

## Ring, Ring, Open Wide and Let Us Out! Children's Drawings from Darfur



Please join us at a new exhibit, Ring, Ring Open Wide and Let Us Out! Children's Drawings from Darfur, opening at The Anne Frank Center Gallery on October 1, 2008, with an opening reception on Tuesday, October 21, 2008 from 6 to 8 pm.

*"We're surrounded by darkness and danger, and in our desperate search for a way out we keep bumping into each other. We look at the fighting down below and the peace and beauty up above. In the meantime, we've been cut off by the dark mass of clouds, so that we can go neither up nor down. It*

*looms before us like an impenetrable wall, trying to crush us, but not yet able to. I can only cry out and implore, "Oh, ring, ring, open wide and let us out!"*

In the summer of 2004, Dr. Jerry Ehrlich, a pediatrician from Cherry Hill, New Jersey, spent two months at a refugee camp in the Darfur region of Sudan. Besides medical attention, Dr. Ehrlich also gave the children drawing supplies. He did not coach them on what to draw: They were free to draw whatever they wished to. To prevent the drawings from being confiscated when he left Darfur, Dr. Ehrlich slipped them inside a copy of the Sunday *New York Times*.



The scenes depicted in many of the children's drawings reveal a country that is being destroyed by violence. While some of the drawings show scenes of ordinary life, many of them depict people being killed and villages bombed and burned.

That these Darfurian children have witnessed horrific violence is undeniable. Just as Anne Frank in her diary described "the approaching danger . . . being pulled tighter and tighter," so do these drawings bear witness to the destruction of the children's families, homes and villages.

The exhibit will also feature photographs of Darfur by Mia Farrow, whose Dream for Darfur organization is working to end the violence in Darfur

### In This Issue

Ring, Ring, Open Wide and Let Us Out!

Teaching Tolerance in American History

Funding News

Hello, World

Celebrate Independent Thinking

The Spirit of Anne Frank Awards

Speaking Out: Reading Anne Frank's Diary

The Art of Self-Discovery

AFC Goes to Yad Vashem

Are We Writing Loud Enough?

### Support The Anne Frank Center

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.

and promote a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

To raise awareness of the attacks on human rights now going on in the Darfur region of Sudan, The Anne Frank Center will exhibit the children's drawings in its New York Gallery from October 5 through December 31, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).



Janjaweed. Photo courtesy Mia Farrow/Dream for Darfur.

## Teaching American History Through Multiple Perspectives



"Amazing! I walked away with so many ideas for my own teaching. Keep bringing these programs to classroom teachers!" This was just one of the many rave reviews received following the presentation of the Anne Frank Center's first week-long summer institute for teachers. "Through Biased Eyes: The Struggle to Create Equality in Our Nation's Formative Years" is the first of several summer institutes to be offered through the Center's Teaching American History Grant, with funding provided by the U.S. Department of Education, in partnership with the N.Y.C. Department of Education. As part of this immersive program, teachers examined some of the primary issues of equality and human rights in early American history, as people from diverse groups sought to create a nation where all could co-exist.

Scholars from Rutgers University, Holy Cross College, Dowling College, East Tennessee State University, and Facing History and Ourselves investigated topics such as religious liberty, immigration, the political construction of race, and the Nativist tradition in America. Combining content and pedagogy, each scholar provided teachers with resources, methods, and new insight into our nation's founding. Wrote one participant: "[These workshops] helped me to realize that history should be more about the issues and the people rather than the dates and time." Art workshops led by local artists provided additional methods of incorporating creative response into classroom learning.

Sessions took place at the Museum of the City of NY. Brooklyn Museum.



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Queens Historical Society, and Long Island University's Brooklyn campus, where classroom space was generously donated by AFC Board Member Dr. Sylvia Blake. By providing this type of immersive professional development experience for teachers, The Anne Frank Center supports its mission to educate young people and communities about the consequences of intolerance, racism and discrimination, and to inspire the next generation to build a world based on mutual respect.



*In this art workshop led by Iranian-American artist Sara Rahbar, participants decorate muslin with definitions and cultural norms they find restrictive and then rip apart the fabric. The strips are then used to create flags similar in style to Sara's own artwork which deconstructs themes of nationalism, gender, and identity.*

## Funding News

In August 2008 the Anne Frank Center USA received a generous \$50,000 grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany in support of the Center's traveling exhibitions and docent training programs. This funding will be used to purchase new exhibitions, including a second copy of the acclaimed Skyline version of the Anne Frank: A History for Today exhibit, allowing the Center to bring this newly designed exhibition to additional communities in 2009. The Claims Conference grant also supports expanding AFC docent training programs, enhancing the Center's existing program and helping to provide additional on-site training and teacher workshops to communities across North America. A new evaluation component, as well as Powerpoint presentations and additional programming resources will be developed with this funding.

