

## For the Dead and the Living, We Must Bear Witness

### *Annual Holocaust ceremony features survivor*

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Features writer

France, 1942. A 6-year-old boy was walking down the street with his father. Several men approached. Some of the men looked like German soldiers. The men blocked off the street. Before the boy's eyes, the men shot his father. They then took the boy and put him in a crowded cattle car. Three days later the boy arrived at Auschwitz.

This isn't the plot line to a new docu-drama, but part of the real life story of Tuesday's Holocaust Commemoration's key note speaker. Bernard Bimbaum is a French Jew who survived the Holocaust. He now speaks around the country.

"One thing that really stands out about Auschwitz was the smell," says Bimbaum, "burning flesh day in and day out. The smell of flesh. I don't really remember killing or faces, just the smell. That's what is in my mind most of all."

Bimbaum was lucky. Because of his blue eyes and light hair, he didn't look much like a Jew. This and the fact that he was insisting that he wasn't Jewish led a

German officer to pull him out of the line leading into the camp and take him in his personal care.

The Frenchman made no attempts to hide his feelings about the ordeal, saying, "I don't want to forget, and I don't want to forgive." He said if he ever had the opportunity he would love to "have a Nazi for dessert, or maybe an appetizer." He equated the plight of the Jews throughout history with the plight that all minorities face.

"You, the young people, have a big job ahead of you," he said. He said that the today's generation must stand up, to defy hatred and protect all peoples, regardless of race, nationality or religion.

The ceremony also featured readings from essays by two JSU students. Samuel and Mary Catherine Brown added music.

At the end of the ceremony a group from Temple Beth-El in Anniston read the Kaddish. The Kaddish is a prayer of mourning, in Hebrew, that is usually recited by mourners after the death of close relatives. It was offered Tuesday night for all those who were systematically murdered by the Germans in World War II.



JSU student Michael Ballard read his essay "To Know The Monster" as the daughters of drama professors Wayne Claeren and Carlton Ward lit candles.