

Mobile Christians join Jews for Holocaust memorial

Mobile, Saturday, April 16, 1983

"For the first time we have decided as a Jewish community, in our own small way, to share our pain with our Christian brothers and sisters," said a Mobile rabbi.

RABBI STEVEN L. Jacobs, spiritual leader of Spring Hill Avenue Temple, was speaking to an audience of Jews and Christians gathered this week for a

memorial service for the 6 million European Jews slaughtered by the Nazis of German dictator Adolf Hitler in the World War II era.

Traditionally the Holocaust service in Mobile has been for Jews, but this week the Christian participants in the Mobile Area Jewish-Christian Dialogue joined the Jews for the memorial service at the Jewish Community Center.

CANDLES WERE lighted by Jews in remembrance of the dead.

One candle was lighted by **Mary Filben**, a Catholic layperson who is a coordinator of the local Jewish-Christian Dialogue, in remembrance of non-Jews who also were murdered during the Holocaust.

The rabbi said candles are a symbol of God's presence and of the future "of our children."

Jacobs is the son of a survivor of the Holocaust. The rabbi's grandparents and other members of his family died at the hands of the Nazis.

The rabbi read from a statement which has been pledged by himself and other second-generation survivors of the Holocaust, "We are the first generation born after the darkness. Through our parents' memories, words and silence, we are linked to that annihilated Jewish existence whose echoes permeate our consciousness.

"WE DEDICATE this pledge to you, our parents, who suffered and survived; to our grandparents, who perished in the flames; to our vanished brothers and sisters, more than 1 million Jewish children so brutally murdered; to 6 million whose unyielding spiritual and physical resistance, even in the camps and ghettos, exemplifies our people's commitment to life. "We pledge to remember...."

HARRY ZAREMBO, a member of Dauphin Street Synagogue who is a survivor of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Germany, read a poem in Yiddish which he himself composed about the Holocaust.

Among other participants was **Rabbi Stanley R. Gerstein**, spiritual leader of Dauphin Street Synagogue.

The service in Mobile took place as a reported 30,000 people gathered for some events in this week's gathering of Holocaust survivors in Washington, D.C.



Mobile Press Register photo by Sylvia Hart

Steven L. Jacobs, left, and Harry Zarembo