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North Carolina Council on the Holocaust Brings Education Program to Wells Fargo North Campus

As part of its diversity program, Wells Fargo hosted a program at their North Campus off Harris Blvd. featuring a public school educator and a survivor of several camps. The Wells Fargo staff members responsible for creating the diversity programs contacted the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust to create and implement the program.

“The North Carolina Council on the Holocaust is a state agency in the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, established in 1981 by an executive order of Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., and authorized in 1985 by the General Assembly. The council is composed of 24 members, of whom six are Holocaust survivors or first-generation lineal descendants of survivors.

“Through its education programs and annual commemorations, the council strives to help prevent atrocities similar to the systematic program of mass murder by the Nazis of six million Jews and others, including gypsies (Roma), homosexuals, handicapped persons, and religious and political dissidents, from 1933 to 1945.”

With this formal language, the council’s birth and mission are described, but what it does is so much more than what you read. On the day of the program at Wells Fargo, there were not only two speakers, but an entirely new exhibit: Faces of Resistance, Women in the Holocaust.

The Wells Fargo attendees were greeted by Council Vice Chair,



Michael Abramson, chair, NC Council on the Holocaust; Stephanie Wood, teacher; Morris Glass, Holocaust survivor; Linda Scher, education coordinator; Mitch Rifkin, Vice Chair of the council; Michael Nellum, Wells Fargo liaison.

Mitch Rifkin. He introduced council Chair, Michael Abramson, who welcomed the group and brought up Education Coordinator, Linda Scher. One of the biggest responsibilities of the council is to conduct teacher workshops across the state and Linda has taken on this gargantuan task. She proudly introduced the program’s first speaker, Stephanie Wood, a graduate of Linda’s teacher educational workshops who now teaches Holocaust Studies in Iredell County.

Stephanie wanted to impress upon the group the importance of teaching about the Holocaust. It isn’t just about learning history and it isn’t even just about never letting it happen again. She said that she has seen among her students time and again a true revelation of their own prejudices and bullying behavior when they saw the naked truth of Holocaust presented to them. Their misconceptions (“why didn’t they fight

back?”) were transformed into understanding; their own bigotries transformed into acceptance.

The program culminated with Morris Glass, a Raleigh resident who is a survivor of several concentration camps. With raw emotion and a tear-filled voice, he told of watching his family perish before his eyes. He described the desperate hunger, brutal cold, cruel treatments, rampant disease that he endured in every camp he was transferred to. He brought to life the exhaustion and fear he experienced on the forced marches.

When he finished, the atmosphere in the room was heavy with contemplation.

The North Carolina Council on the Holocaust sponsors other exhibits and programs that travel around the state, as well as conducting educational seminars for school teachers. The website is www.ncpublicschools.org/holocaust_council/. ☆

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Jewish Boys and Girls Need Scouting Opportunity

Scouting is now one-hundred years old in the United States and Jews have been involved from the beginning. In Charlotte there continues to be a need for more Scouting opportunities for Jewish boys and girls and we are trying to start a Jewish Committee on Scouting to help achieve this goal. If you have a Scouting background either as a child, parent or leader we would value your participation.

The goals of this committee would be several. First and foremost we hope to encourage the growth and establishment of boy and girl focused units within the Jewish community. While Scouting for boys and for girls are

chartered by separate entities, namely BSA and GSA, the support needs of both are essentially the same. Second, encourage and support Jewish children in units not sponsored by Jewish institutions. Third, encourage achievement of the various religious awards available to Scouts. Forth, interface with the local Scouting councils and advocate for non-denominational Scouting at a local and regional level.

We plan to have our first get together in March and have a significant impact on Scouting for the 2011-2012 program year. If this is of interest to you, please contact David Lintz at 704-451-4411 or email DLintzScout@AOL.com. ☆

Donating an Old Cell Phone Can Save a Life

Shalom Bayit-NC, in conjunction with United Family Services’ Victim Assistance, is collecting cell phones for victims – or potential victims - of domestic violence. Old, used and unwanted cell phones will be reprogrammed to call 911 and used in the event of an emergency. Donating is as simple as dropping the cell phone and battery charger (in a plastic bag or box, if possible) at the reception desks of the following locations: Levine Jewish Community Center, Ohr Hatorah Congregation, Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, Jewish Family Services.

For more information check www.shalombayit-nc.org. ☆