

Mayor Rothschild's Remarks at "Deadly Medicine" Holocaust Exhibit – January 23, 2013

Thank you for inviting me here today. I am grateful that Tucson is able to present this exhibit, on loan from the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC.

My wife's parents both served as docents at the Holocaust Museum. My father-in-law had to quit for health reasons, but my mother-in-law continues to volunteer there. Both survived Auschwitz.

In a cruel twist of fate, my father-in-law, who escaped from a death march, now suffers from Alzheimer's. On bad days, in his mind, he is back on that march.

The savagery of the Nazi regime and of the Holocaust itself, I believe, cannot be understood without knowing the history of human experimentation that occurred inside and alongside the death camps.

We must understand what we are capable of as a species to know what we must guard against. This exhibit is a crucial part of that.

It is not easy. It is difficult. It is not comfortable. It is disturbing. But it happened. It is real. If we deny it, we doom ourselves to repeat it.

These victims' cries, perhaps unheard and unpitied in their lifetimes, must be heard, must be pitied, by this generation, in our lifetime, and by all generations to come.

These tyrants' deeds, perhaps unpunished in their lifetimes, must be judged, severely, by this generation, in our lifetime, and by all generations to come.

Thank you for bringing this exhibit, the record of these silent witnesses, to Tucson.