



## **BACKGROUND**

**3GNY** (Third Generation New York) is an educational non-profit organization that brings together grandchildren of Holocaust survivors. Through Education, Action and Reflection, 3GNY enables the third generation to preserve and perpetuate the memory of the Holocaust. Based in New York, the organization of 1,000 plus members seeks to honor its history and leverage personal connections to combat intolerance worldwide.

Founded in 2006 to serve a dispersed community of grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, 3GNY strives to become the focal point of third generation community outreach. There is a significant need to grow 3G chapters across the country. Outside of New York, there are sizeable descendent of survivor communities where individuals have reached out to 3GNY embracing our mission and asking for support to duplicate its platform.

The third generation is the last living link to survivors. It is primarily through 3G that future generations will hear the actual stories of our grandparents' survival. The organization is dedicated to ensuring that others understand the human face of the Holocaust, as well as its details, its place in Jewish history and how it is viewed and discussed today. 3GNY is deeply committed to exploring and sharing its stories and lessons, and to place them within the greater context of the Holocaust.

## **MISSION**

To preserve, honor and perpetuate the history of the Shoah and, in the process, to combat intolerance around the world.

## **OBJECTIVE**

To create a community for grandchildren of survivors to connect, reflect and empower one and another to honor and explore their family's history. Through this dynamic process, 3GNY continues to develop a multi-disciplined and dynamic educational platform that empowers each member with the ability to strengthen their awareness of their personal history while encouraging members to educate and share their family stories throughout the greater community.

## **GOALS**

With an active and dedicated member base, 3GNY is committed to growing and serving Jewish education and more broadly providing a voice against anti-Semitism, genocide, intolerance and ostracism globally. 3GNY is currently in the process of strategic fundraising and identifying a board of advisors comprised of academic, political and financial leaders to achieve help the organizations objectives.



3GNY is in the process of refining short and long term goals to effectively manage the organizations growth as it begins to take a more active role within the Jewish community as a leader of Holocaust education. The organization will serve as a vehicle to fund and replicate its initiatives nationwide.

## **COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING**

3GNY has created diverse programming that includes: Shabbat dinners, discussion groups, genealogy and writing workshops, museum tours and happy hours. One of our most popular events is our Annual Family Brunch, where members bring parents and grandparents, and even the fourth generation, to share the success of the year and plans for the future.

Our commitment to the survivor community is central to our programming. We invite survivors – some of whom are grandparents of members – to share with us their stories. We join survivors at coffee house gatherings to spend an afternoon together. We hold fundraisers for survivors with limited financial resources. And we raise awareness to our members and the community at large of issues important to survivors, such as restitution and services still needed for an aging population.

Reflecting our mission to raise awareness about human rights issues, we continue to hear from survivors from the genocides in Rwanda and Darfur, and most importantly, we learn directly from survivors of the Holocaust.

Grandchildren of survivors are looking for new ways to tell their family stories and express their legacy through the arts: from theater pieces, spoken word and musical performances and art shows. 3GNY provides 3Gs with different forums to showcase their work.

Through this fluid process 3GNY has developed and formally introduced its own educational program, WEDU “We Educate” which provides effective framework for sharing our grandparent’s stories with future generations in the classroom.

## **WEDU**

WEDU (We Educate), 3GNY’s educational initiative launched in early 2010, empowers grandchildren of survivors to learn and share their family histories and lessons of the Holocaust with students in school classrooms. This is a concrete way for the next generation to take ownership and responsibility of this important legacy. WEDU is developed in conjunction with Facing History and Ourselves and the American Society for Yad Vashem along with other professional educators.

Since June 2010, WEDU has trained three rounds of 3Gs, who have visited over 15 classrooms



in the tri-state area, such as Forest Hills High School, Livingston High School, The Beacon School, The Satellite Academy of the Lower East Side and The Lower Manhattan Community Middle School. We have impacted over 300 students.

By acting as a conduit for our grandparents' stories, we make history more personal and relatable. We are in a special position to spotlight the individual experience of the Holocaust from the collective, and provide students with an entry point to examine prejudice and stereotypes in their own community. Since our first school visit where we shared our family stories it has been as inspiring for the students to hear these stories as it was for us to share them.

The schools we have visited have already invited us back to speak with their next cohort of students. 3GNY continues to train new members, and expand its school network.

As we develop and refine WEDU, we have started to identify other 3G leaders in other cities and provide resources and educational support to begin WEDU in their own metropolitan areas.

### **THE FUTURE**

3GNY's membership now exceeds 1,300 and continues to grow. We have a large Facebook and Twitter following. We have been covered in national and local papers, including *The New York Times*, *The Forward* and *The Jewish Week*.

As 3GNY has developed its programming over the last several years, we have established close relationships with other Jewish organizations and individuals outside the New York area who are support our mission. We have assisted and organized joint events with 3G groups from Israel, Australia, Germany, Boston and Washington, DC.

We have accomplished a lot, but we know with more resources, we can accomplish so much more.