

THE RAOUL WALLENBERG COMMITTEE  
OF THE UNITED STATES

# A STUDY OF HEROES

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## WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF ADOPTS *HEROES* FOR PRE-K THROUGH 12TH GRADE

*This is the first in a series of articles about HEROES at WPSD.*

Jean Saunders and Cathy Drake, social studies teachers at Pittsburgh's Western Pennsylvania School For the Deaf spearheaded an initiative to bring A STUDY OF HEROES to the school's 200 day and residential students (pre-K to 12th grade.) As a result, a whole-school implementation will begin in the academic year 2006-2007.



WPSD students display their HEROES work.

In September 2005, Jean and Cathy attended a two-day HEROES training at the Manhattan offices of the Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States. Subsequently, they piloted HEROES with their students. In March 2006, Rachel Oestreicher Bernheim, the Committee's Chairman/CEO and its Director of Education, Dr. Kathy Morin, presented HEROES to the WPSD whole school community.

Reflecting upon their pilot program, Jean and Cathy observed, "In order to make education meaningful and to impact individual student's lives, HEROES was adopted into WPSD's curriculum for 9th graders. The HEROES Program was implemented to give students suitable powerful role models and to help

*develop a strong moral character. After 10 weeks of studying HEROES, our students not only had factual information about men and women who have impacted millions of the poor and destitute, but were now showing such heroic traits as kindness, compassion, and charity to others. Since teachers, students and supervisors saw the success of this sensational program, it will be expanded to include all ages at the school."*



Cathy Drake; Kathy Morin; Gary Freilino, student teacher; Rachel O. Bernheim; & Jean Saunders.  
Photo Credits: Vicki Cherney, WPSD

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of The United States



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## OESTREICHER BERNHEIM TAKES THE *WALLENBERG STORY* TO MINNEAPOLIS

Memories are stirred; hearts are moved; minds and opinions are challenged; and lives are changed. The stories of real heroes have the power to evoke such reactions. Twin City audiences, young and old, shared in just such an experience upon hearing the story of Raoul Wallenberg, a hero for all times.

At the suggestion of Nina Lagergren, Raoul's half-sister, who resides in Sweden, the Minneapolis-based American Swedish

Institute (ASI) invited Rachel Oestreicher Bernheim of the Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States to be the 2005 keynote speaker at its annual Raoul Wallenberg Day series of events from Oct. 6 – 8. ASI is dedicated to sharing,



The American Swedish  
Institute

celebrating, and preserving Swedish culture in America.

Enjoying the city's hospitality while fulfilling a whirlwind schedule, Rachel enthusiastically shared Raoul's story and the Committee's mission with students at a local high school; with ASI supporters, college faculty and college students at an elegant luncheon held in the historic American Swedish Institute; and with the congregation of The Temple Israel at

its Friday evening Shabbat service.

Bruce Karstadt, the President and CEO of ASI, observed that Rachel's presentations were remarkable and her words inspiring. Echoing the goals of A STUDY OF HEROES, he expressed his hope to join with Rachel and the Wallenberg Committee "in this common cause of uplifting Wallenberg and other heroes and heroines to our young people."

## From The Chairman's Desk ...



Rachel Oestreicher Bernheim

### *How do you measure success?*

After 25 years, we are asking the same question. We look back with astonishment, with very limited financial resources, a small dedicated staff, and a supportive

Board of Directors—we have accomplished Herculean tasks. We raised the consciousness of the general public and both American and Swedish government officials to the point where the case of Raoul Wallenberg could no longer be ignored.

In the 1990s, we assessed how to honor Raoul Wallenberg. A STUDY OF HEROES is our *living monument*. It was developed to pass forward the character traits and

values of this most heroic of men. It is based on our belief...*that the heroes of a nation reflect the values of its people*. Today, HEROES is recognized as an exemplary character education, social studies, and literacy program. It has reached well over a million students in a multiplicity of educational settings that include schools (K-12) both nationwide and abroad. The positive measurable results achieved in schools have been equally matched by the use of HEROES in adult and juvenile correctional facilities.

Regardless of demographics, educators, counselors, librarians, social workers, parents and students credit HEROES with developing academic skills; building good character; counteracting patterns of violence; and helping to restore *hope*.

