

# VHM PARTNERSHIP WITH BLUEFIELD COLLEGE EXTENDS EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH ACROSS VIRGINIA

by John Remmers

The Virginia Holocaust Museum recently partnered with the Theatre Dept. of Bluefield College to present the World Premier of the stageplay, “The Torchbearer of Freedom,” in Bluefield, Virginia.

There were five public performances which extended from February 12-16, 2009. The stageplay highlights the war experiences of Dame Mary Sigillo Barraco, an American Freedom Fighter who chose to join the Belgian Resistance during WWII while she was just a teenager.

So successful was the collaboration between staff members and volunteers of the VHM and Bluefield College that demand for another series of performances has been scheduled on April 30th, May 1st, and May 2nd at Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School (BSCHS), located on the Atlantic coastline in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The presentation at BSCHS will include four matinees and two public performances as well as a gallery exhibition in the foyer of the auditorium featuring VHM’s traveling exhibition of the “Torchbearer of Freedom” which profiles the life of Dame Mary Sigillo Barraco.



*Above: Watercolor from exhibit.  
Right: Photographs from the performance at Bluefield College.*

The traveling exhibition had its debut at the VHM two years ago under the auspices of Ms Dianna Gabay, VHM Curator and Director of Exhibitions, and Mr. Al Rosenbaum, VHM co-founder. The stageplay was written by one of our volunteers, John Remmers, and produced and directed by Charles and Rebecca Reese, Theatre and Artistic Directors at Bluefield College.

For coming events and news of future projects in development, please continue to check our website. The mission of the “Torchbearers of Freedom Foundation” is to bring to life heroic profiles of real people through theatrical performances, guest speakers, and exhibition displays. To donate to the “Torchbearers of Freedom Foundation” please contact Dianna Gabay at (804) 257-5400.

