

Writing and Art Contest Judges - 2011

A special thank you to the judges who tirelessly read and reviewed the many entries we received.

Writing/Art Contest Judges

Anita Morales is the K-12 Instructional Services Social Studies School Coach for Seattle Public Schools. Prior to taking that position in 2003, she had taught in the District for over 20 years with the last seven years spent teaching history at Meany Middle School. Anita is also a Courage & Renewal Facilitator (based on the work of Parker Palmer) and a Positive Discipline Associate (based on Adlerian concepts). Everything Anita is involved in focuses on social justice and equity. In her role as social studies coach, Anita encourages history teachers across the district to use the amazing resources Seattle has to offer to increase student engagement and to provide a fuller and truer “telling” of the stories that make up history. Anita is a member of the Holocaust Center’s Education Advisory Committee.

Carolyn Cox Carolyn Puddin Cox--She is a geriatric social worker in private practice in Seattle. She is an actress in Seattle doing mainly stage work and some movies. Carolyn is on the board of the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center and The Alexander Hamilton Friends Association, and the fundraising committee of Temple Beth Am. She is married and has 4 wonderful kids and two 21 month-old twin granddaughters.

Daya B. Astor's artworks have been exhibited in shows throughout the US and internationally, including galleries in Seattle, Los Angeles, New York City, Animation Fest in Athens, Greece and galleries in Venice, Italy and Australia. Her work has been selected for several non profit organizations such as Project D'vora/Seattle: domestic violence prevention; Mills College /California: fundraising for rape victims in the Congo; NCJW/Seattle for Vagina Monologue production artwork; and Women of Reform Judaism/NY headquarters publishing greeting cards to benefit educational programs. Daya was born in Brooklyn, New York, and resides in Seattle, WA. She has a Masters in Studio Art from NYU. As a former nurse who cared for people during birth, death, and in between, she learned to appreciate the human body as a dynamic form and marvel. Daya aims to be a visual voice for causes that speak to her.

Dennis Warshal: For the past 16 years, steel sculpture with secular and Judaic themes have allowed Dennis to develop his style and design--including an invitational exhibit at the Bellevue Art Museum, a helix tower at the Kline Galland Home, a Sh'ma Screen at Temple de Hirsch Sinai, and a gate at Congregation Beth Shalom. As an event designer and decorator, Dennis uses his talents as a florist and decorator to organize and beautify weddings, business events, and B'nai Mitzvot.

Dianne Loeb is the President of the Board of Jewish Family Services and serves on the board of Cornish College for the Arts. Dianne worked at the Seattle Art Museum for 12 years as the Assistant Director of Planning 1985-1997 and has been on various boards including Pilchuck, the Jewish Federation, and currently Cornish College of the Arts. Dianne has lived in Seattle since 1984, and has two children – both of who are studying art and related fields.

Geri Dube has been a psychotherapist and life coach in the Greater Seattle area for nearly 20 years. As such, she works with families and individuals on relationship issues, making healthy choices, and creating change. She is committed to helping people create the life they want to live. Geri has a love of the English language and works with students of all ages. In addition to her work, she volunteers her time at a local school and preschool to read with the students.

Gwen Perkins is the Education Specialist of School and Online Programs for the Washington State History Museum. As an Education Specialist, she has written integrated curriculum and webquests for several topics in Washington history from railroads to women's suffrage. She holds a Master of Arts in military history from Norwich University and also publishes in that field.

Jeannie Butler: Volunteering in many different ways for several organizations has been a primary focus for me since retiring in 1996 as an owner of a personnel placement firm. Although thoroughly enjoying my volunteer involvement, I missed the stimulation of business transactions. My solution was to start dual second careers in residential real estate and interior design. My focus was assisting clients with transitions from larger single family homes to smaller condominiums. The best part of this decision was the flexibility of time which allowed for a balance between career and volunteer activity. [Today I'm](#) happily and now permanently retired from a professional life but will always continue volunteer activity. One of my greatest interests is Jewish Family Service where I delighted in serving as Board President from 2003-05.

Laurie Warshal Cohen, EdD is Co-Executive Director of the Holocaust Center. Laurie is faculty emeritus of Seattle Central Community College where she taught Composition and Literature for 30 years. She also developed and taught the college's first class in Holocaust Literature. Laurie has a BA and MA in English Literature and has a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Seattle University.

Margo MacVicar-Whelan, in Seattle since 1981, lived in five other states previously, following immigration from Nazi Germany at age three. She has a BS degree with a teaching credential in social science and foreign language as well as a Master's in Library and Information Science. After working as a school librarian in California and Washington, she became the first school librarian at the Jewish Day School in Bellevue. There she taught and developed library programs (many with Judaic content--cultural, historical, linguistic etc), until her retirement. Her personal experience with the devastation of the Holocaust, the loss of family members including her grandparents, motivates her to participate in activities which oppose racism universally.

Marie-Anne Harkness, member of Bet Chaverim in Des Moines, WA. I have been an art teacher and a teacher-librarian for 33 years in New Mexico and Washington public schools. My interest in the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center stems from the stories I heard as a child about my maternal Grandmother Celine who was a rescuer of refugees in Paris during the German occupation.

Mary Palmer is the head Children's Librarian at the Seattle Public Library. She has been a children's librarian in Kalamazoo, Michigan and Seattle for the last twenty-three years. She has an undergraduate degree in History and Religion, a graduate degree in Library Science both from Western Michigan University. Her interest in the Holocaust Center began with her work with the Global Reading Challenge and her desire to make a bridge from the books students read about WWII and the Holocaust to actual life stories.

Phyllis Davidson moved to Seattle from St. Petersburg, FL. last year to be nearer to children and grandchildren. For 12 years she was a lead docent at the Florida Holocaust Museum. This gave her a chance to learn about many aspects of, not only the Holocaust, but about genocide in other parts of the world and to other peoples. In 2009 she was selected "Outstanding Docent." Phyllis has travelled to Eastern Europe and visited many of the ghettos and camps, has travelled many times to Israel and spent much time at Yad Vashem. Phyllis is constantly reading and studying about the Holocaust to be the best Holocaust Educator possible.

Roberta Hyman: When asked to send us a short bio to include here, Roberta sent us the following: I am short. Roberta is an artist and a volunteer archivist at the Holocaust Center.

Sharon Nov

Shelly Rosen has a deep interest in genocide studies. She is the director for Intore Expeditions, which takes groups and individuals on tours to Rwanda.

Stacey Brody is a teacher librarian in the Seattle school district with a love and appreciation for art.

Susan Weingarten, a native of Seattle, is a retired French/Drama teacher. She is currently involved in community theater and Holocaust Education. Her interest in Holocaust Education comes from family background, and a desire to instill tolerance in her students.

Susie Sherman is a retired speech/language pathologist. She enjoyed 33 years working in the Seattle School District and the Riverview School District. Susie has three grown children, two inlaw children and six grandchildren - all live in the same general area and are a close group. "As a member of the Speaker's Bureau, I feel honored to do my part in teaching the lessons of the Holocaust through my own story and my family's experiences. I am amazed at the understanding, sensitivity and intellectual curiosity of the students with whom I come in contact. I share the story of my immediate family's journey from the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia, to the Polish border, to Prague, to Holland and to England. In October of 1943, my immediate family was able to come to this wonderful country. I hope that by telling their story, I honor the memory of the many family members who stayed in Prague and were dragged to Terezin, Auschwitz, Treblinka and Maly Trostinets. I applaud all students who enter this contest."