

Holocaust Education During Challenging Times

Over a year ago, our projections about our educational outreach were a very different conversation. We spoke about our continued progress in expanding our work regionally through a variety of events.

Remaining silent is a choice. When we remain silent, people suffer. One of many lessons learned from the Carrabelle exhibit partnered with Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum for six weeks. The three powerful lectures by Linda Davey, Historian and Educator, brought many people from near and far. She covered the topics of Why? What Happened? Resistance, Rescue, and America’s Response. The Museum Director, Lisa Keith-Lucas stated, I wish I could find more ways to express how grateful I am for all you have done, from the first proposal to today’s fantastic talk. You have helped us become more visible to the greater community, and added an incredible and enriching experience to our little town. Although there were some technical hiccups, everything went so very well!

This demonstrated we need to continue the important lessons near and far.

One of the films shown during



Linda Davey setting up exhibit

the exhibit is from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum is worth watching. We show it to educators at training workshops that helps give the needed background and overview for teaching the Holocaust.

The Path to Nazi Genocide –

This 38-minute film provides a concise overview of the Holocaust, raising enduring questions about how and why the Holocaust happened. As a professional development video, the session highlights critical thinking skills and content covered in the film that can help educators meet curricular requirements and state standards.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRcNq4OYTtE&t=8s>

Please support the Holocaust Education Resource Council to honor Steve Uhlfelder. According to Steve, “The importance of Holocaust education cannot be overstated. It is not just a story about Jews and a highly sophisticated strategy to wipe them from the face of the Earth. It is human history and what happens when a demagogue convinces its citizenry that their problems are caused by a group of people who are in some way “foreign and less than human.”

We must always remember that six million Jews, including my grandparents, were killed by the Nazis. Many Jews, like my cousins Sam and Peter, suffered years in concentration camps. Their father was killed. Their beloved and courageous mother helped keep them alive for four years. I am blessed that Sam and Peter survived will be at the annual dinner. Sam

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will speak at the event about his horrendous experience. Because they were so young, they could be last of the survivors.

Without organizations like HERC, the important lessons of the Holocaust might not be taught. The

greatest weapon against hate is education, particularly Holocaust education. Teaching the importance of individual choice, collective responsibility, the dangers of hate and that being silent to an injustice is also being compliant to it, results in

creating a better society that promotes human decency.

Thank You for Your Support,

Barbara

Barbara Goldstein, Executive Director



Anita Parish viewing exhibit



Paloma Rambana viewing exhibit



Paloma Rambana, Barbara Goldstein and Elizabeth Ricci at Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum

Community Activities at TCC

Maclay All Hands In Camp Plants Butterfly Garden





2021

ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE DINNER

Stand Up, Speak Out – Make the World a Better Place



Guest Speaker
Sam Stern
Holocaust Survivor



*Holocaust
Education Award
presented to*
Steve Uhlfelder
*Launched Legislation for
Holocaust Memorial*

When: Wednesday, November 10, 2021
Time: Reception 5:30 pm • Dinner 6:30 pm
Where: FSU University Center Club
403 Stadium Drive

Fundraising Event In Support of Holocaust Education

Tickets: In Person - \$125 Virtual - \$75

Paypal at HERC website or mail check to PO Box 16282, Tallahassee, Florida 32317

Sponsorships Available • For More Information Contact
Barbara Goldstein • barbara@holocaustresources.org • 850-443-9649

www.HolocaustResources.org



ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE DINNER

Sponsor Opportunities

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

FSU University Center Club • 403 Stadium Drive

COURAGE SPONSOR – \$5,000

- One table – Eight dinner tickets
- Business logo with link or Sponsor's name on HERC website
- On screen donor listing with verbal recognition at event
- Business logo or Sponsor's name included in program and listed on display board in lobby
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HOPE SPONSOR – \$2,500

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- Business logo or Sponsor's name included in program and listed on display board in lobby
- HERC Annual Membership

REMEMBRANCE SPONSOR – \$500

- Two dinner tickets
- Business logo with link or Sponsor's name on HERC website
- On screen donor listing with verbal recognition at event
- Business logo or Sponsor's name included in program and listed on display board in lobby
- HERC Annual Membership

Tickets: In Person - \$125 Virtual - \$75

Please send checks to: HERC, P.O. Box 16282, Tallahassee, Florida 32317 OR PayPal on www.holocaustresources.org
For more information contact Barbara Goldstein at 850-443-9649 or barbara@holocaustresources.org

www.HolocaustResources.org

The Designated Area for Ruth Baruch

During WW II almost all countries in the world shut their doors to the Jews. As the persecution of the Jews flourished in Europe, there was virtually nowhere for them to go. However, Shanghai, China, was an open port city which required no papers or visas, and by the end of June 1939, nearly 10,000 European Jewish refugees had escaped to Shanghai. Within the next 7 months, thousands more would arrive, totaling almost 20,000 people. The Ohel Moshe Synagogue was the primary place of worship for the Jewish refugees in Shanghai.

Soon after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and declared war on the allies, Japan invaded Shanghai's foreign concessions and occupied the whole city. The war ended the flow of American funds to the impoverished Jewish refugees and the Japanese imposed restrictions on the Jews. In 1943, Japan officially established the "Restricted Sector for Stateless Refugees", better known as the Shanghai Ghetto, forcing most Jews to live there.

