



Musée Holocauste Montréal  
Montreal Holocaust Museum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***Annual Yom Hashoah Commemoration Honours Six Montreal Holocaust Survivors***

**Montreal, Wednesday, April 24, 2019** –The Montreal Holocaust Museum will hold its annual Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) commemoration on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 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, *When Life Changed Forever*, speaks to the diverse moments in the lives of survivors when they realized their worlds had shattered. Through video testimony, Holocaust survivors will share their personal experiences and memories. In addition, these survivors and their descendants will light six candles in memory of the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust.

The Montreal survivors sharing their testimony are:

- **Rachel Abish** (born in Hungary, she recalls the hunger she suffered while living in yellow star and Red-Cross houses),
- **Nettie Herscher** (born in the Netherlands, she remembers packing bags before her family's deportation to Westerbork and Bergen-Belsen),
- **Bill Lewkowict** (born in Lithuania, he hid in a forest for two years after escaping the ghetto),
- **Judith Nemes Black** (born in Hungary, she recalls learning a new name and identity while living in hiding),
- **Edmond Silber**, (born in France, he escaped the Vel d'Hiv roundup and lived in hiding in small village until liberation),
- **Charlotte Wexler** (born in Yugoslavia, she survived multiple concentration camps and a death march from Ravensbrück).

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 of grade six students from the Jewish People's and Peretz Schools accompanied by Holocaust survivor, Fishel Goldig 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 sensitizing 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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**Press Contact:** Sarah Fogg, Program Coordinator at 514-345-2605 ext. 3437 // [sarah.fogg@museeholocauste.ca](mailto:sarah.fogg@museeholocauste.ca)