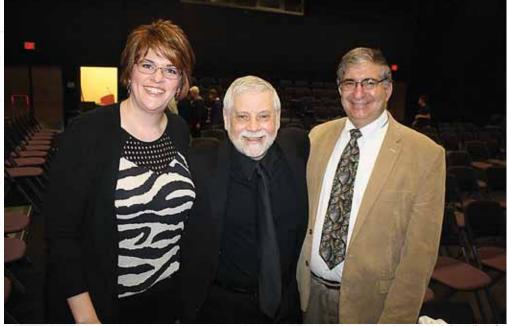
Author Edwin Black appears at Lakeview

Shelly Sulser Executive Editor

"From Holocaust History to Today's Headlines" an insider briefing for students and faculty was the topic when 11-time Pulitzer Prize nominated author Edwin Black visited Lakeview High School last Thursday.

His presentation to the social studies classes was the centerpiece, he said, of his six city, 12presentation tour of Michigan, from Flint to Grand Rapids leading up to International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom Hashoah, observed Monday, April 24.

"The reason I'm doing all of this is because of this school," he told the students, along with some other third period classes. "That's because all of the students in this school should consider themselves very, very fortunate to be in a nurturing envi-



Former Michigan legislator Kate Segal, left, helped pass into law Holocaust education in schools. In center is author Edwin Black and at right is Gary Lincoln. (Shopper News photo by Shelly Sulser)

ronment."

The tour was organized by Lakeview High School librarian, Dr. Margaret Lincoln and by the Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center, where he also spoke on Thursday, this time about "Nazi Policy and Black Victims-from Africa to Berlin to North Carolina.'

Black's whose own parents met when they both escaped cattle cars that transported loads of Jews to one of four kinds of concentration camps in the years leading up to World War II.

"She was hunted down by the local militia, was shot and buried in a mass grave and my father who himself had escaped from a shooting pit," Black told the students, "he found her in the

woods and pulled her out, found her in the snow in this mass grave and they lived there for two years, in the woods."

According to Kate Segal, former 62nd Dist. State Rep. from Battle Creek who attended the presentation, Lincoln is a champion for the students.

"She does so much for this community, it's unbelieveable,"

Continued next page

Dr. Margaret Lincoln of Lakeview High School, right, orga-

nized a six city, 12-event series in Michigan for Pulitzer Prize nominated author, Edwin Black, left, as part of Holocaust Remembrance Day which was Monday, April 24. He spoke to Lakeview students Thursday morning and is shown here headed to the Federal Center for another appearance. (Shopper News photo by Shelly Sulser)

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tunities for all students in the greater Battle Creek area regardless of which school or district they attend.

They agreed to meet regularly to develop a strategy for the inter-district collaboration with support from the CDI and the The group also announced a

one-day learning session for school district leaders to participate in professional development training about educational

The goal is to promote learning about equity and cultural competence in all four districts.

"Although the work through BCVision has led us to this historic joint meeting, we are just starting to review the data to make decisions," said Tim Everett, superintendent of Pennfield Schools. "The area superintendents, along with other stakeholders, will collaborate to identify and provide the support needed for each student to succeed."

School leaders made the commitment to convene while attending the NEP's Leading for Equity Institute in Chicago in late March.

Their participation in that summit was prompted by the NYU education study.

The nine-person Battle Creek team attending the institute included Carter; Art McClenney, BCPS School Board president; Dave Peterson, superintendent of the Lakeview School District; Kathleen Moore, Lakeview School Board member; Rob Ridgeway, superintendent of Harper Creek Community Schools; Lisa Hubbard, Harper Creek School Board member; Duckham, principal of Pennfield High School; Abby Green, Pennfield School Board member, and Zeballos.

"The NYU study highlighted a strong need to provide equitable educational opportunities for Battle Creek's most vulnerable students," said Ridgeway. "All four public school districts in the Battle Creek area have vulnerable students and coming together to help them will increase the educational outcomes for all."

