



## Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7

2180 Milvia Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704

PHONE 510-981-7170 FAX 510-981-7177 [kworthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:kworthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us)

### ACTION CALENDAR

April 22, 2008

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Sponsorship of 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Holocaust Remembrance Day event and Approval of Proclamation

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Approve City sponsorship of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Holocaust Remembrance Day event and adopt the Holocaust Remembrance Day proclamation.

#### BACKGROUND:

On May 2, 2008 at 12 noon, in the City Council Chambers at 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, we will be honoring local Holocaust survivor Louis de Groot, along with other Holocaust survivors from the Bay Area on International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Louis de Groot, a Berkeley resident, is the past President of the Holocaust Center of Northern California located in San Francisco. In May 1940, the German army invaded Holland. In November 1942, de Groot and his family went into hiding and were sheltered by various Dutch families. He was separated from his family while in hiding and is the only member of the family who survived. He moved 13 times in the first 13 months while in hiding and another eight times before the end of the war. In 1948, he volunteered to fight for the establishment of the State of Israel and went to Palestine where he joined the Haganah. He served on the southern front, holding back Egyptian Army advances and participated in the breakthrough to the Negev. He returned to Holland to complete his High School education before emigrating to the United States. de Groot has been involved in a number of community organizations and has spoken at countless events from classrooms to lectures about his experiences as a survivor.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE

#### CONTACT PERSON:

Kriss Worthington, Councilmember, District 7 981-7170.

Attachments:

1. Proclamation

## **HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Let us make this day, a day of remembrance of the Holocaust:

- WHEREAS,** We remember with sadness the millions of victims of the "final solution." We remember with admiration the resisters, known and unknown, who risked and lost their lives to save others. We remember with respect the survivors, who escaped or who were freed, and to this very day, live to contribute so much to our world and our city. We remember today to firmly commit ourselves to say NEVER AGAIN; and
- WHEREAS,** We remember today the eleven million people killed by Nazi genocidal policy. It was the explicit aim of Hitler's regime to create a European world dominated and populated by the "Aryan" race; and
- WHEREAS,** We remember that those believed by Hitler and the Nazis to be enemies of the state, were banished to squalid concentration and death camps. Inside the camps prisoners were forced to wear various colored triangles, each color denoting a different group; and
- WHEREAS,** We remember the millions who died for who they were, how they worshiped, what they believed, and who they loved. Victims included Jews, Romanies, Poles and other Slavs, people with physical disabilities, Jehovah's Witnesses, lesbians and gays, the dissenting clergy, Communists, Socialists, and other political enemies; and
- WHEREAS,** We remember the African German children, offspring of German mothers and African soldiers, who were forcibly sterilized due to their mixed race heritage; and
- WHEREAS,** We remember the Holocaust was the state sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jews by Nazi Germany. The Jewish people were marked for total destruction and over six million Jews were murdered; and
- WHEREAS,** We remember, to preserve this shared history of anguish, to keep it vivid and real, so that racism, Anti-Semitism, hatred, persecution and prejudice can be combated and contained; and
- WHEREAS,** We remember this is the 63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Warsaw uprising, where the human spirit resisted against great odds. We remember and by memorializing the past we thereby steel ourselves for the challenges of tomorrow.

**THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY PROCLAIMED,** that we the people of Berkeley will always remember the suffering victims, always remember the courage of the resisters, and always treasure the survivors who are still with us in Berkeley. We join in the worldwide chorus of hope and activism to say never again and to proclaim

### **MAY 2<sup>nd</sup> AS HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY IN BERKELEY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Tom Bates

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Linda Maio

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Darryl Moore

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Max Anderson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Dona Spring

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Laurie Capitelli

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Betty Olds

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Kriss Worthington

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Gordon Wozniak