

Remembering and Honoring the Past

“Unto Every Person There is a Name” 2016 programming was held in communities and linked to the Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi) fraternity campus program “We Walk to Remember” on more than 160 campuses. The B’nai B’rith-AEPi partnership for this event is now 10 years strong. This was held on Yom Hashoah, the Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day observed this year on May 5. Materials are created and distributed by the B’nai B’rith Center for Jewish Identity based on this year’s theme (“Everything is Forbidden to Us, and Yet We Do Everything: The Struggle to Maintain the Human Spirit during the Holocaust”) which is provided by Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Authority, in consultation with the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

For more than 25 years, B’nai B’rith International has proudly been the North American official sponsor of this Yom Hashoah program. With B’nai B’rith’s help, many communities across the globe came together on Yom Hashoah to commemorate the Holocaust.

The featured event is when participants read the names of Holocaust victims, where they were born and where they died. For many victims on these lists it is the only time their name, and thus their life, will be remembered, as their entire family was murdered or there is no one left to remember them.

Each year these observances honor more and more victims, as the Shoah Victim’s Names Recovery Project seeks and discovers new information.



The AEPi “We Walk To Remember” portion features AEPi members walking silently across campus wearing a “Never Forget” sticker, provided by B’nai B’rith, to identify those who are participating in the program. B’nai B’rith also provided other materials that explain the importance of Yom Hashoah, and information pertaining to this year’s theme.

Throughout November, B’nai B’rith International held commemorations across Latin America to remember Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass. In Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama and Uruguay, B’nai B’rith held remembrance programs marking the 78th anniversary of Kristallnacht. In 1938, on Nov. 9 and 10, Nazis terrorized Jewish neighborhoods

throughout Germany, Austria and parts of Czechoslovakia by vandalizing thousands of Jewish businesses, and burning and destroying more than a thousand synagogues.

In New York, B’nai B’rith rededicated the Holocaust Memorial to the Six Million in November 2016 that was created by the survivors’ lodges and chapters in 1976. A Kristallnacht candle lighting ceremony was also held and included two generations of Holocaust survivors and their families.

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The Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators is a major initiative of Action Wallenberg Committee of B'nai B'rith of Victoria and B'nai B'rith Courage to Care (Vic) Inc. Thirty-Four teachers attended the program, a limit imposed only by the capacity of the classroom in Yad Vashem. Gandel Philanthropy sponsors approximately 24 or 25 teachers who are chosen from Victorian educators and also secondary or tertiary teachers from other Australian states. This year Action Wallenberg Committee is also sponsoring three teachers from South Australia and Tasmania whilst Raoul Wallenberg Unit is sponsoring seven teachers from Victorian secondary schools. The Program nurtures the teachers who gain new knowledge and insight into the Holocaust. They participate in workshops, lectures, tours and educational sessions on history, pedagogy and Judaism on the Yad Vashem campus, learning how to utilize resources in their classrooms and with their students. The teachers are often present at Courage to Care exhibitions and it is exciting to note the enormous value derived from their training in Israel.

