businessman who helped more than 1,200 Jews avoid death camps. Schindlers," it was called, referring to the movie Schindler's List, about a Polish us, we came across an article from U.S.News & World Report. "The Other history. Leafing through a stack of old newspaper and magazine clippings he gave big and airy, with murals on the walls and kids always hanging around, talking those teachers who can get students excited about anything. His classroom was coordinator - and a big reason I hadn't pulled out of the contest. He was one of actual person to research. Mr. Conard was the school's National History Day We asked one of Uniontown's history teachers, Norm Conard, to help us find an

were only 29 kids in our graduating class.

knew, no Jewish person had ever attended Uniontown. It was a small school. There parents grew corn, beans and wheat and ran about 300 head of cattle. As far as we and place so far from our own. I'd spent my whole life on the farm, where my play about the Holocaust, mostly because we liked the idea of learning about a time most compelling presentation of a historical topic. We made our project a one-act Day, a contest in which more than half a million students compete to create the Cambers, Sabrina Coons and Jessica Shelton - signed up for National History the beginning of the year at Uniontown High School, three friends and I - Elizabeth It all started with a history project, one activity I didn't drop when Mom got sick. At

than the biggest, bluest prairie sky.

And she taught me that anyone, even a farm girl from Kansas, can live a life wider can shine in the darkness and not be overcome. She helped me find my own light. long ago forgotten her. But the moment I read her story, I realized even a small light sometimes cheated, death with a courage that still rings like a clarion. The world had seemed about to claim my family, I found out about a woman who had fought, and happened that year - something that changed my life. At a time when death and loss freshman year of high school. I would've done it except for something else that Kansas town, helping people like my mom, who was diagnosed with cancer my

grew up. I saw myself behind the drugstore counter in my small changing our lives. Once, I wanted to be a pharmacist when I It started out as a high school history project. It ended up

(Originally Printed In "Guidepost" Magazine) Class Act - By Megan Felt | Farlington, Kansas

Greg (Formerly Known As "Da Baby") Davis ggd ©

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year! Thank you! ggd ©

of our local chapter but you are a member of AARP please consider joining us ... only \$5.00/ directory information (birthday, address/phone number, etc) current! If you are NOT a member And Privileges! Members: Please keep your dues (only \$5.00/year) and membership Attention Readers Of This Newsletter: "Local Chapter Membership" Has Its Rewards

CLASS ACT (Continued): "To my dear and beloved girls, very close to my heart," Irena began. And she proceeded to tell us everything - how she'd talked her way into the ghetto on the pretext of checking for typhus, then smuggled babies out in streetcars, wrapping them like parcels. She described her fear, the agony of persuading parents to part with their children, the bittersweet feeling of arranging an adoption. She had assumed she'd die when the Gestapo arrested her in 1943 and fractured her legs and feet during an interrogation. But members of the Polish underground bribed a guard to set her free, and she lived to retrieve the children's names she had buried in her garden. She tried to reunite them with their parents after the war, but so many had died. She was flattered by our play, but insisted she was no hero. "I did what anyone would have done." She thanked us for the three dollars, which she gave to a Catholic boys' home.

"I hope you will stay in touch," she concluded. I read that letter many times, especially those haunting words near the end: "I did what anyone would have done." Was that true? Would I have done the same thing? How could I, a farm girl with a sick mom who spent most evenings doing dishes and making sure her little brother finished his homework? Irena had blazed out against a horrible darkness. My own life felt pretty dark, especially when Mom came home from chemo. But I didn't feel very courageous.

With Irena's letter, we made it to the National History Day finals in College Park, Maryland. We didn't win, but we did get some coverage in a local Kansas newspaper. Soon, civic organizations were calling, asking us to perform our play, Life in a Jar. We were reluctant at first, until we realized Irena would want us to educate others - and we could use the performances to raise money for her. We took props and traveled to local schools, churches and Rotary clubs, passing a jar for donations. After one performance in Kansas City, a Jewish businessman called. "Would you like to go to Warsaw to meet Irena?" he asked. "I'll pay your way if you come back and talk to my businessmen's association about what you

In May 2001 we were on a plane for Warsaw - the other girls, my mom, whose cancer had gone into remission, and me. When we landed, the Polish press mobbed us. An American correspondent for a Polish newspaper had written a story about our trip. Cameramen followed us to an apartment, where Irena, weak from high blood pressure, sat waiting. We walked down a hall, heard a tiny voice and there she was, not five feet tall, calling our names. We ran to her and hugged her, everyone crying. Feeling the frailness of her body, an exhilarating rush came over me. Irena was a hero. But she was also, just as she'd insisted, a person like anyone else. That's what made her special. Perhaps her acts of goodness were comparatively small - 2,500 saved out of six million killed. But here we were, still feeling their effect. If she, by herself, could do so much, why couldn't I?

Today, nine years later, I'm still asking that guestion. I didn't end up becoming a pharmacist. I helped found a nonprofit organization instead, one that shows schools how to do what we did at Uniontown. It a vocation I could never have imagined. But that's what happens when God moves in your life. A light shines in the dark. And nothing is ever the same again.



Meeting Dates/Time: Wednesday, June 25th and Wednesday, July 23rd (10:00 A.M.) Location: Wellston Center 152 Maple Street | Warner Robins, GA 31093

have a speaker. Instead, there will be bingo with some fabulous prizes. Don't miss this golden you have not been contacted, then 'Come on Down' and join in the eats and fun. We will not normal meeting time. Some of you have been contacted to bring certain items for the picnic. It President's Corner: This month's meeting will be a hot dog picnic in the Wellston Center at our First Week In October: Yard Sale! Potluck Meeting Months: June And September! Mark Your Calendars! "family" (members). "Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

This is a reminder to mark your calendar for **Movember** also. This meeting will be on the third

Special Motice: The September meeting will be on the third Wednesday, September 17" due

to the Special Olympics being held in the Wellston Center on the fourth Wednesday.

Wednesday, Nov 19th , due to Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday.

opportunity to take home a nice prize. (So it says here in fine print.)

sent to Allison Caruso, Harris McMillan and Eddie & Nancy Booth. We wish comfort to all our "Get Well" cards were sent to Grace Jordan and Lottie Kolodziej. "Thinking Of You" cards were

ME CARE

Ruth Peck	56 _ք					
Bernice Fennell	23 rd Maureen E	chols	Տժ _{ւր}	Judson LaRoche	$\Sigma \Sigma_{\mathrm{fp}}$	
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Juanita Smith	3 rd Franki Hodg)e	ųμ	Sarah F. Mofford	8 _{tp}	
Birthdays For June						
			Maureen Echols		0909-896	
Choice Editor/Typist	Greg Davis	1740-818	Betty	Lou Lovain	4777- <u>S</u> 29	
Chaplain	Winona Smith	7669-626	Phyllis	s Blount	7517-996	
Treasurer	Nancy Harrison	922-1526	Suzar	ine Burgess	922-2003	
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Dog/Pot Luck "Meeting!

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