

Expression of Condolence for Rabbi Erwin Schild by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Councillor James Pasternak

Seconded by: Councillor Mike Colle

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Rabbi Erwin Schild on January 6, 2024, at the age of 103.

Rabbi Schild was born in Cologne, Germany on March 9, 1920, where he was raised by his parents, with his younger brother and sister. As a Jewish citizen living in Germany during the Nazi era, he faced adversity and experienced many tragedies.

As a teenager in 1938, Rabbi Schild was imprisoned. Fortunately, his mother was able to free him by providing an affidavit that proved his eligibility for an immigration visa. This thread of hope allowed him to escape to the Netherlands, and then resume academic studies in London. In 1940, he was detained once again and exiled to Canada under suspicion of being a German-Jewish Nazi supporter. The Canadian Jewish Congress intervened, leading to his release in 1942. Rabbi Schild's education resumed at the University of Toronto and Yeshiva Torath Chaim where he earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Semitic Languages and Literature.

Rabbi Schild's parents and sister were killed during the Holocaust. Through strength and determination, he overcame this difficult upbringing and lived a remarkable life. Family and colleagues fondly recollected his "warmth, affability and scholarly mind".

After the war ended, Rabbi Schild became the leader of the Romanian (Rumanishe) Synagogue, near the Bathurst and College intersection. From 1947 to 1989 he served as the spiritual leader of Adath Israel Congregation, one of Toronto's largest synagogues.

Rabbi Schild's additional accolades include receiving the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany and being named a Member of the Order of Canada in 2001. Rabbi Schild was also an author of three books titled "World through My Window" (1992), "And Miles to Go Before I Sleep" (2012), and "The Crazy Angel" (2017).

Rabbi Erwin Schild is survived by three children: Daniel Schild, Dr. Judith Weinroth and Naomi Weitz, 12 grandchildren and countless great-grandchildren and great-great-

grandchildren. Rabbi Schild's wife Laura passed away in 2017.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Rabbi Erwin Schild.

February 6, 2024