

Impact Statement

Sarah Ciraulo, Grade 12.

Needle in a Haystack, 2017.

Acrylic, ink, watercolor on paper, 11 x 28 Inches.

Mill Creek High School, Hoschton, GA

Unsung Hero: Eugene Lazowski

Eugene Lazowski was a Polish doctor during the time of the Holocaust. During this time period, there was an outbreak of typhus, a disease that causes fever and purple rashes across the body. Any part of Europe that was found to have typhus floating around was immediately evacuated. Lazowski took this idea and put it to work. With his medical background and experience, he decided to do some research on this disease that everyone was so afraid of. I find him to be inspirational because of his scientific breakthrough that he discovered would save many Jews and the various other groups, such as gypsies, homosexuals, the elderly, the mentally ill, and the physically and mentally disabled, affected by the Holocaust and Adolf Hitler's Nazi reign. Lazowski discovered a strain of typhus that would act as a carrier disease, meaning it would show that you were infected with said disease, but you wouldn't get sick from it. This specific strain could mark as a false-positive and lead Nazi soldiers to believe that a particular area was infected with this dangerous disease and was not worth it to be around. Those with this strain would test positive for having the typhus disease and would be immediately quarantined, and abandoned by any outsiders, like soldiers or any sort of medical professionals. Lazowski figured that he could save people with this method and ended up saving approximately 8,000 people by injecting them with this harmless strain and smuggling them away to a safer area. I used symbols of medicine and science to represent Eugene Lazowski's background. The chemical compound shown is the actual chemical make up for the typhus disease. The syringe was used to represent how Lazowski injected this false-positive strain into Jewish people to help "quarantine" them and protect them from Nazi soldiers. There is also an image of the typhus bacteria and how it would appear underneath a microscope. I wanted to use black and white shades and dull colors to show that though this hero helped save people decades ago, this kind of genocide could happen again. Though the colors are muted and seem to be faded, this type of tragedy, sadly, could easily rear its ugly head into the views of mankind again. History tends to repeat itself and mankind is known to revolt. I used textural and rough brush strokes to define the fact that the Holocaust was one of the worst tragedies the modern world has ever seen. I also used blurry imagery in the background to show that this kind of Armageddon is merely a faded memory that sits just around the corner, but could be brought back into perspective. Eugene Lazowski was and still is an inspiration by being able to use his education and skills to protect others, especially when this kind of noble act could have gotten him severely punished or even killed. I hope that Eugene Lazowski's story inspires others to be as brave as he was to stand up for what is right.