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Notes from editor (not for publication):

Added some background from [the exhibit itself](#).



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Teaching the greatest inhumanity by focusing on the
2 humanity

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3 'Anne Frank: A History for Today' will let BUHS students,
4 and the community, learn about the Holocaust through the eyes
5 of a young teen in hiding

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6 TEXT BODY:

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7 When Brattleboro Union High School (BUHS) social
8 studies teacher Lindsay Levesque was about 12 or 13, she read
9 *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank.
10 It was her introduction to the Holocaust.

11 "I remember talking to my dad about it," she recalls. "My
12 other Holocaust connection is that my mom's best friend is an
13 immigrant from Hungary whose mother was a Holocaust
14 survivor."

15 Levesque jumped at the idea of bringing the exhibit
16 "Anne Frank: A History for Today" to BUHS, where the school
17 community can see it from Friday, April 10 to Wednesday, April
18 29.

19 The exhibit is on loan from the Anne Frank Center at the
20 University of South Carolina. It was developed to introduce 11-to-
21 18-year-old students to the life of Frank, a German Jewish girl
22 whose family had fled to Amsterdam in 1933, almost
23 immediately after Adolf Hitler's rise to power and measures to
24 persecute Jews in Germany.

25 "Her family had to escape their home in Germany
26 because of discrimination, and they thought they found safety in
27 the Netherlands until the German war and takeover of
28 Netherlands, and they are forced into hiding," Levesque says.

29 In 1942, Frank, her family, and the others hid from Nazis
30 along with four other German refugees in an attic for two years
31 until they were captured. Throughout the ordeal, Frank, who
32 dreamed of being a journalist, wrote in her diary, chronicling the
33 day-to-day survival through the eyes of an adolescent girl.

34 They were eventually sent to Auschwitz, where Anne
35 Frank died of typhus.

36 Otto Frank, Anne's father, was the only member of the
37 family to survive the Holocaust. His secretary had kept Anne's
38 diary safe and gave it to Otto after his liberation.

39 Anne Frank's diary was published in 1947. "For many,
40 Anne Frank has become a symbol of the Holocaust: the
41 systematic murder of six million human beings," one panel in the
42 exhibit says.

Antisemitism rises as memories

of Holocaust dim

Two other Vermont high schools have hosted this exhibit so far this year: Bellows Free Academy in Fairfax and Mill River Union High School in Clarendon. Though the exhibit is primarily meant for students, each school hosts a community night for members of the public.

According to publicity materials, knowledge of the Holocaust and Nazi death camps has plummeted in recent years and acts of antisemitism have increased dramatically, especially in Vermont, where the Anti-Defamation League says the number of reported instances of harassment, vandalism and assault went from six to 43 in a year's time — the second-highest increase of antisemitism and hate crimes per capita in the country.

Thirty states now mandate Holocaust and genocide studies in K-12 schools, but Vermont is not one of them yet. A bill was introduced in the Legislature but will likely die in committee this biennium.

Using 32 museum-quality vinyl display panels, “Anne Frank: A History for Today” recounts the story of the Holocaust through the eyes of the Frank family during their years of hiding.

“Prejudice and discrimination still exist today and people have to leave their homes because of prejudice and discrimination all over the world because of religion, sexual orientation, race, because of the way they identify,” Levesque says, noting the enduring relevance of Frank’s story.

As part of the agreement for hosting the exhibit, “our students are trained as tour guides, and they are the ones who will give tours,” Levesque says. “There will be 19 students — 11th and 12th graders — who will be trained on April 8 and 9. The Anne Frank Center sends two people to train them.”

One of these students, Maeve Bald, 18, of Brattleboro, a senior, says she is looking forward to being a guide to the exhibit “so in the future nothing like this can ever happen again.”

77 "I think it's so important that survivor's stories are told
78 and our current population needs to be educated on this horrific
79 genocide," Bald says. "Unfortunately, a lot of the survivors will
80 not be around much longer because of their age. We need to
81 learn from history so it doesn't repeat itself."

82 **'Even in little pieces you can** 83 **help'**

84 Levesque's path to the classroom included courses at
85 Keene State College, where she majored in history and "took a
86 variety of courses on the Holocaust," she says.

87 She has an advanced degree from Gratz College in
88 Holocaust and genocide studies, and she teaches an elective on
89 the topic.

90 Levesque wants to thank the Vermont Holocaust
91 Memorial, which helped fund costs for shipping the exhibit and
92 training the student docents. "They are the ones who contacted
93 me and asked if I was interested in bringing it to BUHS. I
94 wouldn't have done it without them initiating that," she said.

95 Levesque calls Otto Frank's survival "an important piece
96 of the story."

97 "That story of help and support and support systems is
98 really important," she says. "That is a message for us today. Even
99 in little pieces you can help. There were so many people that
100 helped procure food and items they needed. That was a system of
101 rescue."

102 Levesque tears up as she says, "Look at Anne when she
103 was young, the friends she had, the relationship she had with her
104 sister. The school she attended. It's so important to understand
105 who she was as a whole person and not just a victim.

106 "That's what strikes me," she continues. "It's about the
107 humanity."

108 The importance in teaching the greatest inhumanity is to
109 focus on the humanity, Levesque says. "That's how we move
110 forward and prevent them from happening again."

111 * * *

112 *The public is invited to Community Night on Tuesday,*
113 *April 14 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. to see the exhibit.*

114 *The evening begins with a reception at Brattleboro Area*
115 *Middle School's multipurpose room, 109 Sunny Acres, at 6:30*
116 *p.m. The student-led tour takes place in the BUHS Multipurpose*
117 *room.*

118 *For more information, email Lindsay Levesque at BUHS*
119 *at llevesque@wsesdvt.org.*

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