

**We are here today to remember the Holocaust. Not so very long ago – in the heart of civilized modern Europe – democracy failed. The courage to remember this HORRIFIC TIME is essential, so that we protect our own society from such a fate.**

**The holocaust did not happen during primitive times. It occurred in an enlightened, cultured and well-educated society.**

**REMEMBER – It was engineers who designed and built the gas chambers.**

**It was professional lawyers who wrote the Nuremburg laws excluding Jews from German life and taking away many of their natural rights.**

**It was physicians who conducted so-called “scientific experiments” on human beings at Auschwitz and other extermination centers.**

**And, it was from the pulpits of churches and the lecture halls of universities that National Socialism was promoted – paving the way for the “ethnic cleansing” of the Holocaust.**

**Ordinary people – just like you and me – in cities and towns all over the Reich – were capable of doing evil. WE MUST REMEMBER how that happened and we must continually strive to overcome intolerance and indifference so that such terrible things do not happen again.**

**We must never forget the atrocities that can occur when individuals or nations choose to look the other way – when they choose to cower in fear rather than to stand up with courage and fight against the injustices of oppressors of freedom.**

**We must REMEMBER stories of bravery and courage.**

**We are gathered here in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, and in honor of the survivors, as well as the rescuers and liberators.**

**Sixty-seven years ago, as American, British, and Soviet soldiers moved across Europe to stop the advancing Nazi troops, they encountered and liberated concentration camp prisoners who suffered terrible atrocities at the hands of the Nazis. We are so fortunate to have with us today those who can help us remember that even in the darkest hours, there is hope.**

**The Holocaust began with a seed of prejudice and grew to appalling proportions and included terrible crimes against humanity.**

**More than six decades after the end of the Third Reich, it remains our responsibility as a free people in a democratic society to strive to overcome intolerance and indifference through learning and remembrance. And by remembering the terrible events of the Holocaust, we must rededicate ourselves to remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny in all forms.**

**The story of the Holocaust, as troubling as it is, must continue to be told so that our children and grandchildren know the result of indifference and intolerance.**

**I would now like to introduce our keynote speaker Madene Shachar. She is the Director of the English Speakers Desk and International Department of the Ghetto Fighter's House and the museum educator at the Ghetto Fighter's Museum and Yad**

**Layeled Children's Museum. She's also a research assistant for Professor Miriam Ben-Peretz at the University of Haifa and webmaster for the Ghetto Fighter's House English website.**

**Madene has been instrumental in guiding all age school groups through the museum, developing educational projects and study kits in both Hebrew and English at the Ghetto Fighter's Museum and Yad Layeled Children's Museum. As director of the English speakers' desk, Madene serves as an intermediary between the museum and the International Book Sharing Project.**

**She is also the Israeli coordinator of the International Reading Project for Yad Layeled Children's Museum facilitating junior and senior high school teachers and their students in a computer-based international reading project. Through their partnership**

**with the Ghetto Fighters' House Museum, Madene recruits new schools to the project and furthers the development of the program.**

**Madene's publications include:**

- ***Coming of the Age during the Holocaust: Coming of Age Now* (2008). Co-writer of the six Israel-based biographies. The Coming of Age curriculum is a project of the Museum of Jewish Heritage (New York) in collaboration with Yad LaYeled – The Ghetto Fighters' Holocaust and Jewish Resistance Heritage Museum in Israel.**
- **The Role of Experiential Learning in Holocaust Education (in press). *Social and Education History*.**

**WE'RE PLEASED TO HAVE HER HERE AS OUR  
FEATURED SPEAKER. PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING  
MADENE SHACHAR!**