

Since 2006, **Erika Gold** has volunteered roughly 2,500 hours at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage in Beachwood, Ohio. Erika was born in Budapest, Hungary six months before Adolf Hitler rose to power. Luckily, she and her mother narrowly escaped encampment by living with her family's housekeeper for a period of time. A Holocaust survivor, she has shared her story with thousands of students, personalizing a childhood under Nazi rule and cautioning the younger generations against the dangers of discrimination, intolerance, and hate. She wishes "more people had taken action, rather than being bystanders" a message she conveys to the countless individuals she shares her story with.

Erika has been featured on Ideastream, the Plain Dealer, Cleveland.com, the Cleveland Jewish News, and is in the Maltz Museum's traveling special exhibition, *Operation Finale: The Capture & Trial of Adolf Eichmann*. In addition to the Maltz Museum, she is an extremely active community volunteer. She is on the Jewish Family Service Association's volunteer advisers committee, as well as their reparations committee which she allocates funds to Holocaust survivors in need. Annually, she helps plan and execute Cleveland's Yom HaShoah commemoration in which the community comes together to memorialize the tragedy of the Holocaust and remember those who lost their lives. She often speaks at Congregation Shaarey Tikvah's Face-to-Face Program, which brings students from across Northeast Ohio to the Synagogue to learn about the Holocaust and come (literally) face-to-face with a survivor.

She has boundless energy, enthusiasm, and has brightened the lives of students, teachers, and everyone she meets. She often fondly reminisces on her time at Heights High School and how it shaped her as a young person. After graduation, she went on to gain her bachelor's degree in biology from Western Reserve University and worked as a medical technologist, starting at Doctors Hospital, then South Pointe Hospital, and returned from Suburban Hospital. She was named one of the inaugural class of Cleveland Jewish News' 18 Difference Makers award in 2015. Her hard work, dedication, optimism, and personality continue to make a difference in the community and impact every person she meets.