### **So, "How do we measure success?"**

Not by our bottom line, but by the extraordinary number of lives we have touched,

and by the positive difference we have made and are continuing to make! There are growing numbers of students of every age whose lives have been changed by A STUDY OF HEROES. As these students have learned to distinguish between the concepts of *celebrity* and *hero*, they also have begun to discover the *hero within themselves*.

Without the on-going generosity of our Board of Directors, caring friends, generous supporters and last – but certainly not least, Bear Stearns – we could never have come this far or done so much good. Our work and its profound impact will continue as long as you are beside us in our endeavors. Together we continue to *build our living monument to Raoul Wallenberg, A Hero for All Time*.



## ABOUT THE RAOUL WALLENBERG COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES

The Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States was created as a not-for-profit corporation in 1981. Its mission is:

□ To perpetuate, through *A STUDY OF HEROES*, the humanitarian ideals and nonviolent courage of Raoul Wallenberg, a 31 year-old Christian Swede, who at the behest of the United States government at the end of World War II went to Budapest, Hungary and without resorting to violence saved from the Nazis more than 100,000 Jews in six months time. For still unknown reasons,

Wallenberg was arrested by the Soviets in 1945; was imprisoned and thrown into their Gulag; and has never been seen as a free man again.

By a Joint Act of Congress in 1981, Wallenberg was made the Third Honorary Citizen of the United States.

□ To seek the truth surrounding the mystery of the fate of Raoul Wallenberg;

□ To maintain archives and to provide information and expert services to researchers, the media, individuals, organiza-

tions, and governments inquiring about the story of Raoul Wallenberg; and

□ To bestow *The Raoul Wallenberg Award* on individuals, organizations, and communities reflecting the values, spirit and courage of Raoul Wallenberg.

For more information, please visit our web site at <http://www.raoulwallenberg.org> or you may reach the Committee's office by phone at (212) 499-2695; by fax at (212) 499-2671; or by e-mail at [betty@raoulwallenberg.org](mailto:betty@raoulwallenberg.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**October 5, 2006** Raoul Wallenberg Day

**October 26–28, 2006** HEROES Exhibit, The Character Education Partnership (CEP) 13th National Forum, Arlington, Virginia

**November 2–4, 2006** HEROES Exhibit, National Middle School Association's (NMSA) 33rd National Conference, Nashville, Tennessee

**November 15-16, 2006** HEROES Presentation and Exhibit, North Carolina Correctional Association, a state chapter affiliate

of the American Correctional Association, Burlington, North Carolina

**January 17, 2007** 62nd Anniversary of the last day that Raoul Wallenberg was seen as a free man having been taken into custody by Russian troops outside of Budapest in 1945

**February 19–23, 2007** HEROES Presentation and Exhibit, The 16th National Core Knowledge Conference, Washington DC

**April 10–13, 2007** HEROES Presentation

and Exhibit, National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Convention, Baltimore, Maryland



**August 4, 2007** Raoul Wallenberg's 95th Birthday (He was born in Sweden in 1912.)

For updates, please visit our web site:

<http://www.raoulwallenberg.org>

## CORRECTIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HERALD *HEROES* FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND JUVENILE JUSTICE & FOR BUILDING CHARACTER AND GED SKILLS IN ALL NEW JERSEY ADULT PRISONS

The American Correctional Association's National Congress, in both August of 2005 (Baltimore) and August of 2006 (Charlotte) and August of 2006 (Charlotte), provided workshop and exhibit venues for Rachel Oestreicher Bernheim and Dr. Kathy Morin to introduce HEROES to correctional professionals.

Featuring the HEROES workshop, the ACA's 2005 online post-conference newsletter noted that Devon Brown, then Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Corrections, introduced the session observing that "A Study of Heroes is one of the cornerstones of educational efforts in New Jersey prisons. 'Character-building is at the core,' Brown said, adding, 'Those who complete the program are less likely to commit infractions in and out of prison.'"



At the ACA's August 2006 Corrections Congress, Rachel Oestreicher Bernheim meets with Peg O'Brien, ACA's Professional Development Specialist. Peg has played a key role in coordinating HEROES with the ACA's 2005 and 2006 National Congress plans.



