Adat Shalom
Invites you to a
Yom Ha-Shoah Holocaust Memorial Program
Thursday, May 1, 2008
Service at 7:30PM / Screening at 8:15PM
Featuring

Watermarks

“A MOVING DOCUMENTARY THAT APPROACHES THE HOLOCAUST FROM A FRESH, INTIMATE PERSPECTIVE”
THE NEW YORK TIMES
— STEPHEN HOLDEN

The Jewish swimming champions who defied Hitler

Watermarks

A film by Yaron Zilberman
WATERMARKS

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Res: Your Hashkannah Program
"WATERMARKS"

Instead of showing the gloom and doom side of the Holocaust this year, the concentration camps, the death, the dying, the agony and the pain, we took a different slant to the Holocaust this year. We approached the Holocaust from a fresh, intimate perspective. We will tell you the true story of the champion women (Jewish swimmers) swimmers of the legendary Vienna Sports Club Hakohot. This sports club was founded in 1909 in response to
THE NOTORIOUS MARYAN PARAGRAPH
WHICH FORBID AUSTRIAN SPORTS CLUBS
FROM ACCEPTING JEWISH ATHLETICS THE
HAKOAH RAPIDLY GREW INTO ONE OF
EUROPE'S BIGGEST ATHLETIC ORGANIZATIONS
AND ITS WOMEN'S SWIM TEAM VIRTUALLY
DOMINATED ALL NATIONAL COMPETITIONS
IN THE 1930'S. THIS IS THE STORY OF
THE HAKOAH JEWISH WOMEN'S SWIM
TEAM WHO DEFIED HITLER, THE HOLOCAUST
AND LIVED TO TELL ABOUT IT.

IN A PRE-Olympic Ceremony
IN THE 1936 BERLIN OLYMPIC GAMES, AN
AUSTRIAN JEWISH WOMEN ATHLETE AND
SWIM TEAM CAPTAIN BY THE NAME OF
HANNA LUX, PARTICIPATED IN THE OPENING
CEREMONIES. SHE RECALLS DURING THOSE
CEREMONIES HOW MUCH HATE FILLED THE AIR
WHILE SHE WAS STANDING BY THE OLYMPIC
TORCH. SHE ALSO RECALLS ANOTHER
DELEGATION OF THE FATHERLAND WAS MET
WITH A RAPTUROUS OVATION, PUNCTUATED
BY CRIES OF "HEIL HITLER" "HEIL HITLER"
WHEN HER TEAM FROM THE HAKOAH
CHAMPIONSHIP WOMEN'S SWIMMING DIVISION WALKED
ACROSS THE FIELD. THEY WERE GREETED
WITH "A SILENCE WHICH WAS FILLED WITH FEAR."
She recalls, terrifed the team ran back to the clubhouse, shut the door and hugged and kissed each other for reassurance that was to be found nowhere else. The coaches entered the clubhouse and calmed the swim team down. They told them we will compete but do not expect to win. Winning would be dangerous.

During the 1936 Olympics, Hanni's older sister Judith Lux, who now lives next door to Hanni in Israel, faced a larger humiliation. The most honored member of the Austrian swim team, she and two other members resigned from the team rather than compete in the Berlin Games. She was severely punished by the Austrian sports federation, which stripped her of her awards and medals and struck her name from the record books. That recognition has since been restored. The swim team did not compete as well and returned home to Austria with their awards diminished by the Austrian sports federation as well. However, Hitler did not have control.
over these Hakoah swim champions. These young swim champions desired Hitler.

Work after the annexation of Austria by Nazi Germany in 1938 the Hakoah Sports Club was shut down, but its leaders and coaches who fled to London succeeded in helping the entire swim team and their families emigrate on illegal ships to all parts of the world that would grant them a safe haven to live. Some went to England, Argentina, South America, Bermuda, Marseilles and the United States.

All of the swim team eventually married and had families and became respected professionals, doctors, lawyers, educators, etc. Even in exile they had good lives thanks to their coaches and owners of the Hakoah Sports Club. For many years the owners of the Hakoah Sports Club kept the spirit alive in newsletters they printed and distributed all over the world.

The producer and director of this film "Water Marks "Yaron Zilberman" brings the surviving members of the
Hakoah Swim Team Back to Austria
for a Reunion After 65 Years and for
One Last Swim in the Old Vienna
Swimming Pool And to the Homeland
That Rejected Them, The Hakoah
Sports Club Has Reopened and is Once
Again Training Future Athletes, The
Word Hakoah in Hebrew Means
"Strength" it Has Given These
Women Athletes the Strength To Survive
And to Live And the Strength To
Defy Hitler And Survive the Holocaust.

