

# Reflections of a HORROR Reflections of a HOBBOB

Miracle Mile's Museum of the Holocaust to honor man whose life's mission has been ensuring younger generations never forget the era

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**F**red Diamant has memories more horrible than most people could imagine. They are memories of one of his brothers being hanged before his eyes, of two other brothers being taken to the gas chambers, of doing slave labor for people who hated him for being born a Jew. Memories that could bring nightmares to anyone who hears them.

And the last thing he wants is that they be forgotten. "The lessons of the Holocaust must be remembered," said the 77-year-old Studio City resident who survived almost six years in the Auschwitz and Sachsenhausen concentration camps. It was a vow that he, along with many other Holocaust survivors, took after they were liberated in 1945.

"We could not accept that our brothers and sisters died in vain," he said.

Today, his efforts to pass on those memories to subsequent generations have produced countless lasting results; he helped plan international gatherings of Holocaust survivors in Israel, and in Washington, D.C. He has been awarded the Jerusalem Peace Prize by the State of Israel Bonds organization. He is a supporter of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the University of Judaism in Los Angeles. Elie Wiesel appointed him to the content committee of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C....

## FYI

Anyone interested in attending the tribute to Fred Diamant can make a reservation with the Jewish Federation's Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust. The cost is \$100 and proceeds will benefit the museum. Phone: (323) 761-8170.

But perhaps the best personification of his efforts is 20-year-old composer Robby Elfman. At 17, Elfman, along with about 7,000 other Jewish teenagers from around the country, went on a trip to the concentration camps in Europe. The trip, called "March of the Living," was organized by the Jewish Federation, and Diamant was the federation's Los Angeles representative on the two-week visit to Poland and Israel. Elfman was so inspired by Diamant's stories, and the experiences of other survivors that, as soon as he got back to Los Angeles, he wrote a concerto to express the emotions he had felt during the trip.

Elfman, a Los Angeles resident, will pay tribute to Diamant on Sunday, when the Jewish Federation's Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust will make sure that his efforts, like his memories, are remembered. The museum will honor Diamant at a fund-raiser in a Beverly Hills home.

The tribute is unprecedented in the museum's 40-year history, said Marcia Reines Josephy, director and curator of the museum. She said when the museum staff decided to...



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The experiences of Holocaust survivor Fred Diamant, 77, left, were a large part of the inspiration for 21-year-old composer Robby Elfman, in writing a symphonic orchestra piece titled "We Will Tell Them."

honor someone in the community, "we thought there was no better person than Fred."

"He's a man of passion of commitment," she said. "And he's a role model for not only the young people but the older ones as well. He deserves the honor."

Elfman's concerto, "We Shall Tell Them," had its premiere this spring

at a Los Angeles Jewish Symphony concert. It is his way to honor the estimated six million Jews murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

"I just felt, 'Oh my God, what's going to happen when all these survivors leave this world?' It was something I couldn't fathom," Elfman said.

"And then I realized that it was up to us. As long as I'm here, and as

long as the people who went on this trip are here, we will tell them."

Diamant said it's gratifying to see the younger generation.

"Robby is a very positive example of the expectation [of the March of the Living] that we create serious young men that are rooted in history," he said.