

# YOM HASHOAH

we remember



Dear Friends,

For today's children, the liberation of Auschwitz and all that it means, is almost as historically distant as the U.S. Civil War was to my generation; the last veterans passed away 18 months before my birth.

For our community and our people, the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz, as well as the other places of terror and death, represents a moment in time between active memory for some, and history for others. The latter will only grow with time. We are commanded by the Torah to "remember what Amalek did to you on the way, when you went out of Egypt". So too must we be required as a community to remember the Shoah.

Like the program of the March of the Living, which takes our children from the depths of terror to the joy of Israel's birth as a modern state, we can only appreciate where we are as a community and as a people today if we do so with the knowledge of where we have been. The Shoah can never be allowed to define us; but it must illuminate us on how far we have come, both in Israel and in the Diaspora.

This is a moment where we decide as a community and as a people that for us, our children, our grandchildren and for those as yet to be born, that the end of the Shoah is not merely history, but the beginning of the rebirth of our people.

L'dor va dor,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Polowin".

Michael Polowin  
Chair of the Board of Directors  
The Jewish Federation of Ottawa



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