

From: Steven D. Reece
To: ["Robin Park"](#)
Cc: ["Jo Ann Siegienski"](#); ["John Mark Folker"](#); ["Rachel McRae"](#); ["Elaine Brown"](#); ["kevin.little"](#); [office@sparrowps.com](#)
Subject: RE: Shoah
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 10:52:43

The experience was humbling in that, what the participants shared in the seminar was from a depth of experience that I do not have. The majority of the participants had their families impacted to some degree by the Shoah. For this reason, Jan and I could not just deal with what they shared intellectually or academically. We had to listen and take into account their experience, empathize with them, and try to make sense of what the impact of the Shoah has on our lives today. No easy task. If anyone thinks that teaching a seminar on the Shoah in a synagogue is just an academic, straightforward exercise, then they would be in error. The correct stance for anyone, who facilitates such a seminar, should be that of a learner seeking to understand with others the meaning and impact of these events.

From: Robin Park [mailto:dw.hamster@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 11:19
To: sdreece@matzevah.org
Cc: Jo Ann Siegienski <jsiegienski@matzevah.org>; John Mark Folker <jmfolker@matzevah.org>; Rachel McRae <rachel.mcrae@matzevah.org>; Elaine Brown <elaine.brown@matzevah.org>; kevin.little <kevin.little@regions.com>; office@sparrowps.com
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How was the experience?
or how was it experienced?

On Thu, Mar 30, 2017 at 9:17 AM, Steven D. Reece <sdreece@matzevah.org> wrote:

Jan and I had nine students who joined the first session. We spent the first half hour getting to know each other along with learning about their expectations about the seminars and what they hoped to learn. We are not teaching a "fact based" or historical approach to the Shoah, although we do rely upon factual information from time to time. More so, we have designed the course to be a discourse or a discussion about major issues outlined in the syllabus that I sent you all regarding the seminars. We will rely more on asking good questions that generate good discussions.

One major aspect that emerged from the first seminar was the political parallels between the current situation in the US and the past of Nazi Germany. We are not focusing on the political but the psychological, ideological, or philosophical underpinnings of the run-up and implementation of Nazi policies as seen in the Shoah. Our next seminar will focus on "bystanders."

Many in the course have greater knowledge and experience with this subject matter than we do, so we have taken a humble learning stance as we facilitate the seminars.

From: Robin Park [mailto:dw.hamster@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 17:01

To: sdreece@matzevah.org

Cc: Jo Ann Siegienski <jsiegienski@matzevah.org>; John Mark Folker <jmfolker@matzevah.org>; Rachel McRae <rachel.mcrae@matzevah.org>; Elaine Brown <elaine.brown@matzevah.org>; kevin.little <kevin.little@regions.com>

Subject: Shoah

Steven,
How was the class you taught?

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Robin Park, MD



Sparrow Psychological Services
Matzevah Foundation

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Robin Park, MD



Sparrow Psychological Services
Matzevah Foundation