

BEARING WITNESS

FALL 2024 / NO. 10



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Comments and suggestions are welcome and should be submitted to *HMH Bearing Witness* to news@hnh.org.

Press Requests news@hnh.org



ELYSE SPECTOR KALMANS

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members and Friends,

As I write this letter reflecting on my few months as Holocaust Museum Houston's (HMH) Board Chair, I am experiencing two conflicting emotions. On the one hand, I am anxious and fearful for our community, on both a local and global level, as antisemitic rhetoric and acts of violence continue to rise in response to the ongoing war in Israel. On the other, I feel hopeful and inspired by the critical work being accomplished by our Museum in its ongoing commitment to educate about the Holocaust and teach about the dangers of hatred, prejudice, and apathy.

This year's *Bearing Witness* magazine will spotlight several of the mission-driven activities carried out by HMH's dedicated staff and supported by the Museum's family of donors, docents, volunteers, and community members. While this report provides a powerful overview of our accomplishments this past fiscal year (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024), we can only fit so much into the pages allocated for this magazine. Therefore, I urge you to re-visit the Museum, explore our website, and engage with HMH staff members to gain a more in-depth understanding of our work and far-reaching impact.

My term as Board Chair was set to commence concurrently with the start of HMH's next CEO, Ivan Wolkind. Sadly, Ivan unexpectedly passed away in May 2024 before moving to Houston. The CEO search has resumed, and our Search Committee remains measured in its approach to select our next leader.

While the Museum may have been without a permanent CEO this past year, our staff's commitment to achieve our mission did not waver. During the 2023-2024 fiscal year the Museum reached:

- 61,222 visitors (includes 10,156 walk-ins ages 18 and under)
- 13,477 students on tours
- 33,540 students through Educator in Motion and other student outreach programs
- 124,700 students impacted by teacher training

The Museum welcomed new visitors through several special exhibitions including *Berlin: A Jewish Ode to the Metropolis*, *The Negro Motorist Green Book*, *HOPE: Stories of Houston Survivors*, and *The Kinsey African American Art & History Collection*. Each of these exhibits aligned with the Museum's mission and reflected the core teachings of our Museum, such as how democracy is fragile, the Holocaust and similar genocides were not inevitable, and our decisions have significant consequences. The individuals and families motivated to visit HMH because of these exhibits also experienced our Bearing Witness Holocaust Gallery and Human Rights Gallery stepping out of our doors with a newfound responsibility to take on the role of an "Upstander" in their communities.

Speaking of Upstanders, I would like to extend my gratitude to Kristin Albers and Tamara Savage for taking on the roles of Interim Co-Executive Directors in addition to their leadership roles as CFO and Managing Director, respectively. Additionally, I would like to personally thank Linda Burger for graciously stepping out of retirement to serve as Interim CEO during this second stage of our search.

Day-by-day, the world around us looks increasingly different amidst political polarization and global unrest leading to a concern for safety when attending religious services, sending our children to school, or simply walking in public. However, one institution stands as a beacon of hope. One institution is leading the charge to engage and activate our young people and adults to take a definitive stand against unchecked hate toward any group of people and create positive change. Holocaust Museum Houston remains staunchly committed to educating our community and building a more humane society.

Thank you for your continued support and advocacy, and I look forward to seeing you at the Museum.

Sincerely,

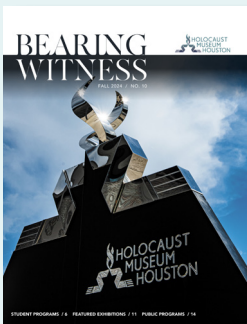
Elyse Spector Kalmans

Board Chair

Table of Contents

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 15 **Membership**
- 16-17 **Affinity Groups**
- 18-19 **Collections**
- 22-23 **Year in Review**



PAGE 4 2024 LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON MORAL COURAGE AWARD DINNER

The annual event honored The Honorable Stuart E. Eizenstat with the Lyndon Baines Johnson Moral Courage Award while raising \$1.3 million for the Museum. Dana Bash, CNN anchor and chief political correspondent, served as moderator for an intriguing conversation with Ambassador Eizenstat and Holocaust Survivor Marion Ein Lewin.

