Navami – Hindu**
Celebrates the birthday of Rama, the seventh incarnation of Good Vishu. Hindus read the Ramayan, a Hindu epic, which tells the story of Rama, during the previous eight days.
- Kartini Day- Indonesia**
This day commemorates Indonesia's first women's emancipationist. There are parades, lectures and social activities attended by women, all wearing their regional dress. Mothers aren't allowed to work as the family does the house chores. Many go on a pilgrimage to the grave of Kartini who died at age 24.
- Administrative Professionals Day- Canada, USA**
On this day, workplaces all over the country acknowledge secretaries, administrative staff, and other support personnel for their contributions.
- April 22** **Earth Day - International**
Earth Day is celebrated around the world and events such as festivals and rallies are often organized for the weekends before or after April 22. Many communities also celebrate Earth Month by organizing a series of environmental activities throughout the month of April. The purpose of Earth Day is to celebrate the earth and renew our commitment to building a safer, healthier and cleaner world for all of us.

- April 22** **Gathering of Nations Pow Wow – Aboriginal/Indigenous/Native American**
 A three-day celebration (April 22-24) that brings over 700 tribes and nations to Albuquerque, New Mexico. This is the largest Pow Wow in North America. Over 3,000 participants share, teach and exchange traditions. (May or may not take place due to COVID).
- Daughters/Sons to Work Day - USA**
 On this day, launched by Ms. Magazine in 1993, parents introduced their children to the world of work.
- April 23** **St. George’s Day - Christian**
 St. George is the patron saint of England. He died in 303 AD. His emblem, a red cross on a white background, is the symbol of the International Red Cross and on the flag of England. It also forms part of the Union Jack and flags of Scotland and Northern Ireland. The Bulgarians and Macedonians celebrate it on May 6.
- National Sovereignty Day and Children’s Day - Turkey**
 Commemorates the first Grand National Assembly in 1923, and also honors youth as the symbol of modern Turkey.
- April 24** **Martyrs’ Day - Armenia**
 Commemorates the 1915 Turkish massacre of 2 million Armenians.
- April 25** **Anzac Day – Australia, New Zealand**
 This is the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The soldiers in those forces quickly became known as ANZACs, and the pride they soon took in that name endures to this day. Today it honors those who died in both World Wars as well as in the Korean and Vietnam Wars.
- Mahavira Jayanti – Jain**
 This day celebrates the birthday of Lord Mahavira who was the 24th leader of the Jain religion and born around 599 B.C.
- Liberation Day – Italy**
 A day on which to honor the fallen partisans of the Italian Resistance who fought the Nazis as well as Mussolini’s troops throughout World War II.
- April 27** **Freedom Day - South Africa**
 Commemorates the day in 1994 when for the first time, all South Africans had the opportunity to vote.
- Kings Day – Netherlands**
 Celebrated King’s Day (*Koningsdag*) for the first time in 2014, after the inauguration of King Willem-Alexander on 30 April 2013 (what was then still Queen’s Day). The entire country is painted orange and the streets, canals and parks overflow with celebrations.
- Independence Day - Togo**
 Commemorates the proclamation of the independence of Togo from France in 1960.
- Jamal (3rd Month) – Baha’i**
 The first day of the third Baha’i month. The English translation of Jamal (Arabic) is Beauty.

April 29

Maundy Thursday – Christian – Coptic and Eastern Orthodox

On this day, Jesus ate the Last Supper and washed his feet of his disciples prior to his arrest and crucifixion.

Showa-no-hi – Japan

Commemorates the birth of Emperor Showa (Hirohito) (1901-1989), the reigning Emperor before, during, and after WWII (1926-1989). The official purpose of the holiday is “To reflect on Japan’s Showa period when recovery was made after turbulent days, and to think of the country’s future.

April 30

Walpurgis Night – Sweden

Walpurgis is Sweden’s annual feast of the witches. Huge bonfires are lit all over the country to scare them away as they fly overhead, headed for their annual Sabbath in Brocken in the Harz Mountains in Germany.

Holy Friday - Christian – Coptic and Eastern Orthodox

Commemorates the passion and death by crucifixion of Jesus and is a solemn day. Eastern Orthodox members fast on this day. Macedonians make a plashtanitsa or picture of the dead Jesus on a large cloth to be carried in a procession.

Arbor Day - USA

A day celebrated to encourage tree planting. Founded in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton. Celebrated the last Friday in April.

April 30-May 4 Gahambar Maidyozarem - Zoroastrian

This day celebrates the creation of the sky.

Source: Diversity/Cultural Celebrations from Creative Cultural Communications 2021 Multicultural Calendar, at usamulticulturalcalendar.com.

One of my favorite sites is A Mighty Girl, actually almost any site with books. The books selected below are from their website: <https://www.amightygirl.com/blog?p=11586>. The site was founded on the belief that all children should have the opportunity to read [books](#), play with [toys](#), listen to [music](#), and watch [movies](#) that offer positive messages about girls and honor their diverse capabilities.

For books on Anne Frank visit A Mighty Girl at <https://www.amightygirl.com/blog?p=12110>.

Holocaust Remembrance Day: 60 Mighty Girl Books About the Holocaust

Each year on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, we take time to remember those who died — and those who survived — during the infamous Nazi regime. It is a difficult topic for any of us, but particularly difficult to discuss with children. How do you talk about something so beyond most children’s contemplation in a way that respects the experience of those who lived it?

What Was the Holocaust?

How do you explain the Holocaust — the deliberate attempt to dehumanize and exterminate a whole race of people on such a vast scale — to children, especially young children? It’s certainly not an easy task, but there are some books out there to help you tackle it.

