



Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre

Newletter

Spring 2013

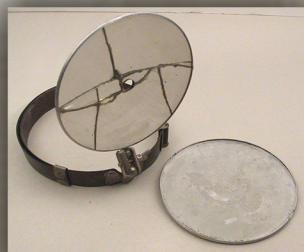
A Look Into Our Collection: The First Jewish Montreal Heritage Week!

MHMC staff is working on exciting initiatives to increase access and improve awareness of our unique collection of artefacts and videos.

A week for archives: From May 5 – 12, 2013 the first Jewish Montreal Heritage Week will take place! This will be a celebration of the work and collections of the community's archives and museums. The broad partnership includes: the MHMC, the Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archives, the Cummings Centre for Seniors Archives Project, the Jewish Public Library Archives, the Jewish General Hospital Archives, the Interactive Museum of Jewish Montreal and the Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre Archives. All week long, videos and blog postings will appear on our Website www.jewishmontrealheritageweek.org. On May 9, archivists from the participating institutions will set up shop in the lobby of Federation CJA to share their work with the public. Come meet us and see how we catalogue, digitize and document our precious community historical records! See the precious items which speak to our history. On May 12, the event "reCOLLECTION" will take you and your team across the city (and time!) to collect photos and videos of Montreal's Jewish story. Come and create a new chapter of Jewish history and breathe new life into the past!

There's an app for that! Thanks to a grant from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, Québec, the MHMC is now developing its first museum application or "app" to be experienced on mobile devices. Conceived as a multimedia guide for individual visitors to the permanent exhibition, the application will enable our visitors to access more information about a selection of objects on display. The app will also include additional artefacts and videos from our collection not seen in the Museum and will be launched in the fall.

The following are examples of museum objects which will be included in the mobile application: a head mirror belonging to Dr. Ginda Kalujna Rosenblatt, a photograph of the Jewish representatives at the Polish Parliament in 1919 and a work card for the Krakow ghetto



To donate an object, please contact Julie Guinard, Museum and Collection Coordinator at 514-345-2605 ext. 3022

Oral History

A temporary display, "Half a World Away: Jewish Refugees in Shanghai" is featured outside the Museum entrance until the end of May 2013. This display offers the opportunity to discover the experiences of Jewish refugees who fled to Shanghai, through their photographs, documents, and artefacts. It also features a short montage of survivor testimonies from Anka Voticky, Erika Bloom, and Stephen Perkal.

Erika Bloom was born in 1938 in Vienna, shortly before her parents decided to go to Shanghai. She remembers school days there, and life in the Shanghai ghetto. Stephen Perkal was born in 1914 in Poland. He obtained a visa from Chiune Sugihara to escape Lithuania in 1940; he lived in Shanghai until 1947. Anka Voticky was born in 1913 near Prague, Czechoslovakia. She fled to Shanghai with her husband, two young children, and an entourage of friends and family in 1940. Many of the artefacts featured were donated by Anka Voticky, who will be turning 100 years old this year.



Please join us and share your video testimony, like Anka Voticky!

Contact Eszter Andor by email at: eszter.andor@mhmc.ca or by telephone at (514) 345-2605.

Education Update

On March 5, 2013, Canada assumed the Chairmanship of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, an intergovernmental body devoted to fostering and promoting Holocaust education, remembrance and research around the world. Of the many projects planned over the course of the year by the Government of Canada, an award honouring teacher's commitment to Holocaust education will be next month's highlight. The MHMC is proud to be partnering with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) in the upcoming launch of the Excellence Award for Holocaust Education on Wednesday, April 10, 2013, with a concurrent launch of our inaugural Teacher's Lounge.

The Teacher's Lounge event has two primary objectives: the first is to provide teachers with an opportunity to meet with CIC representatives to learn about the \$5,000 award recognizing excellence in Holocaust education, promoting the sharing of best practices within Canada's education community. The second is to provide a welcoming and informal opportunity for teachers to discover our Museum and meet with the Centre's Education Coordinator, Jacqueline Celemencki. We invite them to discuss and troubleshoot strategies for teaching the Holocaust using our MELS-adapted pedagogical tools for primary and secondary educators.

Yom Hashoah

The annual Yom Hashoah commemoration will be held on **Sunday, April 7, 2013** at the Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem (6519 Baily Rd., Côte-Saint-Luc). This year's theme, *1943, the Year of Uprisings*, honors the courage of the many thousands of men and women who risked their lives by standing up against the Nazis through uprisings in ghettos, like Warsaw, Bialystok, Lvov and death camps, such as Treblinka and Sobibor. We will also remember the hundreds of thousands who were murdered in 1943, a year of mass deportation and the annihilation of entire Jewish communities.

