Enfield Keeps the Memory Alive

Holocaust Memorial Day

Tuesday 27th January 2015
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2015 is the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia and on the 27th January 2015 Enfield Council marked the 15th year of Holocaust Memorial Day in Enfield – inviting everyone living, working and studying in Enfield to help ‘Keep the Memory Alive’.

Over previous years, we have encouraged people of all ages and beliefs to join us to mark Holocaust Memorial Day in Enfield. Children and young people have performed songs, short plays, and read their own poetry - displaying a deep and lasting understanding of the Holocaust.

Guest survivors have told their stories and people who came here as children of the Kindertransport from 1938 – 1940, shared their experiences.

A Rwanda speaker told a harrowing story of her escape to the UK, Faith leaders, gay community leaders and autistic young people have shown the importance of Holocaust Memorial Day through their own life experiences.

Charles Coward who came from Edmonton helped over 400 Jewish prisoners escape from Auschwitz. He is named among the ‘Righteous among the Nations’ and had a tree planted in his honour in the Avenue of Righteous Gentiles in Yad Vashem in Israel. In 2003 a blue plaque was placed at his home at 133 Chichester Road, Edmonton. The North Middlesex Hospital has named a ward Charles Coward and in 2010 he was posthumously named a British Hero of the Holocaust by the British Government.

To support our Holocaust activities we created a Holocaust Garden, planted trees, and installed an eternal flame. This year we will be hanging a piece of artwork in the Civic Centre created by one of the students of Winchmore School to help commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day 2015.

To ‘Keep the Memory Alive’ we must explain to our young people what happened and look to a future where we can live together building stronger communities. Enfield Council is committed to commemorating events such as Holocaust Memorial Day as part of our community cohesion agenda and will continue to support our local communities.
Holocaust Memorial Day  
Tuesday 27th January 2015  
Dugdale Centre, Thomas Hardy House, Enfield  

Programme  

Including an art exhibition in the foyer of the Dugdale Centre provided by the pupils of Winchmore Secondary School  

MC – Councillor Yasmin Brett  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.30</td>
<td>Arrival – Moving Portraits and Teas/Coffees</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.55</td>
<td><em>70 Candles for 70 Years</em> Lighting Ceremony</td>
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<td>7.00</td>
<td>Welcome by Councillor Doug Taylor, Leader of Enfield Council</td>
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<td>7.05</td>
<td>Councillor Terry Neville, Opposition Leader, Enfield Council</td>
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<td>7.10</td>
<td>Hazelbury Junior School presents <em>In Our Eyes</em></td>
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<td>7.20</td>
<td>Rabbi Emanuel Levy, Palmers Green and Southgate Synagogue</td>
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<td>7.30</td>
<td>Memory Makers Film, <em>Stephen Fry meets Anita Lasker-Wallfisch</em></td>
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<td>7.40</td>
<td>Face Front Theatre presents <em>Remembering: Voices Past and Present</em></td>
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<td>7.55</td>
<td>Highlands School presents <em>The Survivors Stories</em></td>
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<td>8.05</td>
<td>Rabbi Yuval Keren, Southgate Progressive Synagogue</td>
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<td>8.15</td>
<td>Dr Sejad Mekic, Lecturer in Islamic Studies, Cambridge Muslim College</td>
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<td>8.25</td>
<td>Michael Brett, <em>Poetry Reading</em></td>
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<td>8.30</td>
<td>Closing remarks by Councillor Yasmin Brett, Cabinet Member Community Organisations</td>
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<td>8.35</td>
<td>Refreshments</td>
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Enfield Council’s Holocaust Memorial Day Event – Tuesday 27th January 2015

Rabbi Yuval Keren

Rabbi Emanuel Levy

Our Guests

Pupils from Hazelbury Junior School

Stephen Fry meets Anita Lasker-Wallfisch
Rabbi Emanuel Levy and Cllr Doug Taylor

Candle Lighting Ceremony

Face Front Theatre

Dr Sejad Mekic

Cllr Terry Neville

Pupils from Highlands School
What is genocide?
Holocaust survivor Raphael Lemkin coined the word ‘genocide’ and helped establish the term in international law. Shocked and saddened by massacres throughout history, as well as the murder of his family by the Nazis, he longed for accountability for deplorable acts committed by countries within their own borders, campaigning tirelessly to reach his goal.

On 11 December 1946 the General Assembly of the United Nations resolved that genocide was a crime under international law. This was approved and ratified as a Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide on 9 December 1948. The Convention defines genocide as - ‘any acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.’

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust
The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) is the charity that promotes and supports Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD). HMD has taken place in the UK since 2001, with a UK event and over 2,400 local activities taking place on or around 27 January each year. Enfield Council works closely with the HMDT and is grateful for all the support materials the Trust provides to enable the commemoration events to take place.

