

'A Journey Into The Holocaust' to screen

By Marvin Glassman
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Documentary filmmaker Paul Bachow's "A Journey Into **The Holocaust**" is a unique film about the darkest chapter in Jewish history, being screened April 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Temple Solel in Hollywood, and April 15 **Yom HaShoah** (Holocaust Memorial Day) at two locations: Temple Beth Am in Pinecrest at 7 p.m. and Temple Judea in Palm Beach Gardens at 5:30 p.m.

What is unique about Bachow's film is that his account of the Holocaust is less about a personal survivor story and more about an exploration of the sociological explanations of why a Holocaust occurred at all.

"The story did not begin or end with the six million Jews being murdered in the concentration camps, not at all," emphasized Bachow.

"It is the identification of a defenseless target group that fueled the Holocaust and it was not only Hitler and the Nazi party that hated the Jews. Lots of political parties in Germany viewed Jews as an enemy of Germany and there is a long, long history of overt anti-Jewish acts of violence, such as the pogroms in Russia, that added to the belief that Jews were a threat to society."

Bachow's sociological approach does not make the pain any less when he shares how Germans could pull the trigger of hand pistols six inches away from the heads of total strangers, and how they could do it day after day for years.

But looking at the genesis of the Holocaust as an extreme form of genocide, Bachow offers explanations and insight that will allow future generations to detect the birth of any genocide before it takes place.

"This is the best documentary on the Holocaust we have ever seen," said Wendy Honig, chair of the Palm Beach Film Festival Jewish Experience committee.

"A Journey Into The Holocaust" had its local premieres last week at the PBFF as well as at the Miami Jewish Film Festival last January.

The film leaves the viewer with hope that the Holocaust is more than a futile event that will be repeated again in the future. Bachow intends for his film to be screened at all middle and high schools across the country.

"The film is available in a free streaming format at all Florida middle and high school classes and has already been screened at 2,000 middle and high schools in Florida, New Jersey and Pennsylvania," said Bachow.

"The young, impressionable students of today will become the future leaders of the world when they are adults, so there is hope that these lessons will prevent future genocides."

Because of the emphasis of the targeting of vulnerable groups in the documentary, little known facts are revealed about how Hitler achieved power in Germany and widespread support among Germans to exterminate the Jewish population.

"One interesting fact is that Hitler campaigned that he thought democracy was an evil to be defeated and Germans thought that he was right," said Bachow.

Bachow initially became interested in a documentary analyzing the sociological features of the Holocaust after hearing about his grandmother detailing the many pogroms she witnessed while she lived in Russia.

"I saw the links of her testimony to the many stories I heard from Holocaust survivors and knew at that moment that I would approach a Holocaust documentary that would give answers to why it happened," said Bachow.

Bachow and his wife reside in Aventura.

The free screenings take place at:

Temple Beth Am, 5950 N. Kendall Dr. in Pinecrest.

Temple Judea, 4311 Hood Road in Palm Beach Gardens

Temple Solel, 5100 Sheridan St. in Hollywood.

Bachow will lead a post-film discussion following the Temple Beth Am screening.

To learn more on the film and screenings, go to <http://www.ajourneyintotheholocaust.com>

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