

A new way to remember

COURAGE TO CARE NSW

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On Yom HaShoah over 400 people met at 15 homes across Sydney to hear directly from survivors of the Holocaust in a program jointly curated by Shalom and Courage to Care called Zikaron baSalon, Memories in the Living Room.

Founded in Israel in 2011, Zikaron BaSalon has grown exponentially. Each year, over half a million people participate in Zikaron BaSalon evenings in Israel and around the world. What is remarkable about Zichron B'Salon is the fact that it is a social initiative that anyone, anywhere can embrace and bring into their own living rooms.

The structure of a Zikaron BaSalon evening is comprised of three parts which bring together the participants. The evening starts with a testimony, which can be filmed or personal; told by a Holocaust survivor, second generation or an expert in the field. The second part of the evening is the expression which can be done by reading a poem, inspirational texts; expression through music or any other way participants want to express their feelings through a creative lens. The third and final part of the evening is the discussion part which is facilitated and focuses on the memory of the Holocaust and its significance in our lives today.

Bringing survivors like Eva Engle, Lena Goldstein, John Grushka, Joe Hofmanis, Cathy Valer Gordon and others into these intimate settings brings the community together in a unique way. A Courage to



Care volunteer said "My role was to act as a support for the survivor. I have heard John's story quite often before but it was great that he had more time and could relate in more detail. It was very encouraging to see so many of our young people there. After all, they are our future and hopefully will keep the memory of the Holocaust alive".

Not meant to take away from large annual ceremonies, it allows people who want to connect more deeply to the stories and

memories of the survivors to do so. One participant said "It is far more intimate and meaningful to host a survivor in a home as opposed to a museum or theatre. It also allowed my family and I to commemorate Yom Hashoah".

As we reach a point in history where our survivors are sadly fewer each year, it is imperative that we think of varied ways to engage in Holocaust memory and storytelling so that our next generation will

truly understand what 'never again' means. As a survivor shared "Was so lovely to be surrounded by such young people engaged from the community"

Both Shalom and Courage to Care look forward to seeing the continued growth of this important program in the coming years.

Courage to Care is an initiative of B'nai B'rith