## Hello, World



The Anne Frank Center's new prison diary writing program, "Hello World: Diaries by Men and Women in American Prisons," is being featured in an Associated Press International investigative series. Reporter Jessica Gresko recently interviewed AFC's program director Maureen McNeil. The program, in collaboration with PEN American Center's 20-year-old creative writing program for prisoners, began this spring, sending copies of Anne Frank's diary donated by Random House and blank journals to 100 inmates. Thirty-six diaries have been received so far. Like Anne's, the men and women write about their daily activities, family, health, nature, current events and their hopes, dreams and fears. They also often comment that they are saddened by Anne's story and are inspired to write their own diaries. 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."

For more information, please [click here](#).

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## Celebrate Independent Thinking



Celebrate Independent Thinking, a film, lecture and art series, furthers the educational mission of the Anne Frank Center USA by inspiring audiences of all ages and backgrounds to use art as a lens to look critically at the world and take action against all forms of discrimination. There are many contemporary stories by today's artists that further Anne Frank's mission of motivating the public to embrace moral courage in thoughts and actions. Michele Ohayon and Renee Sanders are two such artists. Five documentary films by these talented women will be screened at the Anne Frank Center ; Renee Sanders will speak at the screenings of her films. This film series is part of "5 Dutch Days 5 Boroughs," a yearly festival of events marking Dutch-American Heritage Day (Nov. 16th) featuring museums, historic sites and cultural organizations throughout the city. For screening dates and more information, [click here](#).

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### The Spirit of Anne Frank Awards



*Mia Farrow with awardees (left to right) Gabrielle Flaum, Nick Kristof, and Sharlene Green*

The 12th Annual Spirit of Anne Frank Awards were presented at a gala dinner and ceremony at the Pierre Hotel in New York City on June 12, 2008. The event was attended by 375 guests who contributed generously to support the expanding educational initiatives of the Anne Frank Center. Awardees included New York Times columnist Nicholas D. Kristof, whose award was presented by activist/actress Mia Farrow; philanthropist Richard E. Witten; students Sharlene Green, Gabrielle Meirav Flaum, and Nastasha Pollard; and educators Nick Coddington, Dr. Marilyn J. Harran, and Eileen Shapiro. For more information on the Spirit of Anne Frank Awards and an application form for the 2009 awards, [click here](#).



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### Speaking Out: Reading Anne Frank's Diary

In honor of Anne Frank's 80th birthday in 2009, The Anne Frank Center USA is celebrating with a multicultural recording of excerpts from Anne's diary. This educational recording will be made available to a variety of media as a way to tell Anne Frank's story in New York City.

The mission of this project is to incorporate the voices of people from a variety of backgrounds, bridging cultural, ethnic, religious, and racial divides, a step toward fulfilling Anne Frank's desire to live in a society based on mutual respect.

To hear diary excerpts that have already been recorded by Holocaust survivors, [click here](#). If you would like to participate, please contact Maureen McNeil at 212-431-7993 ext. 302 or email [mmcneil@annefrank.com](mailto:mmcneil@annefrank.com). Also, please spread the word to your friends who may be interested in participating.



### The Art of Self Discovery

The Art of Self Discovery education program utilizes Anne Frank's Diary as both an authentic Holocaust document and a literary work of art. Combining lessons in literacy and tolerance, students read the diary, keep a journal and follow through with an art project. The goal of the

program is to encourage students to recognize through the creative process, as Anne did, that discrimination is common and that each person has the responsibility to say no to acting on hate.

Bell Academy, a middle school in Queens, opted for a 17-week graphic narrative unit of the Art of Self Discovery Program, beginning February 1, 2008, servicing 22 self-selecting sixth and seventh grade students, ages 12 to 14. All seven of the school's classes visited the AFC, viewed an Anne Frank exhibit and video, and met a Holocaust survivor.



The students' final stories used themes from Anne Frank, combined with issues such as bullying, racism, anti-Semitism, and cultural and ethnic diversity from their own lives. The stories were compiled in a magazine titled "Inspired by Anne: Bell Academy Students Respond to Anne Frank's Diary." Also, 32 self-portraits created by the students were exhibited from June through August 2008 at the Anne Frank Center Gallery, with an opening attended by more than 100 students, parents and siblings. For more information, [click here](#).

### **AFC Goes to Yad Vashem**

The AFC's Art of Self Discovery program was presented by Director of Education Maureen McNeil at an educational workshop titled "Combining Anne Frank's Diary with the Arts to Combat Prejudice in the Classroom" at the International Conference on Holocaust Education. The conference was held at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust museum, in Jerusalem in July 2008. Maureen reports that the workshop was well received.

### **Are We Writing Loud Enough?**



Steve Press, the actor who played Peter Van Daan in the original 1955 Broadway production of "The Diary of Anne Frank," will be joining Diary 21, a writing and performance collaboration between The Anne Frank Center USA and Young Playwrights. The second annual show will be held in May 2009, in celebration of Anne Frank's 80th birthday. New York City High School students will write

dramatic pieces inspired by the themes of immigration and discrimination. Award winning director and composer Liz Swados will direct.

### **Corporate Sponsors of The Anne Frank Center USA**

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