

YOM HASHOAH : HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

COMMEMORATION

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OPENING MUSIC

Partisan Hymn

This Yiddish [song](#), written by the Lithuanian Jewish poet **Hirsch Glick** (1922-1944) in 1943, continues to be sung at memorial services around the world today.

Fishel Goldig, who sings this song, was born in 1933 in Mielnica, Poland. At the beginning of 1942, he and his family were forced into the Borszczow Ghetto. At the end of that year, they went into hiding in a small cellar on a Ukrainian farm. They remained there until liberation in spring 1944. The Goldigs moved to a number of places in Europe before immigrating to Canada in 1948 through the family sponsorship program. Fishel has been a volunteer speaker at the Montreal Holocaust Museum since 2015, where he has shared his story with thousands of students.



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OPENING REMARKS

By organizing a Holocaust commemoration, we remember the six million Jewish victims, as well as the non-Jewish victims of Nazi oppression. We honour, in particular, the memory of those with no family left to remember them. We also remember rescuers and liberators, and honour survivors, who rebuilt their lives after going through such horrific experiences and who have contributed in so many ways to the countries that opened their doors to them.

By commemorating the Holocaust, we also raise awareness about the dangers of prejudice, hatred, radical and extremist movements and totalitarian regimes.

By commemorating the Holocaust, we recognize our responsibility as citizens of a democratic society to actively contribute to the protection and promotion of human rights.



Children in the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany at the end of the war

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READINGS

Partisan Hymn

Lithuanian Jewish poet **Hirsch Glick** (1922-1944) was involved in the Vilna ghetto's artistic activities and underground movement during the war, and participated in the ghetto uprising in 1942.

Glick was later deported to a concentration camp in Estonia. As the Soviet troops were approaching, he escaped and is presumed to have been killed by the Germans.

Never say this is the final road for you,
Though leaden skies may cover over days of blue.
As the hour that we longed for is so near,
Our step beats out the message: we are here!

From lands so green with palms to lands all white with snow.
We shall be coming with our anguish and our woe,
And where a spurt of our blood fell on the earth,
There our courage and our spirit have rebirth!

The early morning sun will brighten our day,
And yesterday with our foe will fade away,
But if the sun delays and in the east remains –
This song as motto generations must remain.

This song was written with our blood and not with lead,
It's not a little tune that birds sing overhead,
This song a people sang amid collapsing walls,
With pistols in hand they heeded to the call.

Therefore never say the road now ends for you,
Though leaden skies may cover over days of blue.
As the hour that we longed for is so near,
Our step beats out the message: we are here!

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TESTIMONY

Joseph Cooper was born in 1923, in Kielce, Poland. He was forced to live in the ghetto from its creation in 1940 till its liquidation in 1943. He then survived several concentration camps. In this [video](#), Joseph speaks about how he maintained his faith through song, risking his life by singing Kol Nidre on Yom Kippur at the Sosnowiec concentration camp.



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CANDLE LIGHTING

Please join me in lighting 6 memorial candles in memory of the 6 million Jews who were murdered and among whom there were 1.5 million children.



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END OF THE COMMEMORATION

