

# Canadian Society of Yad Vashem – Leaders of Change Mission – Berlin and Poland July 2019



Shelley Laskin @shelleylaskin · Jul 2

And so it begins... 2-day advance seminars for CSYV Leaders of Change begin before flying out... will be tweeting using #LOC2019 #HolocaustEducation #Antisemitism



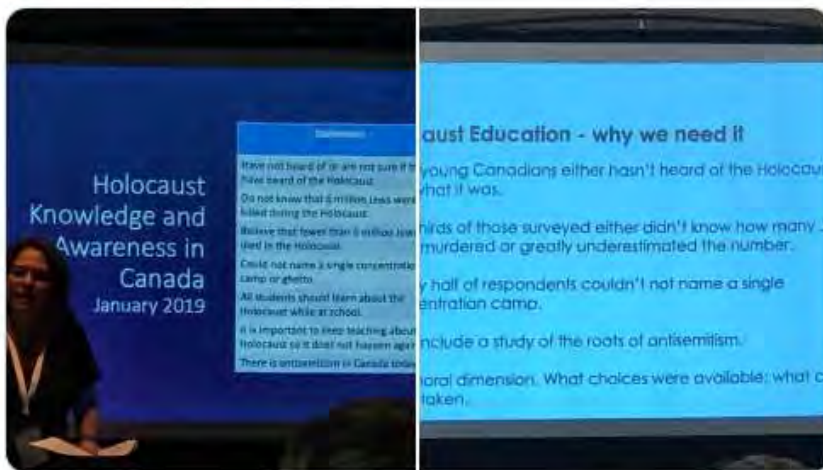
2 replies 14 likes



Shelley Laskin @shelleylaskin · Jul 2

Replying to @shelleylaskin

Grateful to be sponsored on this journey with @TDSB colleague Shari Schwartz-Maltz by Canadian Society for Yad Vashem (CSYV) along with 20 other "Leaders of Change" from across Canada... The importance of #HolocaustEducation #LOC2019



10 likes



**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 3

Day 2 #CSYV #LOC2019 begins with a privileged conversation with 3 #HolocaustSurvivors Max Eisen, Nate Leipziger and Renata Krakauer... recurring theme - education is not enough... need to teach understanding and compassion of fellow human beings

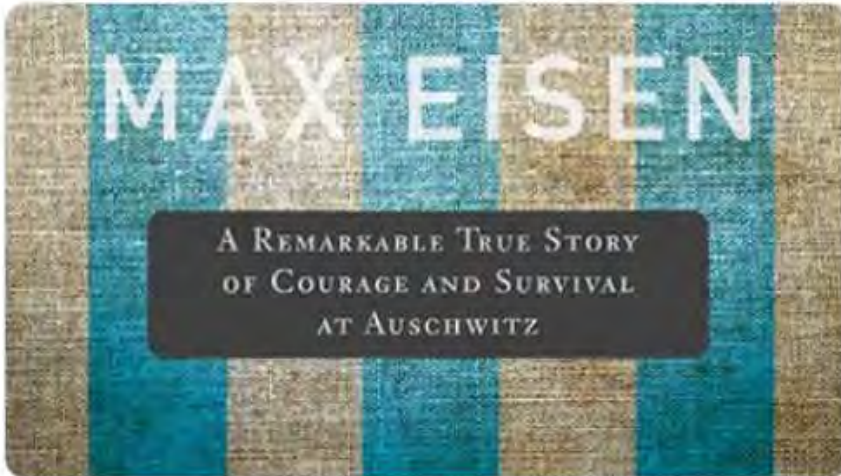


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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 3

Max Eisen speaks to... it started with hate... and ended in #Auschwitz He speaks not only about his own award winning book, but stresses the need to teach acceptance of the other... not tolerance... empathy stops hate #LOC2019



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 3

Nate Leipziger objects to term "extermination" - feels it perpetuates Nazi description of Jews as vermin... dehumanizing... call it what it was... murder... believes we are responsible as a society to support Indigenous peoples regain culture, language & history #LOC2019



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 3

Renata Krakauer was entrusted to a Polish family as a baby... it was her mother that snuck her out of Sosnowiec Ghetto... interested in the role of women and the #Holocaust 1.5M babies and children murdered by Nazis... her survival is truly a miracle #LOC2019



