The Levine JCC Butterfly Project  
Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center

Audience: 5th - 12th grade students, with some prior Holocaust knowledge

Curriculum: 2 ½-hour experience that includes:

* a local Holocaust survivor’s story (at most workshops, a survivor will be available to tell his/her story in person).

* participation in Take a Stand, an interactive educational discussion using the lessons of the Holocaust to teach what can happen when prejudice, stereotyping and discrimination are allowed to flourish; this segment introduces students to several additional local Holocaust survivors.

* participation in What’s in a Name?, an artistic, educational, hands-on project that remembers the 1.5 million Jewish children who perished in the Holocaust; students will paint a ceramic butterfly that memorializes a child whose name they will learn during the seminar.

* a visit to the Margaret & Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden and the Children’s Holocaust Memorial Sculpture, with participation in a discussion group in which students will be inspired to be active participants in building bridges of communication, understanding and respect for all people.

Purpose: The Butterfly Project teaches the lessons of the Holocaust and what can happen when prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination are allowed to flourish. It is critical that today’s youth examine the past in order to understand what can happen when individuals and governments fail to take a stand against injustice. It is our goal that students implement what they have learned at a Butterfly Project workshop into their daily lives, so that, ultimately, they can better understand how to interrupt hateful behaviors in their schools, communities, society and beyond. Students walk away with an awareness of the effects of the Holocaust on its most innocent victims – the children.

Background: Created at the San Diego Jewish Academy (www.sdja.com) in 2006, their Butterfly Project seeks to create 1.5 million ceramic butterflies worldwide in honor of the children who lost their lives in the Holocaust. The Levine JCC is a proud participant in this effort and has expanded on this idea by reaching across cultural barriers and positively influencing our children and communities. For more information, please visit The Butterfly Project at the Levine Jewish Community Center at www.charlottejcc.org.
Community Response: “I learned how to make a difference today. The freedom of the butterflies has taught me that I can light up a dark room. Everyone is equally important.”
South Point High School 11th grader

“I believe that I should reflect on how I treat other people and be mindful of when I am prejudiced.”
Cornelius Elementary School 5th grader

“Something horrible can start with something small – like stereotyping – but if anyone, even kids, starts to be kinder, they can make a difference in the world.”
Charlotte Country Day School, 7th grader

“I’ve never held a butterfly. I imagine it would be amazing, but it could also fly away at any moment and maybe never come back. I wish all those lost in the Holocaust could have held a butterfly.”
Ridge Road Middle School 8th grader

“I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for organizing the 5th grade ICC field trip today. It was very powerful for Garrett. Usually, when he comes home, I get the typical, ‘How was your day? GOOD. What did you do? NOTHING.’ However, today was completely different. He couldn’t wait to launch into the retelling of the Holocaust survivor’s harrowing tale. He felt that every detail was important. He wanted to know when I could take him back to the ICC to see his painted butterfly and the wall. THAT is history come to life that my son won’t soon forget.”
Olde Providence Elementary Parent

Cost: $5 per participant. This is an interactive and educational program that we would like everyone to be able to take part in no matter your financial ability. Scholarship information is available upon request. **Workshops are limited to 100 participants per day.** If your group is larger, it will be necessary for you to attend on more than one day.

Location: The Levine Jewish Community Center (LJCC) is located on a secluded 54-acre campus in the heart of South Charlotte. The LJCC is a family-oriented, vibrant facility where you can feel a sense of community and belonging. We are a diverse, multi-cultural community center, open to people of all faiths. The LJCC is located on Shalom Park, one campus that represents a unique joint venture of the Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Jewish Family Services, Temple Beth El and Temple Israel.

Resources: Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center [www.levine-sklutjudaiclibrary.org](http://www.levine-sklutjudaiclibrary.org)
Yad Vashem (World Center for Holocaust Research, Documentation, Education and Commemoration) [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)
United States Holocaust Museum and Memorial [http://www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org)
Anti-Defamation League [www.adl.org/main_Holocaust/default.htm](http://www.adl.org/main_Holocaust/default.htm)