

holocaust remembrance religious school guest speaker... robert geminder



On April 30, the LBT Hebrew School students heard first-hand what the horrors of the Holocaust were like for survivor Robert Geminder, who spoke to the children at the close of Wednesday afternoon classes. An engineer, by training, and currently in his “second career” as a science and math teacher, Bob calls this “his busy period” as he speaks each year during the week of “Yom HaShoah” to schools and colleges throughout Southern California.

The students listened intently as Bob detailed a childhood in Poland that was unfathomable during the years from 1939-1945 when he was essentially “hungry for six years.” He attributes the fact that he survived World War II Poland primarily to a huge amount of “luck” and a very smart mother who was able to sneak Bob and his brother out of the soon-to-be-liquidated ghetto by hiding them under her and a friend’s long skirts.

By hearing Bob’s tale of heartbreaking loss and harrowing escapes, Yom HaShoah became meaningful for the students. In fact, they had so many questions that Director of Education, Avram Mandell, remarked, “We could have been there for another 30 minutes at least... Many students were talking about [his] story in the car-pool line and to their parents as they got into their cars.”

By telling his story, Bob makes sure that we never forget; and in the process, he changes lives.

