BEARING WITNESS

AN EXPLORATION OF THE HOLOCAUST THROUGH PRIMARY SOURCES

FPES

Florida COMMISSIONER'S TASK FORCE ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Tampa Bay Times NIE newspaper in education tampabay.com/nie

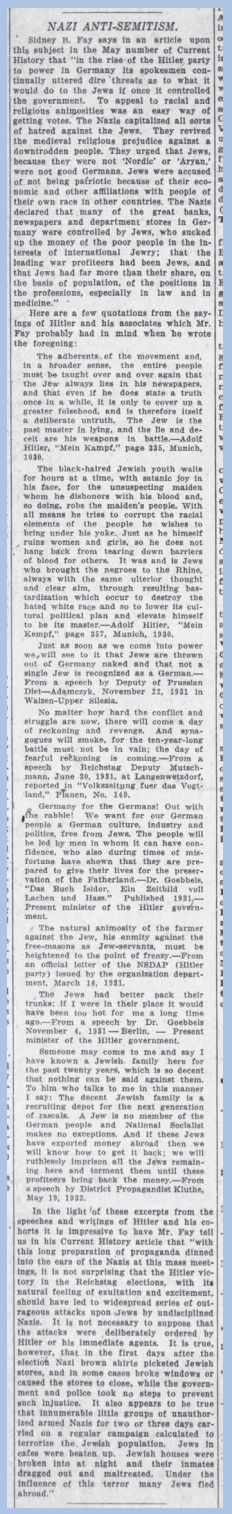
In the beginning

Hatred of Jews, known as antisemitism, has long been deep-rooted in society. Although the term antisemitism was not invented until the late 1800s, the concept has been around for centuries. By definition, a Jew is any person who is a follower of the Jewish religion Judaism, or culture.

In Europe, anti-Jewish prejudices and hatred date back to ancient times. For centuries, Jewish people, who were a minority, were often persecuted in many European kingdoms, empires and countries. Prejudices against Jews were a prevalent part of European life and thought dating back to the Middle Ages.

By the beginning of the 20th century, many antisemitic stereotypes, misconceptions and myths were well-established and widely accepted by people in European societies. This widespread hatred made the Holocaust possible.

Source: Holocaust Museum Houston



NAZI ANTI-SEMITISM.

Sidney B. Fay says in an article upon this subject in the May number of Current History that "in the rise of the Hitler party to power in Germany its spokesmen continually uttered dire threats as to what it would do to the Jews if once it controlled the government. To appeal to racial and religious animosities was an easy way of getting votes. The Nazis capitalized all sorts of hatred against the Jews. They revived the medieval religious prejudice against a downtrodden people. They urged that Jews, because they were not 'Nordic' or 'Aryan,' were not good Germans. Jews were accused of not being patriotic because of their economic and other affiliations with people of their own race in other countries. The Nazis declared that many of the great banks, newspapers and department stores in Germany were controlled by Jews, who sucked up the money of the poor people in the interests of international Jewry; that the leading war profiteers had been Jews, and that Jews had far more than their share, on the basis of population, of the positions in the professions, especially in law and in medicine."

Here are a few quotations from the sayings of Hitler and his associates which Mr. Fay probably had in mind when he wrote the foregoing:

The adherents, of the movement and, in a broader sense, the entire people must be taught over and over again that the Jew always lies in his newspapers, and that even if he does state a truth once in a while, it is only to cover up a greater falsehood, and is therefore itself a deliberate untruth. The Jew is the past master in lying, and the lie and deceit are his weapons in battle.—Adolf Hitler, "Mein Kampf," page 235, Munich, 1930.

The black-haired Jewish youth waits for hours at a time, with satanic joy in his face, for the unsuspecting maiden whom he dishonors with his blood and, so doing, robs the maiden's people. With all means he tries to corrupt the racial elements of the people he wishes to bring under his yoke. Just as he himself ruins women and girls, so he does not hang back from tearing down barriers of blood for others. It was and is Jews who brought the negroes to the Rhine, always with the same ulterior thought and clear aim, through resulting bastardization which occur to destroy the hated white race and so to lower its cultural political plan and elevate himself to be its master.—Adolf Hitler, "Mein Kempf," page 357, Munich, 1930.

Just as soon as we come into power we will see to it that Jews are thrown out of Germany naked and that not a single Jew is recognized as a German.—From a speech by Deputy of Prussian Diet—Adamczyk, November 22, 1931 in Walzen-Upper Silesia.

No matter how hard the conflict and struggle are now, there will come a day of reckoning and revenge. And synagogues will smoke, for the ten-year-long battle must not be in vain; the day of fearful reckoning is coming.—From a speech by Reichstag Deputy Mutschmann, June 30, 1931, at Langenwetzdorf, reported in "Volkszeitung fuer das Vogtland," Plauen, No. 149.

Germany for the Germans! Out with the rabble! We want for our German people a German culture, industry and politics, free from Jews. The people will be led by men in whom it can have confidence, who also during times of misfortune have shown that they are prepared to give their lives for the preservation of the Fatherland.—Dr. Goebbels, "Das Buch Isidor, Ein Zeitbild voll Lachen und Hass." Published 1931.—Present minister of the Hitler government.

The natural animosity of the farmer against the Jew, his enmity against the free-masons as Jew-servants, must be heightened to the point of frenzy.—From an official letter of the NSDAP (Hitler party) issued by the organization department, March 16, 1931.

The Jews had better pack their trunks; if I were in their place it would have been too hot for me a long time ago.—From a speech by Dr. Goebbels November 4, 1931 — Berlin. — Present minister of the Hitler government.

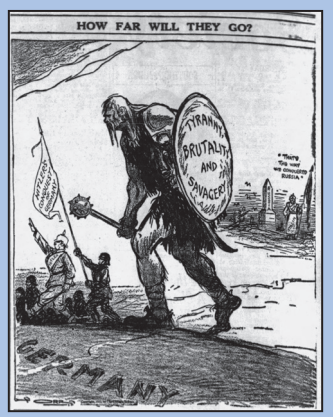
Someone may come to me and say I have known a Jewish family here for the past twenty years, which is so decent that nothing can be said against them. To him who talks to me in this manner I say: The decent Jewish family is a recruiting depot for the next generation of rascals. A Jew is no member of the German people and National Socialist makes no exceptions. And if these Jews have exported money abroad then we will know how to get it back; we will ruthlessly imprison all the Jews remaining here and torment them until these profiteers bring back the money.—From a speech by District Propagandist Kluthe, May 19, 1932.

In the light of these excerpts from the speeches and writings of Hitler and his cohorts it is impressive to have Mr. Fay tell us in his Current History article that "with this long preparation of propaganda dinned into the ears of the Nazis at this mass meetings, it is not surprising that the Hitler victory in the Reichstag elections, with its natural feeling of exultation and excitement, should have led to widespread series of outrageous attacks upon Jews by undisciplined Nazis. It is not necessary to suppose that the attacks were deliberately ordered by Hitler or his immediate agents. It is true, however, that in the first days after the election Nazi brown shirts picketed Jewish stores, and in some cases broke windows or caused the stores to close, while the government and police took no steps to prevent such injustice. It also appears to be true that innumerable little groups of unauthorized armed Nazis for two or three days carried on a regular campaign calculated to terrorize the Jewish population. Jews in cafes were beaten up. Jewish houses were broken into at night and their inmates dragged out and maltreated. Under the influence of this terror many Jews fled abroad."

The Tampa Times, April 27, 1933

The Daily Oklahoman, April 4, 1933

Brooklyn Eagle, September 25, 1933



Argus Leader, 1933

Antisemitism, a political instrument

It was in 1930s Germany that racial antisemitism became a political instrument and, later, the official policy of the government. During this time, antisemitism, which originally had its roots in religious practices that emphasized economic, social or political differences, began to gain strength as the byproduct of racial antisemitism and social Darwinism. Social Darwinism attempts to apply Charles Darwin theory of evolution by natural selection to prove that some races of people are superior to other races. This pseudoscientific theory has been disproven.

The Nazi oppression of the Jewish people began with hateful words, increased to discrimination and dehumanization and finished in genocide. However, it is important to note that millions of others also were victimized during this time. According to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, "The Holocaust shows that when one group is targeted, all people are vulnerable."

Sources: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; Yad Vashem; American Museum of Natural History

The Shoah

Shoah, the Hebrew word for catastrophe, was the organized, government-sponsored persecution and murder of 6 million European Jews by the Nazi German regime and its allies and collaborators. The Holocaust was a developing process that took place throughout Europe and North Africa from 1933, when Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party came to power in Germany, and May 1945, when World War II ended.

The Shoah, or Holocaust, progressed over time through government sponsored laws as well as pogroms, ghettos and camps.

The peak of the persecution and murder occurred during World War II. According to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, "By the end of the war in 1945, the Nazis and their collaborators had killed nearly two out of every three European Jews."

Professing that German people were racially superior to others, the Nazis believed anybody not belonging to the Aryan, white German, race was a threat.The Nazis defined Judaism as a race, instead of a religion, and targeted Jewish people as the primary enemies of State.

According to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Nazis also targeted other groups for persecution and murder, especially those deemed as racially inferior, such as Roma, people with disabilities, some Slavic peoples (especially Poles and Russians), and Black people. In addition, groups were persecuted due to their political views (Socialists and Communists), ideology (Jehovah's Witnesses) and behaviors (gay men).

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

April 19, 1943: A group of Jews are escorted from the Warsaw Ghetto by German soldiers, AP photo

Nuremberg Race Laws

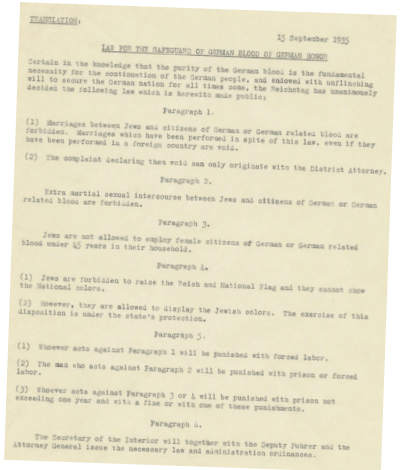
When they came to power in Germany, the Nazis did not immediately start to carry out the mass murder of Jews. However, they quickly began using the government to target and exclude Jews from German society.

Two specific laws passed in Nazi Germany in September 1935 are known collectively as the Nuremberg Laws: the Reich Citizenship Law and the Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor. These laws represented many of the racial theories underlying Nazi ideology. These laws would provide the legal framework for the systematic persecution of Jews in Germany.

While the Nuremberg Laws specifically mentioned only Jews, the laws eventually extended to Black people and Roma and Sinti living in Germany. The definition of Jews, Black people, and Roma as racial aliens facilitated their persecution in Germany.

The Reich Citizenship law defined a citizen as a person who is "of German or related blood." This excluded Jews because the government defined Jews as a separate race. The Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor was a law against what the Nazis viewed as race-mixing. These laws banned marriage and other relationships between Jews and people of German blood.

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum



TRANSLATION;

15 September 1935

LAW FOR THE SAFEGUARD OF GERMAN BLOOD OF GERMAN HONOR

Certain in the knowledge that the purity of the German blood is the fundamental necessity for the continuation of the German people, and ordered with unflinching will to secure the German nation for all times come, the Reichstag has unanimously decided the following law which is herewith made public:

Paragraph 1.

(1) Marriages between Jews and citizens of German or German related blood are forbidden. Marriages which have been performed in spite of this law, even if they have been performed in a foreign country are void.

(2) The complaint declaring them void can only originate with the District Attorney.

Paragraph 2.

Extra marital sexual intercourse between Jews and citizens of German or German related blood are forbidden.

Paragraph 3.

Jews are not allowed to employ female citizens of German or German related blood under 45 years in their household.

Paragraph 4.

(1) Jews are forbidden to raise the Reich and National Flag and they cannot show the National colors.

(2) However, they are allowed to display the Jewish colors. The exercise of this disposition is under the state's protection.

Paragraph 5.

(1) Whoever acts against Paragraph 1 will be punished with forced labor.

(2) The man who acts against Paragraph 2 will be punished with prison or forced labor.

(3) Whoever acts against Paragraph 3 or 4 will be punished with prison not exceeding one year and with a fine or with one of these punishments.

Paragraph 6.

The Secretary of the Interior will together with the Deputy Führer and the Attorney General issue the necessary law and administration ordinances.

Nuremberg Law for the Safeguard of German Blood and German Honor, National Archives

Bearing Witness Front cover credits (clockwise from top left): "Burnt offering," Warren Times Mirror, May 13, 1933; "Book bonfires set for tonight," The Miami News, May 10, 1933; "Nazis relegate Jews to status of middle ages," Tallahassee Democrat, September 16, 1935; "Hitler dismisses Jews in government offices," Tampa Bay Times, April 9, 1933; Destroyed storefronts in Berlin following Kristallnacht, National Archives; "Political rights stripped from Jews," Tallahassee Democrat, November 15, 1935; "High Nazi officials defend mob attack on Jews; Ghettos of middle ages will return," Tampa Bay Times, November 12, 1938; "Objects of art taken from homes of Jews," The Miami Herald, November 18, 1938; "Fugitives turned back," Tampa Bay Times, November 13, 1938; "Jude" star, stock photo; Map showing location of Buchenwald and Dachau, Daily News, November 12, 1938; "Jews in Vienna can't buy food," Daily News, November 12, 1938; April 19, 1943: A group of Jews are escorted from the Warsaw Ghetto by German soldiers, AP photo; "Jews in Warsaw fighting Nazis," Tampa Bay Times, May 7, 1943; "Gestapo purges occupied France," Tampa Bay Times, July 26, 1942; "1,765,000 Jews slain by Nazis in prison camp," Tampa Bay Times, November 26, 1944; "Look," Tampa Bay Times, May 6, 1945; "Hungary deports 600,000 Jews," The Miami News, December 12, 1944; "Building on sand," Star Tribune, May 6, 1945; Romanian identity document of Luyi Solomon, Holocaust Survivor, courtesy of Jill Stacey; This violin has been on permanent exhibit at The Florida Holocaust Museum, as part of the DP Camp exhibit. Harry Heuman's father, a Holocaust survivor, played the violin to afford college and medical school. That violin was destroyed during the Allied war efforts. This violin was found subsequent to his liberation from Dachua, courtesy of Harry Heuman; "Five million Jews slain by Nazis, Hungarian says," Tampa Bay Times, April 4, 1945; "Congressmen view horrors of prison at Buchenwald," Tampa Bay Times, April 23, 1945; Survivors at a concentration camp at Wobbelin, Germany, US Army Signal Corps; "Nuremburg and the dream of law," Tampa Bay Times, November 29, 1945; "12 Nazis to die for war crimes," Tampa Bay Times, October 2, 1946

Third Reich policies

By 1942, Nazi Germany, also known as the Third Reich, controlled most of Europe and parts of North Africa. Nazi Germany and its allies and collaborators applied a wide range of anti-Jewish policies and measures. These policies varied from place to place. Thus, not all Jews experienced the Holocaust in the same way. Throughout German-controlled and aligned territories, the persecution of Jews took a variety of forms:

- Legal discrimination in the form of antisemitic laws
- Various forms of public identification and exclusion
- Physical displacement
- Detention
- Widespread theft and raids
- Forced labor

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Adolf Hitler, AP photo

Propaganda is the spreading of information — facts, arguments, rumors, half-truths or lies — to influence public opinion, according to Britannica.

JEWS ARRESTED IN BERLIN

These Jews were arrested for questioning in Berlin during the Hitlerites' anti-Jewish boycott. Government officials are jotting down answers to their queries before the prisoners were taken away.

Tampa Bay Times, April 15, 1933

Propaganda and antisemitism

The Nazis falsely accused Jews of causing Germany's social, economic, political and cultural problems. Specifically, the Nazis blamed the Jewish people for Germany's defeat in World War I (1914–1918). The instability of Germany under the Weimar Republic (1918–1933), the fear of communism and the Great Depression made many Germans more open to Nazi ideas, especially antisemitism.

The Nazi Party promoted an infectious form of racial antisemitism. It was central to the party's race-based worldview. According to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, "The Nazis believed that the world was divided into distinct races and that some of these races were superior to others. They considered Germans to be members of the supposedly superior 'Aryan' race." Nazis insisted that "Aryans" were in a struggle for existence with other, inferior races, and the Jewish race was the most dangerous to their existence.

