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**Selfhelp Community Services Presents 13th Annual Witness Theater Performances, Bridging Generations Through Holocaust Remembrance**

**New York, NY – [Selfhelp Community Services](#)**, a leading organization dedicated to supporting Holocaust survivors and older adults, presents the 13th year of its annual [Witness Theater program](#), a one-of-a-kind and deeply moving intergenerational initiative that brings Holocaust survivors and high school students together to share and dramatize stories of survival.

Through a guided drama therapy process, survivors and students meet weekly over the course of an academic year to build meaningful relationships and explore the survivors' experiences before, during, and after the Holocaust. The program culminates in a series of powerful performances where students reenact the personal stories of survivors, who, in turn, narrate their histories. These public performances serve as a vital reminder of the Holocaust and the importance of bearing witness, especially for younger generations who are increasingly forgetting or denying it – [alarmingly, a recent poll found that one in five Americans ages 18-to-29 years old believe the Holocaust is a myth](#).

"Selfhelp Community Services remains committed to honoring Holocaust survivors by amplifying their voices and ensuring their stories continue to be told," said **Katie Foley, Managing Director of External Affairs for Selfhelp Community Services**. "Witness Theater is more than a performance – it's a living legacy, a bridge between generations, and a powerful response to rising Holocaust ignorance and denial."

Selfhelp Community Services, which has been at the forefront of providing comprehensive support for Holocaust survivors since its founding in 1936, brought Witness Theater to New York in 2012. The program aligns with Selfhelp's mission to ensure that survivors live with dignity and to educate younger generations about the Holocaust through personal connection and storytelling.

This year's Witness Theater program features two groups of students and survivors, with four performances scheduled across Brooklyn and Manhattan.

### **Performance Schedule:**

- April 23 at 7 PM – Yeshivah of Flatbush Joel Braverman High School (Brooklyn) – Open to the general public
- April 28 at 12 PM – Yeshivah of Flatbush Joel Braverman High School (Brooklyn) – Special performance for local public high school students
- April 29 at 7 PM – Sheen Center for Thought & Culture (Manhattan)
- May 7 at 7 PM – Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan

### **About the participants:**

- The Brooklyn group features Holocaust survivors from across the city and students from Yeshivah of Flatbush.
- The Manhattan-based group brings together diverse students from various high schools, including Archbishop Molloy High School, Stuyvesant High School, and NYC iSchool, among others.
- Survivors participating this year include individuals who lived through the Holocaust in Hungary, Ukraine, and Russia, each with a unique and harrowing story of survival.

Witness Theater is made possible through the collaboration of Selfhelp Community Services, UJA-Federation of New York, Yeshivah of Flatbush Joel Braverman High School, and the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan. Generous support is provided by Carol and Carl Hess, the Miriam and Arthur Diamond Charitable Trust, and the Ken & Harriet Kupferberg Family Foundation, with additional assistance from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future, and the German Federal Ministry of Finance.

Witness Theater was conceived by Irit and Ezra Dagan and developed by JDC-Eshel in Israel. It was brought to New York in 2012 by Selfhelp Community Services, Inc. This year's Witness Theater Program is a collaboration of Selfhelp, UJA-Federation of New York, Yeshivah of Flatbush Joel Braverman High School, and the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan. The program also receives generous support from Carol and Carl Hess, the Miriam and Arthur Diamond Charitable Trust, and Ken & Harriet Kupferberg Family Foundation. With Assistance from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. Supported by the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future and by the German Federal Ministry of Finance.

For more information or to arrange interviews with participants, please contact Jessica Meditz, [jessica@anatgerstein.com](mailto:jessica@anatgerstein.com)

### **About Selfhelp Community Services**

For 87 years Selfhelp Community Services has been serving the most vulnerable among us. Through home care, affordable housing, and social services, we serve over 25,000 older and vulnerable New Yorkers each year while remaining the largest provider of comprehensive services to Holocaust survivors in North America. Our overarching goal is to help our community live with dignity and independence. [www.selfhelp.net](http://www.selfhelp.net)

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