



"I DIDN'T JUST WANT TO GIVE A LECTURE ON THE HOLOCAUST AND HAVE THE STUDENTS MOVE ONTO ANOTHER SUBJECT. I WANTED THEM TO SEE AND HEAR FOR THEMSELVES FROM PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY LIVED THROUGH THIS DARK TIME."

JUSTIN STOVER, ISU HISTORY PROFESSOR

Surviving the Holocaust

Jewish couple shares horrors at Idaho State University event

BY GREG EICHELBERGER
For The Journal

POCATELLO — To bring the darkest chapter of human history to life, first-year Idaho State University history professor Justin Stover set a high bar by bringing husband and wife Holocaust survivors, Les and Eva Aigner, to speak at Days of Remembrance at ISU's Rendezvous Center on Thursday night. Stover hopes to make Days of Remembrance an annual event.

As a young teenager, Les Aigner actually survived four German concentration camps, including the infamous Dachau and Auschwitz. Eva — while still a young child — survived the Budapest, Hungary ghetto, an area designated for the city's oppressed Jewish population.

"Hearing their stories and seeing the reactions of the audience was very emotional," said Stover after the couple shared intimate details of their struggle against the brutal regimes of both fascism and communism. "This is an area where Idaho really is lacking in appreciation. We're sort of monochromatic, not that this is wrong, but I want to inject this kind of element into the discussion."

Stover also said he was very pleased with the turnout, around 200 people, some from his history class, but many from the local community.

See *Holocaust*, A5



Holocaust survivors Les and Eva Aigner spoke at the Days of Remembrance event at the ISU Rendezvous Center Thursday night. The couple told their stories about the brutality of Nazi and communist regimes.

GREG EICHELBERGER
FOR THE JOURNAL



FROM WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

Child survivors of the Auschwitz death camp wear adult-sized prisoner jackets as they stand behind a barbed wire fence in this photograph by the Soviet military after the camp was liberated from the Nazis on Jan. 27, 1945.

ONLINE

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