Hidden: A Child's Story of the Holocaust

Written by: Loic Dauvillier, Illustrated by: Marc Lizano, Greg Salsedo, Recommended Age: 6 - 10

This powerful graphic novel introduces the story of the Holocaust in a gentle way. When Elsa's grandmother Dounia has trouble sleeping after a nightmare, Elsa begs her to share why she is so sad. In response, Dounia shares a story even her own son has never heard: a story of a confused child being ostracized by neighbors and teachers, forced to wear a yellow star, and finally, concealed in a secret panel in a wardrobe while her parents are arrested and taken away. Dauvillier handles this difficult topic in an age-appropriate way, but without concealing the hard truths of history. Illustrations by Marc Lizano and Greg Salsedo capture the humanity of the people involved without being fully realistic, making this title suitable for early school-aged children.

Lisa of Willesden Lane: A True Story of Music and Survival During World War II

Written by: Mona Golabek, Lee Cohen, Recommended Age: 6 - 10

Mona Golabek's stunning book for older readers, *The Children of Willesden Lane*, is now available in an early chapter book format! Musical prodigy Lisa dreams of being a concert pianist, but with World War II looming, Vienna is no longer safe for Jewish families like hers. Her parents make the difficult decision to send her to London through the Kindertransport. In a home for refugee children, Lisa desperately misses her family, but her music provides her — and all of those around her — with comfort. Adapted for newly independent readers, and including additional material about Holocaust history and the Kindertransport, this book will encourage young readers to imagine what they would do in Lisa's shoes. For a picture book version of the story, check out [Hold On To Your Music: The Inspiring True Story of the Children of Willesden Lane](#) for ages 5 to 8.

Ruth and the Night of the Broken Glass | A World War II Survival Story (Girls Survive)

Written by: Emma Carlson Berne, Illustrated by: Matt Forsyth, Recommended Age: 7 - 10

10-year-old Ruth Block knows tensions are rising in 1938 in Frankfurt, Germany. Jewish-owned stores are being shut down — including Ruth's father's stationery store — and people on the street shout mean things at Ruth and her family. One night in November, though, discrimination explodes into violence; Ruth's father is dragged into the square and arrested alongside hundreds of other Jewish men, and the mob vandalizes homes, businesses, and synagogues, littering the ground with broken glass that later gives the night its nickname: Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass. Filled with photos, maps, and more, this story from the [Girls Survive series](#) brings the fascist Nazi rise to power to life through the eyes of a girl living it firsthand.

Star of Fear, Star of Hope

Written by: Jo Hoestlandt, Recommended Age: 7 - 10

An old woman remembers a night she wishes she could take back: her ninth birthday. Lydia, her best friend, is Jewish, and for some time Helen has been confused: why are people talking in low voices, hiding in odd places, and using strange names? And why does Lydia wear a yellow star on her jacket? Lydia was planning to stay the night for Helen's birthday when word comes that the Nazis are arresting Jews; Lydia tells her friend she wants to be with her family, but all Helen can think about is her ruined birthday fun. The childish exclamation of "You're not my friend anymore!" marks the last time Helen sees Lydia, and it's only later that she realizes what her friend was facing. All she can do now is hope that she will see Lydia again someday... This powerful book is age-appropriate, but still carries the emotional weight the subject deserves.

Hedy's Journey: The True Story of a Hungarian Girl Fleeing the Holocaust

Written by: Michelle Bisson, Illustrated by: El Primo Ramon, Recommended Age: 8 - 12

In 1941, Hedy's Hungarian Jewish family faces tough decisions: Hitler's armies are beginning to round up Jews across Europe, and no one is safe, but the family's circumstances don't allow them all to travel together. At 16, Hedy must travel across Europe by train — alone — in hopes of reaching a port where she can board a ship to America. Along the way she encounters good luck and bad, kind helpers and cruel soldiers; she dreams of happy reunions and fears that, instead, she'll find herself alone forever. This thoughtful picture book from the [Encounter: Narrative Nonfiction Picture Books series](#) includes a note at the end that follows Hedy's story after she arrives in America, capturing the aftermath and epilogue of her refugee experience.

When Hitler Stole the Pink Rabbit

Written by: Judith Kerr, Recommended Age: 8 - 12

Anna is growing up in Berlin, and thinks of herself as a German like everyone else she knows. Hitler's face on posters around the city doesn't mean anything to her — until one night her father disappears. Her mother explains that he had to leave, and soon, they will join him. Escaping Nazi Germany means a life as a refugee, leaving everything Anna knows behind. Anna's confusion in the face of these upsetting changes captures the experience of children during the rise of the Nazi party, and keeping the discussion of Nazi policies towards "undesirable" races at a distance makes for a gentler introduction to the topic.

A Faraway Island

Written by: Annika Thor, Recommended Age: 8 - 12

Sometimes it can be easy to forget that the people facing these trials were ordinary — including tweens, worrying about the same things that tweens do today. 12-year-old Stephie Steiner and her sister Nellie have been sent from Vienna to safety with a foster family in Sweden, and while Nellie adjust quickly, Stephie struggles. At the same time as she deals with world-shattering issues like disagreements with her foster mother and worries about her parents, she's also facing snide insults from the villagers and the enmity of the most popular girl in school. Kids reading this book will be struck by how similar Stephie's coming of age is to their own... and at the same time, how dramatically different.

The Children of Willesden Lane: A True Story of Hope and Survival During World War II - Young Readers Edition

Written by: Emil Sher, Mona Golabek, Lee Cohen, Recommended Age: 8 - 12

As the Nazi regime rose — and people began to suspect its aims — one program, the Kindertransport, brought 10,000 children into the United Kingdom for safety. Lisa Jura was a 14-year-old musical prodigy whose parents were offered the chance to send one of their three children; they chose her. In a home for refugee children, she yearned for her family and dreaded what news might come, but at the same time, her music offered hope to both her and many around her in the midst of the war. This youth adaptation of the biography for teens and adults, [The Children of Willesden Lane: Beyond the Kindertransport: A Memoir of Music, Love, and Survival](#), captures both the pain caused by the war — even for those who didn't live through its horrors directly — as well as the power of music to lift everyone up.

