

Yom Ha'shoah



Yom Ha'Shoah is Holocaust Remembrance Day on the Jewish calendar - the 27th of the Jewish month of Nissan. It is the day when we remember the Holocaust (known as the "Shoah" in Hebrew). It commemorates the death and destruction of six million Jewish lives and countless millions of others - gypsies, Catholics, political opponents, homosexuals and the disabled - at the hands of the Nazis in World War II. We also remember the righteous Gentiles - non-Jews who saved the lives of Jews, often putting themselves and their families in peril.

It's a time to remember the deaths and honour their memory by doing everything in our power to ensure it never happens again. Racism, discrimination, fear and hate were the roots of the Holocaust. We remember so we'll learn and act. This is a day to reflect on and educate about the enduring lessons of the Holocaust and to reaffirm a commitment to uphold human rights.

In Israel, Yom Ha'Shoah was made a national public holiday in 1959. It was formally recognized in 1998 in the Ontario Holocaust Memorial Day Act. It's marked in communities around the world with services which include speakers, singing, readings, usually the lighting of six candles, each representing one million Jewish souls who perished, and reciting the Mourners' Kaddish (prayer of remembrance).

At Shalom Village, there is a service in the Chapel starting at 11 a.m. Residents light candles and share in readings and prayers.