

HAL KESSLER, who is a graduate of Central High School and received his MA in History at Temple University, undertook a career in education that can only be described as exemplary. Look in the dictionary under educator and you will find a picture of Hal. Through a long and amazing career Hal taught English at Stetson Junior High, and Social Studies at Lincoln High School before coming to Northeast High School first as a Social Studies teacher and then as the Department Head. He left Northeast HS to become a Social Studies Curriculum Specialist at the Philadelphia Board of Education. It was there that he chaired the committee that wrote America's first School District Holocaust curriculum in 1977. This great group of educators helped pave the way to provide quality curricula for schools throughout the area and the nation. After "retiring," Hal became the Project Director for the World Affairs Council's Schools of Excellence Program. We then snapped him up to be our Museum's first Education Director at the recommendation of co-honoree Donald Wittenberg. In his copious spare time Hal taught evening school at Northeast and Franklin High Schools, and has served as an educational consultant for publishing companies, schools and nonprofit organizations. In short, we feel honored to be honoring him.

DONALD WITTENBERG has been actively involved in the Holocaust Awareness Museum for many years beginning with the Museum's move to Gratz College in Olney when he lent the Museum a number of artifacts that his father had brought home from WWII. When the Museum moved into the Klein JCC in 2000, Don became both Curator and Vice-President for the re-envisioned Museum. He also puts on additional "hats" such as chairing the Program Book committee (the past several years), and serving on the Education and Events Committees as well as other committees. His professional background is in education, first as a teacher, then as an elementary school principal, and finally as a Facilities Planner (the educational eyes on many school construction projects). He completed his 42-1/2 year career as a consultant to a charter school developing a policy manual for daily operations.

Don is the recipient of a number of awards and special recognitions. Among these are the B'nai B'rith Educators Unit's (BBEU) Educator of Excellence Award and Youth Service Appeal Award. He has served as President of this unit and now as chaplain for the past ten years. He also continues to serve on this B'nai B'rith unit's Executive Board and Board of Trustees (over 20 years). He has also been recognized in Outstanding Young Men of America and Who's Who in American Education. He is also the only non-Italian to be recognized by the Columbus Forum Lodge 1492 with its "Unity Award" for recognition of his work on diversity awareness with various educational ethnic group organizations within the School District of Philadelphia.

Joining in celebrating Don's contributions to our museum are his wife, Bonnie, and children, Steven and Jennifer, and Jan, and his granddaughter, Lilly.

Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center 55th Anniversary Annual Auction and Fundraiser

**Honoring Hal Kessler and Donald Wittenberg
and Celebrating the Legacy of Our
Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center**

**Saturday, November 12, 2016 | 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Philmont Country Club
301 Tomlinson Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006**

\$95 individual; \$175 per couple

For reservations, contact info@hamec.org or 215.464.4701

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