Letters from Cuba

Written by: Ruth Behar, Recommended Age: 9 - 12

With anti-Semitism on the rise in her home country of Poland, Esther's father fled to Cuba in hopes of finding a new place to live for the family — and 11-year-old Esther is the first to join him. To console her sister (and herself), Esther promises to write letters about everything that happens until they meet again. Her new Cuban community is welcoming (although she discovers that Nazism has spread even there), and Esther is discovering that she has unexpected talents — ones which may help the family reunite even faster... before it's too late. Based on award-winning author Ruth Behar's family history, this historical fiction novel explores timely issues, as well as the timeless power of humanity to thrive despite any challenge.

The Year of Goodbyes | A True Story of Friendship, Family and Farewells

Written by: Debbie Levy, Recommended Age: 10 and up

Jutta Salzberg was a typical 12-year-old girl — but in 1938 Germany, it was harder and harder for a Jewish girl like her to live a normal life. As Jutta's family realized that they needed to leave before things got worse, her friends and relatives wrote in her *poesiealbum*, or autograph book, and Jutta kept a diary. Now her daughter, Debbie Levy — author of *I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark* — weaves these writings with her own free verse to tell the story of the Salzberg family's last year in Germany. Levy captures both simple pleasures and terrifying moments — like Jutta's father threatening to jump out a window if an official doesn't grant the family visas — and includes a sober afterword about the friends and family who didn't escape.

Acts of Bravery: Rescue and Escape

When faced with horrors they know are wrong, not all people turn a blind eye. Even under threat of arrest or death, brave, compassionate people would not stand by and watch others be sent to camps. And, of course, many courageous people facing death hid and even escaped, and were often able to help others do the same.

The Butterfly

Written by: Patricia Polacco, Illustrated by: Patricia Polacco

Recommended Age: 5 - 8

Monique's small French village has been occupied by Nazis for some time when she wakes up to see another little girl at the foot of her bed. Sevrine is Jewish, and Monique's mother has been concealing her and her family in a hidden room in the basement. When a neighbor discovers them, though, both families will have to flee. Based on the real experiences of Polacco's aunt, this story is a good introduction for young children to ideas surrounding racism, Nazi occupation, and the courage to do what's right.

The Whispering Town

Written by: Jennifer Elvgren, Illustrated by: Fabio Santomauro, Recommended Age: 6 - 9

In Denmark, the Resistance successfully saved nearly the entire Jewish population across the sea to safety in Sweden, and this picture book captures the suspense and heroism of this incredibly brave act. Anett's family lives in a small Danish fishing village, and they're concealing Carl and his aging mama, the last pair they need to get aboard a fishing boat and to safety. But with the occupying soldiers getting suspicious, and a cloudy sky that will prevent Carl from seeing which way is safe from patrols, it takes Anett's clever idea of a chain of whispers to smuggle them safely to the harbor.

Miep and the Most Famous Diary: The Woman Who Rescued Anne Frank's Diary

Written by: Meeg Pincus, Illustrated by: Jordi Solano, Recommended Age: 6 - 9

Today Anne Frank is famous for her optimistic diary, written while she hid from the horrors of the Holocaust. We have that diary thanks to the efforts of another, often unsung woman, Miep Gies. Miep and her husband were integral in protecting the Frank family as they lived in the Secret Annex, and when the Nazis arrested the fugitives, she knew that they would be back to pilfer their belongings as well. She couldn't bear the thought of Anne's precious diary being stolen or destroyed, so she hid it, hoping to return it to Anne or her family in time. Sadly, only Anne's father, Otto, survived the concentration camps, but when Miep gave him Anne's writing, it was the first step towards her words being read around the world. This powerful account celebrates everyday heroism and the power of the written word.

The Hiding Game

Written by: Gwen Strauss, Illustrated by: Herb Leonhard, Recommended Age: 7 - 10

At the Villa Air-Bel, with the help of Daniel Bénédite and Varian Fry, Aube and her family are playing a hiding game. Bénédite and Fry are working together to help some of Europe's great Jewish minds escape Nazi persecution — which means that Aube's days are surrounded by music and poetry, and the perspectives of great thinkers like Marc Chagall and Max Ernst. But while her days are hopeful, Aube can't help but think of the many people outside the Villa's walls, "waiting for someone to set them free." Based on the true story of a young Holocaust survivor, this riveting picture book captures the power of mutual support and courage with a sense of imminent danger, all through a child's eyes.

Jars of Hope: How One Woman Helped Save 2,500 Children During the Holocaust

Written by: Jennifer Roy, Illustrated by: Meg Owenson, Recommended Age: 7 - 10

In Poland's Warsaw Ghetto during WWII, a young nurse and social worker went about her daily work, caring for the sick — and smuggling Jewish children out to safety. [Irena Sendler](#) knew what she was risking, but she couldn't bear to watch children suffer and do nothing. And after every child was safe — over 2,500 children in total — she meticulously recorded their name in hopes that, someday, they could be reunited with their families. Irena Sendler's inspiring true story is also told in two other books, [Irena's Jars of Secrets](#) for ages 6 to 10 and [Irena Sendler and the Children of the Warsaw Ghetto](#) for ages 9 to 12.

The Safest Lie

Written by: Angela Cerrito, Recommended Age: 9 - 12

Nine-year-old Anna is struggling to survive the horrible conditions of the Warsaw Ghetto in Nazi-occupied Poland, but the frail girl is at real risk of starving to death. Then she meets a woman who calls herself Jolanta — the resistance spy Irena Sendler who has been smuggling children out of the ghetto — and she wants to get Anna out next. To do that, Anna must pretend to be Roman Catholic orphan Anna Karwolska, and not only struggle with pretending to be someone else, but also remembering who she really is. This emotionally powerful work of historical fiction was based on interviews with Sendler and the real-life experiences of the thousands of children she saved.

Erika's Story

Written by: Ruth Vander Zee, Illustrated by: Roberto Innocenti, Recommended Age: 9 - 13

Even people who have no memory of the Holocaust benefited from the sacrifices of those who around them. In 1944, as an infant, Erika was thrown from a cattle car bound for a concentration camp: "On her way to death, my mother threw me to life." A German woman risked her own life to raise Erika, who eventually married and had her own children. Vander Zee tells this true story, which she heard from a woman she met in a German village, with elegance and poignancy; it is a story of love, hope, and goodness.