Source: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

An aggressive foreign policy

The Holocaust took place throughout German- and Axis-controlled Europe. It affected nearly all of Europe's Jewish population, which in 1933 numbered 9 million people. The Nazi persecution of Jews spread quickly beyond Germany. The aggressive foreign policy employed by Nazi Germany concluded with World War II.

Hitler's foreign policy had two major points: nullifying the conditions of the Treaty of Versailles and a war of expansion. After World War I, the map of Europe was re-drawn and several new countries were formed. As a result of this, three million Germans found themselves now living in part of Czechoslovakia, called the Sudetenland. When Adolf Hitler came to power, he wanted to unite all Germans into one nation.

Sources: The Holocaust Explained; United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, The National Archives, U.K.

1919

On May 7, the Treaty of Versailles is presented to the German delegation.
September 16: Adolf Hitler issues his first written comment on the so-called Jewish Question.

1920

In February 1920, Hitler presents a 25-point Program (the Nazi Party Platform) to a Nazi Party meeting.

1923

On November 8-9, Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party lead a coalition group in an attempted *coup d'état*, known as the Beer Hall Putsch. In the Beer Hall Putsch of 1923, Hitler and the Nazi Party attempt to overthrow the Weimar Republic.

1925

On February 27, after being released from Landsberg prison, where he served just 9 months for treason, Hitler quickly reestablishes the Nazi Party. Hitler declares the reformulation of the Nazi Party (NSDAP) with himself as leader (*Führer*).

1930

On November 22, the Eden Dance Palace shooting takes place.

1932

In July, the Nazi Party wins 230 seats in German parliamentary elections, becoming the largest party represented.
In the November German elections, the Nazi Party wins 33 percent of the vote, more than any other party.

Photos Tell Story of Hitler's War on German Jews

LEFT—Smuggled from Germany and just received in this country, this photo gives graphic evidence of the boycott of Jewish merchants under the Hitler regime. It shows Nazis solidly lined up before a Jewish shop in Munich to turn away would-be customers.
RIGHT—The top photo, brought secretly from Wurtemberg, shows how restaurant tables throughout southern Germany are placarded so that foreigners, even Jews not residents of Germany, will not be molested by Hitler's Nazis. "I am Swiss," the placard reads. The lower photo shows how even Jewish professional men came under the Nazi ban. "Attention—Jew! Visitors Forbidden" appears posted on the door of a Jewish physician's office.

Dr. Martin Rosenberg

The Orlando Sentinel, April 24, 1933

GOING BEYOND THE TEXT

A history of hate

From the perspective of someone living in the United States in 2024, the actions that took place during the Holocaust seem outrageous. However, prejudice, especially against "other" races and religions, has been and continues to be part of society. You may think that the factors that allowed the Holocaust to happen were unique to that time in history and to that part of the world. They are not.

- Using the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education (NIE) publication Genocide in the 20th and 21st Centuries — **https://nieonline.com/tbtimes/downloads/supplements/2023NIEGenocide.pdf** — research the history of the genocides that have taken place in the world since 1945. There are other examples besides the ones listed in the NIE supplement. Find out the causes of the genocides and the number and type of people affected. Create an infographic to share with your class.
- Do acts of hate and intolerance persist throughout the world and within our communities today? Look through the Tampa Bay Times for a newspaper article focusing on prejudice and hate. Briefly summarize the article. In small groups, share your articles. As a group, decide how the negative events in the article could have been prevented.

Florida Standards: SS.6.W.1.3; SS.6.W.1.6; SS.912.P.10.6; SS.912.P.10.9; ELA.612.EE.1.1; ELA.612.EE.2.1; ELA.612.EE.3.1 ELA.612.EE.4.1; ELA.612.EE.5.1; ELA.612.EE.6.1; ELA.612.C.1.3; ELA.612.C.1.4; ELA.612.C.2.1; ELA.612.C.3.1; ELA.612.C.4.1; ELA.612.C.5.1; ELA.612.R.2.2; ELA.612.R.2.3; ELA.612.R.2.4

SS Squad in street, Warsaw, Poland, National Archives

Kristallnacht:
The night of broken glass

Captured Jewish civilians being escorted to Umschlagplatz, Warsaw, Poland, National Archives

"On the night of November 9, 1938, the sounds of breaking glass shattered the air in cities throughout Germany and parts of Austria while fires across the countries devoured synagogues and Jewish institutions. By the end of the rampage, gangs of Nazi storm troopers had destroyed 7,000 Jewish businesses, set fire to more than 900 synagogues, killed 91 Jews and deported some 30,000 Jewish men to concentration camps."

–The American Experience, Public Broadcasting System

New government policies

Kristallnacht, the night of broken glass, provided the Nazi government with the opportunity to remove Jews from German public life. Within a week of the riot, the Nazis declared the following policies:

- Jewish businesses could not be reopened unless they were to be managed by non-Jews.
- Jewish children were barred from attending school.
- Jews were banned from selling goods or services anywhere, from participating in crafts work, from serving as the managers of any firms, and from being members of cooperatives.
- In addition, the Nazis determined that the Jews should be liable for the damages caused during "Kristallnacht."

Sources: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; American Experience, Public Broadcasting System

Isolation and captivity

Creating ghettos was an integral part of the Nazi process of separating, persecuting and, finally, destroying Europe's Jews. Jews were forced to move into the isolated neighborhoods, where living conditions were miserable. German officials first created ghettos in 1939–1940 in German-occupied Poland. The two largest were located in Warsaw and Lodz.

Ghettos were areas of cities or towns where Germans forced Jews to live in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions. German authorities often enclosed these areas by building walls or other barriers. Armed guards prevented Jews from leaving without permission.

Beginning in June 1941, German officials also established ghettos in newly conquered territories in eastern Europe following the German attack on the Soviet Union.

Life in the ghettos was sad and dangerous. There was little food and limited sanitation or medical care. "Hundreds of thousands of people died by starvation; rampant disease; exposure to extreme temperatures; as well as exhaustion from forced labor," according to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Germans also murdered the imprisoned Jews through brutal beatings, torture, shootings and other forms of violence.

"Beginning in 1941–1942, Germans and their allies and collaborators murdered ghetto residents *en masse* and dissolved ghetto administrative structures. They called this process 'liquidation.' It was part of the 'Final Solution to the Jewish Question.'"

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Incarceration and detention

Youths released from the Buchenwald Concentration Camp, National Archives

Top: Captured Jewish civilians being escorted to Umschlagplatz, Warsaw, Poland, National Archives

Bottom: Prisoners pose in liberated Nazi concentration camp, National Archives

Between 1933 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its allies established more than 44,000 camps and other incarceration sites (including ghettos). These sites were used for a range of purposes, including forced labor, detention of people thought to be enemies of the state and mass murder.

The first concentration camp, Dachau, opened outside of Munich, Germany, in March 1933. It was used primarily for political prisoners and was the longest-operating camp until its liberation in April 1945.

Concentration camps were for the detention of civilians seen as real or perceived enemies of the Reich.

Forced-labor camps were locations where the Nazi regime exploited the labor of prisoners for economic gain and to meet labor shortages. Prisoners lacked proper equipment, clothing, nourishment or rest.

Transit camps functioned as temporary holding facilities for Jews awaiting deportation, usually to a killing center.

Prisoner-of-war camps were for allied prisoners of war, including Poles and Soviet soldiers.

Killing centers were created for the assembly-line style murder of large numbers of people. There were five killing centers: Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka and Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Millions of people were imprisoned, mistreated and murdered in the various types of Nazi camps. Under SS (*Schutzstaffel*, or Protection Squads) management, the Germans and their collaborators murdered 2.7 million Jews in the killing centers alone. Only a small fraction of those imprisoned in Nazi camps survived.

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Resettlement and evacuation

German authorities, with the help of their allies and collaborators, transported Jews from across Europe to these killing centers. Most of the deportations were accomplished by train. Much of the time, the railcars on the trains were freight cars; in other instances they were passenger cars. The railcars were overcrowded and the passengers were deprived of food, water, bathrooms, heat and medical care for days and weeks. People frequently died on the trains because of the inhumane conditions.

The Final Solution

The Nazi "Final Solution to the Jewish Question" was the deliberate and systematic mass murder of European Jews. It was the last stage of the Holocaust and took place from 1941 to 1945. Though many Jews were killed before the "Final Solution," most Jewish victims were murdered during this period. There were two main methods of killing: mass shooting and asphyxiation with poison gas. The gassing operations were conducted at killing centers and with mobile gas vans.

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

The collaborators

At the highest level, Adolf Hitler encouraged, ordered, approved and supported the genocide of Europe's Jews. However, it is important to remember that Hitler did not act alone. Also, Hitler did not create an exact plan for the realization of the Final Solution. According to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, "Other Nazi leaders were the ones who directly coordinated, planned and implemented the mass murder. Among them were Hermann Göring, Heinrich Himmler, Reinhard Heydrich, and Adolf Eichmann."

Millions of Germans and other Europeans participated in the Holocaust. Without their involvement, the genocide of the Jewish people in Europe would not have been possible. In addition, regular, ordinary people participated in the Holocaust either actively or by being bystanders.

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Adolf Hitler, leader of the National Socialists, emerges from the party's Munich headquarters, AP photo

1933

FORT MYERS NEWS - PRESS

BLIZZARD HITS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Adolf Hitler Is German Chancellor

Fort Myers News Press, January 31, 1933

On January 30, the National Socialist German Workers' Party, more commonly known as the Nazi Party, assumes control of the German state when German President Paul von Hindenburg appoints Nazi Party leader Adolf Hitler as Chancellor at the head of a coalition government.

On February 28, the day after the German parliament (Reichstag) building burned down due to arson, President Hindenburg issues the Decree for the Protection of People and the Reich (also known as the Reichstag Fire Decree).

On March 22, Dachau becomes the first concentration camp established by the Nazi government.

On April 1, the Nazi leadership stages an economic boycott targeting Jewish-owned businesses and the offices of Jewish professionals.

On April 7, The German government issues the Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service, which excludes Jews and other political opponents of the Nazis from all civil service positions.

On April 25, the German government issues the Law against Overcrowding in Schools and Universities, which dramatically limits the number of Jewish students attending public schools.

On May 10, books deemed "Un-German" are publicly banned throughout Germany.

On July 14, the German government passes the "Law for the Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary Diseases," mandating the forced sterilization of certain individuals with physical and mental disabilities.

On October 4, The Editors Law, which forbids non-"Aryans" to work in journalism, is passed.

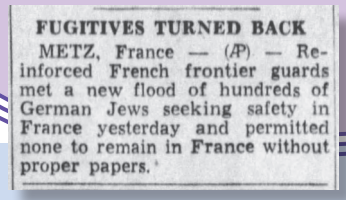
On November 24, the German government passes a "Law against Dangerous Habitual Criminals." The new law allows courts to order the indefinite imprisonment of "habitual criminals" if they deem the person dangerous to society. It also provides for the castration of sex offenders.

1934

On June 30, Hitler orders a violent elimination of the top leadership of the Nazi Party paramilitary formation.

On August 2, Hitler becomes President of Germany. Later that month Hitler abolishes the office of President and declares himself Führer of the German Reich and people.

On August 19, Hitler becomes the absolute dictator of Germany.



FUGITIVES TURNED BACK

METZ, France — (AP) — Reinforced French frontier guards met a new flood of hundreds of German Jews seeking safety in France yesterday and permitted none to remain in France without proper papers.

Tampa Bay Times, November 13, 1938

GOING BEYOND THE TEXT

Collaborators and bystanders

Holocaust survivor and author Elie Wiesel said, "The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference." What does indifference mean? Look up the words "indifference," "collaborator" and "bystander" using an online dictionary.

Write down what these words mean on the top of a piece of paper and look for examples of each word in the Tampa Bay Times. During Hitler's reign in Germany, many residents living in the vicinity of concentration camps and killing centers claimed to not be aware of what was happening. Were these residents indifferent, collaborators or bystanders? Discuss this idea with your classmates.

Do you know what is happening in your neighborhoods? Look for articles of crimes in the Tampa Bay Times. Were there bystanders to these events? What would you have done if you had witnessed these actions?

Florida Standards: SS.6.W.1.3; SS.68.HE.1.1; SS.6.W.1.3; SS.6.W.1.5; SS.912.HE.1.2; SS.912.HE.2.7; SS.912.HE.2.8; SS.912.HE.2.9; ELA.612.EE.1.1; ELA.612.EE.2.1; ELA.612.EE.3.1 ELA.612.EE.4.1; ELA.612.EE.5.1; ELA.612.EE.6.1; ELA.612.C.1.3; ELA.612.C.1.4; ELA.612.C.2.1; ELA.612.C.3.1; ELA.612.C.4.1; ELA.612.C.5.1; ELA.612.R.2.2; ELA.612.R.2.3; ELA.612.R.2.4

SURVIVOR:

OTILIA (TERRIE) RABINOWITZ

Photo of family's saved fabric scrap of the armband Jews were forced to wear. The C stands for "copil," which means child, courtesy of Jill Stacey

Seated is Terrie Rabinowitz with her parents, courtesy of Jill Stacey

Rabinowitz's extended family on holiday before the war, courtesy of Jill Stacey

Family photo, courtesy of Jill Stacey

A later picture of Rabinowitz's paternal grandmother and one of her four daughters, circa 1939, courtesy of Jill Stacey

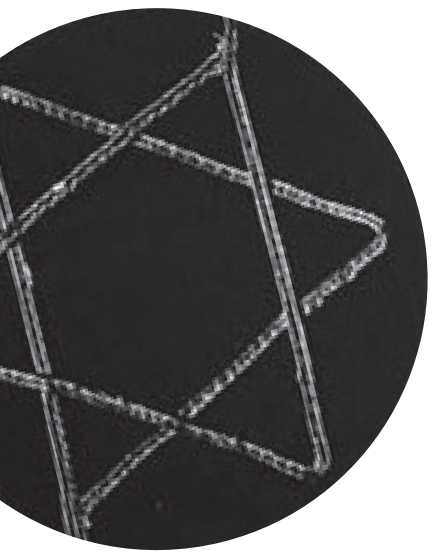


Photo of family's saved fabric scrap of the armband Jews were forced to wear, courtesy of Jill Stacey

Born in Romania in 1938, Otilia "Terrie" Solomon was a pretty little girl who received lots of love and attention. When Adolf Hitler came to power, she and her family lived in a town called Podu Iloaiei, in the Moldavia region, Iasi district.

Now a resident of Florida, Terrie Rabinowitz says she was about 3 years old when her family was forced to leave their home and their possessions. Her father, a businessman, was required to abandon his business as well. "All Jews were chased out of town," she recalls.

Rabinowitz remembers leaving in the middle of the night to move in with her grandparents, who lived in the back of their dry goods store in the larger, neighboring town of Iasi.

Although she was only a small child, Rabinowitz remembers certain details about that time, including the family bomb shelter, hiding in the cellar and seeing people and animals killed by bombs. She also remembers seeing buildings, such as the local library, destroyed. Another memory she has includes the time her father and 14 other men were rescued from the Nazi death trains. After escaping, the men came to live with the family in their tiny house in the back of her grandfather's store.

Rabinowitz says the Jewish children were no longer allowed to go to public school. However, a Jewish teacher was given a small room for all the Jewish students. She recalls looking out the windows of the room and seeing German troops marching in the streets and hearing bombs falling.

During that time, everything was uncertain, Rabinowitz recalls. Any day a person could be separated from his or her family and sent to a concentration camp or be shot.

Rabinowitz notes that leaving the area, let alone the country, was not an option for most people. The country's only airport was far away in the capital city of Bucharest. People didn't have and couldn't get passports. They didn't have financial means to leave, and the only way a person could go to another country was if someone living there invited that person through legal channels and promised to take care of that person.

While fear was a pervasive part of life during the Holocaust, Rabinowitz notes she "had a lot of faith in my father." She recalls her parents were very protective. "My parents were strict, my father, very strict. We had to listen."

She recalls one incident when the German soldiers came to her house looking for men to take to camps for forced labor. She and her sister helped hide their father in a storage trunk. "We were sitting there very quietly (on top of the trunk) nodding our heads," she says. "The children were tuned in and very obedient to the parents." She notes that children had to be respectful to their parents because not being respectful and obedient would cause big trouble.

"I knew at the age of 6 what to do," Rabinowitz says.

"Each adult in the family was assigned to a child," Rabinowitz notes. When the adults heard the sirens or bombs, they would get that child. Rabinowitz says when that happened, she wasn't allowed to look for her sister or her doll. She had to follow the adult, so they could go quickly to the shelter. When leaving the safety of the shelter, she would often see horses dead from the shrapnel of the bombs.

