

Ida Abbott has spent her career in the legal profession, first as a trial lawyer and then as a consultant and advisor. Her parents were from Sompolno, a small town in Poland. Their town was occupied by the Nazis at the beginning of the war, and while they survived numerous labor camps, death marches, and death camps, including Auschwitz, Buchenwald, and Ravensbruck, their families and the other 1700 Jews of Sompolno were murdered. After the war, her parents returned to Sompolno but soon had to flee marauding Polish troops who were killing Jewish survivors. They eventually reached a Displaced Persons camp in Munich, Germany, where they married and had a child, Ida. In 1949, they were able to enter the U.S. as refugees and settled in Miami, Florida. Ida's parents did not try to hide their past. Her father spoke frequently to students, teachers and community groups about his experiences, the Holocaust, and the importance of acting to stop hatred and bigotry. Fortunately, several of his presentations and interviews were recorded, and Ida has been able to incorporate some video clips of him and her mother in her presentation so that they can tell their stories and convey their message to the audience directly.



Eric Angress is a mostly retired construction contractor and former educator who is now focused on presenting his father's Holocaust story, "Surviving the Nazis". Eric's parents were both Holocaust survivors and met in high school at the Joodse Lyceum in Amsterdam, where Anne Frank was a student as well. Eric's father, Hans, fled Germany with his family in 1937, and Hans's older brother Tom was able to emigrate to the U.S. where he ultimately joined the Army and fought the Nazis, working as an interrogator of prisoners of war (one of the so-called "Ritchie Boys.") Eric's grandfather was arrested in Holland in 1941 and perished in Auschwitz. His father, grandmother, and uncle (Hans's other brother) managed to survive the war in hiding. Hans's story conveys what life was like - first growing up in a hostile Germany and then as a refugee in Holland. Here is the YouTube link to Eric's recorded Zoom presentation:

<https://youtu.be/3nNpNHndN5c?si=mjw2Lu7pFmUGxYFW>



Sonia Beck is a retired psychotherapist, having worked for Sonoma County Behavioral Health as a clinician and manager of children's services for over 20 years. She has always worked with trauma victims and can now clearly see the connection with her parents' history and what went unsaid and unexpressed in her home growing up. She is very interested in the field of epigenetics and how genetics are impacted by environmental causes. Both of her parents fled Nazi Germany in 1939 after experiencing the aftermath of Kristallnacht and destruction of their families' homes and vocations. She recently found out that her maternal great grandmother and her great aunt, her namesake, were murdered in Russia when the Nazis invaded between 1941 and 1943. Her father was separated from his parents and sent to England at age 11. Fortunately he reunited with them the following year and they came together to New York after losing much of their extended family. Her father died last year at age 97 and now that her parents are both deceased, Sonia feels a pressing responsibility to share their story.



Harvey David Bichkoff is a retired hospital and medical group administrator. His birth mother and his grandparents were from Frankfurt, Germany. They escaped to Shanghai, China and then to the United States. Harvey was adopted and never met his birth mother; she sadly died five months before he found her. His great grandparents and uncle were murdered in Theresienstadt and Auschwitz after being imprisoned in other camps in Italy and Germany. Most of his family was murdered in the Shoah. He recently visited his family's former homes and businesses as well as the prisons and camps where they were imprisoned in Eastern Europe. His presentation focuses on his trip and research he has done with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.



Jamie Blumental: Jamie is a semi-retired music therapist and emerging artist. As a Jewish woman whose grandparents immigrated to the US before WWII, she “naively thought the Holocaust did not impact my family”. In 2015, almost 100 years after her grandfather came to the US, descendants of his youngest sister’s family found Jamie through Facebook. For the first time, she learned about her grandfather’s family of origin, how some of his family died and some survived the Holocaust. Her story is unique in that it tells about how a thread of a family survived as refugees in Central Asia and how her family, now living on three continents, has been reunited through technology.



