

# Holocaust tales: nightmares on videotape

Monday, February 11, 1985 O&E

(O58)

The stories, all different, have similar tones: gripping, intense, disturbing — and painful.

They are stories of hunger, despair, torture, grief — and death.

They are the oral and visual tapes of the Holocaust survivors, recorded and compiled by Sidney Bolkosky, professor of history at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

"I could go on interviewing for 20 more years, but I don't think that's possible," said Bolkosky, adding, "It's an emotional drain."

Bolkosky is in his fourth year of interviewing some of the estimated 2,500 Detroit-area Jews who survived the Nazi death camps. So far, he and nine

volunteer assistants have interviewed 170 survivors with a short-term goal of 250. Bolkosky has conducted nearly half of the interviews.

BOLKOSKY HAS prepared the tapes for an archive at the recently opened Holocaust Memorial Center in West Bloomfield Township. All oral and video tapes are recorded and duplicated at UM-D. The tapes represent the United States' only oral record of Jewish life in Europe before and during World War II, he said.

About 11-million people — including 6-million Jews — were gassed, shot or buried alive in death camps during the Holocaust.

Bolkosky, an Oak Park resident, began his project by accident. In 1975 he wrote "Distorted Image," a book on German Jews between the wars, and has for years taught a popular course on the Holocaust, but he had no plans to undertake his mammoth project.

"I was sitting on a local Holocaust Education Committee where I met survivors who desperately wanted to get their stories told," Bolkosky said. "Most survivors haven't spoken to anyone about it, including spouses and children, in 35-40 years. Once in, it was impossible for me to get out."

BOLKOSKY RECALLS a few of the worst people who still refuse to go into a building with chimneys or into a shower; a man who won't go above the

fourth floor of buildings because he saw Nazis throwing babies out of fourth-floor windows; a woman who resome that Bolkosky has lost many of his volunteer interviewers, who include teachers, social workers and children of survivors.

The interviews have also taken a toll on Bolkosky and his family. "I often get calls at home from interviewers who are upset and survivors who want to talk more. Some of the survivors feel relieved after being interviewed and say their nightmares have been reduced.

"Others get very depressed. Those are the times I regret the interviews," he said.

highlight of Bolkosky's research is a 12-minute program at the Holocaust Center with excerpts from six interviews coordinated with slides of victims being killed, tortured and overworked. He spent 110 hours putting together the presentation, of which "I'm prouder than any book I've written."

He notes, "Viewers usually first watch the slides, then the survivor as he's talking. The pain in their faces is

too much to bear for many people. They turn away."

**SURVIVORS' STORIES** are so gruesome that Bolkosky has lost many of his volunteer interviewers, who include teachers, social workers and children of survivors.

The interviews have also taken a toll on Bolkosky and his family. "I often get calls at home from interviewers who are upset and survivors who want to talk more. Some of the survivors feel relieved after being interviewed and say their nightmares have been reduced.

"Others get very depressed. Those are the times I regret the interviews," he said.

## OCC network lunch Feb. 13

Women's Network Luncheon Series sponsored by Highland Lakes Campus of Oakland Community College, continues with "You and Your Aging Parents."

The noon-1:30 p.m. talk on Wednesday, Feb. 13, will be presented by Nancy Schochetman of Oakland University Continuum Center.

Highland Lakes is at 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake. For reservations, call the community services office at 360-3041.

# Valentine's Day, Feb. 14

**Full Figured & Fabulous**

Exercise classes designed for your special need! Something for Yourself or that Someone Special

**INTRODUCTORY OFFER**  
6 CLASSES FOR \$10\*  
(New Members Only)

**2 FOR 1**  
2 SERIES MEMBERSHIP FOR THE PRICE OF 1  
(One for Friend and One for Yourself)  
Offer Expires 2-28-85

**\* Also Extra-Cise Plus**  
A toning and stretching exercise program that is an alternative to aerobics for people of all ages.

Mon.-Sat. 10:15-11:15 A.M. Mon.-Thurs. 7:15-8:15 P.M. Fri. 8:15-9:15 P.M.  
4:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M.  
Mon.-Sat. 9-10 A.M. Mon.-Thurs. 4-7 P.M. Fri. 4-6 P.M.  
Conveniently Located In The Bloomfield Town Square Mall  
(North of Square Lake & Rd.)  
In The Atrium Area, 2281 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills

**Valentine Specials**

- Learn to train your dog to be a better neighbor.
- Classes offered for basic household obedience.
- Puppy classes for puppies 2-5 months old.
- Several area locations.
- All breeds trained.

