

Holocaust victims honored 71 years after Auschwitz

By VANESSA GERA
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Dozens of elderly Holocaust survivors lit candles at Auschwitz on Wednesday, exactly 71 years after the Soviet army liberated the death camp that has become the most powerful symbol of the human suffering inflicted by Nazi Germany during World War II.

The commemoration at the former death camp in southern Poland, an area under Nazi occupation during the war, is part of the U.N.-designated International Remembrance Day, marked by politicians, survivors and others in ceremonies and events across the world.

At Auschwitz some of the survivors wore sashes or scarves that recalled the striped pajama-style clothing that prisoners were forced to wear. They placed candles and wreaths at a wall where many prisoners were executed before gathering with the presidents of Poland and Croatia for official ceremonies.

The Nazis killed more than 1 million people at Auschwitz, most of them Jews but also Roma, non-Jewish Poles and others.

This year's commemorations come as a resurgence of anti-Semitism casts a shadow over a new generation of European Jews, something that is driving thousands of them each year to leave the continent.

"We must be honest enough to admit that more than 70 years after the Shoah, anti-Semitism is still alive in our 'civilized' European



LEFT: Holocaust survivors attend a ceremony at the former Auschwitz Nazi death camp in Oswiecim, Poland, on Wednesday, the 71st anniversary of the death camp's liberation by the Soviet Red Army in 1945. RIGHT: A group of visitors walk inside the Holocaust Memorial at the International Holocaust Remembrance Day in Berlin on Wednesday.

Union," Federica Mogherini, the European Union's top foreign affairs representative, said in a statement.

Jewish immigration to Israel from Western Europe grew last year due to a rise in anti-Semitic attacks. Most — nearly 8,000 — were from France, where Islamic extremist attacks have destroyed the sense of security previously felt by Europe's largest Jewish population.

In Germany, where hundreds of thousands of Muslim refugees have arrived in the past year, Jews feel threatened from both the far right and people coming from countries like Syria.

A rise in anti-Muslim hostility amid the migrant crisis is — irrationally —

also fueling anti-Semitism as a growing number of people lash out in fear at anyone they perceive as different.

On Saturday, neo-Nazis paraded in the center of the English city of Newcastle doing Nazi salutes and carrying a banner that said: "Refugees Not Welcome. Hitler Was Right."

And late last year in Poland, far-right extremists at an anti-migrant demonstration in Wroclaw burned the effigy of an Orthodox Jew.

At a ceremony Wednesday morning at the United Nations, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke out against a "rising tide of anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim bigotry and other forms of discrimination" around the

world, and he used the occasion to once again call for all parties in Syria's conflict to allow the unimpeded delivery of aid to millions.

"Starvation as a weapon of war and the deliberate targeting of civilians is a war crime," he said.

World Jewish Congress president Ronald Lauder said in a statement sent to The Associated Press: "Many anti-Semites and Holocaust deniers are not afraid any more to spread their hateful messages. They do it more and more openly, on the Internet, in public places. ... Sometimes, Jews are even made scapegoats for the influx of refugees into Europe."

Amid rising intolerance, some elected leaders are

trying to do more to fight hatred.

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron announced Wednesday that a planned national memorial to Holocaust victims will be built next to the parliament building in central London "as a permanent statement of our values as a nation."

There were other official commemorations across Europe on Wednesday — from Estonia and Lithuania to Serbia and Albania.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Barack Obama is marking the day by honoring four people — two Americans and two Poles — for risking their lives to protect Jews during the Holocaust.

In Berlin, the German Parliament gathered to

remember the victims of the Holocaust and heard Ruth Klueger, an Austrian-born writer who survived Auschwitz and other camps, tell of her experience as a camp inmate and slave laborer.

Klueger, now 84, also recalled the initial denial of Nazi crimes in post-war Germany and contrasted that with the country now.

"Two or even three generations have grown up here since then and this country, which was responsible 80 years ago for the worst crimes of the century, has today won the applause of the world thanks to its open borders and the generosity with which it has taken in Syrian and other refugees, and still is," Klueger said.

