

YOM HA'SHOAH

Northern Virginia's 2017 Holocaust Observance
Displaced Persons: Struggles to Find a Home

Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia
Sunday, April 23, 2017 / 23 Nissan 5777



Organized by:



In Partnership With:



Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.



Opening Music

Blowing of the Shofar

Ethan Mansour, Temple Rodef Shalom

“Star Spangled Banner”

Led by Jason Kaufman

Beth El Hebrew Congregation

Welcome

David Yaffe, President-Elect & Jeff Dannick, Executive Director
Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia

Opening Remarks

Judy Flippen-Anderson & Ira Bartfield

Northern Virginia Holocaust Commission Co-Chairs, JCRC

Rabbi Amy Schwartzman, Temple Rodef Shalom



Leonard Gordon participating in JCRC's Holocaust survivors' Speakers Bureau at a Loudoun County Public School.

Struggles to Find a Home: Leonard Gordon

Introduced by his daughter, Marcia Kelmenson

Leonard Gordon was born in Tilsit, Germany in 1925, but grew up in Siauliai, Lithuania. He lived in a middle class family that included one brother and one sister in addition to himself and his parents. He was fortunate to have attended private schools, including Bialek Hebrew High School during his childhood.

When the USSR conquered Lithuania in 1940 his family was forced to move to a less affluent neighborhood. In 1941, when the Germans took control, Leonard's family was forced into the ghetto along with the Jews who were not immediately killed by execution squads. Mass shootings continued throughout his time in the ghetto.

To survive, Leonard had to be useful to the Germans. He did forced labor to support the war industries and became a carpenter. In 1944, Leonard and his family were transferred to camps in Stuttgart and Leipzig, Germany. He was separated first from his mother and then his father. Neither survived the war. He was transferred to Dachau and then to Mildorf.

In 1945, Leonard was liberated from the labor camps by the U.S. Army 3 days before a scheduled German Death March further inside Germany. He and his brother Abraham spent time in American displaced persons (DP) camps in Germany and Italy, and considered aliyah (immigration to Israel) after a meeting with David Ben Gurion. They ended up immigrating to the United States with sponsorship from a family member and training from the Jewish Organization for Rehabilitation & Training (ORT).

Hymn of the Partisans (Zog Nit Keyn Mol)

Lyrics by *Hirsch Glik, Vilnius Ghetto, 1943*

Music composed by *J. Mark Dunn* with lyrics later set to the music by *Dmitri & Daniel Pokrass*

Sung by *Cantor Rachel Rhodes & the Community Choir*

CHORUS:

*Zog nit keynmol az du geyst dem letstn veg,
Vn himlen blayene farshteln bloye teg;*

*(2x) Vail kumen vet noch undzer oysgebenkte sho,
S'vet a poyk ton undzer trot: MIR ZAINEM DO!*

*Fun grinem palmenland biz vaysin land fun shney
Mir zainen do mit undzer pain mit undzer vey*

*(2x) Un vu gefaln siz a shpriet fun undzer blut
Vet a shpotrz ton undzer g'vure undzer mut*

CHORUS:

*You must not say that you now walk the final way
Because the darkened heavens hide the blue of day*

*(2x) The time we've longed for will at last draw near,
And our steps as drums will sounds that WE ARE HERE!*

*From land all green with palms to land all white with snow,
We now arrive with all our pain and all our woe*

*(2X) Where our blood sprayed out & came to touch the land,
There our courage and our faith will rise and stand*

Struggles to Find a Home: Joan Abend DaSilva

Introduced by **Rabbi Brett Isserow**, Beth El Hebrew Congregation

Joan Abend was five years old when she was moved with her parents, Sala and Israel, to a ghetto in the Galicia region of Poland. A relative split her jewelry store inventory with Sala and this jewelry would pay for forged Catholic identities and the family's upkeep during the war. Israel also secured forged identities for Sala's mother and sister, Rosa and Lunia Adolf. Rosa chose to remain in the ghetto and perished in the war. Lunia was later betrayed at her postal job and shot at the age of seventeen.

A Righteous Gentile, Irena, hid Joan and her mother for three weeks while preparations were made for the family's move to separate homes. None of these Catholic families ever knew of the Abend's Jewish background. For the remainder of the war, Joan was to be known as Janina Hanska.

