



# MEMORIES

# AT HOME

**COMMEMORATING YOM HASHOAH**

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**JOIN YOUR MOMENTUM SISTERS  
FOR AN INTIMATE CONVERSATION  
ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST AND ITS  
MESSAGES FOR TODAY.**

# MEMORIES AT HOME

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## **BIG IDEA: WE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO COMMUNICATE MEMORIES OF THE SHOAH (HOLOCAUST), AND THOUGHTFULLY SHARE THEM WITH FUTURE GENERATIONS.**

This year, Momentum is joining a worldwide movement dedicated to commemorating the *Shoah* in an intimate way. We will gather at home online, with friends, in an evening that includes a testimony and

art, and features an open and meaningful conversation about the *Shoah*'s impact on our lives today and in the future. Over the course of the past eleven years, this movement, called *Zikaron BaSalon* in Hebrew and Memories at Home in English, has turned into a tremendous social phenomenon. (See more at [www.zikaronbasalon.org](http://www.zikaronbasalon.org).)

Alternatively, or in addition, Momentum encourages groups to attend their local community Holocaust commemorations.

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## **BELOW IS A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF HOW TO SET UP A MEMORIES AT HOME EVENING:**

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### **Preparations**

1. Find someone to organize the Memories at Home evening and send out invitations to your group for a virtual one-hour meeting.
2. Line up your speaker: you may choose to ask a Holocaust survivor, or a child of a Holocaust survivor, or a local teacher or historian to speak. You may already have a woman within your Momentum group who is a child of a survivor, and may wish to share her – and her parent's – experiences. Make sure to prepare your speaker. They should speak about their Holocaust experience and memories for no longer than 20 minutes, so that there will be time to proceed with the rest of
- the program. You may wish to have the speaker practice with you first. More instructions on how to prepare your speaker may be found on the Memories at Home website.
3. Invite each participant to print out a few copies of the posters. Have a [PowerPoint](#) ready with the introduction poem as well as with the posters.
4. Write a card and/or find a gift for the speaker.
5. On the day of the event, confirm the speaker.
6. For additional ideas for your session, please visit the [Zikaron BaSalon website](#).

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## Conducting the Evening Introduction

(10 minutes)

- a. Briefly introduce the evening. Explain that today is *Yom HaShoah*, Holocaust Remembrance Day, and that Momentum groups around the world are gathering – either as part of private conversations like this one, or with local community commemorations – to remember and reflect on the *Shoah*, the Holocaust. Remind past participants of their visit to *Yad VaShem* on their Momentum trip.
- b. Tell the women you'll share a poem with them on your screen. Invite one of them to read it. Let them know that you'll then read it a second time. Ask them each to choose a word or a phrase from the poem to write in the chat. Ask them to write in the chat but not yet to share. Tell them that you'll have a moment of silence at the end of the poem, and after that moment, you'll invite them to press "send" and share their word or phrase.
- c. Introduce your speaker.

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## First-Person Account

(30 minutes, including Q&A)

A local Holocaust survivor or second (or third) generation descendant should address the group for 20 minutes, talking about their personal experience of the *Shoah* and how it has impacted them. Alternatively, a local teacher or historian can talk about the *Shoah* and its impact. Arrange a signal with your speaker beforehand, so that you can

let them know when time is up. Allot 10 minutes for questions from your group. Then, thank your speaker. (It is preferable for the speaker to leave – unless she is a Momentum participant – because the speaker's presence may limit the ensuing discussion, and topics that come up in the discussion may be painful to them.)

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## Poster Activity

(20-30 minutes)

- a. Share your screen to show the Designing Memory posters. Invite women who have printed out the posters to have them accessible.
- b. Tell participants that they have just heard from a Holocaust survivor, but as we get further away from the Holocaust, we will no longer have survivors to convey their memories. It will be up to us to convey to our children and grandchildren, and the people around us, the memory of the Holocaust.  
  
We will have to think about the questions:
  - What does the *Shoah* mean to you?
  - How do you want to preserve its memory?
- c. Explain that the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance has an annual poster competition called Designing Memory, using art to try to convey messages about the *Shoah*, and that you have printed out a few of these posters and hung them up.
- d. Give participants who printed out the posters time to examine them. Share on your screen the [PowerPoint](#) of numbered posters, for those who have not printed them out. Ask each person to select one poster that best reflects how they want to remember/ preserve the memory of the *Shoah*.
- e. If you have a Zoom account or another platform that has breakout rooms, put

participants into breakout groups of 3-4 participants each. Ask them to each share with the group why they chose the poster and what it means to them. Allot enough time for all participants to speak. Consider allowing 6 minutes for the conversation such that in groups of 2, each person has 2 minutes and in groups of 4, each person has 1.5 minutes. If you are unable to have

breakout rooms, invite participants to have independent reflection and then come together as a group to share.

- f. Reconvene as a group and discuss the posters that the participants chose, and how they relate to the way that they believe we should remember the *Shoah*.

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## Conversation

(15 minutes)

Discuss with participants on a practical level how they wish to remember, and share the memory of, the *Shoah*. You may wish to use these questions:

- Has the *Shoah* affected any of the decisions you have made or activities in which you participate?
- In light of our conversation today, are there ways in which the memory of the *Shoah* will affect your future decisions or activities?
- What messages have you communicated to your children about the *Shoah*?
- In light of our discussions here, what ideas do you want to communicate to your children about the *Shoah*? How can you effectively transmit these ideas to them?

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## Closure

(3 minutes)

- Give everyone one minute to write down one (or more) thing they are taking away from this evening.
- Invite them to write one idea in the chat but hold off on pressing 'send.'
- When the minute is up, invite all to press 'send' and share.
- Read what participants write aloud.
- Thank everyone for contributing to the meaningful evening together.