

NEWS

History shows tragic price of watching on

BY JANET HOWIE

*UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.**

Speaking up against wrongdoing takes the type of bravery a Border exhibition seeks to inspire.

And *Courage to Care*, now showing at Albury Library Museum, uses as its starting point one of humanity's worst atrocities - the Nazi regime's systematic extermination of Jews known as the Holocaust.

Peter Gyenes and Judy Bahar, both born in Hungary during World War II, owe their lives to people who did not stand by but took action to help, often at great personal risk. The Holocaust survivors have been sharing their stories with Border school groups this week as part of a four-week educational program and public display open until June 25.

Mrs Bahar, 77, knows she would have died if her mother had not rescued her starving baby and later escaped with her from a death march; if an old couple had not given them shelter; if the villagers they met had not brought scraps of food.



NEVER FORGET: Holocaust survivors Peter Gyenes and Judy Bahar share their stories with schoolchildren, highlighting how ordinary people saved lives when they were prepared to act against evil. **Picture: JAMES WILTSHIRE**

Mr Gyenes, 80, and his family were saved by their housekeeper, who smuggled in food and provided shelter, while his grandfather was pulled out of a death march line by a guard he once employed as an office boy.

"These people were what you call today upstanders, not bystanders," Mr Gyenes said.

Mrs Bahar agreed *Courage to Care* aimed to create more upstanders in society.

"Sometimes it doesn't endanger you but you still have to realise that standing there and feeling sorry isn't enough," she said. "You have to do something."

More than 1800 students were booked to see the Albury exhibition this month, with schools from Burrumbuttock, Gerogery, Table Top, Albury and Wagga among those taking part.

Courage to Care team co-ordinator Vicki Israel said

the program was run by a different team each week, with other Holocaust survivors originally from countries like Poland, Germany, Yugoslavia, France, Belgium and Czechoslovakia. Adjusted as needed to be age appropriate, the display includes Local Upstanders.

"These (others) are stories from over 70 years ago and some people identify and others can't, so what we want to do is have local people,"

Mrs Israel said. "They're all good examples of what to do."

Acknowledged are Joshua Collings, of Cudgewa, known for his tireless work raising money for his fire-affected community; Aunty Edna Stewart, who has spent her life contributing through education and the Retro youth management committee's Will Barrett, an advocate for people with disability.

**The Lorax by Dr Seuss*