

Kristallnacht...

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remember and engage in a conversation about the implications of hatred for our lives, the lives of our children and generations beyond. Participating with Rabbi Fenster were the Rev. Lorraine DeArmitt of Southold United Methodist Church, the Rev. Beverly Furey of Orient United Methodist Church, the Rev. Garrett Johnson of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Greenport, the Rev. Thomas Murray of St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church in Greenport, and the Rev. Ann Van Cleef of Orient Congregational Church.

Rosemarie Birman of Southold also remembers, and though she was unable to attend the Sunday event, her moving story, played on tape, introduced Kristallnacht to an audience of more than 130 people. A practicing Catholic, her tale pivots around the efforts of her father, Edwin Van D'Elden, who reversed the fate of many and tried, through letters and articles published abroad, to alert the world to genocide on a scale few could fathom. A bit of her story from the tape and an interview she granted for this article:

"My father was in charge of the American Chambers of Commerce in Frankfurt from 1929 to 1942. Soon after Hitler came to power, Jewish children were not allowed to attend public schools, and I, as an American, also had to withdraw and attend a Catholic school. I remember Kristallnacht ... the rampaging mobs and broken glass from store windows all over the streets. I remember Jews being herded down our street. They were never seen again. My father helped hundreds of Jews obtain the paperwork for visas, for if they left valuables behind and had the paperwork in place they might get out. One night, during an English air strike, my father sat hiding his smile as others cowered. He was jailed for conspiring with Jews, and for a time we could not find him. The Nazis released him when they learned of his heart condition: They did not want an American official to die in their custody. Our family was exchanged in 1942 for German nationals living in the United States. We were allowed to take one steamer trunk, one suitcase and \$10. After the war, my father was honored at a ceremony at the Empire Hotel, attended by several hundred people he helped to escape."

Rabbi Fenster pointed to two recurrent themes in Ms. Birman's story "the beautiful and the indifferent," and those two thoughts dominated the

presentations and the follow-up audience comments.

Reverend De Armitt, speaking passionately about the consequences of indifference, said, "We are changed when we passively watch something ... it becomes normal. Bystanders can become perpetrators, and we must always ask whose rights are being violated and why we are doing nothing." A case in point was raised by Rabbi Fenster, who reminded the audience of New York Democratic Senator Robert F. Wagner, who in 1939 sponsored a bill to allow 20,000 German children into the United States. Though the bill was supported by the press, it was not supported by President Roosevelt and was never put to a vote. Twenty-thousand children who could have been saved, perished.

Continuing the theme of indifference, Reverend Thomas Murray directed his comments to the thorny issue of Pope Pius XII, called "Hitler's Pope" because of his controversial response to the genocide. Assuming the church doctrine of neutrality, the Pope's behavior, according to Rev. Murray, is explained by many as an attempt not to interfere with the efforts of the many German Christians who worked to save Jews. Many scholars today contest that argument and wonder how a strong papal intervention might have changed history.

The contrast between Pius XII and Dietrich Boenhoeffer, the German clergyman and scholar who publicly condemned the Nazi regime, helped Jews escape to Switzerland, and helped plan an assassination attempt on Hitler's life, was eloquently stated by the Rev. Johnson. "There were those who struggled against evil and risked of their own lives," he said. "We must be aware of evil people with an agenda," he added, "and keep in mind the cruelty people are capable of."

The audience response to these presentations consisted mostly of personal histories that validated and elaborated the battle between good and evil. But Kathy Tole of East Marion asked a question that struck a chord. Referring to the defeat of Senator Wagner's 1939 bill, she wondered if that was because there was a lack of consensus and outrage until the war was brought to America's door with the bombing of Pearl Harbor. "Is it that same lack of outrage that is preventing us from taking action in places like the Sudan?" she asked.

Will we be bystanders, or will we remember Edwin Van D'Elden and make a difference?

