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Holocaust Education Resource Council News

May 2012

Will the Holocaust be remembered 50 or 100 years from now? Will it be taught? Will it be believed? "Never Forget"



President's Message

Dear Friends,

On April 19, over 150 people attended the Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom Hashoah, Service. The Greater Tallahassee community was invited to honor the Survivors and remember the millions of victims of the Holocaust. Ironically, in the week that followed this community uniting event, police at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida were called to investigate an alarming incident. A swastika was found on a car after an awards banquet dinner held at Hillel, the Jewish Student Organization. (Boca Raton is also home to thousands of Holocaust Survivors.) This was a sign that despite the positive efforts of so many, anti-Semitism still continues in communities and on campuses everywhere. Education to combat prejudice and discrimination and promote tolerance and appreciation of diversity is still sorely needed.

The Holocaust Education Resource Council has been providing continued, outstanding and needed programming to schools and the community. Through the programs, our generous and dedicated supporters and volunteers have enabled us to present the Annual Teacher Training Workshop each fall, and Student Essay and Art Contests each spring along with a variety of other events. This year, we will continue to expand our offerings by adding a series of events that will include exhibits, shows and lecturers throughout the year.

If you have been a supporter in the past, we thank you and encourage you to increase your level of support. Your sponsorship will ensure the quality and continuity of our programming and perpetuate Holocaust awareness. Please act now to become a supporter of HERC.

Sincerely,

Barbara

850-443-9649

"One person of integrity can make a difference."—Elie Wiesel

Holocaust Education Resource Council

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ESSAY AND ART CONTEST AWARDS CEREMONY

Everyone Invited!

Time: May 20 at 3:00 pm

Location: Temple Israel

You May Contact HERC online at: www.holocaustresources.org

COMMUNITY NEWS

Community Yom Hashoah Service

By Bob Cohen



Holocaust Education Resource Council President Barbara Goldstein behind memorial candles at the Yom Hashoah Service

On a beautiful Spring evening, the Tallahassee community came together to recall the six million Jews who perished in the Shoah, the Holocaust, during World War II. The event was hosted this year by Congregation Shomrei Torah and its Gladstein Fellow and senior student Rabbi Aderet Drucker who was joined by Rabbi Jack Romberg of Temple Israel, The Reverend Abigail Moon of St. John's Episcopal Church and various members of the community who offered prayers, readings and haunting melodies to put the overflow crowd in a contemplative mood for the evening.

The service was highlighted by the traditional lighting of *yahrzeit* (memorial) candles by Holocaust survivors, children of survivors, grandchildren of survivors, teachers and local elected officials. Teachers were added to the group to recognize their significant role in educating our children about the horrors of the Holocaust and all injustices that affect the world's children. Two of our local elected officials, Representative Michelle Rehwinkel-Vasilinda and City Commissioner Gil Ziffer, who have been great supporters of Holocaust education and remembrance, attended the service and were honored through their participation in the program.

The evening's featured speaker was Tyler Turkle, a renowned member of the team that worked with Steven Spielberg to interview and record the

personal memories of Holocaust survivors. With World War II ending nearly 70 years ago, the number of living survivors decreases every day and this incredible project has preserved their stories for us, our children and our children's children. Mr. Turkle exhibited all the signs of an individual whose life was changed forever through hearing the first-hand accounts of survivors. He told the assembled about the horrors as expressed by the survivors, but just as important, of how they not only survived in America, but thrived, living long and productive lives filled with love of family and country, of freedom and of the riches life has bestowed upon them.

The Yom Hashoah service once again demonstrated the compassion and caring of Tallahassee for the suffering of all people. The audience was filled with Jews and non-Jews alike, all people who recognize the need to recall the horrors of history and to work together to ensure they are not repeated. Gatherings such as these add to our duty of *Tikun Olam*, to repair of the world. I, for one, am confident that the message of these survivors shall not go unheard so long as we listen to and repeat their stories. Let us all strive to continue to spread the message of peace and hope for a world in which freedom from oppression reigns.



