



**"The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry"
Robert Burns**

Dear Friends:

As the world continues to be plagued by the Coronavirus, this old adage seems to ring truer than ever. Families, individuals, organizations, institutions, schools, and even governments have all had to revise previous plans for almost every activity and gathering around the globe.

Sidelined by the Virus, we too have had to reconfigure our organization. Overnight we learned the art of virtual programming and realigned our traditional way of delivering our message historically centered on a physical and emotional connection to Holocaust education.

With the participation of all of you, we have been able to reach an overwhelming number of people around the world through our webinars, fireside chats and virtual commemorations on Yom HaShoah and Kristallnacht. For that, we say thank you.

While it was our every intention to hold a traditional International March of the Living in April 2021, given the international and local guidelines for gatherings of this size, we have come to the very difficult recognition that we are unable to proceed with our large-scale two-week annual journey to Poland and Israel in 2021. This realization has not been an easy one to accept, although we trust that it comes as no surprise to anyone monitoring and assessing the continuing crisis facing the entire world.

We are, however, currently planning an Erev Yom HaShoah Memorial Ceremony, a Virtual March of the Living on Yom HaShoah itself and special programming for global broadcast on Yom HaShoah and Yom Ha'Atzamat 2021. We also continue to prepare for a commemorative physical March of the Living Ceremony to be held on the ground that day in Poland with those able to convene at Auschwitz. We do so in keeping with our commitment to our past, our commitment to our ancestors and our mission to remember – no matter what.

The International March of the Living

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For those delegations who anticipate the ability to travel, we look forward to cooperating with you as you plan your journey as well as coordinating with you in regard to your participation in a March of the Living commemorative event during 2021.

Meanwhile, we will continue to meet the challenges of the day with online programming and educational digital outreach as we adjust to the new way of connecting, of teaching and of staying focused on our mission to combat antisemitism and hatred while using the lessons of the past as warnings for the future.

We trust that together we will continue to keep the flame of Holocaust memory and legacy alive through the mechanisms within our reach. Our mission is as important as ever, as the world is still aflame with antisemitism and intolerance. We are pleased and willing to participate and assist your efforts in any way we can.

And even though it seems so very far away, we invite you to join us in our creative preparations for an extraordinary 2022 March of the Living, when we hope to once again be able to gather together in Poland and Israel free of the threat of pandemic. With renewed invigoration, we look forward to continuing our age-old tradition on the ground, in person and en masse.

We wish each of you and your families continued good health and look forward to better days ahead. And once again, we thank you for your continued dedication and tireless efforts to meet the challenges. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

May we continue to go together from strength to strength,

Sincerely,

Shmuel and Phyllis