When the Warsaw partisans rose up against the Nazis in 1944, Sala gathered Joan to stay with the family where she was serving as cook and housekeeper. It was not until Russian liberation that Israel was able to discover his wife and daughter's location in the Polish countryside and reunite with them. They remained in Poland for several months and traveled to East Germany before settling into the Eschwege DP Camp where they awaited permission to resettle in the United States.

Blurred Belongings— An Interpretative Dance

Choreographer: Rebecca Weiss

Music: "The Crane Dance" by Ludovico Einaudi



Candles of the Survivors

Candle One

Rachelle Bennett
Janine Bland
Rabbi Laszlo Berkowits
COL Frank Cohn

Candle Two

Erica Danty
Anya Drimer
Marcel Drimer
Prof. Maria Dworzecka

Candle Three

Etelka "Stella" Fettman
Prof. Janos Gertler
Anne Herrmann
Ruth Kohn

Candle Four

Henry Lowenstern
Michel Margosis
Erika Robinson
Lore Schneider

Remembering Elie Wiesel and Livui Librescu

Rabbis Emeriti Laszlo Berkowits and Marvin Bash
Temple Rodef Shalom and Congregation Etz Hayim

Fifth Candle of the Next Generation

Marguerite Adams
In memory of Jacques Grable

Galeet BenZion
*In honor of Dina Katan BenZion
and Joseph BenZion*

Nelson Blitz
*In honor of Rose Blitz
and in memory of David Blitz*

Myra Brown Gondos
*In memory of Blanche and Morris Brown
and sister Jehudis Brown*

Robyn Feuerberg
In memory of Rosa Feuerberg

Ava Szabo Flores
*In memory of Agnes Szabo Hartzler and
Oscar Szabo, a Righteous Christian
who saved 29 Hungarian Jews*

Judith Fogel
*In memory of Elona Goldstein Fogel
and Ha'Rav Hersch Zvi Fogel*

Amy Friedman
In memory of Meyer Wildfeuer

Dan Gilman
In memory of Harry J. Gilman

Rabbi Michelle "Mina" Goldsmith
In honor of David Gelbart

Emmanuel Sigmund Horowitz
In memory of Lia Horowitz

Marcia G. Kelmenson
In honor of and alongside Leonard Gordon

Frank Kohn
*In honor of and alongside Ruth Kohn
and in memory of Dr. Herbert Kohn*

Ita Zoberman Mandel
In memory of Louis Zoberman

Lilianne Milgrom
*In honor of Miriam Blumenstock-
Unreich of Australia and in memory
of David Thaddeus Milgrom*

Pearl Znilek Raikin
In memory of Jack and Carol Znilek

Michelle Rendelman
*In memory of Joseph and Leona Nataf and
Jeannine Nataf Ehrgott-Schumacher*

Paul Rohrlich
In honor of Fritz Rohrlich

AJ Siegel
In memory of Joseph Korzenik

Amnon Salomon
*In honor of Haviva and
Fred Salomon of Israel*

Julia Salpeter
In memory of Irma and Jeno Illes

Irv Varkonyi
*In memory of Livia and
Ignaz Livia Varkonyi*

Rochelle Weinberger
In memory of Shari & Irving Weinberger

Marty Zelman
*In honor of Toby Torens Zelman
and in memory of David Zelman*

The Pledge of Acceptance

All children of survivors are invited to rise and join in the reading of the pledge

We who are your sons and daughters belong to a generation in which every attempt was made for us to never exist.

We who represent your victory and your triumph over evil of unthinkable dimensions, accept the responsibility to preserve and protect the legacy of the Holocaust.

We pledge to commemorate. We pledge to educate.

We pledge to forever remember.

We pledge to you, our mothers and fathers, who suffered in ways which words cannot describe, that our commitment is an everlasting commitment for this generation and for every generation to come.

We dedicate this pledge to our beloved grandmothers and grandfathers, who never lived to see us.

We dedicate this pledge to our aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers and sisters, who are forever missing from our lives.

We dedicate this pledge to all the six million Jewish men, women, and children who were so brutally murdered, but who will always be in our thoughts and in our hearts.

The Pledge of Continuation

All grandchildren of survivors are invited to rise and join in the reading of the pledge

We who are your grandchildren will carry the survivors' legacy to prove to ourselves and to others that we can carry our victory, as well as to memorialize those loved ones who perished in the Holocaust.

