

New Fund to support Youth Programs Established

With a generous gift from four key donors, Bernard Hochberg, Edward Hadad, Ron Dana and Peter Costanzo, the Jewish Heritage Museum has created the L'dor Vador Fund (from generation to generation). The donors recognized that transportation can be a barrier to participation for religious and days schools, so this fund is intended to underwrite transportation costs for schools to bring classes to programs at the Museum.

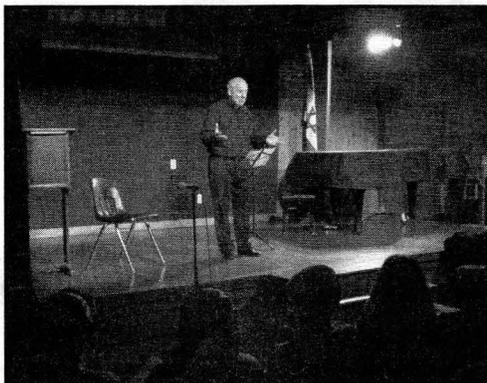
The first offering was presented this fall to students from seven schools, and over 225 students in grades 5-8 attended the play, "When Words Fail, Music Speaks." Written and performed by Harlan Tuckman, this play is a beautiful portrayal of Raphael Schacter, the doomed musical conductor and his choir in the Terezin concentration camp. The play centers around the preparation and final performance of Verdi's *Requiem* which was intended by the Nazis to mock the prisoners, but may have turned out to foretell the end of the Nazi regime.

Although this was a one act play written for an adult audience, Harlan succeeded in adapting the play for students at the 6-7-8th grade levels. He made the play interactive, by having questions prepared for students to ask during the performance. In addition, all of the students in attendance at each performance were encouraged to ask their own questions at the end. Those Q&A sessions generated fascinating conversation for students, teachers, and Mr. Tuckman, alike.

Harlan's performances were thoughtful and heartfelt, and he went the extra step to open each performance with some historical background about the setting of the story, about the significance, and meaning of a requiem.

This program was a powerful beginning to what the Museum hopes will be an ongoing outreach to schools to develop programming that will be meaningful to students and to ensure that they are able to take field trips to the Museum without concern for travel costs. The Museum, and the schools, are deeply indebted to our L'dor Vador donors for their generosity and inspiration for this new Museum initiative.

- Susan Helfand
Chair, Children's Education and Events Committee



Harlan Tuckman performing "When Words Fail, Music Speaks" for children at the JHMOMC

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