



A LIVING
MEMORIAL
TO THE
HOLOCAUST

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**ACCESS TO MAJOR HOLOCAUST REGISTRY TO BE MADE
AVAILABLE IN NEW YORK FOR THE FIRST TIME**
Museum to Unveil Access to Registry on Yom HaShoah, April 25

New York, NY – As the world prepares to observe Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, on April 25, the **Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust** is honored to announce that it has become the first venue outside of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC to host the complete **Benjamin and Vladka Meed Registry of Jewish Holocaust Survivors**. The Registry will be made available to the public for the first time in New York on Yom HaShoah.

The Registry is a national database used to document the lives of survivors who came to the United States and other countries after World War II. It was created to document the experiences of survivors and help survivors search for relatives and friends. The Registry now includes over 195,000 records related to survivors and their families. Although most of the survivors who have registered live in North America, the Registry now includes the names of survivors from all over the world. This marks the first time that access to the complete Registry has been made permanently available outside of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Created in 1981 by the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, the Registry has been developed by the USHMM since 1993.

Located in the Resource Center of the Museum in Lower Manhattan, the Registry is open to the public by appointment during regular Museum hours. **On Yom HaShoah, the public is welcome to drop in without an appointment to search for information about missing friends and relatives. Admission for individuals is complimentary that day.**

The Survivors Registry seeks to include the names of all Holocaust survivors; facilitate contact between survivors; collect and display basic information about survivors; and assist survivors and their families in their attempts to trace missing relatives.

Museum Observances for Yom HaShoah

On Yom HaShoah the Museum takes the opportunity to define itself as a truly living memorial to the Holocaust when Holocaust survivors and artifact donors take their places in the galleries to greet visitors and share their experiences. This inter-generational experience provides a rare and moving opportunity for all participants. Among those visiting the Museum that day will be middle school and high school students from around the Northeast including Patterson, NJ; Waterbury, CT; Philadelphia, PA; and Portsmouth, RI.

(More)

Andy Goldsworthy's *Garden of Stones*, his only permanent installation in New York City, will be open to the public. The memorial garden is a contemplative space dedicated to the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust and honoring those who survived. For *Garden of Stones*, Goldsworthy worked with nature's most elemental materials — stone, trees, and soil — to create a garden that is the artist's metaphor for the tenacity and fragility of life.

The culmination of the Museum's Yom HaShoah commemoration will be a public program with Holocaust Survivor and Museum Gallery Educator **Norbert Friedman on April 26 at 7 p.m.** A survivor of 11 concentration camps, Friedman will discuss his harrowing, yet life-affirming autobiography, *Sun Rays at Midnight*. The evening is part of the Museum's *Looking Back, Facing Forward* book series, co-sponsored by the *Forward*, and moderated by its features editor, Gabriel Sanders. *Free with suggested donation.*

The Annual Gathering of Remembrance

The Museum also serves as the organizing sponsor of the Annual Gathering of Remembrance, New York City's oldest and largest commemoration honoring the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. U.S. Senator **Charles Schumer**; Ambassador **John Bolton**, Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations; and Ambassador **Arye Mekel**, Consul General of Israel in New York, will be among the featured speakers addressing a crowd of Holocaust survivors and their families.

This year's Annual Gathering of Remembrance will be **held at the Hunter College Assembly Hall**, 69th Street between Park and Lexington Avenues. *Advance tickets are required. Please call (646) 437-4200, ext 4490 for more information.* This program is not sponsored by or affiliated with Hunter College.

Co-sponsored by the Museum, the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization, and the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, in association with the American Jewish Congress Council for World Jewry, the Anti-Defamation League, Consulate General of Israel, Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, Inc., the New York Board of Rabbis, and UJA-Federation of New York.

About the Museum

The Museum's three-floor Core Exhibition educates people of all ages and backgrounds about the rich tapestry of Jewish life over the past century--before, during, and after the Holocaust. Current special exhibitions include: *Ours To Fight For: American Jews in the Second World War*, which explores the lives of Jewish men and women who served during WWII; *Bukharan Odyssey*, photographs by Zion Ozeri of one of the world's most exotic and colorful communities; and *Life in Shadows: Hidden Children and the Holocaust*, which tells the remarkable stories of the Nazis' most vulnerable victims – Jewish children. The Museum offers visitors a vibrant public program schedule in its Edmond J. Safra Hall. It is also home to Andy Goldsworthy's *Garden of Stones*. The Museum receives general operating support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and is a founding member of the *Museums of Lower Manhattan*.

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