One day, the sirens went off and Rabinowitz recalls that her grandfather could not find her. Her parents were hysterical when they realized a German soldier had taken her. They found her sitting on the soldier's lap eating a sandwich. She says the solider was crying, and he told her mother that the child reminded him of his daughter at home.

"So, it goes to show you that maybe even one percent still had some humanity in them," Rabinowitz notes. Even though it was the worst of times, "you may still find someone that has a heart." She says that is a good lesson for young people. "Even if there's a bunch of bullies, there may be one person, a friend of yours that'll say, 'Hey, wait a second, I'm not going to ridicule or make fun of you.'"

Rabinowitz and her family were permitted to emigrate to America in 1948 because her father, who was born in New York City, was a naturalized American citizen. She explains that her grandparents were living in America for a brief time in 1901 when their son was born. When her father was 21 years old, he had the choice to be a Romanian citizen and own land, or to remain an American citizen by his birthright. By choosing to be an American citizen, every year, he laboriously traveled to Bucharest to renew that citizenship.

Her father chose for his children to be American citizens as well, but the family couldn't leave Romania until after the war because their mother was a Romanian citizen.

Rabinowitz compares her time during the Holocaust to life during the COVID pandemic. She says, "I really was traumatized during the pandemic because it reminded me of my childhood. Like me, children in America were used to freedom, to playing in the street, to hugging each other. Then all of a sudden, they couldn't go out to school, to socialize and they had to wear masks.

"Of course," she notes, "the Holocaust years were extreme. At that time, someone could turn you in to the authorities and put you in a transport to a concentration camp; it could be your own neighbor because if your neighbor hid you or protected you, they themselves were in danger of being murdered. Although the pandemic wasn't the Holocaust, it was a rough reminder of having to stay away from people, hide and shortages."

SECOND GENERATION:

JILL STACEY

Jill Stacey and Terrie Rabinowitz, courtesy of Jill Stacey

Jill Stacey, a Florida resident, grew up knowing her mother, Otilia (Terrie) Rabinowitz, was a Holocaust survivor. Stacey says her mother shared some stories with her family, but her aunt, Rabinowitz's sister, did not want to talk about that time in their lives. Ironically, Rabinowitz did not save any historical documents, but Stacey's aunt saved documents and photos.

Stacey knows that her mother's family survived the Holocaust by hiding in the back of a truck. They traveled from town to town when the roundups were taking place. She also learned that her grandfather, Labish, avoided capture by not registering with the rest of the Jews in the town hall, so he was able to avoid a roundup when the Nazi soldiers came for the men in the community.

"I've heard all of these stories over and over again since I'm 3, since I have any memory." Stacey says. She remembers hearing her grandfather talk about the Nazis when someone painted a Swastika on the family's garage when they lived on Long Island, New York.

She recalls that her mother's parents were different from her other grandparents. For example, her mother's parents held her by the wrist instead of the hand, and they spoke multiple languages, including English, Yiddish, Romanian and French.

She remembers her grandfather grabbing her by the wrist and standing in front of the defaced garage explaining what the Swastika meant. "It was always an education," Stacey recalls, and he always said people were out to get them. "There was a also this Jewish identity thing based around being a Holocaust survivor. My mother tried to soften a lot of that. She always gave us this sense that we should have respect for other people who speak other languages."

Family photo in Romania 1939. Far right: Otilia (Terrie) on her mother's lap, her sister behind her in front of her father. Notable in this photo is that all the children survived, but many of the aunts and uncles were murdered, courtesy of Jill Stacey

Stacey says her grandfather was a businessman in Romania. Her mother grew up in a household that had money. Rabinowitz took piano lessons and had a tutor who taught her English. She also had a governess to take her to and from school.

Stacey notes that although Rabinowitz's early life took place during Hitler's reign of power, the bombings and the family being forced to move and hide did not begin until around 1942. Stacey notes that the family had an established life that they tried to hold onto as long as they could. "Even though the bombs are falling, you're still going to practice piano in between us hiding in shelters and running for our lives," she says.

Stacey notes that even though there was no formal school, her mother had an English tutor because "Education is the most important thing. If you can speak a few languages, this is your ticket out of poverty."

Stacey describes her mother as the center of the family. She was the person who was always making everyone laugh, always making everyone smile. As a child, she was cherubic, and she was beautiful. Stacey notes, her mother "had curly brown hair, and she still has this amazing smile. Her favorite line is turning troubles into triumphs."

When Stacey was growing up, she was taught to respect everybody. "Everyone is human, and everyone is equal," Stacey notes, "because that's what the Holocaust survivors want to believe of themselves."

Terrie Rabinowitz's uncles, courtesy of Jill Stacey

GOING BEYOND THE TEXT

Standing up for what is right

Otilia (Terrie) Rabinowitz says, even in the worst of times, you may "still find someone that has a heart. Even when there's a bunch of bullies, there may be one person, a friend of yours, that'll say, 'Hey, wait a second, I'm not going to ridicule or make fun of you.'" She uses the example of the German soldier who fed her a sandwich as proof of the goodness in people. Have you seen people standing up for others in your community, at school or in your neighborhood? Look for examples of people showing they have heart in the Tampa Bay Times. Write a fully developed paragraph explaining what this person did and why he or she shows heart.

Florida Standards: SS.6.W.1.3; ELA.612.EE.1.1; ELA.612.EE.2.1; ELA.612.EE.3.1 ELA.612.EE.4.1; ELA.612.EE.5.1; ELA.612.EE.6.1; ELA.612.C.1.3; ELA.612.C.1.4; ELA.612.C.2.1; ELA.612.C.3.1; ELA.612.C.4.1; ELA.612.C.5.1; ELA.612.R.2.2; ELA.612.R.2.3; ELA.612.R.2.4

1935

On April 1, the German government bans Jehovah's Witness organizations.

On June 28, The German Ministry of Justice expands the range of criminal offenses for homosexuality. The revision facilitates the systematic persecution of men accused of homosexuality and provides police with broader means for prosecuting them.

On September 15, the German parliament (Reichstag) passes the Nuremberg Race Laws.

In December, the German government issues the Lebensborn program.

POLITICAL RIGHTS STRIPPED FROM JEWS

BERLIN, Nov. 15—(AP)—All politic·l rights were taken from Jews in Germany today by an official decree, defining closely the citizenship and racial laws promulgated by the Reichstag at its Nuremberg session during the September convention of the nazi party.

"The Jew cannot be a Reichs citizen, cannot vote or occupy public office," ruled the decree, published in the official gazette.

"Jewish functionaries of the government will be pensioned December 31, 1935."

Another decree, dealing with the ne blood honor laws, forbade marriages between Jews and "quarter Jews," or between "quarter Jews" and themselves.

Aryan domestic servants may remain in the service of Jews, the decree provided, if they are 35 years of age or over.

Tallahassee Democrat, November 15, 1935

1936

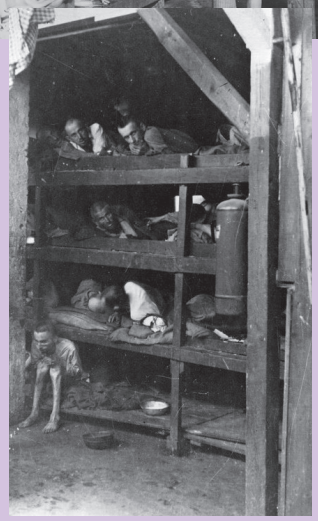
In June, German physician and child psychiatrist Robert Ritter is appointed to lead a new eugenics research center. Ritter and his small staff visited Romani communities and the so-called "Gypsy camps" opened by authorities to segregate Roma and Sinti.

The Decree on "Combating the Gypsy Plague" directed authorities in Nazi Germany to enforce existing anti-Romani laws and to deport non-German Roma and Sinti.

On July 16, before the 1936 Summer Olympic Games opened in Berlin, German authorities ordered the arrest of Roma and Sinti living in the greater Berlin area.

On August 1, the Summer Olympic Games open in Berlin, attended by athletes and spectators from countries around the world. The Olympic Games are a propaganda success for the Nazi government.

Buchenwald concentration camp, National Archives



Prisoners in the hospital barracks at Buchenwald concentration camp, National Archives

1937

On July 15, SS authorities open the Buchenwald concentration camp for male prisoners in east-central Germany.

On November 8, the antisemitic exhibition *Der Ewige Jude* (The Eternal Jew) opens at the library of the German Museum in Munich, Germany. More than 400,000 people attend the exhibition.

SURVIVOR:

SEVEK (SIDNEY) FINKEL

Born Sevek Finkelstein in Piotrków Trybunalski, Poland, on December 19, 1931, Finkel was only 2 years old when Adolf Hitler became the Chancellor of Germany. On Sept. 1, 1939, the German army invaded Poland, and Finkel and his family were forced to live in the Piórkow ghetto in Poland.

In his book, "Sevek and the Holocaust: The Boy Who Refused to Die," Arizona resident Finkel notes that 20,000 Jewish people were forced to live in the ghetto where 5,000 Poles had lived. People were living five to a room, and the living quarters for his family had no running water or toilet.

On Oct. 14, 1942, the ghetto was liquidated. The residents of the ghetto were deported, with the exception of 1,500 residents who had work permits. Able to stay in the ghetto, Sevek was hidden while his father and brother worked as slave labor. Finkel would find out later that his mother, Faiga, and sister, Frania, were sent to the gas chambers in Treblinka. Sister Ronia and her infant son had previously been murdered when she was smuggled into a Catholic hospital to deliver her baby and her Jewish identity was discovered. Lola was the only sister to survive.

Next, the men were sent to a camp called Czestochowa in Poland. Finkel describes the sanitary conditions of the camp as being "intolerable." Finkel, his father and brother were separated when they were herded into a cattle car and sent to Buchenwald concentration camp. He had just turned 13 years old and was a political prisoner.

"I managed to survive because of my brother and luck, pure luck. At the time we went to Buchenwald, Auschwitz was closed," Finkel says. "We knew we were going to be liberated at any moment because we could hear the American Army fighting and shooting things."

Approximately 900 children were freed from Buchenwald but Finkel was not one of them. The day before the American Army came to liberate the camp, he was forced to be on a death march out of Buchenwald. The march led the group to Weimar railroad station, where Finkel was put on a train for three weeks.

At this point, Germany was destroyed, and the guards didn't know which way to go. Finkel describes the experience on the train as "the hardest thing" he had to endure. It was a "miserable experience." He recalls being packed on the open train car with no protection from the elements. Finkel says there was no place to sit down, there was no water and there were no bathrooms. People were fighting with each other.

Finkel remembers being scared and anxious but knowing how important it was to stay with his friends on the train. His sole purpose at this time was survival. He says the train was aimlessly going back and forth. The Germans had lost the war, and they "didn't know where to move the train because the American Army and the Russians were overriding it."

Finkel remembers when the train stopped because there was bombing. He recalls jumping off the train and begging the soldiers for food. Sometimes the soldiers gave him food, which he would share with his friends.

In his book, Finkel mentions that he often resorted to eating grass because he was starving. To this day, he avoids eating green foods.

The train eventually ended up in Theresienstadt, in Czechoslovakia, where the group was liberated by the Russian army; however, the prisoners were not allowed to leave the camp. Then Finkel became ill with typhus. When he overcame the illness, he was put into a home with other boys. One day he heard his name being called from the street, so he ran to the window.

"And there was my big brother with a knapsack, and he had all kinds of goodies in that knapsack," Finkel says. "We stayed in Theresienstadt for, I think, about a month or so." At this time, Finkel also was reunited with his sister Lola.

Then the British government allowed some of the boys to come to England, Finkel says. Since you had to be 16 years old or younger to come to England, many of the boys lied about their age. It was the first time Finkel said he was younger than his real age. Isaac Finkelstein, who was older than the rest of the boys, joined them as a counselor.

Finkel wound up at a boarding school called Bunce Court, where he would continue his education and learn English. "When I was in England, I learned English rather quickly," he says. Finkel loved living in London and remembers going "from one theater to another and watch movies. I learned English from the movies," especially Abbott and Costello movies.

After being persecuted for six years, Finkel was now free.

Sidney (Sevek) Finkel hands a child to his brother, Isaac Finkel, courtesy of Ruth Finkel Wade

Isaac Finkelstein, courtesy of Ruth Finkel Wade

Left to right: Faiga Finkelstein (mother), Rachel Gold (aunt), Ronia Finkelstein (sister), courtesy of Ruth Finkel Wade

Ronia Finkelstein, courtesy of Ruth Finkel Wade

RUTH FINKEL WADE

Sidney Finkel's daughter, Ruth Finkel Wade, said she didn't realize that her father was a Holocaust survivor until she was in her 20s. She didn't find out details of his life during the Holocaust until she was 33 years old and pregnant with her son. As an author, co-editor and author of "The Ones Who Remember: Second-Generation Voices of the Holocaust," a speaker and a docent at The Florida Holocaust Museum, Finkel knows the importance of sharing her father's story.

In 2006, Sidney Finkel published his memoir and then in 2017, his daughter began working on a second edition of the book. Since that time, she and her father have grown closer as she learns more of his history.

She learned more of his story when she read his claimant document, which was written for the German government. Sidney Finkel had two sisters his daughter had never heard of. She learned more about her father when she listened to his brother Isaac's testimonial for the Imperial Museum in London. Although she says Isaac's accent made it difficult to understand some of the details, she learned more about the brothers' exploits when her cousin transcribed the audio.

Isaac Finkelstein's story differs a great deal from Sidney's story because they were 17 years apart in age and had different experiences. Finkelstein was a Polish soldier, and Wade describes him as being brave. Wade says, "I named my son after him because he saved my father's life many times."

Wade now shares her father's story as often as possible. When she tells her father's story, she stresses three points: making choices, having luck and being skillful. "No one survives without help," Wade says, "and sometimes it was a choice someone made to not kill you."

Sometimes the choices are little, such as sharing a piece of bread or a smile, and sometimes the choice is big like the underground movement at Buchenwald, Wade notes. She says it is important that people, especially young people, "really understand what it means to not be a bystander and to make choices and decisions, good and bad."

Ruth Finkel Wade and Sidney Finkel, courtesy of Ruth Finkel Wade

To illustrate her point about choices, Wade explains about the family that tried to save Finkel's sister Ronia. The family members took Ronia to a Catholic hospital when she was giving birth to her first child. But, someone at the hospital informed the soldiers that Ronia was Jewish, and that changed the course of that choice, which resulted in Ronia and her newborn being murdered.

Wade describes her father as an adventurous child. She notes he is really good at charming people as well. He was "rambunctious, a risk taker." She notes he had to constantly make choices or allow other people to make choices for him. She gives the example of her father's life in the Polish ghetto to support her point.

She explains that there were 15,000 Jews living in a space for 5,000 people, and then as the surrounding villages were emptied of Jews, the numbers in the ghetto grew to more than 20,000. Her father was a kid at the time, so "to him it was an adventure. It wasn't that bad." They had food and there were people, but in reality, the people were living in dire straits and dying of starvation.

Wade says she didn't live with her father when she was growing up because her parents separated when she was 2 years old. "I've just really kind of now realized he must have had a really terrible abandonment trigger ... I think too, a lot of times he reverts to this arrested development of 12, 13-year-old Sevek, who just has to do what he can to survive, numb his emotions and try."

Wade notes that she learned more about her father's history when they traveled first to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and then to Buchenwald.

Wade believes it is part of her legacy to share her father's story. "This is in my bones," she says. "This is in my DNA. It's not easy, but it's part of me. It's not so much an obligation, but it's because I have a responsibility to do something with it. Also, it really makes me feel closer to my dad," she says. Wade says she is grateful every day that she and her father have a warm and loving relationship.

GOING BEYOND THE TEXT

Survivor testimonials

Sevek (Sidney) Finkel and the other survivors in this publication have profound stories to tell. Write a blog post or journal entry exploring the following questions:

- What is the purpose of oral histories (such as Holocaust survivor testimonies)?
- What role do they play in our understanding of history?
- How are oral histories (eyewitness testimonies) different from other primary sources?
- What can we learn about individual experiences, actions and choices from testimonies?
- Why is it important to bear witness to history (and the Holocaust, specifically)?

Author George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." What does this phrase mean and how does it relate to survivor testimonies? Discuss this idea with your class. Looking through this publication and the Tampa Bay Times, create a blackout poem focused on Santayana's idea and the importance of survivor testimonies.

