



# Empowered Insights

EMPOWERING THROUGH EDUCATION

## Journey For The Living: A record-breaking year!

When acts of hate rise, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. But this May, you reminded us of something powerful: education is our strongest defense, and remembrance can be action.

Thanks to nearly 200 participants, our 2025 Journey For The Living was our most successful yet. **Together, we walked an incredible 6,563 miles and raised over \$160,000 to support Holocaust education nationwide.** Because of you, we will offer more experiences that foster empathy, courage, and understanding to the next generation.

Thank you for helping us take bold steps toward a future free from hate.



## May Connections: Two Meaningful Opportunities to Share Mark's Story & MSHEF's Mission

### A NIGHT AT BROTHERHOOD SYNAGOGUE

**MSHEF Ambassador Sari Bochner** brought together an inspiring evening of connection and purpose at Brotherhood Synagogue in New York City. **With support from co-sponsor Erica Wolf**, guests had the opportunity to hear Mark share his moving story of survival—an unforgettable reminder of why Holocaust education matters.

Thank you to everyone who attended and gave so generously. Your support makes a lasting difference.



### SPEAKING WITH LINKEDIN'S SHALOM ERG

MSHEF was honored to speak with LinkedIn's *Shalom Employee Resource Group*, **thanks to hosts Michele**



## Horowitz and Danny Golivinsky.

Mark shared his remarkable story, and we introduced our mission to a new audience committed to understanding, tolerance, and education.

We're deeply grateful to LinkedIn for welcoming us into their community—and for believing in the power of education to combat hate.

**Inspired to bring MSHEF into your home or company to help spread awareness about our mission and the power of Holocaust education to**

**your community?**

Reach out to [isabella@mshefoundation.org](mailto:isabella@mshefoundation.org). We'd love to connect!

# SPOTLIGHT



## Sharaka: Promoting Peace Through Holocaust Education

Sharaka (Arabic for "partnership") is a groundbreaking organization building bridges in the Middle East through people-to-people diplomacy. By leading delegations to Israel, Poland, and Germany, Sharaka offers participants powerful, firsthand experiences with Holocaust history—through survivor meetings, Yad Vashem seminars, and visits to historic sites.



These journeys inspire participants to return home as Ambassadors of Tolerance and Peace, challenging Holocaust denial and promoting understanding, coexistence, and truth in their communities.

Sharaka's mission reflects our own—proving that Holocaust education can change hearts, minds, and futures.

[Learn More](#)

# IMPACT



## What Students Are Saying:

*"Being able to participate in the Butterfly Project connected our curriculum to a tangible item.*

***My butterfly is more than just art now — it's a promise to never forget."***

6th Grader at Westlake Charter School, Sacramento, CA 2024-



# RESOURCES



## Teacher Reminder: Grants Open in August!

Mark your calendars: our annual Holocaust Education Grant Portal reopens this August! Whether you're looking to bring a survivor speaker to your classroom, plan a museum trip, or access new educational resources—our grants can help make it happen.

Complete the [Grant Application Information form](#) on our website to receive information regarding grant application cycles and deadlines. You'll also receive registration information for our annual teacher webinar, where we'll share tips, inspiration, and everything you need to apply successfully.

Let's make 2025-26 a powerful year for Holocaust education.

[Grant Information](#)

# IN THE NEWS



## A Reunion Eight Decades in the Making

While in Poland for the *March of the Living*, Mark Schonwetter and his sister, Dr. Zofia Joachims, were reunited with Zofia Trojan—the brave woman who, as a child, helped hide them and their mother from the Nazis.

More than 80 years later, they stood together again.

Not in fear, but in remembrance.

This extraordinary reunion is a powerful reminder of what we strive to teach: one person's courage can change lives, and those lessons must live on.



### Emotional reunion: Holocaust survivors meet with Polish woman who saved them

Dr. Zofia Joachims and her brother Mark Schonwetter meet Zofia Trojan, who saved their lives in their childhood when she was only 10 years old

Samuel Eichner | 05.03.25 | 01:12

Related Topics: Israel, Holocaust survivors, Holocaust



Ynet Programmers meeting with Dr. Zofia and Mark Joachims (Photo: Gideon Gorenberg)

[Read the Article](#)

Thank you for being a part of our community! We hope our monthly EmpowerED Insights has inspired you to empower your own community through education in honor of our mission to [#EmpowerThroughEducation](#).



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