

INTERNATIONAL The *March* Report OF THE LIVING

Teach your children כולנו מחויבים לשמר ולהפיץ את זיכרון השואה, כפי שנאמר: ושננתם לבניך

Issue 1, Winter 2018



Israeli and Polish Heads of State to Lead March at Auschwitz

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Witness Attracts Attention in Budapest and NY after Warsaw



MOTL Alumnus Shines a Light

Looking Back, Looking Forward

March of the Living's mandate is as valid today as it was when our program first began 30 years ago

We are pleased to present you with the inaugural issue of the International March of the Living's new publication. It's designed to spotlight news of interest to alumni, current participants, staff, supporters and others.

As one of the founders of the March of the Living program in 1988, it's particularly

gratifying for me that since the first trip, more than 260,000 people – among them, students, survivors, educators and world dignitaries – have taken part in this life-changing experience.

As a result of their March experience, many have become powerful and eloquent ambassadors for Israel, the Jewish people and global human rights.

As we celebrate our 30th anniversary this year, we again will welcome thousands of people of good faith from around

the world on the March of the Living, including the presidents of Israel and Poland.

As we look back on three decades of achievement, we want to express our gratitude to all our participants. We extend special thanks to the survivors, who so courageously have shared their stories of love and loss, and to their students, who

listened to them so faithfully and committed to being the bearers of their difficult memories.

Of course, we are keenly and painfully aware that in only a few years, most Holocaust survivors will be unable to participate in

this arduous two-week journey. But the stories they have shared with us over the last 30 years will accompany us, and will continue to be shared on all future March of the Living journeys.

Indeed, we promise, as long as there is a March of the Living, we will never forget the stories of the survivors and profound lessons each and every one of them has taught us.

After the Holocaust, the solemn oath of "Never Again!" was pledged. It is the mission of the March of the Living to make this pledge a reality – never again should such a tragedy befall the Jewish people, or any other group of innocent people.

Please join us on this sacred effort to create a better world for the Jewish people and, indeed, for all members of the human family.

Dr. Shmuel Rosenman
Chairman/CEO, International March of the Living



Dr. Shmuel Rosenman



Amanda Brown

Seeking Justice After Atrocity

In New York on Sept. 12, 2017, the International March of the Living in partnership with Rutgers Law School sponsored the 2017 Paul S. Miller Distinguished Lecture titled *Seeking Justice After Atrocity*. It featured presentations by Eli M. Rosenbaum, (left), on US Justice Dept.'s efforts against Nazi war criminals, and Prof. John Q. Barrett, (middle), biographer of the late US Supreme Court Justice and Nuremberg prosecutor Robert Jackson, and a video conversation between Prof. Barrett and Justice Gabriel Bach, deputy prosecutor in the prosecution of Adolf Eichmann. Also in photo: Prof. John Farmer, Rutgers University. Program developed by Prof. David Machlis, Adelphi University, with support of Prof. Farmer, Eli Rubenstein and Ariana Heideman Tipograph.

CALENDAR

Dates Worth Noting

A selection of relevant events taking place in 2018

- **January 9 – Warsaw, Poland**
Official meeting of the Joint Steering Committee, Government of Poland and March of The Living for 2018 March
- **January 11-12 – Auschwitz, Poland**
Bilateral meeting with Auschwitz and Polin Museums, planning 2018 cooperation, seminars and ongoing educational projects
- **January 24 – Brussels, Belgium**
Participation of March of the Living delegation at EU International Holocaust Commemoration event at European Parliament
- **January 25 – Budapest, Hungary**
Inaugural event at Dohani Synagogue to mark the transfer of March of the Living exhibition from Poland to Budapest
- **January 25 – Strasbourg, France**
Participation of March of the Living delegation at International Holocaust Memorial Day event at EU Commission
- **January 27 – Auschwitz, Poland**
Participation of March of the Living officials at International Holocaust Commemoration at Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland
- **January 29 – New York, USA**
Ceremony at United Nations for the opening of the March of the Living exhibition, hosted by Israel's UN Ambassador, Danny Danon
- **January 29 and 30 – New York, USA**
2018 March of the Living preparation and educational meeting
- **January 30 - February 7 – New York, USA**
March of the Living exhibition on display in the 1B Corridor of the United Nations General Assembly Building
- **February 4 – Volos, Greece**
March of the Living participation at Greek Orthodox Church and Jewish community conference
- **February 12 - Hiroshima, Japan**
Righteous Among the Nations conference. Tribute to Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara who saved 6,000 Jews in WWII
- **March 11 – Bitola, Macedonia**
March of the Living march/ceremony, in cooperation with Jewish community and Israeli Foreign Affairs Ministry, commemorating deportation and mass murder at Treblinka of Macedonia's Jews
- **March 18 – Thessaloniki, Greece**
March of the Living participation in march and ceremony commemorating deportation and murder of city's Jews at Auschwitz