At the HEROES exhibit, Rachel shares ideas for future use of HEROES in federal prisons with Joseph Dulmage, Director of Prisoner Aftercare, Volunteers of America, Inc., Belleville, Michigan.

(See the entire article at: <http://www.aca.org/Summer05/Update05.asp#heroes> )

HEROES was brought to NJDOC through a \$4000 Character Education Grant from the New Jersey Department of Education.

In March 2003, Patty Friend, Acting Director of Educational Services for The New Jersey Department of Corrections invited Morin and Bernheim to Trenton to conduct two days of training for all teachers in the State's fifteen adult prisons. Since then, HEROES has been practically and creatively implemented throughout the state's adult prison schools in settings ranging from *maximum security to boot camp*.

New Jersey correctional teachers have successfully used HEROES for character education, GED preparation, and counseling sessions. The



Rachel visits with Betty Brown, Director of Chaplaincy Services, Division of Prisons, Raleigh, North Carolina.



Rachel shares HEROES with Christy Doyle, Operations Coordinator, Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice. HEROES was slated at the ACA Congress as a major workshop on juvenile justice and violence prevention.

results have been both profound and moving [Please see "Evaluations" on page 8.]

Since its inception, HEROES has been used nationally for a diversity of audiences (pre-K to adult) and in a multiplicity of settings including instructional, preventative, treatment, and life skills programs for juvenile offenders and at-risk populations.

Uniformly, HEROES has been credited with bringing "help and hope" to students of all ages, young and old. Reportedly, the oldest HEROES student was a 91 year-old prisoner serving a life sentence; thus, illustrating that, regardless of demographics, *making a positive difference* is within the reach of everyone.

## BLAKE'S *CHRONOLOGY* UPDATES WALLEMBERG STORY

Have you heard the story of Raoul Wallenberg? Subsequently, did you want to ask an expert researcher about clues to Wallenberg's fate and answers to questions such as:

- Why was Raoul mysteriously taken into custody by the Soviets on January 17, 1945?
- What happened to Raoul once he was taken to Moscow and subsequently to locations in the Soviet Gulag?
- Who tried to help him and who did not? When? How? To what end?
- What evidence exists substantiating that he survived many of the travails of imprisonment?
- What efforts were and were not launched by members of the international community to release Raoul? When and to what end?
- What reliable sightings of Raoul Wallenberg have been reported?
- What is the status of the search for the truth about Raoul Wallenberg?

Many students, teachers, researchers, authors, filmmakers, and interested members of the general public have raised

such questions. In response, Diane Blake, Vice Chairman and Director of Research for the Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States, has compiled a remarkable *Chronology of the Raoul Wallenberg Case*. With a deep personal dedication to unearth the truth about Raoul's disappearance, to ascertain his fate, and to "bring him home" to his family, Diane meticulously researched the entries listed in *The Chronology*, which presents readers with a detailed account of events dating from January 17, 1945 to January 12, 2001.

One sample of the reported sightings in *The Chronology* is:

*August 1987: Wallenberg reported being seen in*

***Testimony about Raoul Wallenberg being alive after 1947 cannot be dismissed. The burden of proof regarding the death of Raoul Wallenberg lies with the Russian Government.***

*Diane Blake*

*a prison camp 150 miles from Moscow. He had the flu in the summer of 1987 and was well again by October 1987. This information came from sources in Eastern Europe and was given to the Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States in New York in February 1988.*

*We were asked to pass the information to Swedish Government officials.*

All sources relied upon in the development of *The Chronology* are on file with The Raoul Wallenberg Committee of The United States. To see the entire *Chronology* and related news and updates, please contact the Committee's office or visit our web site: <http://www.raoulwallenberg.org>.



Diane Blake, Vice Chairman & Director of Research, The Raoul Wallenberg Committee of The United States

## EDUCATORS HAIL *HEROES* FROM HARLEM TO THE HEARTLAND

A STUDY OF HEROES has been used by more than 1,000,000 students in a wide diversity of settings from coast to coast including more than 500 Public, Parochial & Independent Schools (K-12+, Adult) in 48 states and in three foreign countries. Two examples are:

### HARLEM DAY CHARTER SCHOOL

In May 2006, Rachel Oestreicher Bernheim and Kathy Morin visited Harlem Day Charter School (grades K to 5), a Core Knowledge School (see "Core" on page 6) which has used HEROES for nearly two years. Rachel and Kathy were greeted by Patrice Ricciotti, Assistant Principal; met Keith Meacham, Director of Development; and attended a celebratory assembly marking the opening of the new school library. Patrice escorted Rachel and Kathy through hallways and classrooms festooned with students' HEROES work.

