

North Shore Hebrew Academy's virtual presentation of
NAMES, NOT NUMBERS ©

A Holocaust Memorial Film Project by the
North Shore Hebrew Academy Middle School



JUNE 11, 2020 | 19 SIVAN, 5780

PROGRAM

Welcome

Rabbi Dr. Jeffrey Kobrin
Rosh HaYeshiva / Head of School

Premiere Presentation

Names, Not Numbers: A Movie in the Making

Student Thank You to the Honorees

Concluding Remarks

Mrs. Lisa Guggenheimer
Coordinator and Instructor



THIS PROJECT WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF:

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Rosh HaYeshiva / Head of School

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Director of Institutional Advancement

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*Producer and Creator of
Names, Not Numbers**

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Videographer, Instructor

Mr. Brandon Pro,
Videographer

Mr. Daniel Paisner,
Interviewing Techniques

Dr. Paul Radensky, Senior Director for
*Education at the Museum of Jewish
Heritage*

Dr. David Pelcovitz,
Emunah Session

Miss Hannah Goldman,
Artwork

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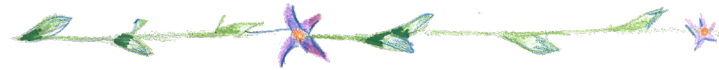
Omid & Shirley Rahmani
Evan & Jessica Shusterman

THE PRODUCTION PROCESS

Since the beginning of the school year, 8th grade students have been working with professionals, including a Holocaust educator, author/journalist and filmmaker on the production of a Holocaust documentary film titled "*Names, Not Numbers: A Movie in the Making*".

The film presents the personal stories of Holocaust survivors and touches upon each individual's life before the war, as well as his/her experiences during and immediately following the Holocaust. The documentary is premiered to the public and archived for future generations in the National Library of Israel at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Mendel Gottesman Library of Yeshiva University and at Yad Vashem.

HONORING OUR PARTICIPANTS



ASSEMBLYMAN ANTHONY D'URSO

INTERVIEWED BY: ODED AZARAHIAN, AARON BASAL, MAYA HADJIBAY, TALIA NITZANI AND SAMUEL RAHMANI

RACHEL EPSTEIN

INTERVIEWED BY: CATIE AHARON, EMILY BEYDA, HANNAH FELTSCHREIBER, MICHAL KALATY, ADELLE MONAS AND SIMONE SHATZKES

JOSEPH HECHT

INTERVIEWED BY: RYAN ELLIS, ELI GELBERG, NOAH KERBEN, JORDYN ROSENBERG AND KIRA WALLENSTEIN

WERNER REICH

INTERVIEWED BY: HANNAH GOLDMAN, ZECHARIAH LICHTER, ILAN REICHLIN, LOIS RIFKIN, EVE SHUSTERMAN AND GAVI SPINNER

RENE ZUROFF

INTERVIEWED BY: BENJAMIN ABIZADEH, RAQUEL BASALELI, TZIPORAH ILYAYEV, ARIEL REISS, ABIGAIL SETAREH AND MATTHEW SHLOMO



BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1939, in the Lazio region of Italy, Assemblyman D'Urso is an honored member of the Righteous Among the Nations. At just 6 years of age, he was given the remarkable responsibility of being the lookout while his father hid Jews in the mountains of Lazio. Risking their lives daily to help people they barely knew, he and his family saved the lives of 12 Jews during the Holocaust. At age 21, D'Urso immigrated to the United States. Though it was a struggle, he finally learned the language, and with hard work, he received both a Bachelor and Master of Science degrees, went on to pursue a career in politics where he continues to serve the residents of New York State. Assemblyman D'Urso and his wife Maria live in Port Washington. They have four children and 6 grandchildren.

TEAM REFLECTIONS

Names, Not Numbers is a very important program that helps us learn about the encounters of those who were in the Holocaust. Even though we learn about the Holocaust in school, during the Names, Not Numbers program we learn, in great detail, what happened to specific people, and the stories the survivors share serve to paint a portrait of their struggle. Although a challenging endeavor, we were fortunate to be made privy to the remarkable stories Assemblyman D'Urso shared with us. We have come to realize how truly fortunate we are and hope to encourage others to appreciate the lives with which they have been blessed.



