



April 3, 2018

Screening: Film features Staten Islanders who survived the Holocaust



A subject of the film, Holocaust survivor Margot Cappell, holds a photo of her parents. (Staten Island Advance/Shira Stoll)

An event at Wagner College on April 10 will feature the premiere screening of a 30-minute film by Advance/SILive.com videographer Shira Stoll, which documents the incredible stories of Jewish Staten Islanders who survived the Holocaust.

Sponsored by the Wagner College Holocaust Center, the Staten Island JCC and the Advance/SILive.com, the public event is being held on the eve of Yom Ha'Shoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The testimony of the 12 subjects appearing in the film is heart-wrenching, powerfully and personally bringing to life a historical event that remains painfully relevant today. Before the film is over, viewers will also be introduced to the joyful, vibrant lives that the survivors have built in America and on Staten Island.

The film's videographer, editor and director, Stoll was inspired by a childhood hero to pursue the documentary.

"I met Helen Freibrun when I was two-years-old and she took care of me when my parents were away," Stoll said. "We were so close that I used to refer to her as my 'third grandma.'

"When I was eight, she told me her Holocaust survivor story for the first time and I still have every detail memorized to this day," Stoll continued. "She used to always say how important it was to talk about the Holocaust because even though it isn't easy to talk about it, it's important to share the stories with the next generation."

After the film, Advance Executive Editor Brian Laline will moderate a Q&A session with Stoll and Auschwitz survivor Shirley Gottesman.

Attendees at the event are also invited to take a short walk across campus to Wagner College's Hormann Library for an art exhibit opening, which will follow the film screening.

Titled "A World War II Veteran Paints the Holocaust," the featured artist is Gregory Perillo. A Staten Islander, Perillo is best known for his representations of the American West.

EVENT DETAILS

The public is invited to this free event, but RSVP is required. To RSVP, please contact Prof. Lori Weintrob at 718-390-3309 or lori.weintrob@wagner.edu.

Date: Tuesday, April 10

Time: 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Place: Wagner College, Foundation Hall

Cost: Free

Followed by: Art opening at Hormann Library, 7:30 - 9 p.m.