

Jewish Holocaust victims remembered

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Half a century ago, over six million innocent victims were murdered in one of the most astonishing and horrific war crimes in history.

Now, years later, JSU is honoring the dead and remembering the tragedy to help remind those the Holocaust left behind that life is indeed precious. The program will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Stone Center Theater.

"Eight or nine years ago, we decided to plan a program to commemorate the Holocaust and its victims," says Steve Whitton, English professor and organizer of the event. He, in association with Rod Morgan (then campus minister and head of the Wesley Foundation program) began the project with about 30 students.

"Since then the program has grown considerably," says Whitton, "from that 30 or 40 people to a crowd large enough that we need a place like Stone Center for the event."

Over the years, Whitton and colleagues have involved several University groups in the event, such as SGA, Center for Southern Studies and the Wesley Foundation.

This year, both the SGA and Center for Southern Studies are presenting the program. JSU's program is also sanctioned by the U. S. Holocaust

Memorial Council.

"Our program is affiliated with the Days of Remembrance ceremonies, sponsored by the Memorial Council," says Whitton. "Our program is a few weeks earlier than Days of Remembrance due to our schedule at JSU."

This year's program involves several special guests as well as JSU students and faculty.

Comments will be presented by Dr. Daniel Spector of Temple Beth-El in Anniston. Special music will be presented by Samuel Brown, Mary Catherine Brown and Carl Anderson, all of the JSU Music Department. Rabbi Fred Raskind of Temple Beth-El will present the keynote address. Several other students and faculty will present comments and readings.

The program will close with the Kaddish, a traditional Jewish hymn recited by mourners. Hyman Gordon and Rudy Kemp of Temple Beth-El will recite the hymn in memory of those exterminated.

Linda Cain, a JSU librarian, is in charge of this year's program. She says she hopes the event will stir interest among students.

"In the past, the event has stirred interest at the library. Students have decided to do term papers on the subject, requesting books," she says.

"I think a lot of students don't know about the Holocaust. We hope to put it before them and inform them."