RACHEL EPSTEIN

BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1932 in Saint-Quentin, France, Rachel Epstein survived the Holocaust as a hidden child. When the Germans came to her town, her parents were arrested and sent to Auschwitz where they perished. She and her brother were taken in by their non-Jewish neighbors who treated them as their own while risking their lives and those of their children. After liberation, Mrs. Epstein was reluctant to leave her home and emigrate to America because she had grown to love her adoptive parents. Mrs. Epstein currently lives in New York. She has two children, four grandchildren and a great-grandson.

TEAM REFLECTIONS

As the last generation that will be able to speak, one on one, with a Holocaust survivor, we understand the importance of this invaluable opportunity. Having been given the chance to more thoroughly understand the dark reality that is the history of the Jewish people, it is now our responsibility to pass along these tales of unimaginable horror and heroism to future generations.



JOSEPH HECHT

BIOGRAPHY

Joseph Hecht was born on April 10th in Ruscova, Romania. He survived Auschwitz, Birkenau, Lagisha, Buna, Flossenbug as well as the infamous Death March. After being liberated by American troops on April 23, 1945, which served Mr. Hecht was transported to Feldafing, a displaced persons camp, which served as his home until he finally received the necessary papers for his emigration to America in December of 1947. He was one the only one of five children to survive the Holocaust. Today he lives in Brooklyn, New York and has three children, seven grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

TEAM REFLECTIONS

Learning about Mr. Hecht's experiences during the Holocaust, has taught us not to take our everyday lives for granted. We now understand the importance of studying this tragic period of our history so as never to forget the courageous actions of its survivors. Despite the horrors that Mr. Hecht was forced to face, he stood strong and remained hopeful. We are very thankful to have had this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to interview a Holocaust survivor in hope of bringing awareness to his legacy.



WERNER REICH

BIOGRAPHY

Werner Reich was born in 1927 in Berlin, Germany. In 1933, Mr. Reich and his family escaped to Zagreb, Yugoslavia, but was captured by the Gestapo in May 1943. He survived imprisonment in Theresienstadt, Auschwitz II, Auschwitz I, Mauthausen as well as a seven day Death March. On May 5th, 1945, while at Mauthausen in Austria, Mr. Reich was rescued when American forces liberated the camp. He returned to Communist Yugoslavia where he found no family and very few friends. After two years, Werner escaped to England and eventually worked as a tool and die maker. In 1955, he married a Czech Kindertransport Kind, one of the children saved by Sir Nicholas Winton, and moved to the United States. He now lives in Commack, New York, and has two sons and four grandchildren.

TEAM REFLECTIONS

As the last generation that will be given the opportunity to speak face to face with a Holocaust survivor, we understand the significance of the time we have shared with Mr. Reich. It was an incredible honor to have been entrusted with the responsibility of passing on the details of his tragic story. Mr. Reich's experiences have given us a greater sense of appreciation for our own circumstances and remind us to never take our lives for granted.



RENE ZUROFF

BIOGRAPHY

Rene Zuroff was born on August 2, 1936, in Skala Poland. Rene and her family miraculously survived the Holocaust, hiding in the woods, cellars, attics and even in underground storage holes meant for potatoes. In 1944, Ms. Zuroff and her family were finally rescued by Russian soldiers and lived behind the Iron Curtain for the remainder of the war, at which time she moved to Vienna where she resided until her emigration to the US in 1950. She pursued a career in education, earned two master's degrees and worked as a high school teacher. Ms. Zuroff has two children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

TEAM REFLECTIONS

As the last generation that will have the opportunity to personally interact with a Holocaust survivor, we understand the importance of our responsibility to future generations. Ms. Zuroff's story of commitment to her faith in Judaism has inspired us to look within ourselves and encourage others to live a life guided by the words of Torah.



For more information on
Names, Not Numbers®, please visit
www.namesnotnumbers.org