UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion_Holocaust Remembrance Day 2022 (and everyday) Email

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Good Morning Friends of ODI,

Today marks International Holocaust Remembrance day, a time to globally recognize the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. We take the time today to remember and honor the lives lost and the survivors of concentration camp imprisonment and genocide. These injustices were an expansion of systemic anti-semitism through a large governmental sanctioned genocide under Nazi regime. This international day of remembrance, specifically marks the date that the Auschwitz concentration camp was liberated from Nazi rule by the Soviet Army on January 27th, 1945, only 83 years ago. Today we remember the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust who were forcibly incarcerated and subjected to forced labor and execution. Auschwitz imprisoned and murdered over 1 million people, mostly Jews, in its active period; and is the site where the Soviet Army found and liberated only 7,000 remaining prisoners on January 27th. The liberation of concentration camps continued until German surrender and the end of World War II in Europe, in May of 1945. This date, selected by the United Nations (UN) is commemorative and active in preventing future genocides, through education and action. In April we celebrate Yom Hashoah, Israel's day of Holocaust Remembrance, to commemorate the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, and the heroism of survivors and rescuers. The date of Yom Hashoah, this year, is April 27th and 28th.

Jews were the most prominent prisoners of Nazi imprisonment, as well as non-Jewish Poles, Roma, Soviet Prisoners of War, people affiliated with the
Communist Party of Germany, LGBTQ+ individuals, Jehovahs Witnesses, habitual criminals, Czechs, people with disabilities and veterans of the Spanish-Civil War. Those imprisoned in concentration camps and ghettos, enclosed districts segregating Jews and Romas from non-Jewish areas, were subject to harsh living conditions, forced labor, and extermination. Those affected by the Holocaust are with us in our hearts today and every day.

Anti-semitism is still a threat today in the United States and here on this campus. As we witnessed in Texas this past month, the lessons of history have never been more relevant. The hostage incident at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas was an anti-semetic hate crime against practicing Jews at a Sabbath service on January 15th. It is important, when injustices like this occur, to validate Jews experiences with anti-semitism. A way to do this work would be to center your listening to the Jewish folks around you; if they say it’s anti-semetic, its anti-semetic.

Please take the time today to give space to those grieving personal losses and to survivors of the Holocaust. Today is their day to remember and grieve. Take time today, if you have no personal connection to the Holocaust, to educate yourself on harmful dictatorships, the Nuremberg Race laws and exclusion of Jews through anti-semitism, as well as being present for those around you who have close personal connection to the Holocaust and Nazi genocide.

ODI is here as a resource for your guided learning, on this day of remembrance and on all days. Please come into our spaces with questions and an openness to learn. We can assist you in your foundational allyship and continued growth and learning.

Below I have included programs and activities that the UMaine Hillel, our Jewish Student Organization here on campus, are putting on for Holocaust Remembrance Day. Our local synagogues in Bangor, also have services that might be of interest to our Jewish students on campus.

In solidarity,

Tessa Shanteler (she/her)
Weekly Meetings

Wednesday @ 5pm at the
Multicultural Student Center
3rd Floor, Memorial Union

- Holiday Events and Services
- Jewish Cooking
- Resources and Support
- Shabbat Dinners
- Fun and Games
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Movie nights

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution

To learn more contact our president at sarah.meyervaldo@maine.edu
or message us on facebook or on instagram @umainehillel
In honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day

Join Hillel for a presentation by the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine about Jewish rebellion during the Holocaust.

When: January 27
Where: Union, North Pod
Time: 5pm - 6:30pm
This event is FREE to all.
Synagogues in Bangor: All synagogues are doing regular services, in person or on Zoom.

Reform:
Congregation Beth El, Bangor
Email: info@bethelbangor.org
Website https://bethelbangor.org/

Conservative:
Congregation Beth Israel, Bangor
Email: office@cbisrael.org
Website: https://www.cbisrael.org/

Orthodox:
Congregation Beth Abraham
Email: rabbichaimwilansky@gmail.com
Website: https://www.jewishbangor.org/