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KRISTALLNACHT PROGRAM AT RKYHS MARKS THE 78TH ANNIVERSARY

On Wednesday, November 9th, the students of RKYHS commemorated the 78th anniversary of Kristallnacht. The program was run by Rabbi Dr. Sacha Pecaric, together with RKYHS students. After a moving musical opening by Sam Sherscher (RKYHS 2017), Rabbi Dr. Pecaric began the program by taking the audience on a virtual tour of the world's most beautiful synagogues, allowing the audience to reflect on the sanctity and beauty of a makom tefillah, and to mourn the destruction and desecration of approximately 1,200 synagogues on November 9th and 10th, 1938. The program also focused on the legacy of Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, z'l, and his mandate that "for the dead and the living we must bear witness." The audience also watched a brief documentary film about Kristallnacht, that included personal testimonies from survivors of the event. Rabbi Dr. Pecaric concluded by discussing the legacy of Irving Bunim (R' Rubin's grandfather), who worked tirelessly during the war to try and save the Jews of Europe, highlighting the ability of every individual to make a difference.

Afterward, five RKYHS students (Eden Mendelsohn, RKYHS 2017; Sophie Schanzer, RKYHS 2020; Matthew Plotsker, RKYHS 2019; Michal Schechter, RKYHS 2018; and Elisheva Feldman, RKYHS 2017) spoke about what Kristallnacht means to them, reflecting on themes like family, the importance of fighting injustice, and the State of Israel. The program was concluded with final remarks by Rabbi Rubin, and the singing of Hatikva, led by Jonah Braverman (RKYHS 2018).

