

PRESS RELEASE

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PHOTO/FILM OPS

Sunday, April 28, 2013	3:30 p.m. at Samuel Lutheran Church in Muskegon (Public)
Monday, April 29, 2013	8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Muskegon Community College (HS Students) 6:30 p.m. at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in North Muskegon (Public)
Tuesday, April 30, 2013	12:30 p.m. at MCC Overbrook Theater (College Students & Public) 3:30 p.m. at MCC Room 1100 (MCC Faculty, Teachers, Admin & Public) 7:00 p.m. at Saint John's Episcopal Church in Grand Haven (Public)
Wednesday, May 1, 2013	12:30 p.m. at West Shore Community College in Scottville (Public) 6:15 p.m. at Shelby Congregational Church/UCC (Public)
Thursday, May 2, 2013	12:00 p.m. at Muskegon Rotary Club (Members Only)

Soldier, spy, & holocaust survivor to tell life story

"Behind Enemy Lines" author to spend week in four West Michigan counties

Holocaust survivor Marthe Cohn will be here in West Michigan to share her personal story of the deadly Nazi anti-Semitism she encountered when Germany invaded France. Cohn will speak publicly and sign her book Behind Enemy Lines on Sunday, April 28, 2013, at 3:30 p.m. as part of a free commemoration service at Samuel Lutheran Church in downtown Muskegon. She will speak again on Monday, April 29, at 6:30 p.m. at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in North Muskegon. Advance tickets are required for this dinner event to raise funds for local holocaust and genocide studies.

When Cohn was a teen, her family, who lived across the German border in Alsace-Lorraine, took in Jews who were fleeing the Nazis as well as Jewish children sent away by their terrified parents. As the Nazi occupation of France escalated along with the war, Cohn lost a sister at Auschwitz and a fiancé in the resistance. Behind Enemy Lines, the true story of a French Jewish spy in Nazi Germany, is Marthe Cohn's memoir: a tale of an ordinary human being who, under extraordinary circumstances became the hero her country needed her to be.

The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies of Muskegon, Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD), and Muskegon Community College (MCC) are sponsoring and coordinating Cohn's weeklong visit that will cover Muskegon, Oceana, Ottawa, and Mason counties. On Monday, April 29, starting at 8:30 a.m., the MAISD will facilitate a daylong experience with Cohn, local high school students, and their teachers regarding the Holocaust and its implications. Students will hear Cohn's story, consider and discuss questions about resistance and choices in the context of injustice.

On Tuesday, April 30, 2013, the Center will offer additional free opportunities for the public to hear Cohn's story at MCC's Overbrook Theater at 12:30 p.m. followed by a reception for teachers, school leaders, college faculty, and the public in Room 1100 at MCC's Stevenson Center at 3:30 p.m.

That same evening at 7:00 p.m., Cohn will speak at Saint John's Episcopal Church in Grand Haven. Cohn will then travel north to present on Wednesday, May 1, at 12:30 p.m. at West Shore Community College in Scottville, and at 6:15 p.m. at Shelby Congregational Church/UCC in Shelby. Both presentations are free of charge. Cohn will conclude her visit with a final presentation to the Muskegon Rotary Club on Thursday.

Organizers say Cohn is an amazing woman. At 4'9" in height and 93 years of age, she is filled with energy and life. Pastor Chris Anderson of Samuel Lutheran Church said, "The people of Muskegon and all of West Michigan are blessed with her presence and willingness to come." Anderson added, "She recently received an invitation to come to the National Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C., but declined because she had already made a commitment to us. We are ever so grateful to her."

Tickets for the benefit dinner on Monday, April 29, 2013, must be reserved in advance by calling 231-722-2702 at a cost of \$25 each or group rates are also available. See <http://www.shoahrcm.com> for details. All proceeds will benefit the newly established Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies of Muskegon.

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