

Mapping Our Tears

More Reflections from Genetic Counseling Students

“The fieldtrip to the museum was an interesting but sobering experience. It was neat to see the Jewish relics such as the monopoly game that children had created in the midst of a time full of fear and sadness....Even though the Holocaust was such a horrible event and has been portrayed as such by museums I have visited, this museum also stressed the courage and heroism of the Jewish people and those Gentiles who chose to fight against the genocide conducted by the Nazis. Instead of leaving the museum feeling completely drained and sad, I felt hope that there is goodness in people that comes out of extreme adversity. In the future, I would like to take a closer look at the museum, since we only touched the surface in learning about this tragic event.”

“I wish that we could have spent more time at the exhibit. I think that it was a great idea to have this activity as part of (course name). I would suggest that we do something like this once a quarter in both first and second years to learn more about different cultural and religious groups.”

“We see many patients whose families have been affected or even wiped out because of the Holocaust. A better understanding of what those people experienced and feels allows us a better understanding of our clients.”

“I have had a special interest since my trip to the museum in DC. I think it is something that was so horrific and difficult to understand how that could happen that I would like more knowledge about the event and how people felt during this time and afterwards. I think this also gave us some insight into how this event may affect our practice especially when doing pedigrees on families of Jewish ancestry.”

“I felt it was a valuable experience to hear personal stories from the Holocaust. I particularly enjoyed the multi-perspective approach they created by including stories of survivors, rescuers and liberators. The way they wove together different perspectives helped to give a better picture of the whole experience for all those individuals affected by the Holocaust. I have visited the Holocaust Memorial Museum in DC, but found it to be more overwhelming and difficult to process such a large collection of experiences/information. This experience was easier to process and incorporate. I also identified with the fact that many people do not talk about their experiences—my own grandfathers both served in the war; neither has ever talked about his experiences.”

“I thoroughly enjoyed our field trip to the exhibit. Each piece of the presentation had a distinct and profound impact on its viewers. I felt closer to the people involved and their families by being surrounded by their belongings and their individual stories. The testimonials were even more touching considering the people were from our area. I never knew that Cincinnati had such a community of people who were affected by the Holocaust. After visiting the exhibit, I left wanting to learn more....”