



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U-46 Staff to Attend Professional Development on Teaching the Holocaust

*Session to include high school students conducting a
table reading of a play*

ELGIN - As part of professional development for teachers being held on Friday, Jan. 27, a group of U-46 high schoolers will conduct a table reading of a play based on the accounts of Holocaust survivors. The professional development session coincides with International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The play, "Thin Edge of the Wedge," was written by Phyllis Zimble Miller, a 1966 graduate of Elgin High School. It is based on first-hand accounts she published, and interviews she conducted, while working as a reporter and editor for the Jewish Exponent, an English-language weekly newspaper in Philadelphia in the 1970s.

In addition to featuring survivors' stories, the play also includes characters whose brave acts saved lives during the Holocaust.

"The whole project is not only about learning about the Holocaust but also to encourage young people to speak up about anti-Semitism and all hate," said Miller, who now lives in the Los Angeles area but will be making a trip to Elgin to attend the table reading. "By having kids do staged readings, they really are able to feel the stories."

The professional development session will be attended by all U-46's high school Language Arts, social studies, and theater teachers. Illinois requires



that each public elementary and high school include in its curriculum a study of Holocaust history.

Representatives from the Illinois Holocaust Museum will also be present to discuss how teachers can use the museum's digital and physical artifacts to allow their students to see history through the eyes of those who experienced it.

Teachers will spend time after the presentations collaborating on how to best utilize these primary and secondary sources in their class lessons. The focus will be creating rigorous lessons that encompass the Illinois State Board of Education's Social Studies Perspectives standards and Language Arts standards centered around character, theme, and supporting main ideas with textual evidence.

About a dozen students active in South Elgin High School's theater program will be conducting the table read on Jan. 27. They are also performing it at a free event open to the public on the evening of Thursday, Jan. 26, at Congregation Kneseth Israel in Elgin. Students from SEHS's Beacon Academy of Media and Digital Arts are filming the table reads, interviewing Miller, and making a trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum to create a short documentary.

Jan. 27 was chosen by the United Nations General Assembly as the designated International Holocaust Remembrance Day because it was the date of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp complex in 1945.

WHO: High school language arts, social studies, and theater teachers in U-46; playwright Phyllis Zimmler Miller; students from South Elgin High School; and representatives from the Illinois Holocaust Museum.

WHAT: "Teaching the Holocaust with Stories and Artifacts"



WHEN: 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 27, 2023

WHERE: Elgin Community College, 1200 Spartan Drive, Elgin

Note: *Media interested in covering the "Teaching the Holocaust with Stories and Artifacts" on Friday, Jan. 27, at ECC should contact Tara Burghart at 847-888-5000, ext. 5300.*

Those interested in attending the event on Thursday, Jan. 26, at Congregation Kneseth Israel should visit www.ckielgin.org to register. More information is available from Rabbi Margaret Klein at rabbifrischklein@gmail.com.

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School District U-46 serves families in 11 communities: Bartlett, Elgin, Hanover Park, South Elgin, Streamwood and Wayne, as well as portions of Carol Stream, Hoffman Estates, St. Charles, Schaumburg, and West Chicago. In total, the District encompasses 90 square miles within the Fox River Valley, approximately 45 minutes west of downtown Chicago, and includes communities within Cook, DuPage and Kane counties. More than 35,000 preschool through 12th graders attend the 57 District schools and programs. To learn more, visit the U-46 [website](#), or like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).