



Jud Newborn - 2018 Spirit of Anne Frank Human Writes Award

<https://www.annefrank.com/safa>



As the founding historian & co-creator of NY's Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, Dr. Newborn would have already accomplished more than many of us can hope to achieve in a lifetime. The Museum is committed to the crucial mission of educating diverse visitors about Jewish life before, during, and after the Holocaust, mobilizing memory to teach the dangers of intolerance, and challenging visitors—including more than 50,000 schoolchildren a year—to let the painful lessons of the past guide them to envision a world worthy of their futures.

Not surprisingly, Jud Newborn (PhD with Distinction, University of Chicago) is an expert on anti-Semitism, extremism, & the fight for human rights worldwide, in addition to being an author, film curator, and dramatic multi-media lecture artist.

Dr. Newborn is co-author of the critically acclaimed book, ***Sophie Scholl and the White Rose***, a compelling account of the unique anti-Nazi student resistance group led by Hans and Sophie Scholl, former Hitler Youth leaders who have become icons of "Civil Courage" in Germany today, and the epitome of what it means to be "Upstanders" rather than bystanders in the face of oppression. Now in a 3rd, Special 75th Anniversary Year edition, the work is widely acknowledged to be of urgent relevance in the light of today's crisis of democracy. One of Dr. Newborn's four programs, based partly on the book but with new discoveries, is "**Speaking Truth to Power: The White Rose Anti-Nazi Resistance - & Heroes in the Fight for Human Rights Today.**" He has lectured across the USA, at the UN, & from Canada to Cape Town.



At the height of the Balkans crisis in July 1995, Dr. Newborn gave the first lecture on the Holocaust ever held at the United Nations, and called out against the UN's abandonment of Bosnian Muslims to mass murder. During his doctoral work as a Fulbright and later Woodrow Wilson National Fellow, he interviewed former Nazis & volunteered to work briefly undercover for Poland's "Solidarity" Freedom movement, six months into the declaration of Martial Law & the sealing of Poland's borders. His dissertation is titled "*Arbeit macht frei*": *The Underlying German Cultural Meanings of the Holocaust*.

Dr. Newborn is also co-creator of the award-winning animated short about a triumphant child Holocaust survivor, ***Ingrid Pitt: Beyond the Forest***, a true story that reminds us of the need to protect those most vulnerable, whatever their backgrounds, wherever they live. Most recently, he was instrumental in salvaging one of the world's most important collections of anti-Semitic artifacts, the **Katz-Ehrenthal Collection**, for which he found safe haven at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Comprised of 900 artifacts covering 500 years, it helps explain the Holocaust by demonstrating how deeply anti-Semitism was embedded in European popular culture.

As a poet and lyricist he has collaborated with country, pop and classical composers, including Pulitzer Prize winner Shulamit Ran. Today he serves as Special Programs Curator for Long Island's renowned Cinema Arts Centre, bringing in Nobel Laureates, Kennedy Center Honorees, and Academy Award, Emmy, Grammy, Tony and Pulitzer Prize winners to interview for consciousness-raising programs before live audiences. He is currently working on the first major Hollywood motion picture about the White Rose.

The Anne Frank Center is honored this year to recognize his passion and life-long activism with the 2018 Spirit of Anne Frank "Human Writes" Award.

SISTERS IN SPIRIT: ANNE FRANK AND SOPHIE SCHOLL JEWISH AND GERMAN TEENAGERS UNDER THE NAZIS

by Dr. Jud Newborn, Author & Multimedia Lecturer

**“SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER:
THE WHITE ROSE RESISTANCE - AND HEROES IN THE FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS TODAY”**

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“Sophie Scholl is to young Germans what Anne Frank is to young Jews.” – Dr. Ralf Horlemann, Germany’s Consul-General to New England

“It’s really a wonder I haven’t abandoned all my ideals, they seem so absurd and impractical. Yet I cling to them because I still believe, despite everything, that people are truly good at heart.

“It’s utterly impossible for me to build my life on a foundation of chaos, suffering and death. I see the world being slowly transformed into a wilderness, I hear the approaching thunder that, one day, will destroy us too, I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too shall end, that peace and tranquility will return once more” —ANNE FRANK, DIARY

“After all, one should have the courage to believe only in what is good. By that I do not mean one should believe in illusions. I mean one should do only what is true and good and take if for granted that others will do the same.

“Many people think of our times as being the last before the end of the world. The evidence of horror all around us makes this seem possible. But doesn’t every human being, not matter which era he lives in, always have to reckon with being accountable to God at any moment? Can I know whether I’ll be alive tomorrow morning? A bomb could destroy all of us tonight. And then my guilt would not be one bit less than if I perished together with the earth and the stars.” —SOPHIE SCHOLL, DIARY

“Isn’t it a riddle, and awe-inspiring, that everything is so beautiful? Despite the horror. I’ve noticed something grand and mysterious peering through my sheer joy in all that is beautiful, a sense of its creator. . . . Only man can be truly ugly, because he has the free will to estrange himself from this song of praise.

