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## **Rivier, temple host interfaith observance**

By *TINA FORBES*

*Staff Writer*

NASHUA – Remembering victims, honoring survivors and looking toward the future, Rivier University and Temple Beth Abraham hosted an interfaith observance of Yom HaShoah, or Holocaust Remembrance, on Thursday.

The featured speaker, German diplomat and scholar Rolf Schütte, said the Holocaust is very much a part of his country's identity. "The Holocaust is very present in today's life in Germany," said Schütte.

He said the Holocaust and World War II informs the cultural attitude of pacifism in Germany. "It impacts domestic and foreign policy decisions. The Germans have reached a conclusion... never again war."

"The vast majority of Germans ... they think they live the lesson of the Holocaust by living in a tolerant society. By living in Germany's present and not its shameful past," he said.

He also described the relations between Germans and Jews, and between Germany and Israel.

"The Holocaust is an element that both separates and bonds Germans and Jews like no other two peoples," he said. Schütte added that this year is also the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Israel and Germany, and that the relationship is positive and close. "The intensity of this relationship is quite amazing, considering the history," he said.

Audience members nearly filled the Dion Center Reception Room at Rivier. Mayor Donnalee Lozeau gave a proclamation followed by a welcome from Rivier President Paula Marie Buley, IHM.

Founder of the Nashua Holocaust Memorial, Fred Teeboom and Sheryl Rich-Kern, Chairperson of the Holocaust Remembrance Committee spoke as well, sharing personal accounts.

Lozeau had visited the Holocaust Memorial in Rotary Commons Park earlier in the day. "I'm quite proud Nashua is the only community in New Hampshire to have such a place," she said.

Buley said she felt honored to be joined by Temple Beth Abraham for Yom HaShoah.

"We mourn the sins of the past, knowing these shameful crimes are a stain on humanity itself," she said.

Teeboom, a Holocaust survivor, shared his first hand account. "I am a child Holocaust

survivor. I knew the real Nazis. The Nazis and their collaborators killed children without hesitation, without remorse." He said they killed a million Jewish children, but he survived.

He asked the crowd to stand and pledge "never again" after he said the name of each concentration camp.

Rich-Kern said she "grew up in the specter" of the Holocaust, having lost extended family members. She said one of the reasons for remembrance is to address the roots of stereotyping and bigotry.

Anti-defamation League of B'nai B'rith, an organization working against anti-Semitism, set up a photograph display of "A History of the Holocaust," around the perimeter of the room.

This year's Yom HaShoah takes place 70 Years after the Liberation of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

Schütte has been Consul General of Germany to the New England States in Boston since 2012, and has given many talks on German-Jewish relations.

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