The overall effect of the poem should reflect your viewpoint on whether the present world has learned the lessons of history. You may focus on only one theme or on several issues that you find particularly relevant to your own life.

Florida Standards: SS.6.W.1.3; SS.6.W.1.5; SS.6.W.1.6; SS.912.HE.2.15; SS.912.HE.3.4; ELA.612.EE.1.1; ELA.612.EE.2.1; ELA.612.EE.3.1 ELA.612.EE.4.1; ELA.612.EE.5.1; ELA.612.EE.6.1; ELA.612.C.1.3; ELA.612.C.1.4; ELA.612.C.2.1; ELA.612.C.3.1; ELA.612.C.4.1; ELA.612.C.5.1; ELA.612.R.2.2; ELA.612.R.2.3; ELA.612.R.2.4

1938

Tampa Bay Times, November 12, 1938


Reverts to Dark Ages

High Nazi Officials Defend Mob Attack on Jews; Ghettos Of Middle Ages Will Return
The Tampa Times, November 10, 1938

March 11–13, 1938, German troops invade Austria and incorporate Austria into the German Reich.

On May 29, Hungary adopts comprehensive anti-Jewish laws and measures, excluding Jews from many professions.

July 6–15, delegates from 32 countries and representatives from refugee aid organizations attend the Evian Conference in Evian, France. They discuss options for settling Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi Germany as immigrants elsewhere in Europe, the Americas, Asia and Australia. The United States and most other countries, however, are unwilling to ease their immigration restrictions.

On August 17, the Executive Order on the Law on the Alteration of Family and Personal Names requires German Jews bearing first names of "non-Jewish" origin to adopt an additional name: "Israel" for men and "Sara" for women.

September 29-30, Germany, Italy, Great Britain and France sign the Munich agreement.

On October 5, the Reich Ministry of the Interior invalidates all German passports held by Jews. Jews must surrender their old passports, which will become valid only after the letter "J" has been stamped on them.

On October 28, Nazi Germany expels about 17,000 Jews. Most of them were Polish citizens. Poland, unwilling to accept the Jews, places these people in a "no-man's land" between the countries and eventually into refugee camps.

On November 9, Nazi Party officials, members of the SA, a paramilitary organization, and the Hitler Youth carry out a wave of violent anti-Jewish pogroms throughout greater Germany. The rioters destroy hundreds of synagogues, many of them burn in full view of firefighters and the German, public, The rioters loot more than 7,000 Jewish-owned businesses and other commercial establishments. Jewish cemeteries are a particular object of desecration in many regions. These events become known as Kristallnacht or the "Night of Broken Glass."

On November 12, a German decree closes all Jewish-owned businesses.

On December 2, the first Kindertransport arrives in Great Britain.

On December 8, Heinrich Himmler orders that Nazi Germany's policies regarding Roma and Sinti should be developed according to Nazi racial principles.

1939


German Chancellor Adolf Hitler gestures during a speech in May 1937 at an unknown location in Germany, AP photo

On January 30, Hitler gives the Reichstag Speech telling the German public and the world that the outbreak of war would mean the end of European Jewry — the "annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe."

On March 15, Nazi Germany invades and occupies the areas of Bohemia and Moravia in Czechoslovakia.

On May 13, the *St. Louis*, carrying Jews fleeing from Nazi Germany, departs for Havana, Cuba. However, after Cuba and then the United States deny these refugees entry, the *St. Louis* is forced to return to Europe on June 6, where it is permitted to dock in Belgium.

On August 23, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union sign a secret pact, vowing not to attack each other for 10 years. The two countries agree to divide eastern Europe.

On September 1, Germany invades Poland, initiating World War II in Europe.

On September 3, Britain and France declare war on Germany.

SURVIVOR:

VIOLA BARAS

Viola Baras, courtesy of David Baras

Viola Baras was born on Nov. 1, 1927, in Munkacz, Czechoslavakia. Her youth was somewhat idyllic. She went to school. During the winter, she went ice skating, and in the summer, she went swimming. She took piano lessons. Baras recalls that every Saturday, her large family went to their grandfather's house for lunch. After lunch, the children would go out and play.

Her family was native to the country, owned property, and the children went to school. Things changed in 1938 when the Hungarians came to Czechoslavakia. Baras, who now lives in Broward County, Florida, remembers one incident when she was 11 or 12 years old when her best friend told her she could no longer play with her because she was Jewish. Baras' mother had to stop being friends with people in the neighborhood.

Then Baras found out she couldn't go to school anymore. In 1940, her father had to leave his factory and go to a labor camp. In 1943, "that's when it really got bad," Baras says. "We had to start wearing the yellow star; that's when we were already afraid to go out."

In March or April of 1943, Baras, her mother and sister were put on a train with other Jewish people. They had no idea where they were going. She remembers her grandfather came to say goodbye, and he was shot before he could walk away from her.

Baras remembers arriving at the Auschwitz, Poland, concentration camp in 1944. In Auschwitz, Baras worked in Kanada, where belongings of incoming prisoners were warehoused. She worked separating items that the Nazis then used for themselves. She describes her time in Auschwitz as "terrible." She remembers having to sort through people's clothing looking for valuables.

Family portrait, courtesy of David Baras

Viola Baras' tattoo from Auschwitz, courtesy of David Baras

She was in the camp until 1945, when the American and Russian soldiers started getting close. She says at that point, the SS guards started killing some prisoners and moving others out of the camp. Baras, who weighed less than 100 pounds, was cold and very fatigued. After walking for miles, she was then put on a bus and arrived at the Ravensbrück camp, which was for female prisoners. "Ravensbrück is one of the worst concentration camps you can imagine, besides Auschwitz," she says.

She remained in a concentration camp until May 8, when the prisoners were liberated. Their liberation seemed to happen by default. One morning, there was no roll call. The guards were suddenly gone.

"People started going out, and some did leave. That's how we knew." Baras says the women walked to the village and people were staring at them. Finally, they ran into some soldiers from Holland.

"They saw so many people, so they started asking questions." She says they were taken to what must have been the military headquarters. The Dutch women spoke German and Yiddish, so the prisoners were able to communicate with them. The women were given showers and clothes.

When Baras was liberated, she and her mother traveled by trucks and trains to eventually get back to her home of Munkacz. Eventually, they were able to reunite with Baras' father. Every day "my mother, my sister and I went to the train station to see who was coming. Then I saw my mother kissing someone. It was my father." Baras did not recognize him at first. He had no hair or teeth.

Baras says that in Munkacz, there were 30,000 people and half of them were Jewish. After the Holocaust, only two families came back intact, and her family was one of them.

When the family returned to their home, they found other people living there, so they went to a displaced persons camp. Going to a displaced persons camp was the only way to get to Palestine or the United States. They lived in the camp for three years.

In the camp, Baras learned English and learned a trade. She worked as a telephone operator because she spoke so many different languages. Her sister married while in the camp and then moved to Palestine.

In December of 1948, the family members received visas allowing them to come to the United States, where her father had three sisters and a brother. She remembers getting off the ship in America. "I thought that I stepped into a paradise." It was just before Christmas and everything was lit up.

Baras didn't speak about her experiences during the Holocaust until 1990. "I never spoke about anything," she says. "I never spoke to my children. Neither did my husband." A trip to Budapest, Hungary, that detoured in Germany that year was a trigger for her.

"When I came back to United States, I had to go to a psychiatrist," Baras says. Then she started talking about her past. She started going to schools and teaching people about the Holocaust.

Baras is very proud of her family, which she considers a testament that Hitler failed with his final solution. Baras and her husband have four sons, 10 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren."

Baras says she doesn't hate or seek revenge. You can't have all that hate anymore. And that's what I keep on telling the children and the school kids. If you have hate in you, it's your worst thing.

Intergenerational family photo, courtesy of David Baras

SECOND GENERATION:

DAVID BARAS

As the son of a Holocaust survivor, David Baras tells Viola Baras' story whenever he has the opportunity. He speaks at schools, and he is a docent at The Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg. "Her story is just so amazing, and I just felt that that story was going to get lost if I wasn't the one bringing it to people's attention."

Baras says his mother was 17 years old when she was taken to Auschwitz. Her sister was 15, and and her mother was in her 30s. To survive, they had to hide the fact that they were related. They survived the selection process at Auschwitz because Dr. Josef Mengele decided the three women would be good workers.

The three women, along with 15,000 to 20,000 other prisoners, were relocated from Auschwitz when the Russians came to Poland. Baras says the Nazis wanted to get rid of evidence of the atrocities that were happening, so the remaining prisoners were marched toward Germany. Baras notes that the Nazis wanted "Auschwitz to be completely empty and demolished. Several of the crematoriums were destroyed."

During the march, if a person couldn't keep up with the group, that person was shot. Baras notes, between one-third and one-half of the people who were on this march, were killed ... "At times, my mom and her sister had to carry their mother between them with their mom's arms around their shoulders to make sure she didn't fall behind."

Baras was in middle or high school when he realized his mother was a Holocaust survivor. "I knew my mom had the tattoo on her left forearm from Auschwitz, but it really didn't take on any significant meaning to me ... My parents never spoke about it."

Baras' father also is a Holocaust survivor. His father was not in a concentration camp but was forced to leave his home and go into hiding. In 1944 and 1945, Baras' father was put into a labor camp. "My father was practically impossible to get information from," Baras says. "He always was of the feeling that what he went through was nothing compared to what our mom went through."

Baras notes that his father was the oldest of three children, and he was in charge of protecting them. He was only 17 years old. One day his brother was caught up in one of the roundups by the Nazis and taken to Auschwitz and killed immediately. Baras' father lost track of what happened to his sister until the end of the war, when he found out she had been to eight different concentration camps, "That was always a very traumatic event in his life that he could never get over."

Women in displaced person camp in Germany called Gabersee. Viola Baras is on the far right, courtesy of David Baras

According to Baras, it was a challenge to grow up with his parents, especially his father. He says their experiences really "stunted their maturity, especially my dad. I really felt that he was stuck as a teenager and never really knew how to manage conflict and never knew really how to manage raising four boys." He says his father was very "narrow in his thought process."

Baras says when he speaks with people about the Holocaust, he tries to emphasize resilience and choices. "People have choices," he says. "Nazis had choices; the Jews had choices, and those choices have ramifications."

Holocaust education is important, Baras notes. He especially stressed the concept of bullying and understanding what it is like to be different. Baras says education is clearly the key to stopping bullying and antisemitism. "There's so much misinformation and disinformation that is available to everybody, especially our youth, that there has to be some way of monitoring that." Baras says.

GOING BEYOND THE TEXT

Exploring hidden biases

Viola Baras remembers an incident when she was an adolescent when her best friend told her they could not play together because Baras was Jewish. She also remembers that her mother had to stop being friends with people in their neighborhood.

According to Learning for Justice, recent scientific research has demonstrated that biases thought to be absent or extinguished remain as "mental residue" in most of us. Studies show people can be consciously committed to democracy, and deliberately work to behave without prejudice, yet still possess hidden negative prejudices or stereotypes. So even though we believe we see and treat people as equals, hidden biases may still influence our perceptions and actions.

Discuss bias with your class. What does the word mean? With your class, make a list of biases in society. Where do you think these biases come from? Look for examples of biased ideas and language in the Tampa Bay Times. Cut out the words, phrases or pictures you find. Paste the words onto a piece of construction paper. On the back of the paper, explain the bias behind these words, phrases or pictures. Share your project with your class.

Florida Standards: SS.6.W.1.3; SS.912.HE.2.7; ELA.612.EE.1.1; ELA.612.EE.2.1; ELA.612.EE.3.1 ELA.612.EE.4.1; ELA.612.EE.5.1; ELA.612.EE.6.1; ELA.612.C.1.3; ELA.612.C.1.4; ELA.612.C.2.1; ELA.612.C.3.1; ELA.612.C.4.1; ELA.612.C.5.1; ELA.612.R.2.2; ELA.612.R.2.3; ELA.612.R.2.4

David Baras and his mother, Viola Baras, courtesy of of David Baras.

1940

Interior of women's barracks in Nazi camp at Belsen, Germany, US Army Signal Corps. National Archives

On April 9, Nazi Germany invades Norway and Denmark to obtain more naval bases on the North Sea and prevent a British blockade of Germany.

On May 10, Germany launches a surprise invasion of the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France.

On May 20, SS authorities establish the largest concentration camp complex of the Nazi regime: Auschwitz-Birkenau.

On June 10, by declaring war on Great Britain and France, Italy officially enters World War II on the "Axis" side, fighting with Germany.

On September 27, Nazi Germany, Japan and Italy sign a Tripartite Pact. These three countries become known as the Axis Powers.

On November 15, German authorities order the Warsaw ghetto to be sealed. It is the largest ghetto in both area and population.

1941

On March 3, the Krakow Ghetto is established. Between 15,000 and 20,000 Jews are forced to live within the ghetto boundaries.

On March 11, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Lend-Lease Act, which allows the United States – although neutral in the war – to "lend" weapons, food and oil to the Allies.

On April 6, Nazi Germany invades Yugoslavia and Greece.

On June 22, Nazi Germany invades the Soviet Union in "Operation Barbarossa." The United States supplies the Soviet Union through the Lend-Lease Act.

On July 10, the Kovno Ghetto is established in Lithuania. Across Nazi-occupied territory, many Jews engage in acts of spiritual and intellectual defiance.

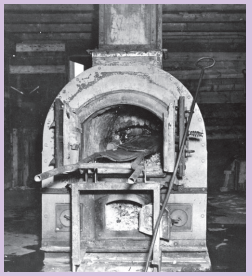
On August 15, the Kovno Ghetto is sealed.

Jews In Warsaw Fight Nazi Troops

ON THE GERMAN FRONTIER, May 28. — (INS) — The Warsaw ghetto Friday was ablaze with furious street fighting as a revolt which began two weeks ago roared to its most furious pitch, dispatches from underground sources in Poland revealed.

Ghetto youths, armed with weapons smuggled to them by the underground "fur trade" during the last two winters, are battling German troops in the streets of the Jewish quarters, these sources said. Leading them are 200 Jewish patriots.

Tampa Bay Times, May 7, 1943



Cremating oven Bergen-Belsen, US Army Signal Corps. National Archives

On August 20, the Drancy Camp in France is established.

On August 24, responding in part to public protests, Hitler orders the cessation of centrally coordinated murder of people with disabilities.

On September 1, all Jews over 6 years of age are ordered to wear an identifying badge.

On September 19, German forces occupy Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine.

On October 15, Operation Reinhard begins. The Operation Reinhard team ultimately is responsible for the murder of approximately 1.7 million Jews, most of them Polish Jews. At the same time, German authorities begin deporting Jews from central Europe to ghettos in occupied eastern territory.

On October 29, 9,200 residents of the Kovno ghetto are massacred in Fort IX on the edge of the city.

On November 24, German authorities establish the camp-ghetto Theresienstadt.

On December 7, Japanese military launches a surprise attack on the U.S. Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The United States declares war on Japan.

On December 8, killing operations begin at Chelmno. This is the first stationary facility where poison gas is used for mass murder.

On December 11, Nazi Germany declares war on the United States.

SURVIVOR:

ALLAN J. HALL

Born Adam Janush Horowitz in Cracow, Poland, in April 1935, Allan J. Hall was the first child of an upper middle class Jewish family. For his first four and a half years, Hall lived a charmed life. His father, Edmund Horowitz Hall, was a businessman. His mother, Maria Horowitz Hall, was a musician.

From his current home in Miami, Hall says that he had a happy, privileged childhood. Then in the fall of 1939, his parents started fighting. After many arguments, the family moved to Lvov, Poland, in October 1939 and stayed there until November 1941. He remembers his mother not wanting to leave and lamenting that she never got a chance to say goodbye to her parents and sister.

Hall would spend the next seven years hiding from Nazis and their collaborators. Hall says his family lived inside a bedroom in an apartment in the Lvov Ghetto for three or four months. He rarely left that bedroom, and that was the beginning of his hiding in plain sight.

Knowing each day in the Lvov Ghetto was filled with danger, Hall's parents decided to go into hiding on the Christian side of Poland. They chose Czestochowa, and rented rooms in people's houses. In his book, "Hiding in Plain Sight," Hall writes. "As we went from hiding place to hiding place, I walked rapidly and kept my head down. I rarely spoke."

One time, Hall was picked up in a roundup of children as he was trying to leave the ghetto. He remembers being thrown onto the open bed of a paneled truck and being brought to a building with the other children.

