

THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT

IN AFFILIATION WITH

THE CANADIAN SOCIETY
FOR YAD VASHEM

PAYS TRIBUTE TO
HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

*Survivors' Testimonies:
The Fate of the Individual
during the Holocaust*

TORONTO / QUEEN'S PARK / APRIL 24, 2017 / 12:00 PM



Fran Sonshine
NATIONAL CHAIR



Ester Driham
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 24, 2017

The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem (CSYV) is privileged to collaborate with the Government of Ontario since 1993 to host this important event honoring Holocaust Survivors who choose the Province of Ontario for their post-war lives.

The theme of the 2017 Tribute to Holocaust Survivors is "Survivors' Testimonies": The Fate of the Individual during the Holocaust". Individual testimonies enable us to enrich our knowledge of the Shoah, to learn the historical truth, but also shape a better future. We have a rare chance to hear first-hand experiences from the Holocaust and understand the events as they were lived through personal reflection, while survivors are still with us. The Holocaust is not simply a warning from history, its universal lessons showcase the dangers of extreme intolerance. A personal account of the Holocaust is the most powerful way to understand the Shoah, allowing us to learn from the past and to strive to preserve our multi-cultural society.

The honourees that we recognize today represent the importance of this year's theme "Survivors' Testimonies". Each of their stories is unique. They span from France to Ukraine telling about the incidents at Velodrome d'Hiver or concentration camps in Transnistria. They speak about Nazi collaborators among the local population, but also "Righteous Among the Nations" who had the courage to save Jews despite the risk to their own lives and the security of their families.

We extend our congratulations to the honourees for their courage of surviving the Holocaust and rebuilding their lives in Canada. They all had a peaceful life before the Holocaust, struggled to survive the Shoah and then regained the peace in Canada. This is a special year when we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Confederation - 150 years of democracy.

The Holocaust is a warning for future generations. It is our responsibility to remember the Shoah to prevent its repetition.

Sincerely,

Fran Sonshine
NATIONAL CHAIR

Ester Driham
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PROGRAM

- Reception / 12:00-1:00pm
- Tribute to Holocaust Survivors at the Legislative Assembly / 1:15-1:45pm
- Ceremony / 2:00-3:00pm

"O CANADA" / "HATIKVAH" / "SCHINDLER'S LIST"

WELCOME

- Fran Sonshine / National Chair of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem
- Ester Driham / National Executive Director of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem

VIDEO PRESENTATION

- Testimony by Felix Opatowski, Holocaust Survivor

GREETINGS

- Galit Baram / Consul General of Israel in Toronto and Western Canada

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

- The Honourable Kathleen Wynne / Premier of Ontario

RECOGNITION OF OUR HONOUREES

- Premier Kathleen Wynne
- The Honourable Eric Hoskins / Minister of Health and Long-Term Care / MPP for St. Paul's
- Mike Colle / MPP for Eglinton–Lawrence
- The Honourable David Zimmer / Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation / MPP for Willowdale

KADDISH FOR HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

CLOSING REMARKS

- Fran Sonshine



Premier of Ontario - Première ministre de l'Ontario

April 24, 2017

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am honoured to extend greetings to everyone attending the Ontario Tribute to Holocaust Survivors. I commend the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem for bringing us together today in the spirit of reflection and remembrance.

On this solemn occasion, we gather to remember the victims of the Holocaust. We mourn the immeasurable loss of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis, and we vow never to forget. We also honour the Holocaust survivors, whose courageous stories of heroism and triumph uplift and inspire us, as they will generations to come.

Today, we have the deep honour of hearing first-hand from those who lived through one of the darkest and most tragic periods in human history. These individuals overcame unthinkable circumstances and showed remarkable courage in building new lives in Ontario.

Their commitment to sharing their experiences is truly commendable, and their testimony reminds us of our collective and personal obligation to learn from the lessons of our history, to reject every form of intolerance and hatred — and to embrace the diversity that gives us our strength as a province and nation.

Please accept my sincere best wishes for what I know will be a moving and memorable ceremony.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Wynne".

Kathleen Wynne
Premier



April 24, 2017

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Consulate General of Israel, I am honoured to extend greetings and best wishes to the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem and all those attending the 2017 Tribute to Holocaust Survivors taking place at the Ontario Legislature today. The ceremony being held today reaffirms the moral stature of this Province in its commitment to Holocaust remembrance and to honouring those who survived.