“It often seems that he’ll manage to drown out this hymn with his cannon thunder, curses and blasphemy. But during this past spring it has dawned upon me that he won’t be able to do this. And so I want to try and throw myself on the side of the victor.” —SOPHIE SCHOLL, LETTER

Acceptance Speech by Jud Newborn, PhD - June 12, 2018

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There could be no honor more meaningful to me than the Spirit of Anne Frank Human Writes Award. I thank you deeply, from the heart.

I'd like to share with you some thoughts tonight that may give this year's commemoration of Anne Frank's birthday a new perspective.

An important part of my work is presenting four inspiring multimedia lecture programs, with stirring music, compelling images and dramatic storytelling. One of the most popular - based partly on my co-authored book. ***Sophie Scholl and the White Rose*** - is **“Speaking Truth To Power: The White Rose Anti-Nazi Resistance - And Heroes in the Fight for Human Rights Today.”**

When first researching this in Germany, I came across some diary entries by Sophie Scholl. They startled me because of how strongly they resonated with those of Anne Frank.

But first I need to tell you quickly about ‘Sophie Scholl and the White Rose.’

Starting at ages 12 and 15, Sophie Scholl and her brother Hans were fanatical Hitler Youth leaders who transformed uniquely to become the greatest heroes of the German anti-Nazi resistance, and icons of “civil courage” in Germany today.

From June 1942 to February 1943 - while Anne was in hiding - the Scholls and a handful of comrades issued a staccato burst of six eloquent anti-Nazi leaflets, which they distributed daringly throughout wartime Germany, from Hamburg to Vienna.

Here's a quote from one of their leaflets:

“Seit dem Anfang des Krieges ... Since the beginning of the war 300,000 Jews have been murdered in the most bestial manner. This is a crime unparalleled in human history - a crime against the dignity of man. But why tell you these things when you already know them? Everyone wants to be exonerated, but you cannot be - because everyone is guilty, guilty, guilty.”

“Wir schweigen nicht!... We will not be silent! We are your bad conscience. The White Rose will not leave you in peace!”

On February 18, 1943, Sophie and Hans mounted a gallery high above the University of Munich's vast atrium. From there Sophie and Hans tossed hundreds of leaflets down upon the heads of astonished students milling about in the change of class.

It was the only full-fledged public protest by Germans against Nazism ever to be staged.

Subjected almost immediately to an abusive show trial, they were condemned to death. Asked to defend herself and despite great fear, Sophie Scholl responded to the judge's vicious harangue.

“What we said and wrote other people are thinking. They just don't dare say it out loud!”

Sophie and her brother were immediately taken back to prison. Then they were each led separately across the courtyard to a small room. There they were beheaded. Hans was 25 years old; Sophie was only 21.

How does this relate to Anne Frank?

Well, some time later, when I returned from Germany, I recall telling Cynthia Ozick, the great American Jewish novelist, about the White Rose. But when I came to their capture and execution, I was overcome with emotion. Ozick responded with surprise.

"Why, you're reacting to Sophie the way I do when I tell the story of Anne Frankl. The white Rose weren't Jews, and yet you identify with them as if they were your own people—even your own brother and sister."

Ozick was quite right.

You all remember the most famous quote from Anne Frank's Diary. I want to read it - and then briefly from Sophie Scholl's diary and letters, so you can see their uncanny resemblance.

ANNE: *"It's really a wonder I haven't abandoned all my ideals, they seem so absurd and impractical. Yet I cling to them because I still believe, despite everything, that people are truly good at heart.*

"It's utterly impossible for me to build my life on a foundation of chaos, suffering and death. I see the world being slowly transformed into a wilderness, I hear the approaching thunder that, one day, will destroy us too, I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too shall end, that peace and tranquility will return once more" —**ANNE FRANK, DIARY**

SOPHIE: *"After all, one should have the courage to believe **only** in what is good. By that I do not mean one should believe in illusions. I mean one should do only what is true and good and take if for granted that others will do the same.*

"Many people think of our times as being the last before the end of the world. The evidence of horror all around us makes this seem possible. But doesn't every human being, no matter which era he lives in, always have to reckon with being accountable to God at any moment? Can I know whether I'll be alive tomorrow morning? A bomb could destroy all of us tonight. And then my guilt would not be one bit less than if I perished together with the earth and the stars." —**SOPHIE SCHOLL, DIARY**

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Isn't this remarkable? The Nazis did everything to drive a wedge between Germans and Jews. Sophie Scholl and Anne Frank lived and died miles apart, never knowing about each other each other. And yet in these brief passages from their writings, the spirit of Sophie and Anne somehow reached across that chasm -- and affirmed for all of us the basic truth of our shared humanity.

Thank you!

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[JN on LinkedIn](#) | Recipient, The Anne Frank Center's "Spirit of Anne Frank Human Writes Award": <http://www.annefrank.com/safa> | 75th Anniversary Edition, *Sophie Scholl and the White Rose*: Kindle: <http://amzn.to/2GZMyXw> Trade Ppbk: <http://amzn.to/2BzkGpr> Endorsements from Noted Figures: <http://amzn.to/2FiZwyq>

***Cast off the cloak of indifference with which you have covered your heart. Choose before it is too late. - Leaflet Five of the White Rose Resistance, 1942**