

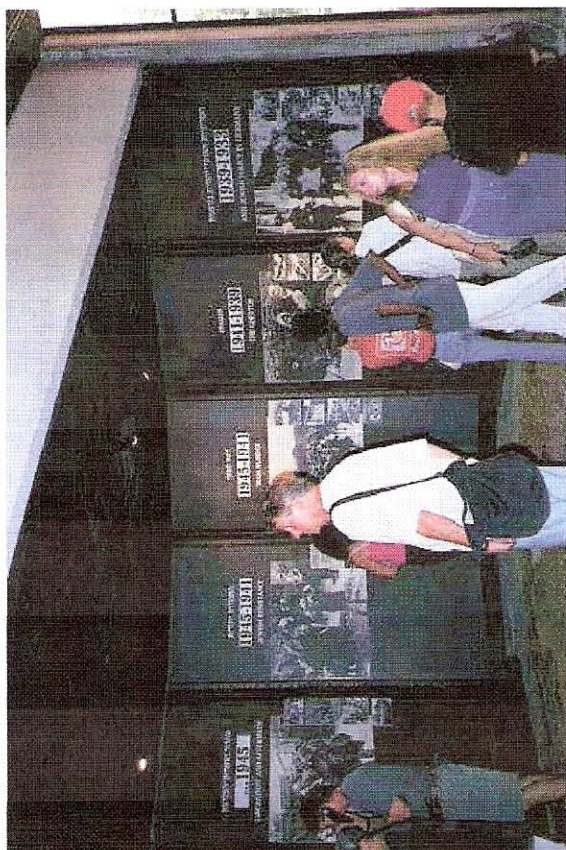
Naval Oceanographic Office
ELEVENTH ANNUAL OBSERVANCE
DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE
VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST



Guest Speaker: Mrs. Jeannine Burk



WEDNESDAY, 18 APRIL 2001, 1100
Maury Oceanographic Library



"Yad Vashem" – the Holocaust Memorial Museum located miles from the center of Jerusalem. Pictured are the five panels at the Museum's entrance. From right to left, they read as:

- 1933-1939: Anti-Jewish Policy in Germany
- 1939-1941: The Ghettos
- 1941-1945: Mass Murder
- 1941-1945: Jewish Resistance
- 1945... Liberation and Aftermath

"The Holocaust is our nightmare from which we struggle to awake. It intrudes on our sleep and spills over into our waking moments. The Holocaust is the dominant psychic reality in our lives. It lies hidden in the hoarse conversations with our children about mixed marriage, in our arguments over the low fertility rates of Jews, in our debates over support of the State of Israel, in our appeals for Jewish unity, in our fundraising - whatever the Jewish cause. The Holocaust shapes our stance toward the world and our self-understanding. It clings to our skin and penetrates beneath our skin, motivating our agenda and our policies. How could it be otherwise? Who could expect that a people that lost two out of every five of its members - 40% of its community - should emerge unscathed, unscarred, fully normal?"

-- Rabbi Harold Schulweis, Valley Beth Shalom Congregation,
Los Angeles, CA.

THE HOLOCAUST AND THE NEW CENTURY: THE IMPERATIVE TO REMEMBER

Holocaust Remembrance Day has been set aside for remembering the victims of the Holocaust and for reminding Americans of what can happen to civilized people when bigotry, hatred and indifference reign. The United States Holocaust Memorial Council, created in 1980, was mandated to lead the nation in civic commemorations and to encourage appropriate Remembrance observances throughout the country.

At the dawn of a new century, it is critical that careful reflection on the past informs the mission for the future. Auschwitz is now enshrined as one of the pivotal symbols of the past century, but remembrance of the Holocaust must be more than symbolic, for it is an event that speaks to the very essence of humanity.

What if the world had intervened during the Nazi rise to power or the early harbingers of the Holocaust? What if individual citizens had demanded that their governments act – even if only to provide refuge – when it was still possible that more could be saved?

Human nature being what it is, history has proven these dreadful questions inescapable – inescapable 60 years later, as nations and individuals continue to confront their own role in Holocaust history; inescapable as we examine contemporary events. The last decade amply demonstrates that genocide is not a European phenomenon, but a human one, one that has been repeatedly tested and perfected throughout the twentieth century.

With the passage of time, the urgency with which Holocaust survivors contemplate their legacy to succeeding generations deepens. Those of us privileged to know survivors – and their rescuers and liberators – have a particular obligation to carry their legacy of remembrance, and its accompanying commitments to education and conscience, forward. In experiencing the unparalleled power and authenticity of their voices we have been given a unique privilege as well as a special charge. We must ensure that collective, public endeavors to acknowledge and contemplate this unprecedented event of the past century continue, especially as we enter the new one.

2001 Days of Remembrance Ceremony

I. Opening Remarks

Richard Balser
Program Coordinator

II. Invocation

Rabbi Jonathan Glass
Beth Israel Congregation
(New Orleans)

III. Captain's Address

CDR Pete Furze
Executive Officer,
Naval Oceanographic Office

IV. Guest Speaker

Mrs. Jeannine Burk

VI. Closing Remarks

Tim Cox
EEOC Chair, FY 2001

Our guest speaker is Mrs. Jeannine Burk, from Kenner, LA. She was born in Brussels, Belgium, in 1939. Despite the neutrality of Belgium, the Germans invaded and subjected the Belgian citizens to the spreading Nazi policies, which discriminated against and ultimately called for removal of all non-Aryan citizens. This included Jews, Polish citizens, Sinti and Roma (Gypsies), Jehovah's witnesses, homosexuals, as well as the handicapped. Following the German invasion, Mrs. Burk spent two years as a "hidden child" under the care of a Christian family. At age 5, during 1944, she experienced liberation by the Allied Forces. At age 12, during 1951, she emigrated to the United States. For the past thirty years, Mrs. Burk has resided in the New Orleans area. She and her husband have six children and nine grandchildren.

We encourage you to join with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in observing the Days of Remembrance. For further information, please contact: Days of Remembrance, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, S.W., Washington, DC 20024. <http://www.ushmm.org>