

December 2006

Welcome to our December newsletter

If you have any colleagues who may be interested in the work of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust please pass this newsletter on and encourage them to join our mailing list. Do feel free to contact us at any time with queries or suggestions. We are always happy to hear from you. Call us on **0845 838 1883** or email **enquiries@hmd.org.uk**

DVD Update

Thank you to everyone who has ordered copies of the Holocaust Memorial Day 2007 DVD. The process has taken slightly longer than we expected but we are now well into post-production. Everyone who has ordered a film should receive their copy just after Christmas. Please accept our apologies for the delay. If you haven't ordered a copy, there is still plenty of time. Please call 0845 838 1883 or email enquiries@hmd.org.uk



Tell Us About Your Event

Following the success of the 2006 commemorative book we will be producing a similar publication in 2007 listing all the events that we know have taken place. We can only include your event if you tell us about it. List your commemoration on the events page of our website www.hmd.org.uk/events/ Our website is used by people looking for events in their local area. All events listed on our website will automatically be included in the commemorative book.



We will also try to include as many of your photos as possible in the book. Remember to take a camera (preferably digital) to your event and take a variety of photos of the day - this may also be useful for your local newspaper or community magazine as a report of the event. Ensure that your photos are of a high enough resolution to be reprinted - usually at least 2MB. Please send any photos to louise.hector@hmd.org.uk as soon as possible after your event as production of the commemorative book begins immediately after Holocaust Memorial Day.

Champion of the Child: Janusz Korczak tells the extraordinary story of Janusz Korczak (1879-1942), a Polish-Jewish doctor, writer and educator, one of the first advocates of children's rights, who devoted his life to the needs and plight of children, regardless of nationality and religion.

Drawing on objects, paintings, photographs and Korczak's own writings, the exhibition tracks his rise to status of Polish National hero and highlights his courage as director of a Jewish orphanage in the Warsaw Ghetto, from where he was deported to Treblinka together with the children in his care.

Korczak's ideas on children's rights were adopted by the UN in the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child while UNESCO declared 1979 "The Year of Janusz Korczak" to coincide with the International Year of the Child and the centenary of his birth. The universalism of Korczak's message and the effect of his teachings on modern thinking are examined in the exhibition, which highlights the treatment of children today.

In recognition of Holocaust Memorial Day, the Jewish Museum will host survivor and Israeli artist Yitzhak Belfer, who was raised in Korczak's Warsaw orphanage and whose artwork appears in the exhibition.

The exhibition is being hosted by the Jewish Museum in Camden, London from the **6 December 2006 – 8 April 2007**. For more details please call 020 7284 1997

Resources Available

Guidelines for Local Activities and Education resources are still available free of charge. The Local Activity packs offer information on Holocaust Memorial Day, why it is relevant to your community and practical advice on organising your commemoration, including booking speakers and publicising your event. The pack also contains a copy of the 2007 theme paper "The Dignity of Difference". Case studies and assemblies suitable for Key Stages 2, 3 & 4 and post-16 education are available, alongside classroom activities for the National Curriculum's of Citizenship, History and RE which complement the case studies. Educational resources have been created specifically to approach the Day both through Holocaust Memorial Day in its simplest form and through this year's theme.

You can download these resources from www.hmd.org.uk or order copies from **0845 838 1883**. Packs are free of charge and you can order as many as you need. Please ask or check our website for additional materials or to receive regular updates from the Trust.



Painting by Yitzhak Belfer

Education Update

Young people in educational establishments all over the UK are working on a variety of exciting projects for Holocaust Memorial Day. These include drama and creative dance evenings, displays of art work, special presentations for assemblies in secondary schools and story sharing in primary classrooms. Some schools are inviting parents and grandparents to an evening of HMD activities.

Catherine Bowness, our Education Resources Manager reports that students are taking the "*Same. But Different*" slogan and interpreting it in numerous ways. It is exciting to hear about the way young people are making the Dignity of Difference theme relevant to their lives today, by using it in their schools and colleges to celebrate diversity within their own learning community. Some students have welcomed the chance for serious discussion on how to prevent discrimination at school, whilst simple acts, such as meeting together to share music, stories and food is proving to be a most enjoyable and positive way to become aware of what is important to other people.