HERMISTON

Gathering brings women of faith together

East Oregonian

A faith-based gathering of women in Texas is being live-streamed across the globe with the goal of living with the belief that God is real.

Several Hermiston area churches are hosting a get-together to take part in the live-stream of IF: Gathering 2016. The event is Friday, Feb. 5 from 5-9 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 6 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the National Guard Armory, 900 S.E. Columbia Drive, Hermiston.

Those who plan to attend need to pre-register at www.ifgathering.com/localgatherings/ifhermiston.

The IF: Gathering seeks to gather, equip and unleash women to live God's calling in their lives.

The group believes God will use them to glorify him and to spread good among other people.

In order to make the event accessible for all women, there is no specific fee. Women are asked to pay-what-you-can, including through pre-event donations and at the gathering. All donations are tax-deductible.

The two-day gathering provides a place for women to wrestle with essential questions of faith, to dream and to connect with other women of faith.

The nonprofit IF: Gathering was a vision from Jennie Allen. She was joined by Lindsey Nobles, and together, they formed a team of Christian female leaders who desire to gather this generation of women by creating a pure, honest space to wrestle with the essential question: IF God is real ... Then what? In the first two years, IF: Gathering has reached more than one million women in 50 countries.

For more information about the Hermiston IF: Gathering, visit Facebook or contact ifhermiston@gmail.com.

Donations can be made electronically through PayPal with the email address ifhermiston@gmail.com or checks can be mailed to IF: Hermiston, 915 S.W. Ninth St., Hermiston, OR 97838.

For more about IF: Gathering 2016, which includes a link to other regional events, visit www.ifgathering.com.

BRIEFLY

Faith Center welcomes healer

PENDLETON — Evangelist Greg Romine will present "Key to Healing" Sunday at Faith Center Church during the 10:30 a.m. service. He also will pray for the sick at the end of the service.

Romine is pastor of King's Church in Vancouver, Wash. He is also president of the College of Global Deployment, host of the TV show "Options" and co-leader of "Called To Rescue," a ministry that rescues children and youth from human trafficking.

Faith Center Church is located at 108 S. Main St., Pendleton. For more information, call Rev. Ray O'Grady at 541-276-9569.

Widows meet for lunch

HERMISTON — A women's ministry of the Hermiston Church of the Nazarene provides a time of fellowship and encouragement to widows.

A Merry Heart Widow's Lunch is Thursday, Feb. 4 at 11:30 a.m. at Shari's Restaurant, 800 S. Highway 395, Hermiston. It's a no-host event.

For more information, contact 541-567-3677 or hermistonnaz@gmail.com.



