

Eli Rubenstein

Eli Rubenstein is National Director of the March of the Living, an annual educational program that gathers thousands of Jewish youth from around world in Poland and Israel to mark two of the most significant dates in the modern Jewish calendar. The program culminates with the “**March of the Living**” on **Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day** and continues on to **Israel**, where the students take part in important commemorative and celebratory events, including **Yom Ha’atsmaut** (Israel’s Independence Day).



Eli Rubenstein is also the Director of Education for the March of Remembrance and Hope, an educational initiative for college and university students of diverse faiths and ethnic backgrounds designed to teach about the grave consequences of hatred and prejudice through the study of the Holocaust in Poland. Thousands of students - of **Christian, Muslim, First Nations, Rwandan, Polish Catholic, Hindu & Buddhist** backgrounds - have participated in this program since its inception in 2001.

Eli Rubenstein is the editor of a collection of poetry, prose, and art on the Holocaust composed by North American participants in the March of the Living. The book, titled “**For You Who Died I Must Live On...Reflections on the March of the Living**”, was the recipient of a Canadian Jewish Book Award.

Mr. Rubenstein is also producer of: “Songs for March of the Living”, a collection of Holocaust songs recorded by the Habonim Youth Choir of Toronto and “**Lay Down Your Arms**”, a music video on the theme of peace featuring footage of children from a wide variety of cultures and geographical regions.

He is also a writer and storyteller - he authored a storytelling column for the **Canadian Jewish News** and is a frequent contributor to the newspaper - as well as a frequent public speaker to both Jewish and non-Jewish audiences.

Mr. Rubenstein’s works have been featured in a wide variety of publications and broadcast media including: The Montreal Gazette, The Ottawa Citizen, CBC Radio & Television and others.

Eli Rubenstein is also the religious leader of Congregation Habonim, a small liberal synagogue in Toronto founded by Holocaust survivors from Germany and other eastern European countries. Among the projects at Habonim that he has helped moved forward is the annual **Passover Seder for the Homeless**, a **Creative Writing Contest for the Homeless** (both co-sponsored by Ve’ahavta) and the founding of the **Habonim Youth Choir**, whose music has touched hearts around the world.

In 2006, Mr. Rubenstein assisted **the Oprah Winfrey Show** with the segment featuring **Elie Wiesel's** visit to Auschwitz, which was seen by tens millions of viewers around the world.

In addition to his work with Holocaust education, Mr. Rubenstein is a celebrated **Jewish storyteller** and an active volunteer with the **Israel Guide Dog Centre for the Blind**. He has contributed his assistance to **Ve'ahavta, the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian Relief Organization**, helping them organize their annual **Passover Seder for the Homeless**, and traveling on their behalf to **Guyana** and **Zimbabwe** to assist in their humanitarian work in these countries.

Most recently, Eli Rubenstein was honored with the **2008 Ve'ahvata Tikkun Olam Education Award**. This prestigious award is given yearly to the Canadian educator who has made significant contributions in the field of "tikkun olam" education. The programs that Eli Rubenstein has initiated in Canada in the areas of Holocaust, Genocide and anti-racist education, have changed the lives of thousands of young people in Canada and elsewhere, and have been recognized world-wide as model educational programs.