Afterwards, Patrice noted, "Walking around with you and getting the opportunity to actually see how some of our teachers are incorporating HEROES was exciting for me too. I am such a believer in A STUDY OF HEROES and the factual resources and ideas that it offers. It isn't often that we as educators can utilize such a resource with such ease. The resource kit is



Rachel O. Bernheim and Patrice Ricciotti, Assistant Principal at Harlem Day Charter School enjoy a HEROES class project.

user friendly enabling teachers to implement the lessons into many different units. As an educator, I find HEROES to be an invaluable resource that offers not only information to be passed on to students, but it offers ideas that can be accommodated across all grade levels. I have personally experienced A STUDY OF HEROES at the elementary level and have found activities that Kindergartners understand and fifth graders comprehend."



Raygiene DiAqui, Teacher at Harlem Day Charter School with her 2nd grade students' HEROES work. Photo by Patrice Ricciotti

### THE DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE, INDIANA Implemented HEROES in its 28 schools (pre-K to 12th grade) serving 8,000 students in twelve counties in Southwestern Indiana

In 2003, the Committee to Promote Respect in the Schools, a local inter-religious women's group, introduced HEROES to the Diocese of Evansville. At its invitation, Rachel and Kathy gave an all-day training session in Evansville to 120 teachers and administrators. During the school year, professional evaluators conducted an on-site evaluation. The results were very positive and inspirational. [See "Evaluations" on page 8.]

As a result, Dr. Phyllis Bussing, Director of Schools, wrote an article about the impact of HEROES for *Catholic Exchange*, October 2003. [See the entire article at: <http://www.raoulwallenberg.org>] In reflect-

ing upon HEROES, Dr. Bussing noted that:

"...the students themselves started recognizing each other for heroic acts. They began wanting to be heroic, not for any reward, but just because it was the right thing to do. ....I heard (teachers) talk about new heroes that the students wanted to study, and behavior that had positively changed. I listened as they told about improved vocabulary and writing skills, and a "gentleness" that had taken over their classrooms and, in some cases, their entire school....I saw young boys and girls who believed that they each had what it takes to be a hero. They truly understood that you don't have to be famous to be a hero. Being a hero might just mean being there for someone who needs your help. Any one of us might be called upon to do that at anytime just as Raoul Wallenberg did ... He did not do it for the glory. He did it because it was the right thing to do.... I believe (HEROES) has better prepared our students to be good citizens by teaching them to emulate the behavior of the men and women they studied this year. I trust that we have touched the hearts and lives of our students in a way they will embrace throughout their lives."



Dr. Phyllis Bussing, Director of Schools, The Diocese of Evansville, Indiana

## HEROES BOOKED AT NATIONAL CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Librarians and media specialists have always played an integral role in the development and use of HEROES. A "natural next-step" for the HEROES developers was to offer a workshop at the April 2006 National Catholic Library Association (CLA) Convention in Atlanta and simultaneously exhibit at the National Catholic Educational Association Convention.

A filled-to-capacity hotel conference room welcomed interested librarians to the HEROES presentation. Diane Blake, Vice Chairman and Director of Re-

search for the Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States, introduced the session by telling the story of Raoul Wallenberg with passion, expertise, and a keenly detailed accuracy. Tears welled up in eyes. A spellbinding quiet encompassed the room. Such are the responses of those who hear a life-changing story of a real hero,

Providing insights as to how a school library can serve as an instructional and research "hub" for the dissemination of heroes' stories, Dr. Kathleen Morin, the Committee's Director of Research, took the attendees on a "whirlwind tour" of the richly diverse and flexible HEROES resources. Participants engaged in reflection and a lively sharing of their own personal heroes.

In commenting on HEROES, Jean R. Bostley SSJ, CLA's Executive Director, observed "it is easy to understand that students can identify with heroes, and thus strengthen their value systems." She noted that participants at the HEROES presentation said what they learned "can be applied in the workplace."

