

15 Years ~ 15 Stories

Celebrating our anniversary by sharing 15 of our most meaningful stories.

Story #9

The Holocaust Survivors and Camp Liberators in the Southwest Florida community have collectively spoken to over 50,000 students (probably much more!) through the education programs of our Holocaust Museum. Although it is very difficult for each man and woman to share his or her personal story, they understand how important it is for young people today to **see, hear and touch** a person who lived the history in their textbooks.

One such gentleman is Steen Metz, locally living on Sanibel Island. Since 2011, Steen has made it his mission to share his story with young people, reaching over 20,000 people in Florida and his northern home state of Illinois. Recently, Steen shared with us some of his most memorable questions and comments from students and teachers.

Q - Do you feel guilty or lucky being alive?

A - Maybe I should feel guilty, but I don't. I feel very lucky, however, being in the minority of those surviving the Holocaust.

Q - Did you resent the Germans immediately after the war?

A - After the war I was not able to distinguish between the Nazis and the rest of the Germans - to me they were all bad. When I started to write my book in 2007 I began to reflect upon it and came to the conclusion that it was not fair to take it out on today's generation since they have nothing to do with the Holocaust.



My favorite comment by a teacher: *You look so young - you must have been an embryo in Terezin!*



Steen Metz at Harns Marsh Middle School