

Real Bisc. Bk. May 16-90 MN

Students hear the story of a survivor

Schuller, Magda

By LIDIA FERRARI
Staff Reporter

The day she came to Canada, said 66-year-old Magda Schuller, "was the luckiest day of my life."

Schuller, who survived 14 months in the Auschwitz concentration camp, told her moving story to history students at the IndEC South campus Thursday, saying that younger generations need to know about her experience so that it never happens again.

She was 19 when, on Easter Monday, 1944, she was taken to a farm outside her home town of Ujfeherto, Hungary. Three weeks later she was packed onto a railway car with more than 70 other people for the three-day journey to the death camp.

As she stepped out of the car, she saw Dr. Josef Mengele, the infamous Angel of Death.

"He didn't talk," she said. "He just (motioned) left, right."

She said that by doing this, he was choosing

who would go to the gas chamber. Among those people chosen to die were her parents.

A few months later Schuller found her sister, who had been married six months before she was interned.

"She was a very beautiful girl, but when I saw her, she looked terrible," she said. "But to me she was still my beautiful sister."

When the authorities found her sister was pregnant, she too was killed, but not before Schuller was given a chance to say goodbye.

"As long as I live, this will stay with me," she said. "She had a piece of bread wrapped in a kerchief, and she said, 'Magda, where I'm going, I won't be needing this,' and she gave it to me."

"I hope to God nobody will ever live through that," she continued. "How did they do all these things to us? It's something unbelievable."

She said that although many physical and emotional scars still persist, the birth of her two children and her new life in Canada have helped her cope with her memories.



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