

# SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## Office of the Superintendent

December 21, 2023

This is an excerpt from what Dr. Barry Haines shared with TMS students:

My own great grandmother met her death at Auschwitz. My own mother, a Jewish Holocaust survivor, was 14 (the same age as Anne Frank) when the Nazis stole her childhood in Germany and forced my grandfather to sell his successful furniture business to bribe the Nazis and escape to Honduras.

A few years later, they immigrated to America where my mother met my Canadian/Scottish father, they married, and they had two children.

Thus, I was born into this world by a rage-filled, tormented mother filled with Nazi demons. I will always believe that Hitler's Germany robbed me of a normal childhood, and I realized this pretty early on, such that - lacking a nurturing mother at home - I sought nurturing through other adults in my world, and I was so fortunate to find them in the many caring, supportive teachers that I had growing up. They literally saved me.