



NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
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## **City Tech Hosts Speakers Series Commemorating 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kristallnacht and Honors Special Guests**

Brooklyn, NY—October 27, 2014—On November 12, at 12:30 pm, in City Tech’s Atrium Amphitheater, 300 Jay Street, featured speaker, Michael Schneider, Secretary General Emeritus of the World Jewish Congress, and former CEO of the American Joint Distribution Committee, will receive the 2014 City Tech Jewish Faculty & Staff Association (JFSA) Distinguished Humanitarian Award for his anti-apartheid efforts in South Africa and global humanitarian work. Menachem Z. Rosensaft, founding chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, will introduce Schneider and present the award. City Tech Professor Victoria Lichterman, a genocide scholar, will moderate the event.

The event focus is on the impact of the Holocaust on human rights concepts and practice. The featured presentation by Schneider and the subsequent portions of the program will contribute to the enrichment of the intellectual and educational culture of the entire College community. “As paramount as it is to remember the Holocaust, there exists a moral imperative to remember other genocides as well,” says Dr. James Goldman, founder and curator of JFSA for the past 26 years.

Also honored, posthumously, is Anne Heyman, a South African-born lawyer who devoted herself to philanthropy and, in particular, to the 1.2 million children who were orphaned during the Rwandan genocide. Heyman’s husband, Seth Merrin, CEO and founder of Liquidnet, will accept the JFSA Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award on her behalf.

Hazzan Leon Lissek, will receive the JFSA Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award. Lissek, a Holocaust hidden child, gained international prominence with his melodic tenor voice and his wide repertoire of music. He served as Cantor at Congregation B’nai Amoona in St. Louis for 30 years and is now Cantor Emeritus.

During WWII, Lissek’s mother placed him in a Catholic orphanage where nuns cared him for until the end of the war. Lissek’s father perished in Auschwitz, his mother remarried and the family eventually moved to Buffalo, NY. Lissek studied music at the Cantor’s Institute at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City. Lissek’s daughter, Park Avenue Synagogue Cantor Shira Lissek, will introduce him.

In the past, City Tech has welcomed many distinguished and celebrated speakers through the College’s JFSA Distinguished Speakers Series. Prominent speakers such as Daniel Libeskind, Edwin Schlossberg, Pete Hamill and Menachem Rosensaft have honored the College with timely and inspiring words and greetings during City Tech’s Kristallnacht anniversary programs in November, which are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact JFSA Program Director James Goldman at [jgoldman@citytech.cuny.edu](mailto:jgoldman@citytech.cuny.edu).

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