Another incident Hall remembers is the time his family walked from one part of Poland to another. Hall had an infected foot, so he was having trouble putting on his boot and walking. His parents told him he had to put on the boot, and it was important that he not limp because limping brings attention.

"So, I walked without ever limping," he says. When he got to the destination, which was about 45 minutes later, taking off his boot was a very painful process. "Taking my right shoe off was a major operation ... Finally, it came off and the shoe was filled with puss and blood," he says.

Hall and his family also lived in a space between the ceiling and auditorium in a theater and in back rooms and basements of warehouses.

Another time, Hall and his mother were picked up by the Polish police and brought to a train station at the edge of the Warsaw Ghetto. Having just missed the train to the Treblinka concentration camp, they were stuck in the station, crowded with people, for more than two days. Then, the children were evacuated to an orphanage.

Hall wound up back with his parents, where they stayed in an office in the tallest skyscraper in Poland, called the Drapacz. The top floors were occupied by the German air force headquarters. For the next two years, Hall and his mother stayed in a closet for 10 hours every day, while his father went out to work.

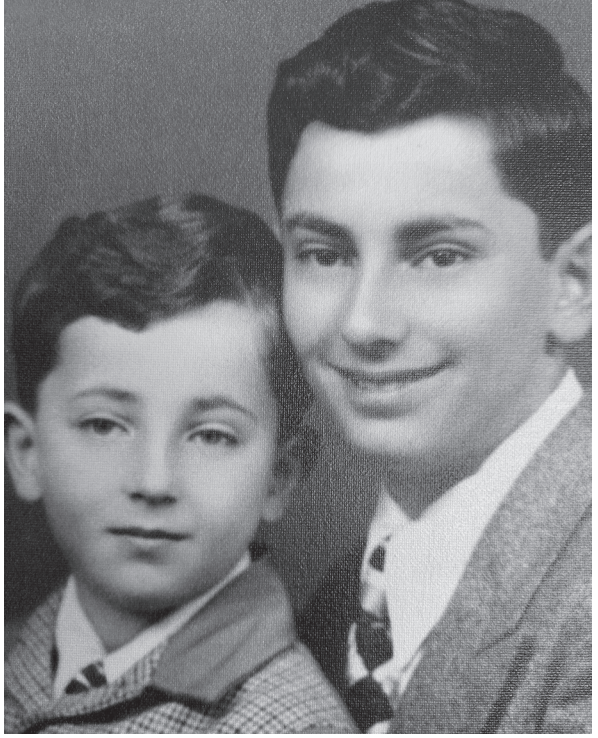
"The closet was maybe thirty inches deep and five feet across. There was not enough room for my mother and I to sit side by side," Hall writes. He had to be completely silent, so the people in the office didn't hear him.

In April 1943, when the Warsaw Ghetto uprising took place, Hall's family, along with several other families, lived in the bomb shelter of the skyscraper. On Sept. 16, 1944, his brother, Andzej, was born in a coal bin in that bomb shelter. Hall remembers the baby was very small, weighing less than one kilogram, or two pounds.

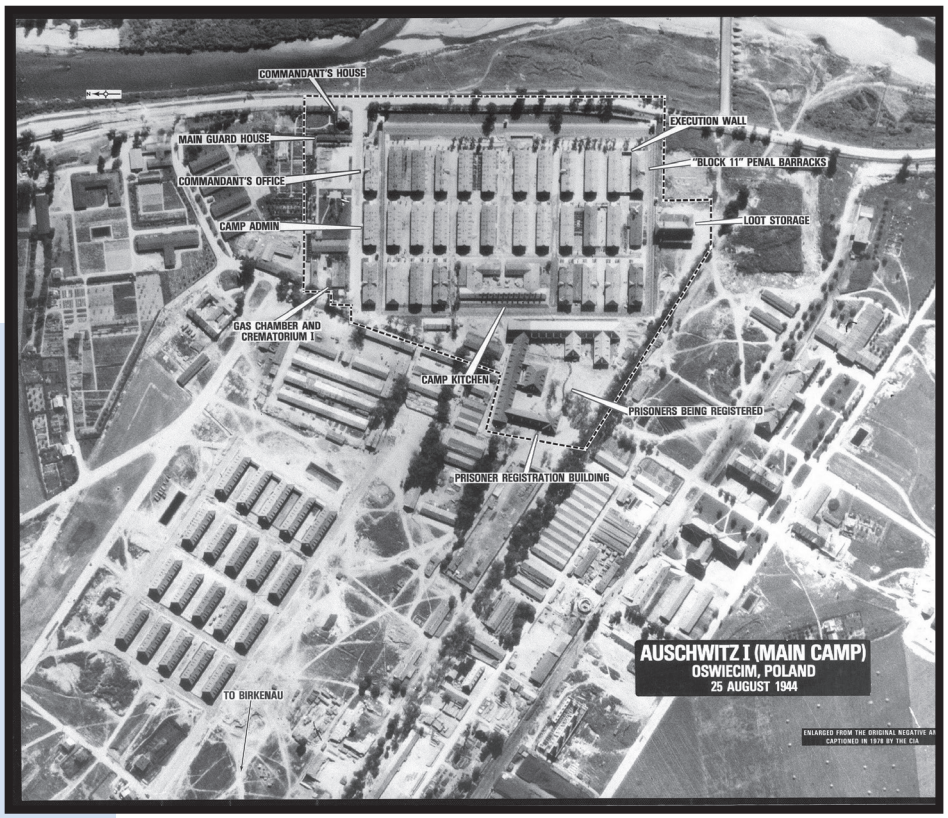
"I thought that his birth was going be our demise," Hall says. "We were passing for years because people did not see us ... And here comes this little two-pound baby crying. You can't not notice the baby. That was very, very scary."

Despite the odds against it, the Hall family did survive and made it to the United States in 1947. As an adult, Hall became a lawyer, political activist, educator and builder. He recalls that when he and his family arrived in the United States, they had 42 dollars and no one spoke English. He attributes his success to education.

"You can never get enough education," Hall says.



Andzej and Allan Horowitz, courtesy of Allan J. Hall



Auschwitz I (Main Camp) - Oswiecim, Poland. National Archives

GOING BEYOND THE TEXT

Sonderkommandos

Sonderkommandos were groups of Jewish and Soviet prisoners of war forced to perform duties in the gas chambers and crematoria of the Nazi camp system. While they primarily worked in killing centers, members of these groups also were used at other killing sites to dispose of bodies and to destroy evidence of mass murder throughout the German-occupied east. According to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, "Work in the Sonderkommando was physically exhausting and psychologically destructive." In a small group, learn more about the sonderkommandos by going to https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/sonderkommandos.

"Facing History and Ourselves" defines the work of the sonderkommandos as being a choiceless choice. What is a "choiceless choice?" How does this concept add to your understanding of the experiences of victims and survivors of the Holocaust? It is difficult to understand the choices of individuals in the sonderkommando. As with all persons, in the Holocaust or an event of extreme brutality, consider the pressures and motivations that may have affected any choices they may have had. Write a journal entry or blog post about the idea of choiceless choices. Think about a time where you may have been in a position where you faced such an extreme. Look in the Tampa Bay Times for an article, editorial or editorial cartoon that represents this concept. Share what you have learned with your class.

Florida Standards: SS.912.W.7.6; SS.912.HE.2.13; ELA.612.EE.1.1; ELA.612.EE.2.1; ELA.612.EE.3.1 ELA.612.EE.4.1; ELA.612.EE.5.1; ELA.612.EE.6.1; ELA.612.C.1.3; ELA.612.C.1.4; ELA.612.C.2.1; ELA.612.C.3.1; ELA.612.C.4.1; ELA.612.C.5.1; ELA.612.R.2.2; ELA.612.R.2.3; ELA.612.R.2.4

RONALD BECKER

Family photo including mother Frieda (Miller) Becker, maternal grandmother Sarah Leah Miller, maternal aunt Rachel (Miller) Stanley and a cousin Fradl (Goland) Kasriel, courtesy of Ronald Becker

Born on May 5, 1896, Berl Becker lived in Lunna, Belarus, which was part of Poland at that time. In 1939, Lunna became part of the Soviet Union, and Becker, a successful businessman, was sent to a forest work camp where he did physical slave labor.

Then, in 1941, Germany invaded the Soviet Union and sent the people in the work camp to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. At that time, Becker's wife and young son were living in the Vilna ghetto. Eventually, they were sent to Auschwitz as well.

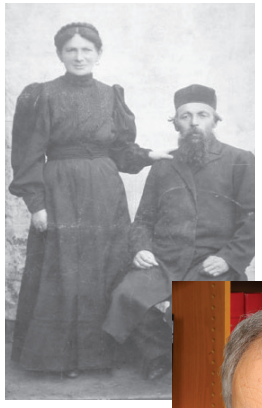
Becker remained in Auschwitz as a sonderkommando until 1945. Sonderkommandos were male prisoners forced to prepare victims for their deaths, retrieve deceased bodies and search those bodies for gold teeth, hidden jewelry, money or food.

Sonderkommandos were forbidden from warning others about their fates or talking about their jobs. Most members of the sonderkommando were shot after a few months. Ronald Becker, Berl's son, says sonderkommandos "had to assure the people in the undressing rooms that they were going to take a shower ... (They) had to do the unspeakable."

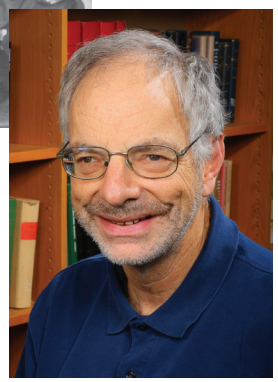
In 1945, before the end of the war, Berl was forced, along with the other prisoners, to march from Auschwitz to the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. Eventually, he was liberated and spent the next two years at a displaced persons camp in Bari, Italy. From there, Becker emigrated to the United States. Becker remarried in 1949 and raised two children on a Jewish Agricultural Society-supported poultry farm in rural Vineland, New Jersey.

Ronald Becker says he knew his father was in Auschwitz-Birkenau, because Berl had a number on his arm. He also knew his father had terrible nightmares because he and his father shared a bedroom; oftentimes, Berl would wake up screaming. But, Berl never spoke of his experiences.

Becker, who now lives in New Port Richey, explains that after the war, his father's sister, Rebecca, found him in the displaced persons and sent for him to come to America, where he met his future wife, Ronald's mother. Ronald's life began in a small, crowded walkup apartment in the South Bronx, New York.



Grandfather Solomon Miller's parents Sayne and Nissan Miller, courtesy of Ronald Becker



Ronald Becker, courtesy of Ronald Becker

"In the city, my immigrant parents toiled in the garment industry," Becker says. "The work was difficult; the pay was poor." He notes there were six people living in a two-bedroom apartment. "My father often complained that he didn't survive the Holocaust for this type of life."

In 1951, the family packed up their lives and moved to a chicken farm in Vineland, New Jersey, where the young Becker spent his formative years.

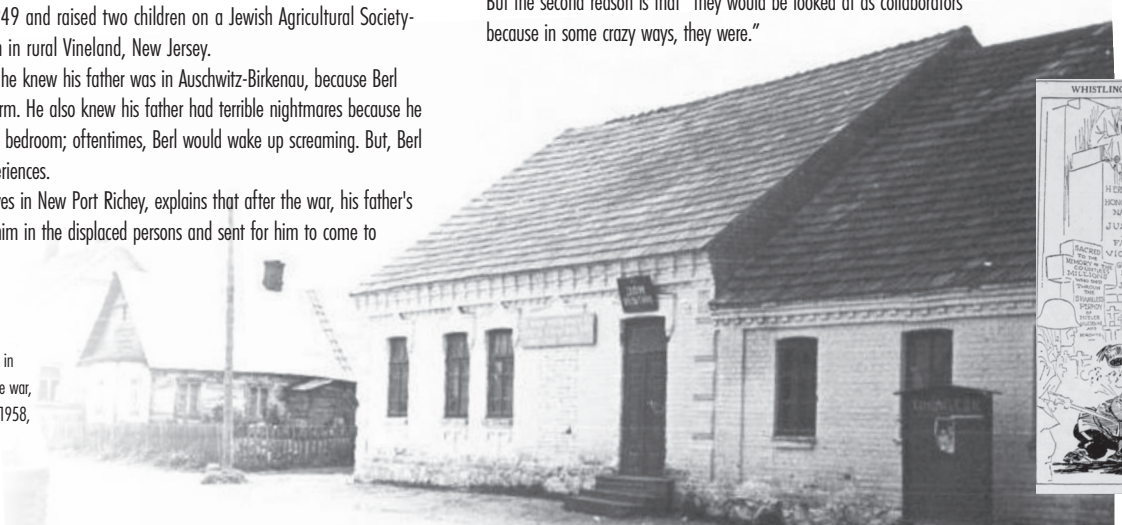
Becker describes his father's experience during the Holocaust as "the worst of the worst." He explains that he found out about his father's background by doing research and talking to other survivors. He learned more about his father's experience by reading a book titled "We Wept Without Tears," in which the author, Gideon Greif, interviewed some of the remaining sonderkommandos who worked alongside Becker's father.

Becker explains the members of the sonderkommando took an oath that they would never talk about their experiences, and Becker's father kept that oath. "He talked about Auschwitz and how difficult it was, but he never revealed the details."

Growing up on a farm with a community of Holocaust survivors-turned-farmers, Becker explains the survivors didn't want to burden their families with their stories from the Holocaust, but they did all talk to one woman, Doris Gold. It is from Gold that Becker learned about his father's first wife and son.

Gold "relayed the story of how my father was in the crematoria in the undressing room, and during that time his wife and his son came in," Becker says. "He didn't see them alive, but he saw their bodies." Somehow, he went on and "kept this thing to himself," Becker says.

Becker explains there were two reasons the sonderkommando made a pact not to speak about what happened. The first is they didn't think people would believe them. But the second reason is that "they would be looked at as collaborators because in some crazy ways, they were."



Berl Becker's childhood home in Lunna, Belarus. It survived the war, and this photo was taken in 1958, courtesy of Ronald Becker

1942

St. Petersburg Times

American Troops Reported Landing In Egypt to Help British Forces

'Untouchables' In India Favor Britain's Rule

One Million Jews Slain By Nazis

Foes Army Court-Martial

Army May Try Six of Eight German Spies

Motorized Army Of Nazis Drives Swiftly Forward

Many Hotels, Apartments Needed for Army Center

Civilian Secretary Dropped, President Visits Committee Post in 'New Blood' Drive

Tampa Bay Times, June 30, 1942

On January 16, German authorities begin the deportation of Jews and Roma from the Lodz ghetto to Chelmno.

On January 20, Reinhard Heydrich convenes the Wannsee Conference in a villa outside Berlin. At this conference, he presents plans to coordinate a European-wide "Final Solution of the Jewish Question" to key officials from the German State and the Nazi Party.

On March 1, the Inspectorate of Concentration Camps opens a second camp at Auschwitz, called Auschwitz-Birkenau or Auschwitz II.

lays.

Germans Deport 6,000 From Paris

ON THE FRENCH FRONTIER, Oct. 3.—(UP)—German authorities in Paris, it was reported from France Saturday, have already deported 6,000 persons, most of them Jews, and are rounding up thousands more hostages in an unsuccessful attempt to halt a growing wave of anti-Nazi bombings and attacks in Paris.

The Miami News, October 4, 1942

On May 27, Czech agents kill SS General Heydrich.

On June 9, German forces destroy the Czech village of Lidice.

On June 28, German forces attack the Soviet Union in the south.

On July 15, German authorities begin the deportation of Dutch Jews from camps in the Netherlands.

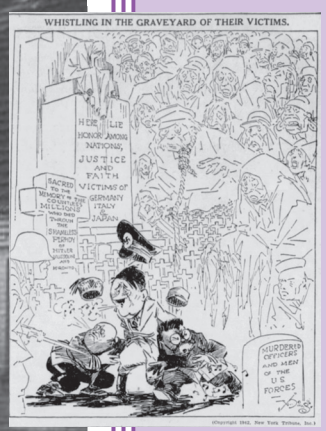
On July 23, SS Special Detachment Treblinka begins gassing operations at the Treblinka killing center.

September 5, German poster, issued during mass deportations to Treblinka, announces death penalty for aiding Jews who flee the Warsaw ghetto.

In October, with the assistance of collaborationist Norwegian officials, the Germans begin rounding up Jews in Norway.

On November 8, Allied forces launch several surprise landings on the coast of North Africa.

Late November: News of the "Final Solution" is reported in American newspapers.



WHISTLING IN THE GRAVEYARD OF THEIR VICTIMS.

