



Marianne Goldstein spoke to students at Hamburg High School.  
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## **Kristallnacht survivor's story moves students**

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Early last month, 20 students returned to Hamburg High School for a fall refresher course of the Summer Institute for Human Rights and Genocide Studies. The event was a follow-up for a week-long seminar attended by 34 students over the summer. The Institute's mission is to educate area youth on human rights legislation in American history and the American response to genocide.

Marian Goldstein, a survivor of Kristallnacht or the "Night of Broken Glass" of 1938, visited Hamburg High School to speak to students about her experiences living in Germany at the beginning of the Third Reich. Students who attended the Saturday event were moved by her accounts of Kristallnacht, a night in which Nazi stormtroopers broke windows and set fire to Jewish businesses and synagogues in cities across Germany. Alex Opiel, of Hamburg High, said, "To hear someone like Marianne Goldstein tell you her story, it motivates you more than reading an article or hearing a statistic."

This is the mission of the seminar, which was started by teachers Drew Beiter of Springville-Griffith Middle School, Stephanie Brown of Grand Island and Lori Raybold and Matthew Meader of Hamburg High.

Over the summer, the group took a trip to the Chautauqua Institution where they heard from three prosecutors from the Nuremberg War Crime Trials. Charlene Higgins, of Hamburg High, recalled her encounter with Ben Ferencz and his appreciation for the students' cause. "It was really meaningful to have someone, who you look up to and who has created so much change, recognize your accomplishments. It motivates you to continue your own efforts to create change."

The students have also heard from Holocaust survivor Joe Diamond; Fidele Diing Dhan, a lost boy of Sudan, and other activists and survivors. The students agreed that the best thing they could do was to take what they learned at the institute and talk about the issues in their schools as much as possible to raise awareness.

The students all have their own ideas on other action. James Burton of Williamsville East wrote a letter to Michael Moore urging him to make a movie about the crisis in Darfur. The students at Hamburg High School bring what they learn back to their Student Activist Club. Seminar participants also hope to join their schools together for a Dance for Darfur in the spring. The event would help raise money and awareness.

Anyone interested in sponsorship or attending the Summer Institute, can visit the Web site at [www.summerinstituteofbuffalo.org](http://www.summerinstituteofbuffalo.org) . *Sarah Attridge is a junior at Hamburg High School.*