



MEREDITH HERALD

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Educating Women To Excel

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Meredith's Weekly Weather

WEDNESDAY

Sunny
High 64/ Low 39

THURSDAY

Partly Cloudy
High 65/ Low 43

FRIDAY

Partly Cloudy
High 65/ Low 43

SATURDAY

Partly Cloudy
High 66/ Low 50

SUNDAY

Partly Cloudy
High 68/ Low 51

MONDAY

Showers
High 65/ Low 42

TUESDAY

Partly Cloudy
High 59/ Low 39

David Faber leaves impact on Meredith

AMBER LITTESY
Layout Editor

David Faber, a Polish-born Holocaust survivor, spoke to the Meredith community on November 10 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. in the Chapel. Faber was a victim of the Nazis from 1939-1945. One of eight children, Faber witnessed the murders of five of his six sisters, both of his parents, and the torture and murder of his older brother Abraham, who was known as Romek. The only other surviving member of Faber's immediate family was his oldest sister Rachel who, before the start of the war, had moved to England where she eventually became a famous dressmaker and designer.

Surviving eight different concentration camps, including Auschwitz where his left arm was tattooed with prisoner number 161051, Faber was eventually liberated on April 15, 1945 from Bergen-Belsen. When Faber's moving body was found, he was rushed to the hospital weighing only 72 pounds at the age of 18 and suffering from starvation and typhoid fever. David Faber's high level of intelligence was an advantage that other Jews did not necessarily have. Fluent in five different languages including German, Faber could understand the Nazis and was able to receive inside information by just listening to them speak. At the first concentration camp he was sent to, the Nazis began to separate the Jews into groups of men, women and children as well as a group of what they deemed to be the "somewhat decent people." When it was Faber's turn to be sorted, the then young boy

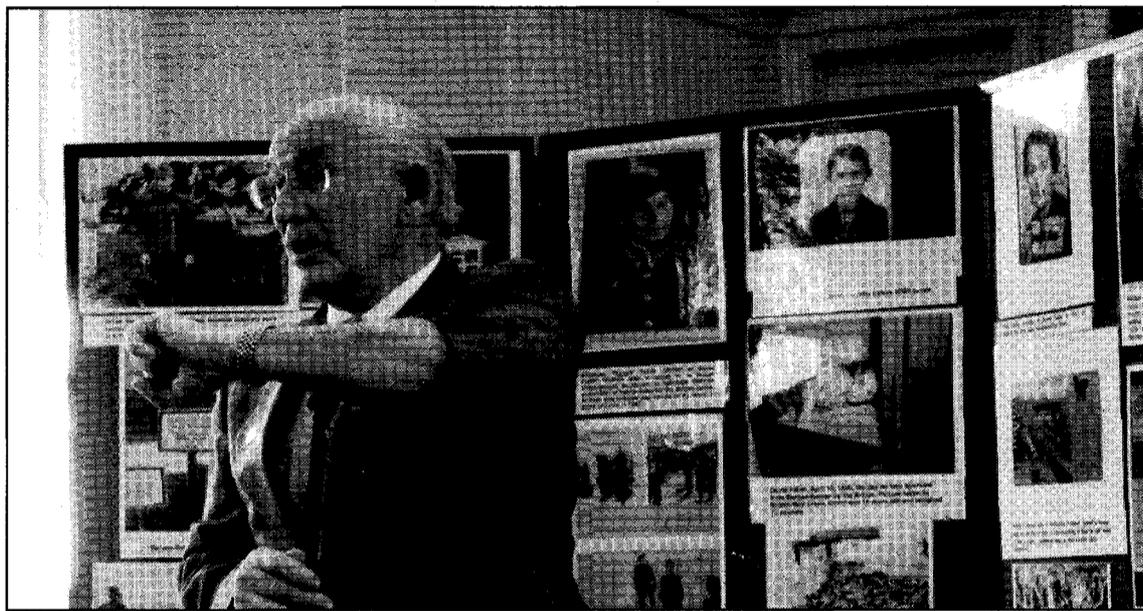


Photo courtesy of Wendy Gem, staff photographer

David Faber showing the tattoo he received to identify him as a prisoner, number 161051, in a concentration camp in Germany during World War II.

stood up straight and spoke a couple of sentences in German to the Nazis. The Nazis laughed and said in German, "Look at this Jewish boy trying to be a Nazi soldier." The Nazis then pushed Faber to the "decent group." After all the people were sorted, the other groups were told to take off their clothes and hang them on a hook. To induce a false sense of security, the Nazis instructed the nude people to remember the number of their hook so when each returned from taking a shower they could find their clothes. The men, women, and children were taken to huge showers in which deadly crystals were deposited so that when the water fell it would melt the crystals, dispensing a deadly gas. Those people never returned. Faber, however, survived.

Faber's brother Romek was in the Polish army when Poland was captured. He was labeled a prisoner of war but continued to help the United States and England. Romek was a part of a secret operation that helped to keep the specialized wa-

ter needed to make nuclear bombs away from the Germans. The people who took part in this operation helped the Allied forces by dumping the water. If the Germans had access to this ingredient needed for the bombs, the Germans could have destroyed the world. Faber's brother was murdered by a double agent who, though working for the United States, was

in a spy for the Germans. When the double agent was captured and brought to the U.S., David Faber helped the FBI to convict the man. Faber is the author of *Because of Romek*, a book that recounts his struggles to survive the Holocaust and was inspired by the revelation of his brother's sacrifices.

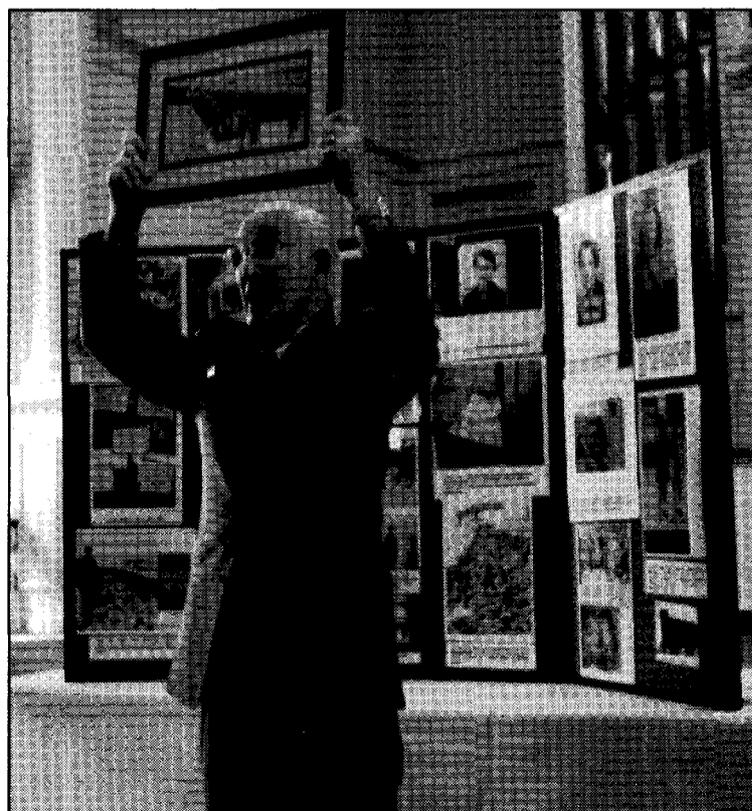


photo courtesy of Wendy Gem, staff photographer

David Faber, holding up a picture of a concentration camp, uses visual aids to introduce the reality of the Holocaust.