



www.forusa.org

## ☀ Values

- Taking Initiative
- Courage to Stand with Others
- Compassion
- Rallying Support
- Social Emotional Learning

## ☀ Reflection Questions

If you were the Schnitzers, how would you feel about your community--before and after?

What makes people commit hate crimes?  
What ideas do you have for stopping them?

Do you believe people can overcome violence? Is it worth risking one's life for another?

Have you ever helped someone who was victimized because of their religious beliefs?

## ☀ Lessons Learned

Rallying people around a common issue can create a sense of unity in a community.

Courageous acts made by people during the Holocaust can help us stop hate crimes today.

Churches can help people get organized to stop acts of injustice or hate crimes.

Newspapers can help promote cultural healing and can be positive agents for change.

## Shine on In Montana

Tammie Schnitzer

Nyack, NY

When a Jewish mother and her 5-year-old son placed a menorah in their window, someone threw a brick through it. This is the story about how another mother, Margaret McDonald got her church and the entire town of Billings, Montana to stand together against the hate crimes in their community. Asked about the risks of confronting the hate groups, the police said, "There's greater risk in not doing it." In the end, Christians and Jews learned the power of standing together in the face of hatred, overcoming violence with love, and experienced the miracle of the light shining through the darkness.

## ☀ Language Arts: SEL & Diversity

Write a report on the eight major religions and their holidays. Draw symbols for each. Invite students to share their special religious customs and festivals their family celebrate. Invite a Rabbi to discuss the Hebrew culture; describe customs of Hanukkah and Passover. And invite ministers, priests, nuns from other denominations to share culture/ customs. Develop a reading list of related stories from this book and books like Twenty and Ten by Claire Huchet Bishop or videos like the Miracle at Morceaux. Imagine you have an opportunity to ask people why they committed hate crimes. What would you ask them? What might they answer? Create a role-play in small groups with students acting out the "harasser" and the "questioner."

## ☀ Social Studies: Diversity

Investigate the incidence of hate crimes in America. How people are dealing with it? Clip newspaper articles on school violence. Create a class discussion about how to stop school violence. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper about this issue. Study/write a report on how hate crimes tend to increase in times of economic instability.

## ☀ Community Service: Service Learning

Create a special awards day for people who spread "good" in your community. Learn about the Anti-Defamation League's A World of Difference program. 212-885-7700. Work with local churches to create an interfaith activity or to create an ecumenical prayer. The Interfaith Department at the Fellowship of Reconciliation will show you how churches can foster better relations in your community and undermine the appeal of hate groups.



Stone Soup Leadership Institute

stonesoupleadership.org