

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR TO SPEAK AT GARDEN SPOT VILLAGE

The public is invited to hear Joseph Hirt's story on Jan. 21 in the retirement community chapel

NEW HOLLAND, Pa. — Jan 7, 2011 — As a teenage boy, Joseph Hirt was seized by the Nazis in 1941 and spent eight months as a prisoner in the concentration camp at Auschwitz. Garden Spot Village and the ELANCO Library invite the community to hear the story of his harrowing experience first-hand at a free presentation on Fri., Jan. 21, from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. in the chapel at Garden Spot Village, 433 S. Kinzer Ave.

Acting under the orders of Adolph Hitler, the Nazis systematically murdered about 6 million Jewish people and some 5 million non-Jews whom they considered to be morally, mentally, physically or genetically inferior to the so-called Aryan "master race." Hirt was raised a Roman Catholic, and there was no apparent reason for his seizure. Hirt was among the fortunate few who survived the ordeal of the "death camps." He later immigrated to the United States, where he worked as a school psychologist. Today he lives in New Holland.

"Mr. Hirt's story will put a face to this very dark chapter in the history of human inhumanity toward fellow human beings," said Colleen Musselman, director of life enrichment at the retirement community. "He is at an age where he is keenly aware of the importance of sharing his experience of the Holocaust in hopes that the memory of this crime unites people so that it never happens again."

Mr. Hirt's presentation will last approximately 90 minutes, followed by time for questions from the audience.

For more information, call 717-355-6000.

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