On this solemn occasion, we recognize the important accomplishments and contribution of those survivors who made Ontario their home. This year's theme, "*Survivor's Testimonies: The Fate of the Individual during the Holocaust*," underlines the qualities of each survivor as a unique human being. We understand the importance of being able to hear first-hand accounts from survivors themselves, all the more significant as such opportunities fade with the passage of time.

Israel, too, saw many Holocaust survivors reach our shores, somehow finding the inner strength to begin their lives again, raising families and contributing in myriad ways to building our nation. In so doing, they set an example of the resilience of the Jewish people and the human spirit.

Today's ceremony is a powerful reminder to strive, as a society and as individuals, to be ever vigilant against the dangers of hatred and extremism, and to work to uphold the democratic values and freedoms that keep us strong and united.

On behalf of the Consulate General of Israel, I extend best wishes to all participants.

Sincerely,

Galit Baram
Consul General



Consulate General
Toronto and Western Canada



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SURVIVORS' TESTIMONIES

THE FATE OF THE INDIVIDUAL DURING THE HOLOCAUST

// FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS AFTER THE WAR! I KNOW YOU WON'T LAY A WREATH ON MY GRAVE... AFTER ALL, YOU WON'T KNOW WHERE I HAVE BEEN BURIED. JUST AS I DON'T KNOW THE BURIAL PLACES OF MY MOTHER, MY SISTER, MY BROTHER AND MY EVERY ACQUAINTANCE, WHO IN DEATH HAVE TURNED TO DUST, COATING EVERY FIELD AND GARDEN... I AM NOT AFRAID OF WRITING THUS. I'M AFRAID, GOD FORBID, LEST I DISHONOR THE MEMORY OF THE FORGOTTEN MARTYRS. THAT IN TEN YEARS, PERHAPS EVEN **//** LESS, NO ONE WILL REMEMBER THEM, NOR THEIR TERRIBLE CALAMITY.

LEYB ROCHMAN, THE NATIVE OF THE CITY OF MINSK WHO HID IN A BARN FOR TWO YEARS.



Testimonies of Holocaust survivors are not simply an account of the planned and systematic extermination of six million Jews during the Shoah. They give personal perspectives on the events. Survivors' testimonies allow us to see beyond statistics. Testimonials demonstrate that Shoah victims are not simply numbers and that behind every victim of the Holocaust there is a unique story. "It is not that six million Jews were murdered. Rather there were six million murders, and in each case one Jew was murdered," said Abel Jacob Herzberg, a survivor of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.



Testimonies are key sources in Holocaust research and education. First-hand testimonies—diaries, interviews and autobiographies—represent crucial primary source materials on the Holocaust. They help capture the historical truth, verifying the course of events, shedding light to unknown realities and bringing new insights to commonly accepted facts. Testimonies are the most powerful tool against revisionists who deny or minimize the destructive consequences of the Shoah.

Survivors' stories cover all aspects of the Holocaust: atrocities of war, the courage of those who helped Jews despite the risk to their lives, abdication of personal responsibility to overlook the genocide, attempts to preserve dignity and humanity in inhuman conditions. Survivor testimonies also demonstrate the hope that future generations will learn to live in peace.

THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM (CSYV) HOLDS A UNIQUE BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS WHO REBUILT THEIR LIVES IN CANADA. SURVIVOR STORIES ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND ACCESSIBLE VIA THE CSYV WEBSITE: WWW.YADVASHEM.CA/TESTIMONIALS THEY SERVE TO INFORM AND TEACH CANADIANS ABOUT THE SHOAH AND THEREBY RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF TOLERANCE AND SOCIAL INCLUSION.

ABOUT THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM

Established in 1986, the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem (CSYV) has worked for over 30 years to educate Canadians about the Holocaust through educational and commemorative programs while sharing the facts, knowledge and universal lessons of the Shoah (Holocaust).

CSYV is a national organization with a core group of significant donors, volunteers and professional staff who are committed to the vision of advancing education and commemoration of the Holocaust. CSYV supports its mission by developing philanthropic support from individuals, families, foundations, government agencies and the business community.



