

Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut

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ROMANA STROCHLITZ PRIMUS, PRESIDENT

JEROME E. FISCHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut (JFEC) is pleased to offer two unique educational programs for high school students in the Eastern Connecticut area,

Encountering Survivors and Encountering Differences.

Programs of the JFEC

ENCOUNTERING SURVIVORS

Tammy Kaye, Coordinator

ENCOUNTERING DIFFERENCES

Tammy Kaye, Coordinator

Encountering Differences Advisory Committee

Jerry Fischer

Lonnie Braxton

Rev. Florence Clarke

Bettye Fletcher Comer

Rev. Tryphena Evans

Jason Jones

Donetta D. Hodge

Romana Primus

Linda Smith

The JFEC is a member agency of the United Way of SE Connecticut



Encountering Survivors

Our Encountering Survivors program connects small groups of students with children of Holocaust survivors in Southeastern Connecticut to learn detailed accounts of their parents' experiences. Through a series of small group interactions, students learn about the survivors' childhood, WWII experiences, liberation and immigration to the US. Groups also discuss historical and modern anti-Semitism and learn the devastating effects when racism, stereotyping and prejudice are prevalent.

Encountering Differences

Similar to Encountering Survivors, Encountering Differences connects small groups of students with African Americans in Southeastern Connecticut. Through a series of small group interactions, the students learn the personal history of these African American families and their experiences relating to race. Topics vary according to host backgrounds and may include segregation, the migration North, the Civil Rights movement, and systemic racism. Current acute manifestations of racism are also explored.

Program Meetings and Goals

Teachers meet with JFEC Program Coordinator to obtain detailed program information. Teachers then select 5 – 6 students to participate for the school year. Students and teachers participating meet at a central location for a program orientation including oral interview instruction. Students and teachers will meet with their program host for a series of three meetings which take place during the school day at the host's home, place of employment or other community locations. The small group settings create opportunities for students to increase knowledge, enable understanding and develop personal connections that foster empathy. Both programs strive to help students draw lessons from current and past events, break down racial and cultural barriers, and confront hatred and prejudice.

Field Trip

The program includes a culminating day trip to NYC with guided tours of museums and historic sites as well as cultural experiences to enhance the students' program experience.

Culminating Projects

Students create projects highlighting their most impactful insights from their program experience. Students present at a culminating program attended by all program participants and can also share their projects through school exhibits, school assemblies, and classes. In developing their presentations and throughout the program, students are encouraged to think about how they can promote change and advocacy in their school and greater communities as well as examine their own responsibilities in creating a just society.

Contact Tammy Kaye, strochlitzhrc@gmail.com, (860) 442-8062 for additional information or to enroll for the 2019-2020 school year.