

Rambam Record Parshat Chayei Sarah

Commemorating Kristallnacht Through Education and Action

This year students from Rambam Mesivta reinforced their knowledge of the Shoah with an assembly about Kristallnacht. After the Harmonides, led by Eli Deutsch, set the tone with a moving rendition of "Ani Manim," Principal Rabbi Yotav Eliach provided context and showed a brief documentary film on the horrific events that took place on November 9th and 10th, 1938.

Rabbi Zev Friedman, Rosh Mesivta of Rambam, commented on "The calculated German plan to test the reaction of the world and on the silence that ensued."

Afterwards, students began preparing to translate their history lesson into action. "Learning about History is always important and it becomes much more meaningful and real when you actually use your knowledge of the past to influence the present," said Associate Principal, Mr. Hillel Goldman.

Students broke up into groups and began making posters in anticipation of a rally to protest the continued presence of a Nazi concentration camp guard living in the United States. Jakiw Palij has been a guard at the notorious Trawniki killing camp and participated in the brutal massacre of the 6000 confined Jews in one 24 hour period, in November 1943. Palij gained entry into the United States by concealing his Nazi past, lying to Federal officials. He lived under the radar for many years collecting Social Security and enjoying all the benefits of American society. Eventually his lie was exposed and after extensive trials and appeals, he was stripped of the citizenship and ordered deported in 2004.

Unfortunately, no country agreed to accept him. Neither Poland or the Ukraine, where the murders took place, accepted the US request to take him back. This case continues to remain in limbo, relying on a technicality, something that frustrates students at Rambam.

They have been campaigning relentlessly to have him removed and shipped to Germany. Protesters assembled outside of his house chanting "No SS in the US"; "Your Neighbor is a Nazi"; and "Kick Him Out!" The media was out in full force for the story. News of the rallies have traveled around the world through the Associated Press. Reports reached San Francisco and even Australia.

Students then boarded buses and headed to the German Consulate in Manhattan where the protest continued. Assemblyman David Weprin issued a statement commending Rabbi Friedman and Rambam Mesivta for their tireless efforts and spoke about what an affront it was to Jackson Heights, one of the most diverse

neighborhoods in the world, to be harboring someone whose values were antithetical to what the neighborhood stands for.

Councilman Bruce Blakeman also spoke at the rally and read a statement of support from Congressman and Peter King stating that he is committed to sending Palij out of the country to face justice.

Ninth grade student Joseph Schwartz read a letter of support from Congressman Suozzi and sophomore Avi Balsam shared his letter of support from Congressman Crowley. Abie Hersch read a letter of support from Congresswoman Rice while Avi Koenig read bipartisan letter signed by 29 members of New York State Delegation. Senior Akiva Schuck also read a statement of support from Congressman Peter King.

Mr. Hillel Goldman, Associate Principal of Rambam, spoke about the world's silence during the Holocaust and forcefully stated "We Will Not Stay Silent," demanding that Germany "Take Him Back" which was followed by chants of that very theme.

The finger was pointed squarely at the German government demanding that they take Palij back. Rabbi Friedman cogently asked the crowd:

"Who gave him the gun..." in unison they responded "Germany!"

"Who gave him the bullets..." again the answer was "Germany!"

"Who gave him the uniform..." and the students shouted, "Germany!"

"Who gave him the training..." and the crowd answered, "Germany!"

"Who gave him the orders..." and again they declared, "Germany!"

"Who bears ultimate responsibility..." and, once more, they thundered, "Germany!"

Afterwards, officials from the German Consulate came down to the rally organizers and when asked whether they felt at least the moral responsibility to take him back...they admitted that they had no answer...





Rambam Sports Off to a Great Start!

The Rambam Ravens Varsity Basketball and Hockey teams are both off to undefeated starts!

The Hockey Ravens won games on Monday night and Wednesday night against Ramaz and YDE respectively. The Ramaz game was a back and forth thriller with the Ravens etching out a 6-4 victory. With two goals apiece by Ethan Selevan and Jacob Korman and one goal by Joe Wertman and Benny Csillag, the veteran players really carried the load.

On Wednesday night, Rambam beat YDE by the score of 3-0. Another two goals by Ethan Selevan, and one by his line-mate Jacob Linder- all in the second period- and a beautiful shutout by Yoni Grossman brought the Ravens to 4-0 on the season.

In basketball, the Ravens are off to a 3-0 start by winning some great games this week. On Monday night, Rambam beat Flatbush by the score of 64-51 in overtime in one for the ages. Eli Hanuka was the star of the show as he scored 30 points for the Ravens including a buzzer beater before halftime and a game tying 3 pointer with 4 seconds left to force overtime. In overtime, the Ravens held Flatbush scoreless while flying to the victory.

On Wednesday night, the Ravens crossed the street and played HAFTR in a highly anticipated matchup. The Ravens took the game by the score of 45-32.

The Raven Reigns Supreme!

By: Gavriel Haviv (12th Grade, Editor)



Rambam Blood Drive

On October 30th students of 11th and 12th grade came together to donate the gift of life at the first triennial Blood Drive of the school year. It was a great day as one third of those who were eligible to donate in the school donated. The Blood Drive started at 12:15 and while the participant was waiting he was comforted by both the staff of the New York Blood Center and the coordinators of the Drive. After they donated they received nice refreshments, which included water and cookies, while they built up their strength to go back to class. With the help from our friends at the New York Blood Center at 5:15 when the Blood Drive ended, we were able to save 2 lives, and hopefully in the future we will save many more.

Rambam Mesivta has a long history of running Blood Drives and they have been awarded the prestigious "Hero-Globin Award" eight years running for all of their efforts.

By: *Charlie Grill (12th Grade)*

