

# Learning from the Holocaust

*Carmel prepares for Holocaust Day on April 4th*

Joe Longo | News Editor



Holocaust Survivor Helen Rappaort speaking at Carmel last year  
(submitted by j. schuster)

Although the Holocaust and World War II occurred nearly 70 years ago, we still recognize the impact it has left. Carmel is currently preparing for our own Holocaust Day on April 4th.

While trying to find a successful alternative to International Day, history teacher James Schuster and Principal Lynne Strutzel came up with the idea on a Holocaust remembrance and learning day. "This event came to be knowing that we wanted a common learning project," Strutzel said. "We determined that Holocaust Day would be very valuable for the students to examine history."

Although the exact details on what will occur on Holocaust Day are still in flux, the idea is that every class would have some sort of Holocaust-related material. Ranging from viewing videos in math, to discussion of diet and starvation of the Holocaust camps in health, to analyzing

the results of the Mengele experiments on twins in science, students will find a deeper understanding of what went on from a variety of angles. Also, for the social studies classes, speaker Danny Spungen will hold a presentation in one of the gyms. Spungen, who also presents to the Holocaust class every semester, will bring a larger, more expansive exhibit of artifacts from the Holocaust.

In addition to Spungen, two survivors of the Mengele experiments will speak and serve as a panel discussion at both an

after-school and evening presentation in the auditorium. Although both Helen Rappaort's and Eva Keor's twin siblings have died, they are the only two living women survivors of the Mengele experiments in the United States. Due to limited seating and an expectation of high attendance, two presentations will occur. The first presentation will be held directly after school on April 4th for students who wish to see Rappaort and Keor through a ticket system. The second will take place later in the evening for students who did not get to attend the presentation after school, as well as an invite for families and the greater Carmel community to see the speakers.

Both Schuster and Strutzel want students to understand the importance of the history of the Holocaust. "It is a terribly important lesson to recognize what goes on in this world and where we fit into this and how we need to react to it," Schuster said, who not only teaches the Holocaust class, but is also Jewish and has a personal and cultural interest in the topic. For Schuster, the opportunity to have Holocaust speakers, alongside with an alternative to International Day, was the reasoning behind the push of a Holocaust Day. Strutzel then took the idea to the administrative team and department heads who all fully backed the idea. "The department chairs were all very supportive of the [ideas]," Strutzel said. "Their indication to me was that this is a great idea and much more manageable than International Week."

Strutzel hopes that students will take away something meaningful from the day. "We want to challenge our students always to walk outside of themselves and to really understand the human dynamic," Strutzel said. "To know what greatness can come from the human being, [but] also the lowest level of behavior that can come [as well]."

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- Mr. James Schuster

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