



## CONGREGATION ETZ CHAIM HOLOCAUST AND MEMORIAL GARDEN

### What Is the Holocaust?

The Holocaust (*Shoah*) was the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of approximately six million Jews – including 1.5 million children – by the Nazi regime and its European collaborators between 1933-1945. Millions of others, including Roma (gypsies), the disabled, Slavs, homosexuals, and Jehovah's Witnesses, were targeted by the Nazis because of their perceived "inferiority."

When Hitler became chancellor of Germany in 1933, the Nazi dictatorship enacted discriminatory anti-Jewish legislation removing rights of Jews as citizens. Ultimately, in German-occupied Europe, the Jews were forced by law to live in specific confined areas within the cities called "ghettos". From there, the Nazis deported Jews to labor camps and death camps. The Nazi term "Final Solution" was their plan to annihilate European Jewry. In all, over 12 million people perished during the Holocaust.

### What You Will See...

#### **Holocaust Monument**

- ✧ **Eternal Flame** – Jewish tradition commemorates the day of a loved one's death with the lighting of a special *Yahrzeit* candle from sundown to sundown – the length of a day  
*This Eternal Flame burns daily for those millions of Holocaust victims whose day of death is unknown*
- ✧ A six-column black obelisk represent the Six Million Jews murdered
- ✧ The base – a six-pointed Star of David ("Magen David") – symbolizes the Jewish people and the creation of the State of Israel
- ✧ Testimonial stones – Traditionally, a small stone is placed as a remembrance of one's visit
- ✧ Six crepe myrtles represent the six million Jews and six million others murdered in the Holocaust
- ✧ Barbed-wire fencing recalls the security barriers which surrounded the ghettos and the electrified fences of the concentration camps
- ✧ Railroad tracks from the Treblinka death camp
- ✧ Cobblestones from the Warsaw Ghetto  
*Cobblestones and Railroad Tracks courtesy of the U.S. Holocaust Museum, Washington, D.C.*

#### **Garden**

- ❖ The benches in the Garden provide a quiet space for reflection, remembrance, and meditation
- ❖ **Memorial Bricks** are available to members and friends of Congregation Etz Chaim; please use the following link if you wish to purchase a **permanent** testament to the memory of a loved one at:  
<http://tiny.cc/Brick-Form>

#### **Rare Artifacts [On Display Inside]**

- ✧ Yellow armband **JUIF** ("Jew") required by the Nazis and worn by French Jews for identification
- ✧ **Holocaust Torah** rescued from the Nazis; this Holy Torah Scroll from Kolin, Czechoslovakia, was handwritten in 1750 and is on permanent loan from the Memorial Scroll Trust, London, England
- ✧ 50 pfennig bill (*lagergeld*) used as currency by Jews from the Oranienburg Concentration Camp, Germany
- ✧ Small **Torah** smuggled into Auschwitz Concentration Camp and used for religious observances
- ✧ Books on the Holocaust

### Tours and Information

Complimentary docent-led tours are available by appointment for school classes and individuals. Based on visitor interest, tours may include short lectures, audio/visual presentation and discussion on the Holocaust. Please contact the Synagogue office for additional information at (770) 973-0137. [www.etzchaim.net](http://www.etzchaim.net)

*Thank you to Etz Chaim's Men's Club for being the guardians our Holocaust and Memorial Garden.*

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