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Sisters Magda Katzenstein (left) and Katia Gould, Holocaust survivors, talked about their war experiences at the Congregation Beth Israel.

War survivors remember the Holocaust

Sisters are reunited with Torah scroll at Congregation Beth Israel on Yom Ha Shoah

By PETER SAVODNIK
Daily Progress staff writer

Magda Katzenstein remembers the German SS officers tying strips of white cloth around their arms, the distant thunder of Allied artillery, and then a sudden swoosh of English infantrymen pouring into the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp near Hamburg.

This was April 1945. The 23-year-old Katzenstein was motherless, fatherless, stricken with typhus and weighing in at about 60 pounds. She had spent the past few days hauling corpses around the camp, clutching her last few shreds of life.

"I was very weak," Katzenstein said in an interview Friday. "I ran back to the barracks, and I cried, 'We are free! We are free!' And then I collapsed."

On Friday, Katzenstein, now 79, and her sister, Katia Gould, 82, came to Charlottesville's Congregation Beth Israel

to remember the Holocaust — part of Yom Ha Shoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day — the war and the Jewish community they left behind in Frydek-Mistek, a small Czech town near the Polish border.

And they came to be reunited with a Torah scroll they hadn't seen in more than 60 years — the same one that now sits in a glass case at Beth Israel, the same Torah scroll read from so long ago by their father and grandfather.

"He came to the town in 1850," Gould said of her grandfather, a liquor distributor and founding father of the Frydek Synagogue. "We were comfortable, sheltered. — But we were not a particularly observant family. We went to temple only on the High Holidays."

Like many, central European Jews, Katzenstein and Gould's family was well-educated, successful and in many respects typical of the still-burgeoning Jewish merchant class scattered throughout Germany and the former Austro-Hungarian Empire.

By the end of the war, that community had all but disappeared. The large majority had been gassed to death at Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka or elsewhere. Others had escaped to Israel, as in Katzenstein's case, England, as in Gould's case, or the United States.

"A month before my mother was gassed in the gas chambers, Magda was selected by the famous Dr. Mengele," Gould said, referring to the Nazi scientist, Dr. Joseph Mengele.

Being selected as a subject for medical experiments, Gould explained, meant Magda had been spared, at least for the time being. "The women were much tougher than the men," Gould added. "They simply were made of tougher stuff."

Remarkably, not only did Katzenstein survive, but so did her brothers, Herman and Hans, and her sister, Love, who spent the war with her husband, a civil engineer, in a village in Slovakia. Gould spent the war

See HOLOCAUST on B2



Local man selected for education board

Lawyer region's first representative since 1989

By KATE ANDREWS
Daily Progress staff writer

Scott Goodman knows what can happen when the educational system fails its students.

Many of his clients as a criminal defense attorney are among those who slipped through the cracks.

As a new member of the State Board of Education, Goodman is in

able anymore." Appointed in February by Gov. Jim Gilmore, Goodman is an Albemarle County resident and the announcer at Albemarle High School football and basketball games.

"Scott was always interested in education," said Allen Freeman, Western Albemarle High's sports announcer and chairman of the

MADISON develops plans for center

By KERI SCHWAB
Daily Progress staff writer

MADISON — If the city builds it, will the people come? Members of the Madison County Board of Supervisors are asking themselves and other residents that question by going further with plans to build a 22,000-square-foot community center with a 25-yard-long pool.

The plans have been in the works since last fall when an anonymous county resident offered \$1.2 million toward the project.

"A lot of us dreamed of a community center. I don't know if we ever dreamed of a computer size pool," said David Jones, chairman of the county board.

The center would be located on land already owned by the county Board just off Route 68 within one-quarter mile of the county elementary, middle and high schools.

The center would have an indoor, heated, six-lane pool, a 4,400-square-foot multipurpose room for sports, two large meeting rooms, a commercial kitchen, three small meeting rooms, a computer learning lab and a storage room.

There also would be restrooms, which would be added to those using the existing outdoor soccer field.

Jones said the center probably would be staffed by employees during the school day and recreation authority employees after school hours.

Building the center is estimated to cost between \$3 million and \$4 million, and the annual operating cost is estimated at \$170,000.

The project is a joint venture of the Board of Supervisors and the recreation authority.

The center would be the first for any county group since the 4-H Club, church group recreation authority meetings, fund-raisers and events.

Jones said community centers currently take up very little meeting room in the school night of the week.

Consultant Andy M. Drew the site plans, and Jones would benefit the county and the region.

"It could serve a region — trade shows, business meetings, training sessions, reunions or wedding receptions," Jones said.

But before continuing with building plans, the board wants to know if Madison residents support the plan and the possibility of a tax increase to help pay for it.

