

Premier honours 19 Holocaust survivors



Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty joined the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem at Queen's Park Thursday honouring 19 Holocaust survivors for their significant contributions to their communities.

In front of friends, family, invited guests and other parliamentarians, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Dr. Eric Hoskins, and MPP for York Centre Monte Kwinter introduced the honourees by reading short biographies.

"The survivors we honour have memories of immeasurable injustice — but they turned them into extraordinary tales of survival and triumph. By raising families, building careers and sharing their stories, they've helped to shape the Ontario we all enjoy today," said Mr. McGuinty.

Yad Vashem, The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem is the universal guardian and imparter of the Holocaust's legacy.

Visited by more than a million people annually, Yad Vashem is internationally recognized as being at the forefront of Holocaust commemoration, education, documentation and research.

The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem is

Yad Vashem's global initiatives and implements Yad Vashem's vision of disseminating the facts and universal lessons of the Holocaust across Canada through educational and commemorative initiatives.

"The survivors that are honoured at the ceremony survived the daily threat of death in the concentration camps, yet have gone on to become teachers, surgeons, and presidents of industries. Their successes are a reason for us to celebrate renewal and hope," said Yaron Ashkenazi, executive director of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem.

The event also included an address from Israel's Consul General to Toronto Amir R. Gissin.

The Premier, Minister Hoskins, MPP Kwinter and the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem presented certificates to the following individuals: Yael Gisela Spier Cohen, Willie Moll, Irene (Blasz) Csillag, Rose Philip, Valentin Drobner, Sally Rosen, Philip Epstein, Dr. Nadia Rosa, John Freund, Leon Rucker, Magda Hilf, David Shentow, Howard Kleinberg, Jack (Szalom) Weinberger, Nancy Kleinberg, Dr. Arthur Weisz, Pepa Livingstone, Helen Yermus and Manja Mapa.

Thornhillers honoured were Helen Yermus, Leon Rucker, and Jack Weinberger.

Premier Dalton McGuinty recently honoured 19 Holocaust survivors for their significant contributions to the province. Left to right are: Leon Rucker, Dr. Nadia Rosa, Helel Yermus, (background MPP Monte Kwinter), Sally Rosen, Executive Director of Canadian Society for Yad Vashem Yaron Ashkenazi, Howard Kleinberg, Nancy Kleinberg, Premier McGuinty, Irene Csillag, Valentin Drobner, Pepa Livingstone, Willie Moll, John Freund, Dr. Arthur Weisz, MPP Eric Hoskins, Manja Mapa, (back David Shentow), Jack Weinberger (back, national director, Canadian Society for Yad Vashem) Fran Sonshine, Magda Hilf, Philip Epstein, Israel Consul General Amir Gissin, Yael Spier Cohen and Rose Philip.

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