

### **NSW Governor to address Museum Holocaust Commemoration**

**22.01.16** His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor of New South Wales will present the keynote address at a ceremony commemorating the Liberation of Auschwitz and the United Nations International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Sydney Jewish Museum.

The event, hosted with the Australian Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants, is part of a series of commemorative events which will take place around the world.

Olga Horak, a Survivor of Auschwitz and volunteer at the Sydney Jewish Museum says “although the physical experience of the camps ended over seven decades ago, the psychological experience is more lasting. The Survivors were liberated, but we were not free. It is important that we remember our families who were murdered and to ensure that these events never happen again.”

Holocaust Survivors and their families along with community leaders, various embassy representatives and members of the Jewish and wider communities will attend the event. As a special touch, this year’s commemoration will also see Yvonne Engelman, another Survivor of Auschwitz, passing the responsibility of remembrance to her grandson, Jared.

“The legacy of memory reminds us that the Holocaust continues to have a ripple effect across generations” says Norman Seligman, CEO of the Sydney Jewish Museum. “The commemoration provides an opportunity for those who have been touched by these events to participate in communal reflection and re-commit to the development of a tolerant, engaged and harmonious society.”

At present, there are thirty adult and child Holocaust Survivors who share their testimonies and life lessons with over 24,500 students who visit the Museum each year.

“The experiences of each Survivor varies dramatically” says Norman Seligman “Whether it is the story of one who survived the concentration camps, the perspective of a child in hiding or the escapee who joined the underground and smuggled Jews out of the ghetto. Their testimonies are a powerful reminder and will leave a lasting impression.”

**-END-**

#### **Note to journalists:**

- Members of the media are welcome to attend and film the event commencing at 6pm at the Sydney Jewish Museum – 148 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst.
- To arrange an interview with a Holocaust Survivor please contact Museum Marketing Manager Natalia Thomas on 02 8036 0108 or email [nthomas@sjm.com.au](mailto:nthomas@sjm.com.au)
- Resident Historian Professor Konrad Kwiet is also available for interview for historical matters related to the Holocaust. Professor Kwiet is the Emeritus Professor in German and European Studies at Macquarie University and former chief historian of the Australian war crimes commission (SIU).