We pledge to always remember who we are, where we came from, And also the traumas our grandparents endured and survived;

We pledge to educate people of other ethnic, religious, and cultural groups about our grandparents' experiences;

We pledge to commit to use lessons of the Holocaust to support justice, tolerance, peace, kindness and compassion;

We pledge to accept survivors' memories and to pass them on to future generations.

The Sixth Candle of Hope

Yaron Gamburg, Head of Public Diplomacy, Embassy of Israel

Susan R. Sandler, Deputy Special Envoy, Office of the U.S. Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues

Keynote speakers: Joan DaSilva, Leonard Gordon, and Aliaa Noha Khalid

El Maleh Rachamim

Cantor Allen Leider, Temple Rodef Shalom

God full of mercy Who dwells high, grant proper rest under the wings of the Divine Presence, in the great heights of the holy and pure who, like the brilliance of the heavens, shine to all the souls of the six million Jews slain in the European Holocaust who were killed, and slaughtered, and burned, and destroyed in sanctification of God's name, at the hands of the German murderers and their assistants from other nations. Therefore may the Master of mercy shelter them in the shelter of His wings for eternity, and bind their souls in the bond of life. The Lord is their inheritance; may the Garden of Eden be their resting place and may they stand for their destiny in the end of days. And let us say, Amen.

El maleh rachamim shochen bameromim, hamtzey menuchah nechonah al kanfey hashechinah, bema'alot kedoshim utehorim kezohar harakiya mazhirim et kol haneshmot shel sheshet milyoneh hayebudim, chalileh ba'Shoah ba'Eropa, shenebergu, shenish'chetu, shenisrefu, veshanisfu al kidush haShem, b'yadey hameratzchim haGermanim ve'ozrehem misha'ar ha'amim. Lachen Ba'al harachamim yastirem b'seter k'nafav le'olamim, v'yitzror bitzror hachayim et nishmotehem. Adonai hu nachalatum, b'Gan Eden t'hey menuchatam, vey'emdu legoralam l'ketz hayamim, v'nomar amen.

The Holocaust Mourners' Kaddish

Rabbis of the Community and Professor Maria Dworzecka

Ve-yit-aleh, ve-yit-halal <i>Ohrdruf, Plashov, Papenburg, Ponary</i>	ויתעלה ויתהלל	Yit-gadal <i>Auschwitz-Birkenau-Buna, Baranovka, Bergen-Belsen</i>	יתגדל
Shmei d'kudasha, b'rich Hu, <i>Prague, Radom, Ravensbruck, Rehmsdorf, Riga</i>	שמה דקודשא בריך הוא	Ve-yit-kadash <i>Belzec, Bialystok, Babi Yar</i>	ויתקדש
Le-eyla <i>Sachensburg, Sachsenhausen, San Sabba, Shauliai</i>	לעלא	Shmei raba <i>Bochnia, Bogdanovka, Buchenwald</i>	שמה רבה
Min kol birchata v'shirata <i>Skarzysko-Kamienna, Sobibor, Stutthof</i>	מן כל ברכתא ושירתא	B'alma divra chir-utei <i>Chelmno, Cracow, Dachau</i>	בעלמא די ברא כרעותה
Tus-bechata ve-neche-mata <i>Theresienstadt, Transnistria, Treblinka, Vaivara</i>	תשבחתא ונחמתא	V'yamlich mal-chutei <i>Dakovo, Danica, Dora</i>	וימליך מלכותה
Da-amiran b'alma <i>Vilna, Warsaw, Zemun, Zhitomir and the scores of other camps.</i>	דאמירן בעלמא	Be-chayei-chon, uv'yomei-chon <i>Dumanovka, Ebensee, Edineti, Flossenburg</i>	בחייכון וביומכון
V'imru Amen.	ואמרו אמן.	U'vchayei d'chol beit Yisrael <i>Gross-Rosen, Gunskirchen, Gurs</i>	ובחיי דכל בית ישראל
Yehei Shlama raba min shmaya	יהא שלמא רבא מן שמיא	Ba-agala u'vizman kariv <i>Herzogenbusch, Iasi, Jadovno, Kaiserwald</i>	בעגלא ובזמן קריב
Ve-chayim aleinu	וחיים עלינו	V'imru Amen.	ואמרו אמן.
V'al kol Yisrael	ועל כל ישראל	Ye-hei shmei raba m'vorach	יהא שמה רבא מבורך
V'imru Amen.	ואמרו אמן.	L'olam ul'ol-mei alma-ya	לעולם ולעלמי עלמיא.
Oseh shalom bim-romav	עשה שלום במרומו	Yitbarach ve-yishtabach <i>Kamenets-Podolskiy, Kishinev, Kovno, Klooga</i>	יתברך וישתבח
Hu ya-aseh shalom	הוא יעשה שלום	Ve-yitpa'ar ve-yitromam <i>Lodz, Lubin, Lublin, Lvov, Lyons</i>	ויתפאר ויתרומם
Aleinu ve-al kol Yisrael	עלינו ועל כל ישראל	Ve-yit-naseh, ve-yit-hadar <i>Majdanek, Mauthausen, Minsk, Natzweiler-Struthof, Neuengamme</i>	ויתנשא ויתהדר
V'imru Amen.	ואמרו אמן		