Just try and imagine the adjustments these people had to make. The climate, the customs, the language, the dress, nothing was even remotely familiar. The living conditions were deplorable and the deprivation was rampant. Yet, somehow, they managed not only to exist, but built a life for themselves in this foreign land. Many, like my mother, Ruth Baruch, lived there for 10 years or more. People opened businesses,

children went to school, synagogues were established, sports teams were formed and life happened. They managed to build a little Europe, surrounded by Asia.

Ruth Baruch, was born in 1935 in Danzig, Germany, now Gdansk Poland. In August, 1939, my grandmother Sarah was pregnant with her third child when the family fled to Shanghai. My grandfather, Moritz, brought his mother, Bertha, with the family to Shanghai, since he was an only child and could not leave her in Germany. By the Spring of 1943, the Japanese, who occupied Shanghai, created a ghetto into which all stateless refugees had to move. This included thousands of Jews. The living conditions now worsened. This ghetto was called Hongkew. Many of the refugees arrived in China penniless. Some found it hard to adjust to the tropical climate and contracted typhus, dysentery, beriberi, cholera and other diseases. There were 1,700 deaths in the ghetto; 31 people died in the American bombing raid on July 17, 1945. My mother Ruth lived in this ghetto



Barbara Goldstein
Executive Director



Left: Isak Baruch at 6 years old; middle: Sam Baruch at 8 years old; right: Ruth Baruch at 10 years old, circa 1945 in Shanghai.

until 1949 with her parents, brothers, and grandmother.

On April 27, 2006, at the invitation of the local Chinese government, my mother, who ultimately had her home in Boca Raton, Florida, was among 112 guests composed of former Shanghai Jewish refugees, their spouses, and children. They came to Shanghai to celebrate their tenth reunion. The previous Shanghai refugees had met in different cities over the years and this time, they came not as stateless refugees but as proud citizens of their new adopted country, mostly of the United States. The first reunion had been held in 1980 with over 800 attending. The reunions were planned every few years, since it was hard for everyone to meet

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from all over the world. Each time less people came, but they were glad to reconnect over the years of the past. I joined my mom, Ruth Baruch Spiegler for this reunion in Shanghai. During a walk on the famous Shanghai Bund with its European architecture from the '20s and '30s, she explained to me, that this area along the waterfront was off-limits to her, her mother and grandparents during the war and to all other refugees that immigrated in the late '30s.

During this 2006 visit, we gathered at a previously erected monument, dedicated to the former Jewish Ghetto in Hongkew. We signed a proposal calling on UNESCO to ensure that this area that was home to approximately 20,000 Jews during WWII, would be preserved by granting it "Heritage Status". It has been referred to in the past by historians and "Shanghailanders" (Jewish refugees from Shanghai) as "The Designated Area" and consists of approximately 69 acres.

The Hongkew district which

was located north of the Suzhou Creek in the Settlement of Shanghai was a thriving community created by Jewish refugees in the early to mid-'40s in spite of the hardships that were associated with the war. This included living within the confine of a ghetto that was imposed by the Japanese military authority. The refugees tried to survive within a culture that was strange to them, with the cafes, schools and cultural institutions, and maintained hospitals and clinics for the sick. Several newspapers in their native language were also in circulation during and after the war. Following World War II, China, ultimately descended into a civil war. It ended in the victory for the Communist Party in 1949, and consequently almost all the Shanghai Jews emigrated by 1956. My mother's immediate family survived there until 1949 when they moved to Israel for six years. In 1955, they moved to New York where my parents, Ruth and

Marcel met and married in 1957. They were both sponsored by family members to come to the United States.

My mom, Ruth loved to reminisce about all her experiences of growing up in the ghetto where she was living in propinquity with thousands of other stateless Jewish refugees. She remembered many names of her peers and elders that were living in the "designated Area" during that particular era, and could make a connection with almost any name mentioned today by a "Shanghailanders". I dubbed her the "Hongkew Encyclopedia".

Ruth Baruch Spiegler passed away on July 14, 2011. She left behind her stories, her connections from Shanghai and many of her Chinese treasures. I, Barbara Goldstein, her daughter, and my brother, Allen, are so proud of her of strength and resilience during her childhood and am proud to have experienced a little time with mom in The Designated Area in 2006. ■



In 2006, former Jewish refugees and their families visited the Shanghai Ghetto. Left: the author Barbara Goldstein and her mother Ruth Baruch Spiegler. Right: Ruth and her childhood friends, Erica and Helen, at the monument to "The Designated Area" in Shanghai. They played in this park 50 years earlier.



Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Email: _____

I am interested in information on these HERC committees:

Book club _____ Film Series _____ Holocaust Remembrance _____

Memorial _____ Community Outreach _____

Teacher Workshop _____ Membership _____

MEMBERSHIP ENTITLES YOU TO:

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

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

HERC OFFERS VARIOUS LEVELS OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: Please select a membership level.

___\$36 (Life) This membership level is for individuals and helps purchase a DVD, book, or periodical for our school Resource

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___ \$250 (Courage) This membership level is for individuals and/or families and helps buy a set of books for a school classroom

___ \$500 (Remembrance) This membership level is for individuals and/or families and helps to sponsor a speaker for Professional Learning Opportunities.

PLEASE SEND CHECKS TO:

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Tallahassee, FL 32317

Donations can be submitted by PayPal on HERC website www.holocaustresources.org