

# The Elkhart Way

E L K H A R T C O M M U N I T Y S C H O O L S

### DID YOU KNOW?

- There are thirty articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- The UDHR was written by nine people representing nine countries. Eleanor Roosevelt was the US representative and chair of the Commission.
- It was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948 as a vow of the International Community to never again allow the atrocities like those that happened during World War II.

### SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER

Speak Truth to Power is a project of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Center. It is a global initiative that uses examples of courageous defenders from around the world to teach about human rights. Issues range from slavery and environmental activism to religious self-determination and political participation. The Speak Truth to Power curriculum has been taught to millions of students in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the United States. It demonstrates the capacity of each individual to create change.

Human rights are those basic standards without which people cannot live with dignity. To violate someone's human rights is to treat that person as though he or she is not a hu-

man being. Human rights principles hold a vision of a free, just, and peaceful world and set minimum standards for how individuals and institutions should treat people.

Karen Robinson from the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights was in Elkhart to train our first cohort of teachers in Speak Truth to Power. This training consisted of ten teachers representing Elkhart Central High School academies. In addition twelve Move2Stand sponsors attended the training. Teachers learned about the Defenders identified by the RFK Center and how to incorporate their stories and the human rights declaration into their teaching plans. The Move2Stand sponsors worked on incorporating

the Universal Human Rights Declaration into the activities of the Move2Stand clubs. They developed the criteria for nominating a local Defender to be recognized for their work in promoting human rights. You will soon see a video prepared by students announcing the nomination process. Be thinking about a local defender you want to nominate.

**"Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world."** Preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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### SAVE THE DATE FOR EVA KOR

February 23, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lerner Theater in downtown Elkhart will be an event you do not want to miss!

Eva Mozes Kor is a survivor of the Holocaust who, with her twin sister Miriam, was subjected to human experimentation under Josef Mengele at Auschwitz. Both of her parents and two older sisters were killed at the camp; only she and Miriam survived.

Eva Mozes Kor is the author of a

number of books on her experience. She is the founder of the Holocaust Museum and Education center in Terre Haute, Indiana, and the C.A.N.D.L.E.S., an acronym for *Children of Auschwitz Nazi's Deadly Lab Experiments Survivors*. This organization of the Mengele Twins has located and reunited many survivors of the experiments and is dedicated *"to heal the pain,*

*to teach the truth, to prevent prejudice."*

Plans are being made for her to interact with some of our high school students during the day.

Her visit is part of the Elkhart Community Schools Equity and Intercultural Relations cultural series "Continuing the Conversation", sponsored by the Elkhart Education Foundation and the Elkhart County Community Foundation.

## TEACH FOR JUSTICE

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1948, seeks to outline protections against human rights atrocities for all people, all around the world. Share the declaration's list of inalienable rights and fundamental freedoms with your students. Would you and your students add anything today? Here are some resources to explore this topic with your students.

**Readings for Pearl Harbor**

Lessons about the Pearl Harbor attack acknowledge the resulting inhumane treatment of Japanese Americans by the U.S. government. For

K-1, try pairing *Manzanar, 1942*— a series of photographs — and *A Place Where Sunflowers Grow*— a children's story —to show students the perspective of interned Japanese Americans during World War II.

**Father, Daughter and the Holocaust**

In *Story Corps* recording, appropriate for grades 6–8, Debbie Fisher describes learning about her father's true experience as a Holocaust survivor after she grew up hearing a gentler version. She realizes as an adult that her father endured the same horrific treatment in Auschwitz that Elie Wiesel wrote of in his autobiographi-

cal account, *Night*.