Oseh Shalom

Community Choir

Music: Cheryl A. Metzger; Arrangement: Charles Davidson

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמְרוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם
עֲלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן:

*Oseh shalom bim'romav, Hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu
V'al kol Yisrael, V'imru, imru amen.*

*May the One who makes peace in the heavens, grant peace to us and to the
people Israel; and let us say: Amen.*

Struggles to Find a Home: Plight of the Refugees

Today more than 65 million individuals around the world are refugees escaping war, persecution and natural disaster. This represents the largest refugee crisis ever recorded and demands our attention.

Read by Leni Gonzalez, Virginia Association of Latino Organizations: Pablo and William lived in the care of their aunt in El Salvador. When drug gangs moved in, the boys became targets for recruitment and intimidation. Police turned a blind eye. In 2012, the gangs "disappeared William." Pablo knew his turn was next. That summer of 2014 he became one of the tens of thousands of Latino teens caught by U.S. immigration officials as they desperately crossed the border. By November, the U.S. started a Central American Minors (CAM) Refugee Program. The CAM Program offered U.S. refugee entry to about 2,000 child refugees applying from their home countries before the program was halted last month. But CAM could not help Pablo, it only allowed refugees to apply before they left for America. As of reports in April, 2016, Pablo had been in 8 different detention centers across the country, including in Virginia.

("Hundreds of migrant teens are being held indefinitely in locked-detention," Tyche Hendricks, WKED, 4/11/2016)

We love Pablo as we love ourselves, for we were foreigners too in the land of Egypt. (Leviticus 19:33-34)

Read by Bishop Andrew Williams, Wakefield Congregation and former Bishop Herb Riggs, Mount Vernon Stake High Council of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: When Jalal al Farttoosi was 6, Saddam Hussein's forces took his father away. They killed him and seized the family's assets. Years later, when Jalal applied to study medicine, as a son of an enemy of the state, he was barred from doing so. He studied English instead and became a U.S. interpreter after the invasion. It was a job that did not make him popular with some fellow Iraqis. Jalal sought a special U.S. visa and arrived to a new life in America in 2010. Many loyal Iraqis still await final approval for their promised home in America.

("A worried immigrant from Iraq gets support from fellow Americans," John Kelly, Washington Post, 2/6/2017)

We love Jalal as we love ourselves, for we were foreigners too in the land of Egypt.

Read by Priscilla Martinez, All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS Center): Rashid Mohammed fled the Somali civil war in 1992. He was 14 years old. His mother and his sister were both dead. He arrived at Dadaab, Kenya, the world's largest refugee camp. He has grown to adulthood there, one of 300,000 refugees awaiting acceptance to a new homeland. Even in the camp, life hasn't been safe; his wife was raped collecting firewood. His father has been beaten and robbed. Rashid's U.S. application for resettlement was accepted in 2010. But the process has only inched forward since then. In interview after interview, he has promised that he isn't a terrorist and has recounted the horrors that have broken his family. With the arrival of a third child the process has been further delayed. U.S. policy requires officials to meet the child before a visa can be issued. The backlog is long and the Mohammeds continue to wait.

