

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND HEROES REMEMBERED BY POLITICIANS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

Toronto, November 21, 2013 – The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem and its Young Leadership Division are excited present "Survivors & Heroes" alongside politicians and community leaders.

Geared at providing a diverse audience with a broad understanding of the Holocaust's narrative and its universal lessons, the event serves as a tribute to the "Righteous Among the Nations", non-Jews who risked their lives, freedom, and safety in order to rescue one or several Jews from the threat of death or deportation without demanding monetary compensation or other rewards. Only a small group of individuals are afforded this title, exemplifying incomparable bravery, integrity, and moral fortitude at a time when human decency became the exception rather than the rule.

Featured as the evening keynote speaker, Joe Gottdenker, a survivor will share his inspirational story of being saved by a Christian family during the Holocaust.

"We are so thrilled to be organizing this event for the Young Leadership Division of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem," says Daphne Nissani, Co-chair, The Young Leadership Division. "Our generation must do what we can to preserve and share these stories so that the legacy of these amazing people, the survivors and heroes, can be carried on. These stories of survival and heroism need to be told".

Also featured at the event is a one-of-a-kind photo exhibit featuring Muslim Albanians who rescued Jews during the Holocaust entitled "Besa: A Code of Honour". The Albanians' remarkable assistance to Jews was grounded in *Besa*, a still-existing moral code believed to be rooted in Islam, by which people are obligated to keep their word and protect the lives of others.

Organized and led by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem and its Young Leadership Division, "Survivors and Heroes" takes place on Thursday, November 28, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Uptown Loft located at 2464 Yonge St. in Toronto. Advance tickets for purchase are currently available online for \$20 per ticket.

<http://yadvashemsurvivorsandheroes.brownpapertickets.com>. Tickets priced at \$25 per person will also be available at the door.

[free-them], one of Canada's leading anti-slavery organizations is a proud sponsor of "Survivors and Heros" and plays a key role in advocating for survivors of exploitation and abuse, both in the past and present .

The mission of the Young Leadership Division (YLD) Committee is to broaden the scope of understanding of the Holocaust and the lessons learned in its aftermath within the diverse communities across Canada. Through educational, social and commemorative programming and events, the YLD Committee, which is comprised of dedicated volunteers, hopes to engage communities of different beliefs and backgrounds, to encourage participation in learning about the Holocaust and to apply what has been learned to benefit future generations. For more information, please log on to www.yadvashem.ca.

[free-them] is a volunteer-based initiative dedicated to raising awareness and funds to abolish human trafficking in Canada and abroad. Founded in January 2010, [free-them] is committed to partnering with businesses, government and law enforcement to fight human trafficking (slavery today) through awareness, education, legislation and fundraising for front line organizations. For more information about [free-them], please log on to www.freethem.ca or follow them on twitter @free_them.

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