

Sonia Weitz's Legacy of Hope

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Sonia Weitz's passing in June leaves a tremendous void on the North Shore and beyond. Her story, however, will live on through the Holocaust Legacy Partners program, specifically in the voices of at least five individuals who will relate her ordeal.

Through video presentations, photographs and personal accounts, Legacy Partners make the Holocaust real for a new generation. Most partners say they consider their work an honor as well as a responsibility.

As survivors pass away, their stories are in danger of disappearing. Without vigilance, the Legacy Partners fear, the realities of the Holocaust and the faces of the survivors will one day cease to be. "There is nothing lonelier than a victim who is forgotten," Weitz often told her audiences of Jews, Christians, Muslims and people of other faiths.

There are nearly 300 survivors in Greater Boston. Their stories need to be shared in the hope that people are never again victims of the ignorance and hatred that fueled the Holocaust. But even Weitz admitted that the words "never again" were becoming harder and harder to say in the face of headlines from Darfur, Rwanda and other nations in peril in today's world.

We have a responsibility to Weitz to speak up in the face of injustice, to be upstanders instead of bystanders, and to remember that our own children need to hear the stories so that they can one day continue Weitz's mission.

For information about Legacy Partners, contact the Holocaust Center at 978-531-8288 or <http://www.holocaustcenterbn.org>.