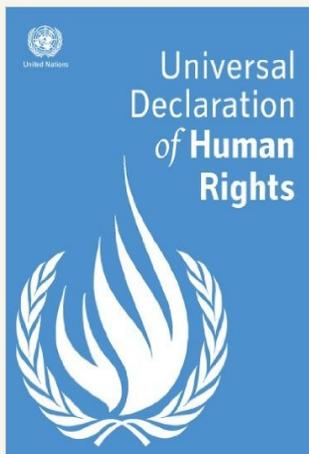
**The Breadwinner** In this story by Deborah Ellis for grades 3-5, Parvana lives with her family in Afghanistan. Under Taliban rule, women and girls like Parvana are forbidden to leave their homes or go to school. Though her rights and freedoms are restricted, Parvana regularly goes to the marketplace with her father, who needs her help walking and who believes in education for everyone.

**On Liberty and Slavery** Written by George Moses Horton, who was born into slavery, this 1829 poem pleads with liberty, personified, to break

slavery's chains. Leveled for students in grades 9-12, this poem holds steadfast to the promise of justice and dignity for all people and offers a final powerful message: "The storm shall calm,/ With songs of Liberty!"

All of these resources can be found at <http://perspectives.tolerance.org/central-text-antology> where they are listed in alphabetical order.

Taken from *Teaching Tolerance: Perspectives for a Diverse America December 1, 2016*



Organized by grade level categories, *Do Something* provides numerous activities that allow students to demonstrate their awareness and learning about diversity through tasks that build civic engagement and critical literacy skills. For example: In *Tweeting for Change* (6-

## DO SOMETHING

12) students plan and host a Twitter chat to raise awareness and take action on a social justice issue. Equipped with student handouts, a rubric and connections for ELL students, this task has everything you need to help your students use social media

to organize for justice. These resources can be found at <http://perspectives.tolerance.org/tasksandstrategies>. Taken from *Teaching Tolerance: Perspectives for a Diverse America May 31, 2016*

## CLASSDOJO IS TEACHING KIDS EMPATHY

Empathy is a skill that anyone can build. ClassDojo and Harvard University's Making Caring Common Project collaborated to create a three-episode video series all about empathy. In video Chapter 1 the Mojo and Class Dojo monsters put on a school musical, but face a

big obstacle as Mojo's ego gets in the way. In Chapter 2 your class will learn about the maze concept as Mojo learns how different emotions get in the way of his (and his team's) success. In Chapter 3 Class Dojo Monsters share how anyone can get out of the maze with a

little bit of practice. In class and at-home discussion guides and activities accompany each video chapter to help strengthen your students' empathy skills. For the videos and study guides go to:

<https://ideas.classdojo.com/b/empathy>



ANNE FRANK EXHIBIT

In preparation for Eva Kor’s visit to Elkhart Community Schools, a traveling Anne Frank exhibit will be in town January and February. A schedule for middle and high school students to go through the exhibit is being developed. There will also be opportunity for the public to tour the exhibit. Dates and times will be distributed when available.

High school Move2Stand leadership students will be trained as docents for the exhibit tours. These students had an opportunity to tour the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie, Illinois in preparation for their docent training.

The museum tour was an eye opening



experience for the students—and the staff accompanying them. The day

culminated with a conversation with a survivor—Eve—who was sent to a ghetto in Shanghai. Eve noticed the Move2Stand shirts they were wearing and reminded them of the importance of doing what the shirt says: “Stand up. Speak out.”

To prepare for a visit to the Anne Frank exhibit, there are a number of books you can read:

**Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl** by Anne Frank and B. M. Mooyaart

**Maus: My Father Bleeds History** by Art Speigleman, and **Night** by Elie Wiesel

FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Illustrated version**, published December 2015 by UN. Can be viewed at <http://www.un.org/en/udhrbook/> Can be purchased at Shop.UN.org. ISBN: 9789211013146

**The Formative Five: Fostering Grit, Empathy, and Other Success Skills Every Student Needs** There is a

growing awareness that our graduates need much more than mastery of the three R’s to make it in the world. Here is a resource to help students develop 5 formative skills: Empathy, Self-control, Integrity, Embracing Diversity and Grit. An on-line study guide is included. Can be ordered at <http://www.ascd.org/books-publications.aspx>

**Gifts From the Enemy**, by Trudy Ludwig. In this true and moving story, Alter Wiener, a teen survivor of five Nazi prison camps during WW II, transports young readers back in time when an unexpected person demonstrated moral courage in repeated acts of kindness toward him. This children’s nonfiction book shows how acts of social justice and kindness can change lives.