The March Report

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Editor-in-Chief
AHARON (AHARALE) TAMIR

Advisory Board
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Editor
ROBERT SARNER

Design/Production
AVIV SARNER-AFARGAN

The International March of the Living Report is published four times a year by the International March of the Living. We welcome letters/comments from readers. Please send them to motl@motlmail.org or International March of the Living, 2 West 45th Street, Suite 1500, New York, New York 10036 USA. Tel: 212-869-6800 www.motl.org

The March's Meaningful Legacy for the World

Our alumni become witnesses of the witnesses

In 1988, some 1,500 individuals from North America and Israel took part in the first March of the Living. In 2018, more than 10,000 people from 150 diverse communities around the globe will participate in the 30th March of the Living. Since its inception, this experience has provided an in-depth education for more than 260,000 participants.

These numbers reflect the growth of this annual journey, how meaningful it is and its enduring relevance to a new generation.

Theodor Herzl famously said: "If you will it, it is no dream." The founders of this organization had a dream which we've transformed into a vital reality. Through it all, we've remained steadfast in our dedication to the memory of those who perished under Nazi



Phyllis Greenberg Heideman tyranny. Equally constant is our boundless respect for those who survived the horrors of the Holocaust.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as President of the International March of the Living and share my commitment to remember the past with an eye toward the future with our dedicated Board of Directors and devoted leadership from around

the world. Aware that we hold in our hands one of the greatest tools to ensure the future – education – we are committed to relay to the next generation the importance of collective memory and communal legacy. This is our path to continuity.

Our skilled educators and leadership undertake the daunting task to prepare the next generation to face the future with clear vision, passionate preparation and detailed planning. As a result of their tireless and creative educational efforts, March of the Living alumni have a visible and meaningful presence on the landscape of the world in which we live.

May 2018 bring us closer to the fruition of all our dreams as we march into the future.

Phyllis Greenberg Heideman
President, International
March of the Living



Honoring Holocaust Survivors

On Oct. 14, 2017, the Next Generation Board of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC hosted An Evening to Honor Holocaust Survivors. It saluted 11 local survivors who have contributed to the life of the Museum through their personal testimonies, their warmth and commitment, and their inspired participation in its educational programs. Co-Chairs were MOTL staff member Ariana Heideman Tipograph and MOTL Alum Joseph Tipograph.

Behind and Beyond the Creation of our New Newsletter

Why this publication is an important step forward for our organization in sharing our stories

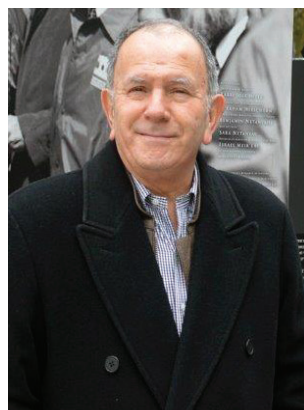
Sharing relevant stories and information is critical to any successful organization or company. Indeed, it's part of any healthy relationship even between two people.

In today's world, there are of course multiple ways and platforms for such communication. Until now, the International March of the Living has used various tools for this but we've often felt something was missing.

We were convinced a publication that brings together, in text and images, the people, places and programs behind what we do would be of value for our many constituents. Last fall, we decided to do some-

thing about this gap by creating a newsletter. The result is now before you with the first issue of *The International March of The Living Report*.

