

MOBILE AREA JEWISH CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE

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April 6, 1997

Dear Friends,

With the coming of spring, we prepare to welcome new life, renewed hopes and aspirations and our prayer for peace throughout the world. While our gratitude is in the present and our focus is on the future, it is incumbent upon us to remember the past. It was a brief 58 years ago that Hitler and the Nazis marched on Poland, culminating in the systematic, bureaucratic annihilation of six million Jews. By 1945, two out of every three European Jews had been killed. As the Nazi tyranny grew, countless others died, including Gypsies, mentally and physically handicapped, homosexuals and others deemed "anti-social". They were trade unionists, Jehovah's Witnesses, and socialists . . . persecuted for their beliefs and behavior.

On *Yom haShoah*, *Holocaust Remembrance Day*, we take time to remember these victims of government sponsored brutality and death. Memory requires more, however, than our passive glance backward. It demands our attention and our commitment to be aware that injustice perpetrated on the "other" invariably makes the rest of us potential victims of injustice. It is ultimately our responsibility to remain constantly vigilant. Albert Einstein once remarked: "The world is too dangerous to live in, not because of the people who do evil, but because of the people who sit and let it happen."

On May 4, 1997, *Yom haShoah*, the Mobile Area Jewish-Christian Dialogue and the Mobile Jewish Welfare Fund join together in presenting the holocaust drama:

I Never Saw Another Butterfly by the Bevill Community Theatre from Hamilton, Alabama

The company hails from a small town in rural northwest Alabama and is the only non-professional community based theatre associated with a two year postsecondary institution in the state of Alabama. Bevill Community College Artistic Director, J. Greg Thomas, also teaches theatre, philosophy, religion and speech at the College.

The play is based on the actual poetry and drawings of the children of the Terezin, Czechoslovakia concentration camp, a transport station to the death camps of Auschwitz. Over 15,000 children passed through Terezin. Only 100 of them came back. While discussing the plans for bringing the production to Mobile, Mr. Thomas commented: "By far, the cast are the ones who have learned the most. There have been many rehearsals when no one made it through with dry eyes. This feeling and understanding from the cast translates into an unforgettable performance."

Please plan to join us in a memorial service as we remember the victims of the Shoah and to be moved by this production of:

I Never Saw Another Butterfly
May 4, 1997 Sunday
7:00 PM
Ahavas Chesed Synagogue

Shalom,

Mary & Paul

Mary & Paul Filben