

We Will Always Remember
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I am currently an eighth grader at A.E. Wright Middle School in California. My Bar Mitzvah was on December 9th, 2006 and I shared it with my sister.

Hello, I am a seventh grader at the same school as my brother. For our B'nai-Mitzvah project we wrote a book about how our grandparents survived the Holocaust. Our grandfather is from Germany and our Grandma was from Hungary.

It all started when our temple required that we perform a mitzvah project. Honestly, we were so busy with school, scouting and sports that we really weren't that into the idea. So we decided to collect books for BookEnds, an organization that organizes book drives to recycle children's books to create libraries for children in schools, hospitals and youth organizations. We planned to ask our family and friends to bring books to our B'nai Mitzvah because we knew it was a good cause, but also that it would be a pretty easy project for us.

Then, at the end of June of 2006, our grandma Julie passed away. During her shiva, our parents showed the video tape of her interview with the Shoah Foundation. We started to ask many questions about her life in Hungary, and how she survived the Holocaust when all of her family was murdered by the Nazis. That's when we came up with the idea of writing a book and distribute it at our B'nai Mitzvah. Since Grandma promised to be at our B'nai Mitzvah, we felt that, in a way, this would have her be with us. Although the book is a dedication to her, we decided to include our grandfather's fascinating story. He was part of the Kindertransport, which saved his life, while his parents had to escape to Shanghai, China in order to survive.

As part of our research for the book, our parents brought us to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. This experience truly moved us. It was then that we felt how important it was for us to contribute our story to help people not forget that over eleven million people were killed during the Holocaust because of intolerance. This visit challenged us to explore the

meaning of tolerance and to look for a way to help people learn to take responsibility for their actions. We believe that only then would people be able to live with people of different races, religions and beliefs in peace. We feel that our book can make an impact on kids our age and maybe even their parents. People need to remember what happened in World War II. At our school, it seems that only about half the kids know about the Holocaust. Since we have written this book, we have gotten people at our school to start talking about the Holocaust.

At our B'nai Mitzvah, our Rabbi introduced our book to our family, friends and congregation. Because nobody except our parents knew about the book, it was a huge surprise to everybody. As an extra bonus, people donated their used books to the BookEnds project, too.

For an ongoing way to honor our grandparents, we came up with the idea of giving our profits of the sale of our book to The Blue Card Fund, a national charity that provides financial assistance to needy Jewish survivors of Nazi persecution. What a nice surprise it was to have people send us checks made out directly to the Fund. We also hope that our book will bring much needed attention to this worthy charitable organization.