



Alex Keisch, son of survivors of Auschwitz

Alex Keisch was born in the closing days of WWII in Poland to partisan parents. His family immigrated to America where he attended the United States Merchant Marine Academy. Mr. Keisch served as a Merchant Mariner for 22 years, finishing his career, having captained ten very large merchant ships.

He left the sea to pursue other interests becoming the owner of a high volume portrait photography studio while also running a successful church directory business.

In his spare time he is a docent (tour guide) at the Virginia Holocaust Museum in Richmond. He speaks to Middle Schools, High Schools, Universities and Civic Groups using humor, warmth, and hard facts to tell the story of his family's survival during the dark days of WWII and the Holocaust.

Special Thanks
to the
Virginia Holocaust Museum
&
Rena Berlin, Director of Education

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Passage Middle School
Newport News, Virginia

Welcome



Passage's Holocaust Memorial Day
Friday, February 18, 2011
7:30~2:00

Let us Remember...



“For me the Holocaust was not only a Jewish tragedy, but also a human tragedy. After the war, when I saw that the Jews were talking only about the tragedy of six million Jews, I sent letters to Jewish organizations asking them to talk also about the millions of others who were persecuted with us together many of them only because they helped Jews.”

Simon Wiesenthal



- I. Information Literacy via The National Holocaust Museum website – Mrs. Knight (Rm. 721)

Students will take a virtual tour of the National Holocaust Museum. Students will follow an inquiry-based process in which they seek their own knowledge and make real world connections concerning the topic of the Holocaust.

- II. Power of the Written Word – Ms. Shaddix and Mrs. McQuillen (Rm. 620)

Students will gain an understanding of how truly powerful the written word can be with the study of propaganda, censorship, and book burnings. A look at our First Amendment rights as Americans will also be examined.

- III. Who were the Victims? – Mrs. Lambusta and Mrs. Jeffery (Media Center)

Various groups of people were persecuted by Nazi Germany; students will define anti-Semitism and identify the main groups targeted by the Nazis.

- IV. Holocaust Poetry and Drawings – Mrs. Evans (Rm. 715)

By examining both the poetry and drawings of the concentration camp, Terezin, students will discover methods in which children coped with their environment.

- V. The European Economy after WWI – Mrs. Watkins (Rm. 716)

By investigating costs of consumer products and basic human needs, the students will understand the recession caused by decisions made from the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in which Germany was forced to bear the entire blame for World War I.

- VI. Rise of a Dictator – Mrs. Carrington (Rm. 717)

By examining the characters of a leader, students will discover why Hitler came to power in Germany and how his power led to one of the greatest persecutions of people in history.

- VII. Speaker Alex Keisch, son of survivors of Auschwitz-Auditorium

- VIII. Reflection Activity (within the rooms in which students finish the day).