

Billings West High School

3rd Annual Survivors Week Trip to Illinois/Indiana

March 1-7, 2019

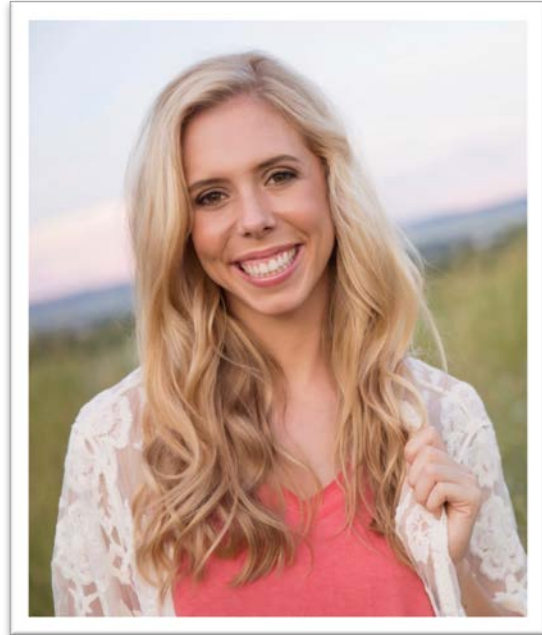
Directory and contact lists (students, teachers, survivors, special guests)

Rev. February 26, 2019

1. Madeline Dawson

Hi, my name is Madeline Dawson! I'm a very active individual in athletics, academics, and my community of Billings. I'm a senior at Billings West High School.

My main interest is volleyball and athletics. Since I was 11, I've either played or trained for volleyball year round. It is something that I find as a fun way to channel competitive energy, as well as a release for stress. I hope to continue playing at a small, liberal arts college so I can continue my love for the game. I also enjoy being active in general. I love working out and staying fit and strong, but I also enjoy the outdoors. When it gets warm, I love to hike (my favorite spots are in Yellowstone) and paddle board. I also like to help kids, one of my favorite things is to help coach volleyball at one of the middle schools.



My plans for college at the very moment are undecided, but I am most likely going to attend a small, liberal arts college in the Washington or Minnesota area. I have family near schools I am interested in both states, so that really draws me there. I have been an honor student in High School, so I enjoy learning and rigorous classes. I also hope to continue my volleyball career as I said before. As of now, I'm looking in schools that have strong Exercise Science and/or Kinesiology programs, as being an athlete and my love for exercise pulls my interest toward there. I am also interested in Psychology, more the science of the human brain than the emotional therapist side. I'm also exploring the possibility of majoring in Sports Psychology.

The reason I wanted to come on this trip was to learn about the Holocaust from a different perspective, from the experiences of those who lived it rather than teachers or textbooks. I want to learn how such a travesty can happen and get to know the real people it has impacted. We've learned so much about the Holocaust, but I still find it interesting how such a travesty can happen. I would like to grow my knowledge, while also paying respect to those it affected.



2. Christian Dunlap

Hello, my Name is Christian Dunlap, and I am a senior from Billings West High School. I like to raft and boat in the summer, hunt, ski, and spend time with friends. I enjoy the outdoors and am an avid debater.

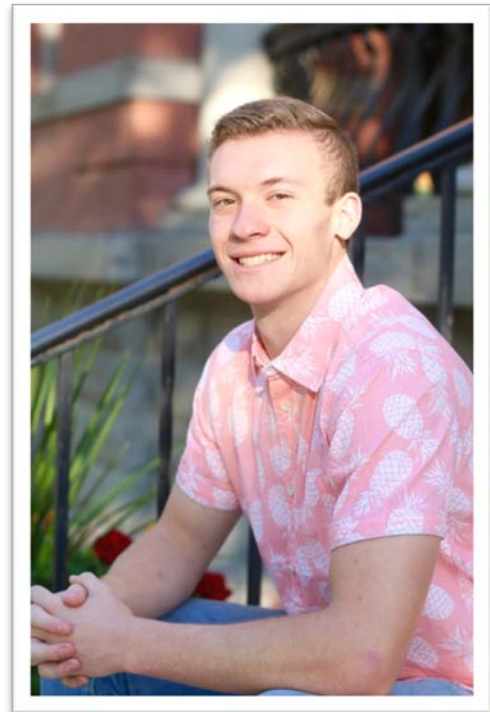
I participate in the Speech and Debate program at my school, and compete against other debaters from around the state. I also played football for the first two years of high school. I plan to attend

