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## Holocaust Survivor Addresses Diversity and Adversity at Illinois Wesleyan University

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## **Holocaust Survivor Addresses Diversity and Adversity at Illinois Wesleyan University**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--The Illinois Wesleyan University Student Senate has invited Holocaust survivor Zev Kedem to keynote Anti-discrimination Week, Oct. 30-Nov. 3. Kedem will speak at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 2 in the Main Lounge of Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University St., Bloomington. The presentation is free and open to the public.

According to publicity material, Kedem "demonstrates the amazing capacity of the human spirit to triumph over unspeakable adversity."

Kedem's presentation is entitled "Schindler's List: A Survivor Celebrates Life."

"His presentation may touch on hate crimes today and in a historical context. He will give an overlay on discrimination, and he'll look at how far we've come and how far we have to go," said Kosha Baxi, Issues and Programming Commissioner for the IWU Student Senate.

According to publicity information Kedem's program has been called "tremendously affecting," "informative and inspiring" and "marked distinctively with a sense of miraculous survival."

"We expect that Kedem will move the audience behind ignorance and put them on the road to cultural understanding and healing," said Baxi.

"Too often discrimination becomes a black and white issue," said Baxi. "Kedem reflects on what I think could be the epitome of discrimination in world history, World War II and the Holocaust.

"We want to break people out of the mindset that discrimination only involves skin color and sexual orientation. We wanted to bring someone that transcended the worst consequence discrimination can bring about."

When the Nazi's entered Krakow, Poland, Jews were either killed or sent to concentration camps. Kedem became one of the "lucky ones" when he was sent to Aushchwitz at the age of eight. Kedem lives today because he was on the now famous list composed by Nazi industrialist Oskar Schindler. The survivor was liberated in 1945 at the age of 11 and was then sent to England to live in an orphanage. Kedem later received his engineering degree at Oxford University, Oxford, England.

Kedem has since appeared in Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning film "Schindler's List" and was consulted in the making of the film.

Kedem is a documentary filmmaker. His credits include "Only in Jerusalem" and "The Jerusalem Quartet," a film that has been translated into four languages and distributed to 60 countries. His success in filmmaking brought him to California.

Anti-discrimination week also will include a presentation by Rev. Gregory Dell, an IWU alumnus and Methodist minister who has performed same sex marriages, on Wednesday, Nov. 1 at 11 a.m. in Evelyn Chapel, 1301 Park St., Bloomington. Friday, Nov. 3 will feature a "Journey through South Asia" and will include the dancing, singing and food of the South Asian culture. The event is sponsored by the South Asian Student Association.