It represents the work and dedication of a small group of people who are committed to telling the ongoing story of the March of the Living and related matters. Published four times a year, it will spotlight our activities, programs and other initiatives. The content on its pages will reflect our vision, ideas,



Aharon (Aharale) Tamir

activities, goals and future plans. At the same time, it will highlight many noteworthy developments in the world of Holocaust education and remembrance that we feel will be of interest to our many readers.

The newsletter is aimed at our many constituents – youth, adults, alumni, supporters and survivors, the treasured men and women who have been with us from the very beginning and are a constant source of inspiration and wisdom for us.

Like any new publication, *The International March of The Living Report* will evolve from issue to issue. It will benefit from your input. That's why I encourage you to send us your feedback, comments and suggestions.

As we prepare plans for the 30th anniversary of the March of the Living this spring, along with the celebration of Israel's 70th birthday, we hope you enjoy our newsletter. We're confident it will help contribute to the present and future of our organization and the important work to which we're forever devoted.

Aharon (Aharale) Tamir,
Deputy World Chairman,
International MOTL



Witness Exhibit Gains New Audience in Budapest and NY

Major March of the Living exhibition opens in Hungarian capital and is also being presented at the United Nations

There's good reason Budapest was chosen as the first site outside Poland to host the March of the Living exhibition that until now was located in Warsaw. It's titled *Witness: Passing the Torch of Holocaust Memory to the Next Generation*.

Despite being decimated in the Holocaust, Hungary's Jewish community today is the largest in central east Europe, with nearly 100,000 people, most of whom live in Budapest.

The March of the Living is highly active in Hungary where it organizes social programs for survivors and various events that raise awareness about the mass murder of six million Jews by the Nazis and their supporters from 1939 to 1945.

In a recent initiative, the March of the Living arranged for the transfer of its acclaimed

Witness exhibition from Poland to Hungary. Starting in January, it's now on view at Budapest's celebrated Great Synagogue on Dohany Street which is the largest in Europe and also houses the Hungarian Jewish Museum.

Meanwhile, on January

29 in New York, Israel's UN Ambassador to the, Danny Danon, is hosting a Holocaust Remembrance Day program and reception for the opening of the March of the Living exhibition on view for two weeks in the General Assembly Building.

UN Ambassadors from over 30 countries will attend the event, which will include spoken and musical presentations from past March participants – survivors and students – along with a special performance by celebrated Israeli musical artists.

SURVIVOR SPOTLIGHT

Revisiting a Difficult Time and Place

Showing great fortitude, Hank Brodt prepares for his 10th March of the Living in the spring

This spring, Holocaust survivor Hank Brodt will take part in his 10th March of the Living, much to the benefit of everyone who comes into contact with him.

"Initially, I was hesitant to go on the March of the Living," says Hank, 92, who lives in Greensboro, North Carolina. "But I'm glad I did because while I was on my first March in 2006, I realized how important it is for someone like me to accompany the youth to give them a personal testimony of this very dark and tragic period.

During the Holocaust, the Polish-born Hank miraculously survived five concentration camps. He was liberated from the Ebensee camp in Austria on May 6, 1945. A year later, he testified at a Nazi

war crimes trial in Dachau, Germany. In 1949, he moved to the United States where he started a new life in New York and worked for many years as an auto mechanic.

In 2007, at Birkenau on Yom Hashoah, Hank lit one of the six memorial torches in memory of the many members of his family murdered by the Nazis. Shortly thereafter, he discovered his brother's

family that lived in Israel.

Hank's brother Simcha had died in 1986. In the 1990s, Simcha's two sons, along with their mother, immigrated to Israel. Today, both of Hank's nephews have families of their own.

The reunification of Hank with his family in Israel was like a miracle, for which he and all those who love him are grateful.



Hank Brodt, (center), on the March of the Living



Heads of State to Lead the Way at the March

In a rare move, Israeli and Polish presidents to take part together in this year's March of the Living

On April 12, for the first time since 2003, Poland's president will join his Israeli counterpart at the main March of the Living event at Auschwitz. President Andrzej Duda and President Reuven Rivlin will walk together, leading the solemn procession from Auschwitz to Birkenau in the presence of thousands of marchers from around the world.

The participation of both leaders reflects the close friendship between Jerusalem and Warsaw and the importance both countries attach to the annual Holocaust commemoration. Both presidents will address the ceremony.

