



Holocaust survivor to speak at Pacific Lutheran University

By **Seattle Boomer Examiner**, Joan Cronk
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Holocaust survivor, Fred Taucher
Photo courtesy of Washington State
Holocaust Education Resource Center

On Thursday, January 28th, students from the Washington Virtual Academies (WAVA) will have a rare opportunity to hear a Holocaust survivor speak about his experience.

Martha Scheerer, a teacher at WAVA, an

online public school operating within the Steilacoom school district, and her students will hear the presentation given by Fred Taucher.

Taucher, who was born in Berlin, Germany in 1933, will address the middle school students and his story is heart wrenching. Students lucky enough to hear Taucher speak cannot help but be moved by his recollections of the Holocaust.

In November 1938 the Nazis destroyed Fred's father's tailor shop and confiscated his sewing machines, inventory and many other business tools. Taucher's father was arrested in 1943 and deported to Auschwitz.

The woman who served as a midwife for Taucher bravely stepped in, hiding the Tauchers and providing the family with false identification and ration cards. They lived with her for about six months. This woman, a personal friend of Hitler, was a high ranking member in the Nazi Party and, as such, placed herself in great danger in order to safely house the Tauchers.

Taucher's father was later arrested and

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shipped to Sachsenhausen. After a time he was able to escape and return to Berlin, where the family reunited.

Sadly, Taucher's mother was killed when she was trying to get water from a fire hydrant outside a subway station. In 1945, the war in Berlin ended.

Taucher and his brother left Germany for the U.S. in 1946 and in 1951 Taucher joined the Army and was sent to Korea.

The story of the Taucher family is bound to make a huge impact on the middle school students who attend. The talk will be presented at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma. Fred Taucher will be appearing courtesy of the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center in Seattle.

**Seattle Boomer Examiner**

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