Statement of Purpose
When HMDT was established in May 2005, the aims for HMD were clearly set out. Holocaust Memorial Day aims to:

- recognise that the Holocaust was a tragically defining episode of the 20th Century, a crisis for European civilisation and a universal catastrophe for humanity;
- provide a national mark of respect for all victims of Nazi persecution and demonstrate understanding with all those who still suffer its consequences;
- raise awareness and understanding of the events of the Holocaust as a continuing issue of fundamental importance for all humanity;
- ensure that the horrendous crimes, racism and victimisation committed during the Holocaust are neither forgotten nor repeated, whether in Europe or elsewhere in the world;
- restate the continuing need for vigilance in light of the troubling repetition of human tragedies in the world today;
- reflect on more recent atrocities that raise similar issues;
- provide a national focus for educating subsequent generations about the Holocaust and the continued relevance of the lessons that are learnt from it;
- provide an opportunity to examine our nation’s past and learn for the future;
- promote a democratic and tolerant society, free of the evils of prejudice, racism and other forms of bigotry;
- support the view that all citizens – without distinction – should participate freely and fully in the economic, social and public life of the nation;
- highlight the values of a tolerant and diverse society based upon the notions of universal dignity and equal rights and responsibilities for all its citizens;
- assert a continuing commitment to oppose racism, anti-semitism, victimisation and genocide;
- support our shared aspirations with both our European partners and the wider international community centered on the ideals of peace, justice and community for all.

The Holocaust: 1941 - 1945
Between 1941 and 1945, the Nazis attempted to annihilate all of Europe’s Jews. This systematic and planned attempt to murder European Jewry is known as the Holocaust (The Shoah in Hebrew). From the time they assumed power in 1933, the Nazis used propaganda, persecution, and legislation to deny human and civil rights to Jews. They used centuries of anti-semitism as their
foundation. By the end of the Holocaust, six million Jewish men, women and children had perished in ghettos, mass-shootings, in concentration and extermination camps.

**Cambodia: 1975-1979**
The fate of Cambodia shocked the world when the radical communist Khmer Rouge, under their leader Pol Pot, seized power in April 1975 after years of guerrilla warfare. The population was made to work as labourers in one huge federation of collective farms. The inhabitants of towns and cities were forced to leave. The ill, disabled, old and very young were driven out, regardless of their physical condition.

Civilian deaths in this period, from execution, disease, exhaustion and starvation, have been estimated at well over two million.

**Bosnia: 1992-1995**
The population of Bosnia and Herzegovina consists of Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims), Bosnian Serbs (Orthodox Christians who have close cultural ties with neighbouring Serbia), and Bosnian Croats (Roman Catholics who have close cultural ties with neighbouring Croatia).

In the turmoil following the disintegration of Yugoslavia, Bosnia declared independence (1992). This was resisted by the Bosnian Serb population who saw their future as part of ‘Greater Serbia’. Around 8,000 Muslim men, and boys over 13 years old, were killed in Srebrenica. The whole action was carried out with military efficiency.

**Rwanda: 1994**
In 100 days in 1994 approximately one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were murdered in the genocide in Rwanda. The genocide took place following decades of tensions between Hutus and Tutsis, and a recent history of persecution and discrimination against Tutsis. On 6 April 1994 the plane carrying Rwanda’s President was shot down. Extremist Hutu leaders accused Tutsis of killing the President, and Hutu civilians were told by radio and word of mouth that it was their duty to wipe out the Tutsis.

Tutsi men, women, children and babies were killed in their thousands in schools and churches. Frequently the killers were people they knew – neighbours, workmates, former friends, sometimes even relatives through marriage.

**Darfur: 2003**
Darfur is a region in the west of Sudan, bordering Chad in north-east Africa. Before the conflict Darfur had an ethnically mixed population of around six million, with both Black Africans and Arabs.

In 2003, a civil war began in the region The Sudanese Government has supported Arab militia who have destroyed hundreds of villages and murdered thousands of people. These atrocities have been condemned as genocide by the International Criminal Court and several governments around the world.

This civil war has led to the deaths of between 200,000 and 400,000 civilians, although reporting varies greatly. Up to 2.5 million people are still displaced in Darfur.

Further information on all the internationally recognised genocides can be found at:

**Enfield Council helps to ‘Keep the Memory Alive’**
At our event we lit 70 candles - one for each year since the death camp at
Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated by Russian troops on 27 January 1945. We were awarded a special candle from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust designed by the world famous artist and sculptor, Sir Anish Kapoor. As one of only 70 organisations to receive a memorial candle it was indeed an honour.

In the words of David Berger, a Jew who was shot dead in 1941 at Vilnius in Lithuania: ‘If something happens, I would want there to be somebody who would remember that someone named D. Berger had once lived. This will make things easier for me in the difficult moments.’

Let us not forget