

# ZeitZeugenBörse Berlin - ZZB

*Centre for Witnesses to Contemporary History-CWCH*  
Preserving Priceless Memories for the Future

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## The idea of the ZZB

- Witnesses to Berlin history want to share their memories and experiences.
- Education and media professionals are looking for vivid and exciting narratives.
- The ZZB brings both sides together.

The ZZB organizes the dialogue between the older and the younger generation in Berlin in order to share their experiences regarding:

- the time of National Socialism and the post-war period
- life in the divided and reunited city
- political and cultural events in East and West Berlin



## Services the ZZB offers

### **For people looking for first hand life stories:**

From our pool of 180 witnesses, our team will be able to find the right person for discussions, projects and interviews

concerning a whole range of specific topics (cf. below).



### **For Witnesses**

- Witnesses meet people interested in their specific life stories and experiences.
- Experts prepare the witnesses for discussions and critical student questions
- Witnesses share their experiences with each other so that they can learn from one another.

### **For the general public**

- The ZZB makes a valuable contribution to political education,
- strengthens civic society in Berlin
- enlivens the dialogue between the younger and the older generation

## The History of the ZZB

The ZZB was founded in 1993 as a pilot project which developed the organizational and scientific foundation of its current activities.

The ZZB has been a non government organization since 1998 and is run by its volunteers. We continue to extend our range of activities.

In addition to arranging interviews with witnesses, the ZZB publishes a monthly newsletter, edits small books, and produces DVDs featuring the life stories of its oldest witnesses.



### Examples for the topics the witnesses can talk about:

- **Berlin during the Nazi regime:**  
Schools under the Nazis, the Hitler Youth, the Holocaust, emigration, resistance
- **World War II and its aftermath**  
Air raids, life in the bomb shelters, the battle of Berlin, the allied sectors, black market, the air lift
- **East Berlin from 1949 to 1989**  
Mass organizations, divided families, the 1953 uprising, the construction and the fall of the wall
- **West Berlin from 1949 to 1989**  
Life in the divided city, President Kennedy's visit, cultural events

- **Berlin after German reunification**  
Berlin as the German capital, reconstruction of the historic centre, the "inner reunification"



### Comments on the ZZB:

The work of the ZZB has often been appreciated by its users. Here a few examples:

- Your help has given students and teachers alike a unique opportunity to study and learn...The facts and figures, the stories and references, have all contributed to a deeper understanding of the issues, concerns and realities. (Member of the Bedfordshire County Council, England)
- Thanks to the stories elder citizens told in my history lessons, my students became interested in the Nazi period. (A teacher)
- As a former citizen of East Berlin, I gained a better understanding of our times due to the discussions I had with fellow citizens from West Berlin and with pupils and teachers. (A witness)



### Contact:

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