

TA09-059

Adat Shalom Men's Club
#1015

Watermarking: A Yom HaShoah Program

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



WATERMARKS

TO: MR ALLAN KAHAN

FEDERATION OF JEWISH MEN'S CLUBS

TORCH AWARD COMMITTEE

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CLUB # 1015

RE: YOM HASACHA PROGRAM
"WATERMARKS"

INSTEAD OF SHOWING THE GLOAM 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 WISH TELL YOU THE TRUE STORY OF THE CHAMPION WOMEN (JEWISH SWIMMERS) SWIMMERS OF THE LEGENDARY VIENNA SPORTS CLUB HAKOAH. THIS SPORTS CLUB WAS FOUNDED IN 1909 IN RESPONSE TO

THE NOTORIOUS Aryan PARAGRAPH WHICH FORBID AUSTRIAN SPORTS CLUBS FROM ACCEPTING JEWISH ATHLETES, THE MAKONN 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 MAKONN JEWISH WOMEN'S SWIM TEAM WHO DARED 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 HANNI 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 MAKONN CHAMPIONSHIP WOMEN'S SWIMMING DIVISION WALKED ACROSS THE FIELD THEY WERE GREETED WITH "A SILENCE WHICH WAS FILLED WITH FEAR

SHE RECALLS, TERRIFIED 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 WHERE THEY WERE ADMONISHED BY THE AUSTRIAN SPORTS FEDERATION AS WELL. HOWEVER, HITLER DID NOT HAVE CONTROL

OVER THESE HAKOAH SWIM CHAMPIONS.
THESE YOUNG SWIM CHAMPIONS "Defied
Hitler"

WEEK 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,
BUENOS AIRES, AND THE UNITED STATES.

ALL OF THE SWIM TEAM EVENTUALLY
ARRIVED 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 HOMETOWN
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
DEFEAT HITLER AND SURVIVE THE HOLOCAUST.

IN ADDITION TO PREVIEWING THIS
FASCINATING DOCUMENTARY FILM, WE WERE
ABLE THROUGH ONE OF OUR CONGRAGANTS
WHO IS A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR HIMSELF TO
CONTACT ONE OF THE ORIGINAL HAKOAH
SWIM TEAM CHAMPIONS. HER NAME IS ANNE
LAMPL SHE IS A RETIRED PSYCHOLOGIST LIVING
IN BELAIR CALIF. SHE IS 98 YEARS OLD AND
SWIMS EVERY DAY IN HER POOL, EVEN THOUGH
SHE IS LEGALLY BLIND SHE IS FULL OF ENERGY
AND LOVES TO TALK. AFTER THE FILM MRS LAMPL
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 MATES.

The Hakonit 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 A Dat Shalom the same reason. The congregation talked about this program for days and those who attended "Watermarks" have an entirely different feeling about the Holocaust and a deeper understanding of life. And just how fragile our own life really is.

I spoke with Annie after everybody left 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
FLUSS, NO EMBELLISHMENTS. TAKE IT OR
LEAVE IT. ITS UP TO YOU. AND SHE
THANKED ME FOR HAVING HER AT A DAT
SITTING. 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 SHARON 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 SPORTS CLUB WOMEN'S CHAMPION SWIM TEAM. THE SWIM TEAM THAT DEFIED HITLER AND LIVED TO TELL ABOUT IT. SHE SHOWED OUR STUDENTS A SHORTER 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 EMIGRATION 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 STUDENT COULD NOT REMEMBER SPECIFICS OF THE FILM. ANNIE REPLIED TO THEM YOU CAN'T REMEMBER BECAUSE YOU WERE NOT THERE IF YOU ^{ASK} THEM YOU WOULD NEVER FORGET THE THE TERRIBLE NAME OF ADOLPH HITLER AND THE TERRIBLE WORD "HOLACOST."

OUR STUDENTS BROKE DOWN INTO FOUR SEPARATE GROUPS. THE FIRST GROUP WOULD REINACT THE OPENING CEREMONIES OF THE 1936

Berlin Olympics, THE SECOND GROUP Rejoined
THE CLUB HOUSE SCENE, THE THIRD GROUP
Rejoined THE EMIGRATION TO FRIENDLY
COUNTRIES AND THE FOURTH GROUP Rejoined
THE HAKOAH WOMEN'S CHAMPION SWIM TEAM
Reunion Back in AUSTRIA AT THE HAKOAH
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 FLOOR AND 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 HUGGED AND PROTECTED ONE
ANOTHER. A COUPLE OF OUR TEACHERS ACTED
AS THEIR SWIM COACHES 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 DOUBLES AS THE RECREATIONAL
HAKOAH SPORTS CLUB. HERE OUR STUDENTS

NOW IN THEIR LATE 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 QUITE YET OUT OF CHARACTER SAY.
THOSE 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 HASDAN PROGRAM FOR A TORAH AWARD.
By showing DOCUMENTARY FILMS SUCH AS
WATER MARK THAT SHOW A DIFFERENT SIDE
TO THE HOLOCAUST A SIDE OF SURVIVAL NOT
DEATH AND HAVING A LIVING EXAMPLE OF A
SURVIVOR LIKE ANNE HAMP. TALK ABOUT
HER EXPERIENCES AND HER SURVIVAL
AND HAVING THE EXPERIENCE, THE
KNOWLEDGE AND THE ABILITY TO TRANSPORT
OUR CHILDREN FIGURATIVELY TO A TIME WHEN
THEY CAN EXPERIENCE THE FEEL 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'S 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 SUGGEST THE HOLOCAUST WILL HAPPEN AGAIN.

Respectfully Submitted
MARSHALL H. RUBIN, MKC President
ADAT SHALOM SYNAGOGUE