

In Memory of the Six Million:

"Exalted, compassionate G-d, grant perfect peace in your sheltering presence, among the holy and the pure, to the souls of all our brethren, men, women, and children of the house of Israel who were slaughtered and suffocated and burned to ashes. May their memory endure, inspiring truth and loyalty in our lives. May their souls thus be bound up in the bond of life. May they rest in peace. And let us say: Amen."

"In the name of justice and humanity let all freedom loving people rally to this righteous undertaking."

President Franklin D. Roosevelt calls for the rescue of the Jewish population in Hungary

I have met Gentiles, Christian men and women, flesh and blood human beings, from all walks of life and from every country that the Nazis occupied, who risked their lives and the lives of their families and lost their possessions to hide, protect, feed members of our Jewish family. I have examined the testimony of survivors who are alive today because of ordinary people who acted in extraordinary fashion to hide Jews sought out by Nazi predators and collaborators, to hide them in closets, attics, barnyards, pig-sties, sewers; who lied to authorities, falsified passports, and lost their fortunes. Not saints these rescuers, but human beings who transcended the environs of prejudice and contempt and shielded Jews out of care, concern, responsibility, love. The experience of these rescuers and the testimony of the survivors - the empirical reality of goodness - have affected my theology, my morale, and my understanding of what must be done to create a healthier society.

...
Why should our children hear only curses of the Jew-haters and not the blessings of those who rescued our people? Why are accounts of betrayal and persecution the rightful legacy to leave our children, but not the memories of loyalty and love? Why only the tears of fear and hate and not the tears of love and hope?

There is something tragically wrong that our children know the names of Eichmann, Himmler and Klaus Barbie but not the names or exploits of the Christian families who hid Anne Frank and her family in the attic for two and a half years. Consult the Encyclopedia Judaica in the entry dealing with Anne Frank and no mention is found of the names of the rescuers, not what they did nor what became of them after they were caught. You will find them and their acts dismissed with seven words: "They were kept alive by friendly Gentiles."

--excerpted from "Post-Holocaust Recovery: An Appeal for Moral Education" by Rabbi Harold Schulweis, Valley Beth Shalom Congregation, Los Angeles, CA.

Naval Oceanographic Office

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL OBSERVANCE

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST



Guest Speaker: **Mr. Shep Zitler**



Photo credit: <http://www.ushmm.org/museum/speakers/>

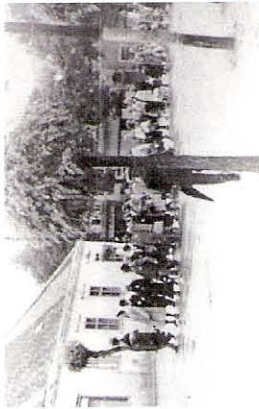
Wednesday, 28 April 2004

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is mandated by Congress to educate Americans about the history of the Holocaust and to annually commemorate its victims in the national Days of Remembrance ceremony. The Museum has designated "For Justice and Humanity" as the theme for the 2004 Days of Remembrance in memory of the Jews of Hungary, deported sixty years ago in the final stages of World War II, and to honor those courageous individuals as well as the few organizations and countries who attempted to rescue them.

In 1944, Nazi Germany and its collaborators continued, even accelerated the killings of the "Final Solution" despite certain military defeat. By late summer 1944, Soviet forces, having crushed the German Army in Belorussia, were approaching Germany from the east, while British and American forces, following their successful D-Day invasion of France in June, approached from the west.

Suspicious of Hungarian efforts to desert the Axis alliance, German forces occupied Hungary in March 1944. In May, Hungarian officials, with German guidance, began the systematic deportation of Jews from Hungary. Most of the victims were deported to the Auschwitz-Birkenau killing center in German-occupied Poland, while a minority was deported to a string of transit and forced labor camps on the Austro-Hungarian border. In less than three months, German and Hungarian authorities deported approximately 440,000 Jews. At least half of them were killed in gas chambers immediately upon their arrival at Auschwitz-Birkenau. By the time the Red Army drove the Germans and their Hungarian collaborators out of Hungary in April 1945, nearly four-fifths of the Hungarian Jewish community had been killed.

Deportation of Hungarian Jews, Koszeg, Hungary, May 1944.



Above text and photos excerpted from <http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/dor/>



NAVOCEANO 2004 Days of Remembrance Ceremony

- I. Opening Remarks
Ms. Claudette Flynn
- II. EEOAC Remarks
Cantor Joel Colman
Temple Sinai, New Orleans
- III. Invocation
CAPT Parker Lumpkin
Commanding Officer,
Naval Oceanographic Office
- IV. Captain's Address
Mr. Shep Zitler
led by **Cantor Joel Colman**
- V. Guest Speaker
VI. In Memory of the Six Million
VII. Closing Remarks

Shep Zitler was born in Vilnius, Lithuania, in 1917. His family numbered 14 in 1936. Six months before the war began, he was drafted into the Polish army. The anti-Semitism was very high, as exemplified by the office sign held by the army lieutenant, which read "From Jews and dogs the entry is forbidden." Mr. Zitler was fighting his enemy, Germany, in the presence of his second enemy, Poland. Poland lost the war with Germany after 16 days. Because Mr. Zitler was classified as Lithuanian (and Lithuania was not at war with Germany), he was sent to a labor camp, where he was held captive for 5 years and 7 months. Mr. Zitler and nine additional captives were together for the duration, and they vowed through the duration that they would not have any children, for why should their children suffer as Jews?

Mr. Zitler was liberated by Russians in April, 1945, after the labor camp he was in had been marching continuously for 3 days. After the war, Mr. Zitler learned that his youngest sister had married, and had given birth to a son. The son had stayed with Mr. Zitler's parents in the ghetto, where all family members perished. Of the 14 family members, only Mr. Zitler and one sister, who had moved to Palestine prior to the beginning of the war, survived the Holocaust. Mr. Zitler was sent back to the Polish army (after being betrayed by a Jewish captain at an England camp). Eventually, he went to London, where he spent 3 years at a job selling suits.

Mr. Zitler moved to New Orleans in 1948, where he took a job selling wholesale clothes and dry goods. He married, and had one son. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Zitler married Anne, his present wife. Mr. Zitler is presently very active in Jewish organizations, and was the first president of the New Americans Social Club, originally a group of survivors protesting American Nazi demonstrations. Mr. Zitler is characterized as "a good man, active in every Jewish cause, a staunch Zionist, a fighter for individual human rights and for a strong state of Israel."