Our vital educational programs focus on teaching future generations of Canadians about the Holocaust. These include annual programs such as:

- The CSYV Holocaust Scholarship Program, which focuses on recruiting and sending Canadian educators to a three-week seminar at the International School of Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem.
- The Ambassadors of Change Program, which takes place in Ottawa, helps, create a more tolerant and inclusive society by bringing together high school students and Holocaust survivors through guided group sessions about the Holocaust.
- The Twinning Program which enables young teens to learn about the Holocaust as they reach Bar/Bat Mitzvah, by pairing them with child Holocaust victims.



The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem holds a tradition of excellence in bringing together the community for the purpose of remembering and learning about the Holocaust, which is integral to increasing the knowledge of Canadians about the Shoah so that they can then proceed to make significant contributions to Canadian society.

Guided by a mission to remember the past and shape the future, CSYV offers educators diverse ways to teach the Holocaust through experiential learning opportunities that are practical, innovative and socially conscious. To name a few, CSYV maintains a digital archive of Righteous Among the Nations stories and testimonies of Canadians survivors that are available to teachers and students as a learning tool. CSYV is constantly evolving and is currently developing a new Youth Holocaust Education program to facilitate learning about the Holocaust through the CSYV Holocaust Memorial Site. This program aims to integrate Holocaust learning experiences into the program of study of both Jewish and non-Jewish schools. On occasion, CSYV also brings mobile exhibitions on the Holocaust to Canada.

CSYV's Holocaust commemorative programs include ceremonies on the national and provincial levels. The National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony in Ottawa, held on behalf of the Government of Canada, is attended by hundreds of dignitaries and is open to the public. The Queen's Park Tribute to Holocaust Survivors, in affiliation with the Premier of Ontario and the Ontario Legislature, recognizes the outstanding achievements of Ontario's Holocaust Survivors.

In addition, the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem is the only organization in Toronto to have a memorial site enabling the community at large to commemorate victims of the Holocaust and honour survivors. The CSYV Holocaust Memorial Site, located at Earl Bales Park (4169 Bathurst St, Toronto, ON M3H 3P7), stands at the heart of our mission to educate Canadians about the Holocaust. With a dedicated memorial site specifically focused on the core fundamentals of Holocaust education and commemoration, CSYV is uniquely positioned to raise awareness and advance the collective knowledge about the Holocaust while helping meet the challenges of preserving the Shoah's legacy.



Lea Borenstein

In order to survive the Holocaust, Lea had to hide her religion, go to church and recite prayers.

LEA BORENSTEIN WAS BORN IN FRANCE TO POLISH PARENTS. HER PARENTS MOVED FROM POLAND TO VILLERUPT, A TOWN IN NORTHERN FRANCE, TO SEEK A BETTER LIFE.

Lea was born in 1929 and her sister was born ten years later. Her parents owned a store and the family had a quite peaceful life until the Germans invaded the area breaking the Maginot line. The whole town had to be evacuated, Lea's parents decided to move to Paris and they had to start all over again. In order to rent an apartment in Paris, future tenants had to reveal their religion to the property owner. Unfortunately, Lea's landlady was not a friend of the Jewish people, she denounced the family to French authorities. Her father received a letter instructing him to present himself with a blanket and a small suitcase to the local police station, and the family never saw him again.

He was sent to Beaune-la-Rolande, a working transit camp, and from there to Auschwitz. Life had become very hard for the Borenstein family. Lea and her little sister had to go to work at a very young age.

A few months later, two French Police Officers came to their house to take the whole family to the Velodrome D'Hiver in Paris. "We stayed there for 3 days or more, and it was the worst day of my life... conditions were inhumane, even animals are treated better", Lea says. In the Velodrome, the men, women and children were separated from each other. Lea was 13, her sister only 3 years old. "My sister did not want to leave our mothers side... it was a nightmare", Lea recalls. Then a miracle happened, just before Lea and her sister were going to be forced into a truck towards the Concentration Camp, a policeman asked Lea if she had anywhere to go. When Lea nodded, the policeman told her to take her sister and to go straight and not to turn back. Lea and her sister escaped the Velodrome, without their mother.

The sisters were picked up by a man who worked for the Red Cross. He brought them to Moree, a small town in the outskirts of Paris and found them a house to hide in.