Number the Stars

Written by: Lois Lowry, Recommended Age: 9 and up

Some of the heroic efforts to rescue people targeted for extermination occurred on a grand scale. In Lois Lowry's Newbery Medal-winning book, she tells the remarkable true story of how the Danish Resistance moved nearly seven thousand Jewish people — almost the entire Jewish population of Denmark — across the sea to safety in Sweden. Through the eyes of fictional 10-year-old Annemarie, whose family conceals her Jewish best friend, Ellen, this incredible moment of courage and conviction is given a personal quality for tween readers.

Louder Than Words

Written by: Kathy Kace, Recommended Age: 10 - 13

12-year-old Dina's Ukrainian Jewish family is facing hardships they had never anticipated in the midst of World War II. New anti-Semitic policies are costing them more and more freedoms, and when her father dies, the family has to adjust to her mother going back to work while still wrestling with their grief. Dina objects to the family's new housekeeper, Nina, who is Christian rather than Jewish, but Nina's compassion becomes critical when the Nazis invade: when even family turns them away, Nina registers the children as her own to keep them safe. Inspired by the true story of Nina Pukas, named one of the Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem, this powerful middle grade novel celebrates the courage of rescuers through the eyes of a child.

Catherine's War

Written by: Julia Billet, Ivanka Hahnenberger (trans.), Illustrated by: Claire Fauvel, Recommended Age: 10 - 13

In 1942, young Rachel Cohen is staying at the Sèvres Children's Home outside Paris, enjoying a newfound passion for photography and trying not to worry too much about the war. But when the Nazis invade, the Jewish girl must reinvent herself as the Catholic Catherine Colin and hide with the help of the French resistance. Still, she takes as many photographs as she can; as one of her teachers tells her, "We'll need these testimonies." This spellbinding graphic novel, based on the real-life story of author Julia Billet's mother's war experience, captures the fear and trauma of World War II, but also hope, generosity, and sacrifice, as everyday heroes step forward to help people like Catherine survive.

The Light of Days Young Readers' Edition: The Untold Story of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler's Ghettos

Written by: Judy Batalion, Recommended Age: 10 - 13

When the Nazis invaded Poland, Jewish people did not simply capitulate: resistance groups rapidly appeared, many of them led by Jewish women and young girls. These "ghetto girls" served as fighters, spies, and saboteurs; they converted youth groups into resistance cells and built underground bunkers and supply lines. In this young reader's edition of the book for older teen and adult readers, *The Light of Days*, readers follow one girl, 18-year-old Renia Kukielka, as she smuggles both weapons and intelligence across her country. With black and white photographs and stories about what happened to these daring women during and after the war, this is a compelling look at the courage of these little-known and under-appreciated heroes.

The Sound of Freedom

Written by: Kathy Kacer, Recommended Age: 10 - 13

Anna may be young, but she can see the increasing danger facing her Jewish family in 1936 Krakow, Poland: prejudice, and even violence, is becoming more and more common. But her father insists that he can't leave: he holds a prestigious position as clarinetist in the Krakow Philharmonic Orchestra. Then Anna learns that Bronislaw Huberman, a famous violinist, is creating a new orchestra of Jewish musicians in Palestine. Can her letter convince Huberman to let her father audition — and will they get out in time? Against the real-life background of Huberman's work saving 700 Jewish performers and their families, Anna's story shows both the desperation of her family's situation and the enduring hope and goodness that still exists in the world.

Irena's Children: A True Story of Courage - Young Readers Edition

Written by: Tilar J. Mazzeo, Mary Cronk Ferrell (adapter), Recommended Age: 10 and up

In *Irena's Children: The Extraordinary Story of the Woman Who Saved 2,500 Children from the Warsaw Ghetto*, Tilar J. Mazzeo told Irena Sendler's incredible story of smuggling children out of the Jewish ghetto to foster families in order to keep them safe; this edition makes that story accessible to younger readers, who will be fascinated to read about the many ways Sendler helped children escape — from hiding them under her overcoat to slipping them through secret passages — and about her incredible determination not to reveal their names and locations, even at risk of losing her life.

Don't Tell The Nazis

Written by: Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch, Recommended Age: 10 and up

When the Nazis push the occupying Soviet soldiers out of Krystia's Ukrainian village in 1941, the villagers rejoice; surely the Germans are here to help. They certainly don't think there are any implications to their friends' and neighbors' mix of Polish, Jewish, and Ukrainian backgrounds. But as the Nazis' intentions become horrifyingly clear — first when the Poles and Ukrainians are deemed fit only for work, and then with a mass shooting of 101 Jewish men — Krystia faces a terrible choice: will she protect her friends and neighbors however she can, even at risk of losing everything? Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch, author of *Making Bombs for Hitler* and *Stolen Girl*, based this immediate and gripping story on the real experiences of a World War II survivor. There is also a companion novel about Krystia's sister, Maria, *Trapped in Hitler's Web*.

Odin's Promise

Written by: Sandy Brehl, Recommended Age: 10 and up

The choice to aid others in the face of great personal danger makes for a difficult coming of age. 11-year-old Mari lives in a safe, protected world until Hitler's armies invade Norway. Mari and her elkhound Odin are used to roaming freely; suddenly, not only is that a risk, but Mari starts seeing all the ways people around her are defying the Nazi regime: a hidden radio at her grandmother's, family and friends working for the resistance, neighbors operating a black market. With Odin by her side, Mari feels like she still knows what's right... but when Odin becomes the soldiers' target, she's faced with the realization that "right" and "legal" are no longer the same thing.

My Survival: A Girl on Schindler's List

Written by: Joshua M. Greene, Rena Finder, Recommended Age: 10 and up

Behind the award-winning film *Schindler's List* were real people — including 11-year-old Rena Finder. She was 11 years old when her family was forced into Krakow's Jewish ghetto, and she was put to work as slave labor. Fortunately, Rena and her mother started working on Oskar Schindler's factory, where he treated them well and helped keep them fed and healthy. And when she and her mother were sent to Auschwitz, Schindler created a plan to help them escape. Rena's gripping story of Holocaust survival and the compassion of those who helped at great personal risk is a must-read title for young readers learning more about World War II history.

