

# Wiesenthal recalls darkest hours

## Nazi-hunter gives talk at Nazareth

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

PITTSFORD — When Simon Wiesenthal was imprisoned by the Nazis, his fellow prisoners wondered why he always wanted to know the name and rank of the men who did the killing in the death camps.

"In 50 minutes, you could be killed," Wiesenthal's cellmates often said when he asked who had just been killed.

"Now I know why," the famed Nazi-hunter answered the ghosts from his past. He recalled those dark experiences before hundreds of people gathered to hear the 84-year-old Wiesenthal talk in Nazareth College's Arts Center on Tuesday evening, Oct. 5.

Indeed, no one questions the validity of Wiesenthal's pursuit of names and faces in the death camps almost a half-century later when his gathering of information has led to the arrest of more than 1,100 Nazi war criminals.

Born in Galicia, a region shared by the modern nations of Poland and Ukraine, Wiesenthal married a Jewish Pole named Cyla Mueller in 1936. The couple lost 89 members of their families to the Nazis. Reunited after being separated during the war, the couple settled in Austria where Wiesenthal ran a documentation center tracking Nazi fugitives from 1947-54.

Among those he helped catch through the center's work was Adolf Hitler's chief architect of the Holocaust, Adolf Eichmann. Wiesenthal helped Israeli authorities with infor-



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer  
Simon Wiesenthal answers questions during an Oct. 5 press conference at Nazareth College.

mation on Eichmann, who the Israelis captured in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1960. He was tried and eventually executed in 1961 in Israel.

Eichmann's trial inspired Wiesenthal to re-open his pursuit of Nazi fugitives — a pursuit he has continued since the 1960s.

Another of Wiesenthal's captures was a man who participated in the arrest of Anne Frank, the Dutch Jewish teenager whose diary became famous the world over when it was published after World War II — and her life — had ended. Frank was killed in Auschwitz, Poland, one of the dozens of death camps that saw six million Jews and millions of non-Jewish Nazi opponents executed before and during the war.

It is to such people as Frank that Wiesenthal said he had dedicated his life. He noted that he wanted to put faces on the names of the victims and on the faces of their murderers — "to take them out of the anonymity of the statistics."

Commenting on the teenager's diary, written up until her family was arrested in 1944 after hiding from the Nazis occupying Amsterdam, Wiesenthal said, "You could identify with a kid — and not with these valleys of bodies."

Valleys of bodies greeted the Allied forces that liberated Wiesenthal's last death camp, Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. The death camps represented a new type of impersonal murder, one the world had never seen before, Wiesenthal said. Many Nazis were bureaucrats who did not even meet the people whom they ordered killed, he stressed.

"A man sits behind a desk, and with a telephone call ... kills them at a distance of 3-400 miles," he recalled.

Additionally, he noted that the vast number of victims almost makes any punishment of their murderers seem absurd. One man he helped send to jail received a nine-year sentence, later reduced to six years, Wiesenthal said.

"That's three minutes per victim," he shrugged.

Still, pursuing ex-Nazi criminals has its purpose, Wiesenthal maintained. At least history will record for future generations that genocide did not go completely unpunished or unremembered, he explained.

He noted that after the war, a group of rabbis showed him some religious books once owned by Jews before the Holocaust. One such book haunted him with its inscription from a sister to her brother, written only moments before she was arrested by secret police swarming through her neighborhood.

"Don't forget us and don't forget our murderers," she wrote.

"I decided to execute this last will," Wiesenthal concluded.

### Ithaca native professing vows as Sister of Mercy

SPENCER-PORT — Sister Barbara Stinard, RSM, will profess her final vows as a Sister of Mercy of the Rochester Regional Community on Friday, Oct. 15.



This ceremony will be held at St. John the Evangelist Church, 60 Martha St., where Sister Stinard currently serves as pastoral associate. The rite will be incorporated into a eucharistic liturgy beginning at 7 p.m.

An Ithaca native, Sister Stinard was graduated from Cornell University in 1981. She entered the Mercy sisters' Rochester community in 1984.

### School to host marathon

CHARLOTTE — Friends, families, students and faculty of Holy Cross School, 4488 Lake Ave., will participate in the school's annual Catholic School Marathon Friday, Oct. 15, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Pre-schoolers and kindergarten students will hold a "Mini-Marathon" from 10-11 a.m.