While HEROES was "booked" at the Convention, librarians happily "checked it out."



Jean R. Bostley SSJ, Executive Director, Catholic Library Association and Kathy Morin at the CLA Conference in Atlanta



At CLA luncheon (left to right) Annette Thibodeaux, Library Director, Archbishop Chapelle High School, Metairie, Louisiana and Melinda Greenblatt, Executive Director, Library Connections at the Archdiocese of New York with Kathy Morin

# FRONT PAGE NEWS: ORIENT WELCOMES A STUDY OF HEROES

## PUTTING CHARACTER INTO THE CURRICULUM

### Orient School To Teach Wallenberg Program

..... So proclaimed the PAGE ONE below-the-fold headlines of Spokane's *The Spokesman-Review*, June 16th., 2006. In the wee hours of the morning on June 15th, staff writer Kevin Graman drove north for hours to reach Orient, a remote Washington mountain hamlet nestled alongside the clear roaring waters of the Kettle River and just minutes south of Canada's British Columbian border.

The newspaper believed that such press coverage was warranted. Tara Holmes, Principal of the historic Orient School, was welcoming A STUDY OF HEROES by introducing it at an all-day workshop for her faculty, staff, interested parents, and an assemblage of invited guests. Attendees came from as far east as Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and from as far west as the established Indian Lands on the far side of the



Historic Orient School constructed in 1910

mountains. Such diversity made for a lively dynamic during the workshop. The two presenters, Rachel Oestreicher Bernheim and Dr. Kathleen Morin of the Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States, hailed from New York City and were delighted to share HEROES with the audience; savor the scenic rural setting; enjoy the area's warm hospitality; and cross the Canadian border to dine with Tara at a rustic pub housed in a historic restored train-station.

Just months earlier, members of the Orient faculty and Board of Education had first encountered HEROES and met Rachel and Kathy at a National Core Knowledge Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Instantly, they recognized HEROES should be integrated within the Orient curriculum.

Greeting Rachel and Kathy as they drove into town was a bold sign that read "Welcome HEROES" and proudly boasted "The Orient School is an official Core Knowledge School" (see "Core", page 6.)

Reflecting on the workshop, Principal Holmes noted, "There were times when I actually became breathless .... Each hero (discussed during a group activity) had similar characteristics and they were vested in principles, not suffering ... Each activity created a personal approach to connecting with heroes."

Future plans and fast friendships were spontaneously generated by spending just 24 hours in Orient.



(Left to right) At the Orient School, Kathy Morin, Tara Holmes, Principal, and Rachel O. Bernheim



## A SPOKANE EDITORIAL RACHEL OESTREICHER BERNHEIM HER WORK: "FOUGHT HATRED FOR DECADES" HER LIFE: "HAS BLESSED OTHERS"

Editorial, *The Spokesman-Review*, Spokane, Washington, Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Six days after Rachel Oestreicher Bernheim and Kathy Morin presented A STUDY OF HEROES in Orient, *The Spokesman-Review*, the major regional newspaper headquartered in Spokane, featured on its editorial page Rachel's return to the area after a nineteen year hiatus ... referring to her as a *Messenger of Hope*. Of particular note, the editorial surveyed the nature of her work during the intervening years. [Excerpts from the editorial follow.]

"Bernheim, [Chairman and CEO] of The Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States, based in New York City, has spent most of her adult life passing on the values of Swedish diplomat Wallenberg, who disappeared into the Soviet Union prison system after saving thou-

sands of Hungarian Jews during World War II. She last visited this area in 1987 after her organization bestowed its first community service award on the city of Coeur d'Alene [Idaho] for its stand against the Aryan Nations."

"Nineteen years ago, Bernheim was instrumental in spotlighting Coeur d'Alene's determined battle to stop racist [Richard] Butler from expanding the beachhead he'd established in the 1970s at his 20-acre compound on the rimrock above Hayden Lake. Months earlier, the city had rallied around the late Bill Wassmuth, the leader of the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations, after his home was bombed by bigots with ties to the Aryan Nations. In a ceremony in New York City Hall, Wassmuth, the late Undersheriff Larry Broadbent and then-Mayor Ray Stone told

the world's media about Coeur d'Alene's fight against racism. And civil rights giant Bayard Rustin hailed Coeur d'Alene in a stirring speech as a white town in rural North Idaho that could teach New Yorkers how to get along."

