



Make us your home page Newsletters My Subscription E-edition Subscribe

Contact Us Welcome back, jfanch-208 Logout | My Dashboard



NEWS SPORTS SCENE BUSINESS COMMUNITIES BLOGS OPINION WEEKEND WEATHER PHOTO VIDEO DATABASES OBITS CALENDAR STORE

Free Access: Jobs Autos Pets Homes Classifieds Contests Deals Display Ads Special Sections Best In The World Legals Advertise

Home News Religion

# Concentration camp survivor tells his story at interfaith Yom HaShoah Holocaust commemoration

Interfaith event features Bergen-Belsen survivor.

Story Comments (3) Image (4) Print Font Size: 1 0 0

Posted: Friday, May 6, 2016 12:01 am | Updated: 1:34 am, Fri May 6, 2016.

Previous Next

By BILL SHERMAN Faith and Values Writer | 3 comments

Temple Israel was packed Thursday night as Tulsans came out to learn about one of the darkest chapters in human history from a man who lived it.

Tomi Reichental, a survivor of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Germany, spoke at Tulsa's 19th annual Yom HaShoah/Interfaith Holocaust Commemoration, and spoke this week at several Tulsa schools.

Tulsan Alice Blue, in introducing Reichental, said her parents also were survivors of Bergen-Belsen.

Reichental said the persecution that led to Bergen-Belsen began years earlier when he was forced to wear a yellow star, tormented by his neighbors and not allowed to go to public schools or movie theaters.

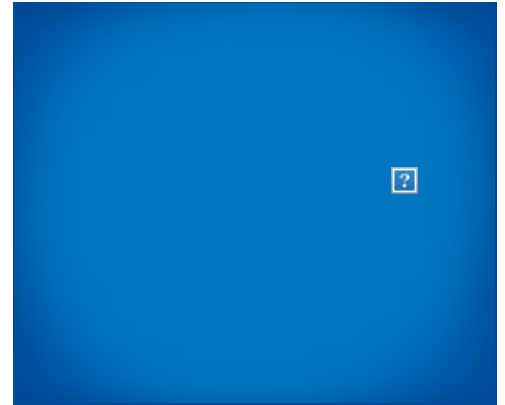
"It was very frightening for a 6-year-old boy," he said.

When he was 9, he and his family were captured by the Gestapo and shipped away



Holocaust survivor Tomi Reichental speaks to a packed house at Temple Israel on Thursday evening. CORY YOUNG/Tulsa World

Buy this photo



## Featured Churches

First Christian Church 918-582-8237 http://www.fcctulsa.org



Rejoice Church 918-272-5291 http://www.rejoicechurch.com



Click here for a list of churches by city

## Submit Your News!



We're always interested in hearing about news in our community. Let us know what's going on!

Submit news

## Report A Correction

Report a correction to editors when you see inaccurate content at tulsaworld.com/corrections.

## Video



**THE VILLAGES**  
at SOUTHERN HILLS

**“A Great Place to Live...  
A Great Place to Work”**

**APPLY NOW**

SKILLED NURSING • REHABILITATION  
• ASSISTED LIVING

in cattle cars.

“There was no privacy or hygiene. The stench was unbearable. There was very little food or water.”

Seven days later they arrived at Bergen-

Belsen.

“The people there looked like living skeletons. The starvation was unbearable,” he said.

“Inmates were dying by the hundreds. Emaciated bodies were thrown onto heaps in front of our barracks.”

He said the children played among the piles of rotting corpses.

Some 58,000 Jews were deported from Slovakia. About 350 to 500 of them survived, he said.

“I lost 35 members of my family.

“My survival and appearance here is a miracle,” he said.

The camp was liberated by the British on April 15, 1945.

Recently Reichental had the privilege of meeting and thanking a soldier who liberated the camp.

“It was the best thing I ever did in my life,” the soldier told him.

After the war, Reichental moved to Israel, served in the Israeli army, studied engineering in Germany, and then moved to Dublin, Ireland, where he married, raised his family and still lives.

“It took me 55 years before I had the courage and the strength to tell my story,” he said.

His wife died without hearing the details of his concentration camp experience.

“For the past 12 years, I have devoted my life to speaking about the Holocaust,” he said.

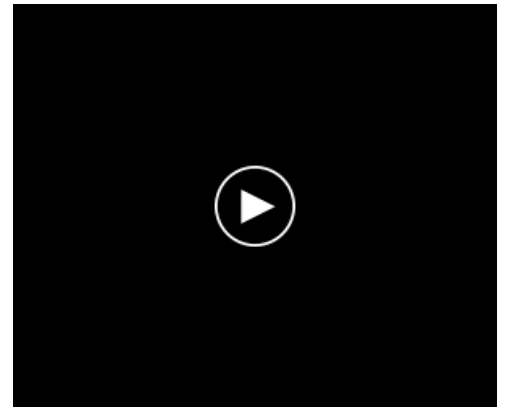
“The Holocaust must never be forgotten.”