Students donning school colors will walk in and around Charlotte as part of the event. In addition to the marathon, which serves as the school's fall fundraiser, the day's activities will include a picnic lunch — donated by parents and area merchants — at Ontario Beach Park.

Sponsors and participants are still welcome. Call 716/663-6533.

### Palestinian sets lecture

CORNING — Abuna Elias Chacour, an author and well-known Palestinian peace activist, will lecture at All Saints Academy on Saturday, Oct. 16. The program will take place at 8:45 a.m. in the school gymnasium, 158 State St.

Chacour, the author of *Blood Brothers* and *We Belong to the Land*, will address reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis.

For details, call Joan Overman at 607/936-6563 or Dianne Roe at 962-2168.

## Another Bush to be sworn in as president Oct. 16

WEBSTER — On Saturday, Oct. 16, President Bush will be inaugurated.

Father — Frederick W. — Bush, that is.

Father Bush, pastor of Holy Spirit Church, 1355 Hatch Road, will become the first priest in New York state to serve as president of a Kiwanis Club. The pastor has belonged to the Penfield-Perinton Kiwanis since 1985. His term will run for one year.

"It wasn't the result of a bloody floor fight," Father Bush joked about his election. He added that as presi-

dent, his main goal will be to bring as many interesting speakers as possible to the group's weekly meetings.

More than 200 Kiwanians, friends and community leaders are expected to attend Father Bush's installation at Arena's Banquet Center, 767 Holt Road.

The Penfield-Perinton Kiwanis contribute several thousand dollars to youth programs, health and human service agencies and area volunteer fire and ambulance units.

In a statement honoring Father Bush,

the club's board of directors said:

"Father Bush's presidency will be unique in the history of Kiwanis in New York State. He is an uncommon member of our community, who will be an inspiration to the entire club."

The installation dinner will feature dancing with "The Duke." A cash bar opens at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Reservations and tickets may be obtained by calling 716/482-7032, or 235-2410.

— Rob Cullivan

## Recognizing...

★ Jean Bohoney, appointed director of the St. James Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in Hornell, following the retirement of Loretta T. Haeefe.

★ St. Joseph's Hospital, which announced in conjunction with Joint Education and Training Inc. that E. Ronald Whitehouse, Kenneth Schill and Lawrence Collins recently completed the JET, Inc. Management Certificate Program. In addition, Cindy Berry completed JET's Office Professionals' Certificate Program.

★ Richard Kalinoski, playwright and assistant professor of English at Nazareth College, who won first place in the Fifth Annual South Carolina Playwrights' Festival for his play "A Beast on the Moon."

★ Rochester's Walter J. DeRouen, district deputy for the Knights of Columbus, who was named a Star District Award winner for the 1992-93 fraternal year.

★ State representatives Mary Scott and Shirley Schmoltd and Marion Love, regent of Court 1173 who attended a special Mass and luncheon at the Immaculate Conception Shrine in Washington, D.C., to kick off the 90th-anniversary celebration of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. The three women belong to Penn Yan's Court St. Michael, No. 1173, of the CDA.

★ Brother Thang N. Bui, L.C., who professed vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in the novitiate of the Legionaries of Christ Sept. 4. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thieu V. Bui of Rochester. The profession of vows completes two years of formation at the novitiate and marks an important step on Brother Thang's road to priesthood.

★ Christine Weaderoth, appointed director of the Ambrose Swasey Library at the Divinity School. She will assume the position Jan. 1, 1994.



St. Jude Thaddeus

25th Anniversary  
**NOVENA**  
to  
**St. Jude**  
October 20-28  
St. Jude's Church  
4100 Lyell Road  
Rochester, New York 14606

Mass and Novena Prayers each morning at 9:00 a.m. and each evening at 7:30 p.m. Except for Sunday, Oct. 24th., at 10:00 a.m. All are invited by Father John J. Steger, Pastor, to attend and pray to the Patron of Hopeless Cases and Impossible Causes.

#### CONDUCTING THE NOVENA

Rev. Bonaventure Stefan, OFM, Cap., Anointing of the sick, Monday, October 25th during both services. Main Celebrant of the Mass of Solemn Closing on the Feast of St. Jude, October 28th will be Bishop Dennis W. Hickey. Followed by Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall.

Shut-ins may write for a Novena Booklet. St. Jude Church and Hall are easily accessible to the handicapped. Ample parking.