

March of the Living Honored By UN Israeli Ambassador Ron Prosor on its 25th Anniversary



2012 March to reunite Concentration Camp
Liberators and Holocaust Survivors for the First Time



Event held at
residence of Israeli
Ambassador to
the UN,
Ron Prosor on
January 17, 2012.

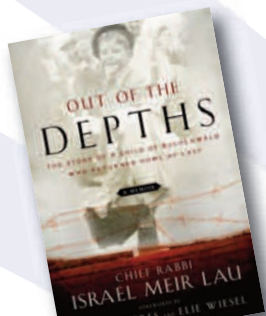
WWII liberator Rick Carrier with Israeli Ambassador to the US, Ron Prosor.
The Ex-Army corporal was the first allied soldier to enter Buchenwald and witness the atrocities committed by the Nazis at this infamous camp.



Presentation of model synagogue to Ambassador Prosor by Shlomo Grofman & Phyllis Heideman

The event was endorsed by prominent Holocaust survivor and religious leader, Israeli Chief Rabbi, Israel Meir Lau

"I am convinced the March of the Living.....creates a deeper commitment to Israel among the student participants from around the world," he noted. Rabbi Lau commended the gathering for *"ensuring the eternal light of the Jewish people and Israel will never be extinguished."* (A copy of Rabbi Lau's newly published and recently translated biography, *Out of the Depths*, was given to each guest. The book chronicles his miraculous rescue from the Holocaust as a mere child, his aliyah to Palestine and his rise to the position of Chief Rabbi of Israel.)





"On the March, standing in Auschwitz and Birkenau, hearing survivors speak while standing in their old barracks, the words, 'Am Yisrael Chai' gained a whole new meaning." **Ron Prosor, Israel Ambassador to the UN**
(Reflecting on the lasting imprint that the March of the Living left on him)

"The March of Living is an expression of always remember and never forget. Those who do not remember the past are destined to repeat it."
Shlomo Grofman, Vice Chairman, March of the Living International



"We have a special obligation to remind [the children], to educate them, to teach them. And the best teacher is experience, is having them walk that walk, visit the camps, and stand in Auschwitz-Birkenau... There is nothing that can compare with [the March of the Living], no lecture, no movie, that gives them that feeling, that instruction. You can make all the difference by making it possible for young people to participate [in the March of the Living]. I think this is the obligation of this generation, our obligation to our grandparents and our grandchildren..." **Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Vice Chairman, Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations**

"Never have I had the blessing to be involved in an organization that touches so many lives, that provides a life altering experience for each and every participant.... Whether that change comes as we march on blood soaked soil from Auschwitz to Birkenau, or later when they are in college facing anti-Semitism, or when they are making their life choices about how to raise their children. At some point - and we have 150,000 alumni in 40 countries - each one will tell you, the single greatest experience in their life was to make the March of the Living, to go from ashes to life."
Phyllis Heideman, Chair, International Advisory Board, March of the Living



Those in attendance were visibly moved by the performance of 17 year-old Montreal singer Sara Diamond (who will join the 2012 March of the Living), accompanied by Alicia Svigals, one of the world's foremost Klezmer Fiddlers.



Shlomo & Shula Grofman with Rabbi Arthur & Elizabeth Schneier

Two alumni of the March, Marie Noel and Jill Wagner, shared their profoundly moving experiences, discussing how it heightened their commitment to the lessons of the Holocaust and the need to stand with Israel and combat anti-Semitism.

"As a witness to the Holocaust, I wish every person could have my similar experience so that everyone may come to recognize that the Holocaust did happen and suffering still occurs....At Treblinka, I felt their spirits and I heard their voices.....saying to me, 'Now you have seen, you have heard, you have discussed, you have touched, you have sensed and you have felt, do not forget about us.'...It is my hope and the mission of March of the Living to be part of making a new history in which we respect our differences and learn from the mistakes of the past to help create a better future. This is why we want to keep remembering and this is why we want to keep marching."

Marie Noel, an African American student from the College of St. Elizabeth, and a graduate of the March.

The Guest List included:

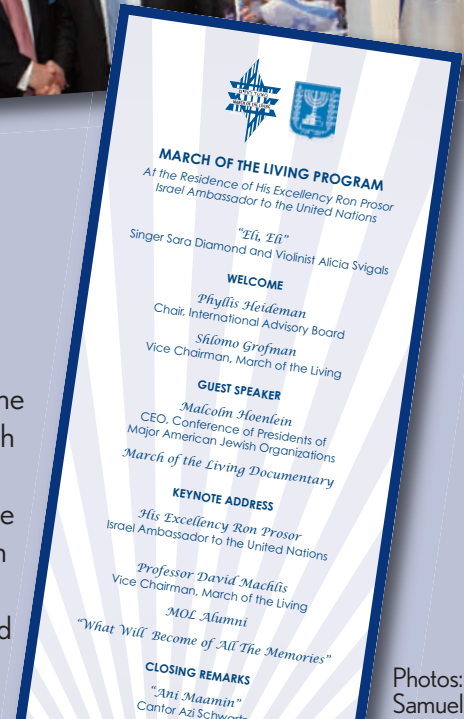
- William Bram, Partner, Merrill Lynch
- Ken Mehlman, Partner, KKR, & Former Chairman of the Republican National Committee and Campaign Manager of President Bush's Re-Election Campaign
- Leon Mark Wagner, Founding Partner, GoldenTree Asset Management
- Rabbi Arthur Schneier, Senior Rabbi, Park East Synagogue
- Bradley Reifler, Founder and CEO Forefront Capital
- Christopher Engel, President, Forefront Capital
- Rabbi Marc Schneier, President, The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding
- Gerry Platt, American Friends of Likud
- Cantor Azi Schwartz, Cantor, Park Avenue Synagogue

About March of the Living

The March of the Living is an annual educational program which brings students from all over the world to Poland to study the history of the Holocaust and to examine the roots of prejudice, intolerance and hate. During their week in Poland, they march from Auschwitz to Birkenau on Holocaust Remembrance Day in memory of all Holocaust victims. After visiting other places of Nazi German persecution and once thriving sites of Jewish life, many participants travel to Israel, where they take part in Israel's Memorial Day and Independence Day activities. The goal of the March of the Living is for these young people to learn the lessons of the Holocaust and to lead the Jewish people into the future vowing **"Never Again."**



Israeli UN Ambassador Ron Prozor with Shlomo Grofman



Photos: Samuel Schecter.

To support the 2012 March of the Living and to enable liberators, survivors and students to participate in this life-changing experience, please contact: International March of The Living
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