either CU Boulder or Santa Clara university for college, and I plan to pursue a career in either civil engineering or law.

3. Hulan Edward

My name is Hulan Edward, but everyone calls me Hugh. My dad is an American Literature teacher, as well as an AP Spanish teacher on top of being a football coach at Billings West, and my mom is an Educational Paraprofessional. On top of my parents, my immediate family includes my three brothers, Barron, Owen, and Kellen. With two parents so deeply ingrained in America's Education system, my brothers and I have been blessed with many opportunities to develop ourselves and find our passions, both in an educational and personal life aspect.

Personally, growing up having to read, learning life lessons from all sorts of books, and then on top of that learning to find joy in competition with my siblings, I learned to love reading and playing sports. As I got older, it became apparent that football was and always will be a part of my life. To me, life is about learning balance and for me that has been and will continue to be furthering my academic and my athletic career.



Ever since I have been able to run, playing college football has been a dream of mine, and thankfully my academics and athletics have opened some amazing opportunities to continue my education as well as my football career at an undecided small liberal arts college and play

football there. While there, I hope to study English or go Pre-Med, both of which would allow me to study human nature, which from literature and non-fiction has fascinated me for a long time, as well as make what I see as a very important difference in society in the future.

These passions are what made me take Coach Stanton's Genocide Class, as well as why I wanted to go on this trip. On this trip, I am hoping to learn more about the events that impacted so many lives and devastated so many families, yet are still vastly under taught in many modern education systems. To me finding out more about events such as the Holocaust and why they happen and what allows the to continue, even in today's world, is a necessary step in starting to make the world the best place it can be and that first step feels very necessary to me.

4. Erik Hovland



Hello, my name is Erik Hovland, I am a senior at Billings West High School. I enjoy hiking and skiing in the mountains of Montana, as well as drawing and painting.

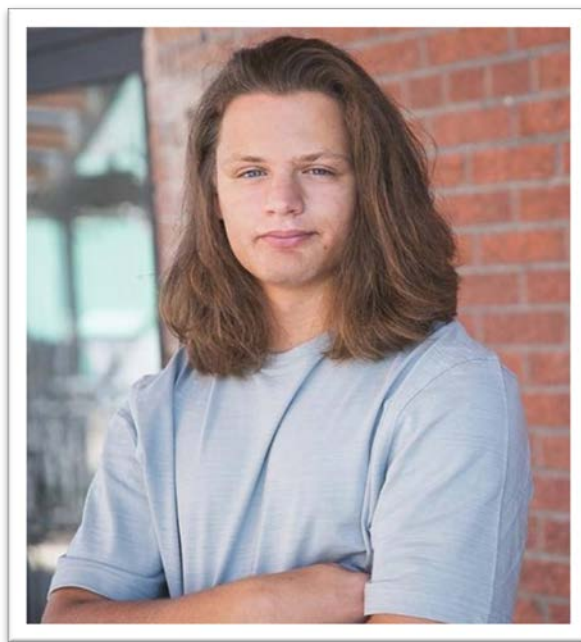
I am very passionate about the environment and animals, and love riding horses. I am very interested in science and engineering and am considering either aerospace engineering or architecture for college.

I wanted to go on this trip because it is truly a once in a lifetime experience where I will have the opportunity to meet some of the most strong and courageous people to have lived. I also want the chance to pay respect to and learn more about those who have suffered in one of the most horrific events in human history. I hope to get a better understanding of how such a tragedy could occur.