**BIRMINGHAM DOG OBEDIENCE SCHOOL**

For Information Call:  
258-5004 or 646-0747

Private Classes Available

**Popcorn Fantasy**

32 Gourmet Flavors of Popcorn

1 Gallon Hand Painted Canister of Your Sweethearts Favorite Popcorn **\$13.00**

120 S. Rochester Rd.  
(1 Blk. S. of 14 Mile)  
Clawson • 583-7563

34453 Grand River  
(Bet. Farmington & Halstead)  
Farmington • 471-2431

Telephone Orders Accepted With MC or VISA

**1st Annual ODDS 'n' ENDS SALE**

Hundreds of miscellaneous balls of yarn including wools, blends, cottons, silks, rayons, ribbon, bulky, Regular Retail Price \$3.99-\$14.99 while supply lasts

**YOUR CHOICE \$100**  
a Ball Available

Yarns • Instructions • Original Designs • Training • Handcrafted Sweaters

**ROCHELLE HICKS' KNIT**

ORCHARD MALL  
Mon.-Sat. 10-5  
855-2114

**Opus™**  
FROM BLOOM COUNTY™

When you give a DAKIN stuffed animal, you give a gift that says "I Love You."

DAKIN designs and craftsmanship go well beyond the ordinary.

**ANIMALS 'n' STUFF**

210 S. Woodward • Birmingham • 646-8859  
In the Continental Market Bldg. across from Birmingham Theater

ALL WINTER GOODS MUST GO

**FANTASTIC WINTER SALE**

30% to 75% OFF On Winter Merchandise

Buy One Get One FREE ON ALL SWEATERS & LONG SLEEVE SHIRTS  
Selected Suits & Sport Coats

up to **50% OFF**

Parachute Pants • Gloves • Izods • Cords • Winter Coats MUST GO!

**BRODYS BOYS & YOUNG MENS WEAR**  
6690 Orchard Lake Road  
West Bloomfield Plaza • 851-6232

**25% OFF**

**MIRRORED WALLS**

Custom mirror installation is our specialty, we don't install windshields or storefronts, only Mirrors, the way they should be installed.

FOR FREE ESTIMATE CALL  
851-9365  
We're worth looking into!

**FARMINGTON MIRROR & HOME CENTER**  
Farmington Hills

BI-FOLD MIRRORED DOORS	Reg.	Sale
36"	\$120	\$90
48"	\$165	\$120
60"	\$185	\$135
72"	\$205	\$150

ON EXISTING DOORS

Choose sturdy **BUNK BEDS** from our BUNK HOUSE COLLECTION

May be used as single beds!

Reg. \$129.99 **SALE \$99.99**

**BACK SUPPORTS FOR HOME OR OFFICE**

BACK SUPPORTS FOR HOME OR OFFICE  
• SLEEP POSITIONING AIDS  
• Relief for back aches, neck and shoulders

**WAL-PIL-O-Neck Pillow**

Effective for pain relief or rehabilitation through proper positioning and its gentle, natural traction features...reduces irritation of nerves and tightness of muscles and joints.

**MY ACHING BACK, INC.**  
20501 W. 12 Mile Rd.  
Southfield, MI 48034  
Mon.-Fri. 10-6

**CHIROPRACTIC APPROVED BEDDING**  
10%-20% OFF  
W/Ad thru 2/24

**The Lace Curtain Shop**

BRITISH LACE

FEBRUARY RED HOT SPECIALS!

20% OFF EVERYTHING IN STOCK  
50% ON SELECTED ITEMS

Lace any size window with one continuous piece of lace!

33216 Grand River, 2 drs. W. of Harbors  
Farmington • Mon.-Sat. 10-6 • 471-2058

**BUNKIE MATTRESS SPECIAL**

Reg. \$59" Limited Supply **SALE...\$39.99**

ALSO MANY OTHER ITEMS ON SALE  
NOW THRU 2/16/85

**The YANKEE CARPENTER**

1751 S. Telegraph Road  
Bloomfield Hills  
338-0441

**Valentine Sale!**

**14 Kt GOLD CHARMS**  
Entire Selection  
\$12.00 per gram  
Many Hearts to Choose From  
Priced as low as \$5.00 Each

**14 Kt GOLD CHAINS & BRACELETS**  
\$13.00 per gram

**14 Kt HERRINGBONE BRACELETS**  
\$10.00 Each While They Last!

**The Gold Mine**

477-4245  
33216 Grand River  
in the Village Oaks Farmington

Sale thru Sun., Feb. 17th Open M-T-W-Th-Sat. 10-6, Fri. 10-9, Sun. 12-5

**Spring Fashion**

An abundance of exciting fashion news awaits you. Don't miss this special March 14 supplement to your hometown newspaper!

THE **Observer & Eccentric** NEWSPAPERS, INC.

Valentine Collector Plates That Express Your Love... All on Fine China by Knowlles

"Open Wide" \$19.50  
"Batter Up" \$19.50  
"Flirting in the Parlor" \$22.50  
"Evening's Ease" \$19.50

**Georgia's Gift Gallery**

Collector's Plates & Limited Editions  
616 N. Hill St. (in Old Village) • Plymouth • 463-7733  
Mon.-Tues.-Wed. 10-7, Thurs.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-4, Sun. 12-4