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Survivors honoured for educating others

By SHERI SHEFA, Staff Reporter
Thursday, 05 May 2011

TORONTO — More than 2,000 people gathered on Sunday to mark the annual Yom Hashoah v' Hagvurah commemoration at Earl Bales Park, where local Holocaust survivors and educators were honoured for their contributions to Holocaust education.

Holocaust survivor Faye Schulman spoke about fighting the Nazis as a Russian partisan. [Michael Rajzman photo]

The ceremony, called The Faces Behind the Stories, was co-sponsored by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre and the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem. It featured a candlelighting ceremony, a performance by the Yeshivat Or Chaim vocal ensemble and speakers representing three generations affected by the Holocaust: Faye Schulman, a survivor and partisan, Howard Sokolowski, a child of survivors, and Samuel Buckstein, a grandchild of survivors.

The service, commemorating 66 years since World War II ended, also included prayers and songs, the March of the Colours by the Royal Canadian Legion and the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, and a brief address by Amir Gissin, Israel's consul general in Toronto.

Gissin said the community gathers for the commemoration every year because of "the need to learn something new about the Holocaust... to understand a new perspective."

He praised Canada as a country that can be compared to no other when it comes to supporting Holocaust education and the State of Israel.



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