



Florence and Laurence Spungen Family Foundation

P.O. Box 192 Lincolnshire Illinois USA 60069

Email: danny@spungenfoundation.org

www.spungenfoundation.org

*A Foundation to support projects and research in medicine,
Jewish culture and causes special to our local communities.*

Florence(d) Laurence(d) Carol Debbi Danny Glenn

Goals and Accomplishments of the Spungen Nazi Scourge Exhibit

When the Foundation accepted the collection into the Foundation in 2008 it was with the understanding that it would take years for Danny Spungen and the Foundation members to even have the possibility of explaining the “how and why” the Holocaust took place during WWII. Danny often states, “we might all be students forever!!!”

Danny and the Foundation regularly change the goals based on the reactions and comments made by their audiences, particularly high school & college students.

When facilitating discussions, Danny points out, “the Holocaust is a story about a **complete breakdown in humanity** that exposes how sensitive humanity is.”

“Yes, the Holocaust is clearly associated with the murder of approximately 6 million Jewish people in such a way never seen before in history. But, the story of the Nazi Scourge is much deeper, exposing that some 13 million were murdered or killed under the Nazi rule and more importantly that 60+ million were murdered or killed on the WWII stage all over the world.”

The ultimate goal of the Foundation’s exhibit is to bring to life a story of a breakdown of humanity using philatelic and numismatic collectibles that lived during the Holocaust era. The exhibit pieces are witnesses of the horrors that took place during WWII. Students have the incredible opportunity (often considered controversial) to pick up the pieces and physically connect with an item they find interesting. Textbooks and movies are extremely valuable in learning about the Holocaust but the Spungen exhibit is unique in that it is set up for students to hold an item and like very engaged students often say, “see the horrors in your face.”

Currently, the Foundation’s exhibit is something like an “opening act” for the real important “main event” of having survivors speaking to future generations of all backgrounds. “We believe the best educational pieces we have today to promote tolerance and acceptance are those survivors willing to tell their stories and answer questions about their experiences.”



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It is an honor having survivors attend our events and having our exhibit as a back drop. When survivors pass on or can no longer speak then our exhibit which has the ability to travel all over the world can be the witnesses that carry the message in an unusual and interesting method that students can relate too.

What is especially rewarding is going to venues where it is not easy to get to museums or to places where there are very few Jewish people (or none at all). It's great meeting so many new people that are so impressed by this unique exhibit, learning about the horrific period in history and to discuss what humanity has learned from the past and what we have not learned!!!

How can we measure the goals and accomplishments? On the surface it is easy to assume that we can measure success by how one feels or reacts to the exhibit. However, another interesting measurement is reflecting on what they were "thinking" about while they viewing the exhibit. A key goal is for visitors to generate thoughts on analyzing why such events took place, how it happened and most importantly how humanity can prevent genocides in the future. Sadly past generations have repeated such breakdowns but we must strive to educate the next generations to be educated.

The incredible reactions to the students through assignments given by teachers are powerful and emotional. The student's feedback to the news media and through their in-school produced videos are very moving.

A favorite writing assignment that many teachers require is having students select a piece that they personally connected with and do one of the following:

1. Be the piece...write about being that piece and how it feels to be that piece. Write about what you (the piece) have seen or what you (the piece) have been through.
2. Write to that piece. Ask the piece questions. Tell the piece how you feel about it and what made you choose that piece to write too.

The accomplishments of our exhibit are clearly seen by reading the responses! Some of the responses are on the website or displayed at events next to the original pieces.