

<https://oodhamrunner.com/current-issue/tocc-invites-community-to-hear-holocaust-survivor-turned-author-tell-her-story-about-warsaw-ghetto/>

TOCC invites community to hear Holocaust survivor turned author tell her story about Warsaw Ghetto

March 2, 2018

By TOCC Staff

Sells- On March 6, Holocaust survivor and author Wanda Wolosky will speak about her experiences as a Jewish child during wartime Poland. Mrs. Wolosky and her mother were among the relatively few people who survived the Warsaw Ghetto.

The Tohono O’odham Nation community is invited to attend the talk, which will take place next Tuesday at TOCC’s Main Campus in the Gewkdag Şon Ki: building from 12:00-1:15 p.m.

The word “ghetto” originated in Venice, Italy in the 16th century as a name for the small Jewish quarter in that city. Over time, “ghetto” has come to mean a crowded urban area where members of a minority are required or pressured to live.

The Nazis who invaded Warsaw pushed Jewish people into a small area of the city and forced them to pay for and build a wall surrounding their neighborhood. More than 400,000 people lived in the 1.3-square-mile Warsaw Ghetto during World War II.

After five-year-old Wanda’s father left for Russia (where he was killed), she and her mother were trapped in the Warsaw Ghetto during 1940-1943. Wanda saw unspeakable horrors and experienced near starvation. She and her mother survived by risking their lives to smuggle food into the ghetto.

Wanda can never forget how her mother’s gift of a loaf of bread ended up saving both of their lives.

After the war, Wanda rarely talked about her experiences, but when she reached her 70s, she felt that the world needed to hear about and learn from someone who had experienced the Warsaw Ghetto firsthand.

Mrs. Wolosky wrote a memoir called *After All: Life Can Be Beautiful*. In her book and her public talks, Wolosky shares harrowing stories of survival and tells how hope has prevailed in her life.

The event is organized by Dr. Sharon Parker, who teaches HIS 274 The Holocaust, a history course offered yearly at Tohono O'odham Community College. Parker, who is an adjunct instructor at TOCC, shared her thoughts on the upcoming talk.

She said, "There are many parallels that can be found between past and present, ranging from targeting particular individuals and groups to attacks on institutions such as the free press. The primary target of the Nazi regime was the Jewish communities. While many people were arrested and sent to camps to work as slave labor, Jews were sent to camps which had been built with the specific purpose of killing as many of them as possible. Millions died in the concentration camps. However, in spite of all the odds against them, some survived the Holocaust. Wanda Wolosky is one of them. I feel it is important to hear directly from survivors while we still can. There are many lessons to be learned from them."

For more information about this event, please contact the College at 520-383-8401 or 383-0042. TOCC is grateful to the Jewish History Museum in Tucson for their assistance with contacts.