President Rivlin will be accompanied by a 150-person delegation consisting of mem-

bers of all branches of the Israel Defense Forces, Holocaust survivors and men and women representing diverse segments of Israeli society.

In recent years, Poland has been one of Israel's staunchest allies in the European Union. In December, President Duda took part in a Chanukah ceremony in Warsaw at which he said it's important that Jews feel at home in Poland.

A few days earlier, the country's recently appointed prime minister, Mateusz Morawiecki said in parliament that non-Jewish Poles who saved their "Jewish brothers" during the Holocaust represent the "essence of what it means to be Polish." Last January, President Duda made an official state visit to Israel.



Nuremberg Laws and Trials Revisited

Last February in Los Angeles, the International March of the Living co-sponsored a Holocaust Educational Symposium on Hitler's infamous 1935 Nuremberg Laws and the 1945/46 Nuremberg Trials of 22 major Nazis. The event took place at the Loyola Law School of Los Angeles, in cooperation with the International and Comparative Law Review and Loyola Center for the Study of Law and Genocide.

MARCHER PROFILE

Jordana Lebowitz

Canadian March of the Living alumnus highly active with varied Holocaust remembrance initiatives

Toronto resident Jordana Lebowitz, 22, is wise beyond her years, especially when it comes to the Holocaust. That's due to being the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors and taking part in the 2012 March of the Living which inspired her to become an advocate for Holocaust remembrance and human rights.

In 2015, Jordana attended the trial of former Nazi officer Oskar Groening in Germany where the "bookkeeper of Auschwitz" was convicted of being complicit in the death of 300,000 Jews. She accompanied three Holocaust survivors (she met on the March of the Living) who testified at the proceedings. She later co-wrote a book about her experiences there with author Kathy Kacer titled: *To Look a Nazi in the Eye: A Teen's Account of a War Criminal Trial*.

Jordana has also complet-



ed placements at the Museum of Tolerance in California, the Jewish Holocaust Centre in Australia and the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights in Montreal, and spoken about her experiences at Holocaust Education Week in Toronto.

Currently a psychology student at the University of Guelph near Toronto, Jordana has initiated Holocaust-related exhibits on campus and is now developing a related non-profit educational program for students.



Israeli President Reuven Rivlin



Polish President Andrzej Duda

Lessons That Need to be Learned

International March of the Living and George Washington University create new educational program involving one-year fellowships to fight Holocaust ignorance and denial

Despite the Holocaust's historic, unprecedented nature and the extensive coverage it's received over the past 70-plus years, ignorance – willful or otherwise – about it is alarmingly widespread. According to the Anti-Defamation League's largest-ever survey of attitudes to Jews in 2014 in more than 100 countries, 35 per cent of people claimed to be unaware of the Nazi genocide of Jews. No less disturbing, of those who said they had heard of the Holocaust, about a third said it's either a myth or greatly exaggerated.

In response, the International March of the Living is launching a new educational initiative to address this problem. This year will see the inauguration of the March of the Living Faculty Fellowship Program



in collaboration with the George Washington University Graduate School of Education and Human Development. The program was developed by Prof. David Machlis, Adelphi University.

The first class of fellows is being recruited for the 2018-2019 academic year and will consist of five university and

law school professors who teach at one of the more than 1,800 colleges and universities that currently don't offer Holocaust studies courses. Fellowships will be awarded to distinguished faculty members who commit to offering a Holocaust/genocide course within a year of their completion of the program.

The fellowship itself will consist of an intensive one-year curriculum designed by prestigious Holocaust scholars and educators. Fellows will participate in a group retreat in Washington, DC as well as on an educational mission to Poland which will provide context and a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

Through Holocaust and genocide education, students come to realize that democratic institutions and values are not automatically sustained but need to be appreciated and safeguarded to protect freedom and human life. The fellows will help shed light on better understanding and combating the forces of bigotry, racism and anti-Semitism that, lamentably, far too many people still harbor today.

Walking Tall in Good Company

March of the Living to figure prominently at this year's festive celebration of Israel in New York

When New Yorkers show their great affinity for Israel, they don't believe in half-measures. Every year, Manhattan is the site of the world's largest annual public event and celebration of the Jewish state dating back to 1964. It features a massive parade along the city's famous Fifth Avenue.