He has spoken to more than 100,000 students.

He wrote a memoir, “I Was a Boy in Belsen,” and his story has been told in two documentaries, “Till the Tenth Generation: The Story of Tomi Reichental” and “Close to Evil.”

Reichental said the Holocaust was about racism.

“My mission is to foster understanding among people of different backgrounds, ... combating racism and bigotry, and advancing reconciliation and tolerance.”



More videos:



## FEATURED JOBS

05.10.16 | Fayetteville, AR (72701)

### Food & Beverage Position, Gaming Position, Hotel Position - Multiple Positions

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino  
05.10.16 | Tulsa, OK (74145)

### Teller

Freedom Bank of Oklahoma  
05.10.16 | Tulsa, OK (74133)

### English Teacher, Science Teacher, Technology Integrationist

Holland Hall School

He said he attempted to meet and reconcile with a German woman, a convicted war criminal who had been one of his guards, thinking she would have changed. But she was unrepentant and not willing to meet him.

“Most people stood by while the Jews were nearly wiped out in central Europe,” he said.

“What happened might happen again. We are all possible victims, possible perpetrators, possible bystanders,” he said.

Rabbi Marc Fitzerman of B’nai Emunah Congregation led a candlelighting ceremony in memory of some of the Holocaust victims. Reichental lit a candle in memory of the 35 members of his family who died.

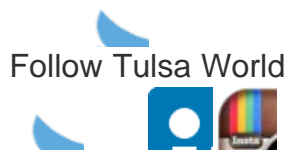
The event was sponsored by the Tulsa Council for Holocaust Education, which is a committee of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, and by the Tulsa City-County Library, in cooperation with dozens of local interfaith and community organizations.

Holocaust-themed artwork by Tulsa-area students was on display.

Bill Sherman 918-581-8398

[bill.sherman@tulsaworld.com](mailto:bill.sherman@tulsaworld.com)

### Follow Tulsa World Staff Writer Bill Sherman



Recommend 56 Tweet 1 Pin it 0 0

Discuss Print

#### Similar Stories

- Faith and values calendar
- Faith and Values briefs
- Skype opens door to live preaching, teaching around the world
- Native American speaker sees darker side of Methodism founder

#### Most Read

- UPDATED: Tulsa musician Steve Pryor dies after motorcycle crash
- Tulsa leaves its mark on New Yorker punched in face during cross-country bicycle trip
- Tulsa Hoover Crips leader enters guilty plea in massive federal drug case



#### Latest Local Offers

**Video Revolution - Free TV Over the Air**  
Free TV Over the Air! Antennas starting at \$199 installed. 30+ channels!

**Sunshine Furniture - Save an Extra 10% OFF**  
SAVE AN EXTRA 10% OFF! Flexsteel Home, Mayo and England brands for upholstery, leather, bedrooms, occasional tables, special orders included.

**CB Select - New Path to HomeOwnership**  
How Does It Work? Simple! 1 - Contact a Coldwell Banker Select Agent 2 - Apply & Get Approved 3 - Find a Home in MLS 4 - Home Partners of America Buys the Home (you lease it)

[View more local offers](#)

Popular Commented

- Tulsa Hoover Crips leader enters guilty plea in massive federal drug case
- Killer of deputy allegedly ran drug ring from prison; several arrests made
- Two Tulsa men declared innocent in 1994 fatal shooting after serving 20 years in prison
- Budget cuts: Broken Arrow, Union and Bixby school boards approve reductions

■ Tulsans celebrate National Day of Prayer at 'time of a great awakening'

■ UPDATED: Tulsa musician Steve Pryor dies after motorcycle crash  
■ Killer of deputy allegedly ran drug ring from prison; several arrests made

5. Alton Brown visits Burn Co. for #goodeats

More

## Join the conversation.

Anyone can post a comment on Tulsa World stories. You can either sign in to your Tulsa World account or use Facebook.

[Sign in to your online account](#). If you don't have an account, [create one](#) for free. To comment through Facebook, please [sign in to your account](#) before you comment.

Read our [commenting policy](#).

### 3 comments:

*jfanch-208*



**i** Your real name will display with your post.

**William Dusenberry** posted at 1:56 pm on Fri, May 6, 2016.



Posts: 3039

Those unable to learn from history, are bound to repeat it.

The "Holocaust" gave mankind the opportunity to learn about the real horrors of religious extremism, intolerance, bigotry, arrogance, and inability to follow the Golden Rule.

Until all superstition-based religions, dry up -- and die -- because of science, horrors (such as the Holocaust) will be repeated -- but even with more savagery (due to global overheating).

What do you religious-minded think will happen -- as 100,000,000 Bengals are forced to move into India -- in order to reach higher ground?

Islamist's vs. Hindus -- that killed about 10,000,000 after the British abandoned India.

