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**\*\*\*Interview and Photo Opps\*\*\***

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**93-YEAR-OLD MARIN COUNTY HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR SHARES  
STORY AT REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

**CHABAD OF CENTRAL MARIN HOSTED REGINA RUMMEL  
TO SHARE EXPERIENCES & LIFE LESSONS FROM WW2**

**LARKSPUR, CA** – The Holocaust was the topic of discussion at a recent Redwood High School event, when 93-year-old survivor and long-time Corte Madera resident Regina Rummel spoke to students and staff. Addressing 500 attendees, Regina recalled her childhood experience in Nazi-occupied France, the brief pockets of joy and also the harrowing experience of discrimination and antisemitism her family encountered firsthand.

“Wouldn’t you be scared if you were a Jew and in France during WW2, with the Germans moving in to pick you up to send you to death camps, and wanting to kill you?” Rummel told the students in late February. “Wouldn’t you be scared?”

Throughout the speech, Regina spoke of her life as the daughter of a Jewish tailor living in Paris before her family’s move to the south of France amid rising antisemitism. “I was born in Paris, France, 93 and a half years ago. And I remember the neighborhood, it was a Jewish neighborhood... My father, who was a tailor, made beautiful women’s suits. And he was very good at it,” she recalled.

She painted a picture of fond childhood memories before the war, as well as the stressful period during the German occupation when it wasn’t safe to be a Jew. Regina and her family were never in a concentration camp, but survived by hiding in the South of France. At first, they lived in a home with other Jewish refugees, where Regina had to share a single bed with a stranger.

“We didn’t have special surroundings like a beautiful house and the luxuries that you guys have in Marin County. We didn’t need any of that. All we needed was a place to put our head, a piece of bread and maybe a piece of chicken.”

Afterwards she described how her family hid for over a year in a barn owned by a gentile family which was filled with animals, as well as her family's journey to the U.S. following the war.

"This is the first time she has shared her story publicly," said Rabbi Mendel Misholovin, director of [Chabad of Central Marin](#) and organizer of the event. "With rising antisemitism in our society, it's so important for young people to hear her story while they still can."

Regina shared how the Nazi ideology targeted all Jews, not only outwardly-presenting or Orthodox Jews. "I'm not observant, But do you think it made any difference to Nazi Germany? A drop of Jewish blood in your vein and you're gone," she said.

However, Regina spoke of how at the toughest moments she turned to faith. "When the Nazis were getting close, I used to pray...Even though I didn't know anything about God. Well, I didn't know who else to ask. I said, 'please make this war end.'"

This speech carried extra significance in light of an incident in 2020, when an [Instagram account](#) allegedly created by Redwood High School students called on classmates to "unite in antisemitism" and was investigated by local authorities as a hate incident.

Following the talk, one teacher asked her students to write their responses and reactions to the speech. One student wrote "things that happened to Jews back then are happening now." Another said she learned to "always be kind. Be generous to one another, no matter your religion and beliefs."

Regina has resided in Marin County for over three decades, however she hasn't shared her story previously because she felt it was not unique. Now she now believes it's important to share her story so that young people learn the lessons of the Holocaust and the dangers of extreme ideologies. She encouraged them to visit the U.S. Holocaust Museum and to educate themselves and promote a more understanding world.

"Having known Regina for several years now, her story continues to move me," said Rabbi Misholovin. "I visit with Regina around twice a month and I'm inspired by the gratitude she has to live as a free and proud Jew in America."

At the speech, when Regina inquired whether she had had an impact on the students, the rabbi said "you're planting seeds which will sprout in the future". The audience laughed when Regina replied "but I won't be around to water them; that's your job."

**RECAP:**

**What:** 93-Year Old Holocaust Survivor Shares life story with 500 High School Students

**Where:** Redwood High School, 395 Doherty Dr, Larkspur, CA 94939

**Interview Opportunity:** Speak to Regina Rummel or Rabbi Mendel Misholovin about the speech at Redwood High School and her Holocaust survival story.

**About Chabad of Central Marin:**

Chabad of Central Marin was founded in 2020 to serve the local Jewish community. They are dedicated to building on the philosophy and mission of Chabad-Lubavitch by providing Jewish communities the education and resources they need in order to celebrate their culture and engage in Jewish practice in an easy and accessible way.

After the Holocaust, the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory, transformed Chabad into a worldwide movement, dedicated to caring for the spiritual and material needs of all Jews, wherever they could be found.

For more info, please visit: <http://www.jewishcm.org/>