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 4

Visited [#NewSynagogue](#) in Berlin... built to symbolize Liberal Judaism in the 19th century... destroyed during Kristallnacht in 1938... facade now rebuilt and houses Jewish museum [#LOC2019](#)



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 4

Throughout Berlin stumble upon cobblestones - plaques represent a [#Holocaust](#) victim - installation began in 1966 - German artist Gunter Demnig [#LOC2019](#) [#NeverForget](#)



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 4

Visited "Block of Women" memorial to the women's uprising of 1943... women in mixed marriages protested detention of their husbands by SS and Gestapo... eventually released - sculpture by Ingeborg Hunzinger is a monument to the courage of the women #LOC2019



**Shelley Laskin**  
@shelleylaskin

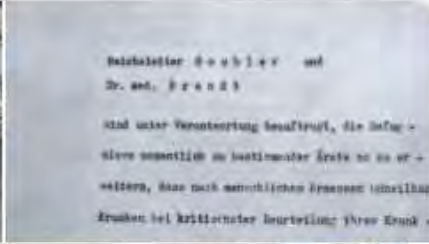
Today #LOC2019 is joined by Dr Matthias Hass as we explore the rise of Facism, the beginning of mass murder and the inception of the Final Solution and we explore how the #Holocaust is remembered and memorialized throughout Europe... will live tweet as we spend the day in Berlin

1:35 AM · Jul 5, 2019 · Twitter for iPad



**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 5

At Tiergartenstrasse 4 - Memorial for the Victims of National Socialist " Killings... only killings by order of Hitler... killings of disabled, psychiatric patients, elderly... no public outcry... only a few exceptions to killings... precursor to mass murder... #LOC2019

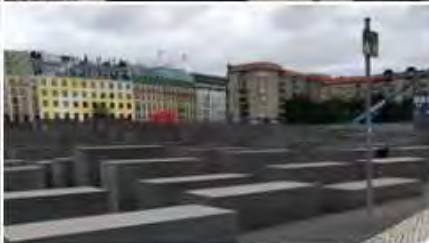


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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 5

Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe... design by Peter Eisenmann erected 1999... profoundly moving... #LOC2019



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Shelley Laskin @shelleylaskin · Jul 5

Memorial to Homosexuals persecuted during National Socialism beginning in 1935 in Germany #LOC2019



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Shelley Laskin @shelleylaskin · Jul 5

Memorial to the genocide of the Sinti and Roma #LOC2019



*"The genocide of the Sinti and Roma was motivated by the same obsession with race, carried out with the same resolve and the same intent to achieve their methodical and final extermination as the genocide against"*

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Shelley Laskin @shelleylaskin · Jul 5

At the site of Wannsee Haus - where on Jan 20, 1942 the conference that set in motion the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question in Europe" - systematic plan to murder 11M Jews #LOC2019

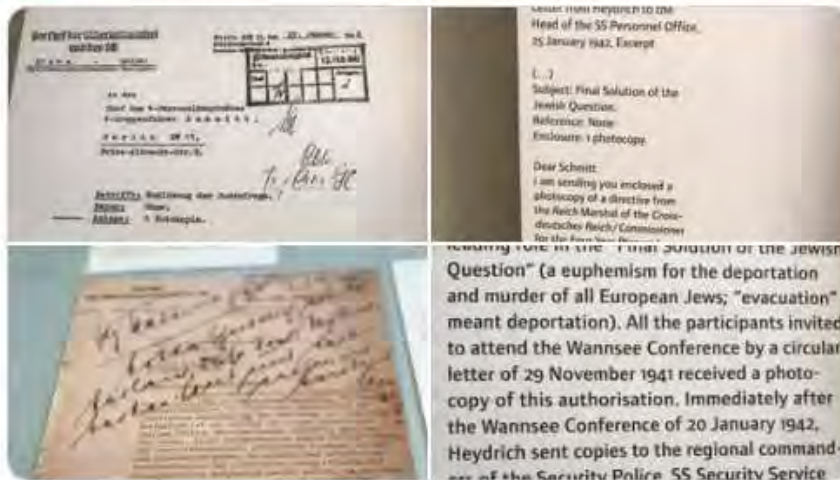


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Shelley Laskin @shelleylaskin · Jul 5

#LOC2019 Wannsee Conference



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 5

Between 1941 and 1945, 50,000 Jews of Berlin were deported to death camps from Grunewald Station... plaques meticulously record dates, numbers and camps... #LOC2019 #NeverAgain



