

Offer petition against Nazi demonstration

CITIZENS from all walks of life and across the United States are being asked to sign petitions supporting the residents of Skokie in their peaceful efforts to block a planned Nazi March in the suburb.

The petition was released at a press conference Tuesday by Erna Gans, president of Dr. Janusz Korczak Lodge, B'nai B'rith of Skokie, and Sen. John Nimrod (R-4th), who has been meeting with the lodge and with members of the holocaust survivors' groups in developing the petition and other peaceful responses to the planned march.

Each petition page has spaces for 20 signatures and bears the following text:

"We the people, citizens of the United States, are calling on all freedom-loving Americans from all walks of life and from all religious persuasions to join us in petitioning the President of the United States, the Congress of the United States and the United States Supreme Court to find a remedy that would enable all inhabitants of these United States to live in peace and free from fear.

"WE CALL ON THEM to protect our society from neo-nazism and from ideologies that preach hate and promote hate symbols, so that one-half million Americans and twenty million other innocent people of every race, creed, religion, and nationality who lost their lives during World War II should not have died in vain!"

Petition sheets may be obtained by contacting the B'nai B'rith lodge at 4948 Dempster, Skokie, 60077.

Gans and Nimrod originally announced their intention to offer a petition at a press conference a month ago. At that time they also announced the survivors' decision to hold a peaceful march in Skokie to give Skokians and other Americans an opportunity to march together in pride and solidarity.

The march planned by the survivors is being delayed pending the outcome of suits attempting to overturn the decision of Federal District Court Judge Bernard Decker refusing to ban the proposed march of Nazis wearing swastika armbands.

Nimrod and Gans said they hope for cooperation from churches, civic groups, school associations, and "all other sympathetic Americans" in circulating the petitions, and added they expect several million signatures over the next several months.