



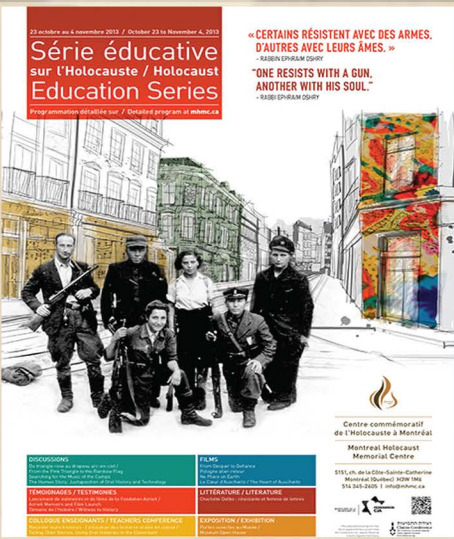
Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre

# Newsletter

Fall 2013

## MHMC Features: Holocaust Education Series 2013

We are pleased to announce the programming of the **16th edition of the Holocaust Education Series to be held from October 23 to November 4**. This year, the Series honours resistance in all its forms: the courage of those who risked their lives, stood up against the deportations and mass killings (screening of **From Despair to Defiance on the Warsaw Ghetto uprising**, **October 24 at the Gelber Centre**). We will pay tribute to spiritual resistance, the determination and community initiatives through which individuals and families preserved their humanity and dignity in the face of annihilation. Listen to pianist Francesco Lotoro share his incredible project to find the music composed in the camps by musicians who, risking their lives, have never renounced their creative freedom. To date, 4000 scores were found (**Searching for the Music of the camps on October 28 at the Casa d'Italia**). **Discover Charlotte Delbo's life** as a political resister deported to Auschwitz, she wrote major literary and theatrical works upon her return from the camps, a testimony to the incredible solidarity uniting inmates. Violaine Gelly, co-author of her biography published in 2013, and Catherine Mavrikakis will focus on the fate and work of this remarkable woman **on October 30 at the Olivier bookstore**. Meet the survivors and discover the history by those who lived it. Members of the Stermer family share the inspiring story of survival after the **screening of No Place on Earth** (at the **Gelber Centre on October 30**) retracing the 511 days spent in caves to escape Nazism. You can also hear from survivors during the opening night of the series, devoted to the **launch of memoirs and short films from the Azrieli Foundation (October 23 at the GESU)**, or also by coming to the **Museum's Open House on Sunday October 27 and November 3** and speaking to survivors during the Witnesses to History program and discover our collection of unusual objects and symbols of resistance displayed in a special showcase. Discuss current issues of human rights at **From The Pink Triangle to the Rainbow Flag on October 27**, (in partnership with Act- Action LGBTQ) and **Pologne aller-retour on October 26**, (in partnership with Romanipe and the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland). We look forward to seeing you!



## Meet our new Gedenkdienner

My name is Clemens, I am 20 years old and since August 1, 2013 I have been working at the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre, as an Austrian Holocaust Memorial Servant. The Austrian Service Abroad association is a non-profit initiative, founded in 1998 by Andreas Maislinger. The organisation provides placements, as an alternative to Austrian national service, all over the world. The regular nine month national service is substituted by a 12-month service at one of its partner organisations abroad. After careful consideration, I decided to divide my service to gain as much experience as possible. Within our association it is not very common to work at two museums, because it means double the effort. Moreover it is quite hard to find two different institutions that fit well together. Nevertheless I made my way through all these obstacles and I am still very happy with my decision. For the first half of my *Gedenkdienst* I was working at the Jewish Museum in Munich, Germany. The daily work there offered me great insight in this cultural institution. In my opinion the link between these two Museums is, that the first six months in Munich were characterized by an active Jewish life, where I familiarized myself with an internal structure of such a cultural institution and of course, where I learned a lot of fascinating new facts about Jews. During the next six months in Montreal I think I am going to learn a lot about the tragedy of the Holocaust and about its survivors. It is a big contrast but it falls in perfect sequence. We have to learn from the past and never forget the darkest atrocities of the Nazis. We have to keep the victims in our mind and have to continue the important educational work so that such atrocious events do not repeat in the future. Therefore I chose the Austrian Service Abroad to raise awareness of the dangers of xenophobia, chauvinism and antisemitism.



## Montreal's Survivor Stories: Dr. Eugene Edelstein



Dr. Eugene Edelstein was born in 1929 in Filakovo, Slovakia (Czechoslovakia) to Orthodox Jewish parents. During the war, Eugene moved to Hungary to flee deportation but was caught and was sent to jail. Later, he was deported to a children's camp and from there to Auschwitz where his mother and two sisters were killed. Eugene, his father and older brother were taken to a sub-camp in a coal-mining town where they endured starvation, physical torture and mental degradation. Eugene was then sent to other camps and eventually had to participate in a Death March to Ebensee concentration camp, where he was liberated and reunited with his father. After the war, Eugene, his father and step-mother were sponsored by his cousin to come to Canada. Traumatic experiences and the loss of relatives during the war elicited different reactions towards God. In this excerpt, Eugene discusses his internal conflict with religion and expresses his feelings over having abandoned the observance that his father had wished he would maintain. He addresses his feelings of regret for not taking on the duty in trying to please his father.

