

# PRESS RELEASE



CÉGEP  
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## **Robert Satloff at Vanier College offers a new approach for Countering Holocaust denial in the Middle East**

Robert Satloff, author of the recently published *Among the Righteous: Lost Stories from the Holocaust's Long Reach into Arab Lands*, will speak at Vanier College on Thursday April 12, 2007, at 4:00 PM in the Vanier College Amphitheatre. Satloff's talk will launch the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Cégep Holocaust Symposium that will take place April 12-19, 2007.

Robert Satloff is the Executive Director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. His new book is about Arabs who protected or aided Jews in North Africa during World War II. Many Arabs welcomed Jews into their homes, guarded Jews valuables so Germans could not confiscate them, shared with Jews their meager rations and warned Jewish leaders of coming SS raids. Satloff feels that acknowledging these Arab heroes can only have a positive impact on Arab-Israeli relations and help counter recent Middle Eastern expressions of Holocaust denial.

The week-long Holocaust Symposium examines racism, bigotry and intolerance in its many forms around the globe. "Vanier's Holocaust Symposium takes its inspiration from the late Peter Kleinmann of Saint-Laurent, who in 1995 created a foundation to educate the public about the dangers of prejudice and racism," says Neil Caplan, Vanier teacher and organizer of the symposium. Among the various events taking place are testimonies from survivors, photographic exhibitions, films, visits by filmmakers, and talks and presentations on problems of intolerance world-wide.

Speakers who will be at Vanier include the Hon. David Kilgour who will speak about Organ Harvesting and the Persecution of the Falun Gong in China, and a visiting delegation of Rwandan and Belgian students who participated in a remarkable mission entitled "Shared Memories, Collective Action." Academy-award winner Malcolm Clark, director and producer of "Prisoner of Paradise", will also be on hand to present and discuss his film.

"Mr Kleinmann's experience as a teenager during the Holocaust led him to work tirelessly in his later years at warning young people about the dangers of racism, bigotry, stereotyping and discrimination all over the world in our own day," says Caplan. "The work of developing respect for and sensitivity to others is never over; it needs always to be renewed and refreshed."

For a complete program of the Symposium activities please consult the Vanier College website.

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