Women Heroes of World War II: 26 Stories of Espionage, Sabotage, Resistance, and Rescue

Written by: Kathryn J. Atwood, Recommended Age: 12 and up

Instead of fiction, your children (and you!) might enjoy reading historical accounts of the rescuers and resisters of the second World War. In this book, they'll learn about over two dozen real women who risked everything for what they believed was right. People as disparate as housewives and entertainers, high school students and highly trained agents, all played their parts in resisting the Nazi regime. This title, which is part of the *Women of Action* series, is sure to fascinate teens and adults alike with its remarkable tales of daring real women.

The Book Thief

Written by: Markus Zusak, Recommended Age: 12 and up

It's just a small story really, about among other things: a girl, some words, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist fighter, and quite a lot of thievery... Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist -- books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau. This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul. *The Book Thief* has also been made into a feature film of the same name recommended for ages 13 and up.

Resistance

Written by: Jennifer A. Nielsen, Recommended Age: 12 and up

In 1942 Nazi-occupied Poland, Jewish teenager Chaya Lindner is determined to fight the evil destroying her life... even in the face of overwhelming odds. She escapes the Kraków Ghetto where her family is imprisoned and joins the Jewish resistance as a courier. She learns about a planned uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto to fight Nazis' efforts to transport the remaining survivors of the ghetto to death camps. Like her fellow resisters, Chaya knows that there is no possibility that they will 'win' this fight, but they hope to save as many lives as possible, and to live — or die — on their own terms. This powerful historical fiction novel by the author of [A Night Divided](#) about the largest single revolt by Jews during WWII explores the Holocaust from the rarely-discussed perspective of Jewish resistance fighters through the story of one heroic young woman.

The Light in Hidden Places

Written by: Sharon Cameron, Recommended Age: 13 and up

Stefania "Fusia" Podgórska achieved her dream of leaving the family farm by working for the Jewish Diamant family in their grocery store in Przemsyl, Poland. The Catholic Fusia finds friendship with the family, and even first love: a secret betrothal with Izio Diamant. But when the German army invades, the Diamants are forced into a ghetto and Fusia is left without work and responsible for her 6-year-old sister Helena. And then, she hears a knock on the door: Izio's brother, Max, has jumped from a train taking Jews to the death camps. Fusia and Helena end up hiding Max and twelve other Jews — even while two Nazi offers requisition living space in their house. But can they keep their deadly secret? Best-selling author Sharon Cameron based this book on Fusia's true story, and includes an author's note detailing Fusia, Helena, and Max's lives after the war.

28 Days: A Novel of Resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto

Written by: David Safier, Recommended Age: 15 and up

In 1942 Warsaw, Mira's Jewish family is struggling through dire circumstances. Her father is dead, and her brother has joined the Jewish Police, leaving Mira, her mother, and her sister to survive alone in the Ghetto. So far, Mira has managed to smuggle in enough food to keep them alive, but when she learns the Ghetto is going to be "liquidated," she's not sure what to do. Then she discovers that a group of young people are planning an uprising against the Germans — and joins the resistance. They will stand against the Nazis as long as they can... twenty-eight days. This fictionalized telling of the real Warsaw Ghetto uprising is a brutal but empowering reminder that, no matter what the end result, there is hope for resistance.

In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer

Written by: Irene Opdyke, Recommended Age: 14 and up

This memoir by a real-life Holocaust rescuer is a powerful read for any teen. When World War II began, 17-year-old Irene Gut was a nursing student, a typical teenager preparing for a future career; by the end of the war, she had suffered brutality from both German and Russian soldiers, provided food to the Jews starving in the ghetto, and even agreed to become mistress to a German major in exchange for protection for Jewish friends. Her courage in the face of terrible experiences and hard choices is sure to be an inspiration.

The Girl in the Green Sweater

Written by: Krystyna Chiger, Daniel Paisner, Recommended Age: 14 and up

Any place could become a hiding spot for desperate fugitives during the war -- even the hidden passages beneath our feet. In 1943, Krystyna Chiger was among a group of Polish Jews in Lvov who escaped arrest and exile by hiding in the city's sewer system. Chiger, the last surviving member of the group, has shared her story and the story of Leopold Socha, the Polish Catholic and former thief who risked his life to provide food, medicine, and supplies. The story was also made into the 2011 motion picture *Into Darkness*.

Edith's Story: The True Story of How One Young Girl Survived World War II

Written by: Edith Velmans, Recommended Age: 14 and up

This memoir shows the struggles of those Jewish people who tried to conceal themselves amidst other families. Edith van Hessen was an ordinary high school student when Hitler invaded Holland in 1939. In the same month that [Anne Frank](#) went into hiding, Edith concealed herself in a Protestant family, concealing her identity behind their name. For her memoir, she mines her teenaged diaries and wartime letters, as well as her adult memories, to create an emotional depiction of the experience of living through the Holocaust, even as one-third of concealed Dutch Jews — including most of her family — were killed. Despite it all, though, Edith's life is a testament to the power of the love and courage of ordinary people.

The Girl in the Blue Coat

Written by: Monica Hesse, Recommended Age: 14 and up

It's 1943 Amsterdam, and Hanneke is mourning her boyfriend, who was killed on the Dutch front lines as the Nazis invaded — and she's also operating as a courier delivering black market goods, her small act of rebellion. But on one delivery, a desperate neighbor asks for help finding a person: a Jewish teenager she was hiding in a secret room who has vanished without a trace. Hanneke's work until now has been mostly safe, but she can't ignore Mrs. Janssen's pleas. Her efforts to find the missing teen will open her eyes to the true horrors that the Nazi regime means and compel her to take desperate action. Thought-provoking and gripping, this novel asks questions about love, guilt, and moral responsibility that will keep teens talking.