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 5

Final stop today "Topography of Terror" historic site - headquarters of the Gestapo and the Reich SS... by the former Berlin Wall... #LOC2019



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 6

Travelling across Poland to Lodz - Radegast Station Memorial from where as many 200,000 Łódź Jews were sent by cattle car to Stutthof, Ravensbruck, Chełmno & Auschwitz... #LOC2019

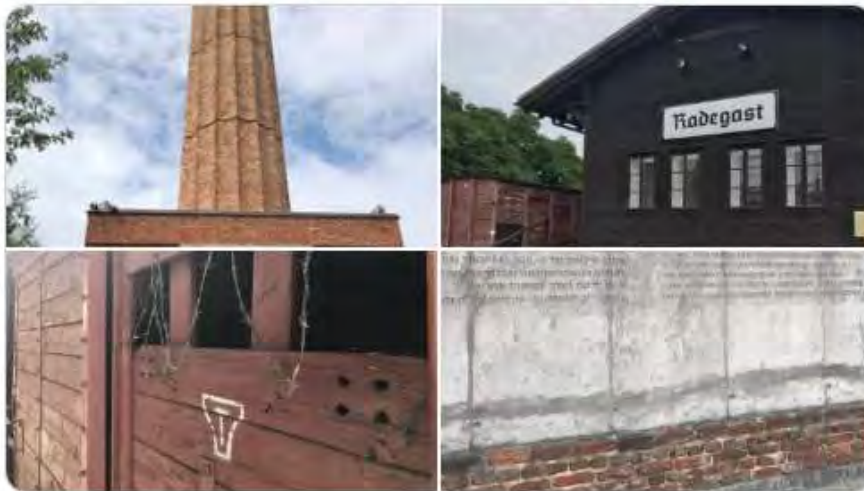


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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 6

There are no words... #AlwaysRemember #NeverForget #LOC2019



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 7

Today #LOC2019 Warsaw... discussing forcing Jews into ghettos during #Holocaust & seeing Genesis Cemetery, Umschlagplatz, Mila 18, Rapoport Monument, Poulin Museum & Warsaw Zoo... #AlwaysRemember #NeverForget



**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 7

Began the day at Cmentarz Zydowski... filled with historic headstones and mass graves of burial victims from the Warsaw Ghetto... monument to Janusz Korczak - very moving #LOC2019





**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 7

Below you can see the remaining walls from the Warsaw Ghetto...450,000 Jews forced to live in the Ghetto, an area of 3.4km... deportations to the death camps began in October 1942 #LOC2019



**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 7

Hero's Walk... stopping at Mila 18 - monument to the Warsaw Ghetto uprising - began Apr 19, 1943 and lasted 3 weeks... Jewish armed resistance #LOC2019 culminating with SS systemic burning of buildings and destruction of the Great Synagogue of Warsaw #AlwaysRemember #NeverForget





**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 7

Rapoport Memorial - on the one side central figure Mordechai Anielewicz leader of the Ghetto Uprising - the other side Nazi persecution of Jews... Monument to Ghetto Heroes #LOC2019 #AlwaysRemember #NeverForget



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 7

Across the street the Polin Museum - multimedia exhibits on the vibrancy of Jewish life and culture in Poland - 1000 year history leading up to the Holocaust... gorgeous museum #LOC2019



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 7

Warsaw Zoo was next... history captured in The Zookeepers Wife... Dr Jan Zabinski and his wife Antonina who saved 300 Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto - honoured by Yad Vashem as one of the Righteous Among Nations #LOC2019



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 7

And most moving today, a visit to the JewishHistorical Institute - on the site of the Great Synagogue with floors scorched but surviving the fires of the Warsaw Ghetto, housing the "Oneg Shabbat" collection - 6000 documents - Ringelblum & others collected in the Ghetto #LOC2019