On June 3, New York will host the 54th annual Celebrate Israel Parade which will be particularly festive to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Israel. The International March of the Living is preparing a float to be part of the event for the first time ever to commemorate Israel's milestone birthday and to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the March of the Living. Hundreds of March alumni are expected

to accompany the float along the parade route.

The Parade features more than 40,000 participants including many American and Israeli community leaders, dignitaries, entertainers, artists, musicians, dancers, celebrities, marching

bands and a variety of colorful floats. The afternoon event attracts hundreds of thousands of enthusiastic spectators who help celebrate the special friendship and great mutual respect that have always existed between the United States and

Israel.

The parade will be broadcast live on FOX MY9 and live-streamed at www.celebrateisraelny.org. The March of the Living will share the feed at motl.org and on its social media channels.



Opening Minds, Blazing New Trails

March of the Living joins forces with the Polin Museum in Warsaw



Since its opening in 2013 on the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews has been an important educational partner of the March of the Living. It plays a significant part in the March of the Living visit every spring, adding further perspective to the on-the-ground touring of March participants in Poland. It also serves a major educational role for Polish youth. Located on the site of the former Warsaw Ghetto, the museum focuses on the large Jewish community that lived in Poland for 1,000 years until the Holocaust.

The International March of the Living has long encouraged the participation of thousands of Polish teens from schools around the country in the annual March. This year, at the suggestion of the March of the Living, the Polin Museum is hosting Polish teens in February and March for an impactful preparatory visit ahead of the main event at Auschwitz-Birkenau on Yom HaShoah. This initiative has deepened relations with the Polish Ministry of Education and other organizations involved in education, culture and teaching history.

March of the Living leaders believe a tour of the Polin

Museum is a vital part of the organization's commitment to Holocaust education for its Jewish participants and non-Jewish Polish youth. MOTL officials say that for young people, seeing the exhibits in the museum is a first step in understanding Holocaust history and contributing to a better relationship between Poles and their Jewish compatriots. Both MOTL and Museum leaders say Polish students will come away with a better appreciation of the Jewish contribution to Polish life over such an extended period and a greater awareness about and sensitivity to the tragic fate of Jews during the Holocaust.



New Ways of Engagement

Interactive exhibit in NY features frequent MOTL participant

At the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York, visitors are engaging in "virtual conversations" with Holocaust survivors as part of a new interactive installation. Pinchas Gutter, who's been on the March of the Living many times, is one of the principal survivors featured in New Dimensions in Testimony that runs until April 29, 2018.

Visitors ask questions and lifelike projections of the survivors give their answers in real time, offering personal reflections about life before, during and after the Holocaust. Pinchas Gutter survived six Nazi concentration camps and now lives in Toronto, Canada. The other main survivor in the installation is Eva Schloss, the step-sister of Anne Frank, who was a prisoner at Auschwitz and now lives in London, England.

The Value of Good Preparation

Well-conceived orientation helps sensitize participants ahead of upcoming March

The March of the Living, Southern Region, just completed the first preparatory class for this year's March. In total, 110 people – 85 students, three survivors and 22 staff – attended. The group studied a range of subjects including:

- **Jewish Peoplehood**, using a special video, *You Are Part of the Story*, produced by Beit Hatfusot (Museum of the Jew-

- ish People) in Tel Aviv
- **'Characters' of the Shoah**, 'Bystanders, perpetrators, victims, rescuers (righteous), upstanders, resisters and liberators.' Gaining insight through viewing the film *Pigeon*.

- **The Last Words of the Victims**: These Are My Last Words, an activity developed at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and



introduced to three of MOTL Southern Region staff during a summer seminar sponsored by Yad Vashem and the International March of the Living. Students considered the meaning of final messages and how they applied both to the victims then, and to themselves now.

"We are grateful to the International March of the

Living for assuring that we, in the different regions and countries around the world, receive the high quality on-site training that can be implemented promptly with our students," says Jack Rosenbaum, Director of the March of the Living Southern Region, USA. "It makes a big impact and will contribute greatly to their experience on the March this coming April."

