Community Holocaust Commemorations

The Calgary Jewish Community observes two major commemorations: Yom Hashoah, the Holocaust Memorial Day, which fluctuates according to the Jewish calendar but is usually observed at the end of April or beginning of May; and the anniversary of Kristallnacht – The Night of Broken Glass, November 9-10. We bear witness to the memory of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators, honour survivors and their families and remember the millions of others persecuted and killed during World War II. These commemorations reaffirm our determination to prevent such horrific events from happening to any people at any time. All Calgarians are welcome to attend. Upon request, Calgary Jewish Federation also provides resources and speakers for commemorations hosted by schools, places of worship and community organizations.

For further information about any of these programs, please contact the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Coordinator at:
403-444-3162
holocausteducation@cjcc.ca.

www.jewishcalgary.org
Holocaust and Human Rights Education offers the following programs:

**Annual Holocaust Education Symposium**

For more than 25 years, local Holocaust survivors have been sharing their personal narratives with high school students at our Annual Holocaust Education Symposium presented in cooperation with Mount Royal University, the Calgary Board of Education and the Calgary Catholic School District. Each May, about 3,000 students in Grades 11 and 12 attend a half-day session featuring noted local historians, a film about the Holocaust and the opportunity to hear and speak with Holocaust survivors.

**The Asper Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program**

The Asper Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program promotes tolerance and sensitizes junior high school students to the consequences of racism. Through a series of education sessions culminating in a trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and other memorial sites in Washington, D.C., students gain an understanding of the vital role each person plays in the defence of human rights. Participants also explore ways in which they can positively impact their world as engaged citizens. Calgary Jewish Federation is the official organizer of the Asper program in Calgary and coordinates the participation of more than 100 Grade 9 students each year. The program is non-denominational, welcoming students within and beyond the Jewish community.

**The Holocaust Memorial Library – Calgary JCC**

Currently under construction; projected date of completion: Fall 2011

The Holocaust Memorial Library is a resource available to all communities. It contains texts exploring Jewish and Israeli history and a collection of Holocaust literature, reference books and films. A multi-media component allows visitors to research topics relating to the Holocaust via the internet.

**School Based Programs**

**Survivor Testimony**

Calgary Jewish Federation facilitates visits by Holocaust survivors to senior high schools in Calgary and surrounding areas. During these encounters students have the opportunity to hear the testimony of survivors, to ask questions and to engage in discussion. These sessions have been described by students and teachers as inspiring and empowering because despite the horrors they experienced, the survivors bring a message of hope. Recommended for high school classes.

**Calgary Voices of the Holocaust**

Calgary Jewish Federation proudly presents Calgary Voices of the Holocaust, a 25-minute video compilation featuring the testimony of local Holocaust survivors. Holocaust and Human Rights Education facilitators will bring the video to classrooms, guide age-appropriate conversation and offer additional resources at the request of teachers. Voices of the Holocaust has become part of an extensive outreach program to junior and senior high schools and youth organizations in Calgary and environs. It ensures that the voices of Holocaust survivors will be heard well into the future. Recommended for junior and senior high school classes.

**Outside the Attic Walls**

A traveling suitcase complements the study of Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl or other Holocaust literature. Artefacts include a Jewish star sewn onto a coat, a child's toy, identity cards, ration coupons and photographs belonging to child survivors of the Holocaust who, like Anne Frank, were hidden in the Netherlands. The traveling suitcase is available for two weeks free of charge. It is designed to put primary documents and artefacts into the hands of students who are encouraged to examine, describe and analyze the items as a means to investigate issues of discrimination, segregation, hiding and resistance, as well as the aftermath of war and immigration. Learning is supported by Student Information Cards and Teacher's Guides. Recommended for elementary school classes, Grade 5 and up.

• Educating individuals of all ages and backgrounds on the causes and consequences of discrimination, racism, antisemitism, and hate.
• Promoting human rights through the lens of Holocaust education and remembrance.