

A Time in History to Be Learned From — and Never Forgotten

Temple Shalom is sponsoring a Holocaust remembrance project at three local schools.

By **ETHAN PALMER**
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THE VILLAGES

It's much more than just a lesson in history.

The Holocaust, one of humanity's most horrific events, is something to learn from — not to be forgotten.

That's the motivation behind Temple Shalom's annual essay and art competition, now underway in The Villages area.

And this contest is timely, too, since the Florida Senate Fiscal Policy Committee voted unanimously Wednesday to approve the establishment of a Florida Holocaust Memorial at the state Capitol. The measure still requires full legislative approval.

For Shelly Newman, the contest is personal. She is a member of the temple's education committee, along with her husband, Joel.

"This (competition) is so heartfelt and touching to me because it involves much of my own history," said Newman, of the Village of Fernandina.



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Landon Hall, right, an eighth-grader at South Sumter Middle School, talks with Holocaust survivor Lisl Porges Schick on Tuesday during a field trip to the Florida Holocaust Museum.

Susan Feinberg, of the Village of Pennecamp. "It's still in our time, and people need to know."

Although it may be a competition, committee members focus heavily on the

experience and education gained by students.

"If the students walk away with a greater appreciation of people around the world, no matter who they are, I believe

we have done our job," said temple committee member Mike Broverman, of the Village of Fernandina.

And students from South Sumter Middle School got a hands-on experience Tuesday while visiting the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg.

Eighth-graders enjoyed a special presentation from Lisl Porges Schick, a Holocaust survivor, and explored numerous exhibits including an authentic Nazi boxcar used for transporting Jews.

The experience left the students with a profound appreciation for those affected, including some of their very own family members.

And members of the temple committee were by their side, willing and ready to answer any questions.

"We had a wonderful time, and they (the temple committee members) have been so generous with their support," said Jill Porvaznik, an eighth-grade teacher at South Sumter Middle School. "The students were very interested. It was a very captivating experience."

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