

Zion News

"Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you." - Deuteronomy 32:7

Remembering the days of old seems to be a foreign concept to some people today. People are so busy rushing through the present that the past is not considered especially valuable. However, the Bible speaks clearly on several occasions that the past teaches us many lessons about life and who we are.

Young people studying history in school often come away thinking the subject is boring or irrelevant. Hopefully, as we get older, we begin to see the importance of understanding the past.

The Roman statesman and philosopher, Cicero, put it this way, "To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child. For what is the worth of human life, unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors?"

This year as Arthur, Atwood, Hammond, and Lovington are all celebrating the sesquicentennial of their founding, studying a community's history helps us understand how events in the past made things the way they are today.

But history isn't merely a study about others. The people we learn about may have lived decades or centuries ago, they may not be our direct ancestors, and we may not even recall their names, but their actions have directly affected how we live our lives today.

This is true whether your family has deep roots in the community or if you have just recently joined the community. History is about us.

So through lessons from the past, we not only learn about ourselves and how our communities came to be, but hopefully we develop the ability to avoid mistakes and make things better for our communities in the future.

Our past can teach us why some communities thrive while others struggle, why some communities are in constant conflict and others work together, and how people have changed their community for the better.

Whether a community, or a church for that matter, is 50, 100, or 150 years old, there is always something new to learn and try, but there are also lessons from the past that can help us start to see how these new things can happen in the future for everyone's benefit and what would drive that change.

"That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons that history has to teach." - Aldous Huxley, English author and philosopher (1894-1963)

If you would like to receive our monthly Good News email, send a request to ramonacarlyle@yahoo.com.

Zion's Sunday worship services begin at 9:00 AM. This coming Sunday Danny Powell will be our guest speaker. Everyone is welcome.

Sesquicentennial Essay Contest

District #305 Education Foundation is holding a Sesquicentennial Essay Contest.

The four communities of Arthur, Atwood, Hammond, and Lovington are all celebrating the 150th Anniversary of their founding in 1873.

7th grade through high school students of the District are invited to write an essay about: *What does my town's Sesquicentennial mean to me?*

Three prizes of \$100 each will be awarded to the best 7th grade, 8th grade, and high school student essay.

Return your essay of 500 words or less to your principal's office by March 31, 2023.

Essay Contest from page 1

ALAH high school winners at an Honors Day Program on Thursday, May 11.

Grade School winners will receive their certificates and prize money at a program at the Lovington Grade School on Wednesday, May 24. A total of 45 essays were submitted by local students.

The auxiliary units of Arthur, Atwood and Lovington are very proud of each student and their participation in the annual essay contest.

Arthur Public Library hosts Alex Kor

The Arthur Public Library was honored to host a large crowd which very much enjoyed the presentation on Saturday, March 4, by Alex Kor, son of famed Holocaust survivor and forgiveness advocate Eva Kor. Alex grew up in Terre Haute, Indiana and is a podiatrist. The family came to live in Terre Haute because the soldier who liberated the camp where his father, Mickey, also a Holocaust survivor, was held was from Terre Haute. After liberation Mickey kept in touch with that soldier who made it possible for Mickey to come to Indiana. Once there Mickey attended Indiana State University to become a pharmacist and where his P.E. teacher was John Wooden, a name many will recognize. They kept in touch for the rest of their lives. Mickey was also a U.S. veteran of the Korean War.

As for Alex's mother, Eva, she lived in Rumania and was taken to Auschwitz, along with her family, including her twin sister in 1944. There she was separated from the rest of her family except for her twin sister. The two became part of the infamous Joseph Mengele's twins experiments. They managed to survive and were liberated at the end of January, 1945. In 1950 the girls went to live in Israel where Eva joined the Israeli army and Miriam (her twin) became a nurse. Mickey and Eva met in 1960 and were married a few months later. They raised their family, Alex and his sister, in Terre Haute. They lived a relatively normal Midwestern life although they did encounter some anti-Semitism.

In 1978, the mini-series "Holocaust" was aired and this changed things for the family. At this point, Eva became more outspoken about the experiences of Holocaust survivors. Later on Eva and Miriam founded CANDLES which is Candles Holocaust and Muse-



The room was full for the presentation by Alex Kor at the Arthur Public Library on Saturday, March 4.

um Education Center located in Terre Haute. This organization was an effort to locate other Mengele twins who survived. As a result they were able to locate 122 other twins in ten countries and on four continents. The museum opened in 1995. Each year in January the state of Indiana celebrates Eva Education Day where schools are encouraged to read her books and watch documentaries on the life of Eva Kor.

Later in life, Eva Kor became a bit controversial when she took part in a documentary, "Forgiving Dr. Mengele, A Film About Healing." Many did not like this idea at all and she received a lot of criticism but, as recounted by her son, doing that seemed to give her some peace and, as she explained,

she did not excuse what he had done. As she stated, "Anger and hate are seeds that germinate war. Forgiveness is a seed of Peace! It is the ultimate act of self-healing."

The Arthur Public Library has been offering some very in-

teresting programs lately. The staff of the library deserve a big note of thanks for bringing these programs to our town. Also of note is that the library has several books and other material on the life of Eva Kor.



Some of the books and DVDs offered at the Arthur Public Library on the life of Eva Kor, Holocaust survivor.



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