Holocaust survivor Miriam Schlezinger with Representative Michelle Rehwinkel-Vasilinda at the Community Yom Hashoah Service

You May Contact HERC online at: www.holocaustresources.org

COMMUNITY NEWS

Recommended Reading: *The End of the Holocaust*

By Alvin H. Rosenfeld

Holocaust Meaning Hits Home

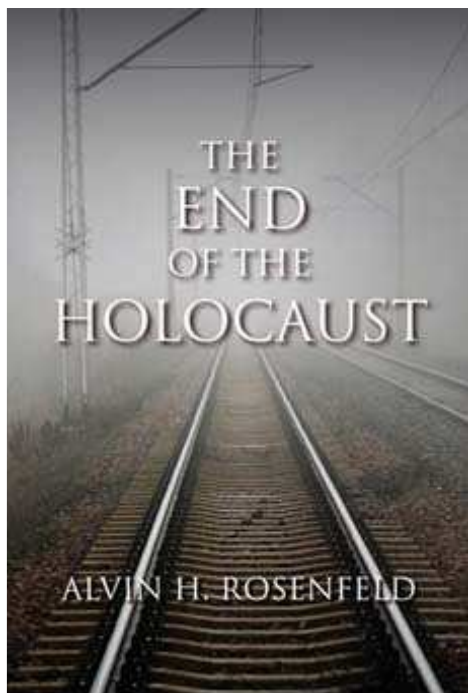
By Shani McManus

Originally published in the Florida Jewish Journal
April 25, 2012

In this provocative work, Alvin H. Rosenfeld contends that the proliferation of books, films, television programs, museums and public commemorations related to the Holocaust has, perversely, brought about a diminution of its meaning and a denigration of its memory.

Investigating a wide range of events and cultural phenomena, such as Ronald Reagan's 1985 visit to the German cemetery at Bitburg, the distortions of Anne Frank's story, and the ways in which the Holocaust has been depicted by such artists and filmmakers as Judy Chicago and Steven Spielberg, Rosenfeld charts the cultural forces that have minimized the Holocaust in popular perceptions. He contrasts these with sobering representations by Holocaust witnesses such as Jean Améry, Primo Levi, Elie Wiesel, and Imre Kertész.

The book concludes with a powerful warning about the possible consequences of "the end of the Holocaust" in public consciousness.



As a carefree 12-year-old growing up in **New York City** on the eve of the turbulent 60s, I had little knowledge of **the Holocaust** that had taken place in Europe a decade earlier. Nor did I have any experience with discrimination, racial or religious, or its terrible effects.

That was all to change when a school outing took me from my safe, Bronx neighborhood world down into **Manhattan** in 1959 to see "The Diary of **Anne Frank**," followed by an ice cream sundae at Schrafft's. Those were the days before movie advertising promos saturated the TV, so I really had no idea what the movie we were going to see was about. I was just thrilled to be going "downtown," and having a treat at a "fancy" ice cream parlor.

However, when I emerged from the theater, eyes swollen and red from crying, all thoughts of an ice cream treat were forgotten. I would never be the same. Not only did I leave a good portion of my childhood innocence behind, but a new word had entered my vocabulary that frightened me more than the imaginary monster that once lived under my bed.

Persecution.

The earth-shattering message of that film, personified by a tragic heroine close to my own age, seared deep into my young psyche and helped forge the person I would be for the rest of my life.

During my 10 years as a reporter at the *Jewish Journal*, I have met and interviewed many Holocaust survivors. I've listened to many terrible and tragic personal stories, and just when I think I've heard the worst possible story anyone could ever hear, another survivor's unimaginable story replaces that.

Often, while I sit listening to these horrific testimonies, I get a lump in my throat as big as a rock and find my eyes welling up. I fight for control — embarrassed by my emotional reaction.

Truth is, as I try to process these heartbreaking Holocaust stories, I'm often suddenly transported back to that darkened theater of my youth, where I sit sobbing as the **Nazis** drag poor Anne Frank from her attic refuge to certain death.

I'm also reminded of the question I asked my teacher on that sad, silent subway ride back to the Bronx: "Why did they kill Anne and all those people just because of their religion?"

It's a question I'm still asking.

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EDUCATORS' CORNER

FAMILY TIES MAKE HOLOCAUST REAL TO KIDS



Holocaust Education Resource Council Vice President Rita Blank sharing her parents' stories with students at Sealey Elementary School

About 70 Sealey Elementary School fifth-graders sat in near silence in the school media center Wednesday, May 2 as Rita Blank told them the story of her parents, who were Holocaust survivors.

Blank is a member of the Holocaust Education Resource Council, a nonprofit organization focused on teaching children about the Holocaust. She said the group speaks with children from elementary to high school.

The children's eyes widened as Blank told them how Nazi soldiers forced Jewish families out of their homes and those who didn't comply were often shot and killed.