("In the world's biggest refugee camp, ban casts pall of despair," Kevin Sieff, Washington Post, 2/6/2017)

We love Rashid as we love ourselves, for we were foreigners too in the land of Egypt.

Read by Jacqueline Fuller, Young Leader, InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington and Producer, Interfaith Connections: You may not remember three year old Alan Kurdi's name, but you likely remember the heart-wrenching photo of his little body washed upon an Aegean shore. Alan's family was Kurdish and therefore was denied citizenship by the Syrian government. When civil war came to Damascus, the family fled inland to Kobane. When Kobane became engulfed in battle, they joined tens of thousands of Syrians fleeing to Turkey. Forced to escape quickly without passports, the family lacked status and the ability to seek asylum. They lived in limbo, with an aunt in Canada trying desperately to sponsor them. They made three attempts to be smuggled out of Turkey before their 4th fateful attempt on board a small overloaded boat. Of the 23 who fled on that boat, 14 died, including Alan, his brother, and mother.

("Alan Kurdi death: A Syrian Kurdish family forced to flee," BBC News, Joel Gunter, 9/4/2015)

We mourn Alan and we honor his memory, for we were foreigners too in the land of Egypt.

Rikmah Enoshit Achat "One Human Tissue"

Arranged by Toby Singer, Lyrics Moti Hamer

Performed by the Community Choir

Kshe'amut, mashehu mimeni, mashehu
mimeni, yamut becha, yamut becha.

Kshetamut, mashehu mimcha bi, mashehu
mimcha bi, yamut itcha, yamut itcha.

Ki kulanu, ken kulanu
kulanu rikmah enoshit achat chayah
ve'im echad me'itanu, holech me'imanu
mashehu met banu -
umashehu, nish'ar ito

Im ned'a, eich lehargi'a eich lahargi'a
et ha'eivah, im rak ned'a.

Im ned'a, lehash'kit et ze'ameinu
al af elboneinu, lomar slichah.
Im ned'a lehat'chil mehat'chalah.

Ki kulanu..

When I die, something of mine
will die in you, will die in you.

When you die, something of yours in me,
will die with you, will die with you.

Because all of us, yes all of us,
are all one living human tissue
and if one of us, leaves us
something dies in us -
and something, stays with him

If we'll only know, how to comfort,
how to comfort, the hostility, if only we'd know.

If we'll know, how to quiet our rage
(if we'd know how to quiet)
upon the fury of our humiliation, to say sorry.
If we'd know how to start from the beginning.

Because all of us..



Concluding Remarks

David Yaffe, President-Elect,
Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia

Ron Halber, Executive Director,
JCRC of Greater Washington

Learning More About Displaced Persons & Resources to Help

Refugees are those who have been forced to leave their home and/or country because of war, danger, persecution, or natural disaster. This definition was developed in the aftermath of the World War II, the most vast humanitarian disaster the world had ever faced. New treaties were signed and are still in place today to provide an international framework for addressing refugee needs. Many agencies were created or strengthened to help these people and while the path was hard, as we learned today, most did find new homes. But, as we also learned today, the problem not only still exists, it has grown and now surpasses the magnitude of the post World War II challenge. There are over 65 million refugees today, about 1 out of every 113 people on Earth according to the UN Human Rights Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Here are some of the organizations that are addressing this need locally and internationally:

HIAS, formerly the Hebrew Immigration Aid Society, (www.hias.org) is the world's oldest refugee organization. From the 1880's through the Holocaust and the liberation of Soviet Jewry, HIAS helped endangered refugees find homes because THEY were Jews. Today HIAS' assistance is available to refugees of all faiths because WE are Jews. HIAS is the leading voice in the American Jewish community on refugee support. Visit: <http://www.hias.org/resources> for a multitude of ideas on how congregations and communities can help.

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (www.lssnca.org) along with HIAS is one of 9 refugee resettlement agencies authorized to assist the U.S. State Department with refugee resettlement. LSSNCA is a direct service provider for refugees in our region having resettled more than 1,000 in the previous year. LSSNCA welcomes donations and volunteers to assist as mentors.

The **Jewish Social Service Agency: JSSA** (www.jssa.org) has an enduring shared commitment to care for and provide safety net services to frail, poor and ill Holocaust survivors residing in our community. JSSA's Holocaust Survivor Program is supported through grants and donations. To learn more, visit: <https://www.jssa.org/get-help/holocaust-survivor-services/>.

