

Survivor from page 1A

they would shoot them on the spot. In Poland, people were hung in front of their families.

"You had to be special . . . Contrasts between the two forces were stark, but operated in close proximity — sometimes even under the same roof.

Feldman's aunt — like 6 million other Jewish people and 35 million Europeans overall — was never seen alive again after another village woman had turned her in. The informer's husband, though, heard his wife make the call and ran to warn Feldman's uncle so he could escape.

Feldman surmises the woman turned her in aunt perhaps out of jealousy because she had a fur coat.

Feldman's family was reunited after the war. Her brother also stayed in Lafayette's home, Chateau de Chavancie, while her parents hid in a nearby village.

Two books coming

They came to the United States in 1948.

Feldman has written two yet-to-be-published books on the Holocaust, including one for children.

On her doctor's advice, Feldman retired from teaching in the Livonia schools five years ago. One former student, Lavonda Ramey of Farmington, turned out to be Feldman's aunt.

"I wanted to see her again," said Ramey, who had Feldman at Riley Junior High. "She was a good teacher."

Every time Feldman tells her story, another incident comes back to her, she said. Sometimes it's horrific, but the experiences of others who suffered and survived

"Did you hear what happened to people who helped the Jews? They would be sent to camps or they would shoot them on the spot."

Gisele Feldman

makes her grateful.

In particular, Feldman relates one story about another Jewish family who lived under a cramped stairwell while in hiding.

When they were told by Ukrainian soldiers to flee, family members had to crawl because they couldn't walk.

"I count my blessings," she said.

Audience members found Feldman inspirational. Josie Weddle drove from Lake Orion to hear her speak.

"It's the fact she has a bundle of joy inside her," Weddle said. "She's come to realize that to spread love heals the world, not hate."

Added Mary Power of Farmington: "The lack of bitterness and the lack of anger . . . it impresses me. I don't know how she's come to that."

Farmington Hills veteran Glenn Fackler was a member of General George Patton's Seventh Armored Division, which swept 630 miles in 21 days to help liberate France.

"It makes me feel very humble that I had a small part in the liberation and salvation of those few Jewish people," Fackler said.



Speaking with Scouts: Gisele Feldman talks with Troop 179 Boy Scouts Brad Cox (left), Eric Johnson and Matt Cox. The Scouts are about to raise a flag.

A veteran salutes: Ed McGregor, a Farmington resident and World War II veteran, salutes as the anthem is played and the flag goes up.



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