



## News Briefs – Winter 2009

[www.hatikvah-center.org](http://www.hatikvah-center.org)

### **Survivors Marc Futter and Sigmund Tobias Featured at “A Living Memorial” Additions**

A standing-room-only crowd gathered on October 21 to hear two area Holocaust survivors recount their first-hand accounts of living under Nazi rule.

Family members of other survivors also spoke at the event, held to mark the 5th anniversary of the opening of the exhibit and in conjunction with a panel of new stories added to the local section of the exhibit “A Living Memorial”.

Former businessman Marc Futter, 88, of Northampton, who was tortured in Norway by Nazi Germany’s Gestapo police simply because of his Jewish faith, spoke briefly of the difficulty of living as a survivor and also of the importance of letting future generations know what happened to millions of Jews and others deemed “undesirable” by Adolph Hitler.



**Marc Futter**



**Sigmund Tobias**

Republican photo by Dave Roback

Sigmund Tobias, 77, also originally from Berlin, Germany, recounted how his father obtained release from the Dachu death camp by immediately leaving Germany for the Japanese occupied section of Shanghai, China. The family followed six months later.

They lived in a ghetto in the Hongkou section of the city for nearly 10 years with approximately 17,000 other Jewish refugees who were allowed there without visas. They were completely cut off from the rest of the world and only learned what happened to the rest of Europe’s Jews after the end of the war.

A total of eleven new stories were added to the exhibit about people who came from both large cities and small towns in Germany, Poland and Lithuania. To read the full text of these stories, please visit our website at [http://www.hatikvah-center.org/ask/in\\_their.html](http://www.hatikvah-center.org/ask/in_their.html).

In the news... Zenia Lewinson-Bart’s story will be part of the Springfield Republican’s “Kids in Print” contest this winter. Please watch the newspaper for student essays.

### **Contribute your story...**

The Center will be adding more stories to the exhibit next year and is looking for stories of liberators, rescuers, and resistance fighters as well as those of survivors. To contribute, please call the Center at (413) 734-7700.

## **Teacher’s Workshop Featured ADL’s “Echoes and Reflections”**

Twenty-two teachers attended an all day workshop at Hatikvah based on ADL’s “Echoes and Reflections” curriculum and Hatikvah’s permanent exhibit. Marji Lipshez-Shapiro from the Connecticut office of ADL and Dr. Lauren Kempton, a national Holocaust educator, led the October 16<sup>th</sup> workshop.

The course included a multi-media presentation and discussion, testimony from a concentration camp liberator and a tour of Hatikvah’s exhibit which related artifacts, documents and pictures to “Echoes and Reflections”.

ADL’s curriculum program was developed by the Anti-Defamation League, the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education, and Yad Vashem. Visual history testimony is integrated into 10 multi-part lessons. This resource offers connections to issues of diversity, prejudice, bigotry, and modern-day genocide and encourages critical thinking.



All attendees received a learning guide and an instructional DVD. In their feedback forms they rated all aspects of the workshop as excellent and all were anxious to bring information back to their classrooms as well as bring their classes to the exhibit

## **Local Survivor Speaks at Rockville High**

Curt Warner, a survivor whose story was recently added to “A Living Memorial”, spoke to Bernice Freedman’s 10th grade classes at Rockville High School on October 8th.



Curt has returned to his hometown of Aschaffenburg, Germany and other nearby towns about a half a dozen times in the last ten years to talk to German students about his experience during WWII. This was his first time talking to American students.

Ms. Freedman, who teaches history, attended Hatikvah workshops and used the resource library to prepare lessons. About 150 of her students were in the audience. Mr. Warner spoke for about a half hour and the students asked questions for another half hour.

Hearing a survivor tell his story in person was a very moving experience. After the assembly concluded, all the students came to the podium to thank Mr. Warner and to hug him.

His story will be on Hatikvah’s website at [http://www.hatikvah-center.org/ask/in\\_their.html](http://www.hatikvah-center.org/ask/in_their.html).

## **Kristallnacht Commemoration**

This year's annual Kristallnacht commemoration was held in conjunction with Congregation B'Nai Torah's annual Izenstein Lecture at the synagogue's new home in Longmeadow.

Ronda Jackowitz, chairperson of Hatikvah, spoke about Kristallnacht and the US/FDR response to it. The policies established in 1938 remained in place until 1943 when Peter Bergson and others campaigned to change the administration's policies.



***Ronda Jackowitz, David Wyman, Rafael Medoff, and Barry Izenstein at the Kristallnacht Commemoration***

Dr. Rafael Medoff, founding executive director of the David Wyman Institute, was guest lecturer. He spoke about *The Day the Rabbis Marched to the White House: How 400 Rabbis Helped Change U.S. Policy Towards the Holocaust*.

At a time when many American Jews were reluctant to take issue with the Roosevelt administration, and when the idea of a Jewish rally in the nation's capitol was almost unheard of, more than 400 rabbis came from around the

country to Washington, D.C. just before Yom Kippur in 1943, in order to plead for U.S. government action to save Jews from Hitler. Dr. Medoff explained how these unlikely protesters helped change U.S. policy toward European Jewry during the Holocaust. The presentation included a screening of rare original newsreel footage of the march.

David Wyman also attended this event; he and Rafael Medoff signed their books at the end of the program.

## **Traveling Exhibit at Dublin School**

The traveling exhibit was displayed at the Dublin School in Dublin, New Hampshire during October.

The exhibit was a follow up event to the school's community summer book, *The Book Thief*, an extension to the studies of the "20th Century Genocides" class, and a prelude to the Humanities program Kaddish.

Academic Dean Sarah Doenmez said "The students clearly absorbed a lot from the exhibit, and having the personal stories to help with the large impressions really helps.

Thanks again; your exhibit has really contributed to education at Dublin School!"



To read more about the exhibit, please visit <http://www.dublinschool.org/files/November609.pdf>.

## **Yom HaShoah Program – Save the Date: April 11, 2010**

Hatikvah and area synagogues will collaborate to present our annual Yom HaShoah program on April 11, 2010. This year's commemoration will take place at Sinai Temple. Once again we will use "The Shoah Scroll" as the basis for the program. Please save the date and watch our website for more details.

## **"Dr. Seuss Wants You" Exhibit – May 1- 31, 2010**

Based on the wartime cartoons of Springfield native, Theodore Geisel, this exhibit offers a sampling from the nearly 400 political cartoons he created between 1941 and 1943. A traveling exhibit created by the Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education in Cincinnati, it will be displayed in the Adult Lounge of the JCC during the month of May.

The unexpected and serious side of Geisel's work provides new insights into an America divided during that time. He focused on the concerns that America needed to address while World War II engulfed the world and demonstrated in simple truth how individuals must become aware, informed and involved in their surroundings to take thoughtful and decisive action.

The exhibit is based on the book, "Dr. Seuss Goes to War" by historian Richard H. Minear.

Professor Minear will present a multi-media lecture on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 which will include an intimate look at the subtleties of the cartoons.

Please watch for further details on our website.

