

Yom haShoah commemorated by Mobile Area Jewish-Christian Dialogue

By Sarah Murray

The Mobile Area Jewish-Christian Dialogue gathered members of the Christian and Jewish communities in the Ahavas Chesed Synagogue Wednesday, April 26, to remember once again those who were victims of the Nazi genocide of World War II. Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom haShoah, is a day to remember the victims: men, women, children, Jews, non-Jews; the millions who were exterminated. A special tribute was paid this year as well to the men and women in the Allied armed forces who risked their lives 50 years ago to liberate the concentration camps.

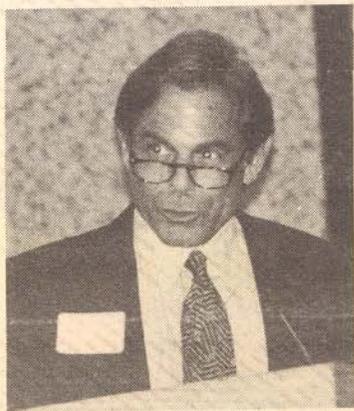
Mr. Howard Stone, an esteemed lecturer and consultant, was brought to the Ahavas Chesed Synagogue by the Dialogue in conjunction with the Mobile Jewish Welfare Fund to participate in this special liturgical service. Stone's address, "What Yom

haShoah means to us today," brought the horrors of the Holocaust into modern perspective and defined the ways in which we, as people of conscience, can live our lives to protest this evil.

Stone stressed the loss our world has suffered due to the systematic extermination of loving, creative people and the gifts they may have contributed to society. "The worst sin of the Nazis," Stone said, "was the theft of human potential... The world is worse off because of this loss." The importance and value of each individual lost in the Holocaust is in direct correlation to the importance and value of each of us and of each moment in our lives. We

can choose to live each moment for good, and in defiant affirmation of life and holiness, despite horrors such as the Holocaust and the current catastrophe in Oklahoma City. Stone pointed out that in the face of such evils "It is easy to choose how you are going to die; it is hard to choose how you are going to live."

In addition to Stone's powerful address, the Yom haShoah service included readings of poetry written by Holocaust survivors and candle lightings in memory of the victims. Families gathered to remember lost relatives, survivors and liberators gathered together to ensure that such horrors would never again be permitted to occur.



Mr. Howard Stone