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## Jewish Journal



# Remembering the Shoah



Holocaust survivor Tibor Hollo lights a candle during a Holocaust Day of Remembrance at FIU. Courtesy (Sergio Carmona / Courtesy)



By **Sergio Carmona** · Contact Reporter

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Survivor shares story

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The **United Nations General Assembly** designated Jan. 27, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp in 1945, as the annual **International Holocaust Remembrance Day** back in 2005.

Events commemorating and in connection to International Holocaust Remembrance Day recently took place throughout South Florida.

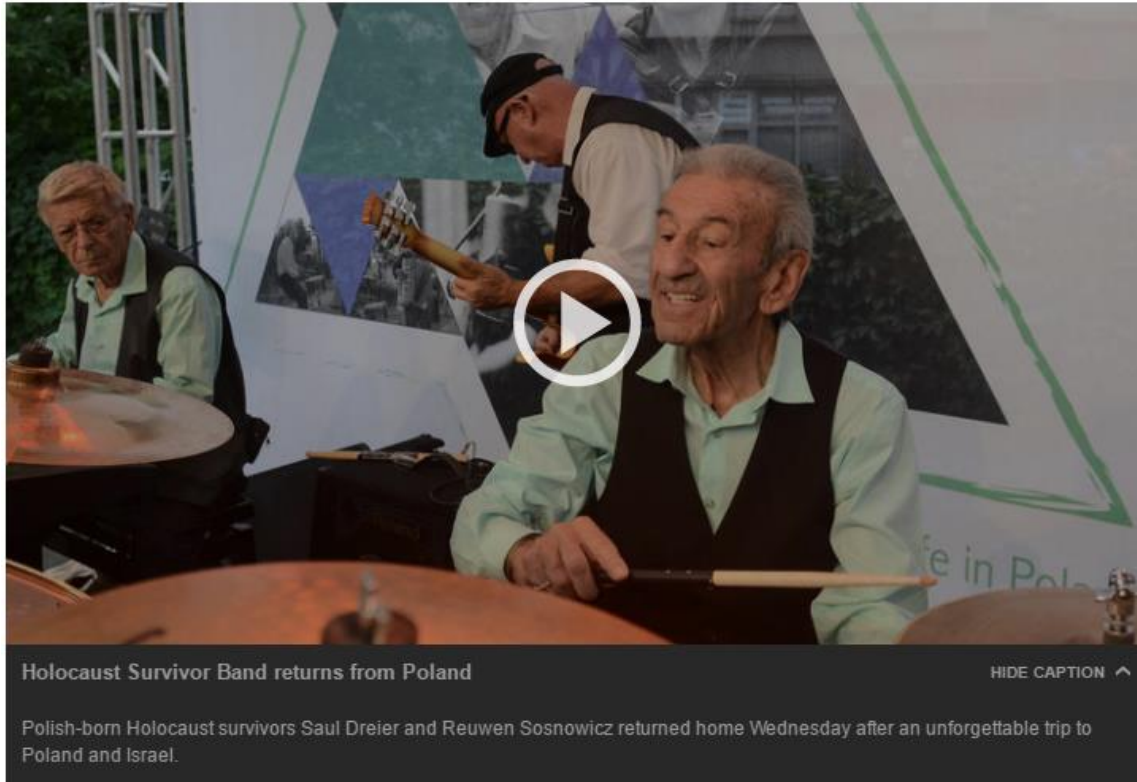
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Last week, a Holocaust Day of Remembrance kicked off **Florida International University's** Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Week. This Day of Remembrance, presented in partnership between Hillel at FIU and the Jewish fraternity Zeta Beta Tau, drew approximately 260 people and featured Holocaust survivor Tibor Hollo who shared his survival story.

Hollo, who lives in Miami, told the audience at the beginning of his presentation that they have all seen photos of the horror that took place in the **Shoah**, that it impacted Jews and other people around the world and that he will share with them a personal side of a survivor of the Holocaust.



After his presentation, in which he received thunderous applause, seven candles – six to honor the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust and a seventh to honor victims of all genocides that have taken place throughout the world – were lit.

An emotional Sabba Rault, Hillel at FIU's student president, said in response to Hollo's presence, "It's always very special for me to be able to meet Holocaust survivors."

"They'll be gone in a couple of generations so I feel it's very important to be able to meet them, listen to them and learn something from them because we're the ones who are going to carry their legacy," she continued.

Elli Herrera, president of FIU German club, said Hollo's presentation was "very moving."

"It was really inspirational to hear it, especially having been on the committee of putting this together and actually having him come and speak here," Herrera continued. "It's a blessing to have him here and I think we should take advantage of hearing people like him speak while we can."

Ariel Castroman, past president of ZBT who is still an active member of the fraternity, echoed Herrera's feelings that it was "very moving."



"I think it's very important that students and community members come together to an event like this at least once a year, if not more, to continue to remember and to ensure, like what Elli Herrera mentioned [while addressing the audience], that never again truly means never again."

On Jan. 26, Miami Jewish Health Systems commemorated International Holocaust Remembrance Day. During this event, which included residents from MJHS' main campus in Miami, those from its Pembroke Pines location and snow birds, the six candles to honor the Jewish Shoah victims were lit by survivors and a Holocaust survivor from Toronto, Howard Kleinberg, shared his experiences. A son of survivors also addressed the crowd and the event concluded with a few prayers and singing.

Rabbi Israel de la Piedra of MJHS said it was a "very difficult ceremony."

"You could see some people cry and remember," he said. "Even though one like myself is not a survivor, you still feel the heaviness, you feel the solemnity and you feel the pain and at the same time you try to see how our generation and the generations after us are going to carry this forward. This is something that can't be forgotten."

At an event in Century Village Deerfield Beach a few days before International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Rabbi **Abraham Cooper**, the Simon Wiesenthal Center's associate dean and head of social action, spoke to approximately 600 people, including Holocaust survivors and children of survivors.

In a phone interview, Cooper said that, regarding his message to the attendees, we're in a transitional time in history where the people involved with what took place in World War II are leaving in this stage of world history due to age.

"There's a desire in a sense that we need to transition to make sure that the next generations understand what took place, learn the appropriate lessons but also acknowledge that our children are living in a new era with new challenges, especially terrorism, etc."

Cooper also noted, "We're very concerned that there's so much anti-Semitism but thank God, at least for now, we're not confronted as helpless victims of Hitler's Nazism. Still anti-Semitism remains a threat, and we have to learn lessons from the past."

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