In addition to previewing this
Fascinating Documentary Film, We Were
Able through One of Our Congregants
Who is a Holocaust Survivor Herself to
Contact One of the Original Hakoah
Swim Team Champions. Her Name is Annie
Lamp. She is a Retired Psychologist Living
in Belair Club. She is 98 Years Old and
Swims Every Day in her Pool. Even Though
She is Legally Blind She is Full of Laughter
and Loves to Talk. After the Film Mrs. Lamp
Talked About Her Life Growing Up in Austria.
The Several Years She Trained with the
Hakoah Swim Team, the Competitions That
She had Won and About Her Team Members.
The Hadassah Swim Club became her surrogate family. It saved her life and her family's life. Every word that Annie uttered, every question that she answered from the audience made you feel that you yourself were back in Austria or another place that was a part of her life. She spoke for over two hours. She gave us a view of the Holocaust that was intimate and alive and about European anti-Semitism.

There was over 175 people in attendance that evening on Thursday, May 1, 2008, from the congregation and our surrounding community. Most of them walked in talking, laughing, happy, and joking around. But not one of them walked out of that shul on the same occasion. The congregation talked about the program for days and those who attended "watermarks" have an entirely different feeling about the Holocaust and a darker understanding of life and just how fragile our own life really is.

I spoke with Annie after everybody lasted for about 20 minutes. I asked her
Some questions I did not have a chance to ask at the question & answer part of the program. And she basically told me this. "She said Marshall I only speak the truth with no fluff no embellishments. Take it or leave it. It's up to you. And she thanked me for having her at a DAT shadow. She kissed me on the cheek and said goodnight. She gave me her phone number. I believe I have a new friend."
On May 4, 2008 Sunday morning Annie Lamp returned to ADAT Shalom to visit the students of our Hebrew school. She spoke to them of her life and her experiences as a member of the Austrian Hakoah Sport Club Women's Champion Swim Team. The swim team that defied Hitler and lived to tell about it. She showed our students a shortened version of "Watermark" the life and times of these young swim champions. After viewing the film she asked our students what parts of the film that interested them the most. They replied the opening ceremonies of the 1936 Berlin Olympics, the club house scene, the resignation and the reunion in Austria 65 years later. Annie began to ask the children questions about these different areas of the film. Most of our students could not remember specifics of the film. Annie replied to them you can't remember because you were not there. If you were there you would never forget the terrible name of Adolf Hitler and the terrible word "Holocaust.

Our students broke down into four separate groups. The first group would bring the opening ceremonies of the 1936
Berlin Olympics, the second group reenacted the club house scene. The third group reenacted the emigration to friendly countries and the fourth group reenacted the Hakohot women's champion swim team reunion back in Austria at the Hakohot sports club 65 years later.

Annie transported our young students back in time to the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. As the swim team walked across our social hall floor, which doubled as a playing field, all of a sudden there was a hush of silence across the top floor. Our children experienced hatred for the first time. The second group up on our stage doubled as our club house. Here these girls felt fear and hatred and protected one another. A couple of our teachers acted as their swim coach and calmed them down. Back down on our social hall floor the illegal emigration began facilitated by their coaches (our teachers) to countries that would grant these women a safe haven to live. The fourth scenario takes place in Austria 65 years later in 2001 in our sanctuary which doubling as the reopened Hakohot sports club. Here our students
Now in their later 70's and early 80's all professionals doctors, lawyers, educators and etc. some retired reunite for the first time in 65 years thanks to a young producer/director "Yaron Zilberman are interviewed. Some of the comments made by our religious school students who are not yet yet out of character say. These were terrible times and no one should ever have to go through this experience again. Hitler was an evil man, he killed 6 million Jewish people and others as well. Some of our older students still in character went on to say "Time must heal as the generation responsible for the Holocaust dies and a new generation is born. Life must go on, but we must never forget" for if we do it will happen all over again.

AD AT SHalom will continue to bring interaction programs like this into our Men's club programming for our children. We have plans for a living Torah program. By doing these programs our children learn more, retain more, and have a better understanding of what it means to be Jewish and most important of all a stronger Jewish connection to our people & to our synagogues."
I respectfully submit this
Yom Hashanah Program for a Torah Award.

By showing documentary films such as
Watermark that show a different side
to the Holocaust, a side of survival not
dead and having a living example of a
survivor like Annie Lemple talk about
her experiences and her survival
and having the experiences, the
knowledge and the ability to transport
our children figuratively to a time where
they can experience the fear of the
Holocaust and what our people went
through. To survive is something they will
carry with them as Jews for the rest
of their lives. In ten or twenty years not
one Holocaust survivor will be alive. Our
children generation are blessed to have
these Holocaust survivors in their lives still for
our children will be responsible for keeping
their stories alive as they pass them down from
generation to generation. l’Dor v’Dor. For
if we forget the Holocaust will happen again.

Respectfully Submitted

Marshall M. Rubin, M.C. President

Adat Shalom Synagogue