

# Holocaust Survivor's words come alive

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Selkirk Journal

Friday April 25, 2008

The thought of fleeing for your life before you've even hit your 13th birthday can't easily be grasped by today's youth or anyone who grew up on Canadian soil.

But students in the Lord Selkirk School Division were reminded earlier this month that it wasn't that long ago when the atrocities of war were part of everyday life for some people, no matter how young they were.

Two hundred LSSD students, aged 13-18, were thrown into the world of nine-year-old Benno as he and his 12-year-old brother made the journey to escape Nazi Germany in 1939 during the Holocaust.

They gathered in the Comp theatre and listened as co-author of the book *Ten Marks and Train Ticket*, Susy Goldstein, told her father's story from the book she and her sisters wrote based on his letters and notes.

*Ten Marks and a Train Ticket* tells the moving tale of two Jewish boys trapped in Germany as their religion was being prosecuted. Brothers Benno and Heinz are only given 10 marks from their parents as they are sent, alone, aboard the Kindertransport out of Germany in 1939.

The boys travelled from Berlin to Holland, then to England, and finally to Canada as adults. Benno explains his life story as a child of nine confronted with sights and experiences that even some adults could not fathom.

Benno tells the reader in his diary: "I was not put into a concentration camp. I did, however, go through more pain, suffering, loneliness and sadness than anyone should have to face in a lifetime."

If left in Germany it was almost certain that both boys would have been one of the six million Jews that were murdered. The Kindertransport helped save approximately 9,600 Jewish children.

She says it has become increasingly important in the school curriculum that students learn about countries' past offenses to gain a better understanding of how to make our world a kinder, safer place.

The message came through loud and clear to the students who listened intently to Goldstein recite passages from the book. "We were only told we would hear a survivor," said one student from the high school, "but you could feel the pain."

*Ten Marks and a Train Ticket* is sponsored by Bnai Brith's Holocaust & Hope Testimonial Series: Children of the Kindertransport. The organization gave a donation of 90 books to the LSSD that has allowed the division to place the books in every library in the school division.

The Holocaust and Second World War are taught in English and social studies classes throughout the province. Students from Centennial School (grades 5 and 6) and Daerwood School (Grade 6) as well as two Grade 12 classes from the high school, attended Goldstein's presentation.