

FEATURES

Holocaust stamps top 3 million at FRCS

By Christine Igo Freeman

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When students return to the Foxborough Regional Charter School next Tuesday, there will be a new milestone in the school's well-publicized Holocaust Stamps Project waiting to greet them.

Donors and volunteers have been active during the summer, and the new number of stamps collected exceeds the 3-million mark.

The project began during the 2009-2010 school year and was founded by former fifth-grade teacher Charlotte Sheer. Their goal is to gather 11 million stamps to honor the memories of six million Jews, including 1.5 million children, plus five million other victims of Nazi aggression before and during World War II.

This will be the fifth year that students at FRCS have been collecting and cutting out cancelled postage stamps. Students have already created eight of a planned series of 18 stamp collages, with three more works of art currently in progress. Each collage is an 18" x 24" picture that depicts stories and lessons connected with what students are learning about the people whose lives were touched by the Holocaust.

Students at the FRCS are learning about the Holocaust while working on the Holocaust Stamps Project for a Community Service Learning (CSL) class, which began with teacher ,Sheer and ,continues even though she retired in 2012. Sheer's first fifth-grade class graduated this past June and the first of her fifth graders to work on the Project will be in 10th grade this year.

Sheer may have retired from teaching, but she still remains the heart and soul of the Holocaust Stamps Project. This past summer she dropped off more than 5,800 trimmed and counted stamps to Student Life Advisor Jamie Droste, who now serves as the advisor to the project.

As part of the educational process to raise awareness of the magnitude and impact of 11 million innocent lives lost as a result of the Holocaust, over the past two years FRCS has hosted two guest speakers both of whom are Holocaust survivors.

Two other groups that have also been busy collecting stamps to send to FRCS are the "Little Lick" Stamp Club and the Dover Stamp Club both of Dover, Del.

The "Little Lick" Stamp Club is located at the Kent County Public Library and is open to children ages 8 and older. A while back, Sheer sent out an email to various stamp clubs from around the United States encouraging each club to be the first in their state to contribute to the FRCS Holocaust Stamps Project. The first group to respond was the "Little Lick" Stamp Club with some help from the Dover Stamp Club.

"I think it's very special that a children's stamp club responded to the call," said Sheer.

The total number of stamps sent from Dover to Foxboro is 68,000, and Sheer points out how amazing that number really is. "We collected 26,000 stamps our first year, compared to 68,000 stamps from Delaware," she explained.

For the record, 3,002,897 trimmed and counted postage stamps have been accumulated in the five years since the Holocaust project was born. The number of stamps has doubled since December 2012. \

Save and send your stamps to the following address: Holocaust Stamps Project, Foxborough Regional Charter School, 131 Central Street, Foxboro, MA 02035. If possible, sending them trimmed is greatly appreciated and even better if you can provide a count of how many you are donating.

Visit the newly-updated website to find out more and view photos of the completed stamps collages at <http://www.foxboroughrcs.org/students-families/student-life/frcs-holocaust-stamp-project/>.

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