Rabbi Shalom Bochner serves as the Rabbi and Education Director for the B'nai Israel Jewish Center in Petaluma. He has previously worked at synagogues and Hillels, including seven years directing Santa Cruz Hillel, and has directed and worked at residence and summer day camps, youth groups, congregational schools, day schools, and adult educational programs. He is a trained Holocaust Educator, the son a refugee from Berlin, and the stepson of a Hungarian Jewish survivor. His father, Henry Bochner, was born in Berlin to parents from Southern Poland. After the rise of the Nazis, the family fled to Zagreb, Croatia and later to the U.S., leaving behind extended family in Poland who were later murdered. His step-father, Miklos Moshe Sinai, was born in Sopron, Hungary, on the Austrian border, escaped on the Kindertransport, while his mother, younger sister and extended family were murdered in Poland. Rabbi Shalom has presented in front of thousands of students of all ages about the dangers of "othering".



Anne Boucart is a Holocaust descendant whose mother was a hidden child in Belgium from 1943-1945. Her maternal grandparents worked in the Belgian Resistance. They perished in Auschwitz after being betrayed and

caught. Anne was born in Brussels, Belgium, moved to Connecticut in 1984, but now made Walnut Creek her new home to be near her son Josh and daughter-in-law in Oakland, and a little closer to her daughter Shira who lives in New Zealand. Anne is retired but her many jobs included Customer Services in the Jewish Community Center in Hartford, Connecticut to Chef. Anne has shared her mother's story in schools, universities, synagogues and other Jewish communities.



Christyne Davidian is a 3rd generation Armenian Genocide descendant whose family lost dozens of relatives in 1915 and many other relatives escaped by foot. Christyne has been an SSU Alliance Board Member for 22 years, past VP, President, and currently Board Co-President. She co-founded the Armenians of the North Bay organization to connect the local Armenian community with their heritage, and established both the Armenian Genocide Memorial Lecture Fund and the Mary Dolbashian Davidian Armenian Genocide Endowment at SSU to ensure inclusion of the Armenian Genocide in the SSU lecture series which is taught every spring semester. Her presentation includes family survival stories, the history of Armenia, the 1915 Armenian Genocide, and current ethnic cleansing of Armenians from Artsakh.





Kathy Dudgeon joined The Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide after realizing she had an important story to share — not only about her father and grandparents, but about herself as well. As both a second and third-generation Holocaust descendant, Kathy speaks about the lasting impact of never knowing her grandparents, who were victims of the Holocaust. Through her story, she seeks to shed light on how truly good people — like her father and grandparents — were targeted and persecuted by a radical political regime simply because of their Jewish faith. In her presentations, Kathy shares family photos, heartfelt letters, and even a model of the motorcycle her father once rode, helping students connect more personally with history. A retired Registered Nurse who most recently worked in Hospice care, Kathy now lives in Santa Rosa with her husband and two dogs. Together, they enjoy the company of their large family, including eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Kathy has passed down the Weinberger family story to each of them, ensuring that their legacy lives on through future generations.



Sanders Feldhorn spent 32 years as a classroom teacher, mostly working with Deaf and hard of hearing students. As a result of that experience, he feels very comfortable speaking in front of students, and is able to draw them into his presentation through the use of visuals and storytelling techniques. He is the child of two Holocaust survivors, and believes strongly that it is the responsibility of the second generation to tell the story of their parents, who can no longer tell the story themselves.



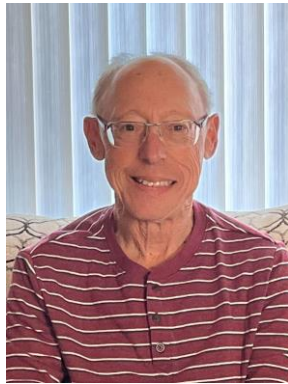
Eszter Freeman is a retired special education teacher, currently doing various volunteer work. Her mother, Blanka, was a Hungarian Holocaust survivor who survived two concentration camps. She was a worker in Auschwitz for one year and was liberated from the Bergen Belsen camp after being there for six months. Blanka's large family, except for one sister and one brother, died in the Auschwitz gas chambers. She married Eszter's father after the war in an arranged marriage, and suffered from PTSD for 40 years. Eszter and her brother, Herbert, were raised in this atmosphere and are survivors themselves of Blanka's trauma. Eszter forms her presentation as a story, taking the listener from Blanka's early life in Hungary, to when the Nazis took control of her country, to the family being taken to the concentration camps, to life in the camps, to liberation, and to Blanka's life after the war.



