

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Stockton College Students Perform Holocaust Survivor's Story at Regional Theater Festival

"A Comb and a Prayer Book: A Survivor's Story" Adapted from a Student's Project

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Contact: Tim Kelly
Susan Allen
Office of Public Relations
Galloway Township, NJ 08240
Tim.Kelly@stockton.edu
(609) 652-4950

Galloway Township, NJ- Shana Fogarty, a 2005 graduate of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, never dreamed that her grandmother's story would be performed on stage. Pamela Hendrick, a Stockton Professor of Theater, adapted Shana's Holocaust and Genocide Studies interview project for the stage. The result was "A Comb and a Prayer Book: A Survivor's Story." The survivor is Elizabeth Blum Goldstein, Shana's grandmother.

Stockton's School of Arts and Humanities and the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center recently announced the completion of the Stockton College Theater program's tour of "A Comb and a Prayer Book: A Survivor's Story." The final performance took place on January 12, 2010 at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania during the regional theater festival sponsored by the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The KCACTF is a national theater program involving 18,000 students from colleges and universities nationwide. "A Comb and a Prayer Book: A Survivor's Story" was one of nine plays to be recognized by the KCACTF's regional festival.

Professor Pamela Hendrick, Shana Fogarty, and Elizabeth Blum Goldstein were awarded certificates of merit from the KCACTF. Professor Hendrick said, "It is truly an honor to receive this recognition from the Festival. I am especially pleased that we were able to share Elizabeth's story with so many across our region."

In 2004, Shana Fogarty was a few credits away from earning her minor in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. A final project would allow Shana to earn the additional credits needed to complete her minor. Shana met with the undergraduate Holocaust and Genocide Studies program coordinator Dr. Carol Rittner, who suggested that Shana interview her grandmother, Elizabeth Blum Goldstein, a Holocaust survivor and resident of Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Initially, Shana's grandmother was hesitant to reveal her memories, but eventually she began to answer her granddaughter's questions one at a time. After four visits, Shana had enough information to finish a final project and to complete her minor. **-more-**

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Dr. Rittner further encouraged Shana to meet with Dr. Maryann McLoughlin, Assistant Supervisor of Stockton’s Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center. Dr. McLoughlin helped Shana to publish the interviews with her grandmother as a memoir. In 2006, Elizabeth Blum Goldstein’s memoir, “Of a Comb, a Prayer Book, Sugar Cubes, and Lice: Survivor of Six Concentration Camps, Elizabeth Blum Goldstein,” was published by ComteQ.

Before the memoir was published, Professor Pamela Hendrick read Shana’s manuscript and was deeply moved. Professor Hendrick asked Shana for permission to adapt the memoir for the stage. Shana was enthusiastic and became an active consultant for the play. The play premiered at Stockton’s Performing Arts Center, and later travelled to the Facing History and Ourselves High School, a New York City public school funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; the Woodstown, New Jersey high school; and finally the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Before performing the play at the KCACTF, the cast and crew of “A Comb and a Prayer Book: A Survivor’s Story” travelled to New York City to visit the Museum of Jewish Heritage to enrich their historical background on the Holocaust. Ironically, the tour guide at the museum was a Stockton College graduate himself. Joe Camporeale, a trained docent for the museum, earned a minor in Holocaust and Genocide Studies from Stockton.

For more information on Elizabeth Blum Goldstein’s memoir written by Shana Fogarty, please visit <http://www.wix.com/elizabethgoldstein/ShanaFogarty>.



The cast and crew of “A Comb and a Prayer Book: A Survivor’s Story”

Front row (from left to right): Hannah Hendry, Rebecca Schoffer, Annmarie Kerstetter, Pamela Hendrick, Carla Myers, Jacqueline Keiser, and Gail Rosenthal, Supervisor of the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center.

Back row (from left to right): Allison Eiserberg, Ramon Lewis, Daniel Wright, Joe Heim, Lauren Jackson, Lane Jackson, Patrick Judd, Melissa Schoffer, Mark Mallett, Shana Fogarty, and Jaaron Boger.

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