Living Through the Holocaust

It would do disservice to the topic to avoid discussing the reality of life in the concentration camps and ghettos. The confiscation of personal property and police violence in Jewish ghettos; to the "processing" of the camps — including number tattoos, stripping, and shaving — the forced labor; the deprivation of food and medical care; and at last, the Final Solution: these books refuse to shy away from the experiences of those who lived and died in this horrible time. Due to the subject matter, these books are mainly for tweens and teens.

The Cat with the Yellow Star: Coming of Age in Terezin

Written by: Susan Goldman Rubin, Ela Weissberger, Recommended Age: 8 - 12

Ela Stein was 11 when she was sent to Terezin with her fellow Czech Jews; when the camp was liberated in 1945, she was 15. In the years in between, despite it all, she grew up, forging lifelong friendships with girls in the barracks, and even playing the pivotal role of the cat in a children's opera the adults helped them perform. Meanwhile, the specter of death — or the next closest thing, a spot on the transport trucks to the death camps — always loomed. This touching book beautifully captures the alternating joys and fears Ela experienced while in captivity in Terezin, creating a portrait of a unique coming of age.

Hana's Suitcase

Written by: Karen Levine, Recommended Age: 9 - 12

This book recounts the remarkable true story of Hana "Hanička" Bradová, a 13-year-old girl who was killed at Auschwitz, and Fumiko Ishioka, who as director of Tokyo's Holocaust Education Resource Center worked to discover and share Hana's story with Japanese children and the world. The story begins when a suitcase labeled "Hana Brady" arrives at the resource center. The children who saw the suitcase were full of questions about what happened to its owner. Ishioka embarks on a quest with her students to find the answers and uncovers Hana's story in the process.

Making Bombs for Hitler

Written by: Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch, Recommended Age: 10 and up

At first, Lida believes that she and her family are safe from the Nazis since they aren't Jewish. However, the Ukrainian girl can't escape the horrors of World War II. Lida is rounded up with other youth and sent to a brutal labor camp where she and other children will be forced to make German bombs until they drop. There, Lida comes up with a daring plan: sabotage the bombs. Her friends are eager to join her secret resistance, but if their deception is discovered, they'll surely be executed. Nevertheless, the chance to do their own, small part to end the war is too important to waste. Based on the real-life experience of countless Ukrainian and other Central and Eastern European children who were among the estimated 3 to 5 million Ostarbeiters (or "Eastern workers") used as slave labor in Nazi work camps, this historical fiction novel is not too graphic for younger readers, but still captures both the horrors of the camps and the courage of people like Lida who found ways to fight back against Nazi oppression.

No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War

Written by: Anita Lobel, Recommended Age: 10 and up

Anita Lobel is a Caldecott-winning children's illustrator, but few would guess her past from her drawings. Between age 5 and 10, Lobel and her family ran from the Nazis, only to be caught, marched from camp to camp, and forced to endure dehumanizing conditions. Lobel tells her story from the first person, in the voice of the child she was, and does not shrink from the terrors and horrors she experienced. Yet the final words of her epilogue capture the tremendous spirit that she and other survivors possess: "My life has been good. I want more."

Four Perfect Pebbles: A True Story of the Holocaust

Written by: Lila Perl, Marion Blumenthal Lazan, Recommended Age: 10 and up

Marion Blumenthal was a young child when Hitler rose to power, and her family found themselves trapped in Nazi Germany. They eventually managed to escape to Holland, only for the German army to invade — and found themselves sent to Bergen-Belsen, a prison camp back inside Germany's borders. There, Marion convinced herself that, if she could find four pebbles of the same size and shape, it would be a sign: she and her family would survive, reunite, and find safety after the war. The newly released twentieth anniversary edition of this powerful Holocaust memoir includes new material by the author and additional photographs, as well as a reading group guide.

Yellow Star

Written by: Jennifer Roy, Recommended Age: 10 and up

Jennifer Roy shares the experiences of her aunt, Sylvia Perlmutter — one of only twelve children to survive the Lodz ghetto — in this harrowing story in free verse. Five chronological episodes tell a lightly fictionalized version of Perlmutter's story, and are surrounded by historical notes about the period. Inspired by a series of taped phone interviews more than 50 years after the fact, this vividly descriptive book is haunting, both because of the subject matter and because of Roy's admission that, until the moment her aunt picked up the phone, these were aspects of her family's history that no one talked about.

The Devil's Arithmetic

Written by: Jane Yolen, Recommended Age: 11 and up

This classic historical fantasy novel about life in the camps helps today's kids imagine themselves in the same situation. Hannah thinks Seder with her relatives is boring, and her grandfather and great-aunt, with their camp tattoos and grim stories, are upsetting. Why should she have to remember these terrible things that have nothing to do with her? But when Hannah is transported to 1940s Poland, stepping into the identity of Chaya, a girl her age, and experiences being shipped to a concentration camp first-hand, she learns more than she expected about compassion, identity, and memory.

Paper Hearts

Written by: Meg Wiviott, Recommended Age: 12 and up

In Auschwitz, making a birthday card was an act of defiance punishable by death — and yet, in 1944, a girl named Zlatka dared to do so for her friend Fania. After stealing and bartering for paper and scissors and carefully folding an origami heart, Zlatka and the other girls at the work tables filled the paper with wishes for happiness, love, and freedom. This novel in verse, which is based on the real story of Zlatka and Fania and one of the few art objects created within the walls of Auschwitz (now on display in the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre), aptly captures the vibrant culture and history of European Jewish communities that even the oppression of the concentration camps could not destroy.

The Red Ribbon

Written by: Lucy Adlington, Recommended Age: 13 and up

When 14-year-old Ella is detained on her way home school and sent to a concentration camp, she discovers an opportunity for survival: the camp runs a sewing workshop where prisoners make high-fashion dresses for the wives of the Nazi elite. There, the work is less dangerous, and Ella can conceal the realities of the camp from herself... until she meets Rose. Rose is a political prisoner, and she has no illusions about the camp — or the Nazi Final Solution. As Rose opens Ella's eyes, and the last days of the war bring chaos to the camp, friendship may be the one thing that endures through it all. This poignant novel explores a little-known piece of Holocaust history through one girl's gripping story.

