

Holocaust survivor to speak Monday (April 15) at AU

4/11/02

Chana Michaeli, a survivor of the Holocaust who was about 14 when the Nazis took over her native Budapest, will speak about her experiences at 7:30 p.m. Monday (April 15) at Howell Hall. Her talk, sponsored by Hillel at Alfred to mark Holocaust Memorial Week, is free; the public is welcome to attend. The only daughter of a Budapest pharmacist, Michaeli lived a comfortable life surrounded by a close extended family. Although aware of anti-Semitism, the Jewish population of Hungary - which numbered 800,000 in 1941 and is now below 100,000 - were able to make good lives for themselves. Then, in 1944, the Nazis entered Hungary. Michaeli and her mother escaped to a small village to hide, but were turned in to the authorities by a woman who had worked for them in Budapest. They were sent to Auschwitz, a four-day journey in a packed cattle car, and from there, were sent to do forced labor. They returned to Budapest after liberation, but later Michaeli went to Israel. The Jews of Hungary were the last intact European Jewish community; the Nazis had long since deported or murdered Jews throughout the nations they controlled. Ironically, the Nazis focused on Hungary only a short time before the end of the war in Europe.##