



Info on becoming a Legacy Speaker at the Holocaust Center for Humanity

We are so glad you are interested in telling your story of Holocaust survival in your family. We will work with you and your story so that you can present to students and other groups studying the Holocaust.

Here is some info you will want to know:

Legacy Speakers

The term Legacy Speaker means that a person has decided to tell the story of a Holocaust survivor or survivors who have passed away or are no longer able to tell the story of their survival.

Most of these speakers are children and grandchildren of survivors, or related to a survivor in some way that inspired them to take on the commitment of telling this story which is their legacy.

We have seen that students welcome these family stories. They recognize the courage it takes to stand up and tell the story. Often the students may have had parents and grandparents who have gone through challenges to make their lives better.

On our website, we have a form that teachers fill out to request a speaker. Once we know the class, location and what they have been studying, we make a determination about which speaker would meet the needs of a particular group.

Background: Mission and Contract

The Holocaust Center has a long history of a speaker's bureau made up of liberators and survivors who travelled all over Washington and the Pacific Northwest to tell their stories in classrooms, to community groups, and any group who wanted to learn about their survival. This has always been an important part of the Center's outreach and education. Today with legacy speakers, we can still continue to tell these stories and testimonies in classes studying the Holocaust and as presentations at our museum during class visits.

Center-Teacher-Speaker-Expectations

Teachers expect that the Center will send them a person whose presentation is age appropriate, and student accessible. They know the presentation will be delivered within the class time and that most likely questions will be asked and answered. They expect a fact-based presentation, often with primary sources, that is historically accurate, and adds to their curriculum. Teachers give the Center a time frame for the presentation and expect that their time request will be honored. Teachers and classes are interested in time to ask questions and interact with the speaker.

Speaker Expectations:

The speakers, in return, expect directions, a suitable class set up, any technical items they have asked for (such as screen or microphone), a class ready to listen, and a teacher who is clearly in charge of the class. We ask that teachers always remain in the classroom and that larger groups have additional adults to supervise the students.

Museum Presentations:

Often a class visiting the museum will ask to have a speaker. In this case we have the speaker come to the Center and be a part of the students' field trip by giving their presentation.

When do speakers present?

Most speakers go out to classrooms in the spring, however, the Center gets requests all year round.

Do you want to be a speaker?

Being a speaker means that you are willing to put in the time it will take to gather your resources, prepare a simple time line, bring your resources to the Center and work with the Center's team to develop your resources into a PowerPoint that will be suitable for classroom use in terms of length of time and material included. We ask you to think about speaking to a Middle School class.

When your presentation is completed, we will have time to edit and to practice it at the Center- usually with a small audience.

We have developed historical slides which go into a presentation to set the historical context of your particular story. We can change them depending on what your story is.

Teachers communicate to the Center what days and times will work for them. We usually hear from the teachers at least 3 weeks in advance, so you would always have advance notice if you were going to speak. Being a speaker, means that you will need some flexibility in your schedule to be able to accept a speaker presentation.

If you are interested in being a speaker:

If you are interested in being a speaker for the Center and telling a family story, you can call or contact us by email. laurie@HolocaustCenterSeattle.org

- Gather your information, photos, documents—anything that has been written about the story you want to tell.
- Sometimes family documents are dispersed among family members-try to get all that you can or at least know what is available
- Some families have Shoah tapes or other video available
- We will ask you to prepare a simple timeline so that we can get an idea of the story
- We will need to scan all of your documents and photos. It works out best if we can scan them.
- We think it is very valuable for you to actually hear a legacy speaker and see what it's like in a school or at the museum. We can let you know when legacy speakers are presenting.