<p>Peace Lutheran Church 210 NW 9th, Pendleton Join us Sundays 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Class ~Come and be at Peace~ on 1290 KUMA noon each Sunday</p>	<p>Faith Center Church Worshiping God Loving People 108 S. Main • 276-9569 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Sr. Pastor, Ray O'Grady pendletonfaithcenter.org</p>	<p>NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston Sunday Worship Services English- Pastor Dave Andrus 9:00 & 10:45 am Spanish- Pastor Genaro Loreda 9:00 & 10:15 am Classes for kids during all services For more information call 541-567-8441</p>	<p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church Saturday Services Pendleton 1401 SW Goodwin Place 276-0882 Sabbath School 9:20 am Worship Service 10:45 am</p>
<p>Community Presbyterian Church 14 Martin Drive, Umatilla, OR 922-3250 Worship: 10 AM Sunday School at 11:30</p>	<p>PILOT ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH 585 SW Birch, Pilot Rock, OR 97868 (541) 443-2500 prbconline.blogspot.com Sunday School: 9:30 am Worship Service: 10:45 am Wednesday Services: Kids' Club: 6:00 pm Youth Group: 7:00 pm</p>	<p>GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR www.graceandmercyelca.org Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (Nursery Provided) Fellowship, Refreshments & Sunday School Check Out our Facebook Page or Website for More Information 541-289-4535 Tom Inch, Pastor Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, ELCA 164 E. Main St. / P.O. Box 1108 Hermiston, Oregon 97838</p>	<p>Grace Baptist Church 555 SW 11th, Hermiston 567-9497 Nursery provided for all services Sunday School - 9:30 AM Worship - 10:45 AM 6:00 pm Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM "Proclaiming God's word, growing in God's grace"</p>
<p>St. Johns Episcopal Church All People Are Welcome Scripture, Tradition and Reason Family service 9am Sunday Gladys Ave & 7th Hermiston Fr. Dan Lediard, Priest, PH: 567-6672</p>	<p>FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH in Mission for Christ LCMC Bible Study.....9:00 AM Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM Red Lion Hotel (Oregon Trail Room) www.faithpendleton.org</p>	<p>First United Methodist Church 352 SE 2nd Street Pendleton, OR 541-276-2616 Sunday Worship 9am Open Hearts, Open Hands, Open Doors Facebook: www.facebook.com/FUMCPendleton Services are broadcast every Sunday on KUMA-1290 AM @ 11am Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor</p>	<p>Come meet Jesus at PENDLETON BAPTIST CHURCH 3202 SW Nye Ave Pendleton, OR 541-276-7590 Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM Sunday Bible Classes 9:45 AM Sunday Youth Group 6:00 PM Mon. Community Women's Study 9:30 AM & 6 PM Awana Kids Club (K-6th grade) Wed Men's Study 6 PM MOPS meeting the 1st Thur of the Month 6 PM</p>
<p>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -Presbyterian Church (USA)- 201 SW Dorion Ave. Pendleton Service of Worship - 10:00 am Children's Sunday School - 10:20 am Fellowship - 11:00 am www.pendletonpresbyterian.com Open Hearted...Open Minded</p>	<p>PENDLETON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD FIRST SERVICE 8:30 AM SECOND SERVICE 10:30 AM 712 SW 27th ST. 541-276-1894 www.fcogpendleton.com</p>	<p>THE COUNTRY CHURCH Pastor James Becker 32742 Diagonal RD Hermiston OR 97838 Sunday School 10 am Worship 7 am Evening Service 7 pm Bible Study Wednesdays 7 pm Firestarter Youth Ministry (Ages 12-17) Monday @ 6 pm</p>	<p>Living Word Christian Center Sunday Worship 10:00am Wednesday Bible Study 7:00pm Youth Classes - Nursery-6th grade Sun & Wed YOUTH GROUPS: Jr Hi, Wed 7pm Sr Hi, Sun after the service Sharon Miller, Pastor 401 Northgate, Pendleton 541-278-9082 www.livingwordcc.com</p>
<p>a place to belong Pendleton First INVITING ENRICHING INVOLVING EMPOWERING SUNDAY SERVICES AM Celebration-10:00am AM Kids Place -10:00am The Connection--6:00pm Groups for all ages: Adults, Children, Youth, & College Thursdays Celebrate Recovery-6:00pm Celebration Place-6:00pm Other Groups Available Weekly For more info visit WWW.PENDLETONFIRST.COM 1911 SE Court Ave 541-276-6417 Assembly of God Church</p>	<p>The Salvation Army Center for Worship & Service Sunday Worship Service 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship Service Wednesday Bible Study 5:30 Family Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study COME AS YOU ARE 150 SE EMIGRANT (541)276-3369</p>	<p>St. Paul Anglican Church, APA Currently Located at 119 SW Guinney Pl., Home Church in Pendleton @ Sunridge Estates 541-303-1261 Holy Communion - 1st & 3rd Sunday Morning Prayer - 2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday All Services - 10:00am Sundays The Rev. Fr. Vincent Varnas facebook.com/stpaulanglicanchurchapa</p>	<p>To share your worship times call Amanda Jacobs 541-278-2683</p>
<p>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) 215 N Main • Pendleton Sunday Worship: 10:40a Bible Class: 9:30a Office 276-5358 M-F 8:30-12:30</p>	<p>Redeemer Episcopal Church 241 SE Second St. Pendleton (541)276-3809 www.pendletonepiscopal.org Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 a.m. Wednesday Worship Noon Wednesday Evening Prayer and Pot Luck 6:00 p.m. All Are Welcome</p>		