

“My daughter and grandchildren love coming to Fox Run. They’re always asking when they can visit.”



—Phyllis Pazner, Fox Run resident, pictured with daughter Sher



Fox Run in Oakland County is a great choice for retirees who want to enjoy an active, secure lifestyle. Dining, maintenance and 24-hour security are all handled by our expert full-time staff. We even offer on-site medical services, plus continuing care if your health needs ever change. A move here is the greatest gift you can give yourself—and the ones you love.

Learn more about Fox Run’s unique approach to health and wellness. Call 1-800-220-1318 today for your free brochure.



Erickson
LIVING

Fox Run

Add more Living to your Life®

Novi

EricksonLiving.com

 8622639

1884900

metro

'BESA' Celebrated

Exhibit honors Muslim Albanians who rescued Jews during the Holocaust.

We are two women from radically different professions, backgrounds, cultures, ideologies and beliefs who share a passion to bring our opposing communities together. When Stephen Goldman, executive director of the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus in Farmington Hills, called to say he secured the “BESA: A Code of Honor” exhibition from Yad Vashem (the Holocaust Memorial Center) in Jerusalem, we were elated.

So few people in either of our communities — the Jewish community and the Arab-Muslim community — know the story of Muslim Albanians who rescued Jews during the Holocaust.

According to Yad Vesham, “*Besa* literally means to keep the promise. A code of honor. One who acts according to besa is someone who keeps his word, someone to whom one can trust one’s life and the lives of one’s family.”

The Albanians went out of their way to provide assistance, even competing with each other for the privilege of saving Jews. Albania, the only European country with a Muslim majority, succeeded where other European nations failed, according to documents from Yad Vesham.

“Almost all Jews living within Albanian borders during the German occupation, those of Albanian origin and refugees alike, were saved, except members of a single family. Impressively, there were more Jews in Albania at the end of the war than beforehand.”

Besa mirrors one of the guiding principles of our Tectonic Leadership model, being committed to care equally about self and others. We began to think of ways it could be an effective tool to bring our communi-

ties together.

We received a call from Sheryl Olitzky who lives in New Jersey. She was starting Sisterhood of Shalom Salaam, an organization to bring Jewish and Muslim women together, and wanted some insight. She also planned to present the documentary film *Besa-The Promise* at Rutgers with Norman Gershman, the photographer and author, and Majlinda Myrto, one of the most renowned and important leaders of the Albanian-American community in the United States.

Myrto was born in Albania and has lived in the United States since 1993. She is the director of the Eye Contact Foundation, an organization that promotes religious, political, cultural and economic understanding and tolerance among people worldwide. Her in-laws are honored by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among Nations.

Gershman spent four years photographing Muslim families who saved Jews during the Holocaust. His photographs can be found in many public collections throughout the world. The four of us met last fall in New York City.

We saw how the Besa exhibition and our Tectonic Leadership model can work together to engage our communities. On March 9, we are co-sponsoring, along with the Holocaust Memorial Center, the ADL, AJC Detroit, WISDOM and the Voice/Vision Holocaust archive, the Besa exhibition as well as our Tectonic Leadership model for systemic change.

Join us and learn how our Tectonic Leadership model pairs leaders from across divides to face challenges together and find solutions that benefit both communities by building social and business enterprises and creating policies together. □



Brenda Rosenberg
and Samia Bahsoun
Special to the Jewish News

- The Tectonic Leadership presentation and roundtable discussion takes place March 9 from 3-5 p.m. at the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus. Admission is free; light refreshments will be served.
- The Besa photographic exhibit is on view until May 11 at the Holocaust Memorial Center and is free with museum admission.
- The documentary film *Besa-The Promise* will be shown at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 3. Free with museum admission.