



# Wregglesworth attends conference to share lesson plan on Anti-Semitism

by Peter Jakey  
Managing Editor

Echoes and Reflections, a comprehensive Holocaust education program that provides professional development and an array of resources for middle and high school teachers, welcomed Onaway High School educator Kymberli Wregglesworth to the Big Apple earlier this month.

Wregglesworth traveled to New York City to share and discuss lesson plans she and her colleagues from across the nation had created.

The annual event is a partnership with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reaching thousands of educators and community

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ONAWAY HIGH School educator Kymberli Wregglesworth is shown preparing to attend one of her conferences in New York City.



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# Onaway teacher

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leaders in all 50 states, in 6,000 public and 2,000 private schools since its launch in 2005. While there Wregglesworth also attended ADL's Never Is Now conference on contemporary Anti-Semitism and hate. For this year's event, there were more than two dozen teachers from across the country there to take part.

"There were between 16 and 18 of us, right around that number, that have been teaching about the Holocaust in some part of their position," said Wregglesworth. There were history and language arts teachers, and in Wregglesworth's

current situation, she is teaching the core classes of civics and world history, along with elective offerings, current events, world cultures and women's studies.

"We have been meeting virtually since September and we have been watching the landscape of what is really going on in the world since Oct. 7, 2023 that I think has shifted the focus of our group to be less about the Holocaust and a little more on contemporary Anti-Semitism and education about that."

On October 7, Hamas terrorists waged the deadliest attack on Jews since the Holocaust. Since then, more than 1,200 Israelis have been killed and terrorists are still holding 134 men, women and children in captivity.

On the first full day in New York, the teachers met together at the offices of the ADL and heard some presentations from staff, as well as representatives from Echoes and Reflections, who broke the visiting educators into small groups

available to us that we can use."

Her lesson is about anti-Semitism and social media. "It is one of the ways anti-Semitism is spreading throughout the country, throughout the world," said Wregglesworth, "And how do we respond if it's something we know, like a celebrity, who is posting something, or sharing somebody on social media that goes against our beliefs?" She received some valuable feedback and is hopeful to begin teaching the lesson plan after spring break.

The second and third day were spent in the Never is Now conference with

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one of the impactful presentations coming from photographer Inor Kagno, who was at a music festival where kidnappings and killings occurred. U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland also was there to speak about

his family's experiences during the Holocaust.

"We spent the two days learning and coming up with ideas of how we could bring that information back to our classrooms, and how we could integrate into the curriculum that we are already teaching to our students," she said.

Last fall it was announced that Wregglesworth was selected as a top-10 finalist for the National Civics Teacher of the Year Award from the Bill of Rights Institute. The honor went to Beckley, West Virginia civics teacher John Quesenberry from Woodrow Wilson High School, who also was given a \$5,000 grant.

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On the first full day in New York, the teachers met together at the offices of the ADL and heard some presentations from staff, as well as representatives from Echoes and Reflections, who broke the visiting educators into small groups to present their lesson plans for feedback. "And to get an idea of what others are doing," said Wregglesworth. "We all have a shared folder now of all the lesson plans

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All the funding came from donors to ADL/Echoes and Reflections. Specifically, a family that had a Holocaust survivor and one of their descendants works for ADL.