While the study also pointed to some positive news - access to early childhood education and graduation rates meet or exceed national averages throughout Battle Creek - results also showed the Battle Creek education system at large is failing many of its students.

Conversations about racial and economic equity in education have been supported through BCVision, which has made the city's education system and a commitment to equity the center of its strategy for revitalizing the city of Battle Creek.

When I'm at the YMCA, Meijer, Menards or Taco Bell, I see Bearcat, Panther, Beaver and Spartan sweatshirts. We really are one community," said Peterson. "It only makes sense to start acting like one community. By addressing our issues collaboratively, the entire Battle Creek area will thrive. We have to persevere and make this work successful."

Tabron told the boards at the beginning of the meeting that the WKKF was founded by W.K. Kellogg on a premise of what education should be to young

"Many of you may even know that when Mr. Kellogg started the foundation in 1931, the first grant he made was to the consolidated schools of Barry County," she said. "Interestingly enough, his issue was he wanted to make sure that at that time, those children in rural schools were being educated with the same intentionality of at that point what he believed urban schools were receiving.

"And today," she continued "here we are again to talk about education equity in Battle

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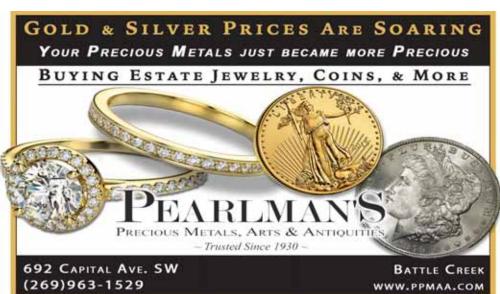
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"Every man's nightmare is every other man's nightmare," author, Edwin Black tells social studies students at Lakeview High School Thursday in Battle Creek as part of his "From Holocaust History to Today's Headlines" presentation. (Shopper News photo by Shelly Sulser)



Lakeview student Myles Hoenes reads a New York Times headline from the late 1930s (date obscured) which reads: "Nazis hint purge of Jews in Poland" showing that the U.S. knew what was happening in Europe. (Shopper News photo by Shelly Sulser)

From previous page

said Segal, a Lakeview parent. "She does Yoemans work and we should all appreciate it."

Segal has also contributed to public education about the Holocaust when she helped sponsor a bill that became law requiring Holocaust eduction in schools.

"That is something I think we need to remind people of that if you ignore it," said Segal, "and if you pretend it didn't exist then it will happen again and that is what Holocaust remembrance is about, is to remember, to not forget so it doesn't happen again."

In fact, Black's presentation exposed to the Lakeview students how U.S. companies that still exist today helped Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich in Berlin carry out the industrial massacre of six million Jews and a total of about 10 million people of other nationalities.

In fact, The Race Betterment Foundation that promoted eugenics (the elevation of one race over the others via sterilization) held conferences in Battle Creek in the years leading up to World War I.

"Where do you think the Race Betterment organization was located?" Black asked the students. "Battle Creek. Right here. So, I wanted people to know and the reason it took so long for this to come out was because a lot of local media, and even the national media that depend on advertising are very, very protective and once people missed it, they felt uncomfortable, the stories that they missed, all this information and so, that was my mission and every person need to have a mission.'

Black said two of the Michigan companies that provided machinery to Hitler's efforts to round up and exterminate bankers, lawyers, doctors and other innocent people he despised because of their Jewish religion (which Black said was misinterpreted by Hitler as their blood) have acknowledged what

"Part of it did happen here. A lot of people chose to ignore what was happening and what they were hearing from overseas and frankly took part in it and helped. It's very distressing to know that can still happen and did happen."

Kate Segal, former state legislator

they did.

The companies, Ford and G.M. now promote Holocaust education.

"They have contributed," said Black. "Money doesn't do it but they have contributed to learning, they have contributed to understanding."

Ford Motor Co. has sponsored The Schindler List, the Jewish book fair and GM has done the same, Black said.

