Author, educator to answer “Why Care?” at Holocaust Conference
Aug. 5-6

In his 2006 book, Sophie Scholl and the White Rose, co-author Jud Newborn explores the actions of a group of college students in Nazi Germany who protested against the human and civil rights violations they saw occurring in their country.

Despite certain death—and indeed, Sophie and fellow members of the underground White Rose movement were executed by their government—the young people could not remain silent about the horrors they were witnessing.

Newborn will speak to educators and community members as one of the keynote speakers featured at the Holocaust Commission of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater's 11th Biennial Educators’ Conference on Aug. 5 and 6.

The author, lecturer, and expert on extremism and the fight for human rights will share why the legacy of the White Rose movement remains relevant today, and answers the Conference’s theme question: "Why Care? Human Rights: Past, Present & Future."

Also speaking at the conference will be Linda Hurwitz, an educator and child of Holocaust survivors who was the director of the Holocaust Center of the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh for 17 years and the director of Pittsburgh's Solomon Schechter Middle School.

“In presenting this conference, we're able to bring in exceptional speakers who we usually can't hear locally, giving educators specifically, as well as community members who attend, the opportunity to impact students, other educators, and the general public,” says Elena Barr Baum, Holocaust Commission director.

Baum says the conference also serves to create connection between the education community and the Holocaust Commission, and to provide educational resources—including a visit to the Virginia Holocaust Museum in Richmond, an excellent regional resource according to Baum. Conference attendees will receive a book, DVDs, a CD from the United States Holocaust Museum, and the opportunity to meet Holocaust survivors—an opportunity Baum says does not come along that often anymore.

The Aug. 5 schedule is 7:45 am-3 pm and includes the keynote speakers, breakout sessions, and a special presentation of the Holocaust Commission's What We Carry program at the Tidewater Community College—Norfolk Student Center. Aug. 6 hours are 7:45 am-5 pm, which includes the Museum trip, an award-winning film, and an Anti-Defamation League guest speaker.

Registration for the two-day conference is $100 and includes all materials, meals, transportation, and classroom resources. The conference is open to interested community members, as well as to all educators. Continuing education hours will be awarded to attendees.

Call 757-865-6125, email info@holocaustcommission.org, or visit http://jewishnews.com/holocaust-educator-conferences for more information and to register online.

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Bringing Israel Home
Sunday, August 11, 5 pm
by Melissa Eichenblum

After years of successful Sababa Sunday and Bringing Israel Home programs, a group of Jewish college students from Tidewater thought something needed to be added to the pro-Israel advocacy of the community.

Comprised of Melissa Eichenblum, Sam Sacks, Eric Smith, Rachel Gross, Jacob Levy, Ross Glasser, and Marissa Simon, the group discussed how they are exposed to a lot of different backgrounds that challenge them to solidarity and fight for their beliefs. Even though they may be more than 5,000 miles away from Israel, they are affected by events in the Middle East daily. Hateful comments about Israel are not rare on today’s college campuses.

The David Project understands that it is not always easy to express a reason for believing in something, such as Israel’s right to exist. Educating, training, and empowering students to be thoughtful, strategic, and persuasive advocates for the State of Israel are the David Project’s goals. This year, the Community Relations Council of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater presents Bringing Israel Home in partnership with The David Project (davidproject.org).

The event will have two components, one for college students and one for parents.

Beginning at 5 pm, all local college students are invited for pizza and conversation with professionals from The David Project. Rabbi Jake Rubin, executive director at the Brody Jewish Center at UVa, and Sue Kurz, executive director at the Malcolm Rosenberg Hillel Center at Virginia Tech will also join the discussion.

Rabbi Rubin and Kurz will also serve as part of a panel discussion with The David Project at 7 pm for parents of college students. This discussion will focus on what’s happening regarding Israel education and advocacy on Virginia campuses, as well as campuses nationwide.

The event takes place on the Sandler Family Campus. For more information or to RSVP for the student or parent program, contact Robin Mancoll at rmancoll@uvjcf.org by August 7. Students are asked to join the Facebook group "Bringing Israel Home" to stay up to date.