

## Eric Cahn

Eric Cahn will tell his story at the University of Denver

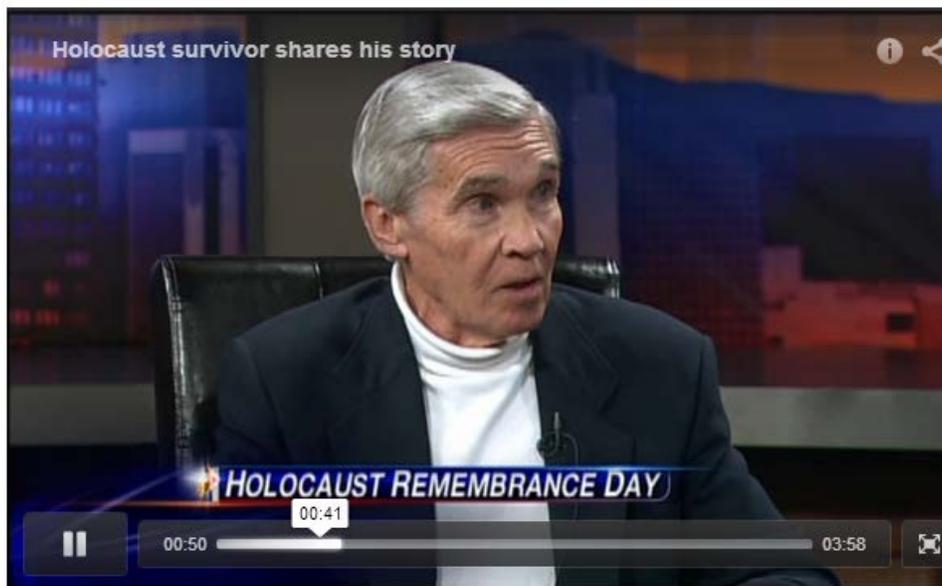
“Eradication Hate” Program October 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 2015

Anderson Academic Commons (Library – Room 290) 2150 E. Evans Ave. – Denver 80210

Eric is planning to speak:

Wednesday October 7, 2015 10:00am

Thursday October 8, 2015 10:00am



Eric Cahn was a “hidden child” survivor of the Holocaust. Of the several internet searches, a nice introduction TV news segment can be viewed at:

<http://www.9news.com/news/article/263977/188/Holocaust-survivor-shares-his-story>

A short (edited) synopsis from the TV segment (April 19, 2012):

Born in 1938 in Mannheim, Germany, Cahn and his family were taken from their home in 1940. He was separated from his parents when they were deported to Auschwitz, where his mother died.

His father survived and reconnected with Cahn and his sister in 1946.

Ultimately, Eric and his sister were sent to the U.S. by his father. Cahn would eventually graduate from the University of Colorado in Boulder. He currently lives in Colorado and hosts speeches regularly at a variety of venues.

Cahn was just a toddler during the Holocaust. A French Christian family risked their lives to hide him in their basement while his parents were imprisoned.

"I was very very young when my family was deported from Mannheim, Germany. I was 2-and-a-half [years old,] and my sister was 6-months-old at the time." Cahn said.

Cahn's family was divided and sent their separate ways.

"Initially, all of us were sent to the southern part of France to a place called Camp de Gurs which was a detention camp - a place where the Nazis chose to take us until they could decide what to do with us next. I was rescued from Camp Gurs, and a French Christian family took me in and hid me in their basement. In the meantime, my parents were deported to Auschwitz [concentration camp] where my father did survive and my mother died [murdered] there," Cahn said.

Coincidentally, Cahn and his sister were reunited after being sent to the same orphanage.

"We were separated when we were taken out of Camp Gurs. I lived with a French Christian family, and once the Nazi's no longer occupied that part of France, I was reunited with my sister in an orphanage outside of Paris." Cahn said.

After Cahn and his sister were reunited, they were also eventually reunited with their father.

"My father survived Auschwitz and all of its horrors and had gone back to live in Germany. He spent from the summer of 1945 to the fall of 1946 searching for us and tracing us and finally found us in an orphanage in Paris. So, we were all reunited in 1946," Cahn said.

Many survivors have a difficult time talking about their experiences during the Holocaust, but Cahn says it is important to him to spread his message and educate people on the topic.

"The reason [I talk about my experiences] is because there are individuals out there in our county, in our state and our communities who either try to minimize the Holocaust or deny the Holocaust. It's important for me to educate middle-school students, high-school students and others that the Holocaust did happen, because there are 'deniers' out there," he said. "