

Everyone has their own outlooks on life: whether that be optimistic or pessimistic. However, those views are often constructed by experiences. Mira Kimmelman faced hardships that are far beyond compare and unimaginable, however to this day, she has one of the most positive mindset and outlooks on life yet.

Mira Kimmelman faced something no person should have had to go through. While she could focus on the many bad instances, she chooses not too. In my opinion, this takes a great act of courage- only focusing on the positives- because it can be hard sometimes. However, Kimmelman makes it look so easy. She encountered near death experiences, yet she focuses on the aspect that she survived.

Between the years of 1941 to 1945 Nazis killed more than six million Jews, who made up around two thirds of Europe's Jewish population. This event should be remembered throughout the rest of history because if we choose to forget, and ignore this Inhumane conflict, then we are risking it happening again. As the saying goes, we remember history so it doesn't repeat itself. The holocaust was no doubt a mortifying situation for every human involved. Kimmelman states that her friends and family were by other ethnic parties such as the dutch, poles, german, and french. I believe that it is this act that changed her mindset.

When going through such a traumatizing event, it is easy to get lost in how badly everything is playing out. However choosing to look at the bad is never a good idea. Looking at the bad often makes us lose hope in humanity. Kimmelman could have easily stayed bitter and negative, however she decided to look at it from a different angle. She realized that while yes,

people were being murdered for absolutely no reason, that others were risking their lives to help save them. While I'm sure that wasn't easy for Kimmelman to do, she never let the bad times steal her hope.

Kimmelman also states something interesting in *Echos from the Holocaust*, "These selfless and courageous people, regardless of nationality or religion, were the unsung heroes of the Holocaust years." The word "hero" originated from Greek. This word means "protector" or "defender". I find it interesting that she stated that they were heroes because at the time it seemed like if you weren't the same religion, or race then you were hated. However, Mira Kimmelman called them heroes because they helped save her friends, family, and even her. This shows that she had a positive outlook on life because she could have easily participated in hating other ethnic groups. However, she knew what it was like and didn't wish it upon any other human.

*TheOakridger.com* states that Kimmelman shared her story at Oak Ridge High School. During her story she stated, "we had no law to protect us". Now think about that for a moment. That is the sad truth about our history. Jews were treated awfully, there is no doubt about that. She had to live in a one bedroom house with 18 plus people. She had a curfew. She often had no food, heat or water. She couldn't be on private or public transportation. She couldn't even walk on most main streets. If she did, she'd be sentenced the death penalty.

Kimmelman's family was gassed and then burned to death. She stated that she had no grave for her mother or grandparents. She was one of the few Jews spared. From there she was

taken to Blyzin Concentration Camp. People were killed in front of her eyes. However even then she stated that the memories of happier times and her family kept her alive.

Mira Kimmelman is one of the most inspiring people of all times to me. Honestly, before writing this essay I knew so little about the Holocaust and what people went through. However, by having this opportunity I feel like everyone should do their part in keeping this history alive. Kimmelman said, "It's human nature not to believe something you haven't seen." She goes on to say that "The holocaust happened because of hate, bigotry, and intolerance. You are leaders of the future. Hate is a terrible disease. We all belong to the same race-- the human race. Grow up with tolerance and respect for every human being." To me this is absolutely amazing because she knows that many people won't believe what happened. She knows that some may never be educated about what happened. However she stays positive and remains hopeful that together we can make sure that history is not forgotten.

We can embody her message when looking at the face of injustice. When you see something that is wrong, be sure to right it. Stand up for people who are treated wrongly and cannot stand up for themselves, just like Kimmelman does still today. It is our job to keep hope alive, because we really are all in this together.

Mira Kimmelman has inspired me so much because she has taught me that you need to stay positive for the other people around you, and yourself. We need to keep hope alive because if we dont then who will? Who will? It has to be our generation because if we dont do something about this injustice, it will be forgotten. This shaped history, Hate shaped history. Kimmelman

doesn't want anyone to have to face the things she did. Together we can make a difference. I believe that Kimmelman stayed positive so that we remember that after the darkness comes light. After the storm there are rainbows. There is a quote that goes, "if you light a lamp for someone else, it will also brighten your path." I believe that is what Kimmelman is trying to do. She is doing the right thing and speaking up about this injustice for the people who died during the holocaust and so taht it wont be forgotten, even thought this is very hard for her.

My advice to our generation is that we all follow in her footsteps and be more like her. That we keep a positive attitude and mindset through the darkest hours. Because with this hope comes peace and love. Together we can eliminate Hate, so that this does not repeat itself.