

YOUR LIBRARY

Learn about the Holocaust at the library

**Matthew Kleven**

April is Holocaust Remembrance Month. One of the best ways to learn about anything is to talk to someone who lived through it.

On Saturday at 1 p.m., the Bordeaux Branch Library will host a talk with a Holocaust survivor. Raleigh resident Abe Piasek will be in Fayetteville to discuss his personal experiences as a

Holocaust survivor.

Piasek, a Polish Jew, was 11 years old when the German army invaded Poland. Starting in 1941, he spent time in four concentration camps, including Auschwitz. He was liberated by Allied forces in 1945.

There are two Holocaust-related events happening outside the library in Cumberland County.

On Thursday at 6:45 p.m., the local Fayetteville Beth Israel Synagogue on Morganton Road is hosting a talk with Pastor Chris Edmonds. He is the son of World War II hero Master Sgt. Roddie Edmonds, whose valor saved more than 200 Jewish-American

soldiers in a POW camp in Germany.

"Holocaust: The Power of Words, The American Response" is an event on Fort Bragg at the Iron Mike Conference Center on Thursday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. This event is open to everyone but passes are required to enter Fort Bragg.

For those who would like to learn more about the Holocaust, there are two local organizations to consider: the Chapel Hill-based Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Education of North Carolina and their affiliate, the Holocaust Speakers Bureau.

Bordeaux Library hosted

a talk with a survivor from the Holocaust Speakers Bureau last year. Find them online at holocaust-speakersbureau.org. The agency sponsoring Piasek's visit this year is the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust, funded by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. It can be found online at ncpublicschools.org/holocaust-council/.

If you cannot attend any of these events but still want to learn about this dark period in history, there are plenty of books and DVDs available at your public library. One of the classics, "Night" by Elie Wiesel, is by a Holocaust survivor who would

later win the Nobel Prize, proving that a book on this subject does not have to be long and dry.

"Maus," pronounced "mouse," by Art Spiegelman was the first graphic novel to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1992. Two books that are more recent are "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak and "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas" by John Boyne. Perhaps the standard-bearer is "Diary of a Young Girl" by Anne Frank, which is on most school reading lists. The latter three were all made into acclaimed films as well. Other movies on the Holocaust available at the library are "The Pianist" (2002).

"Schindler's List" (1993) and "Life is Beautiful" (1997). All three of these were Oscar-winners.

Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana wrote in 1905, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." This is why it is important we learn about it, so that we make sure it is never forgotten or repeated.

For more information on library programs, go to Cumberland.lib.nc.us or visit your nearest library location.

Matthew Kleven is an informational services librarian at the Bordeaux Branch library.