

# Meredith to host Holocaust Observance event on Sunday

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Sports Editor

On Sunday, April 17, Meredith College will be hosting the 24th Annual State of North Carolina Holocaust Observance. The event will consist of a discussion panel and a formal commemoration ceremony. The discussion panel will be held in the Studio Theatre downstairs in Jones, starting around 1:15 p.m. The theme of the panel is "What Happens When Good People Do Nothing?" All students are encouraged to attend and are asked to arrive early as seating is limited.

Members of the discussion panel include Holocaust survivor Marianne Balshone from Hungary, Dr. Carolyn Happer of the Department

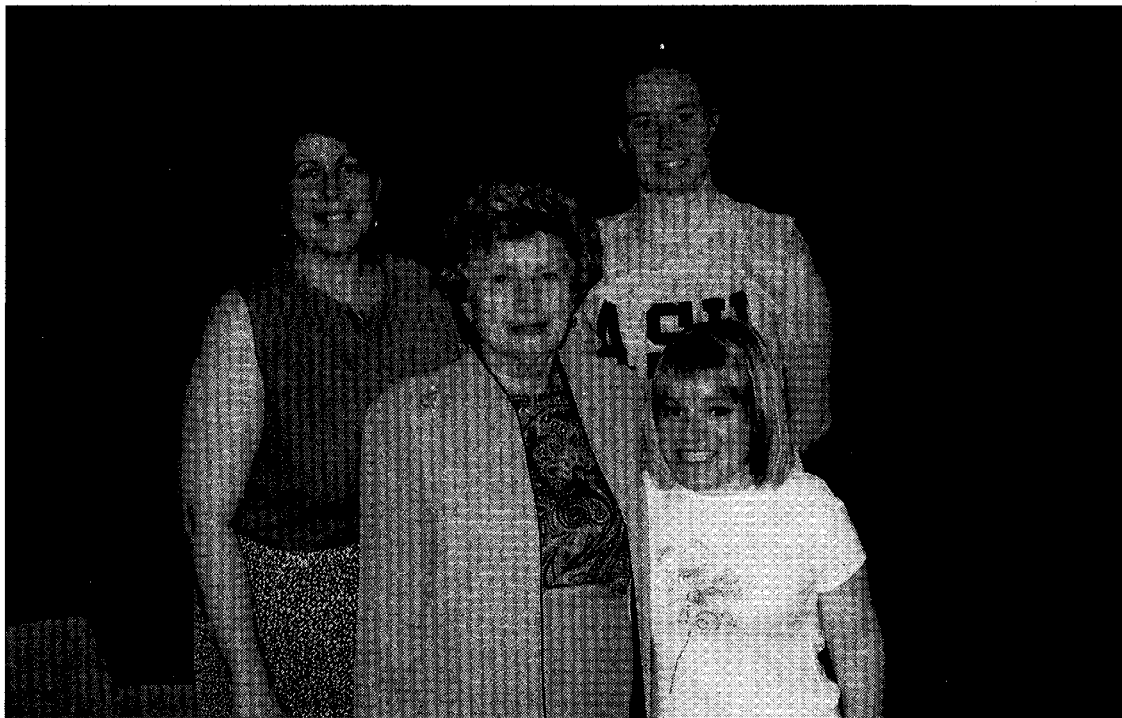


photo courtesy of Wendy Gem, staff photographer

Holocaust survivor Gisella Abramsom, front left, spoke to Carolyn Happer's Holocaust class last week. Back row, from left to right: Melodie Lane Olson, Maria Santore. Front row, from left to right: Gisella Abramsom, Kelly Cash

of History at Meredith College, and Reverend Carrie Bolton from Altson Chapel

Holly Church in Pittsboro, North Carolina. After the discussion panel, the Com-

memoration will be held in Jones Auditorium. Seating is limited for all events and students are encouraged to arrive early. A student art

exhibition is scheduled to be on display in the lobby of Jones Auditorium.

