

**Theresienstadt Exhibit Opens at Anne Frank Center  
 Escaping Their Boundaries: The Children of Theresienstadt**



This handmade "Monopoly" like game board was used by children in the Theresienstadt ghetto.

The ability of children of the Holocaust to confront harsh realities and transcend their physical boundaries through creative expression is the focus of a new exhibition opening Thursday, March 12, 2009 at the Anne Frank Center Gallery. "Escaping Their Boundaries: The Children of Theresienstadt" features more than 40 objects on loan from the Beit Theresienstadt

Holocaust Museum, Archive and Educational Center in Israel. The original artifacts include collages, drawings, diaries, magazines, games and marionettes used or created by children of the Theresienstadt ghetto in Czechoslovakia. The exhibit has never before been shown in New York City, and many of the artifacts have never before been on public display.

A marionette made to entertain children at Theresienstadt.

When Nazi Germany invaded Czechoslovakia, the town of Theresin was turned into a ghetto and renamed Theresienstadt. Jews were gathered in this ghetto before being sent to the extermination camps. During its existence, more than 12,000 children passed through the Theresienstadt ghetto. Approximately 90 percent of the children perished in death camps. For many of the children, the objects they created while in Theresienstadt are the only things that remain of their lives.



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Your support to maintain and expand our traveling exhibitions and educational programs will ensure that Anne Frank's legacy is an ongoing gift to present and future generations. All donations, large and small, are welcome and extremely helpful in supporting programs that make the public, especially young people, aware of the causes, instruments and consequences of discrimination, hate and violence. Contributions can be made online [at this link](#) or mail donations to AFC USA, 38 Crosby St., New York, NY 10013.

"Escaping Their Boundaries: The Children of Theresienstadt" opens on Thursday, March 12, 2009 and runs through Friday, June 12, 2009. Hours are Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm, and the first Sunday of each month from 11am to 4pm. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors and students. The Gallery is located at 38 Crosby Street, Fifth Floor, New York, NY 10013 (between Broome and Grand streets). For specific directions, please call 212.431.7993. [www.annefrank.com](http://www.annefrank.com)



THE  
ANNE FRANK  
CENTER  
USA

## Special Events at the AFC

### Thursday, March 12, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Opening of a new exhibit, Escaping Their Boundaries: The Children of Theresienstadt. Children's Holocaust art never before seen in NYC from the ghetto of Theresienstadt in Czechoslovakia. \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students.

### Tuesday, March 31, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Two Theresienstadt survivors tell their stories: Margrit Wreschner Rustow, Ph.D., and author, lecturer Ela Weissberger. The evening includes a short section of the film "Prisoner of Paradise," true story of Kurt Gerron, a Jewish director, ordered to make the propaganda film on Terezin for the Nazis, will be shown. \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students.

### Sunday, April 5, 11:00 - 4:00 p.m.

First Sunday Family art project for children age 7 and up to work with an artist and create colorful butterflies as part of "The Butterfly Project," an effort to remember the 1.5 million children who perished in the Holocaust. \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students.

### Tuesday, April 7, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

A performance of scenes and songs from the play "I Never Saw Another Butterfly," directed Michael A. Pizzi, Ph.D. Dr. Pizzi is founder and artistic director of Touching Humanity, Inc, a non-profit arts and education organization that promotes disability awareness and social justice. \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students.

### Sunday, May 3, 11:00 - 4:00 p.m.

First Sunday Family art project for children age 7 and up to work with an artist and create colorful butterflies as part of "The Butterfly Project," an effort to remember the 1.5 million children who perished in the Holocaust. \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students.

### Monday, May 11, TBA

Diary 21, a performance of high school writing based on themes from Anne Frank's diary, in partnership with Young Playwrights, the Vineyard Theatre, NYC LAB school and Washington Irving High School. \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students.

### Thursday, May 21, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Marc Dennis, Professor of Art at Elmira College, Elmira, NY will be offering *Under the Floorboards: Hidden Art of the Holocaust*, a one hour visual lecture on clandestine artwork made by prisoners inside Nazi

concentration camps. \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students.

**Sunday, June 7, 11:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

First Sunday Family art project for children age 7 and up to work with an artist and create colorful butterflies as part of "The Butterfly Project," an effort to remember the 1.5 million children who perished in the Holocaust. \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students.

## Hello, World Update



Associated Press reporter Jessica Gresko's article on The Anne Frank Center's new prison diary writing program, "Hello World: Diaries by Men and Women in American Prisons," appeared in newspapers across the country in November and December 2008. Writes Gresko: "Charles Norman is a convicted murderer serving a life sentence in a 100-square-foot cell, the size of some walk-in closets.

There aren't many teenage girls he could relate to, except maybe one - Anne Frank. Norman is one of about 100 convicted felons nationwide who this year read the Jewish teenager's *The Diary of a Young Girl*, which chronicles the 25 months she spent hiding with her family in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam during World War II. Like Anne, prisoners used diaries to reflect on their own confinement. 'She had hopes for freedom, but her hopes were dashed,' said Norman, 60, in an interview at the Tomoka Correctional Institution in Daytona Beach. 'I hope for freedom, too. And I hope that I make it.'