5. Aidan Potter

Hello, my name is Aidan Potter from Billings, Montana. I am in the 12th grade at Billings West High School. For college, I plan to go to the University of Montana or MSU to study neuroscience or another interesting medical degree.

I love to ski and fly fish here in Montana. I also have family in Chicago and have an interesting ancestral past there. On this trip, I am looking forward to understanding and developing even more empathy for what these survivors have been through. I have had an awesome semester in Mr. Stanton's Genocide class, and I hope to learn from those who we speak with. I plan to pass on their stories so that these acts of atrocity do not happen again.



6. Grace Price



My name is Grace Price and I am a senior at Billings West High School. I'm interested in learning about different cultures, politics, psychology or anything that helps me better understand people and the world we live in.

My desire to better understand what's around me is a big motivator for going on this trip. I believe this experience can give me the tools to be a more conscientious member of our world and one that will be better equipped to encourage compassion and understanding and to push back against evil and injustice.

In the future I plan to go to college most likely in Montana and I hope to pursue a career in teaching English. To me, a big component of English and social studies is to build empathy and to help people see the world and different events from a new lens. I hope to be able to encourage that as a high school teacher someday and I believe this trip will help me grow as a person and will provide me the tools to do so.

7. Alyssa Swanson

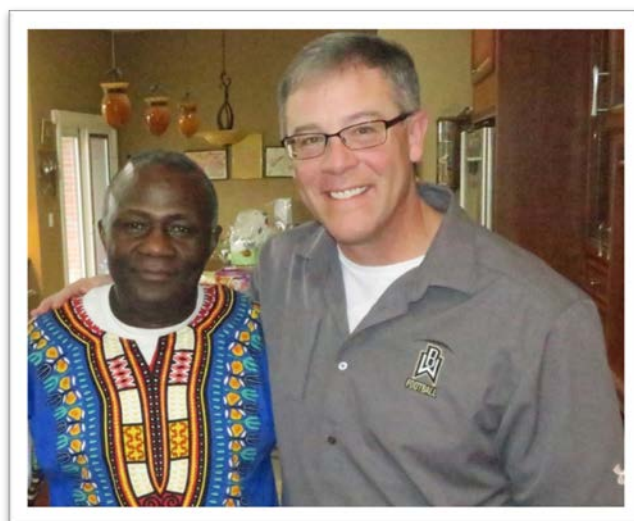


My name is Alyssa Swanson and I am a former student of Rob Stanton's and had the pleasure of traveling to Chicago last year as well! I am presently an intern at a Christian non-profit on the South Side of Billings called Community Leadership and Development, Inc. working with a branch called Youth Works. I work with elementary kids to high school students, the majority of which come from high risk backgrounds. The South Side is regarded as the

"undesirable" part of town where homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse, and criminal activity is very common. Throughout this internship, I have learned so much more than I ever anticipated and I continue to learn every day that I am at work. My internship will be complete in July 2019 and afterwards I will be joining on staff at CLDI and taking college courses working towards a Biblical Counseling degree.

8. Rob Stanton

Social Studies Instructor
Head Football and Track & Field Coach
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Pictured: Teacher Rob Stanton with Elysée Gasigwa at Danny and Natalie Spungen's house. Gasigwa is a Rwandan man who worked with American Carl Wilkens to rescue hundreds of orphans during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. Gasigwa and Carl spoke at the Spungen house on March 6, 2017 as part of the Billings West trip to Chicago.

Survivors and Speakers – 2019

Magda Brown

<http://magdabrown.com/>

On her 17th birthday, Magda and her family were crammed into a box car and forced to endure an arduous journey to Auschwitz-Birkenau. After two months of torture, she was selected to be sent to a work camp. In March 1945, she and her group were forced to go on a death march to Buchenwald, but she and several prisoners managed to escape and hide in a barn where they were found by American soldiers.