The owner of the house, told Lea and her sister that if they wanted to survive they had to change their religion, become Catholic, go to church and recite prayers. The girls followed this advice in order to survive. In 1945, Leah decided to escape with her sister. They were lucky, American trucks passed by, and it was the end of the war. They started a new life. Lea's sister was sent to Kibbutz, Israel to join her grandmother and Lea stayed in Paris.



George Cantkier

After suffering the loss of his Father, the separation from his Mother, George began a new life. The joy of coming to a great country like Canada to start a new life with his Mother & siblings will never be forgotten.

GEORGE AND HIS TWIN BROTHER, LEON, WERE BORN IN PARIS, FRANCE TO NUSYN YANKIEL AND TAUBA (TOBY), NEE KLAITMAN. NUSYN, HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM THEIR HOME BY THE GESTAPO TWO WEEKS EARLIER. INITIALLY, NUSYN WAS TAKEN TO THE INTERNMENT CAMP AT PITHIVIERS WHERE HE SPENT A YEAR AND WAS THEN TRANSPORTED ON CONVOY #4 TO AUSCHWITZ.

Following their birth, it was no longer safe to return to their apartment. Tauba and the twins remained hidden in the maternity hospital for two years. At the same time, their two siblings, Helene (9) and Maurice (4) were quickly hidden, Maurice and Helene were hidden in a Convent then on a farm for the duration of the war. Leon and George were hidden with a French Catholic family in Sergines. This was in the French countryside where they remained for the duration of the War. George remembers his foster parents telling him many times to stay in their room with the curtains drawn as not to let the Gestapo know they were there. "Many times you could see the shadows of the Gestapo. For many years into my adulthood, I had nightmares of the Gestapo trying to capture me", George recalls.

After the war, Tauba returned to Paris and eventually received notification that her husband had perished at Auschwitz. She repatriated her four children back to Paris. Tauba's older brother, living in Toronto, sponsored the family to immigrate to Canada. George and Leon were 7 years old when they arrived.

The family settled into a small house on Major Street in Toronto near the Kensington Market. George and Leon entered Grade 1 at Lansdowne Public School and attended Talmud Torah after regular school to learn Hebrew. They spoke only French, they were still wearing their clothes from France and were teased and taunted by the other children in the school.

After a few years they made friends with their classmates and often brought them home for dinner to celebrate the Sabbath. From the age of 12, George worked after school stocking shelves in a grocery store to earn spending money. Their mother supported the family by working as a "finisher" in an exclusive men's tailor shop.

George graduated from Ryerson with a Certificate in Merchandising Administration. He pursued an early career in Purchasing for a large clothing retailer followed by his own Sales Agency. George and his wife Rachel enjoy spending time with their two sons Nathan and Daniel and their two daughters Deborah and Angelique, their husbands and wives and their 17 grandchildren. He has recorded his family history with Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation.



Leon Cantkier

Even though his mother suffered the fear of losing her husband and not knowing if she would ever see her children again, she maintained the strength and courage to survive. After the family arrived in Canada, Leon's mother never looked back. She taught her children never to lose sight of their Jewish heritage, to show compassion and have respect for others.

LEON AND HIS TWIN BROTHER, GEORGE, WERE BORN IN PARIS, FRANCE TO NUSYN YANKIEL AND TAUBA (TOBY), NEE KLAITMAN. NUSYN, HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM THEIR HOME BY THE GESTAPO TWO WEEKS EARLIER. INITIALLY, NUSYN WAS TAKEN TO THE INTERNMENT CAMP AT PITHIVIERS WHERE HE SPENT A YEAR AND WAS THEN TRANSPORTED ON CONVOY #4 TO AUSCHWITZ.

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Leon graduated from Ryerson with a Certificate in Merchandising Administration. He pursued an early career in Purchasing for a number of large retailers and eventually established his own Sales Agency. Leon and his wife Lois enjoy spending time with his 3 daughters, Nicole, Alanna and Eden, their husbands and 9 grandchildren. Leon has told his story to numerous groups. In addition, he has recorded his family history with Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation.



Miriam Frankel

“Auschwitz- the place where millions of Jews and many others were murdered in cold blood by a so-called Master Race. Auschwitz- the place where my own family perished, leaving me as a sole survivor”, Miriam recalls.

