

WE DELIVER MORE... EVERY WEEK!



photo by Dawn Clarke

Hadasa Bau's (centre) story about her parents' love affair amid the Holocaust inspired Dakota students as well as teachers Marlene Milne (left) and Nannette Price.

Holocaust speaker shares story of hope with students

By Dawn Clarke
Lance Editor

That Hadasa Bau was even born is a miracle.

But then, it's just one more in a string of miracles that runs through the remarkable story of her parents.

Bau was at Dakota Collegiate Dec. 6 talking to a select group of students about the Holocaust. She told them bits and pieces of her parents' story - their lives before and after World War II and how they survived the concentration camps with their bodies, spirits and love intact.

"My father never lost his love for life or his sense of humour," Bau said. "People I meet who were in the camps with my father said

that when they wanted to feel alive, they went to see him. All the time, he only told jokes."

Students listened intently as Bau described the courtship and marriage of her parents Joseph and Rebecca Bau who met while they were inmates in an internment camp.

Her father, she says, gave up his ration of bread for one week to get two silver tablespoons, which were then made into wedding rings.

The day of the wedding, he wrapped a woman's scarf around his head and walked with his bride-to-be and her mother into the women's camp.

When it became clear that the Germans were searching for him later that night, he climbed an electri-

fied fence to get back into the men's barracks.

"Nothing happened to him, just a little tear in his pants," Bau said. "He waited for shots but none came. It was another miracle."

Her parents' wedding was depicted for a brief moment in the movie *Schindler's List*.

Bau laughs as she recalls her parents' reaction to the Spielberg epic.

"We were so worried that the movie would upset them. But my father said, 'That's just Hollywood. Reality was a million times worse,'" she said.

Later in the war, the Baus were separated. Rebecca went to Auschwitz while Joseph, at Rebecca's urging, was one of the fortunate ones to be transferred to Oscar Schindler's camp.

Providence once again intervened and the two were reunited after the war in Krakow where they had Hadasa.

In 1950, the family immigrated to Israel where Joseph enjoyed overwhelming success as a graphic artist. He also authored the book *Dear God, Have You Ever Gone Hungry?* about the Holocaust.

The book has appeared in several editions and languages including English.

"My father believes that that is why his life was spared. Because he saw everything, and he could paint and write so that the story could be passed on," Bau said.

Joseph still lives in Israel while Rebecca passed away a few years ago.

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