Ida Kersz

In 1942, Nazis stormed into Ida's hometown in Poland. Her mother fled to a nearby building and jumped to her death, leaving behind her 3-year-old twins. Ida will share her unique story of survival as a hidden child during the Holocaust and her quest to be reunited with her siblings who were hidden in separate locations.

Miriam Klein Kassenoff

Director, Holocaust Studies Summer Institute
University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL

Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff is a child survivor of the Holocaust. She fled Nazi Europe with her family in 1941. She will speak at CANDLES about her family's escape from Nazi-occupied Europe, her life since, and what she has done as an educator to ensure the Holocaust is never forgotten.





Alex Kor

Milwaukee, WI

Originally from Terre Haute, Indiana, Dr. Alex Kor has practiced podiatry for nearly 30 years & currently works at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee. Being the son of two Holocaust survivors, Michael & Eva Kor, he has traveled to Auschwitz over a dozen times. He also accompanied his mother to South Africa in 2007 when she lectured with Archbishop Desmond Tutu. An avid tennis player, he is ranked #63 in the USA in his division and has won medals at the Maccabiah Games (in Israel) on several occasions.

Pictured: Alex Kor with his mother in front of her picture from the liberation photo in Block 6 at Auschwitz I.

Eva Kor

CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center
www.candlesholocaustmuseum.org

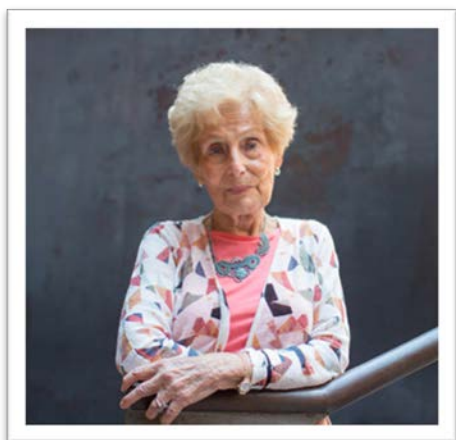
Eva Mozes Kor is a survivor of the Holocaust, forgiveness advocate, and public speaker. Powered by a never-give-up attitude, Eva has emerged from a trauma-filled childhood as a brilliant example of the human spirit's power to overcome. She is a community leader, champion of human rights, and tireless educator.



Mickey Kor

Terre Haute, IN

Mickey was born in Riga, Latvia in 1925. After surviving three plus years of slave labor in numerous concentration camps, he was liberated in 1945 by United States soldiers from the 250th Engineer Combat Battalion of the US Army.



Estelle Laughlin

Estelle was born in Warsaw, Poland in 1929. When she was 10 years old, her family was forced into the Warsaw Ghetto. The family hid in a secret room to avoid deportation during liquidations in 1942. Estelle and her family were eventually imprisoned in concentration camps such as Majdanek, Skarzysko, and Czestochowa.

Sophie Lombardo

Sophie is a native of nearby Vernon Hills and a recent graduate of Washington University in St. Louis. As an undergraduate, she published “Contested Ownership, Contested Narratives” as the culmination of a two-year research fellowship. That project heavily informed her senior capstone, “Robert Kempner and the Politics of Postwar Justice,” which was co-recipient of the Goldstein Prize for best history honors thesis. She has traveled to Poland with CANDLES, interned at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and the Spungen Family Foundation, and served as a research assistant at University of Colorado-Boulder. Most recently, she traveled to Poland as a fellow with the Auschwitz Jewish Center, publishing “The Edges of Memory: On Traces and Loss” in January 2019. Currently, Sophie performs investigative research for an anti-genocide NGO in Washington, DC.



Ellie Merar

Ellie Merar was born in 1926 in the small picturesque city of Lauterecken, Germany. At the age of eleven, Ellie and her family escaped the ever-growing antisemitism in Germany that was brought on by the rise of the Third Reich. They were sponsored by an American aunt and uncle living in Terre Haute, Indiana. Ellie will share her personal story of antisemitic persecution and immigration to the United States at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center.