Sent blank journals and Anne's diary by The Anne Frank Center in New York, more than 50 inmates have already returned the diaries to the center, where they will be preserved. Organizers said Anne's messages - equality, generosity and respect - are universal, but especially relevant to inmates. Many inmates found they had more in common with Anne than they expected, said Maureen McNeil, who coordinated the program. Before Anne's hiding place at the back of her father's office building was discovered and she and her family were sent to concentration camps, Anne wrote about her hopes and fears and dreams. Prisoners relate to her because they have their own hopes and fears, McNeil said. And they, too, feel discriminated against.

But at least some prisoners recognized the distinction between themselves and the teen, who became a symbol of the millions of innocent people who died in the Holocaust. Some inmates acknowledged hurting people, while they saw Anne as the victim, one who didn't deserve to be sent to a concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen, where she died of typhoid fever shortly before the camp was liberated.

'Her life, her situation was tragic,' wrote Bobby Biffel, 32, in a letter to The Associated Press from a Texas prison where he is serving a 48-year

sentence for murder. He didn't see any similarity between Anne's life and his own. For Biffel and others, the boredom of life and prison was a theme. But recounting their experiences was cathartic, some inmates said, helping them think critically about themselves. 'I have to believe that the written word has redemptive value. Anne Frank is remembered for her words, maybe I can be as well,' wrote 37-year-old J.E. Wantz, from prison in Oregon, where he is serving a 12-year sentence for sexual abuse."

The program, in collaboration with PEN American Center's 20-year-old creative writing program for prisoners, began in Spring 2008, sending copies of Anne Frank's diary donated by Random House and blank journals to 138 inmates. Fifty five diaries have been received so far. Each week new diary excerpts are posted at [www.annefrank.com](http://www.annefrank.com) with the goal of educating people on both sides of "the wall."

[Click here for more information](#)

## AFC News

AFC Board Member **Hy Enzer** is the editor of *Episodes and Fragments: a War and Peacetime Memoir*, a memoir by Kurt Fughel about his kinder transport story. The book was published in 2008 by Xlibris.

**Jack and Ina Polak's** documentary film "Steal a Pencil for Me" has been selected by The American Library Association Video Round Table Notable Videos Committee of 2009 as one of fifteen outstanding programs released on video within the past two years that is suitable for all libraries serving adults. Its purpose is to call attention to recent video releases that make a significant contribution to the world of video recordings. The selections were made during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver, Colorado.

**Rolf Wolfswinkel Ph.D**, AFC Board Member, author of *Anne Frank and After* and NYU Professor of Modern History, will give a series of talks at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., Colchester, Connecticut. For more information, call 860.537.5752 or email [library@colchesterct.gov](mailto:library@colchesterct.gov). The events are as follows:

**April 20, 2009, 7 p.m.:** "Anne Frank and Her Diary," a talk on the hardships of going into hiding in wartime Holland, including issues of passivity, collaboration and betrayal, gradually focusing on Otto Frank's decision to have his family disappear from view in his own office building.

**May 5, 2009, 7 p.m.:** "The Last Seven Months," a film by Willy Lindwer, follows Anne Frank after her diary ends by interviewing women who were with her in Westerbork, Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen.

**May 20, 2009, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.:** A complete reading of Anne Frank's Diary by students and other volunteer readers from the Colchester community.

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## The AFC Announces the Second Annual Self-Portrait Contest



*"I saw myself in the mirror, and it looked so different. My eyes were clear and deep, my cheeks were rosy, which they hadn't been in weeks, my mouth much softer. I looked happy and yet there was something so sad in my expression that the smile completely faded from my face."*

**-January 7, 1944**

Anne Frank's Diary can be read as a verbal self-portrait. She learned that understanding herself was key to making sense of the world around her. In reading back through her diary, she was surprised by her own irrational and cruel words of hatred. Her decision not to hate others gave her courage and strength and she became a role model for all of humanity.

The Anne Frank Center USA invites sixth, seventh and eighth grade NYC area (including New Jersey, Connecticut and Long Island) Middle School students to submit a visual and verbal self-portrait, no larger than 11" x 14". Deadline, April 1, 2009. Please see the AFC website for guidelines. For more information, contact Maureen McNeil at 212-431-7993 ext. 302 or [mmcneil@annefrank.com](mailto:mmcneil@annefrank.com).

The exhibit opening is Saturday, June 20, 2009 from 1:00 - 3:00 at The Anne Frank Center USA, 38 Crosby Street, 5 Floor. Winners will receive a certificate and a copy of the graphic novel, ***The Family Secret***. Teachers, parents and siblings welcome. Refreshments will be served. The self-portraits will be exhibited through August. Student work will be returned in the fall.

[Click here for more information](#)

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