

**Professor Ernie Silversmith** has agreed to speak at our B’Nai B’rith breakfast on April 7th and will tell us how his experiences as a boy in Germany at the time of Kristalnacht relate to the Holocaust.

*Abstract follows: From Nuremburg to Baltimore*

Ernst Silberschmidt was born in Nuremburg in 1930. At age 6, he saw some tanks and pieces of artillery outside his grandparents' house, but didn't understand the significance. He had to go to an all-Jewish school; Hitler didn't want Jews contaminating his Aryan schools. At 3 a.m. on November 9, 1938 ("Kristallnacht") several Nazi S.A. men ("Brownshirts") knocked on the door of the Silberschmidt family apartment and smashed almost everything to pieces. They left the children's room (Ernie had a younger sister, Dora) alone.

In January 1939, Ernie and Dora escaped to England; their parents followed in March 1939. When the war started in September, Ernie's dad was interned to Northern England. In 1940, the family sailed to New York, via Jamaica. In early 1941, they moved to Tacoma, Washington, where Ernie completed grades 5-12. He then furthered his education, went to work as a chemist and came to Baltimore in 1967. He's been a Professor of Chemistry at Morgan State University since then. In 1953, he married Eva; they have four children and eight grandchildren. Ernie will discuss how the members of his family reacted to the various events in Germany, England and the United States.