DATES

**December 2016**, Universal Human Rights Month

**January 5-March 1, 2017** Traveling Anne Frank Exhibit

**January 16-20, 2017** No Name Calling Week

**February 6-10, 2017**, Random Acts of Kindness Week

**February 23, 2017** Conversation with Eva Kor, Lerner Theater, 6:30 p.m.

**March, 2017** National Disabilities Awareness Month

**March 21, 2017** The Elkhart Way spring planning session 7:30-11:00 secondary, 12:00-3:30 elementary

**March 27-30, 2017** Trudy Ludwig visit to ECS

**April, 2017** National Child Abuse Prevention Month

**April 21, 2017**, Day of Silence

**April 27, 2017** Pay it Forward Day

“It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped.”

Robert F. Kennedy

**May 2017**, Mental Health Awareness Month

**May 5, 2017**, Million T-Shirt March

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT  
WWW.ELKHART.K12.IN.US



**ELKHART**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Report Bullying  
and  
Safety Concerns



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**With great sadness we say goodbye  
to Deb and wish her well in her  
retirement!**

The Elkhart Community Schools is committed to providing a caring and safe environment for all our students. The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports are two initiatives to help us accomplish this goal. We are working hard on planning and implementing these initiatives so well they are embedded in the fabric of our life together—they are no longer initiatives but rather just the way we do things in our schools.

If other area agencies, schools, or individuals are interested in working with us on these initiatives feel free to call Mary or Deb to learn more about how to be involved.



## NEWS FROM A CLASSROOM

Do you know someone you think should be recognized as a local defender of human rights? You will soon have an opportunity to nominate him or her to be recognized at the Eva Kor event on February 23. This person can be anyone—a student, educator, or community member who fits the following criteria:

**Brave** - having courage in the face of fear.

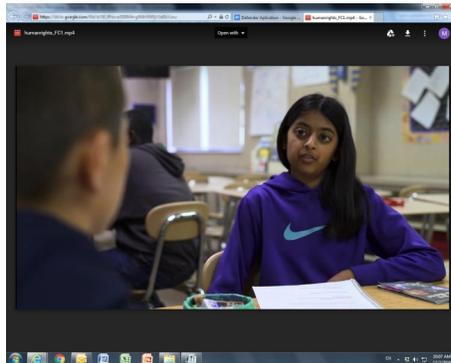
**Loyal** - support people in good and bad.

**Determination** - doesn't lose sight of the end goal.

**Civic Minded** - shows concern for the community.

**Inspirational** - motivates others to want to be better.

The nominator will be required to write a short essay on why they are nominating this person and how they exemplify the character traits of bravery, loyalty, determination, civic mindedness, and inspiration.



Lisa McKee's students in her Community Philanthropy and Human Rights class at West Side Middle School have been studying the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They recently completed a video highlighting 6 of the 30 human rights.

You can find the video at [https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B\\_fPesneJDIBaExXY3IWNm1MLTg/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_fPesneJDIBaExXY3IWNm1MLTg/view)

Kindness Boards are popping up all over ECS—the most recent one can be found near the teachers lounge at Eastwood Elementary School. The sixth grade class have filled it with kind word sticky notes. Anyone is free to take one if they feel the need for some kindness. They are also encouraged to give one to someone else who may need a little kindness. The 6th grade students kept the sticky notes replenished throughout November.

Where will the next Kindness Wall pop up?

**"A simple act of kindness can make a tremendous impact on a person's life."**

anonymous