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## MN Students Learn Real Living History Stories From Residents At Martins Run



**Martins Run resident Ethel Hamburger (right) related stories of her life as a teacher with Marple Newtown High School student Lufei Tu.**

*Photo by Anna Deacon*

### By Leslie Krowchenko

As a teenager, Anne Grossman was advised the best thing she could aspire to become was a teacher.

Her desire, however, was to be a lawyer.

Joined by fellow residents of Martins Run, Mrs. Grossman related stories of her life, April 23 and 30, to juniors in the 20th Century American History and American Studies classes at Marple Newtown High School. The oral histories included reflections on the Great Depression, Holocaust, suburban life in the 1950s and Civil Rights movement.

"No one encouraged me and I blame myself for not having the gumption to swim against the tide," said Mrs. Grossman. "There is still a way to go, but we have come a far piece."

The students prepared for the discussion by research-

ing specific decades and developing questions. They gained a deeper perspective, however, when the information discovered in textbooks and online sources was augmented by an individual who served as a nose gunner during World War II.

The seniors also provided a perspective of the home front. Lorraine Picker, who lived in West Virginia and had just given birth to her first child as the war began, contrasted her experiences with those of Charlotte Eglick, who with her brother, immigrated to the United States from Austria through Hungary. The teens joined their sister and her husband in America, while due to the restraints imposed by the quota system, their mother was forced to remain in Europe. "I had a very good life in Austria until I was 14, for it was a democratic govern-

ment until Hitler took over," said Mrs. Eglick. "We left on the last train from Budapest in June 1941."

Post-war life was the venue of Marty and Barbara Ward, who touched on the Korean Conflict, Vietnam War, politics and protests. Students who recently witnessed the election of the first African American president learned 50 years ago, the selection of the first Roman Catholic candidate was equally revolutionary.

"I was raised in Boston," said Ward. "People remembered the defeat of Al Smith in 1928 and John F. Kennedy was a hero."

Noting his three years in office were likened to American royalty, Mrs. Ward recalled the nation plunged into a state of mourning when he was assassinated.

"Children realized what had happened because their parents were crying," she added. "Mrs. Kennedy was idolized by the way she handled it."

Gina Kim, who listened as Zoe Dana told of life in Israel during the Six Day and Yom Kippur wars, was fascinated by her speaker's experiences.

"They didn't know about the invasion," said Kim. "They were surprised because it happened on the holiday."

The pilot program is one the district hopes to make an ongoing one, said Sandra J. Schaal, Supervisor of Social Studies, Art and Music.

"The students will be telling the stories they learned in various ways, with some planning to make 2-3 minute slide shows with photos, music and narration," she added. "We hope to make this an annual event for them."