

Besuchsprogramm 2017

Die Abschlussrede von Kensey Waite im Kaisersaal am 15. Mai 2017



Hello, my name is Kensey Waite,

I am 18 years old and currently a student at the University of Tampa in Florida. I stand before you this evening only two years older than my Opa was when he left Frankfurt and fled to America by his lonesome in order to avoid persecution by the Nazi

regime. In 2009 he and my Oma participated in this program and this past week my mother, sister, and I have been fortunate enough to follow in their footsteps.

Over the duration of this trip I have learned more about not only Jewish life in Frankfurt, but also about myself. I feel a connection greater than ever before to Germany, the Jewish religion, and to my Opa who is unfortunately no longer with us. Today I got to speak at the same school, with the same teacher's class that he and my Oma spoke to those 8 years ago, an experience that never would have been possible if not for this program.

I was lucky enough to hear my Oma and Opa's stories firsthand, but future generations will not be as lucky as humans can only live for so long. As the city of Frankfurt already knows because they brought us all here, the conversation must go on. Now, more than ever, we need to share all that we knew before and all that we have learned this week so nothing like the Holocaust ever happens again.

I am beyond grateful for not only the knowledge I have gained this week, but for all the wonderful people I have met with whom I hope to keep in contact with for many years to come. I feel as if I've gained a second family. We all have this immediate connection because of what our ancestors experienced and although horrifying, I am very thankful that it has brought us all together. I have learned more from the stories shared by each and every one of you than I could have ever imagined. So I thank you my fellow participants, the City of Frankfurt, and Project Jewish Life in Frankfurt for this enlightening experience and I hope that future families will be able to come to Frankfurt and keep the conversation going.

Thank you