



Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Annual Yom Hashoah Commemoration
Honours Experience of Children during Holocaust***

Montreal, Tuesday, April 3, 2018 –The Montreal Holocaust Museum will hold its annual Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) commemoration on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 7:30 pm at the Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem Congregation (6519, Baily Road, Côte-Saint-Luc). Montrealers are invited to participate in this community-wide ceremony, honouring the memory of Holocaust victims and the legacy of those who survived.

The title of this year's ceremony, *I want you to remember... A Childhood Lost* will highlight the lives of children during the Holocaust. Through video testimony, Holocaust survivors will share their personal experiences and stories. In addition, these survivors and their descendants will light six candles representing the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust.

The Montreal survivors sharing their testimony are **Eva Verebes** (born in Hungary, she recalls her father being taken away just days after the German occupation), **Muguette Myers** (born in France, she credits her survival to the righteousness of the villagers of Champlost), **Mario Polese** (born in the Netherlands, he managed to survive with both of his parents thanks to the generosity of his Dutch neighbours), **Ernest Ehrmann** (born in Czechoslovakia, he survived four concentration camps, and was liberated in Dachau), **Leo Kliot** (born in Poland, he remembers his mother's bravery as they fought to survive in the Vilna ghetto) and **Zissel Farkas** (born in Romania, she recalls the traumatic separation from her parents, younger sisters and brother upon their arrival in Auschwitz).

The program also includes the reading of poems and other short texts in English, French, Hebrew and Yiddish. Songs will also be performed by a choir with grade six students from the Jewish People's and Peretz Schools accompanied by Fishel Goldig, Holocaust Survivor, and directed by Jason Rosenblatt. Each year, a diverse audience of 1,200 people are present to witness the transmission of memory to younger generations.

The Montreal Jewish community and its estimated 4,000 Holocaust survivors have commemorated Yom Hashoah for nearly 70 years. It was declared Holocaust Memorial Day in Quebec in 1999 and in Canada in 2005. Today, the Montreal Holocaust Museum's Yom Hashoah Committee organizes the commemoration.

About the Montreal Holocaust Museum: The Montreal Holocaust Museum educates people of all ages and backgrounds about the Holocaust, while sensitising the public to the universal perils of antisemitism, racism, hate and indifference. Through its Museum, its commemorative programs and educational initiatives, the Montreal Holocaust Museum promotes respect for diversity and the sanctity of human life.

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