[Link](#) | [Share on Facebook](#) | [Share on Twitter](#) **Reply**

**Cindy Keith** posted at 10:18 am on Fri, May 6, 2016.



Posts: 8729

"What happened might happen again. We are all possible victims, possible perpetrators, possible bystanders," he said.

Chilling... Because I can't read those words without wondering if rhetoric during this election year has crossed that line and left some of us unsure of what to do about it...

## Report A Correction

Report a correction to editors when you see inaccurate content at [tulsaworld.com/corrections](http://tulsaworld.com/corrections).

## Featured Businesses

### Video Revolution

918-495-0586

<http://www.videorevolution.com>



### Redbud Physical Therapy

918-280-9426

<http://www.redbudpt.com/>



### State Farm Insurance: Mark Welty

918-627-1833

<http://www.markwelty.com/>



[Find a local business](#) ▼

## Today's E-Edition

**WEEKEND:** Kids share their favorite places in Tulsa. **BUSINESS:** Energy firm to close Tulsa offices. **A19**

**WEDNESDAY** May 6, 2016 **TULSA WORLD** \$1.00

SERVING NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA SINCE 1910

**Tulsa Community College cuts jobs**  
 • More funding cuts have forced the college to cut full- and part-time jobs.  
 Tulsa Community College is cutting 100 jobs, including 50 full-time positions, as part of a budget reduction plan. The cuts are expected to be implemented by the end of the fiscal year.

**Appeal weighed in release of two**  
 • A judge declined the two prisoners to be "legally innocent."

**GREENWOOD: REMEMBERING BLACK WALL STREET**  
  
 Tulsa's historic Greenwood district is the site of a memorial service for the victims of the 1921 Tulsa race massacre. The event is part of a series of programs commemorating the tragedy.


**Tragic history**  
 City officials tour district where survivors rebuilt  
 W... The Tulsa race massacre of 1921 is a dark chapter in American history. City officials are touring the Greenwood district, where survivors rebuilt their lives after the destruction of their homes and businesses.

**Councilors tour park, depart for Dallas trip**  
 • The councilors are on a tour of the city's parks and will depart for a trip to Dallas.

**Today's highlights** **Health Today's Tulsa World** **Follow the World online**

**From dining out to getting an oil change.**  
 Save on many things with the great local offers in World Extra.

**WorldExtra**  
 LIMITED-TIME OFFERS BY TULSA WORLD WORLD COMPANY

 | [Link](#) | [Share on Facebook](#) | [Share on Twitter](#) | [Reply](#)


Jeff Dudley posted at 7:15 am on Fri, May 6, 2016.



Posts: 4

Attended this and it was very good. His story is amazing to hear

 | [Link](#) | [Share on Facebook](#) | [Share on Twitter](#) | [Reply](#)

[Print comments](#) 

### Sign up for email newsletters

Email:  [Save](#)

- Breaking News
- Daily Headlines
- DailyDealTulsa.com Offers
- Advertising Offers
- Latest News - (4PM)
- OU Sports
- OSU Sports
- TU Sports
- High School Sports
- Food & Restaurants
- Weekend: Things to Do
- Home & Garden
- Downtown Tulsa
- Real Estate
- Contest Alerts
- Outdoors

### Display ads

**OKLAHOMA WEEKLY  
GROUP TRADE  
MAIL THIS COPY THAT  
KELLEY, CRETE**

[More Display Ads](#)



**Customer Service/Questions on online accounts or subscription access:** 918-582-0921, 800-444-6552, [circulation@tulsaworld.com](mailto:circulation@tulsaworld.com)

**Newsroom:** 918-581-8400, [news@tulsaworld.com](mailto:news@tulsaworld.com)

**Website:** [web@tulsaworld.com](mailto:web@tulsaworld.com)

**Place a print ad:** 918-581-8510, [advertising@tulsaworld.com](mailto:advertising@tulsaworld.com)

**Place a digital ad:** 918-581-8559, [advertising@tulsaworld.com](mailto:advertising@tulsaworld.com)

**Place a recruitment ad:** 918-732-8140, [careerads@tulsaworld.com](mailto:careerads@tulsaworld.com)

**Place a classified ad:** 918-583-2121, [advertising@tulsaworld.com](mailto:advertising@tulsaworld.com)

**Address:** 315 S. Boulder Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74103

#### Sections

- Home
- News
- Sports
- Business
- Scene
- Communities
- Blogs
- Opinion
- Weekend
- Weather
- Photo
- Video
- Obits
- Contests
- Classifieds
- Special Reports

#### Info

- About Us
- Contact Us
- Corrections
- Subscription Services
- Add Search Toolbar
- Privacy Policy
- Advertise
- Store
- Contractor
- Apply to be a carrier

#### Search

Search in:

- |             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| All         | Opinion        |
| News        | Weekend        |
| Sports      | Photovideo     |
| Business    | Investigations |
| Scene       | Obituaries     |
| Communities | Photos         |
| Blogs       | Video          |