Cheryl Peterson, assistant principal at Sealey, said the fifth-graders were selected to be a part of Blank's presentation because school leaders felt that the younger students would not yet be mature enough to fully understand the concepts of the death camps.

"We have a very diverse population at our school," said Lenita Joe, media specialist. Joe helped bring Blank to the school. "One of the things we try to do, besides educating them in

math and science, is to make them good citizens," Joe said. "They need to know about other cultures and people so they can be tolerant of each other," she added.

Blank, who lost her mother 12 years ago and her father about five months ago, has been telling their stories to students for the past five years. As the survivors age, "It's up to the children of the survivors to tell the stories of their parents and grandparents," she said.

Blank told the children how her parents were separated from their families as teenagers and had not known one another during the war. She added that her parents' story had a happy ending — not only did they survive a tragedy that killed millions, but after the war they married and raised two children.



**YOU MAY NOW SUPPORT HERC'S EFFORTS TOWARDS THE FUTURE
BY ADVERTISING ON OUR WEBSITE AND/OR
IN THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER!**

Here are guidelines for submitting
a great web ad:

- Create artwork to the right size.
- Be sure to design the web ad to size, creating the document to size with all type and graphics to size and in the right place. Ads that are scaled-up to size lose resolution quality, causing a blurry appearance.
- For best results, make sure the web ad displays all important information in a clear and noticeable manner. Be sure to include items such as: company name, contact information, web address.
- Please submit a compressed/flattened artwork file for web upload in the form of a PDF, JPEG or GIF. (Make sure you save a separate layered file of the original artwork for yourself, in case you need to make edits in the future.)

Ads that specify a web address will be hyper-linked to the web address by the webmaster.

Web space is measured in Pixels (px), and monitor display resolution is 72 dpi (dots per inch). These settings are ensured and/or put into place before the ad is placed "live" on the website through a process called "image optimization" using Adobe Photoshop. No worries, image optimization is done by the webmaster.

Web Site/E-Newsletter Ad prices

Full Page Ad: 8.5 in. x 11 in. (612 px x 792 px)
\$100.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Half Page Ad: 5.5 in. x 8.5 in. (612 px x 396px)
\$50.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Business Card Quarter Page Ad: 4.25 in. x 5.5
in. (396 px x 306 px)
\$25.00 x _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Business Name _____
Contact Name _____
Address _____
Phone # _____
E-Mail Address _____

Please e-mail your business card or ad (as you would like it to appear) to **hercfl@yahoo.com** and send the form and your check payable to:

**HERC
P.O. Box 16282
Tallahassee, FL 32317**

THANK YOU!!!

BECOME A MEMBER!

The Holocaust Education Resource Council (HERC) recognizes you as an important partner in our mission. As we reach out to the community, our services have never been in greater demand. Teachers, principals and community organizations request our help as they respond to the difficult times in which we find ourselves. Schools are experiencing an increase in bullying and bias, as racism rears its ugly head with greater frequency. Your membership directly supports HERC and its educational activities. Your gifts and contributions enable the Holocaust Education Resource Council to sustain its many outreach programs. Members receive special invitations to film screenings, lectures, and special programs.

We are making a difference in our community, but we cannot continue to do that without your support. We urge you to join us at whatever membership level is most comfortable for you.

MEMBERSHIP ENABLES YOU TO:

- Attend programs, films, and scholars' lectures – at reduced rates or no charge
- Receive notice of ongoing programs, updates on current genocidal situations, and invitations to special events
- Borrow from our extensive collection of books, media, research files and curricula on Holocaust, genocide & human rights issues
- Affirm your personal commitment to our mission and help us reach our goal

HERC OFFERS VARIOUS LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP:

- \$36 purchases a DVD, book or periodical for our school resources
- \$100 provides a scholarship for a student with the annual essay and art contest
- \$250 buys a set of books for a school classroom
- \$500 sponsors a speaker for annual teacher training workshop

SEND CHECKS TO:

Holocaust Education Resource Council
PO Box 16282
Tallahassee, FL. 32317

For more information, contact Barbara Goldstein at 850-443-9649, hercfl@yahoo.com

About the Holocaust Education Resource Council:

The mission of the Holocaust Education Resource Council (HERC) is to provide instructional guidance, support, and resources for educators who teach the history of the Holocaust. HERC is a 501(c)3 charitable corporation.



You May Contact HERC online at: www.holocaustresources.org