Gloria Tausk Glickman is a Holocaust descendant whose parents were in concentration camps in Germany from 1944 – 1945. Gloria was born in a displaced persons' camp in Germany in 1946 and immigrated with her parents to New York City in 1949. Gloria retired in 2007 after teaching Math at the high school/college levels and after working in the financial services industry for numerous Fortune 500 firms in the USA, Austria, and Singapore. Gloria's presentation is based upon her research at the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC and her mother's interview with SHOAH, which was established by Steven Spielberg in 1994 to further the remembrance of the Holocaust. Her presentation, entitled "Horror, Tragedy, and Survival," concludes with the lessons Gloria has learned from her parents: Be Optimistic; Be a Survivor; Have Gratitude; Don't Give Up; and Be the Best You Can Be.



Arnie Herskovic: Arnie is a retired economic consultant currently involved with various activities including leading synagogue services, working as a Food Bank volunteer, and as a researcher. Arnie's mother, Esther Herskovic, was a survivor of three concentration camps and a forced death march. He has compiled her life story for a presentation as she requested prior to her passing in 2019 at the age of 97. Her perilous journey is chronicled through the Shoah Foundation. Esther was a founding member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Arnie describes her journey from farm life in Czechoslovakia to Budapest and captivity and eventual freedom.



Madelyn Hodges is the daughter of Holocaust survivors. Her mother, Dina Dasberg Angress, was eleven years old when Germany invaded and occupied Holland in 1940, establishing a rule of law that sought to annihilate her and her fellow Jews. She survived the war as a hidden child. Her father was also a survivor whose story is told by her brother, Eric Angress. After the war, Madelyn's parents emigrated to California, where she was raised on a dairy farm on the shores of Tomales Bay. She earned a teaching credential at Sonoma State in 1975, and has been teaching ever since, while also raising five children. She finds sharing her parents' history to be a very important way in which she can help students understand the lessons we can learn from that time.



Dennis Judd is a Holocaust descendant whose mother, Lillian, was born in Czechoslovakia and was interned in Auschwitz during World War II. Lillian spoke to thousands of students in Sonoma County before her death in 2016. Lillian Judd grew up in the peaceful country of Czechoslovakia in the 1930's. She went to school, dances and events with both Jewish and non-Jewish friends. Life was good until the Nazi's occupied Czechoslovakia together with their Hungarian Arrow Cross allies. Lillian survived the Holocaust -including Auschwitz and the Death March - with just her tattooed prisoner number, A-10946, on her arm and the meager clothes on her back. Dennis Judd hopes to continue the legacy his mother began: To spread the truth of the Holocaust, in the hopes that people of all backgrounds can unite instead of divide, that this kind of horror would never be repeated. Dennis, together with Lillian, published her memoir: "From Nightmare To Freedom – Healing After The Holocaust". He also created her film which will be shown during his presentation.



John Kornfeld is Professor Emeritus of Education and retired Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies at Sonoma State University. He spent 16 years as a K-12 teacher before earning his PhD and moving on to higher education in 1995. John is the son of Holocaust refugees who escaped from Vienna, Austria in 1939, served in the Allied forces, and then settled in Los Angeles after the War. Although he grew up among a tight-knit community of Holocaust refugees, none of them, including his parents, ever spoke about their escape from the Nazis or the hardships they suffered before arriving in Los Angeles. His presentation describes his long journey uncovering his parents' secrets and struggling to come to grips with their pain and trauma.





Rene`e Powell is a Holocaust descendant who tells the stories she heard from both of her parents while growing up in New Jersey. Her mother's family miraculously escaped Hamburg, Germany, after Kristallnacht on the last ship in 1939. Her father and uncle were rescued from Berlin and sent to London on the Kindertransport. Her grandparents were murdered in Poland. Rene'e is currently a practicing artist in California with a Master's degree in Jewish studies. Her presentation intersects family history with images of her artwork offering a unique perspective on Jewish history and culture.