The **American Civil Liberties Union: ACLU** (www.aclu.org) stands in defense of the Constitutional rights of all Americans and individuals living in the U.S., including fundamental anti-discrimination protections. Accordingly, the ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project is dedicated to protecting the rights of immigrants, documented and undocumented. Resources can be found at <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights>.

The **Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy; VICPP** (www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org) has a vision that includes a Commonwealth where people of all faiths cooperate to create compassionate communities and that allows all Virginians to reach their God-given potential. VICPP's newly formed rapid reaction team helps expand the Center's resources for combating hate through congregational and person-to-person contacts.

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide (www.ushmm.org/confront-genocide) is charged with alerting policy makers to groups at risk for genocide and to work to halt acts of genocide or related crimes against humanity. Sign up to receive their newsletters and learn about "communities in action," that are taking important actions to raise awareness.

Ha'Tikvah

Written by N.H. Imber, Arranged by P. Ben-Haim
Cantor Rachel Rhodes & the Community Choir
Temple Rodef Shalom

Kol 'od balevav p'nimah	כָּל עוֹד בְּלֵבָב פְּנִימָה
Nefesh Y'hudi homiyah	נֶפֶשׁ יְהוּדֵי הוֹמִיָּה
Ulfa'atei mizrach kadimah	וּלְפָאֵתֵי מִזְרָח, קְדִימָה
Ayin l'tzion tzofiyah	עֵינַי לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיָּה
Od lo avdah tikvatenu	עוֹד לֹא אָבְדָה תִּקְוַתֵּנוּ
Hatikvah bat shnot alpayim,	הַתִּקְוָה בַּת שָׁנוֹת אֲלָפִים,
Lihyot 'am chofshi b'artzeinu	לִהְיוֹת עַם חֲפְשֵׁי בְּאַרְצֵנוּ
Eretz Tziyon vi'rushalayim	אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם

As long as the Jewish spirit is yearning deep in the heart, with eyes turned toward the East, looking toward Zion, then our hope—the two-thousand-year-old hope—will not be lost: to be a free people in our land, the land of Zion and Jerusalem.



Acknowledgements

JCRC Holocaust Programming

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater Washington's Holocaust Commission organizes Holocaust commemorative, educational, and advocacy oriented activities throughout the year. Founded in 1938, the JCRC's commitment to the lessons of the Holocaust is enduring and our community-wide commemorations date back to at least the 1970's. The Northern Virginia Holocaust Observance is organized under the leadership of **Michael Friedman**, President; **Ira Bartfield** and **Judy Flippen-Anderson**, Northern Virginia Holocaust Commission Co-Chairs; **Ron Halber**, Executive Director; **Guila Franklin Siegel**, Associate Director; with **Debra Linick**, Holocaust Programming Consultant; **Steve Adleberg**, Education Outreach Director; **Darcy Hirsh**, Director of Northern Virginia Government and Community Relations; **Julie Greenwald**, Executive/Programming Assistant; **Nirma Medrano**, Office Manager and Senior Programming Associate; **Alexis Schwartz**, Assistant Director of the Israel Action Center; and the **JCRC staff**.

Lead Partners

The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia is the permanent partner of the JCRC in hosting the Northern Virginia Holocaust Observance: **Scott Brown**, President; **Jeff Dannick**, Executive Director; **Marc Jacob**, Associate Executive Director; **Laurie Albert**, Director of Community Engagement; **Laura Adler**, Marketing Director; **Sheila Budoff**, Adult Group Coordinator, and **Ken Wilson**, Technical Director; each assisted with development of the program. **Rabbi Amy Schwartzman** of Temple Rodef Shalom oversaw the commemoration and **Cantor Rachel Rhodes** directed the community choir with additional Temple Rodef Shalom support from **Cookie Mandell**, Director of Engagement, and **Robert Schlossberg**, President.

JCRC Youth Engagement

As part of its year-round commitment to Holocaust education, the JCRC arranged for Holocaust survivors to speak at 20 Greater Washington synagogues, schools, and other venues. Together they will have reached more than 5,000 local teens and adults who will carry on their legacy. Today teens participated in "Displaced Persons - Struggles to Find a Home" developed in partnership with the **Northern Virginia Education Directors Council (NoVA EDC)** with leading support from **Dara Holop** and **Cantor Allen Leider** and remarks by Holocaust survivor **Leonard Gordon** and Syrian refugee **Aliaa Noha Khaled**.

