

# Education is the key to ending anti-Semitism

The Board of Emek Sholom Holocaust Memorial Cemetery invites you to join us for our annual Kristallnacht Memorial Service at our Memorial Site, Sunday, Nov. 10, at 2 p.m.

It is our mission to teach the Holocaust because ... "Education is the key to ending anti-Semitism."

**By Claudia Sachs**

When I first heard about the murder of 11 Jews at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, I was outraged, but not surprised. Part of me wanted to believe that events like these were exclusive to Pittsburgh. Here in Richmond, we have a Jewish community that seems safe and welcoming.

But more recently, my Synagogue has hired a full-time security guard, and I fear for my life during worship. As a high school sophomore in Richmond, my body has never physically been shot with a bullet, but my heart has been wounded by the anti-Semitic behavior of my peers.

A few months ago, I was conversing with a boy in Spanish class, and he jokingly stated, "Take a shower." I said "Why, do I smell?" He chuckled, "No Claudia, I meant the showers of the Holocaust."

I was furious, but these comments

are all-too common. Students have asked if I have a "Jew nose" and "Jew smarts."

These kids are not malicious; they are ignorant. And in Richmond, their ignorance could stem into violence.

How can Richmond stop these "jokes" before they go too far? The answer is self-motivated education. People of all faiths should educate themselves about Judaism, visit Synagogue services, and learn about the inaccuracy of Jewish stereotypes.

Community members must abolish anti-Semitism through peer education and classroom engagement. At lunch tables and in the classroom, children, teens, and adults must form one bulletproof safety shield against hatred.

After the events in Pittsburgh and the neo-Nazi march in Charlottesville last year, we know the plague of anti-Semitism is slowly circulating around Richmond.

A mirror attack to Pittsburgh could be right around the corner if people remain ignorant.

Education may be the only thing left that can save us all.

*Claudia Sachs was "Correspondent Of The Day" by Richmond Times Dispatch. This letter to the editor is reprinted by permission.*



The annual Kristallnacht Memorial Service will be held Nov. 10, 2 p.m., at Emek Sholom Holocaust Memorial Cemetery. The entire community is invited. Holocaust Survivor Tommy Baer places a stone on a gravestone following last year's service.

Photos by Rachel Loria.

# Frances Goldman to receive Humanitarian Award

Frances Goldman, longtime community leader and current chair of Richmond Jewish Foundation, will receive a 2019 Humanitarian Award from the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities.

The 57th Richmond Humanitarian Awards Dinner is set for Oct. 28 at the Hilton Hotel & Spa in Short Pump.

The awards celebration honors individuals and organizations for making significant humanitarian contributions to the Richmond community.

Goldman, JD, CPA, co-founded The Tax Complex, LC, in 1995. She has over 30 years of tax experience in the preparation of trust, estate, gift, and individual income tax returns as well as income, post-mortem, and estate tax planning.

Devoted to her community, she is actively involved with numerous organizations. She is past president of the Community Tax Law Project, and has served as treasurer of the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond and chair of the Security sub-committee of the its Jewish Community Relations Committee.

She was recently appointed as a member of the first Community Advisory Board of the "Richmond Times-Dispatch."

She also is a member of Altrusa International Women's Service Organization, Temple Beth-El (where she serves on the Endowment Committee); Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association; Estate Planning Council of Richmond, the Virginia Bar Association, and ABA.



Frances Goldman Contributed Photo