George Mueller

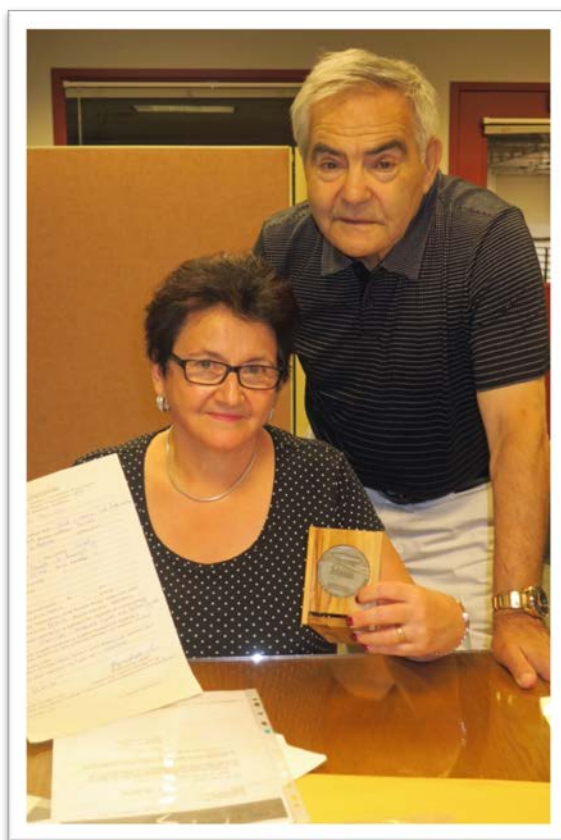
George Levy Mueller was born in Germany to Max and Lucie Levy. In 1938, George and his family were forced out of their home and forced to live in a Juden Haus (Jew House). On November 9th, during Kristallnacht, George's father and uncle were arrested and taken to Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Following Kristallnacht, George and his sister Ursula were sent to Holland, where they lived in a convent until 1943. In 1943, George and his sister were deported to Vught concentration camp, then to Westerbork and finally to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Germany. They were liberated in April 1945 by the Russian army while on a death train. George and Ursula returned to Holland and eventually came to the United States in 1947.

Zofia Gadomska Paluch

Zofia Gadomska is a Polish immigrant to the USA whose parents were recognized by Israel as "Righteous Among Nations." Her father Stanislaw Prycak and mother Stefania saved 17 Jewish people by hiding them in a barn through most of the war. Zofia's uncle was killed by Nazis when he was caught smuggling food for the 17 Jews.

Adam Paluch

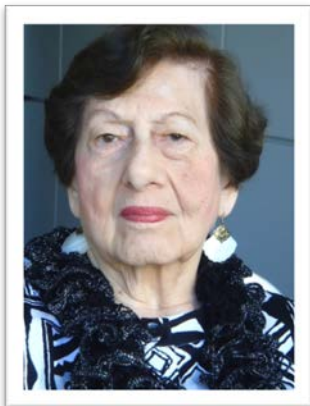
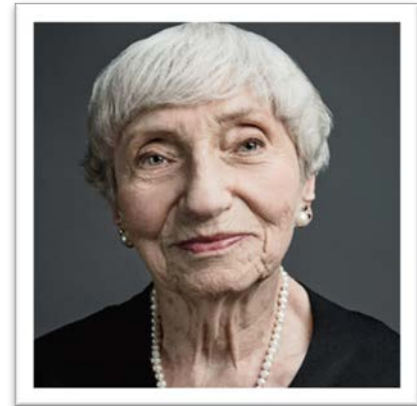
Adam was born in 1939 in Poland. He had two sisters, but at three years old, the Nazis invaded their home. Adam was experimented on in a concentration camp and has no real memory of the WWII time period. In 2017, he married Zofia Gadomska.



Pictured: Zofia Gadomska Paluch and Adam Paluch. Zofia is holding the Righteous Among the Nations medal awarded to her parents.