Telling the Story Around the World

Snapshots of interesting moments in the life of Holocaust education and remembrance near and far



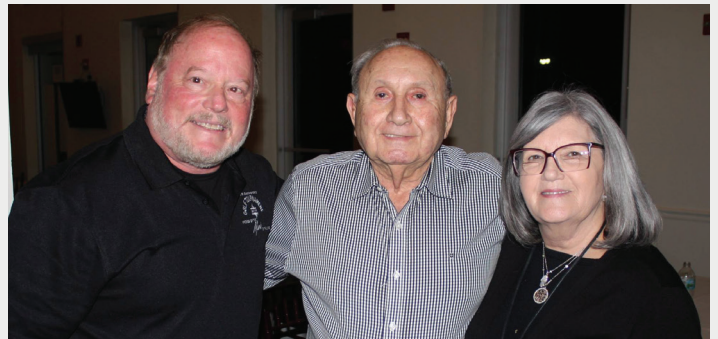
In Jan. 2018, the World Jewish Congress launched the second annual #WeRemember initiative which combats Holocaust denial, anti-Semitism and all forms of hatred. Holocaust survivors are part of the campaign which runs through International Holocaust Remembrance Day.



On Nov. 28, 2017, Dr. Shmuel Rosenman, Chairman/CEO of International MOTL, (center) and Scott Saunders, Chair of MOTL UK, (left), in London, England, with Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, Chief Rabbi of United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, to celebrate upcoming 30th anniversary of MOTL.



On Sept. 10, 2017, the International March of the Living co-sponsored an event in Sighet, Romania in memory of Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, in partnership with Limmud FSU. Some 1,500 people marched along the same route down which Holocaust victims were forced during WWII.



On Dec. 10, 2017, Martin Baranek, Holocaust survivor, (center), with Mel Mann, Executive Director of Friends of the March of the Living, and Phyllis Greenberg Heideman, President of the International March of the Living, at 13th annual Friends of the March of the Living Golf Tournament in Miami, FL.

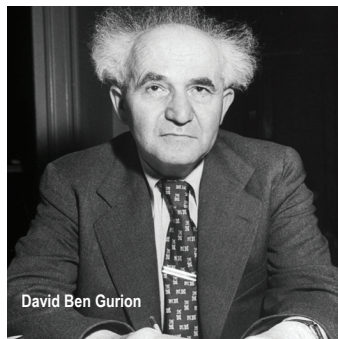
An Unbreakable Connection

The strong, compelling link between the creation of Israel and the March of the Living

In 1948, exactly 40 years before the March of the Living took root, the state of Israel was born after a long, heroic struggle. The two developments, although different and decades apart, are not unrelated.

The reasons for creating the March of The Living – to combat Holocaust denial; raise awareness of the Nazi genocide of Jews, and promote tolerance and humanitarian values – have a direct relationship with Israel.

Since the inception of the March of the Living in 1988, Israel has always been an integral part of the annual journey. Indeed, it's the second half of each mission and the culmination of the March of the Living experience. Hence its slogan:



From Holocaust to Revival –
משואה לתקומה.

The Holocaust and its implications and the revival and creation of the Jewish state are central to the March of the Living's raison d'être. This vital connection is evident in everything we do.

Israel was created by a remarkable people, with its legendary leader, David Ben-Gurion, at the helm. Ben-Gurion,

who became the country's first Prime Minister and Defense Minister, served for almost 15 years as Israel's main leader. He was born in Poland in Plonsk, an hour's drive from Warsaw, one of the MOTL's hubs in visits to Poland.

Where roads and people lead and eventually intersect is not always evident at first

glance but often have major consequences. Like events decades apart, such as the establishment of Israel and the creation of the March of the Living, so rooted in the past, so vital to the present and future of the Jewish people.

Aharon (Aharale) Tamir,
Deputy World Chairman,
International MOTL

PLEASE... AND THANK YOU

Donor support helps International March of the Living continue its vital work teaching Holocaust history to people around the world while strengthening Jewish identity and connections to Israel.

Please consider making a donation to International March of the Living, a non-profit charity organization. All contributions are deductible to the fullest extent of applicable tax law. (Our Tax ID is #22-326-1085).

To donate to the International March of the Living, please go to www.motl.org/donate or call +1.212.869.6800.

Please. And thank you.