

JEWISH LIFE

Islanders will not forget Kristallnacht

Programs are planned at the Bernikow JCC, Wagner College and several synagogues

By MAURA GRUNLUND
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Several Kristallnacht "Night of Broken Glass" commemorations are planned throughout Staten Island, including major events at the JCC and Wagner College

Estelle Glaser Laughlin, a Holocaust Survivor and author, will speak and sign copies of her memoir on Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Joan and Alan Bernikow JCC in Sea View.

Ms. Laughlin will discuss her book published last year and aptly titled, "Transcending Darkness: A Girl's Journey Out of the Holocaust." Born in Warsaw in 1929, Ms. Laughlin, her mother and sister survived the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the Majdanek extermination camp and two slave-labor camps, in Skarzysko and Czestochowa. They were liberated by the Russians in January 1945 and immigrated to America in 1947.

Ms. Laughlin eventually earned a master's degree in education and taught in Montgomery County, Md. Ms. Laughlin penned her award-winning book in retirement and also is a survivor volunteer at the United States Holocaust Museum and the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie, Ill. Tickets are \$5 at the event co-sponsored by the JCC and Center for Life Long Development. For further information, contact Bella Smorgonskaya at 718-475-5262 or bsmorgonskaya@sijcc.com.

WAGNER COLLEGE EVENT

Wagner College will mark the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht on Nov. 14 with a luncheon lecture by Reni Hanau, a survivor of the Nazi



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terror, which ultimately claimed the lives of more than 1,000 people in her native community in Germany.

Also speaking at the 11:30 a.m. event will be Wagner College student Anna Huddle, an intern at the Museum of Jewish Heritage. The program will open with a candlelighting ceremony in remembrance of all those killed during the Holocaust.

Kristallnacht was Nov. 9-10, 1938, when Nazi storm troopers and sympathizers raided and destroyed thousands of Jewish homes, shops and synagogues with the tacit approval of the Reich. Ninety-one Jews were killed and 30,000 Jewish men were abducted. Many of those men were released a few months later; they and their families

were encouraged to leave Germany. Among them was Reni Hanau's father, who had been interned at Buchenwald.

Ms. Hanau's family lived in Fulda, in central Germany, a medium-sized city that had 1,100 Jewish residents in 1930 and only 17 in 1967. Ms. Hanau remembers watching her home burn down on Kristallnacht. After her father was released from Buchenwald, in June 1939, her family fled to England, where they were interned for more than a year on the Isle of Man as "enemy aliens." They left for the United States in September 1940.

Ms. Hanau graduated from City College and taught for 30 years in the city school system. From the time she re-

tired in 1991, until 1994, she taught as part of the English as a Second Language program for Russian immigrants. She is a Museum of Jewish Heritage gallery educator and Speakers Bureau member.

The free luncheon lecture co-sponsored by the History Department, History Club, Hillel and Chai Society of Wagner College will be held in the Faculty Dining Room, located in the college's Union Building. RSVP is required by Nov. 12 and may be done by calling 718-390-3253 or emailing LRWeintr@wagner.edu.

AHAVATH ISRAEL

Holocaust survivor Ben Wayne will speak this Friday night at Congregation Ahavath Israel in Tottenville to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht with a program, "Remembering the Past for the Sake of the Future."

Friday's service will start at 8 p.m. followed by an Oneg. Saturday morning service with Kiddush begins at 10 a.m. in the synagogue is located at 7630 Amboy Rd. Tottenville. For information, call the office at 718-356-8740.

B'NAI JESHURUN

Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in West Brighton will be commemorating Kristallnacht, considered the unofficial beginning of the Holocaust, this Friday. Ernie Bueler, a survivor of that dark episode, will speak during the 8 p.m. services at B'nai Jeshurun at 275 Martling Ave. For information, call 718-981-5550 or e-mail CBjshul@aol.com.

HEBREW FREE BURIAL

Hebrew Free Burial will hold its annual breakfast on Sunday at Young Israel of Staten Island.

The event is from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Young Israel of Staten Island 835 Forest Hill Road, Staten Island, NY 10314.