If you or someone you know would like to give a video testimony and thus ensure its long-term preservation, please contact the MHMC's Remembrance Coordinator, Eszter Andor by email at [eszter.andor@mhmc.ca](mailto:eszter.andor@mhmc.ca).

## Human Rights:

Motivated by contemporary issues of human rights and the relationship these issues have with the Holocaust, the MHMC's Human Rights Committee, composed of young adult volunteers, have developed exciting programming for 2013-2014! Struggles of the LGBTQ community, refugee rights, the rise of right wing movements, the history of residential schools in Canada, and the persecution of minorities in Burma, will all be featured in original and unique activities, which underline the consequences of racism, prejudice, hatred and indifference. Join us at these events, conferences, workshops and discussions, which will highlight the sanctity of all human life.

## Education Update:

At last year's Kristallnacht commemoration, the Centre produced a film telling some of the personal stories of a few Montreal survivors who lived through the devastating event that would forever change the lives of Germany's vibrant Jewish community and that of all European Jews. The MHMC is excited to announce that a "viewer's guide" will be available this fall for teachers and other individuals wishing to have a deeper understanding of Kristallnacht, and of the issues raised by the survivors. The listening guide will be available as a free download from the teacher's section of the MHMC website. The MHMC is proud to host our third bi-annual **Teachers Conference** entitled "*Telling Their Stories: Using Oral Histories to Teach about the Holocaust and Other Genocides*" on **Wednesday, October 30th**. The full day conference will provide teachers with training from world experts in the use of recorded survivor testimony in the classroom.

## A Few Highlights: MHMC Bookfair 2013

On Sunday, August 25, 2013, the MHMC held its third book fair of Montreal Holocaust Survivor Memoirs. The event, which also featured second generation authors, whose work deals with the Holocaust and their parents' experiences, for the first time, was a great success. The over 225 visitors had a chance to talk to the authors and many books were sold. As before, the Azrieli Foundation participated with 2 newly launched books – from which short extracts were read by the authors, Michael Kutz and Marguerite Quddus – as well as many earlier volumes from their Holocaust Survivors Memoirs Program. Second generation author Sharon Zajdman read an extract of her novel and Michael Nehemia read from his late grandfather, Benjamin Kujawski's autobiography.



## Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre

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Clemens Wipplinger - Gedenkdienner  
Pauline Zoldan - Secretary - Receptionist



## Annual General Meeting 2013

Please join us for the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre's Annual General Meeting: Thursday October 17, 2013, 7:00 pm; Commemorative Service at 6:00pm  
**Launch:**  
*Multimedia tours for Ipad: A New Way to Visit the Museum!*  
**RSVP: 514-345-2605 (Pauline)**



## A Look Into Our Collection: Expanding the Museum through a mobile app!

This fall, the MHMC will be launching its first mobile application. This innovative museum application offers three different guided tours of the MHMC permanent exhibit. Developed to be used on electronic tablets (such as Android or iPad), the application uses technology to offer visitors an experience beyond the traditional audio-guide, offering access to images, videos and audio content. Thanks to the application, visitors can flip through the pages of a book, zoom inside a passport, read the translation of a letter originally written in Yiddish or watch the video of a Holocaust survivor whose objects can be seen on display.

Alongside the artefacts presented in the exhibition, others from our permanent collection are available through the application, providing historical context and allowing users to learn more about each theme. In total, visitors will view over 200 objects and hear excerpts of video testimonies from 26 different Holocaust survivors. This extensive exploration of the MHMC collection is possible due to the ongoing documentation and digitization of our collection. The three different tours offered on the app give visitors the opportunity to explore different themes within the same exhibition space. The first tour, entitled "Life stories of Holocaust survivors", is a great introduction to our museum and to Holocaust history. Its 19 stops focus on the life stories of Jewish immigrant refugees and Holocaust survivors who rebuilt their lives in Montreal.

The second thematic tour "Children and teenagers during the Holocaust" addresses the experiences of children during the Nazi regime. Along with objects displayed in the museum, the tour's 11 stops give access to several testimonies of child survivors now living in Montreal. Our third multimedia tour, "Deconstructing Genocide", explores the different stages of genocide, by looking at the historical events of the Holocaust. In 11 stops, featured objects and video testimonies link Holocaust history to notions of human rights and genocide studies. This project was made possible thanks to a grant from the Ministère de la culture et des communications du Québec. It will be available to download for free on the Apple App store and on the Google Play store. Visitors who don't own a tablet will be able to borrow an iPad mini at the entrance of the museum for free! Also coming soon, interactive touch screens for maps and timelines with more images and information will enhance the public's visit to our Museum!

If you own some historical documents that you would like to donate to the MHMC in the future, don't hesitate to contact our Museum and Collection coordinator, Julie Guinard, today, to discuss the best way to preserve their memory.