The event is one of several Holocaust related events held at Meredith this semester. Last week, students in Dr. Happers' Holocaust class were able to meet with and hear the story of Holocaust survivor Gisella Abramsom. Abramsom's visit last week was her third to Meredith College. Abramsom was an eleven year old school girl living in Poland when the Holocaust began. She survived and escaped to New York, where she lived for several years until settling in Raleigh, her current home. Abramsom, now in her seventies, continues to travel around the state, telling her story to school-aged children.

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18, U.S.C. section 702, by wearing a US Air Force Uniform. This carries a penalty of not more than six months imprisonment and/or \$5,000 fine.

Phillips' last charge as listed by the indictment document from the United States Attorney's Office is Unauthorized Use of Military Medals, violation of Title 18, U.S.C. section 704 (a). Among the alleged medals and ribbons, is the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Award. This medal was authorized Nov 6, 1942 by Franklin D. Roosevelt. Effective March 15, 1946, only members of the military serving in the geographical region between Dec 7, 1941 and Nov 8, 1945 are authorized award of this medal. Violation of Title 18, U.S.C. section 704 (a) carries a penalty of not more than one year imprisonment and/or \$100,000 fine.

Phillips has only been indicted on the counts listed above. She is entitled to a

fair trial in which guilt can only be proved beyond a reasonable doubt. Her trial date has not yet been set.

Phillips' indictment has called into question the credibility of the school by many students. President Hartford responded "Meredith's credibility is not an issue at all in this case. We have tried to explain that Meredith is a college with an honor code - that we expect students to behave with honesty and integrity in all their actions and interactions. With this as our set of expectations, we might err on the side of believing students when they tell us something about their lives (that a parent has died, that a fire destroyed their home, that their family was impacted by flooding in NC) without asking for outside verification. It is only when we discover that a student has violated our honor code and our trust that we take action."

The second count of Impersonation of a US Officer involves falsely obtaining a thing of value, in this case tuition and expenses valuing

approximately \$42,178. According to Admissions and Financial Aid, members of the military go through the same processes in obtaining financial aid as other students. If there is need-based financial aid, a student must fill out Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The application is then processed at Federal Student Aid Programs. Meredith College Financial Aid receives electronically an expected amount that the family can contribute. The difference between tuition and family contribution is assessed and aid is awarded based on that decision. Step One of the FAFSA includes a question about sex because most male students must register with Selective Service to get federal aid. Step Three questions the student on his or her military veteran status. This is the last mention of military service in the application. In the worksheet attached to application, the only mention of military association is a section to include the amount of money a person receives from non-

education benefits such as Disability, Death Pension, or Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.

The application for the North Carolina Legislative Tuition Grant offers on the answer of yes or no to a question covering military status. The last reference to military is Registration for Selective Service by which one of the check box options is due to non registration because the applicant is on active duty in the military.

Phillips is a former Honors student and was the Martha Nell Tucker Award Recipient for 2003. According to the Meredith website, "The Martha Nell Tucker Freshman Biology Award and Scholarship was established by Mr. and Mrs. Royster Tucker in memory of their daughter, Martha Nell Tucker, who was a Meredith student in 1978. It is awarded to a freshman biology student who demonstrates a determination to achieve her full potential in the field of biology, a concern for her fellow students, an interest in solving the problems of humankind

through biology, and an attitude towards life that demonstrates the virtues of courage and self-giving." In the scholarship announcement, she is listed as Captain Lisa Phillips. She later switched her major from pre-med to psychology.

Meredith College has issued an official statement regarding Lisa Phillips' indictment:

"Meredith College is cooperating with the federal authorities who are investigating the charges against former student Lisa Phillips. As an institution with a strong honor code, Meredith is deeply committed to maintaining an atmosphere of trust and honor throughout the campus. The college takes equally serious its obligations to maintain the privacy of student records. No additional information can be released without violating the protections granted to all students by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974."