



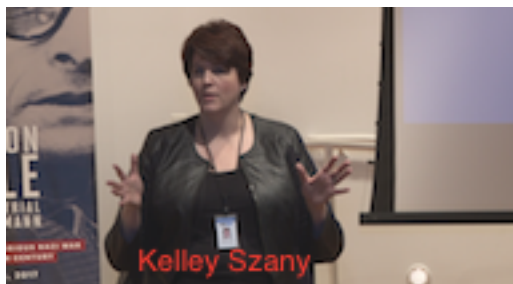
THE ASIA MINOR AND PONTOS HELLENIC RESEARCH CENTER

AMPHRC

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AMPHRC TEAMS WITH ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM FOR WORKSHOP ON THE GENOCIDE OF GREEKS OF ASIA MINOR

(Chicago) - A group of nearly 50 teachers from Chicago area middle schools and high schools received what they described as “an eye opening lesson” about the genocide of the Greeks of Asia Minor at the hands of the Ottoman Turks. The group was part of a one-day workshop at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center.



Kelley Szany, who is Director of Education for the center noted, “To be able to share what I think is a terribly important history of the first genocide of the 20th Century, with our educators, was really important to us as not only a museum and memorial, but also as an educational center”

Until the workshop, most of the teachers admitted they had never heard of this genocide of the Greek populations in Asia Minor, Pontos and Eastern Thrace. A genocide that occurred from 1913 to 1923 when more than 700,000 Greeks were killed and another 1.2 million more were expelled from their ancestral land of 3,000 years.

Workshop presenter and educator Ron Levitsky, offered guidance on how the teachers could apply what they learned in the workshop to their classrooms. Levitsky noted, “A lot of them admitted they knew very little or anything about the Greek genocide and that they were very grateful to receive the information”.



Proviso West High School teacher Nike Natschke says she’s eager to share the story of the genocide of the Greeks of Asia Minor and Pontos with her students, declaring “It will be a great source of information for them.”

Fellow Proviso West High School teacher and main workshop presenter, Anastasia Skoupas-Spiridis also shared lesson plans from the AMPHRC **Teaching Guides**. *According to Skoupas-Spiridis, “The Teaching Guides are valuable not only to the Greek Genocide, but also for the teaching of tolerance and acceptance of different cultures*



The workshop was organized in conjunction with the Asia Minor and Pontos Hellenic Research Center, whose president is George Mavropoulos. “This is the first time we have American teachers from the area to learn about our the history of our ancestors from Asia Minor and our ‘Forgotten Genocide,’ remarked Mavropoulos.



AMPHRC President George Mavropoulos called the workshop, “A great success.” He indicated that he hopes to sponsor future discussions of the genocide of the Greeks of Asia Minor at the National Hellenic Museum in Chicago’s Greek town.



Thea Halo

Among the highlights of the workshop was the personal appearance by author Thea Halo whose book, "Not Even My Name," is the vivid firsthand account of her mother, Sano Halo's struggle and survival during a brutal death march. Halo reminded the teachers, "Genocides, including the massacre of Pontian Greeks, occur when the masses are silent. When they don't stand up and when they don't speak out."

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"Preserving the Hellenic Heritage and History of Asia Minor and Pontos"