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FREE

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Holocaust survivor Herbert Kohn shunned hatred to promote knowledge, love, and tolerance.

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The Temple's organ, worn with use and age, is being restored to its former glory.

By Evie Wolfe

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sip
savor
sprurge

at *The Tasting*

Tasting Chairs Lara Balsler and Nancy Miller

April is near, and that means it's time for what has become one of the community's biggest and most exciting fundraisers of the year: The Tasting. Hosted by Jewish Family & Career Services and benefiting the agency's Zimmerman-Horowitz Independent Living Program (Z-H ILP), a program of the Developmental Disabilities Services—Tools for Independence division, the event highlights some of Atlanta's top restaurants and high-end wines at a fun, festive, elegant affair that also includes a top-rate silent auction.

Now in its 11th year, The Tasting is expected to bring almost 1,000 people to the Grand Hyatt Buckhead on Monday, April 19. Last year, it attracted nearly 900 guests and raised more than \$260,000.

What started as an offshoot of some private fundraising dinners in peoples' homes has grown exponentially. Over the past few years, it has become large enough to fill the Hyatt's grand ballroom.

See *THE TASTING*, page 5

Atlanta's Yom HaShoah service has deep meaning for many



Yom HaShoah Service of Remembrance at the Memorial to the Six Million at Greenwood Cemetery, 2009

It will start quietly with teenagers, a reverential moment of silence.

The teens will carry a bouquet of yellow mums in the shape of a Star of David, walking slowly and solemnly in front of the Memorial to the Six Million at Greenwood Cemetery in southwest Atlanta.

The flags of the U.S. and Israel will be presented, held aloft by Jewish War Veterans; there will be prayers and singing, messages of remembrance and hope. It will be a morning of sadness and melancholy, defiance and remembrance.

See *YOM HASHOAH*, page 8

Am Yisrael Chai! to explore Jewish communities of Latin America

Am Yisrael Chai!, the annual Holocaust-related program that focuses on a different part of the world each year, will take place April 14, 6:45-9:00 p.m., at Congregation Beth Tefillah, 5065 Highpoint Road, in Sandy Springs.

Each year around the time of Yom HaShoah, Am Yisrael Chai! develops a program that focuses on families and communities in one specific part of the world and how the Holocaust affected them. The goal is to look at how families and communities lived before the Holocaust, survived during the Holocaust, and succeeded and, in many cases, excelled after the Holocaust.

In 2008, the focus was on Eastern Europe, followed in 2009 by the

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Am Yisrael Chai!

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Sephardic Diaspora. This year, the focus is on the rich, unique history of the Jews and Jewish communities of Latin America.

Since the planning process for this year's event began last August, Jewish community members representing Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Mexico have become involved.

The evening will begin with an opening ceremony in Congregation Beth Tefillah's Holocaust Living Memorial Garden. It will continue indoors with Consul General of Argentina Marcelo Gerschenfeld's address on the history of the Jews of Argentina, a presentation by Tomas Lefkovits on his family's fateful journey from Hungary to Venezuela, a performance by the Atlanta Jewish Male Choir, high school students Josh Belinky and Sarah Loubser discussing their recent March of the Living trip to Israel and Poland, dinner



Herman and Sofia Lustgarten and children in Barranquilla, Colombia, 1951

featuring kosher tapas and grilled foods, and book-signings and sales of Holocaust memoirs by local artists.

Also this year, Am Yisrael Chai! has partnered with The Epstein School to create the Am Yisrael Chai! Family History Project. After Epstein 7th-graders participated in a workshop led by Sarah Ghitis, twelve students were selected to interview first-generation Latin-American Jews living in Atlanta and ask them about their family



Herman Lustgarten and his mother, Hannah, in Opatof, Poland, in the 1920s

histories; the students then wrote about one aspect of the family's history and created an accompanying poster/collage. An exhibition of the students' projects will open at Am Yisrael Chai! and remain on display at Congregation Beth Tefillah through May 18.

Am Yisrael Chai! is the result of collaboration throughout the Atlanta Jewish community. Although based at Congregation Beth Tefillah, it has participation from Or Hadash, Or VeShalom, Ahavath Achim, B'nai Torah, and many other congregations; The Epstein School; The Berman Jewish Heritage and Holocaust Museum; Hemshech and other Holocaust agencies; and other groups and individuals. This year, too, kosher Latin American food will be provided by FuegoMundo of Sandy Springs. The Am Yisrael Chai! project is planned and coordinated by Leslie Rubin, Andy Videlefsky, and David Feldman, with active participation by people throughout



Epstein students talk with Shirley Tauber about her family, which settled in the Dominican Republic.



Jeremy Shapiro (left) and Asher Berman (right) interview Masha Hleap-Hershkovitz (center) about the history of her family, which moved from Poland to Colombia.

Atlanta's Jewish community.

Admission to Am Yisrael Chai! is free. For more information, visit www.amyisraelchiatlanta.org, or call Teddy Sable, 404-843-2464, ext.110.

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