COMMEMORATING THE HOLOCAUST AND REMEMBERING HEROISM

RKYHS and JKHA Middle School brought students together for Yom HaShoah to hear inspiring stories of survival, to remember those who were murdered and to honor those who survived. RKYHS students heard from Mr. Michael Zieger, a child survivor who fled Nazi persecution and lived for two terrifying years in unspeakable conditions under the barn of a selfless righteous gentile in Poland. Holocaust survivor Sonia Klein spoke to Middle School students and shared her miraculous story of survival. Ms Klein was transported out of the Warsaw Ghetto, and was taken first to Majdanek, then survived three more concentration camps, including Auschwitz/Birkenau, as well as a grueling three month death march. Both speakers emphatically imparted their message to the students to remember their stories, especially long after their generation is gone, and to stand up to hatred and not stay silent.

After the speaker in RKYHS, there was a screening of the film The Trial of Adolf Eichmann, followed by a tribute to all those that perished in the Holocaust led by student and faculty representatives reading poems, essays, and songs in Polish, Russian, Hungarian, French, and Hebrew, then translated into English.

The programs in both divisions concluded with the singing of Hatikvah, side by side with the survivors.