MIRIAM FRANKEL WAS BORN IN DUNAJSKÁ STREDA IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. WHEN MIRIAM WAS YOUNG, HER PARENTS MOVED TO ITALY AND SETTLED IN TRIESTE. SHE WENT TO HEBREW SCHOOL THERE. DURING THE SUMMER, MIRIAM AND HER FAMILY LIVED IN GRADO ON THE ADRIATIC SEA, WHERE HER PARENTS OWNED A KOSHER GUESTHOUSE IN ADDITION TO THEIR GUESTHOUSE IN TRIESTE. MIRIAM HAD A HAPPY CHILDHOOD AND WONDERFUL MEMORIES OF THE SUMMER AT THE SEASIDE, PLAYING WITH THE CHILDREN, SOME OF WHOM WERE THEIR GUESTS.

Miriam lived in an environment where multiple languages were spoken, she learned to speak German quite well as did her siblings. Being the oldest of four, she was always reminded that her behavior had an impact on her younger siblings. Being a respectful and obedient child, Miriam was mostly mindful of them. But then, the normal life came to end when Mussolini and the Fascist party came to power. Miriam’s family, like other Jewish families, were seen as foreigners, undesirables and were expelled from the country.

The family was not able to find a safe place anywhere and was compelled to return to Hungary, where they lived for the next 5 years. The army took her father away for 2 years, making it extremely difficult for them to cope as young family and no community support, along with the anti-Semitism and hatred of most of the society.

One morning at the end of May 1944, Miriam and her family were roused, among shouts and blows. They were gathered together and forced to the train station in deplorable conditions, some people did not have time to get dressed. They were led to the train station, “reduced to a pack of animals and accompanied by dogs”, Miriam remembers.

Although Miriam’s whole family died at Auschwitz, she did not give in. “I will remain steadfast in my belief as a Jew, a human being, passing on what it means to be a Jew, the responsibility and love that Judaism entails”, Miriam says.

After the war, Miriam was taken to a hospital in Prague, where she stayed until she was healthy enough to leave and decided to come to Canada. She arrived in Toronto in March 1948 and met her husband Aron soon after and they were married in November. Miriam had a career in commercial art, doing fashion layouts for large retailers and small designers. She and her late husband, Aron, have three children.

Miriam and Aron were founding members of the Clanton Park Synagogue, and Miriam was President of the Sisterhood several times over the years. She has been very involved in growing the local Jewish community and fundraising for Jewish education.

This was her way of turning the horror of the Holocaust into a way to foster future community leaders.



Edith Gelbard

The three of us arrived in Ontario and now we are 26.

EDITH GELBARD WAS BORN JULY 8, 1932, TO A LOVING FAMILY IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA. THE FAMILY ENJOYED A GOOD LIFE UNTIL GERMANY ANNEXED AUSTRIA IN 1938, FORCING EDITH AND HER FAMILY TO FLEE TO BELGIUM AND ULTIMATELY TO FRANCE.

She spent the remainder of the war years, separated from most of her family, while hiding in various areas of southern France, and ending up in a children's home in Moissac.

At the end of the war, Edith was re-united with her mother, sister and brother. Her father and other members of the family who had fled with her, perished in the Holocaust. She met her husband to be, Isaac, in Moissac. In 1955, Edith, Isaac and their infant son, Charles, left France for Canada.

Once in Canada, Isaac started working 3 days after they arrived in Toronto and Edith had to care for an infant son and started to learn English, to go along with her German and French.

Three more sons came along and Edith and Isaac started giving back to the community which had taken them in. Edith became involved with the PTA at her sons' school, and even though she spoke limited English, soon became known as a hard worker.

She also worked part time at a bi-lingual school, and helped out with scout groups and the PTA.

Edith, Isaac and Charlie became Canadian Citizens during Canada's Centennial in 1967. The three other sons, Claude, Daniel and Richard were born Canadian.

In 1979, Edith became involved with Jewish Women's International and served as Chapter president for 10 years. In 1983, Edith and Isaac opened a French Gourmet Food and gift Store, which became very successful.

In 1999, Isaac passed away after a long illness. In 2000, Edith began speaking of her experiences as a child survivor and since then has spoken to thousands of students and adults in such places as New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Los Angeles, Moissac, as well as throughout the province of Ontario. Recently, Edith spoke to 25 classes via Skype.