Janine Oberrotman

Born in Lvov, Poland, Janine was fifteen years old when the Germans invaded her hometown. When the pogroms, random killings, and round-ups began, her father found her a job in construction to avoid deportation. However, when that job could no longer secure her safety, Janine was forced from hiding place to hiding place to avoid capture. Ultimately, Janine was deported to forced labor in Stuttgart.



Agnes Schwartz

Agnes Schwartz from Budapest, Hungary was 10 years old when German forces occupied her town and her family was forced to move into a “Jewish Designated” or “Yellow Star” building. Their Catholic housekeeper Julia, took Agnes to her home before the ghetto was established and, claimed her as her niece. Agnes became a “hidden child” living in the open but living in fear, not knowing when her family would be reunited. During the Allied bombings, she was sent underground to hide for months. Her father was saved by Raoul Wallenberg and hidden in one of his safe houses. Her grandmother, aunt and uncle were rounded up and shot into the Danube River. Agnes’ mother was deported and perished at Bergen Belsen

concentration camp. Her book, “A Roll of the Dice,” is in its second publication.

Carl Wilkens

Founder, World Outside My Shoes

www.worldoutsidemys shoes.org

Carl Wilkens is the only American who chose to stay in Kigali, Rwanda throughout the 1994 genocide. He and his Rwandan colleagues worked together to save the lives of hundreds. His harrowing yet hopeful journey weaves together stories of tremendous risk and fierce compassion in the midst of slaughter. Each year he returns to Rwanda with students and educators to see for themselves how people are working together to rebuild their country and rebuild trust.



Event Coordinators, Advisors, and Special Guests

For each of the Spungen home events, a few docents/volunteers from the Illinois Holocaust Museum will be invited as well as some special friends of the Spungen Family Foundation.



Dorothy Chambers

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Hosts

The Billings West High School trips were inspired by Rob Stanton and are sponsored by CANDLES Holocaust Museum and the Florence and Laurence Spungen Family Foundation. Artifacts from the Spungen Holocaust Collection will be on display at each event for educational purposes. Representing the Foundation and hosting the students on this trip are:

Danny and Natalie Spungen

Work: +1.847.775.4675

Danny = danny@spungenfoundation.org

Natalie = natalie@whynotcollectibles.com

*Grandma Celia Fischman, Jonathan, “Nala,” and “Chewy Bear” live at home and you will be seeing them.

*If in town during the week, Danny’s siblings Glenn and Debbi Spungen will stop by.



Above: Members of the Spungen Family Foundation Next Generation at a retreat on June 24, 2017.

Right: Members of the Spungen Family Foundation, including trustees, family, and Next Generation.



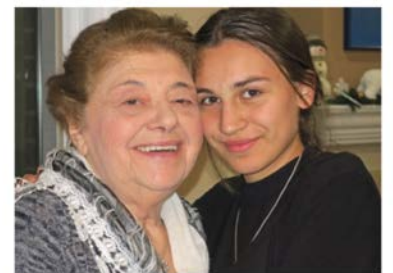
Flash Back to the 1st and 2nd Billings West High School Survivors Week – March 2017 and February 2018



L: Madison Bergthold and Matthew. (2017)
R: Visiting the Baha'i Temple in Wilmette. (2017)



Below: Matthew Lassen shows his tattoo to the group. (2017)



Above: Group members with Eva Kor. (2017)



Above: Group members with Magda Brown. (2017)



Above: Group members with Agnes Schwartz. (2017) **Above Right:** Group members with Carl Wilkens. (2017)



Above: Students with Agnes Schwartz, holding a Raoul Wallenberg schutzpass from the Spungen Collection similar to the one her father received (2018).



Above: Holding Danish cookies with Steen Metz. (2018)



Above: Prof. Kevin Ostoyich speaks to the group. (2018)



Above: Skyping with Gary Sternberg. (2018)



Left: At a press conference for refugees with Ralph Rehbock and Amanda Friedeman from Illinois Holocaust Museum. (2018)