

ISRAEL

OneFamily Canada hits trails to support Israeli terror victims



Recently 50 Canadians and more than 30 Israeli victims of terror gathered in Jerusalem for the sixth annual OneFamily Cross Israel Hike.

Elie Klein
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

On Sun., Oct. 13, 50 Canadians and more than 30 Israeli victims of terror gathered in Jerusalem for the sixth annual OneFamily Cross Israel Hike, a challenging 5-day trek to raise money and awareness for Israeli victims of terror.

OneFamily (www.onefamily-together.org), Israel's only national organization solely dedicated to the rehabilitation of victims of terror attacks and their families, established the event to present Canadian supporters with a truly unique opportunity to empower and connect with victims of terror.

"For its symbolism alone, hiking is a perfect way to show our solidarity. When we hike, we moved towards our goal one step at a time. By supporting victims of terror, we help them heal one step at a time, one family at a time," explained Pam Albert, director of OneFamily Canada and a six-time event participant.

This year's group explored the natural beauty of Jerusalem and its surroundings areas, with an itinerary that included moderate, advanced and family-oriented trails in the Elah Valley, the caves at Qumran, the Wadi Qelt canyon, and the Anne Frank Memorial Forest.

Past groups tackled Eilat, the Negev, the Golan and Ein Gedi.

Albert added that the bonds of friendship forged with the

victims compel the participants to return year after year, bringing friends and family with them.

"By listening to their stories

and sharing this experience with them, we give the victims the strength to move forward. It's a feeling that stays with them even after we return home."

The hike concluded with a meaningful closing ceremony – a salute to Israel's fallen – at Har Herzl, Israel's military cemetery. Following the cere-

mony, the Canadian participants bade their Israeli counterparts farewell, promising to return next year for the seventh annual event.

MONTREAL

Anne Frank's stepsister shares story at gala

Linda Zlatkin
CORRESPONDENT

Eva Schloss, 84, Anne Frank's stepsister was a special guest recently at the annual gala fundraising event for the Chaya Mushka Seminary, a post-secondary school for girls from Montreal and abroad.

Held at the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim in Montreal with more than 200 in attendance, part of the program included a lecture with Rabbi Abraham Cohen, the director of the Chaya Mushka Seminary putting questions to Eva Schloss, the woman who has become forever linked to Anne Frank.

Schloss (born Eva Geiringer on May 11, 1929 in Vienna) went to Belgium with her family in 1938 when Hitler annexed Austria. In 1940, they came to Amsterdam. That is where she met Anne Frank, the girl whose diary became a world-



Eva Schloss, Anne Frank's stepsister, was a guest at seminary's fundraising gala recently.

wide sensation.

"A month apart, we were playmates, but I was more of a

tomboy and Anne was much more mature and sophisticated than me," said Schloss who

now lives in London. "But we would play things like hopscotch, skipping and marbles. She took me to her apartment to meet her father, mother and older sister. That is when I met Otto Frank who later became my stepfather."

Eva's family, like Anne's went into hiding in Amsterdam until they were betrayed. Eva's father and older brother perished, but she and her mother survived Auschwitz-Birkenau. Anne's mother also died, as did her older sister, Margot Frank (two days before Anne), both of typhus in Bergen-Belsen in March 1945.

"The cruelty we experienced was not only by the Germans, the Polish Kapos (camp police) were heartless too," related Schloss. "We were starving. The kapos would be cooking potatoes. We would stand there begging for them to at least give us the boiled water of the potatoes because even that tasted beautiful. But they would just throw it away. This

was unnecessary torture. They would say to us that while we were still at home in luxury, they were already building the camp, and so now it was our turn to suffer."

Despite the de-humanization, life has gone on. In 1947, Otto Frank fulfilled his daughter's wishes and published her diary, which has been translated into 70 languages. He married Schloss's mother Elfriede Geiringer in 1953 and they had 27 happy years together.

In 1952, Eva married Zvi Schloss. They have three daughters and five grandchildren. She worked as a photographer and has run an antique shop. She has published two books and there is a play about her life. She speaks at engagements internationally. Her next trip is to Amsterdam where they will be opening an exhibit at the Resistance Museum to show her brother Heinz's artwork from when he was in hiding.