In 2005, author Kathy Kacer heard Edith speaking, and in 2006, she wrote the book "Hiding Edith" which dealt with Edith's experiences as a hidden child. The book went on to win 8 awards, including: the 2009 Yad Vashem Award for Children's Holocaust Literature; the 2008 Hackmatack Children's Choice; and the 2007 Silver Birch, Non Fiction. The book has been translated into 12 languages, including Braille and has been published in countries such as United States; Japan; Israel; Brazil among others.

Edith and Isaac's sons are all professionals and have spent their lives also giving back to the community in terms of volunteer work. Edith is proud of her 9 grandchildren and their community work. Edith also has 4 beautiful great grandchildren.



Lou Hoffer

“My wife and I will forever be grateful to Canada for giving us the opportunity to create a new generation in this beautiful country we love dearly. For us, Canada is the best country in the world”.

LEIZER (LOU) HOFFER WAS BORN IN 1927 IN VIJNITZ, NORTHERN BUKOVINA, ROMANIA. HIS FATHER'S NAME WAS DAVID HOFFER AND HIS MOTHER'S NAME WAS CHAYA SURE DRASSINOVER. HIS EARLY MEMORIES ARE OF A VERY LOVING FAMILY FILLED WITH HAPPY OCCASIONS OF HOLIDAYS, SHABBOS GATHERINGS AND FAMILY TOGETHERNESS. HE ALSO ENJOYED CHEDER, (JEWISH SCHOOL), REGULAR SCHOOL, SOCCER AND EXCURSIONS INTO THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS TOGETHER WITH HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, YOSEL. HE WAS ALSO BLESSED WITH LOVING GRANDPARENTS AND A VERY LARGE EXTENDED FAMILY, MANY OF WHOM PERISHED DURING THE HOLOCAUST.

Their ordeal started in 1940 with the Soviet occupation and later with the Romanian-German take over. Immediately after the occupation, local fascists murdered 300 Jewish people in their small town of Vijnitz. By the end of 1941, they were all deported in overcrowded cattle cars to a town called Attaki, and from there, over the River Dniester, into Ukraine to a territory called Transnistria.

There were such terrible conditions in the camps, that by 1944 approximately 300,000 Jews perished of starvation, infectious diseases and mass executions. Lou and his family were liberated by the Soviet Army in March 1944. Miraculously his whole immediate family survived and started their journey home.

“Unfortunately our former home was no longer accessible to us”, Lou recalls, “after crossing many borders illegally and wondering all over Europe in various displaced persons camps we finally were fortunate enough to be allowed into Canada”.

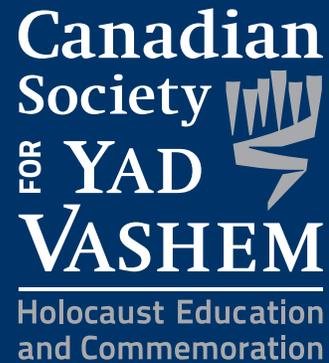
In 1958, Lou met his wife Magda (Pressburger), also Holocaust survivor from Hungary. They got married on January 25, 1959. Together they built a beautiful family blessed with three sons, one daughter and seven grandchildren. “They are our pride and joy”, he says. To rebuild their lives Lou endured many hardships in the early years in Canada, but ultimately he succeeded in building a good life.

THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM'S (CSYV) MISSION IS TO EDUCATE CANADIANS ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST THROUGH EDUCATIONAL AND COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAMS WHILE SHARING THE FACTS, KNOWLEDGE AND UNIVERSAL LESSONS OF THE SHOAH.

With a dedicated memorial site specifically focused on the core fundamentals of Holocaust education and commemoration and over 200 Canadian graduates of the CSYV annual Holocaust Scholarship Program, the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem is uniquely positioned to raise awareness about the Shoah in Canada.

In addition, CSYV is the only organization to have at its fingertips the expertise and resources of Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Centre, which is internationally recognized as being a global leader in Holocaust research, documentation, education, and remembrance.

CSYV's numerous educational and commemorative programs bring Yad Vashem's world-leading knowledge and expertise to multicultural Canadian audiences. As generations change, the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem is dedicated to advancing and expanding its important mission.



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