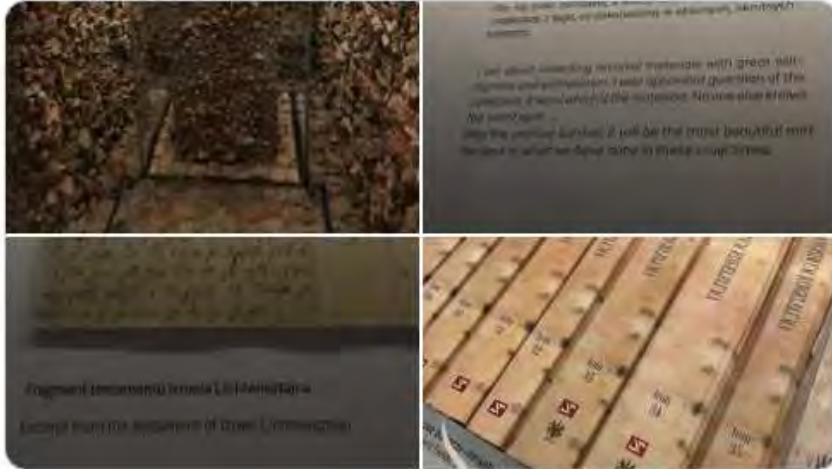
The Main Judaic Library was erected next to the Great Synagogue on Tlomackie Street just before the Second World War. At the unveiling, Rabbi Schorr stated that the Temple of Knowledge was integral to the Temple of Faith. During the war, both buildings were included in the Warsaw Ghetto. On 19 May 1943, as a symbol of the suppression of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the Germans blew up the Great Synagogue. The fire spread to the library, which survived the destruction. Traces of fire are still visible on the floor in the lobby.

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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 7

These amazing documents collected and preserved led by historian Dr Emanuel Ringelblum codename "Oyneg Shabbos" are a living history... archives... "What we have been unable to shout out to the world" #LOC2019 #AlwaysRemember #NeverForget



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 7

And finally today visited the reconstructed old city town square in Warsaw #LOC2019 #AuthenticLearning



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 8

Treblinka - built for the sole purpose to kill - between July 1942 and Nov 1943 900K Jews of Warsaw Ghetto murdered. Designed to be hidden in the forests... destroyed... 45 minutes from arrival to death... Evidence provided by survivors [#NeverForget](#) [#LOC2019](#)



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 8

Museum established at Treblinka and the site memorialized through monuments and stones - 216 carry names of the cities and towns of the victims [#HonourMemory](#) [#NeverForget](#) [#LOC2019](#)



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 8

Visited the small shtetl of Tykocin - 2,000 people prior to August 1941 - beautiful old Synagogue built in the 14th century... hundreds of shtetls (small Jewish towns) all over Eastern Europe were thriving prior to Nazi regime  
[#LOC2019](#)



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 8

25-26 August 1941 the Nazis marched and transported the Jews of Tykocin to the nearby forest where they were murdered by the SS... memorial now exists by the mass graves... [#LOC2019](#) [#AlwaysRemember](#) [#NeverForget](#)



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 8

I realize these are very difficult tweets and I understand if you stop following for a while... but as I experience these [#Holocaust](#) events I share what I witness to honour the memories of those murdered by the Nazis... [#LOC2019](#) [#NeverForget](#) Driving now back to Warsaw...



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 8

Thanks Julia... tomorrow we travel to Belzec... another one of the 6 Reinhard Death Camps and overnight in Zamosc which we understand is beautiful... this [#CSYV](#) sponsored trip is an incredible opportunity [#LOC2019](#)

**Julia** @jlev055 · Jul 8

Thanks again for sharing your experiences during this trip. These are historical facts and we can't shy away from them or we're doomed to allow people to repeat them. The worldwide Jewish community must not be blind to what's happening today @BnaiBrith [#NeverAgain](#) [#Antisemitism](#) [twitter.com/shelleylaskin/...](https://twitter.com/shelleylaskin/)

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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 8

Experiencing [#HolocaustEducation](#) first hand travelling through Poland at this very moment sharing this with the educators of Leaders of Change [#LOC2019](#), we are horrified by the Principal's comments... [#NeverForget](#)



**Bob Rae** @BobRae48 · Jul 8

This is just terrible. Public education needs to teach the origins, experience, and lessons learned from the Holocaust. It happened. Hitler happened. The deliberate, planned killing of millions of Jews happened. It's not a "belief" or a "theory" or a ""point of view".  
[twitter.com/amyspitaInick/...](https://twitter.com/amyspitaInick/)



**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 9

Enroute from Warsaw to Belzec... built by prisoners... killings began March 17, 1942 and ended Dec 1942. Estimated number of deaths is 500-600,000, mainly Jews... stopped by a windmill... notice howitzer guns in the yard [#LOC2019](#)