Catherine is always delighted to hear about educational activities so do let her know about events in colleges and schools. In some areas schools are working on separate projects and then coming together for a joint commemoration, with other schools in their area. Trainee teachers are also becoming involved in HMD related activities whilst on teaching practice. Please remind teachers in your local community that there are educational resources on our website, which are regularly updated as we draw nearer to January 27th.

The social campaigns' network the Blue Sky Club has joined the Royal Borough of Kingston and Merton Council in London to show the powerful anti-hate play about the Holocaust: "And then they came for me - remembering the world of Anne Frank". The Blue Sky Club has regularly shown this play as part of its mission to make irrational hate history. When the play was presented by the Blue Sky Club, at the House of Commons on Holocaust Memorial Day 2005 it received world wide coverage. Earlier this year it was produced again by the Blue Sky Club using for the first time a multi-ethnic cast and shown at the House of Commons. Anne Frank's step-sister Eva Schloss commented that this was one of the best productions of the play she has ever seen. Nic Careem founder of the Blue Sky Club said: "*Eva and I are planning to take the play to colleges, prisons and parliaments across Europe as well as Israel and Palestine and parts of Africa. Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia and racism are on the rise across Europe with increasing attacks on people from minority communities. Our aim with this play is to show to young people and those in power what can happen if we let the "merchants of hate" divide our communities wherever they come from.*" The play will be showing in the Royal Borough of Kingston and at the Town Hall, Merton for Holocaust Memorial Day 2007. For more details please contact Nic Careem on 07787 737 827 or [niccareem@aol.com](mailto:nicareem@aol.com)

Looking for Speakers?

It may not be too late to book a Holocaust or genocide survivor to speak at your event. The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust has a list of organisations which can provide speakers for events - for a copy of this please email enquiries@hmd.org.uk

Some points to remember when booking speakers for events:

- If your event has a theme make sure that you make this clear when requesting a speaker.
- Ensure that speakers are well briefed and consulted on all aspects of your event including how long you would like them to speak; whether they are willing to take questions; who the audience is likely to be; what other speakers will be attending; what the format of the day will be and what images will be used.
- Your speaker(s) will be discussing their own personal experiences, not giving a full historical and political overview of the Holocaust. Think about what introductory background you can offer about your speaker.
- Will you be having more than one speaker at your event? Consider how many people you want to speak. Different perspectives can add great value to an event but take care not to overwhelm your audience with speeches and risk diluting your message.
- Check that any speakers can reach your venue easily. Offer to arrange transport for your speakers, or pay their travel expenses. Remember that speakers who are Holocaust survivors are likely to be in their 70s or 80s and all efforts should be made to ensure that it is as easy as possible for them to attend your event.
- Consider all practicalities well in advance – do you need microphones? Will your speakers want to make a presentation? Who will greet the speakers on arrival? Who will be available to sit with speakers after their testimony if needed?
- Be aware that English will not be the first language of your speaker and language abilities will vary particularly if your speaker has experience of a more recent genocide. Discuss this with your speaker beforehand.

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust - Here to Help

Members of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust team are happy to help with your event organisation in any way possible from advising on assemblies and lesson plans for schools, to offering suggested reading materials and helping to point you towards other organisations which can help with your planning.

We are also happy to come to meet you to discuss how you can best commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day in your community. Please call any member of our team on [0845 838 1883](tel:08458381883) or email enquiries@hmd.org.uk

You can also access information from our website www.hmd.org.uk and sign up for an account pointing you towards the most suitable resources for your needs. Our website also contains details of all events we know about - remember to add your event to the list.

www.hmd.org.uk

Matt Lucas Offers Support to Holocaust Memorial Day

Popular Little Britain star Matt Lucas has offered his support to Holocaust Memorial Day and the campaign "Same. But Different". In a recent statement he said:

"60 years ago, as an openly gay man, it may have been difficult for me to make a career in the public eye. Had I lived in a country directly affected by Nazi policies, the situation would have been far worse, it is likely that I would have faced prejudice, persecution or even been sent to a death camp. For our generation, living in the UK is great, because we can be proud of what makes us different but we are not defined by it. I give my full support to Holocaust Memorial Day, and the Same. But Different message. It's important that we learn the lessons of the past to make a better future for us all."