HERE LIE HONOR, JUSTICE AND FAITH VICTIMS OF GERMANY ITALY JAPAN

MURDERED OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE U.S. FORCES

On December 16, Heinrich Himmler issues an order that Roma and Sinti are to be deported to Auschwitz.

On December 17, the Allied nations, including the governments of the United Kingdom and the United States, issue a declaration stating that German authorities are engaging in mass murder of the European Jews, and that those responsible for this "bestial policy of cold-blooded extermination" will "not escape retribution."

The Indianapolis Star, December 19, 1942

SECOND GENERATION:

HARRY HEUMAN

Family photos, courtesy of Harry Heuman

Harry Heuman giving a tour at The Florida Holocaust Museum, courtesy of Harry Heuman.

Largo resident Harry Heuman is the child of Holocaust survivors. Married in 1940, Heuman's parents were together for two years before being separated into different concentration camps. After two and a half years apart, Heuman's mother was able to locate her husband in a displaced persons camp in southwest Germany.

Heuman's father was liberated from Dachau by American soldiers, while his mother was liberated from Auschwitz by Russian soldiers. Heuman notes that when his mother was liberated, she was 27 years old and weighed 90 pounds.

At the displaced persons camp in Kempton, Germany, Heuman's parents were able to heal emotionally, physically and psychologically. Heuman was born in June 1946.

The family was permitted to emigrate to the United States in March 1947. "They had two trunks," Heuman explains, a wooden trunk and a straw trunk with medical books. His parents also had a baby carriage and a violin in a wooden case.

"My mother's father, one of the other of the five family members that survived, was our sponsor to this country," Heuman says. Heuman's grandfather, a jeweler, came to the U.S. via Cuba, before the *M.S. St. Louis*, a German ocean liner, which was not permitted to dock in the USA in 1939.

Heuman notes that his father graduated medical school in 1939 that was right before Hitler prohibited Jews from getting a college education. In the U.S., Heuman's father was able to study again for his medical license. In 1950, his father opened a general practitioner office and became a professional country doctor who did house calls. Occasionally, Heuman would go with his father on house calls, where they were known as big doc and little doc.

"Other people start their career path at 22 or 25 but he started at 40 when he finally opened up his practice," Heuman says.

Heuman's mother, "had no formal high school education, but was very, very smart," he says. She was a quick learner who eventually learned English by looking at catalogs and magazines. She took care of the family.

Heuman says he knew his parents were different because of their accents and because of how they handled life in general. According to Heuman, his parents had some "unique characteristics such as being very obviously protective of us three children." Also, his parents "made sure we always cleaned our plate during any meal." Heuman also notes his mother made sure everything in the home was very clean.

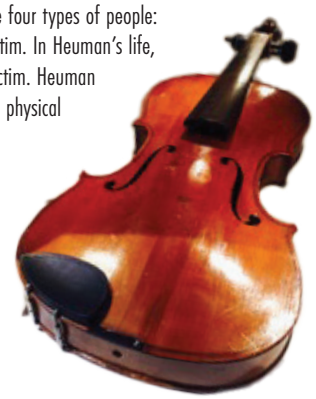
Although he knew his parents were Holocaust survivors, he and his siblings didn't hear their full stories until 1960. "That's when Adolf Eichman was caught in Argentina," Heuman says. He explains that his parents decided they had to share their story with their children because they didn't want them to see the stories in newspapers and magazines. Heuman was 14, and his twin sisters were 9.

Family photo, courtesy of Harry Heuman

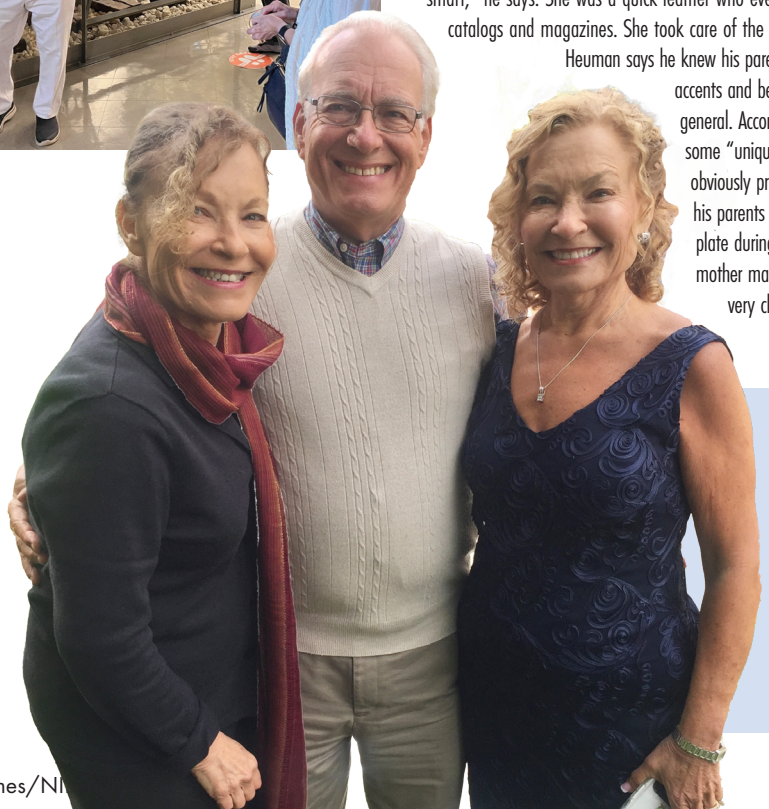
Heuman speaks about his parents being forced to wear the Star of David on their clothing. He speaks of his mother sweeping up glass in front of the family jewelry store after Kristallnacht. He says while the cleanup was taking place, German soldiers would torment the people cleaning up. Heuman notes that every time his mother filled the dustpan, a Nazi solider would kick the pan.

According to Heuman, his parents did everything they could to survive the concentration camps. As a doctor, his father took an oath to do no harm, but in Dachau, Heuman's father had to follow orders, which often went against his training.

As a docent for The Florida Holocaust Museum, Heuman tries to talk about eliminating the four-letter word known as hate. "It will require a cultural shift in the world thinking, let alone our wonderful country, that, that word should be treated like other four-letter words. We should not say it publicly." He also stresses the power of choice and the four types of people: upstander, bystander, perpetrator and victim. In Heuman's life, he has been both an upstander and a victim. Heuman was the victim of unfortunate verbal and physical antisemitism in middle and high school.



Harry Heuman's father, a Holocaust survivor, played the violin to afford college and medical school. That violin was destroyed during the Allied war efforts. This violin was found subsequent to his liberation from Dachua. Heuman's father played this violin while in the displaced persons Camp (Kempten Germany), courtesy of Harry Heuman



Harry Heuman with his sisters, Judy and Joan, courtesy of Harry Heuman

GOING BEYOND THE TEXT

Heroes and villains

In her book, "A Witness to my Father," Barbara Bergren details her father Martin Weigen's journey from an adolescent victim of the Holocaust to a young man who is uplifted and helped to survive by the African American soldiers from 3512th Quartermaster Truck Company, led by Lieutenant John Withers. Bergren's book explores the worst and best in humanity. To Weigen, Withers was a hero. A hero is a person noted for feats of courage or nobility of purpose, especially one who has risked or sacrificed his or her life. Author Ervin Staub states, "Heroes evolve; they aren't born." On a piece of paper, define what a hero is to you. Look for examples of everyday heroes in the Tampa Bay Times. Create a chart or infographic listing the heroes and their attributes. Share what you have learned with your class.

Florida Standards: SS.6.W.1.6; ELA.612.EE.1.1; ELA.612.EE.2.1; ELA.612.EE.3.1 ELA.612.EE.4.1; ELA.612.EE.5.1; ELA.612.EE.6.1; ELA.612.C.1.3; ELA.612.C.1.4; ELA.612.C.2.1; ELA.612.C.3.1; ELA.612.C.4.1; ELA.612.C.5.1; ELA.612.R.2.2; ELA.612.R.2.3; ELA.612.R.2.4

SECOND GENERATION:

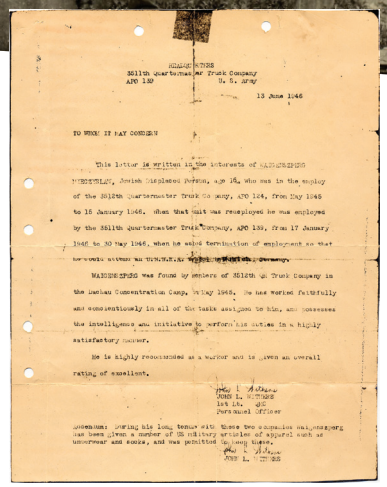
BARBARA BERGREN

Barbara Bergren

The Wajgenszpergs, 1931. L to R Mietek, Sonia, Klara, Isaak

1945 with the troop: Mietek (right), Shlomo (left), army soldier in window

Mietek 1946



Lt. John Withers' letter of work recommendation for Mietek, 1946
Photos courtesy of Barbara Bergren

Martin Weigen, born Mietek Wajgenszperg, was a happy child. He and his family lived in the district of Wierzbnik in Starachowice, Poland. His favorite subject in school was math. He loved playing soccer and spending two weeks every summer at the family's country home.

On Sept. 1, 1939, the Nazis invaded his hometown. Weigen was just 11 years old.

His daughter, Barbara Bergren of Clearwater, says her father rarely talked about his experiences in the Holocaust until 50 years later, when a surprise telephone call opened the door to her father's past and opened the world of research and writing to Bergren.

That call from a man named John Withers II, really changed everything, Bergren says. "That opened up a whole Pandora's box. Once the story started to unfold, I did interviews, also checked on the Shoah Foundation for some other survivors." She explains that Weigen did a Wall Street Journal interview in 2003, which became his testimony.

After the phone call with Withers, Bergren says her father "stood up and just quietly said, 'They put me back on my feet.' And, that's when I knew. Then we began asking questions." As a second-generation Holocaust survivor, Bergren believes it is her mission to keep her father's story alive.

When the Germans invaded Poland, the world turned upside down for Weigen, then known as Mietek, and his family: mother Sonia, father Isaak and sister Klara. Within months of the invasion, Jewish children were prohibited from going to school, people's jobs and possessions were taken and most of the neighborhood was under house arrest.

All Jews over the age of 10 were forced to wear armbands and a white cloth emblazoned in blue with the six-pointed Star of David. Jews could no longer associate with non-Jews.

Bergren explains that the town the family lived in became a munitions factory, so the Jewish people were kept in the town for slave labor. At the age of 13, Mietek and his father worked long hours at that munitions factory.

In the fall of 1942, Heinrich Himmler set about closing the ghettos and relocating the Jewish people to labor camps and concentration camps. In October, Mietek and his father were sent to a slave labor camp in their town. Klara and Sonia boarded cattle cars headed to the Treblinka killing center.

On July 30, 1944, Mietek and his father, Isaak, were transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where the two were soon separated and sent to different work camps. Shortly after, Mietek found out his father had been shot and killed. When Auschwitz was liquidated in January 1945, Mietek found himself on a death march to Gleiwitz, and then transported to Buchenwald.

Bergren says she always knew her father was a Holocaust survivor because he had a number on his arm, but as a child, she wasn't clear about what that meant. "I remember he always had the number, which was just part of him. I looked at his number all my life, and I loved it because it was part of him. He never talked about it."

Bergren explains that her father was sent to Dachau in April 1945. Two days after he arrived, the American soldiers from 3512th Quartermaster Truck Company delivered supplies to the liberated camp. In her book, "A Witness to my Father," she describes Mietek, 16, as a shadow of a man weighing less than 90 pounds.

Transferred to a displaced person's camp outside of Dachau, Mietek decided he had enough of camp life. He escaped the encampment and wound up finding the 3512th Quartermaster Truck Company's military base. Led by Lieutenant John Withers, the segregated soldiers couldn't turn their backs on Mietek and allowed him and another refugee to stay with them, even though it was against military and societal rules.

Bergren learned a lot about her father during his testimony for the Wall Street Journal. She has done a lot of research since discovering her father's "boxes of original documents." She explains "part of survival was you had to have a document to even move or work or anything." At the end of the war, prisoners had to prove liberation and that their parents had died in the Holocaust, if they wanted to receive any restitution.

Bergren notes that her father didn't have a childhood because it was stolen from him. She explains that she and her brother learned about her father Mietek being tortured and his parents and sister being murdered when she was an adult. "I don't know how he survived, but he did," Bergren says.

1943

Wedding Rings Removed by the Germans from Holocaust victims, National Archives

On February 2, after months of fierce fighting and heavy casualties, German forces surrender at Stalingrad on the Volga.

On March 13, SS and police authorities liquidate the Krakow ghetto.

Between April 19 and May 16, the Warsaw ghetto uprising takes place.

On July 9-10, American, British, and Canadian forces launch an aerial and amphibious invasion of the island of Sicily, Italy.

From September 20 into October, approximately 7,200 Danish Jews escape to Sweden.

On October 14, Jewish prisoners at the Sobibor killing center begin an armed revolt.

On September 8, Mussolini is arrested. Italy's new prime minister secretly negotiates with the allies, and Italy officially surrenders. Nazi Germany immediately invades and occupies northern and central Italy

On November 2, SS forces kill surviving Jews in work camps near Lublin, Poland.

1944

WORLD'S WORST HORROR STORY

Germans Slaughter Innocent Millions

Special From N. Y. Herald Tribune:

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.—The War Refugee Board, in what was regarded as the most shocking document ever issued by a United States government agency, made public Saturday an official report on German atrocities that have caused the deaths of "millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe."

The "revolting and diabolical" German atrocities at two camps that were virtually slaughterhouses were described as a "campaign of terror and brutality which is unprecedented in all history and which even now continues unabated and is part of the German plan to subjugate the free peoples of the world."

Both camps are in southwestern Poland. Although Birkenau was the main slaughterhouse, Auschwitz produced its share of murders, too. Jews generally were gassed. Some were killed with injections of phenol in the heart. Non-Jews usually were shot.

Theoretically, only the aged, weak and ill were murdered. Those able to work were permitted to work—until they became ill. A prisoner ill enough to be hospitalized seldom recovered, especially if he were a Jew; he was gassed, or given a heart injection of carbolic acid.

The Miami News, November 26, 1944

A meeting between Franklin D. Roosevelt and Henry Morgenthau, Jr. takes place on **January 16**. The men meet to discuss the rescue of Jews from Nazi-dominated Europe.

On January 22, Roosevelt issues Executive Order 9417, creating the War Refugee Board; this agency is responsible for trying to rescue and provide aid to European Jews.

On March 19, German forces occupy Axis ally Hungary and install pro-German General Dome Sztojay as prime minister.

On May 15, German authorities deport thousands of German, Austrian and Czech Jews from Theresienstadt to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

From mid May until July 9, Hungarian gendarmerie officials deport approximately 440,000 Jews from Hungary.

On June 6, under the code name Operation "Overlord," U.S., British and Canadian troops land on the beaches of Normandy, France.

On July 11, the "Czech family camp" in Auschwitz is liquidated.

On July 20, German military officers attempt to assassinate Hitler in his East Prussian headquarters.

On July 23, Soviet forces liberate Lublin-Majdanek.

On August 1, the underground Polish Home Army rises up against the Germans in an effort to play a role in the liberation of Warsaw.

On August 2, the SS liquidates the "Gypsy family camp" at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

On October 7, prisoners assigned to Crematorium IV at the Auschwitz-Birkenau killing center rebel after learning that they are going to be killed.

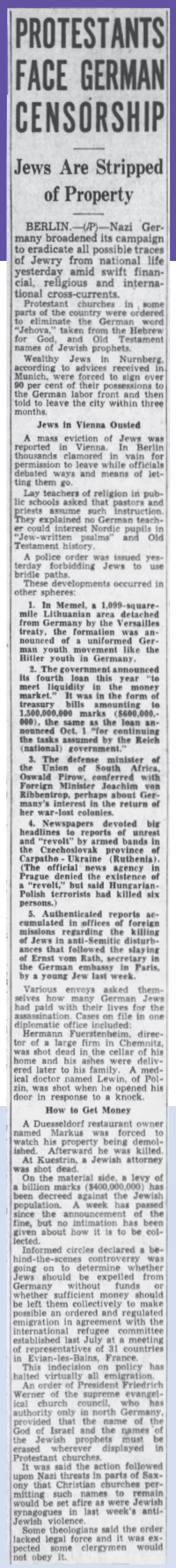
On November 23, allied troops arrive at the abandoned Natzweiler-Struthof concentration camp.

