

Yom HaShoah: Never Forget

STUDENTS REMEMBER

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Yehuda was able to interview him. Yehuda spoke about how Dr. Weschler was not a free man the first half of his life, but he never gave up. He rebuilt his family after the horrific Holocaust and made sure to raise his family with Jewish values. Yehuda Weschler's speech was followed by equally powerful virtual presentations by Rabbi Lau and Rabbi Wieder. Inspired by the powerful presentations, the boys all hope to learn from the past—from past experiences and past mistakes—so as to build a better future—together—for *am Yisrael*. ❖

Shalhevet Explores Shoah Through Poetry, Art, And Personal Testimony

In honor of Yom HaShoah, Shalhevet created a beautiful program to memorialize and commemorate those who suffered the tragic ordeal. The pro-

gram began as the students stood for a moment of silence to pay their respects. Tamar Beer, an 11th-grade poet, recited the poem "The Last Butterfly," written by Pavel Friedman, a Czechoslovakian Jew who perished in the Holocaust. Following the recitation of the beautifully written poem, each class was led single-file through the ballroom, which was set up as a memorial. The lights were dimmed and candles reflected over 40 posters depicting the tragedies of the Holocaust. The posters displayed a timeline of what occurred and included pictures and anecdotes. Students read and internalized the calamities and horrors as they made their way through the room.

The students followed the posters up to the sanctuary where they listened to Mrs. Estee Herskovic and Dr. Herb Pasternak, siblings whose father had lived through the Holocaust. They shared his stories, triumphs, and lessons that they learned from him. They told over the

story of how he cut a hole in the bottom of the train to escape and spoke in awe and admiration as they shared how he kept returning to save his sisters and was finally able to hide them in the basement of someone's house. They relayed how he became the head of police at a displaced-persons camp in Ukraine, and lied to the generals in order to leave for a day to go skiing. Their father was tough, positive, and determined to survive. He emerged from the catastrophe with high spirits and, along with his wife, built a strong and beautiful family based on Torah values. Each student was inspired and moved by their stories and events that transpired. ❖

Yom HaShoah Programs For All Ages At Har Torah

Yom HaShoah was observed at Yeshiva Har Torah at all grade levels in a most meaningful way. In keeping with the age-appropriate philosophy of Holocaust education, students in grades 1-4

focused on the concept of memories and shared their own personal memories. At morning lineup, a memorial candle was lit, followed by a short discussion of the significance of the day. Students in grade five delved deeper into the concept of memories and learned about "bystanders and upstanders" as it pertained to the beginnings of the Nazi persecution. They especially focused on the book-burnings and attempts to destroy ideas which ultimately led to the attempt to destroy the Jewish people. Sixth-graders did group research projects on the vibrant, flourishing pre-war Jewish communities in order to gain a better understanding of what we lost.



The parents of the fifth-graders were invited to a readers' theater in each of the fifth-grade classrooms, which described the book-burnings and the American response. Grades five and six and the fifth-grade parents then attended a special commemoration in the *beis midrash* which included words of welcome by Rabbi Menchel, the singing of two moving songs by fifth-graders, the lighting of six memorial candles by survivors Mrs. Ruth Canter, grandmother of Matthew and Jeremy Rosen; Mr. Charles Altholtz, grandfather of Yosaif and Yitzchak Scmeidler; and Mr. Alex Konstantyn, guest speaker. Mr. Konstantyn shared his story as child survivor who, together with his courageous mother, was forced to run and hide throughout the war years until he was able to move to Israel and rebuild his life. Mr. Konstantyn expressed his pride in being Jewish, his gratitude to Hashem, and his sense of victory and satisfaction that Jewish children, including his own two children and his eight grandchildren are living lives of Torah and *mitzvos*.

Fourth- through eighth-graders, using stories, videos, and *she'ilos u'teshuvos*, discussed the meaning of spiritual resistance to inspire them to strive for greater commitment to Torah life and learning, even in the most difficult and challenging circumstances.

Seventh- and eighth-graders were privileged to meet with Mr. Irving Roth, a child survivor of the ghetto, concen-



Rabbi Ephraim Frenkel - Menahel
Mrs. Aviva Zakutinsky - Program Director

Sh'eefa is a part-time, post-Israel seminary located in the beautiful facility of Kehillas Aish Kodesh in Woodmere. We offer various shiurim and programs that take place on Sunday mornings and every night of the week. Sh'eefa provides a warm environment where young women can become inspired, strengthen their hashkafos and volunteer in various local chessed opportunities.

- Inspiring shiurim in hashkafa and halacha
- In-depth textual classes
- Personal appointments and mentoring
- Shabbatons
- Melave Malkas
- Shadchan on premises
- Chai Lifeline "big sister" after school programs
- HAFTR chavrusah mentoring program
- Opportunities to help families cook for Shabbos
- Various outreach/Kiruv programs and events

FREE SHIUR

If you've never been to Sh'eefa before, this coupon entitles you to a free shiur!

To be added to our email list or for more information please feel free to call or e-mail us anytime: info@sheefa.org • 516.6.SHEEFA ext.2
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Cost for this shiur: 1 punch on your Sh'eefa punch card or \$7
All shiurim take place at Kehillas Aish Kodesh
894 Woodmere Place, Woodmere

Please join us this Sunday
April 26th
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