

# Grubman Teaching Trunk for Middle School

## Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

### Keene State College

The Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College invites you to participate in the Grubman Teaching Trunk Program. The Trunk is designed to honor the memory of Simon Grubman, a survivor of the Lodz ghetto and other Nazi camps. The Grubman family has been a longtime supporter of the Cohen Center's work. Their gifts allowed the Cohen Center to develop the extensive Grubman Children's book collection now located in the Charles and Judith Hildebrandt Collection in the Mason Library at Keene State College.



This Trunk is designed specifically for middle school educators to assist in teaching a unit on the Holocaust. The Trunk and its lessons have been designed by Cohen Center Fellow Marjorie Margolis and Coordinator of Educational Outreach Tom White and includes DVDs, posters, lesson plans, individual books for a variety of reading levels, books for reading groups, and typical household Judaica items.

### Procedure and Requirements

Currently the Trunk is available for teachers in New Hampshire and in parts of Vermont. Educators wishing to use the Trunk will complete the on-line request form at the Cohen Center website ([www.keene.edu/cchs](http://www.keene.edu/cchs)). The lending period will be four weeks and the Trunk will be distributed on a first come first serve basis. To ensure the maximum benefit in the use of the Trunk a Cohen Center Fellow will serve as docent by personally delivering the Trunk and provide teacher training in its use. The docent will have the teacher (s) sign off on a Trunk content checklist. Upon completion of the loan, the docent will again go through a checklist to ensure the contents of the trunk. Missing materials will be the responsibility of the school.

Since the trunk is rather heavy, participating schools should provide one or two people on site to unload/load the Trunk for the docent.

The Trunk is a work in progress, continually evolving as we receive feedback from teachers and students who use it. We ask teachers to share their own lessons for the trunk and encourage students to reflect upon what it means to become a witness to the Grubman family history. As Simon Grubman wished to survive in order to bear witness, your students will carry that wish and legacy into the future. Elie Wiesel noted, "Whoever listens to a witness, becomes a witness."

It is important to the Cohen Center and the Grubman family that you share your experience. As an expression of this responsibility we ask that you:

1. Write letter(s) to the Grubman family that the Cohen Center will forward
2. Provide photographs of the Trunk being used by students
3. Complete a culminating activity where students sign for the Trunk and share what it means to remember and become witnesses. A final evaluation form will be completed by the teacher.

### Cost

There is no fee to borrow the Grubman Trunk. We ask schools to provide mileage reimbursement for the docent. Any donations to maintain the Grubman Trunk are welcome and appreciated.

Thank you for studying and bearing witness to the Holocaust in the hope that present and future generations take responsibility for building a world free of antisemitism, intolerance, and hate!

