

Trip to the Holocaust Memorial Museum

January 23, 2020



The JCC Men's Club visited the US Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) to see the new "America and the Holocaust Exhibit." Approximately 35 members of the Men's Club participated. We split into 2 groups each led by a docent for a 90-minute tour. Arrangements for the tour were made by Isaac Bokman who volunteers as a volunteer at the museum.



The new exhibit explores the prevailing attitudes of the general population in the US regarding the entry of the US into the war in Europe before the bombing of Pearl Harbor and subsequently. Additionally, the exhibit addresses the attitudes of the American people and its government

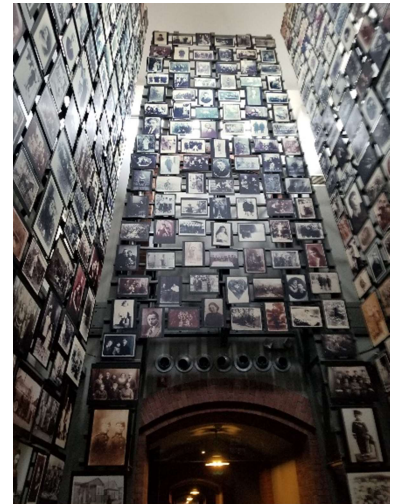
once the US entered the war. It examines why the failure to rescue Jews because of restrictive immigration policies as well as the failure to use of military force to slow down the rate at which the Nazis were murdering Jews throughout Europe in Death and Concentration Camps. There has been



much criticism of the US government for not exerting greater efforts during the war to save Jewish lives by military means such as bombing the rail lines leading to death camps or the bombing of the death camps themselves as adjunct actions to routine US military missions. Either of those adjunct military actions would have reduced overall Jewish deaths by estimates of hundreds of thousands of people.



After viewing the America and the Holocaust Exhibit each of the two groups did a side tour of the Eishishok Tower of Photos Exhibit which is part of the permanent exhibit at the Museum. This photo exhibit was established to provide a picture of typical pre-war Jewish life in an eastern European shtetl (about 6,000 shtetls were destroyed by the Nazis during the war) using personal photos. Because Ken Juris' parents were both born and raised in Eishishok. he gave us a several minute overview about the Tower of photos exhibit, details about Eishishok life, and pointed out photos of his parents and several aunts and uncles whose photos are part of the exhibit. Of the 3,500 Jews that lived in Eishishok approximately 35 survived. Ken's parents were among them.



Upon completion of the USHMM tour the Men's Club group had lunch at the USDA Agriculture building directly across the street from the Museum.