Mike Seitler is the son of Holocaust survivor Roman Seitler. Roman was 15 years old when the Nazis invaded his hometown of Krakow, Poland. Roman was first in the Krakow Ghetto and then in four concentration camps. At the time of liberation, Roman was a “walking skeleton”, weighing only 77 pounds. His entire immediate and extended family had been murdered. Roman was a great storyteller and was extremely open about the immense hardships he had endured. Mike recounts his stories --- from his father's early days in pre-war Krakow, to the horrors of the camps, to liberation and immigration to the United States. Mike worked for 27 years as a Special Agent/Criminal Investigator for the Federal government, retiring as a Special Agent-in-Charge. He grew up in New York but now lives in the San Francisco East Bay Area with his wife and two high school-age children.



Ann Grodzinsky Slater is a retired teacher. She taught elementary school in Sonoma County and two years in Central America, as well as English as a Second Language to adults. Ann grew up in New York City with her parents and four grandparents, all of whom were Holocaust survivors. Her father's family left Berlin, Germany, in 1939. Her mother's family left Antwerp, Belgium in 1940. They survived their arduous journey to the United States, but many of her extended family did not survive the deportations and concentration camps. Her family in NYC never once talked about their past. Only after doing extensive research, in the last 15 years, has she discovered what happened to her family during WWII.



Ellen Van den Berg: Ellen tells her parents' story of survival and resilience, the story of their hiding for three long years in Nazi-occupied Netherlands during World War II. She speaks about the tremendous courage of the members of the Dutch resistance who over and over again found hiding places for her parents with ordinary citizens who were willing to risk their lives to help save lives. Ellen also talks about growing up in the Netherlands in an environment where feelings of loss and grief were suppressed. It was not until she came to the United States that she began to understand how her parents' unprocessed trauma had impacted her life. Ellen was born and raised in post-WWII Holland. She came to the United States in her early 20s and eventually settled in Sonoma County. She retired from her business as a consultant and executive coach.



Rena Victor is a retired preschool teacher who was born in Hamburg, Germany. Her mother lost her entire immediate and extended family (more than 50 people), except for one cousin, in the Holocaust. After fleeing the bombing of Hamburg in 1943, she went into hiding with her mother and two sisters for two years until the war ended in 1945. She was not able to leave Germany (and then with only her mother, forced to leave two sisters and her father) until 1951 at the age of 12. Her non-Jewish father was drafted into the German army and worked the underground to try to save Jews. Rena later married another Holocaust survivor. While she believes each survivor's story is unique, being a child of a mixed marriage (Her father was not Jewish.) gives a unique perspective.



Susan Victor is Professor Emerita from the Department of Curriculum Studies and Secondary Education at Sonoma State University where she taught adolescent development and classroom management to future middle and high school teachers for 23 years. She was a professor at San Francisco State University for nine years prior to that. Earlier in her teaching career, she taught high school German. She is the daughter of German-Jewish Holocaust survivors; both parents had one Jewish parent. Her father was imprisoned by the Nazis as a teenager and survived a labor camp and her mother, Rena, was hidden. They were not able to leave Germany until 1951. Susan did not hear about her family's experiences until she was in her 20's.

Karin Wandrei: Karin is a retired nonprofit administrator and college educator who currently has a small psychotherapy practice. She is the daughter of a Holocaust survivor and has been a member of a group of daughters of survivors that has been meeting for over 40 years. In 1988, after being part of a reader's theater group for several years, she co-produced and acted in a video about the impact of being a daughter of survivors. Her mother grew up in a Hasidic family from a small village in the Carpathian Mountains, currently in Ukraine. She became a Socialist-Zionist and left Budapest in 1941 using a fake passport to escort a group of children overland to what was then Palestine. She served in the British Army during the war in Italy. Karin's father was not Jewish, and she grew up Christian. Her father was in the military and her family was stationed from 1967-1971 in Germany. They lived on a former German army base. Her mother never talked about the Holocaust when she was growing up and Karin did not realize she was Jewish and a child of survivors until she was in college.

