



Stockton's Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center to Hold Service for Holocaust Survivors, Families

For Immediate Release

Monday, August 26, 2013

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Galloway Township, NJ – The Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey announces the Mitzvah Zecher Avot Cemetery Service for Holocaust survivors and their families on **Sunday, Sept. 8, 2013** at 11 a.m. at the Rodef Shalom Cemetery, Holocaust Survivor Section, located on the Black Horse Pike in Egg Harbor Township. Mitzvah Zecher Avot is the good deed of remembering family.

“Stockton's Holocaust Resource Center, now the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center, opened in 1990 and since then we have helped in coordinating the remembrance service,” said Gail Rosenthal, director of the center.

“It gives the opportunity for Holocaust survivors and their families - children of survivors, grandchildren, sometimes great-grandchildren - to be able to memorialize those who perished who have no graves, as well as those who survived the Holocaust,” she said.

“With great support from the Holocaust Resource Center, our community holds an annual service titled, “The Good Deed of Remembering Family,” at which we

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remember by name each member of our community who was a Holocaust Survivor and has passed,” explained Leo Schoffer, a member of Stockton’s Board of Trustees and a second generation member.

“Originally this service was conducted by the survivors themselves who memorialized their brethren,” Schoffer said. “In recent years the service has been conducted by the Resource Center and members of the second generation who are children of survivors.”

Schoffer’s parents, Sara, who is now deceased, and Sam, who lives in southern New Jersey, were Holocaust survivors for whom the center is named.

“This service is only conducted in a handful of communities,” he said. “We feel that it is important because it was the survivors who helped to move Holocaust education and awareness into the forefront of our consciousness.

“Dr. Michael Berenbaum (historian, author and former project director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum) has written that when the last survivor is gone, ‘The Holocaust will become about the past and recede into the past’,” Schoffer noted. “Thus under the leadership of Gail Rosenthal and the Resource Center, the community seeks to show its appreciation and respect to the dwindling number of survivors that remain in our community.”

This event includes photo and video possibilities. For further information, contact The Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton College at (609) 652-4699.

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