



Centre commémoratif
de l'Holocauste à Montréal

Montreal Holocaust
Memorial Centre

Press release, for immediate publication

**Tuesday, January 27,
the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre
will commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day
and the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz**

Montréal, Monday, January 19th - Next Tuesday, January 27th, the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre (MHMC) will highlight the International Holocaust Remembrance Day by organising different activities during the day:

- Individual visitors will be offered free entry to the Museum all day.
- Video clips of survivor testimonies related to the liberation will be screened in the lobby of Federation CJA and published on the website mhmc.ca and its social networks of MHMC ([YouTube](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)).
- At 7p.m., the public will be invited to a free screening of "Amnon's Journey" (subtitled in French). RSVP at 514-345-2605 or by clicking [here](#)

"Commemorating and preserving the history of the Holocaust has never been more relevant in the wake of terrorist attacks in Paris on January 7 and 9. It is important to remember that democracy is in danger when identifying a scapegoat and when we let hatred threaten our lives and liberties. Have we learned nothing? Today the Jews and now Muslims are the target of hate speech in Europe" says the director of the MHMC, Alice Herscovitch. In the aftermath of the tragic events that hit France, MHMC believes their mission is extremely necessary: *"Commemorating the victims of yesterday, visiting our museum, or listening to the testimonies of Holocaust survivors, offers the opportunity to better understand the world we live in and to be more aware about our fundamental rights"* adds Herscovitch.

About the permanent exhibit of the MHMC:

The Montreal Holocaust Memorial Museum tells the story of Jewish communities before, during and after the Holocaust. Through the life stories of Montreal survivors, the Museum invites visitors to reflect on the destruction caused by prejudice, racism and antisemitism. Artefacts and survivor testimonies in the exhibition show visitors personal experiences which are inspiring stories of resistance and solidarity.

About Holocaust Survivors in Montreal:

Montreal welcomed the third largest proportion of Holocaust survivors after Tel Aviv and New York, a population comprising 30,000 survivors and their families. The survivors played a crucial role in the creation of the MHMC in 1979, which was the first Canadian organization to commemorate the Holocaust. Today, there are still approximately 5,000 survivors living in Montreal. Many of them contribute to the mission of the Centre by informing and sensitizing people of all ages and backgrounds about the Holocaust as well as the universal perils of antisemitism, racism, hate and indifference. This year, our 24 survivors-speakers, who were children or very young adults during the Holocaust, shared their story with nearly 300 groups, reaching more than 11,000 people.

Press Contact: Audrey Licop, Events and Communications Coordinator, 514-345-2605 ext. 3026 or 514-892-2605 (cell.) - audrey.licop@mhmc.ca



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About the MHMC's Collection of Holocaust Survivor testimonies:

The MHMC continues to record and develop its collection of testimonies. They were recorded under different programs since the 1980s and this collection brings together:

- more than 500 testimonies of survivors filmed in the program "Witness to History" of the MHMC;
- 106 survivor testimonies filmed in the program "Living Testimonies" at McGill University;
- more than thirty survivor testimonies filmed as part of the "Life Stories of Montrealers Displaced by War, Genocide, and other violations of human rights" at Concordia University; and
- more than 65 survivor testimonies filmed by the Canadian Jewish Congress.

The collection is used for educational purposes, particularly through its presentation in the museum, its application for [iPad](#) and [Android](#) and activities for [primary](#) and [secondary](#) students. The [home page](#) of its website also hosts excerpts from testimonies related themes and key objects in the collection of artefacts. Since January 2014, the MHMC opened a [YouTube channel](#) on which are posted video clips of survivors who evoke a theme, a historical moment or a memory.

About Amnon's Journey:

For over a decade, Israeli master violin maker, Amnon Weinstein located and lovingly brought back to life violins that had been played by Europe's Jews during the Shoah. In this moving documentary, featuring soul-stirring performances by Maestro Shlomo Mintz, Amnon leads us from his Tel Aviv workshop and through Europe in search of these remnants of a lost cultural world. This journey ends with a concert in Jerusalem's Old City. Documentary film directed by Jean Marie Hosatte (Israël) in 2009. Duration: 52 minutes.

About the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre:

The Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre educates people of all ages and backgrounds about the Holocaust, while sensitizing the public to the universal perils of antisemitism, racism, hate and indifference.

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