

Holocaust memories turned into positive experience

By SHIRLEE IDEN

When Southfield eighth- and eleventh-graders are introduced to Holocaust studies this fall, they will be part of a new consciousness concerning one of the great tragedies of this century.

Dr. Irving Greenberg, director of the President's Commission on the Holocaust, said in a Southfield interview that Holocaust education can be found on two levels.

"On the university level, it has gone from nowhere to several hundred courses of studies at many institutions," he said.

"On the elementary and high school levels, there is a tremendous amount of

movement toward these studies. Large and small communities are experiencing heavily."

He said New York City high school students are offered Holocaust studies as an elective and Zohar, a new institution, sponsors 10 conferences each year all over the country and boasts a built-in teacher training course.

"We did a conference in Tulsa, Okla. despite the fact that only 5,000 Jews live in the city," he said. "The school board freed up every teacher in some cities to take training."

GREENBERG, a world-known authority on the Holocaust, recently returned from a mission to Europe and Israel.

"We visited Holocaust sites to see what Poland, Russia and Germany have done in their memorials," he said.

Greenberg said 15 commissioners and members of other advisory boards were part of the 16-day trip designed to view what other governments have established.

"At Treblinka in Poland, the Polish government has done a sensitive job, yet in Russia at Babi Yar, the story is different," he said. "They have a memorial that doesn't say Jews were massacred."

The group visited Yad Vashem in Israel as well as European sites.

"We're going to propose a big museum be built in Washington, D.C. with teaching and educational emphasis," he

said. "The thrust will be toward working with communities all over the country."

"For instance, right here in your community, a memorial is planned and will be built adjacent to the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield."

Greenberg said his commission will recommend three basic things to the President when they report to him at the end of this month.

"FIRST will be that a living museum be built where visitors can come to see and encounter what was done in the Holocaust," he said. "Second will be that vital educational element whereby a national foundation would work with

groups and institutions from all over the country."

"An additional proposal will be that kind of 'Committee of Conscience' be established to build in a guarantee that genocide could never again occur and be covered up."

Greenberg said the proposed memorial in the Detroit area will give young persons in Southfield and other school systems a visual experience to add to their studies.

"And the proposed facilities will be a resource and research center as well as a museum and archives," he said.

Greenberg, 49, is an orthodox rabbi and a professor of Jewish studies at City College of New York.

He has long contended that the American people, among others, never honestly confronted the World War II genocide in which six million Jewish people and another six million Poles, Russians and other Eastern Europeans were deliberately and methodically murdered.

"After World War II there was resistance," he said. "Many people couldn't even admit what had happened. People find it hard to confront the Holocaust."

"Twentieth century man takes pride in the modern culture. We flatter ourselves that this is an age of progress and moral superiority."

"For about 20 years, no one wanted to hear about it at all and now for about 10 years, there has been a growing interest."

"THE EICHMANN trial helped build consciousness, but the Six Day War was the turning point."

Greenberg said many people thought the Israelis would be destroyed and the Holocaust repeated.

"It was a watershed and it changed perceptions," he said.

"The point is not to remember atrocity but to see they don't happen again."

Greenberg said it is most significant that the United States is taking the lead in accepting the refugee boat people from Viet Nam.

"As the greater consciousness grows, people will take proper humanitarian positions," he said. "And there is hope that there will be greater resistance to inhumanity and mass murder."

Greenberg emphasized that the commission will recommend that studies of the Holocaust victims lives before they became victims of the Nazi atrocities be a vital part of every program.



Headlee re-elected

Richard H. Headlee, president of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of Farmington Hills, has been re-elected to the Board of Directors of the Michigan State Chamber. He will serve a third two-year term on the Chamber's 76-member board. As a director, Headlee is involved in establishing policy on major economic, social and legislative issues that affect Michigan's economy.

Farmington offers fall swim lessons

Swim lessons for youths and adults will be offered by the Farmington Hills Recreation Department at Farmington and North Farmington high schools this year.

Registration is Saturday, Sept. 15, from 10 a.m. to noon at both sites:

32000 Shawwassee and 32900 W. Thirteen Mile. Fee is \$14 for eight lessons, non-residents will be assessed an additional \$2 fee.

Lessons begin Saturday, Sept. 29 through Saturday, Nov. 17. Class time is 10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. for levels 1, 2, 3,

4 and 5 and 11 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. for levels 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

The following guide should be used to determine the level of a swimmer:

Level 1: Timid beginner, swims less than 10 to 12 feet.

Level 2: Learning proper breathing and stroking, swims less than 20 feet.

Level 3: Coordination breathing, swimming on back.

Level 4: Sitting dive; learning to swim 40 feet with coordination and kick extended distance on back.

Level 5: Learning confidence in deep water; standing dive and jump and level off in deep water.

Level 6: Improving coordination of crawl stroke to reach goal of 25 yards. Learning to dive off diving board.

Level 7: Developing crawl stroke to 50 yards; learning back strokes; tread-

ing water and survival floating.

Level 8: Strengthening crawl, back crawl and elementary backstroke to 50 yards each. Also learning breaststroke, sidestroke, and to swim continuously for five minutes.

Level 9: Developing good endurance skills and ability to swim 100 yards in good form of five strokes each. Beginning lifesaving skills are learned along with 10 minutes of continuous swimming.

Level 10: Learning to swim 400 yards in basic strokes, learning butterfly stroke, racing and diving skills. Suits and towels must be furnished by the participants. Anyone with long hair must wear a bathing cap.

For more information, call the Park and Recreation Department at 474-6115.

School lunch program establishes set criteria

The Farmington Public Schools will begin the National School Lunch Program for free meals, free milk and reduced price meals for children from families that meet the income criteria.

Salary schedules as well as applications will be distributed during the first week of school, according to administrative assistant Scott Bacon.

The schools sell meals and milk every school day. Students in grades seven through twelve may buy lunch for 85 cents, and children in grades kindergarten through six, for 70 cents.

Milk is included, or may be purchased separately for 6 cents for white

and 7 cents for chocolate milk.

To apply at any time during the year for free meals and free milk, or reduced price meals, children must return to school the application that will be sent home.

In some cases, foster children may also be eligible for benefits. Children of unemployed parents may qualify for free or reduced price meals if total family income including welfare payments, unemployment compensation and sub-pay benefits fall with prescribed guidelines.

For more information, call Bacon at 477-1300.

Public invited to courthouse

Officials of the 47th-District court are sponsoring an open house this Friday for its new facility on 32795 Ten Mile, at the old Ten Mile School site.

The open house will be from 5-7 p.m. Guest speaker will be James Ryan,

associate justice-of the Michigan Supreme Court.

Hosting the open house are 47th District Judges Michael Hand and Margaret Schaeffer as well as court administrator Marilyn Dugan.

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