

The Charlotte JEWISH news

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March 2015

17th Annual Spring Lecture Featuring Annabelle Gurwitch

Come find your link to community, lasting friendships, and the opportunity to do the extraordinary.

The 2015 Annual Spring Lecture will be held on Thursday, March 26 at Temple Beth-El and will feature Annabelle Gurwitch.

The Spring Lecture is the signature campaign and outreach event benefiting the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's Women Division and the 2015 Annual Campaign. This multigenerational event brings together over 300 women for an inspiring and entertaining evening. Our past speakers have included bestselling author Jennifer Weiner and TV personalities Jill Zarin and Lisa Wexler from The Real Housewives of New York.

This year's Spring Lecture will feature actress, activist, and New York Times bestselling author



Annabelle Gurwitch

Annabelle Gurwitch. Annabelle gained a loyal comedic following during her numerous years co-hosting the cult favorite, Dinner and a Movie on TBS. Gurwitch is also the author of *You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up*, which was a Jewish Book Council selection, and *Fired!*, also praised by the New York Times' Book of Style. She

has been a regular commentator on NPR and a contributor to *The Nation*, *More*, *Glamour* and a number of other national publications. Her acting credits include *Seinfeld*, *Boston Legal*, and *Dexter*. Her most recent book, *I See You Made an Effort: Compliments, Indignities, and Survival Stories from the Edge of 50*, chronicles life at a terrifying precipice, and includes stories of self-deprecation and motherly missteps.

The evening will begin with a strolling dinner at 6:30 PM in the Main Hall at Temple Beth El and the lecture will take place at 7:30 PM in the temple sanctuary. A dessert reception and book signing will follow the program.

Spring Lecture tickets are \$54

for the dinner and lecture, or \$36 for the lecture only. There is a minimum donation of \$50 to the 2015 Jewish Federation Annual Campaign to attend the event. Pledges are payable through December 2015.

The Jewish Federation's annual campaign funds and supports a broad network of organizations that focus on two critical things: 1. Caring for people in need here in Charlotte, in Israel and around the world; 2. Nurturing and sustaining the Jewish community today and for future generations.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit our website at www.jewishcharlotte.org or call Tair Giudice, Director of Outreach and Engagement, at 704-944-6759. ☘

2015 SPRING LECTURE

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All That Remains Photo Exhibit Finds New Home in Shalom Park

Stories and Portraits of Ten Holocaust Survivors

By Amy Krakovitz

The genesis of "All That Remains" was in the heart and mind of Charlotte writer Ken Garfield since he was a youngster. His grandmother had shown him pictures of the siblings she lost in the

Shoah and he carried their memories with him throughout his career as the Religion Editor at *The Charlotte Observer*. His visit to Dachau and his attendance at our local Holocaust Memorial ceremonies strengthened his resolve to

document the stories of as many survivors as possible.

With help from sources in Shalom Park and the NC Council on the Holocaust, he found and contacted many of Charlotte's Holocaust survivors. "The idea," he says, "was not to be depressing, but inspirational." With that in mind, *Charlotte Magazine* published his stories in its November 2009 edition with stunning portraits taken by then-staff photographer Chris Edwards.

The Levine Museum of the New South had been running an exhibit about southern Jewry from The Jewish Heritage Foundation of North Carolina. With an eye toward including something more local in the exhibit, they approached Garfield and *Charlotte Magazine* about mounting the stories from "All That Remains" to display in the museum. "All That Remains" was up at The Levine Museum of the New South from February 2012 through June 2012.

Perhaps the exhibit would have been stored and forgotten if not for the efforts of the Levine Jewish Community Center's Butterfly Project Coordinator, Dana Kapustin. "When I was reviewing my curriculum for the coming year," Kapustin explains, "I wanted to make some changes,

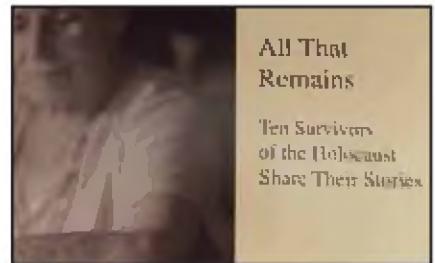
but I didn't want to 'reinvent the wheel.' I remembered 'All That Remains' from its run at The Levine Museum of the New South, and investigated to see what had happened to it."

At that point, the exhibit was in storage, but the museum, Garfield, and *Charlotte Magazine* were all extraordinarily helpful in making sure that Kapustin was able to acquire the exhibit for her program. Since the logical location for the display was the Morris and Sylvia Speizman Gallery, Kevin Levine, executive director of The Foundation of Shalom Park, got involved to negotiate the transfer.

"The Levine Museum of the New South gifted the exhibit to us," Kapustin says proudly. "Teaching from primary sources is so important to get our students to better connect to the Holocaust. With this they can see their faces and hear their voices."

"This will have a huge impact on the Butterfly Project," Levine asserts. "It's a great resource."

The display itself features a moving introduction written by Garfield and ten first-hand accounts of survival at the hands of the Nazis. "The strategy," Garfield explains, "was to pro-



All That Remains
Ten Survivors of the Holocaust Share Their Stories

duce short pieces to get at the essence of the person's story, a snapshot of the time period and the lessons of each life."

The accompanying photos were beautifully composed and shot by Chris Edwards and their variety emphasizes each individual's experience and personality. "My approach is simple, I just try to be honest with the subject," Edwards explains. "Though the stories were dark, sad, and scary, they were also hopeful. My goal was for the viewer to see all of that in each portrait."

The display is mounted now in the Morris and Sylvia Speizman Gallery West. For further information, contact Dana Kapustin at ButterflyProject@charlottejcc.org.

"I'm beyond moved that these stories have at last come home to Shalom Park," Garfield concludes. "These people will not be around forever. Their memories need to be preserved in the center of Jewish life in Charlotte." ☘

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