



Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exhibition for Young Audiences, *Tell me a story! Youth Literature and the Holocaust* presented at the Jewish Public Library

Montreal, November 29, 2019 – The Montreal Holocaust Museum’s traveling exhibit, *Tell me a story! Youth literature and the Holocaust* will be presented at the Jewish Public Library from December 8, 2019 to March 1, 2020.

This original exhibition, created for audiences ages 8 and over, focuses on the history of the Holocaust and WWII. Through important values and themes of childhood, the exhibition introduces young visitors to the dangers of racism and antisemitism. “Young people are able to better understand the dangers of hatred and the impacts of genocide, when they learn through personal stories,” explained Marie-Blanche Fourcade, Head of Collections and Exhibitions at the Montreal Holocaust Museum. “This was a key objective in creating *Tell me a story!*, and the five selected books reflect the educational goal of the exhibit.”

The five children's books presented in the exhibition are inspired by the real experiences of individuals:

- The memoir, *In Hiding* (Azrieli Foundation) by Holocaust survivor **Marguerite Élias-Quddus** recounts the three years she and her sister spent living under false identities with various families in France during WWII.
- **Kees Vanderhayden**'s book *The Fresh Smell of Soap* (De la paix) explores his friendship with Traudi, an Austrian child sent by the Red Cross to live with his family in the Netherlands in 1948.
- Montreal-based author, **Monique Polak**'s novel *What World is Left* (Orca Publishing) is inspired by the experiences of her mother, a Jewish child who was imprisoned in Theresienstadt during the Holocaust.
- **Anne Renaud**'s children's book *Fania's Heart* (Second Story Press) is based on the remarkable true story of a heart-shaped booklet, which was made at great risk for its creator, as a 20th birthday gift for Fania in Auschwitz.
- *Hana's Suitcase* (Second Story Press), written by **Karen Levine**, tells the stories of Hana Brady, a young Holocaust victim, whose suitcase ends up at a children's Holocaust education centre in Tokyo, and of Fumiko Ishioka, who seeks to find out what happened to her.

Despite the difficult and sometimes horrific moments endured by the children featured in these stories, themes of hope, friendship and perseverance are at the heart of the five books and the exhibition. Young visitors and their parents are invited to discover replicas of photo albums and artefacts, read books in a dedicated space and ask questions that may arise. With the assistance of pedagogical tools offered by the Montreal Holocaust Museum, parents and educators can better prepare themselves to answer these difficult questions.

Tell me a story! Youth Literature and the Holocaust was created by the Montreal Holocaust Museum team. The design and manufacturing of the exhibit was carried out by the Musée de la Nature et des Sciences Sherbrooke, MNS2. The Montreal Holocaust Museum would also like to thank the authors, Marguerite Élias-Quddus, Kees Vanderhayden, Monique Polak, Anne Renaud and Karen Levine for their invaluable collaboration, as well as the Azrieli Foundation, Les Éditions de la Paix, Orca Book Publishers and Second Story Press.



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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.

About the Jewish Public Library: For more than 100 years, the Jewish Public Library has been a celebrated fixture of the Montreal community and cultural life. The JPL promotes academic and cultural excellence in a warm and accessible space where knowledge and information are shared in multiple formats. Through our Main Library, our Children’s Library, our world renowned Archives, our Cultural Programming for adults and children, and our Multimedia Centre, we connect every demographic of our diverse community to the world – while bringing the world to our community.

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