On November 25, as Soviet forces continue to approach, SS chief Heinrich Himmler orders the destruction of the Auschwitz-Birkenau gas chambers and crematoria.

On December 11, at Hartheim, German authorities carry out the last gassing of inmates.

SECOND GENERATION:

JUDY LUDIN



PROTESTANTS FACE GERMAN CENSORSHIP

Jews Are Stripped of Property

BERLIN.—(AP)—Nazi Germany broadened its campaign to eradicate all possible traces of Jewry from national life yesterday amid swift financial, religious and international cross-currents.

Protestant churches in some parts of the country were ordered to eliminate the German word "Jehova," taken from the Hebrew for God, and Old Testament names of Jewish prophets.

Wealthy Jews in Nurnberg, according to advices received in Munich, were forced to sign over 90 per cent of their possessions to the German labor front and then told to leave the city within three months.

Jews in Vienna Ousted

A mass eviction of Jews was reported in Vienna. In Berlin thousands clamored in vain for permission to leave while officials debated ways and means of letting them go.

Lay teachers of religion in public schools asked that pastors and priests assume such instruction. They explained no German teacher could interest Nordic pupils in "Jew-written psalms" and Old Testament history.

A police order was issued yesterday forbidding Jews to use bridle paths.

These developments occurred in other spheres:

1. In Memel, a 1,099-square-mile Lithuanian area detached from Germany by the Versailles treaty, the formation was announced of a uniformed German youth movement like the Hitler youth in Germany.

2. The government announced its fourth loan this year "to meet liquidity in the money market." It was in the form of treasury bills amounting to 1,500,000,000 marks ($600,000,000), the same as the loan announced Oct. 1 "for continuing the tasks assumed by the Reich (national) government."

3. The defense minister of the Union of South Africa, Oswald Pirow, conferred with Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop, perhaps about Germany's interest in the return of her war-lost colonies.

4. Newspapers devoted big headlines to reports of unrest and "revolt" by armed bands in the Czechoslovak province of Carpatho-Ukraine (Ruthenia). (The official news agency in Prague denied the existence of a "revolt," but said Hungarian-Polish terrorists had killed six persons.)

5. Authenticated reports accumulated in offices of foreign missions regarding the killing of Jews in anti-Semitic disturbances that followed the slaying of Ernst vom Rath, secretary in the German embassy in Paris, by a young Jew last week.

Various envoys asked themselves how many German Jews had paid with their lives for the assassination. Cases on file in one diplomatic office included:

Hermann Fuerstenheim, director of a large firm in Chemnitz, was shot dead in the cellar of his home and his ashes were delivered later to his family. A medical doctor named Lewin, of Polzin, was shot when he opened his door in response to a knock.

How to Get Money

A Duesseldorf restaurant owner named Markus was forced to watch his property being demolished. Afterward he was killed.

At Kuestrin, a Jewish attorney was shot dead.

On the material side, a levy of a billion marks ($400,000,000) has been decreed against the Jewish population. A week has passed since the announcement of the fine, but no intimation has been given about how it is to be collected.

Informed circles declared a behind-the-scenes controversy was going on to determine whether Jews should be expelled from Germany without funds or whether sufficient money should be left them collectively to make possible an ordered and regulated emigration in agreement with the international refugee committee established last July at a meeting of representatives of 31 countries in Evian-les-Bains, France.

This indecision on policy has halted virtually all emigration.

An order of President Friedrich Werner of the supreme evangelical church council, who has authority only in north Germany, provided that the name of the God of Israel and the names of the Jewish prophets must be erased wherever displayed in Protestant churches.

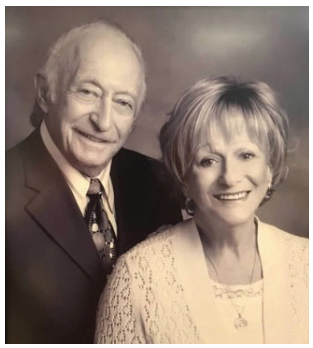
It was said the action followed upon Nazi threats in parts of Saxony that Christian churches permitting such names to remain would be set afire as were Jewish synagogues in last week's anti-Jewish violence.

Some theologians said the order lacked legal force and it was expected some clergymen would not obey it.

Tampa Bay Times, November 20, 1938

Pinellas County resident Judy Ludin explains that both her parents were Holocaust survivors. Although they didn't know each other in 1938, both were from Vienna, Austria.

"My Mother, Marietta, who was 9 ½ years old, was put on the Kindertransport and lived with foster families in the English countryside, throughout the war," Ludin says. Approximately 10,000 children were saved via the Kindertransport. She notes that only 1,000 were reunited with their parents. Her mother was one of the lucky ones.



Marietta and Ernst Drucker, courtesy of Judy Ludin

Ludin's father, Ernst Drucker, was 19 years old, and he and his twin brother, Kurt, were able to emigrate from Europe.

Born on Nov. 23, 1919, Drucker grew up in a middle-class neighborhood. He was a fan of the Viennese theater and opera, and he enjoyed playing the violin, singing and waltzing. When Drucker graduated from high school, he began a career in the garment industry.

Life changed drastically for the Drucker family in March 1938, when Austria was forced into a pact with Germany. Two months later Austria was occupied by Germany, and Jews were subjected to economic boycotts, the loss of civil rights, citizenship and their jobs. Many of the Jewish stores and factories were destroyed.

In his book, "Ernst – Escaping the Horrors of the Nazi Occupation," Drucker writes: "The speed with which anti-Jewish measures were introduced made life very difficult for the Jewish community."

In the summer of 1938, the Drucker brothers' journey took them to France via Switzerland. On Dec. 10, 1938, the brothers were issued visas to Havana, Cuba. They didn't know anyone there nor did they speak Spanish. After almost 18 months in Cuba, they were approved for entry visas to the United States, where they had to learn English and find work.

In 1942, Drucker was drafted into the United States Army. After training in Ireland and Wales, his infantry division was sent to Normandy, France, where he arrived in the early morning hours of June 7, 1944. He spent the next two and a half years in Europe, fighting the Nazis. Because of his ability to speak fluent German, he eventually became a special agent working in the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC). Drucker was honorably discharged from the Army on Nov. 29, 1946.

In 1952, "my parents met in New York at a Jewish singles dance," Ludin says. "My mother always said that she wanted to meet a 'rich American,' and she met my dad, a poor Viennese, who was from a town in Vienna very close to where she lived." The couple married and moved to Detroit, Michigan. They had two daughters, Judy and Debbie, and had a very successful custom shirt and suit business.

Ludin and her sister first learned the Holocaust stories when their parents retired to Seminole, Florida. "We only found out about their stories when The Florida Holocaust Museum was opening, and they were asked to train future docents," Ludin says. "My sister and I attended a lecture they gave, and for the first time, as grown adults, we heard their stories."

Ludin's parents were in their 70s at the time. "It really opened an emotional can of worms for both of them. They ended up being interviewed for the Shoah project."

Debbie Sokolov, Marietta Drucker and Judy Ludin, courtesy of Judy Ludin

Ludin describes her family as being very close, but she and her sister always knew they were different. Ludin notes that while her parents couldn't provide their children with a lot of material things, "they showered us with so much love. We were very fortunate. I don't know how my parents did it. They loved life. They loved people." She describes her parents as being tough but also very supportive and encouraging.

"Both of my parents were upstanders in the most constructive way. They took it upon their themselves later in their life to go out there ... They always said, 'You're on this Earth to make it a better place.'"

A considerable portion of the world's 15,000,000 Jews want to leave their homes but have almost no place to go. The countries shaded on this map are those in which public or private anti-Semitism is reported most serious by Jewish agencies in this country.

The larger figure shown for each country is its Jewish population, according to census figures and estimates by those agencies. The smaller figure is the quota for annual immigration from each country into the U. S. That indicates how many refugees America could take annually from each if the entire immigration quota were used for that purpose.

Tampa Bay Times, November 27, 1938

GOING BEYOND THE TEXT

Propaganda

In his book, "Ernst – Escaping the Horrors of the Nazi Occupation," Ernst Drucker writes: "The speed with which anti-Jewish measures were introduced made life very difficult for the Jewish community." Being a member of a group on the "outside" of a society can be dangerous. At their annual party rally held in Nuremberg in September 1935, the Nazi leaders announced new laws that institutionalized many of the racial theories prevalent in Nazi ideology. These Nuremberg Laws excluded German Jews from Reich citizenship and prohibited them from marrying or socializing with people of "German or German-related blood."

The Nuremberg Laws did not identify a Jew as someone with religious beliefs. Instead, the first amendment to the Nuremberg Laws defined anyone who had three or four Jewish grandparents as a Jew, regardless of whether that individual recognized himself or herself as a Jew or belonged to the Jewish religious community. Other regulations reinforced the message that Jews were outsiders in Germany; for example, in December 1935, the Reich Propaganda Ministry issued a decree forbidding Jewish soldiers to be named in World War I memorials as among the dead.

Research the Nuremberg Laws in your school media center or local library. Examine the laws and their history. Write a fully developed essay focused on your research. Share your research with your class. Now that you have learned about the journey of the racial caste system that brought about the Holocaust, look in the Tampa Bay Times for an example of a citizen who is standing up for his or her rights. Summarize the information in the article and find a sentence in the article that best describes this person or his or her challenge. Share your thoughts with your class.

Florida Standards: SS.6.W.1.3; SS.912.HE.1.2; SS.912.HE.1.4; SS.912.HE.1.5; SS.912.HE.1.6; SS.912.HE.1.7; SS.912.HE.2.1; SS.912.P.10.9; SS.912.W.7.6; ELA.612.EE.1.1; ELA.612.EE.2.1; ELA.612.EE.3.1 ELA.612.EE.4.1; ELA.612.EE.5.1; ELA.612.EE.6.1; ELA.612.C.1.3; ELA.612.C.1.4; ELA.612.C.2.1; ELA.612.C.3.1; ELA.612.C.4.1; ELA.612.C.5.1; ELA.612.R.2.2; ELA.612.R.2.3; ELA.612.R.2.4

SECOND GENERATION:

SHARONA LOEWENSTEIN

Born in Düsseldorf, Germany, in 1926, Ernest Loewenstein never wanted to speak of the atrocities he, his sister, grandmother and grandfather endured during the Holocaust.

"Dad was an interesting character," Ernest's daughter Sharona Loewenstein says. "Sometimes it was a little difficult to live with him because he was very moody." She did not understand her father's quirks and background until she was older, the Hernando County resident says. Loewenstein describes her father as having a good heart. He always felt that his job was to be a good provider.

Ernest Loewenstein was born into a wealthy family. His daughter says her father spoke of having a "privileged" upbringing. He lived in a large three-story home with marble floors. There was a cook, a chauffeur, and there were vacation trips to England.

One day, Sharona Loewenstein's grandparents were taken by the Nazis. On their way home from school, Ernest and his sister were intercepted by someone dressed like a Catholic priest and were taken to Paris. While Loewenstein's aunt was taken to a French farm, her father was taken to work in the underground. Ernest was 13 years old at the time.

"He said, 'they took him' and told him he had to 'start learning how to kill people,'" Loewenstein says. Her father was shocked.

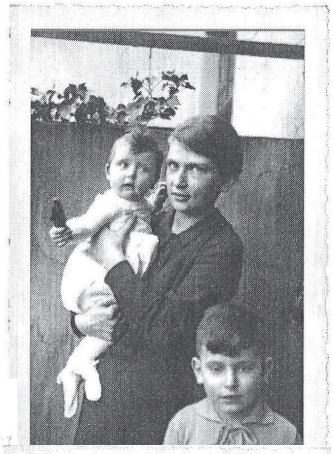
"They told him that they'll train him and make a man of him," Loewenstein says. "He said he was really traumatized during this whole thing." He ended up in Yugoslavia, learning how to fire a gun, use ropes and kill with his bare hands.

"At 14, 15 years of age, he was just beside himself. Suddenly, he had to become an instantaneous adult ... He always said, 'I was ready just to go home.' He said, 'I had to kill my first person, and all I wanted to do was to cry and go home to my nanny.'"

In a recording Ernest Loewenstein made for the German ministry in 1998, he said, "by the time I got to my fourth or fifth killing somebody, I felt stronger, but I still felt extremely bad."

Sharona Loewenstein says her father "felt that all his language skills that he had made him useful to the resistance and his upper-caliber French also helped him. He spoke without an accent, and he also understood a lot of Russian at the time, too."

She remembers one of the stories her father told involved rescuing some children from a train. He and his fellow resistance fighters wore SS uniforms and told the people in charge they were going to get rid of the babies for them. They took the children from their screaming mothers, who "never knew that this heartless SS officer was really a skinny little 15-year-old Jewish boy risking his life to save their children."



Top left: Ernest Loewenstein age 6.

Bottom left: Family photo of Charlotte and Herman Loewenstein in the front and Ludwig Loewenstein second from the end. They all perished in the concentration camps except Sharona Loewenstein's great Uncle Max, who is the fifth man from the end.

Top right: Aunt Marianne, then 1year old and now 94, held by their grandmother, Justine (AKA Gustel) and Ernest, when he was 5.

Bottom right: Justine and Ludwig Loewenstein in their garden.

Photos courtesy of Sharona Loewenstein

In 1941, he was able to rescue his mother from the Gurs concentration camp, located near the Pyrenees. She was taken to a rural area in Calais, France, where she lived in hiding for the rest of the war and was eventually reunited with her husband, who had been in the Les Milles concentration camp in Germany.

Loewenstein says when her father did speak of his past, he kept saying, "'I did so many bad things in my life.' He didn't want to kill people. It wasn't in his nature." She explains he was strong-willed and didn't know how to properly discipline his children. "During the period when he was growing up, his nanny never disciplined him. And he only knew by what he saw, what the Nazis did ... He didn't know how to express himself many times because he was so frustrated coming to a new country, having to learn English after he'd learned French and German."

Her father and surviving members of the family came to America in 1942. "My father wanted to join the Navy. He knew he was under aged but lied in order join and was made a frogman, a Navy Seal, because of his prior activities with the underground."

In 1946, he was honorably discharged from the Navy. He worked for Western Union and then General Electric, where he stayed for more than 40 years.

Loewenstein says Hitler did a number not only on the people during the Holocaust, but also on the children of those that had experienced the Holocaust. She says she is telling her father's story because she wants her father's memory to live on.

1945

Men liberated from Wobbelin Concentration Camp, National Archives

On January 17, as Soviet troops approach, SS units begin the final evacuation of prisoners from the Auschwitz camp complex, marching them on foot toward the interior of the German Reich. These forced evacuations come to be called "death marches."

On January 27, the Soviet army enters Auschwitz-Birkenau and Monowitz and liberates around 7,000 prisoners, most of whom are ill and dying.

February 4–11, Winston S. Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin meet at Yalta in the Soviet Union to discuss the postwar order in Europe. They agree on the complete denazification of Germany and the division of the country into zones of occupation. The Soviet Union affirms that it will join the war against Japan.

On February 13, Soviet troops accept the surrender of the last German and Hungarian units fighting in the encircled city of Budapest, Hungary. The Soviet Army liberates the Gross-Rosen concentration camp.

On March 7, troops of the U.S. 9th Armored Division capture the Ludendorff Railroad Bridge at Remagen, between Koblenz and Bonn, Germany.

On April 4, the Ohrdruf camp, a subcamp of the Buchenwald concentration camp, is the first Nazi camp liberated by U.S. troops. This month, the following camps are liberated: Dora-Mittelbau, Buchenwald, Westerbork, Bergen-Belsen, Dachau, Sachsenhaisen, Flossenburg and Ravensbruck.

Liberated prisoners from the Mauthausen Concentration Camp, National Archives

On April 25, Soviet and American troops meet at Torgau, Germany, forcing a massive final offensive toward Berlin. The German capital is encircled.

On April 30, as Soviet forces near his command bunker in central Berlin, Adolf Hitler commits suicide. Within days, Berlin falls to the Soviets.

On May 4 and 5, The 71st Infantry Division liberates Gunskirchen, one of the many subcamps of the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. Mauthausen is also liberated.

On May 7, the German armed forces surrender unconditionally in the west, and in the east on May 9, 1945.

May 8, 1945 is proclaimed Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day).

On September 2, Japan surrenders and World War II officially ends.

On November 20, the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany, begins a trial of 21 (of 24 indicted) major Nazi German leaders on charges of crimes against peace, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and conspiracy to commit each of these crimes.

