

Holocaust Stories, In Their Own Words

As the world commemorates Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), BJBE is honored to welcome survivors of the Holocaust to share their stories of heroism, survival, and renewal. It is a privilege and a sacred duty to bear witness to their stories.

SCREENING OF “REGINA: THE WORLD’S FIRST FEMALE RABBI”

April 23, 2017, 9:45-11:45 a.m.

This documentary film tells the story of Regina Jonas (1902-1944), a strong woman who made history by becoming the first properly ordained woman rabbi in the world. During the Nazi era, her sermons and her unparalleled dedication brought encouragement to the persecuted German Jews. Regina Jonas was murdered in Auschwitz in 1944. Using amazing archival footage, this remarkable film paints a vivid picture of early-20th-century Jewish life in Berlin and brings us a story of a person whose image is known through one photograph alone. Discussion led by Rabbi Kedar.



FRITZIE FRITZSHALL

April 30, 2017, 9:45-11:00 a.m.

Born in Czechoslovakia, Fritzie was taken at age 13 to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where she lost her mother, her brothers, and her aunt. She has vivid memories of the notorious Dr. Joseph Mengele, known as “The Angel of Death,” surveying prisoners and choosing some for his diabolical human experiments. Fritzie has been an active voice against anti-semitism in the Chicago area for many years and currently serves as president of the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie.



BARNEY SIDLER

May 7, 2017, 9:45-11:00 a.m.

After the Nazis conquered Poland when Barney was a child, he spent years moving from Jewish ghettos to labor camps before being liberated in 1945. Arriving in the U.S. with virtually no education, Barney worked hard and eventually became a successful, self-made businessman. He speaks frequently to children around Chicagoland, encouraging them to take advantage of the amazing educational opportunities available to them.