In its concluding paragraph, the editorial referred to Rachel's work as having "fought hatred for decades" and her life as having "blessed others."



Founding members of Idaho's Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations Marshall Mend (left) and Norm Gissel, accompanied by his wife Dianna (right), reunite after 19 years with Rachel Oestreicher Bernheim (center) in Orient, Washington.

"Bernheim ...has traveled the country freely extolling the humanitarian virtue of her organization's namesake and other heroes who have made a difference by fighting hatred and prejudice ...  
The Spokesman-Review  
Editorial June 21, 2006



## HEROES AUTHOR RECEIVES COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY TEACHERS COLLEGE 2005 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

At a gala awards dinner at Columbia University on November 14, 2005, Arthur E. Levine, President of Teachers College, presented Dr. Kathleen Dunlevy Morin with the College's 2005 Distinguished Alumni Award citing her development, spanning several decades, of "insightful, creative, effective curricula" on a wide range of topics, for a diversity of populations, organizations, and educational venues.

Teachers College's 90,000 graduates include leading educators, psychologists, administrators, and other professionals. Each year, the Alumni Council honors the College's most extraordinary alumni with the Distinguished Alumni Award.

In presenting the Award to Dr. Morin, President Levine noted, "Your curriculum, *A STUDY OF HEROES*, is just one impressive example of your mastery of curriculum design and development."

At the Awards Dinner, President Levine continued to cite more of Kathy's achievements in curriculum and program development. In so doing, he noted her: creating a math fundamentals program in Appalachia for parents of her sixth grade students, who in one classroom ranged in age from 9 to 18; researching, writing, and developing for the NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development *House Sense*, a program in which 12 New York City agencies were brought together to educate children and adults about the history, maintenance, and preservation of the City's housing stock; working as the on-site curriculum developer for a South Bronx community-based organi-

zation to develop an independent-living skills program addressing the needs of a recently-homeless adult AIDS population; developing a school and neighborhood environmental program in Spanish Harlem; acting as a consultant to the Hunter College School of Social Work's Independent Living Skills Center; and from 1977 to 1983, serving at Teachers College as: an Instructor in Curriculum and Teaching; an Associate Director of its Preservice Program; and a Research Associate at its Institute of Philosophy and Politics of Education.



Kathy Morin

President Levine concluded, "Kathleen Morin, we honor you for your creative leadership, and for the energy and vision that permeate all aspects of your program and curriculum development."

Kathy serves as the Director of Education for the Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States and is the author, designer, and curriculum developer of *A STUDY OF HEROES* which was conceptualized by Rachel Oestreicher Bernheim, the Committee's Chairman and CEO. Since 1990, Morin and Bernheim, along with Diane Blake, the Committee's Vice Chairman, have worked extensively and collaboratively to bring HEROES and its wealth of instructional resources and services to educators and organizations nationwide.

Kathy holds a doctorate from Columbia University's Teachers College, as well as two master's degrees from Columbia University, and a third master's degree from Smith College. Morin is a graduate of Hollins College in Virginia, with a major in math-physics, and a second major in political science.

Her works also include: co-authoring a UNESCO nutrition education guide, field-tested in impoverished areas of Rio De Janeiro, Brazil; writing, designing, and illustrating *Our Place*, an apartment search curriculum for foster-care youth created for The South Bronx Human Development Organization and developed into an interactive CD by the New York State Dept. of Social Services; writing *Women Making History*, a curriculum for the NYC Commission on the Status of Women; creating an AARP *Women's History* multi-state survey and celebratory exhibit at The Atrium at the Citicorp Center in midtown Manhattan; developing the first teenage summer program for The Friends of the Zoo, a volunteer group within The New York Zoological Society; researching, writing, and implementing *A Centennial Resource Collection and Celebration* for Boys and Girls High School in Bedford-Stuyvesant; and consulting for more than two decades for Teachers Network by assisting teachers with professional development and, recently, with the creation of web-based curricula for online national and international use.