**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 9  
Belzec #NeverForget #NeverAgain



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 9  
Museum at the Memorial Site in Belzec... #LOC2019



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 9  
 Beautiful town of Zamosc, 🇵🇱 #LOC2019



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 9  
 In Zamosc Jewish community established in 1588... beautiful Sephardic Synagogue construction began in 1610... late Renaissance Style... 🏰 prior to the Holocaust 12,000... 3 Jewish families only here now #LOC2019  
 #NeverForget #NeverAgain



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 10

Today #LIC2019 travels to #Majdanek, one of the largest and deadliest extermination camps... then Old Lublin - had 3rd largest Jewish population in  - a centre of Jewish life, culture and learning in Europe... #AlwaysRemember #NeverForget



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 10

#Majdanek first site that Soviet Troops came July 1944 - site of camp less than 2 km from town centre. Many Jews, Poles and Soviets interned... Historians determined 350K murdered... 80% Jews #LOC2019

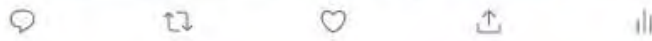


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Shelley Laskin @shelleylaskin · Jul 10

No words... #NeverAgain #NeverForget #LOC2019 #Majdanek



Shelley Laskin @shelleylaskin · Jul 10

Lublin, 🇵🇱 #LOC2019





**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 10

A final note today... emotionally exhausted... As I walk over the uneven ground at the [#Holocaust](#) sites... the stones require you to be careful...slow...present...in the moment...to remember the victims with each step [#NeverForget](#) [#LOC2019](#)



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 11

Today [#LOC2019](#)... Kazimierz District-spiritual & cultural centre for Polish Jews from 15th century to WWII... In Oct 1939, the Nazis registered 68,482 Jews in Kraków - Podgórze was the site of the former Ghetto... [#NeverForget](#)



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 11

The Old Synagogue - permanent exhibit exhibition in the main prayer hall is dedicated to an understanding of Judaism... important for understanding #LOC2019



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 11

Connected is the Jewish Cemetery... gravestones repositioned after the war...only a few in original position - the wall at the back created from broken headstones Nazis used to pave roads #LOC2019 #NeverForget



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Shelley Laskin @shelleylaskin · Jul 11

Temple Synagogue in Krakow still holds Shabbat Services on occasion...  
#LOC2019



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Shelley Laskin @shelleylaskin · Jul 11

Umslatplatz - Ghetto Heroes Square of 33 empty chairs commemorates the Polish Jews who were to lose their lives in the Krakow Ghetto between 1941 and 1943 #LOC2019 #AlwaysRemember #NeverForget



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 11

Profoundly moved by testimony from Miroskawa Grusczyńska - [#RighteousAmongNations](#) whose mother saved 14yr old Miri... When asked why, she responded as a Catholic it was my duty... to save another human life even at the expense of my own [#LOC2019](#)



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 11

She keeps in touch with Miri who emigrated with her sister to Israel... Miri's brother saved by Schindler... "He who saves one left saves the entire world" Talmud... and the legacy... Miri's grandchildren visiting... [#LOC2019](#) [#AlwaysRemember](#) [#NeverForget](#)



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 11

Płaszów - a Nazi SS labour and concentration camp - Commandant Amon Göth (The Butcher of Płaszów) - house stands still... events here in Spielberg film Schindler's List... #LOC2019 #NeverForget



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 11

Tomorrow... Auschwitz-Birkenau #LOC2019 #NeverForget

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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 12

#Auschwitz #Birkenau We will remember them. #LOC2019



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 13

Having visited #Auschwitz yesterday, resonates... #LOC2019  
#AlwaysRemember #NeverForget

**Auschwitz Memorial** @AuschwitzMuseum · May 17

A heart-breaking moment captured in an SS photograph of a group of Hungarian Jews near gas chamber IV at #Auschwitz II-Birkenau in or around May 1944.

A child found a flower & is giving or showing it to an older boy.

All the people in the picture were gassed moments later.



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**Shelley Laskin** @shelleylaskin · Jul 14

Flight leaving from Kraków shortly... Canadian Society for Yad Vashem sponsored Leaders of Change #LOC2019 trip ending... tremendous #HolocaustEducation experiential learning experience... the work must continue in our schools... #TakeActionAgainstHate #ItStartsWithWords

# WORDS