One other prominent company has not only not admitted its critical role in creating a system for counting and categorizing people leading up to their extermination in the late 1930s and early 1940s, there are no documents verifying its involvement, according to Black.

Black, however, was able to obtain German documentation that chronicles the U.S. company's cooperation and participation n the Holocaust.

"Part of it did happen here," said Segal. "A lot of people chose to ignore what was happening and what they were hearing from overseas and frankly took part in it and helped encourage it and knew what was happening.

"It's very distressing," added

Segal, "to know that can still happen and did happen."

In fact, the entire United States also knew what was about to happen, thanks to a front page story by the New York Times entitled, "Nazi's hint purge of Jews in Poland."

The story included a reference to no other possible means than by extermination.

Student Myles Hoenes said he had learned in school that the United States was aware of Hitler's genocidal acts but was not aware of which companies

were involved.

"It's history, it's what happened," he said of the facts. "I hadn't known that it was so in depth in the funding of it, in the creation of many of the weapons, in creation of many of the foundation of the Third Paich."

Hoenes said was still processing how he feels about the new information.

"I don't really know what to think about it exactly," he said,

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Edwin Black's parents, who both escaped cattle cars shipping people to concentration camps.

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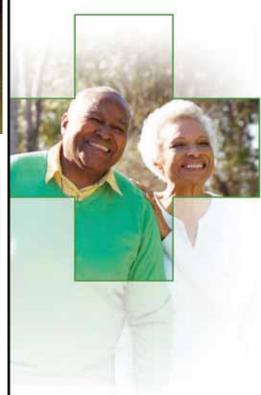
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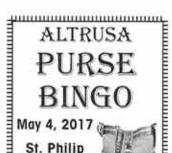
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"because these are the companies that I've grown up with, companies 1 see actively see around."

Black praised the school district administration for permitting the students to hear his pre-

"Any superintendent of this school who allows this school to nurture and to prosper in such a way also deserves a round of applause," he said.

And, Lincoln's commitment to Holocaust education was also praised by Black.



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"Your librarian, Margaret Lincoln, knows more about the Holocaust in this neck of the woods than anyone else that I've met," said Black to the students. "She's responsible for bringing me here, along with the DOD. I wish everyone would give it up for Margaret Lincoln."

He even gave the school a glowing review of this newspa-

"Now, I want to talk about the Battle Creek Shopper," he said to the packed Black Box Theatre, "That's a local newspaper. Okay? Now, the Battle Creek Shopper, which is here covering us, this is Miss Sulser. This is a family owned newspaper. Now, why am I mentioning this? First of all, they're so committed to the community that they ran a story that I've presented, that I syndicated to other major newspapers around the world on black victims of Nazi policy involving genocide in Africa and even in North Carolina and she cares.

"But more than that," he said, "I'm a guy who is now syndicated in dozens of newspapers, I'm on TV all the time, I've got more than 1.4 million books in print. I sell one book an hour but I got my start, a half a century ago in what was known at that time as community newspapers.

"In Chicago, the little papers who nurtured the local journalists, who nurtured the community, who followed the community so when I discovered that you still had one of these papers, the lifeblood of the community, I was so happy to contribute an article and I want everybody to wake up and pay attention to the Battle Creek Shopper."

Black's visit to the area was arranged, also by Temple Beth El and the Kalamazoo Jewish Federation, with support from the Ravitz Foundation.

Black's appearances were part of a scholar-in-residence and Holocaust Commemorative Tour of Michigan.

His Grand Rapids topic was How IBM Co-Planned and Co-Organized the Holocaust" based on the award-winning bestseller "IBM and the Holocaust."

His presentation last Friday to Kalamazoo Central High School students echoed the Lakeview presentation and his talk at the Congregation of Moses in Kalamazoo was on "Israel and International Law-The Historical Underpinnings."

Black is an acclaimed New York Times international investigative author of 120 awardwinning editions in 14 languages in 65 countries.

With more than a million books in print, his work focuses on human rights, genocide and hate, corporate criminality and corruption, governmental misconduct, academic fraud, philanthropic abuse, oil addiction, alternative energy and historical investigation.