Visual Arts

Sarah Berry, JCCNV Arts Director, and Anton Merbaum, JCCNV Fine Arts Coordinator, arranged the exhibit of *“Besa: A Code of Honor—Muslims Who Rescued Jews During the Holocaust.”* The exhibit was created by American photographer Norman Gershman featuring rescue stories of Muslim-Albanian families, curated by Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center. The photographs reveal the rescuers' humanity as well as the unique ethnic identity of the Albanian population today. The exhibit concludes **May 7th** with a screening of *“Besa: The Promise,”* and a live interview with local Holocaust survivor Johanna Neumann, who is a subject of the film.

Additional thanks to **Na'ama Gold**, JCCNV's Shiri Rachamim Community Shlichah, for organizing the exhibit, *“Detention in Palestine: Holocaust Survivors Held in Atilit”*

Performing Arts

Barri DeFrancisci, JCCNV 'J.Dance' Director, arranged for and Rebecca Weiss choreographed *“Blurred Belongings,”* with dancers: Felicity Fei, Alicia Feldman, Amy Goldberg, Faith Hemmerdinger, Alexandra Neacsu, Anna Riley, Mia Rivelis, and Ella Newman.

Community Choir

Community Choir Director Cantor Rachel Rhodes of Temple Rodef Shalom, accompanist Frank Conlon; Temple Rodef Shalom Singers: Cory Amron, Libby Chisholm, Nancy Finken, Carole Heller, Harriet Kaplan, Ted Kavich, Nancy Lawrence, James Ramenofsky, Curt Ritter, Fran Rosenstein, Mike Rubin, Janice Tichauer, Debra Tievsky, Laura Weil, Mitch Wiener; Beth El Hebrew Congregation Cantor Jason Kaufman: Laura Salisburg, Ilene Muravnik; Church of the Latter Day Saints: Alice Haney; Congregation Adat Reyim Choir Director Mitch Bassman: Robin Gross, Shelley Kahn, Emil Regelman, Robbi-Lynn Watnik, Mary Zussman; Olam Tikvah Chorale Director Carol Boyd Leon: Debbie Dubin Kritzer, Tamra Gordon, Kathryn James, John McPeek, John Miuccio, Sarah Munro, Fred Singer, Joan Singer, Elana Strom, Rhonda Weiss; Shoreshim: Avi Steppel, Debra Steppel, Madeleine Steppel.

The Keynote Address: Welcoming the Stranger Then & Now

HIAS Vice President Melanie Nezer moderated a discussion with Holocaust survivor Joan DaSilva and Syrian refugee Aliaa Noha Khaled. We thank them for the heroic testimonies they shared and the insights we gained through their experiences.

Jewish Social Service Agency

The Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA) provides local Holocaust survivors with critical safety net services. We thank Ellen Blalock and Jessica Jost for supporting this commemoration.

The Yellow Candle Project

Thank you to Bruce Gordon, Regional President, who coordinated the Yellow Candle Project for the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs.

“Unto Every Person There is a Name”

The Uriah P. Levy Chapter of B'nai B'rith Chesapeake Bay Region, in conjunction with the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum, sponsors *“Unto Every Person There is a Name.”* This public name-reading commemorates individuals who perished in the Holocaust, restoring some dignity to those who were stripped of their identities and robbed of their lives. Barbara Brenman chairs the program with the name reading led by Jerry Jacobs, Ira Bartfield, and Myra Roney.

Yad Vashem & US Holocaust Memorial Museum's Names Recovery

Thank you Jonina Duker and Lorrie Johnson of Yad Vashem's Names Recovery Project and Jaime Mollnor and Myra Roney of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum for hosting their displays. Visit both museums' registries at: www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/remembrance/names/ and www.ushmm.org (search Benjamin and Vladka Meed Registry) to aid in their missions to record the martyrs and survivors of the Holocaust.

Thank You!

Dignitaries, donors and volunteers at the JCRC's Holocaust Commemoration are acknowledged with gratitude in an addendum to this program.



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