

YOM HASHOAH - HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION, PERTH SUNDAY 23 APRIL 2017

On the cover of the Order of Service for this commemoration and throughout the booklet there were quotes from Elie Wiesel, a Nobel Peace Prize winner who died last year.

To forget the dead would be akin to killing them a second time – Elie Wiesel 1928–2016.

The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference.

We must take sides: Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim.

Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.

There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protect.

Someone who hates one group will end up hating everyone and, ultimately hating himself or herself.

In Perth there are 27 known Holocaust survivors in our community. A commemoration to remember the Holocaust was held on Sunday 23rd April held at the Sylvia and Harry Hoffman Hall, Carmel Primary School and I was invited as Chairperson of the Council of Christians and Jews in WA. I did meet some old friends there in the full hall where the service was held.

After a welcome by David Denver (the President of the Jewish Community Council of WA), Rabbi Dovid Freilich OAM, Chief Rabbi, Perth Hebrew Congregation, led the Memorial Prayer. People who wished were then invited to join Harry Hoffman OAM, a Holocaust survivor, in the Kaddish, or Mourners' Prayer. Dr Gavin Chapeikin from the Holocaust Institute of WA then introduced the programme when the song Buchenwald Li'd was sung — a song written in Buchenwald where the 'residents' were forced to sing. It was sung in German now but did originally have words of hope integrated into the song in a way the prison guards could not realise.

Sol Majteles read from his father's autobiography, "Where there's life there's hope" written by Chaim Majteles. It tells of his life story and is used now Chaim has died, by his son, for school groups who visit the Holocaust centre.

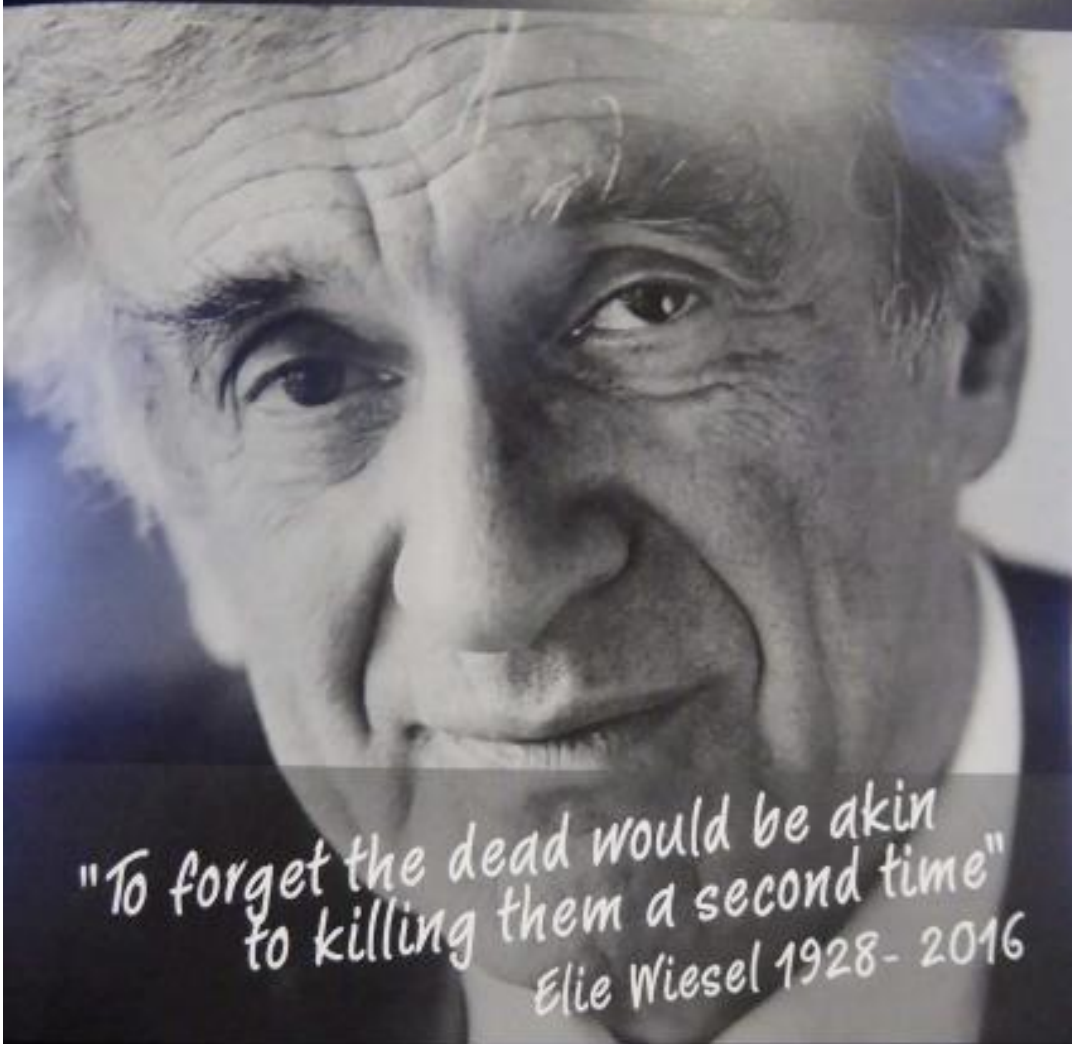
Another song "Tsi Darf Es Azoy Zayn?" ("Does it have to be this way?") was another song coming from the camps and is a question we need to ask.

Then followed a Tribute to Elie Wiesel who lived from 1928 to 2016. It was a moving tribute to someone who more than survived. He lived to show the power of one person in making a difference. Finally becoming a citizen of the USA he became first a journalist then an academic and Nobel Peace Prize winner. Quotes from his works were part of the fabric of the talk and of the service as a whole.

The commemoration concluded with everyone standing and most joining in "The Partisans' Song" by Hirsh Glik, and then Hatikvah (The Hope).

Marie Wilson
Chairperson, CCJWA

YOM HASHOAH
HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION



*"To forget the dead would be akin
to killing them a second time"*
Elie Wiesel 1928- 2016

SUNDAY 23 APRIL 2017