SECOND GENERATION:

YAEL SCHAUDER

Markus and Fanny Schauder, courtesy of Yael Schauder

Picture after liberation - Paul, Jacob and Fanny, courtesy of Yael Schauder

After liberation - Paul, Jacob and Fanny, courtesy of Yael Schauder

Hermann Schauder, courtesy of Yael Schauder

Paul Schauder was born on May 13, 1931, in southwest Germany near the Swiss and French border and was the youngest of three boys. His father, Markus, was a businessman, had fought for Germany in the first world war and was financially successful. His mother, Fanny, was very dedicated to her family. Schauder's daughter, Yael Schauder, a Pinellas County resident, says the family was very close, and Fanny doted on her boys. They had everything they needed.

Although Paul and his family lived in a fancy apartment at the time of his birth, they were forced to move out of the apartment when he was very young. The family relocated to a much smaller apartment behind the family's department store. In a memoir, Schauder notes that although life was still bearable for his family, the children were often victims of antisemitism, especially from other children who called them names and threw stones at them. The family was also the victim of many overtly antisemitic acts against their business. Life changed drastically for the family on Nov. 10, 1938, when Kristallnacht occurred.

Yael Schauder explains that her father was 7 years old on that night. Their store windows were broken, and the family was forced to hide in a Romanian Jewish family's home for a few days. From that night on, the family never saw their home or store again.

Within days after Kristallnacht, Paul's father was arrested. The young boy was the last one to see his father alive when he went to visit his father in a prison cell and delivered a loaf of bread to him. In 1938, his father would be sent the Buchenwald concentration camp, where he was murdered in 1942, after years of forced labor and incarceration.

Fanny and her three boys, 10, 8, and 7 years old, moved into the top floor of a cemetery caretaker's house. They lived there for about three months before Fanny was forced to go to work as a cook in Berlin. The three brothers were placed in a Jewish orphanage in Frankfurt, Germany.

Paul Schauder recollected that life in the orphanage was good for the children, and they were well taken care of. Then in 1942, the boys were transferred to an orphanage in Berlin, closer to their mother. This orphanage was not as good as the first one, and they were constantly in fear of the Gestapo coming to take them. Schauder wrote: "In August 1943, the Gestapo surrounded the orphanage, gathered all the children, and came to take all of us to a concentration camp. The Gestapo ordered the approximately 500 children to go to the top floor of the building and assemble there. Jacob, Hermann and I went to the top floor as ordered. Despite following this instruction, we also heard our mom's voice in our heads and knew that our only chance at survival was if we tried to escape."

Paul and Jacob were able to escape. Their middle brother, Hermann, refused to disobey the Gestapo order or was just too scared to try to escape and eventually wound up in the Auschwitz concentration camp, where he perished.

After Jacob and Paul escaped from the building, they ran to the hospital where their mother worked, and immediately the family was on the run and in hiding. Yael Schauder says the three of them hid in bombed-out buildings. "Berlin was being sanitized of Jews." She explains that "ultimately my grandmother decided that they needed to leave Berlin." She says it took a long time. They slept in train stations, and they stayed at other people's homes. "They had nothing," Schauder says. "They literally had the clothes on their backs."

Eventually, in 1943, the three had to separate to survive and had little contact. Paul Schauder, then 12 years old, did a lot of odd jobs during the war, including selling food on the black market and repairing nylon stockings for women. Ultimately, Paul, along with some other Jews were hidden by a Christian widower. In 1945, thanks to the generosity of some upstanders, the boys were united with their mother. Paul was 14 and weighed 80 to 90 pounds. They would spend the next year in a displaced persons camp in Mannheim, Germany, before boarding a ship to Ellis Island in the United States.

Schauder says although her grandmother spoke of her experiences during the Holocaust, her father and uncle did not for many years. She says that it is typical that many survivors are silent for years. "They were all told, forget it, and it will go away ... I think my dad and my uncle were so young, and they were so scarred by what occurred. Imagine a 7-year-old and a 10-year-old being ripped from their families, having no education, no emotional support, never allowed to speak about how they feel about anything because to do so puts you at tremendous risk." Yet despite these early experiences, both Paul and his brother Jacob went on to marry, have children and grandchildren, and build successful businesses in San Diego, California.

Yael Schauder with father Paul Schauder (2016), courtesy of Yael Schauder

MICHAEL A. IGEL

Michael A. Igel, Times photo

St. Petersburg resident Michael A. Igel is Board Chair of The Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg, and Chair of the Florida Commissioner of Education's Task Force on Holocaust Education. The grandson of Holocaust survivors Stanley and Lusia Igel and Henry Ferber, Igel frequently speaks about his entire family's experience and has seen firsthand how Holocaust education improves the world.

Igel's grandparents told him the Holocaust "was the worst in people, but it was also the best in people. They were very adamant about the second part of that." He notes that when speaking about the Holocaust, it is important to remember there are four types of people: victims, upstanders, bystanders and perpetrators. He reflects that his grandparents were victims and upstanders.

"People have choices every single day, and you have to make that right choice," Igel says. No matter if the choices are big or small, "you've got to be focused on trying to do the right thing regardless of the circumstance. I think it's inside of all of us to do it."

When Igel speaks of his grandparents, he stresses perserverance. His grandparents had to rebuild their lives completely. After World War II, his grandparents came to the United States from Poland with $14 in their pocket and one trunk.

Stanley and Lusia Igel were married two days before Hitler invaded Poland. Within a very few months, the couple was placed into a ghetto where a high-ranking Nazi official named Josef Schwammberger was in charge. Then they had a baby girl, Toni.

According to Igel, one day his grandparents and Toni were walking along the edge of the ghetto, when a stranger, a woman, told them the ghetto was no place

Stanley, Luisa and Toni Igel, courtesy of Michael Igel

for a baby. Despite offering help being punishable by death, the woman agreed to take their baby daughter to safety. "I think about the power of every person in that circumstance," Igel says.

Igel's grandfather, a farmer by trade, got a job teaching Schwammberger's wife how to ride a horse. Igel says his grandfather described Schwammberger as a devil. His barbaric acts were disclosed in testimony at his criminal trial in Germany in the 1990s.

Igel describes Schwammberger's wife, however, as "an angel. She's why I'm sitting here," Igel says. She told Igel's grandfather that her husband was planning to kill him when the riding lessons were finished. Igel says his family members made an excuse to be escorted out of the ghetto, overpowered their escorts and ran into the forest to hide. Then "they joined the Polish resistance," Igel says.

For years, the family hid in the forest and in random people's barns and farms. Two of those people who helped hide them were Katarzyna and Michał Gerula, who had three children. According to Igel, the Gerula family hid a total of seven people in their barn.

On New Year's Eve 1944, the Gerula family came back from church and warned everyone that someone suspected there were Jewish people hiding in the barn. Igel's family decided to go hide in the forest, while the other three men moved farther back in the barn. The next day, the Gerula family was stopped by the police on their way back to church. The police found the three men who were hiding, made them dig their own graves and murdered them on the spot.

When the police ransacked the barn, they found the Igels' possessions. The Gerulas were taken to prison and tortured for six weeks and ultimately executed. They never told the police where the Igels were hiding.

"Basically, they were just being good for the sake of being good," Igel says. They were "doing the right thing because that's what was correct. That's what humanity is. And they were killed for exercising humanity."

Igel sees The Florida Holocaust Museum as a place of hope. He stresses that people need to leave the museum knowing "being the upstander is really the lesson in there." He notes that every time people tell the stories of the Holocaust, the memory of the victims and upstanders will not die.

1946

On July 4, a massacre of Jews in the southeastern Polish town of Kielce takes place.

On October 1, the International Military Tribunal (IMT) issues verdicts against leading Nazis at Nuremberg. It sentences 12 leading Nazi officials to death for crimes committed during the Nazi regime.

St. Petersburg Times

AILING HULL URGES WORLD UNITY

12 Nazis To Die For War Crimes

Three Acquitted And Seven Given Long Jail Terms

NEW STRIKE PARALYZES SHIPPING

Former Cabinet Member Suffers Serious Stroke

North Chilled By Early Snow

Record-Breaking Fliers Welcomed To Washington

Band-Klan Link Probed By Government Agencies

HIROSHIMA

Tampa Bay Times, October 2, 1946

1948

On June 25, the United States Congress passes the Displaced Persons Act, under which approximately 400,000 displaced persons could immigrate to the United States over and above quota restrictions. U.S. officials issue around 80,000 of the visas to Jewish displaced persons.

1951

On January 12, The United Nations (UN) Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide enters into force.

1961

On December 15, Adolf Eichmann is found guilty and sentenced to death. On June 1, 1962, Eichmann was executed by hanging.

1988

U.S. President Ronald Reagan signs the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide.

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

GOING BEYOND THE TEXT

Upstanders

Upstanders are people who bear witness to an injustice and take action to stop or prevent the acts from continuing. The student who stops a bully from harassing another student. The person who calls the police when he or she sees a crime being committed. Someone who calls 911 when a friend is in trouble.

Michael Igel says the Holocaust "was the worst in people, but it was also the best in people." In the stories his grandparents told, there are many people who risked their lives to help others. This is an upstander. Writer/actor/activist Don Cheadle writes, "Throughout our lives, we will constantly have choices and opportunities to either become upstanders or bystanders. If enough of us choose to be upstanders, we can help change the course of history." Look through the Tampa Bay Times for examples of upstanders. Write a journal or blog defining an upstander in your own words. Then explain how the person in the article fits the definition.

Next, identify a time when you went out of your way to help somebody else—a friend, a family member, a neighbor, or a stranger. What were the consequences of your actions for you and for others? Share your ideas with your class.

Florida Standards: ELA.612.EE.1.1; ELA.612.EE.2.1; ELA.612.EE.3.1 ELA.612.EE.4.1; ELA.612.EE.5.1; ELA.612.EE.6.1; ELA.612.C.1.3; ELA.612.C.1.4; ELA.612.C.2.1; ELA.612.C.3.1; ELA.612.C.4.1; ELA.612.C.5.1; ELA.612.R.2.2; ELA.612.R.2.3; ELA.612.R.2.4

People Liberated from the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp, National Archives

Women and children liberated from the Gunskirchen Concentration Camp, National Archives

Boxcar #113 069-5 now rests on original tracks at The Florida Holocaust Museum, Times photo

Hungary Deports 600,000 Jews

GENEVA, Switzerland, Dec. 23.—(AP)—The World Jewish congress announced today that 600,000 Jews were deported from Hungary the past two months, with some going to compulsory labor in Germany but most of them to the Auschwitz extermination camp.

The congress also reported the Iron Cross party, aided by the Nazis, is conducting a pogrom against 250,000 Jews who until now had been permitted to remain in "Jewish houses" in Budapest. That number had been reduced to 75,000 by December and no information has been received about them since.

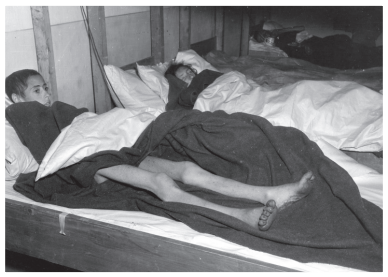
The Miami News, December 23, 1944

Jewish Children Target Of Nazis

LONDON, Aug. 6.—(INS)—Adding a more vicious and brutal note to its oppression of Jews, Nazi authorities in Paris are rounding up Jewish children and subjecting them to sterilization treatment, the Daily Mirror declared Thursday in a dispatch from Vichy.

Simultaneously with this report, offices of the British section of the World Jewish Congress declared that 1,000,000 of 7,000,000 Jews in the Nazi-occupied nations have been murdered.

The Miami News, August 6, 1942



Girl rests after being freed from a concentration camp, U.S. Army Signal Corps, National Archives

Florida
COMMISSIONER'S TASK FORCE ON
HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Florida Commissioner of Education's Task Force on Holocaust Education

This project is funded in part by the FDOE Commissioner's Task Force on Holocaust Education.

The core mission of the Commissioner's Task Force on Holocaust Education is to promote Holocaust education in the State of Florida. On a continual basis, the Task Force shall survey the status of Holocaust Education; design, encourage and promote the implementation of Holocaust education and awareness; provide programs in all Florida school districts; and coordinate designated events that will provide appropriate memorialization of the Holocaust on a regular basis throughout the state.

The Task Force serves as an advisory group to the Commissioner of Education and coordinates Holocaust education activities on his/her behalf. The Task Force continues to pursue efforts to help teachers, school administrators, and other educators identify effective instructional strategies and materials for integrating the Holocaust into K-12 classrooms.

Florida Mandate on Holocaust Education

In 1994, the Florida Legislature passed the Holocaust Education Bill (SB 660), which amended Section 233.061 of the Florida Statutes (Chapter 94-14, Laws of Florida), relating to required instruction. House Bill 1213 from 2020 enhanced this mandate.

The law requires all school districts to incorporate lessons on the Holocaust as part of public-school instruction in grades K-12. This mandate identifies both rationales and strategies for achieving Holocaust literacy.

The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the systematic planned annihilation of European Jews and other groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance of diversity in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting democratic values and institutions.

Dana Arschin Kraslow, granddaughter of Nat Ross, shows her grandfather's Holocaust prison tattoo from the Nazi concentration camps on the day he turned 100, Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at his assisted living facility in Tampa, Times photo

About NIE

Tampa Bay Times NIE newspaper in education tampabay.com/nie

The Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program (NIE) is a cooperative effort between schools and the Times Publishing Co. to encourage the use of newspapers in print and electronic form as educational resources — a "living textbook."

Our educational resources fall into the category of informational text, a type of nonfiction text. The primary purpose of informational text is to convey information about the natural or social world. NIE serves educators, students and families by providing schools with class sets of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Tampa Bay Times, plus award-winning original educational publications, teacher guides, lesson plans, educator workshops and many more resources — all at no cost to schools, teachers or families.

In 2023-2024, NIE provided almost 200,000 print copies and nearly 10 million e-Newspaper licenses to Tampa Bay classrooms. For more information about NIE, visit tampabay.com/nie, call 727-893-8138 or email ordernie@tampabay.com. Follow us on X at X.com/ TBTimesNIE. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/TBTNIE.

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Florida Standards

This publication and its activities incorporate the following Florida Standards for middle and high school students.

Social Studies: SS.68.HE.1.1; SS.912.HE.2.15; SS.912.HE.3.3; SS.912.HE.3.4; SS.912.A.6.3; SS.912.HE.3.1; SS.912.HE.1.1; SS.912.HE.1.2; SS.912.HE.1.3; SS.912.HE.1.4; SS.912.HE.1.5; SS.912.HE.1.6; SS.912.HE.1.7; SS.912.HE.2.1; SS.912.HE.2.2; SS.912.HE.2.4; SS.912.HE.2.5; SS.912.HE.2.7; SS.912.HE.2.8; SS.912.HE.2.9; SS.912.HE.2.10; SS.912.HE.2.11; SS.912.HE.2.13; SS.912.HE.2.14; SS.912.HE.2.15; SS.912.HE.3.2; SS.912.HE.3.4; SS.912.HE.3.5; SS.912.W.7.8; SS.612.W.1.1; SS.612.W.1.3; SS.912.W.1.6; SS.912.A.6.3; SS.912.S.1.6; SS.912.S.1.7; SS.912.S.1.8

BEST: ELA.612.EE.1.1; ELA.612.EE.2.1; ELA.612.EE.3.1; ELA.612.EE.4.1; ELA.612.EE.5.1; ELA.612.EE.6.1; ELA.612.F.2.1; ELA.612.F.2.2; ELA.612.F.2.3; ELA.612.F.2.4; ELA.612.C.1.3; ELA.612.C.1.4; ELA.612.C.1.5; ELA.612.C.2.1; ELA.612.C.3.1; ELA.612.C.4.1; ELA.612.C.5.1; ELA.612.R.2.1; ELA.612.R.2.2; ELA.612.R.2.3; ELA.612.R.2.4; ELA.612.R.3.2; ELA.612.R.3.3; ELA.612.R.3.4; ELA.612.V.1.1; ELA.612.V.1.3

NIE is a member of Florida Press Educational Services (FPES), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization of Florida newspaper professionals whose mission is to promote literacy, civic engagement and critical thinking, particularly for young people.

Looking for more information and resources? There is a Holocaust Education Teacher Guide to accompany the curriculum in this publication. To download the teacher guide, go to https://nieonline.com/tbtimes/curriculum_social_studies.cfm and scroll down to see a PDF of this publication, the teacher guide and survey.