For an in-depth interview with Kathy, please see: [http://www.educationnews.org/writers/michael/An\\_Interview\\_with\\_Kathleen\\_Dunlevy\\_Morin\\_Distinguished\\_Award\\_Winner\\_from\\_Teachers\\_College\\_Columbia\\_University.htm](http://www.educationnews.org/writers/michael/An_Interview_with_Kathleen_Dunlevy_Morin_Distinguished_Award_Winner_from_Teachers_College_Columbia_University.htm)



## AT THE *CORE* OF IT: *A STUDY OF HEROES*



Since 1999, *A STUDY OF HEROES* has been featured annually in both workshops and exhibits at *CORE KNOWLEDGE* National Conferences. As a result, Core Knowledge Schools across the nation have joined the ranks of the many diverse educational programs and organizations currently using and enjoying HEROES.

In the April/May 2005 issue (vol. 17, #4) of *Common Knowledge*, Core Knowledge's newsletter, HEROES was introduced as a "marvelous product" to add to Core's resource list.

The newsletter's descriptive recommendation

noted that HEROES is an "educational and inspirational endeavor, one that is very well aligned to the Core Knowledge curriculum and values. In a culture bombarded with celebrity worship, this program helps children to distinguish between being a celebrity and being a hero ... All of the units feature excellent material to incorporate into character building programs, social studies, and language arts."

**What is Core Knowledge?** According to its own web site, it is an "educational reform movement" premised on the conviction that "a grade-by-grade core of com-

mon learning is necessary to ensure a sound and fair elementary education." Developing a culturally literate society is evidently at the "core" of it all.

The *Father* of the Core Knowledge Movement and the Core Knowledge Foundation, which started in 1986, is Professor E. D. Hirsch, Jr., professor *emeritus* at the University of Virginia.

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For more information about HEROES as a Core Knowledge resource, please visit:

[www.coreknowledge.org/CK/about/CommonKnowledge/v18II\\_2005/v18II\\_2005\\_Heroes.htm](http://www.coreknowledge.org/CK/about/CommonKnowledge/v18II_2005/v18II_2005_Heroes.htm)

PHOTO GALLERY



The Character Education Partnership (CEP)  
2005 National Forum in Atlanta, Georgia



At a May 2006 Reception held at Columbia University Teachers College, Kathy Morin (left) and Beth Chadwick Kasser (right), a Board Member of the Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States, join Arthur E. Levine (center), President of Teachers College.



In Philadelphia at the 2005 National Middle School Association Conference (NMSA), Diane Blake joins ranks with a Colonial officer and gentleman.

**Top Row** (left to right): Harold Holland, Assistant Principal, Perdue Academy, Pontiac, Michigan and Kathy Morin; Charlie Abourjilie, author, teacher, principal, coach, former North Carolina State Coordinator of Character Education, and Rachel O. Bernheim; Corina Morales, Curriculum Specialist, Fresno Unified School District, Fresno California, Rachel O. Bernheim and Christine Hollander of *Live Wire Media*; Tom Weekly, PhD, Systems Management Professor, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan and Rachel O. Bernheim.

**Second Row** (left to right): Rachel O. Bernheim and Marvin Berkowitz, member of CEP's Education Advisory Council and Sanford N. McDonnell Professor of Character Education, University of Missouri at St. Louis; Rachel O. Bernheim and Sanford 'Sandy' N. McDonnell, Chairman *Emeritus*, CEP; Kathy Morin, Seth Schapiro, President, *Wise Skills* and Rachel O. Bernheim; Jessica Ellis, Associate Director, *Character Counts* and Rachel O. Bernheim.

MEET **BETTY McGUINNESS**, EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

If you call the Manhattan-based office of the Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States, order A STUDY OF HEROES, or send a general e-mail to the Committee, it will often be Elizabeth C. McGuinness who will graciously assist you.

For more than a decade, Betty has worked for the Committee and currently serves as its Executive Administrator. In this capacity, Betty ensures a smooth, effective, and efficient working environment not only for fellow staff members and the Board of Directors but also for many visitors, consultants, supporters, and interested members of the general public.

A genuine New Yorker, Betty was born and raised in the City and now resides in Queens on a tree-covered street not far from white-sand Atlantic Ocean beaches.

