

 **US:** Making actions count

# Collecting pennies for his thoughts

By **JAMES D. DAVIS**  
of the *Sun Sentinel*, Florida

ONE penny. One murdered child. One and a-half million pennies. A mass murder made tangible.

Many know of the six million Jews the Nazis killed during World War 2. As a result of the project of a South Florida youth, visitors to the Holocaust Documentation and Education Centre can now grasp the number of children among the victims.

David Broide (13) pushed for about a year to collect the pennies as a bar mitzvah project. The product of his campaign is in dozens of bags, jugs, coin rolls and sandwich bags lining the halls of the Holocaust centre in downtown Hollywood, Florida.

Thus far, 1.2 million of the pennies have been delivered to the Holocaust centre. David and his family plan to have the rest delivered in about a month.

While the centre decided how best to use them, visitors were amazed by the sight, executive vice-president Rositta Kenigsberg said.

"They always say something like, 'So many pennies, so many children'," Kenigsberg said, herself a child of a Holocaust survivor.

"This is amazing. In all my years of Holocaust education, I've never met a young person who did this by himself."

For David, the project is personal: to commemorate his late grandfather Jose Broide, who fought Nazis in Poland as a partisan before emigrating to Costa Rica.

"He was a hero to me," said David, a member of the Beit David Highland Lakes Shul in Aventura.

"I think he'd be very proud of this. And I'm honoured that so many people have contributed."

Donations came from friends, relatives

and classmates at the Hillel Community Day School in North Miami Beach. David also contributed \$1800 from his bar mitzvah gifts.

Passengers on Royal Caribbean cruises also contributed, dropping coins in cans at check-in counters at Port Everglades and the Port of Miami. A vice-president of the cruise line, Craig Milan, is a board member of the Holocaust centre.

The project had other help as well. Crystal Springs Water in Fort Lauderdale provided 40 170-litre jugs to hold some of the pennies. Palindrome Consulting in northeastern Miami-Dade County hosted and maintained David's website, [www.NeverForgetNeverAgain.org](http://www.NeverForgetNeverAgain.org)

Palindrome owner Ilan Sredni is also a grandson of Holocaust survivors. "I think this generation of survivors is going to be leaving us pretty soon. If not for people

like David keeping the memory alive, it will be difficult for my grandchildren to know what happened."

Kenigsberg said a Brinks truck brought the pennies, which weighed 6000lb (2722kg), to the centre on April 9,

two days before Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

David drew less-welcome attention after an early newspaper article about the project was reposted on a Holocaust denial website. Some reader responses carried venom.

The shaken teen suspended the work for about two months.

"That showed me there really is hate out there," he said.

"Then I realised I had to continue. I'm like my grandfather. I stand up for what I believe in."

David is planning another project for the centre: six million pennies, representing all the Jewish Holocaust victims. — McClatchy-Tribune News Service

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— Ilan Sredni



**Money-movers . . . Security guards help David Broide (above) move some of the one and a-half million pennies he has collected. Right: David with bags of pennies at the Holocaust Documentation and Education Centre in Hollywood, Florida.**

PHOTOS: HOLOCAUST DOCUMENTATION AND EDUCATION CENTER