SPECIAL EVENTS

At the wineries

Castello di Borghese, Cutchogue: Saturday, Nov. 15, 1-3 p.m.—**Inside the Artist's Studio** features Cork Art by Susan DiStefano. Free. 3-5 p.m.—**Book signing 'Ankle Soup'** by Maureen Sullivan and Alison Josephs. 1 p.m.—**Winemaker's Walk**. Fee: \$15. RSVP: 2-4 p.m.—**Gourmet cooking demonstration** features chicken bruschetta. Free. Sunday, Nov. 16, 1-3 p.m.—**Great Tastes of Long Island** book signing with Ann Marie Borghese.

Vineyard 48, Cutchogue: Saturday, Nov. 15, 2-5 p.m.—**Music by The Mike Munzer Trio**. Free.

Corey Creek Vineyards, Southold: Saturday-Sunday, 1-4 p.m.—**Homemade jelly tastings with wine**; \$5 fee.

Peconic Bay Winery, Cutchogue: Saturday, Nov. 15, 1-5 p.m.—**Music by Big River Ransom**. Free. Sunday, Nov. 16, 1-5 p.m.—**Music by Mambo Loco**. Free.

Osprey's Dominion Vineyards, Peconic: Saturday, Nov. 15, 1:30-5:30 p.m.—**Music by Rick and Rich**. Free. Sunday, Nov. 16, 1:30-5:30 p.m.—**Music by Southbound**. Free. Thursday, Nov. 20, 6:30 p.m.—**Book Chats**; \$20, includes wine and cheese reception.

Martha Clara Vineyards, Riverhead: Tuesdays, 7-11 p.m.—**Live Mic**, reservation required. Saturday, Nov. 15, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.—**Cooking demonstration** by Simply Elegant Catering. 2-5 p.m.—**Music by Stealing Lucidity**. 7 p.m.—**Cornucopia**: A Taste of Contemporary and Classical Theater. Benefit for Northeast Stage. Admission, \$25. Sunday, Nov. 16, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.—**Cooking demonstration** by La Bonne Quiche. Friday, Nov. 21, 6:30-9:30 p.m.—**Autumn Howl** to benefit animals of Riverhead; admission, \$40.

Pindar Vineyards, Peconic: Daily, 2 p.m.—**Complimentary winery tours**, weather permitting. Saturday-Sunday, through November, 12:30, 2 and 4 p.m.—**Chopin, Champagne & Caviar tours**. Complimentary tasting of Cuvée Rare Champagne and hors d'oeuvres. Free.

Gallery walk in village

Saturday, Nov. 15, 6-9 p.m.—**Greenport Gallery Walk** features talks and refreshments at participating art galleries. Many restaurants and shops stay open late. See greenportvillage.com for details.

Dinner at Digger's

Thursday, Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m.—**Dinner at Digger O'Dell's Restaurant**, 58 West Main St., Riverhead, for divorced, separated and single Catholics; hosted by St. John the Evangelist R.C. Church, Office of Social Ministry. RSVP: 727-1069.

Women's breakfast

Wednesday, Nov. 19, 9:30-11 a.m.—**Women's bagel and fruit breakfast** at Community Christian Fellowship, Wickam Avenue and Route 48. Nursery care provided. RSVP appreciated; Lorraine, 298-8926; Molly, 298-7017.

These are events that do not meet Times/Review Newspapers' requirements for community calendar listings.



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Reverse Mortgage Financing - Top Myths

1) I would be selling my house to the bank.

FALSE! You keep the title to your house. The lender will add a lien on the property, however you will still have complete control over it.

2) My heirs will not inherit anything.

FALSE! Your estate only owes the balance on the reverse mortgage. The balance owed is the amount you've used plus interest. Let's say you got a reverse mortgage and owed \$50,000 after 5 years. Then you decided to sell the house for \$450,000. The lender gets \$50,000 and you get \$400,000 less any Realtor® fees.

Watch for more Reverse Mortgage Myths next week!



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Saturday, November 15, 6-9pm

GREENPORT GALLERY WALK

Happy Holidays

Come visit "Gallery Row" for our Second Annual Holiday Event. The galleries offer Paintings, Graphics, Photography, Sculpture, Works on Paper, Book Arts, Ceramics, Glass, Metal Work, Wearable & Usable Art, Jewelry, Etc.

www.greenportgallerywalk.com

(For general village information: www.greenportvillage.com)