I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust

Written by: Livia Bitton-Jackson, Recommended Age: 13 and up

Life as a teenager in the infamous Auschwitz concentration camp was harrowing, physically grueling — and yet, somehow, still held potential for hope. Livia Bitton-Jackson, who was born Elli L. Friedmann in Czechoslovakia, was 13 when she, her mother, and her brother were taken to the camp. In a gripping first-person narrative, she talks about the roundups, selections, forced labor, shootings, and more. Yet, always, there is a sense of hope, and the victims in Bitton-Jackson's tale never lose their humanity.

The Librarian of Auschwitz

Written by: Antonio Iturbe, Lilit Thwaites (translation), Recommended Age: 13 and up

When 14-year-old Dita is sent to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, she is selected for the propaganda 'family camp,' a front to convince the Red Cross that the camp is just for internment, not murder. After one of the prisoners sets up a secret school, he entrusts Dita with the job of block librarian, caring for eight precious books that have been smuggled past the guards. Her secret role as Librarian of Auschwitz gives Dita a sense of purpose — and the courage and hope she needs to survive one of the darkest chapters of human history. Based on the experience of real-life Auschwitz prisoner Dita Kraus, this book captures the incredible power of the human spirit to overcome hatred and violence.

Claiming My Place: Coming of Age in the Shadow of the Holocaust

Written by: Planaria Price, Helen Reichmann West, Recommended Age: 13 and up

Gucia Gomolinska was a smart, determined, and independent child who expected a life full of promise — but when the Nazis invaded Poland and established the first Jewish ghetto of the war in her hometown of Piotrków Trybunalski, she began to realize just what is at stake. Gucia's blond hair, fair skin, and fluent Polish provided a chance for escape: she reinvented herself as Danuta Barbara Tanska, a Polish Christian. This book, which is based on interviews with Tanska and her daughter, poignantly explores the choices that faced Tanska and other Jews like her, who had to abandon their family and friends to their fates in order to survive.

Esfir Is Alive

Written by: Andrea Simon, Recommended Age: 13 and up

Esfir Manevich's story starts in a Polish town in 1936. In just a few short years, she goes from facing anti-Semitism at school to the bombing of her hometown, occupation by first the Russians and then the Germans, confinement in the ghetto, and then in 1942 — shortly before her thirteenth birthday — being forced onto cattle cars to be shipped out for "processing" at the mass killing fields of Bronna Góra. This work of historical fiction, inspired by three paragraphs of testimony from the sole survivor of Bronna Góra, is an unflinching look at how communities moved from prejudice to violence so quickly — and a reminder of the individual people who represent the statistics we quote about Holocaust casualties.

Mapping the Bones

Written by: Jane Yolen, Recommended Age: 13 and up

For Jewish twins Chaim and Gittel, the world feels like it's falling apart. Their incredibly close connection, which even includes a secret language, can't protect them from the dangers of the Nazi regime — or treachery from people they thought they could trust. At a forced labor camp, they face the terror of the ovens and the horror of medical experimentation by a twisted Nazi doctor. Only through Chaim's poetry and clinging to one another can they hope to survive. Jane Yolen returns to the Holocaust almost thirty years after *The Devil's Arithmetic* and *Briar Rose* to produce this haunting novel of evil and love.

Rose Under Fire

Written by: Elizabeth Wein, Recommended Age: 13 and up

In this sequel to Elizabeth Wein's acclaimed novel *Code Name Verity*, she captures life in the notorious Ravensbruck, the women's concentration camp where Nazi medical officials conducted brutal experiments on young Polish women, nicknamed "rabbits" by their torturers. Through the eyes of Rose Justice, an American pilot captured while on a mission over France, we witness the true horrors of the concentration camps, as well as the determination of the residents to survive — and ensure the truth is told. In addition to its stunning depiction of life in the camp, *Rose Under Fire* also depicts the lingering effects on its residents; while the rabbits left with obvious wounds, no one left the camps without scars.

The Cage

Written by: Ruth Minsky Sender, Recommended Age: 13 and up

It's important to also remember the hope that sustained many camp residents, as well as to show that not all Germans — or even all Nazis — had no compassion for those they detained. When Riva's widowed mother is arrested shortly after the invasion of Poland, she struggles to keep herself and her two brothers together as a family. When she is transported to Auschwitz, then other labor camps, she swears that she will survive to find her family. And when she becomes seriously ill, a camp doctor convinces the *comandante* to allow her to be treated in a civilian hospital — a kindness that saves her life.

The Aftermath

Of course, an experience like the Holocaust does not end in the moment of liberation. The aftermath of separated families, seized property and traumatized people still resonates today. Still, some tales about the time after the Holocaust was over help to remind us all that, as long as there is life to be lived, good can be found in the world again.

One Candle

Written by: Eve Bunting, Illustrated by: K. Wendy Popp, Recommended Age: 5 - 9

The aftermath of these events is still a part of family histories around the world. This little girl's Hanukkah celebrations are made more meaningful by the story of her grandmother and her great-aunt Rose. In the midst of their struggle for survival in Buchenwald, they manage to steal one precious potato. Rather than eat it, though, the two women hollow it out and make a Hanukkah candle, celebrating the Festival of Light — and the dream of hope — in a place desperately lacking both. Today, in the midst of plenty, Grandma makes another potato candle and reminds her granddaughter of the power of love and hope to overcome the darkest of times.

Out of Hiding: A Holocaust Survivor's Journey to America

Written by: Ruth Gruener, Recommended Age: 9 - 12

Ruth survived the Holocaust as a hidden child, concealing herself behind a couch or in a trunk with a tiny hole for air, and now she and her parents are free... but the war still haunts her. As displaced peoples in a war-ravaged Europe, they struggle to survive until the paperwork comes allowing them to emigrate to America. When it finally arrives, Ruth starts a new life in Brooklyn, but she speaks little English and struggles with nightmares and flashbacks. And yet she continues to hope that America can become a home. This powerful novel about the aftermath of war and atrocity is a timely read, reminding young readers that the impact of these events — past and present — lingers with people long after the violence is over.

