

What is Yom HaShoah?

- Yom HaShoah is a National Day of Holocaust Remembrance that happens on the 27th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan. Yom Hashoah's observance starts on the day before the 27th and ends on the 27th.

What does *Yom HaShoah* mean?

- Sho'ah, in translation, means "catastrophe" or "utter destruction". The literal translation of Sho'ah to English is Holocaust, which comes from the Greek word "holokauston", which means a burnt sacrifice offered entirely unto God. This references how the Jewish people were burned in the furnaces and who were killed in the gas chambers.

At what age did you first start to learn about the Holocaust?

- I started to learn about the Holocaust when I was in middle school but became more immersed in researching the Holocaust Sophomore year of high school.

Do you think having a Jewish heritage could influence how early a child is introduced to this topic?

- Yes, Jewish heritage can definitely influence how early a child is introduced to the topic of both the Holocaust and Yom Hashoah. It not only can be brought up through the child's family history, but also through their own religion. It is very important for all people, but especially Jewish people to educate themselves and their children about the horrors of Nazi Germany on the Jewish people so history never repeats itself.

Do you think Yom Hashoah should be observed by Jews only, or should this be a time for all cultures to make observances?

- Yom Hashoah should be observed by all cultures because it did not just affect Jewish people. Not only did the Holocaust target Jewish people, but Roma, Sinti, people with disabilities, Poles, Soviet prisoners of war, political opponents of the Nazi regime, Jehovah's Witnesses, LGBTQ+ people, and Asocials.

How do individuals or families commemorate this day compared to organizations or community groups?

- Everyone chooses to observe this day of remembrance differently, but generally smaller groups can choose to research on their own about the history of the Holocaust and its victims, listen to degenerate music, and do smaller acts of resemblance toward Holocaust remembrance such as lighting Yahrzeit or yellow candles in remembrance. Bigger

organizations or community groups can hold presentations and/or group meetings for acts of remembrance as a community.

Should Yom Hashoah be used to teach general history about the holocaust or remember individual survivor stories?

- Yom Hashoah should be a day to both educate about the general history of the Holocaust and should also share individual survivor stories. Both are equally important to history, especially in addressing the history of mass genocide. Individual survivor stories give the direct perspective of a person who had experienced that general history that a person may be taught about the Holocaust. Without both the general history and the survivors' stories combined, there is no historical foundation.

Should Yom Hashoah be used to share stories from victims of other genocides such as Rwandan, Cambodian, and Uyghur Muslims?

- I believe that this is up for interpretation based on a person's own personal beliefs and experiences, but I say yes but with appropriate balance. Genocide, at its base in essence stems from discrimination. Genocide starts first at social discrimination, racism in its essence. Other experiences and perceptions of genocide help to assist in remembrance of how to not let these tragedies happen again and to learn the patterns that lead to genocide. As for recognizing other genocides on Yom Hashoah, the Holocaust, its survivors, its victims, alongside their artwork should be commemorated most of all and there should be an emphasis on specifically the victims affected by the Holocaust. Considering the Rwandan and Cambodian victims have days of remembrance on their own, the Holocaust day of remembrance should be focusing on those affected by the Holocaust, but it is useful to address those other tragedies as well.

What would be an individual observers take away from a Yom Hashoah ceremony?

- They should take away the history of what happened to many groups of people, and be reminded for a hopeful never again.

Artists and Musicians that were considered "degenerate" in Nazi Germany:

- **David Friedmann**
- **Hans Bonarewitz**
- **Hans Feibusch**
- **Paul Klee**
- **Carl Buchheister**
- **Martin Bloch**
- **Max Beckmann**

- **Kurt Schwitters**
- **Pablo Picasso**
- **Wassily Kandinsky**
- **Ernst Ludwig Kirchner**
- **Emil Nolde**
- **Rudolf Bauer**
- **Otto Nebel**
- **Max Pechstein**
- **Ilse Weber**
- **Franciszek Nierychlo**
- **Hans Bonarewitz**
- **Jankiel Herszkowicz**
- **Kovno Ghetto Orchestra**

More info here: <https://fcit.usf.edu/holocaust/arts/musDegen.htm>