Black's writing has been submitted 11 times for Pulitzer Prize nomination and he has been the recipient of a series of top editorial awards.

He has been interviewed on network broadcasts including Oprah, the Today Show, CNN Wolf Blitzer Reports and NBC Dateline in the US and on leading networks of Europe and Latin America.

Two of his books are in active film production.

Black has spoken at the Library of Congress, the Simon



Lakeview High School students talk with author Edwin Black after his presentation Thursday about Holocaust Remembrance Day. (Shopper News photo by Shelly Sulser)

Wiesenthal Institute in Los Angeles, London's British War Museum, Amsterdam's Institute for War Documentation and Munich's Carl Orff Hall.

He has testified before legislatures on a variety of social justice issues.

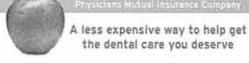
Black is a leading contributor The Cutting Edge News, which receives more than 1.5 million visits monthly, as well as the Huffington Post and the Times of Israel.

His investigations and human rights articles are syndicated regularly to publications worldwide.

Edwin Black continues to speak on tour about his eleven best-selling books: "IBM and the Holocaust" (2001 & 2012). "Financing the Flames" (2013), "British Petroleum and the Redline Agreement" (2011), "The Farhud" (2010), "Nazi

Nexus" (2009), "The Plan" (2008), "Internal Combustion" (2006), "Banking on Baghdad" (2004), "War Against the Weak" (2003 and 2012), "The Transfer Agreement" (1984 and 2009), and a 1999 novel, "Format C."

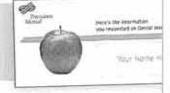
Holocaust educational resources and updates on Mr. Black's lecture tour are at www.bitly.com/MIHolocaust20



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Happenings

Motorcycle Safety Awareness Event, Saturday May 6, 1-3 p.m., Taco Bell parking lot, 5560 Beckley Rd., Battle Creek. Dark Knight, blessing of bikes, BCPD motorcycle officer, more. (4/27)

Afternoon with Author Amy Clipston, Saturday, May 6, 2 p.m., Helen Warner Branch library, 36 Minges Creek Place, Battle Creek. (4/6)

4-H Horse Leaders Fuzzy Show, Sunday, May 7, Calhoun Co. Fairgrounds, 720 Fair St., Marshall. See calhouncountyfair.org for time, other details. (4/13)

Mich. Assoc. of Retired School Personnel-Calhoun Co., lunch, noon, Monday, May 8, Union United Church of Christ, 206 Randal Tekonsha. More info.: 963-4308. (4/20)

"Monet in May," fundraiser, Saturday, May 13, 3-6 p.m., Art Center of Battle Creek, 265 E. Emmett St. Tickets in advance at art center, \$. (4/20)

Calhoun Co. Master Gardener Assoc. meeting on tomato diseases, Tuesday, May 2, 6:30 p.m., Leila Arboretum Training Center, 103 Limit St., Battle Creek. \$ for guests. More info.: 964-4062. (4/27)

Boots & Buckles Horse Show, Saturday, May 13, Calhoun Co. Fairgrounds, 720 Fair St., Marshall. Time, other info.: (269) 781-8161. (4/20)

-0-"The Art & Science of Craft Beer," Saturday, May 13, 4-8 p.m., Kingman Museum, 175 Limit St., Battle Creek. To buy tickets, visit www.kingmanmuseum.org, follow link to museum's Eventbrite page. \$ info.: 964-7230. \$ (4/20)

Sunday, May 13-14, 10 a.m. to Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9 6 p.m., Olde World Village, a.m. to 1 p.m., Festival Market

Community Garage Sale, Friday-Saturday, May 19-20, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Calhoun Co. Fairgrounds, 720 Fair St., Marshall. More info.: (269) 781-8161. (4/20)

Cinco De Celebration, veteran fundraiser, Friday, May 5, 6-10 p.m., American Legion Post 298, 228 N. 20th St., Battle Creek. More

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