Blessed with wisdom, common sense, patience and a healthy sense of humor, Betty raised successfully four sons and a daughter in the City. For more than a decade a widow, she faced many of the challenges and joys of motherhood as a single parent. Today, Betty revels in the role of being a first-time grandmother delighting in Hannah, her daughter Chrissie's baby.

Admired for her calm and calming demeanor, Betty is solidly grounded in both her inner-strength and deep faith. These attributes have proven invaluable not only in everyday life but also in times of crisis. On September 11th, 2001, Betty's spirit and resolve inspired others. Her daughter worked in Building #4 at the World Trade Center. Transit delays prevented her from arriving on time at her workplace and possibly saved her life. In contrast, two of Betty's

sons, Daniel and Robert, both NYC Firemen, did arrive at Ground Zero. Trying to locate and save the lives of others, they faced and survived the horrors of the scene.

In a subsequent interview, when asked who were their own "personal heroes," both Robert and Danny, without hesitation, named their own mother and father.

"Making a positive difference in the lives of others" and heroism seem to be a "way of life" for members of the McGuinness family.



Betty McGuinness with her first grandchild, Hannah Murphy

**THE RAOUL WALLENBERG COMMITTEE  
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EVALUATIONS SHOW *HEROES* TO BE A **H♥I♥T♥**

Philliber Research Associates, independent professional evaluators, conducted two comprehensive research and evaluation studies (in schools and in prisons) about the use and impact of A STUDY OF HEROES. Quantitative and qualitative data were gathered and analyzed. The findings were quite profound and very positive. Please contact The Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States for more information about the reports. A revealing sampling of qualitative data follows:

**After using HEROES in schools (K-12),**

**5th Grade STUDENTS Observed:**

- "People were trying to be role models and leaders."
- "Everybody was being a little nicer to people."
- "Everybody was in a better mood."
- "People were more open to other people's feelings."
- "People started hanging out with people they didn't hang out with before."
- "People were helping more."

**Their Teacher Noted That:**

- "They (the students) have become gentler and they're willing to work together more."

**Faculty, Staff, and Administrators Cited:**

- "HEROES really has made the students see the POSITIVE in our world! THANKS!" —A Teacher
- "I saw a couple of seventh graders this semester really turn around...What was really inspiring to these students was their grades improved. Their motivation improved." —A Counselor

• "HEROES ... is very easy because everything is teacher friendly. The packets have been developed for very easy implementation and that's what I heard back from the teachers."  
—A Principal

• "No longer were only celebrities, fictional characters, and athletes named as heroes. Suddenly grandmothers, dads, aunts and uncles serving in the armed forces, policemen/women, custodians, and nurses were seen as the everyday heroes among us."

— District Director, Schools (K-12)



**After using HEROES in prisons,**

**Inmates Say:**

- "It (HEROES) can teach me positive things and maybe one day my son will call me his hero."
- "Being able to guide others in the right direction so that their life isn't wasted through incarceration is worth accomplishing."
- "(HEROES should be) available to the whole compound, not just for students."

**Prison Teachers Note HEROES Impact:**

- "This curriculum (HEROES) is ideal for the pre-GED classroom due to their reading level."
- "Better reading, reasoning skills, & cultural awareness."

• "We teach at a maximum security prison. Most men have not developed a philosophy to get them through. (HEROES) is a blessing."

• "I have witnessed a definite improvement in students' attitudes toward other cultures and ethnic groups."

• "Morale has improved."  
• "There has definitely been growth in student patience and cooperation with school teachers and administrators as a result of this project."

• "Most students (inmates) involved in the HEROES Project have more confidence in their abilities to turn their lives around. There is more hope for the future."

• "Greater cultural awareness, expanded view of history and geography and accepting divergent viewpoints."

• "They reluctantly realized that even behind bars they could be a positive influence on not only fellow convicts but amongst staff and civilians."

• "The students at this prison have some of the longest sentences ... Optimism is hard to induce. (HEROES) in difficult settings has much to say."

**An Acting Director, Office of Educational Services, A State Department of Corrections says:**

• "I would surely rally to have (HEROES) introduced to other corrections facilities nationwide and adult school programs...The students/inmates have been receptive to it. Actually, they've used it in various ways in a multitude of different teaching styles and writing assignments. ....As far as the activities, the inmates have found it very educational and some of them have even said it was fun."