

## 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  
*The battle of Berlin life in the bomb shelters, the allied sectors, black market, the air lift*
- East Berlin during the GDR regime  
*Mass organizations, state security, the 1953 uprising, construction of the wall, the end 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*



*American students and two witnesses in the House of the Wannsee Conference*



*The Fall of the Berlin Wall 1989*

Comments on the ZZB:

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

- “Your help as 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 recalled 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 school students.” (A witness)

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