Broken Strings

Written by: Eric Walters, Kathy Kacer, Recommended Age: 10 - 13

When 8th grader Shirli is cast in *Fiddler on the Roof* right after 9/11, she decides to look in her grandfather's attic for props and inspiration. She's surprised to find an old violin in the corner, even though Zayde seems to hate music — and when she shows it to him, she's shocked by his anger and pain. Still, she keeps trying to connect with Zayde, slowly unlocking family history: joining his family's klezmer band, being sent to Auschwitz, and then being forced to play music while fellow prisoners, including his family, were sent to the gas chambers. This novel, perfect for fans of *The Devil's Arithmetic* and *Hana's Suitcase*, is a powerful reminder of how close this history actually is — and how it still impacts our present.

The Search

Written by: Eric Heuvel, Ruud van der Rol, Lies Schippers, Recommended Age: 10 and up

This graphic novel treatment of a fictional Holocaust aftermath story captures the uncertainty that so many survivors of the Holocaust faced. Esther tells her grandson Daniel about how she escaped from the Nazis by hiding in the countryside — and how her parents were not able to follow her. She knows that they both died in the camps, but with Daniel by her side, Esther decides to learn the stories of the last months of her parents' lives. While this graphic novel does address the experiences of those who lived and died in the concentration camps, it also captures a common experience of survivors after the war: a desperate desire to learn the fate of those they loved.

Lily Renee, Escape Artist: From Holocaust Survivor to Comic Book Pioneer

Written by: Trina Robbins, Recommended Age: 11 and up

Lily Renee Wilhelm lived a privileged life in 1930s Vienna which was shattered by the Austrian invasion. In a short space of time, her family's possessions are confiscated; her uncle is sent to Dachau; windows are smashed and people beaten and arrested on Kristallnacht...the horrors keep seeming to come. Lily escaped to England, and eventually traveled to America, where the determined, brave young woman would become one of the first female comic book artists. Detailed endnotes provide additional context to Wilhelm's story both during and after the war.

Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project

Written by: Jack Mayer, Recommended Age: 13 and up

Irena Sendler was a courageous Holocaust rescuer who saved the lives of over 2,500 children and nearly died at the hands of the Gestapo -- and yet as the years after the war went on, her story was nearly forgotten. Then something remarkable happened: three high school girls from Kansas stumbled across a reference to Sendler's heroism and turned her life story into a play. What began as a high school history project ended up being seen across the country and around the world, bringing Sendler the recognition she never asked for but so rightly deserved. A combination of Holocaust history and the history of those who "rescued the rescuer," this book provides an important reminder: the aftermath is ongoing, and we need to remember.

What the Night Sings

Written by: Vesper Stamper, Recommended Age: 14 and up

14-year-old Gerta Richter was a talented singer with a promising future — until June 1944, when Nazi soldiers burst into her home and she found out that her Papa had spent years concealing their Jewish heritage. She survived to liberation, but her father didn't... and without her music, and unsure of her place in the world, Gerta's not sure she'll find a way to move on. In a displaced persons camp, though, she meets Lev, a fellow teen survivor. As she grows closer to Lev, Gerta begins to accept her new Jewish identity, and even sees the possibility of music entering her life again. This powerful novel, with haunting spot images and larger illustrations that capture the deep emotion of the text, explores the challenges that faced survivors of the Holocaust, who had to try to rebuild lives that could never be the same.

Briar Rose

Written by: Jane Yolen, Recommended Age: 14 and up

Rebecca has always been enchanted by her grandmother Gemma's violent version of Sleeping Beauty featuring black boots, shining eagles, and a deadly mist, in which no one but the heroine lives happily ever after. But she's shocked when Gemma makes a proclamation on her deathbed: "I am Briar Rose." Her determination to fulfill her promise to "find the castle, find the prince, and find the spell-maker" — and her need to tease out Gemma's truth from Gemma's fiction — leads Rebecca on a heartrending journey to Poland and into history: into the heart of the concentration camps and the imagination of a woman who used stories to manage the horrors she had seen. Jane Yolen expertly uses fantasy to show how the stories we create can both protect and sustain us.

They Went Left

Written by: Monica Hesse, Recommended Age: 14 and up

18-year-old Zofia is struggling to heal her body and rebuild her mind after liberation from Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1945. Three years ago, everyone in her family except her brother, Abek, as sent to the gas ovens; now, she can't remember the last time she saw Abek, but she knows she promised to find him. At a displaced persons camp, she meets others like her, trying to find a life after the horrors of the Holocaust, and even starts to feel like she could love someone again. But Zofia's trauma makes her memory unreliable, and she begins to wonder what exactly she will discover if she can put the pieces together. This stunning historical mystery by award-winning author Monica Hesse explores how the Holocaust affected survivors — and the incredible ability of humanity to overcome evil.

We Remember

"I believe in the sun / even when it is not shining...." — Anonymous poem written on the wall of a cellar in the Cologne concentration camp

Historical periods like the Holocaust shine a harsh light on the best and the worst of humanity. The easy course is to decide that these topics are too complicated, too frightening, too uncomfortable to share with children. But those who lived and died in that horrible time — those who ran, those who hid, those who protected others — deserve more from us than that. They deserve to know that we will remember.

Further Resources

- To view more books about the Holocaust for young readers, visit our [World War II & Holocaust](#) section.
- To read more about Irena Sendler, one of the Holocaust rescuers featured above, visit our [Irena Sendler](#) collection.
- For more Anne Frank-related books, visit our [Anne Frank](#) collection.
- For an excellent film about German anti-Nazi resistance leader Sophie Scholl, visit [Sophie Scholl - The Final Days](#).
- For more books about religious intolerance of all types, visit our [Religious Discrimination](#) book section.

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