Jones said the board

...niversity in other
...ously funded.
...want George Mason
...ed university," said
..., a professor in the
...l of education. "We
...rate on undergrad-
...cation."
...ended the munifi-
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...School officials say they have been
...able to be choosier because they are
...getting more and better applicants.
...In 1997, they received 1,640 appli-
...cations for a class of 200; this year,
...they got 2,671.
...Two other Virginia law schools
...made the magazine's top 50. The
...University of Virginia tied for sev-
...enth, and the College of William &
...Mary tied for 34th.

...ll receive friends
...from 7 to 8 p.m. at
...neral Home.

Reynolds

...es for Roy Mason
...at 2 p.m. today in
...st Chapel, Orange.
...I take place in
...y with full military
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Richardson

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...a Dean of Elton;
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...th of Allentown;
...relatives.
...services will be
...in the Graham
...with the Rev.

The family will receive friends
...from 4 to 5 p.m. today at the Teague
...Funeral Home.

The family would like to extend
...their special thanks to Dr. Joseph
...Lowdon, the staff of the Hospice unit
...at Martha Jefferson Hospital, and to
...the staff at Winterhaven Assisted
...Living.

It is suggested that in lieu of flow-
...ers, memorials be made to the
...Hospice of the Piedmont, 1490
...Pantops Mountain Place, Suite 200,
...Charlottesville, Va. 22911; or to the
...Aldersgate United Methodist Church
...Endowment Fund, 1500 Rio Rd.,
...Charlottesville, Va. 22901.

Mary Ellen Terrell

Mary Ellen Terrell, 70, departed
...this life on Thursday, April 19, 2001.

She was born July 23, 1930, in
...Wilkes-Barre, Pa., the daughter of
...the late William Franklin Milligan and
...Alfreda Murray Milligan.

Mrs. Terrell was educated in the
...public schools of New York City and
...Charleston, S.C., graduated from
...North Carolina Agricultural and
...Technical University, Greensboro,
...N.C., and also attended South
...Carolina State College, Orangeburg,
...S.C. She taught for several years in
...the Mt. Pleasant, S.C., school sys-
...tem and for a number of years in
...Albemarle County. She was a mem-
...ber of the First Baptist Church, of the
...Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority,
...and of the NAACP.

Music was her love: to hear her
...sing and play piano and organ was
...quite a pleasure. For many years,
...she was a pianist and organist for
...churches in Charleston, S.C.,
...Charlottesville, Albemarle and

said.

The supervisors will hold a
...public hearing for discussion and
...questions about the center at 7:30
...p.m. May 1 in the high school
...auditorium.

Moses

Continued from B1

save them."

Saufley said the top priority is
...to stabilize the homes.

Professionals from various
...fields have offered their exper-
...tise for the projects, and Saufley
...is searching for grants to help
...fund the effort. Residents have
...offered to donate old apple trees
...and rose bushes, machinery,
...barns and tools.

The final product should be
...homes and gardens in the style
...of the early 1800s. The Moses
...house also might include a muse-
...um dedicated to the artist.

Holocaust

Continued from B1

in London, where she had trav-
...eled to in 1937.

"It's amazing," Gould said of
...her family's good fortune. "It's a
...great exception." Besides
...Herman, who died in 1954, all of
...the siblings are still alive.

At Friday night Shabbat ser-
...vices, Rabbi Daniel Alexander
...seemed very much aware of the
...happy, bittersweet, even miracu-
...lous series of events that led to
...the sisters being reunited with
...the Frydek-Mistek Torah scroll, a
...reunion made possible by the
...Czech Torah Network, Alexander,
...congregant Robert Capon and
...others.

Several congregants dabbed

MS Walk. 1 p.m., Omni
...Charlottesville Hotel. Join the
...walk to fight multiple sclerosis.
...Information, 971-8010.

Dogwood Tennis
...Tournament. Singles play at
...Snyder Tennis Center.
...Information, 924-3791.

Monday

48th annual Pepsi-Cola
...Dogwood Festival Pro-Am
...Golf Tournament. 11 a.m.,
...Meadowcreek Golf Course.
...Information, 977-0615.

Amusement rides. 6 p.m.,
...McIntire Park. Free parking at
...Charlottesville High School.

Tuesday

Amusement rides. 6 p.m.,
...McIntire Park. Free parking at
...Charlottesville High School.

Charlottesville Municipal
...Band Spring Concert. 8 p.m.,
...Lane Auditorium, Albemarle
...County Office Building. Free.

their eyes as Gould spoke about
...her family's tortuous road out of
...the ashes of central Europe.
...Charlottesville Mayor Blake
...Caravati issued a resolution com-
...memorating Katzenstein, Gould
...and Holocaust Remembrance
...Day.

Despite all this remembrance,
...all this history, all this tragedy
...and bloodshed, Katzenstein said
...life in a little town just outside
...Tel Aviv after her freedom had
...not afforded her much opportu-
...nity to think about the
...Holocaust.

"After the Six Day War, there
...were two or three years where
...there were soldiers fallen every
...day," she said, referring to the
...1967 Arab-Israeli war. "For a
...mother, there are other things,
...terrible things."

Goodman

"In the first few meetings