

Holocaust Remembered



Jadzia Sklarz Stern

*“I believe that faith is stronger than death,
and I believe that we have a dream that is so powerful,
that it is stronger than all of the ugliness that lies in anti-Semitic books
and anti-life forces around us.”*

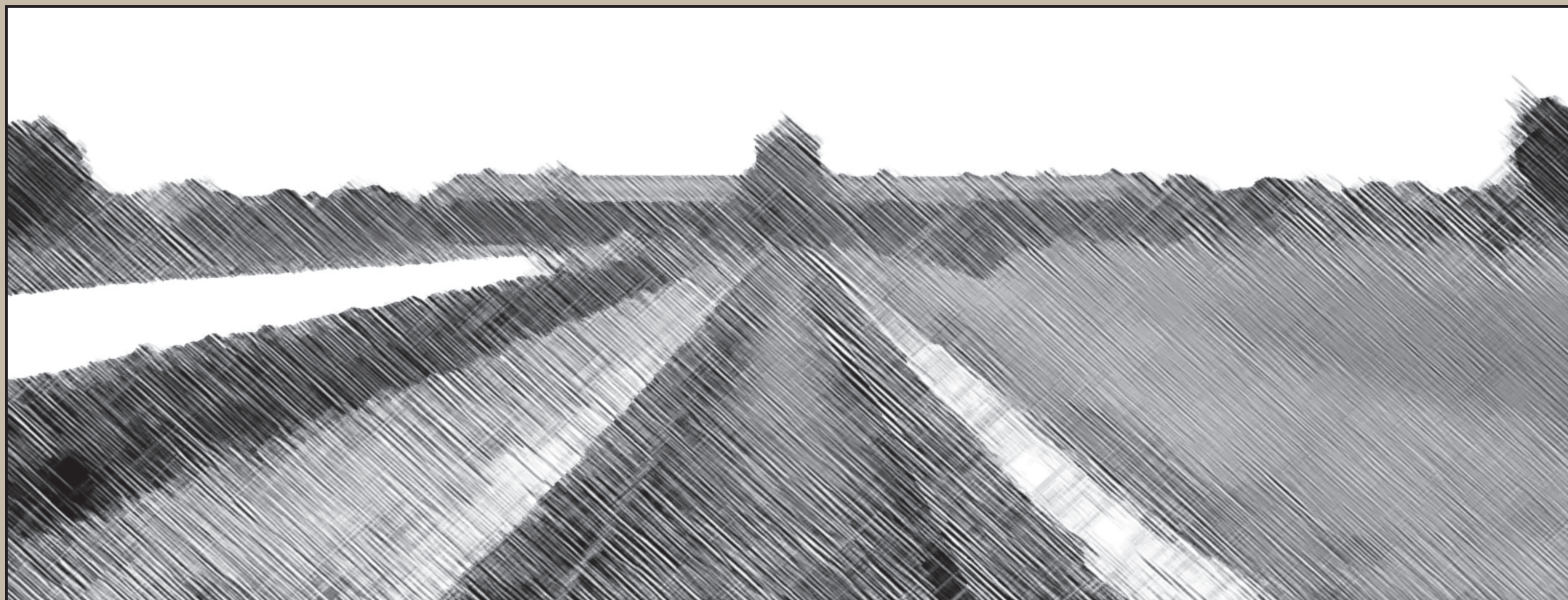
Jadzia Sklarz Stern, Survivor of Auschwitz
Came to Columbia, SC in 1949

*“To review these events is very painful. . .
I bear it willingly only if you take it into your heart
that somehow you and I will contribute together
to diminish the possibility that this could ever happen again.”*

Bluma Goldberg, Survivor of Auschwitz
Came to Columbia in 1950.



Bluma Goldberg



Illustrative view of the entrance to Auschwitz.

The **Holocaust** is the term generally used to describe the killing of approximately six million European Jews between 1933 and 1945 by Nazi Germany and its collaborators. Millions more of the innocent suffered persecution and death as victims of the state-sponsored Nazi tyranny. This policy grew out of a deliberate plan of extermination (The Final Solution), formulated by the National Socialist regime in Germany led by Adolf Hitler.

During this period other groups also suffered persecution by Nazi Germany: these included Roma (Gypsies); Slavic people; communists; Poles; disabled people; homosexuals; and political dissidents. The estimated death toll under the Nazis reached between nine and eleven million.

The systematic attack on the Jews

- Legislation to remove Jews from civil society began in Germany several years before World War II.
- During the 1930s the Nazis built concentration camps where Jews and other “undesirables” were imprisoned and used as slave labor until they died from exhaustion or disease.
- With the invasion of Poland in 1939, the Nazi regime began to implement its genocide against Jews beyond the borders of Germany.
- By 1941, with the invasion of Soviet Russia, specialized units called Einsatzgruppen, were assigned to locate Jewish people in all occupied territory, and murder them along with Slavs and communists.
- In some urban areas Jews and Roma were crammed into tiny ghettos for months, even years, before being transported hundreds of miles by train to extermination camps. Those that survived the brutal journey often did not last long in the camps. Most were killed in gas chambers soon after their arrival.



Sketch of concentration camp prisoners at the time of liberation.

This exhibition focuses
on the **survivors**
who eventually found their way
to South Carolina
to rebuild their lives,
and also on the
South Carolina **liberators**
of the concentration camps.