A Few Highlights:

Human Rights: Upcoming Events - *Finding Dawn*

The Human Rights Committee of the MHMC, in partnership with Aboriginal Women in Quebec, invites you to the screening of the documentary film *Finding Dawn* by the renowned Métis filmmaker Christine Welsh. The film explores the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women in Canada, a tragedy which, although affecting hundreds of families in the country, takes place in the indifference of our leaders and the population. The film will be followed by a discussion.

For more information: http://www.mhmc-humanrights.ca/hreng_events_main.php

United Against Genocide: Understand, Question, Prevent



Survivor of the Armenian genocide, Liebanon, 1923

This spring, the MHMC will inaugurate an exhibition which invites you to learn, question and reflect on genocide from the perspective of its prevention. Over the years, it will deepen certain aspects of this topic. The first theme explored by the exhibit will be the transmission of the memory. Why do survivors speak? What issues do they raise? How?

The exhibit has been created thanks to the generosity of the Alex and Ruth Dworkin Foundation. It is the result of a partnership between the MHMC and organizations of other Montreal communities affected by genocide: the Armenian National Council of Quebec, the Association des Parents et Amis du victimes du Génocide au Rwanda (PAGE-RWANDA), as well as the Communauté Angkorienne du Canada and the Centre Khemara, two agencies of the Cambodian community.

The exhibit *United Against Genocide: understand, question, prevent* is planned over the next five years and will be in constant evolution. Themes will be renewed and cooperation with other communities will expand. Its inauguration will take place this spring. More details will be available soon.

MHMC Legacy Society

Launched in 2009, the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre Legacy Society was created to honour those who have remembered the Museum in their estate plans. Planning a **bequest** through your Will is easy and may provide tax benefits for your estate. At the same time, you can help future generations remember and learn about the Holocaust in the hope of preventing such events from ever happening again.

There is no minimum value and no bequest is considered too small. Every dollar you give will help to support our mission.

Financially, a bequest will have no effect on the way you live your life right now. However, we hope you will inform us of your decision as we would like to thank you. Leaving a legacy gift to the MHMC can be done in a variety of ways. **For more information, please call Alice Herscovitch, Executive Director at (514) 345-2605, extension 3045**

Walter Absil

Walter Absil is a Holocaust survivor who was born in Austria and who spent the war in Belgium. He is married to Erika for 67 years; they met at a small Austrian Jewish youth club after the liberation of Belgium. Holocaust education has been a constant passion in Walter's life. He has always been very active in the community, meeting frequently with other survivors in Montreal and speaking to school groups who visit the Museum. His devotion to the mission of the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre for over thirty years inspired him to become a member of the Legacy Society and include the Museum in his will through the Jewish Community Foundation.



Susyn Borer and Donald Berry

The following is the inscription in the JCF Book of Life by Susyn and Don, when they chose to endow the Centre through an insurance policy. "Education, community building, helping others and social justice have all formed the foundation of our family. It is how we have tried to live our lives, both professionally and personally and to teach our sons, Michael and Paul, the same. We also believe that history, and understanding the past, are crucial to creating a better future. It is with this in mind, that we are proud to be part of the Legacy Campaign of the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre. May the MHMC continue to teach long after we are gone." Susyn Borer is the Immediate Past President of the Centre.

Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre

5151 chemin de la Côte-Ste-Catherine
Montréal (QC) H3W 1M6 (514) 345-2605
www.mhmc.ca info@mhmc.ca www.mhmc-humanrights.ca



Larry Nachshen - President
Alice Herscovitch - Executive Director

Susyn Borer - Immediate Past President, Helen Malkin - Vice President, Stephen Coplan - Treasurer, Silvia Kertesz - Secretary, Lily Ivanier - Honorary Vice -President, Judith Nemes Black, Frédéric-Guillaume Dufour, Hanna Eliashiv, Menachem Freedman, Nancy Maklan, Daniel Rabinowicz, Richard Schnurbach, Stephen Strauber, Julia Reitman, Akos Verbozcy, Leslie Vertes

Eszter Andor
Roselyn Blacker
Jacqueline Celemencki
Dianne Fallis
Julie Guinard
Melanie Hugron
Louis-Philippe Jannard
Catherine Person
Cornélia Strickler
Pauline Zoldan

Remembrance Coordinator
Assistant to the Executive Director
Education Coordinator
Financial Officer
Museum & Collection Coordinator
Reservations Agent
Human Rights Coordinator
Events & Communications Coordinator
Video Archivist
Secretary - Receptionist

