

## PRESS RELEASE

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*Caption:* Nick Baumann's Grandparents, Max Horst Segall and Frieda Esther Lopatka Segall.

*"They only spoke rarely about their early lives ... and they never felt totally safe. They knew how fast a country could change."*

-- Nick Baumann, writing about his Jewish grandparents who survived WWII in Germany and sought refugee status after the war in the U.S.

## HuffPost Editor to discuss refugees & immigration issues

Refugees and the issues surrounding immigration and displaced persons will be the focus when Nick Baumann, Senior Enterprise Editor at HuffPost and grandchild of WWII Era refugees tells his story in downtown Muskegon on November 9. The event, sponsored by the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies – Muskegon, begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Muskegon Community College Sturris Technology Center located in the former Muskegon Chronicle building at 388 W. Clay in Muskegon. The event is free and open to the public.

Baumann has written pieces for Washington Monthly, The Atlantic, Slate and Commonweal. He also has blogged for the Economist and was a Senior Editor at Mother Jones Magazine. When he writes or speaks about refugees however, it's personal. "Our Grandparents died when we were young," Baumann wrote along with his sister Rachel in a piece earlier this year in HuffPost. "We think about them a lot these days – and the people who chose to help them, and the people who chose not to."

Baumann will be interviewed by George Maniates, History Instructor at Muskegon Community College and Board Member for the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies-Muskegon. The evening promises to help the community understand the experiences of refugees while at the same time, grappling with the tough issues of immigration and border security policy using other historical experiences as a lens for viewing current issues.

The event is sponsored by the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies – Muskegon, whose mission is to cultivate the values which diffuse hate and encourage diversity. For more information on this event or on the Center, visit <http://www.muskegoncc.edu/center-for-holocaust-and-genocide-studies/>.

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