

Changing World artifacts

Docent Training

Badges

Key Holocaust lessons for these artifacts:

- Jews were identified and excluded from society. Jews became separated, segregated, and ostracized. They became the “other.”
- Nuremberg Laws defined who was Jewish and restricted their rights
- Jews were left with an increasing sense of insecurity and danger.
- This is a visible way used to isolate and identify Jews amongst mainstream society.

Suggestions for generating discussions with students:

- I. Ask the students: why do you think the Nazis required Jews to wear the yellow star?
 - A. The Germans figured out a way to identify all Jews even though they did not have a unified look
 - B. Germans required Polish Jews to wear badges after occupying the country in September, 1939. German Jews had to wear badges after September, 1941.
 - C. The wearing of badges to identify Jews was a revival of a practice from medieval times.
 - D. Point out badges had to be worn AT ALL TIMES in public with severe punishments if caught without it
- II. Badges
 - A. Mention that Jews were forced to buy the badges that set them apart
 - B. Mention each country had different badges, different styles, colors
- III. Experiences from Jewish Seattle Survivors wearing the yellow star
 - A. Naomi Ban
 1. Mentions in her memoir how it made her feel emotionally - embarrassed to go outside with the badge
 2. Had a sense that something worse was coming soon
 - B. Henry Friedman
 1. Tells how Germans would target throwing rocks or hitting Jews wearing a the badge
 2. When his mother and cousin were caught without armband
 - a) Mother was beaten up with a steel reinforced rubber ball
 - b) Cousin had to clean an outhouse (outdoor toilet) with her hands
 - C. Nechama Tec
 1. Didn't wear a star and 'passed' as a non-Jew while her family was in hiding

** Leave students with the sense that this is only the beginning of ostracizing Jews and making them an enemy to society **