PAGE 6-10 EDUCATION

The Museum's Engines of Change Student Ambassador Program expanded the minds of 35 students from 11 different Houston area high schools. During the 2023-2024 school year, the Educator in Motion team reached 31,499 students across 29 school districts. The HMH Education Team provided resources and trainings for educators in Houston and beyond.

PAGE 11-13 FEATURED EXHIBITIONS

Facing Survival | David Kassan is on view through January 5, 2025, along with *Caribbean Indigenous Resistance / Resistencia indígena del Caribe ¡Taíno Vive!* through January 12, 2025, and the *Houston Survivor Series: Liberation* exhibition.

PAGE 14 PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Learn more about upcoming programs including free admission and special events scheduled for Human Rights Day and International Holocaust Remembrance Day.



#BringThemHome

Join Holocaust Museum Houston in calling for the safe return of the hostages kidnapped by Hamas during the October 7, 2023, terrorist attack on Israel.

Wear a yellow ribbon in solidarity with the hostages and their families.

Ribbons are available for purchase in the Museum Store.

2024 Lyndon Baines Johnson Moral Courage Award Dinner



SPOTLIGHT ON COURAGE

MAY 13, 2024

HONORING

The Honorable Stuart E. Eizenstat

Holocaust Museum Houston's 2024 LBJ Moral Courage Award Dinner Raises Over \$1.3 Million



Holocaust Museum Houston presented The Honorable Stuart E. Eizenstat with the Lyndon Baines Johnson Moral Courage Award Monday, May 13, 2024, at the Hilton Americas-Houston. Dana Bash, CNN anchor and chief political correspondent, served as moderator for an intriguing conversation with Ambassador Eizenstat and Marion Ein Lewin, his partner, who is a child Holocaust survivor from the Netherlands. An estimated 1,000 guests helped the soiree raise more than \$1.3 million for general operating funds with a focus on educational programming.



The Honorable Stuart E. Eizenstat, has served in six U.S. administrations. He began his career on the White House Staff of President Lyndon Johnson (1967-1968); as Chief White House Domestic Policy Adviser to President Jimmy Carter (1977-1981); and in the Clinton Administration (1993-2001), he also served as United States Ambassador to the European Union, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade; Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business, and Agricultural Affairs and Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. While serving in these positions, he was simultaneously the Clinton Administration's leader on Holocaust negotiations as



Special Representative of President Clinton and Secretary of State Albright on Holocaust Issues.

Third generation Holocaust survivor Dana Bash led a timely discussion between Eizenstat and Ein Lewin that covered Eizenstat's personal relationship with President Lyndon Baines Johnson, restitution for Holocaust survivors, Ein Lewin and her family's own miraculous story of survival and their hopes for a future without prejudice and hate.

Dinner Chairs Stephanie and Frank Tsuru, along with Host Committee Chairs Heidi and David Gerger and Leisa Holland-Nelson Bowman, led the charge fundraising for one of the Museum's most celebrated Dinners in its 28-year history. VIP Reception Sponsor The Ira Mitzner and Riva Collins Families helped ensure the event's success.

Sue Smith served as Honorary Chair for the event, with Honorary Vice Chairs including Donna Fujimoto Cole, Nancy and Jack Dinerstein, Elaine Finger, Patti and Mike Morgan, Carol and David Neuberger, Jeri and Marc Shapiro, Ileana and Michael Treviño and Kay and The Honorable Fred Zeidman.

VIPs spotted in the crowd were Paula Goldstein, Drs. Mia and Remus Wright, Mady and Ken Kades, Phoebe and Bobby Tudor, Rhona and Bruce Caress, Y. Ping Sun and David Leebron, Regina Rogers, Brian Caress and Jessica Strehlow, Limor and Stuart Smith, Shelly and Brian Hendry, Benjamin Warren, Mindy and Steve Finger, and Barry Mandel and Dr. Scott Sawyer.



1. HMH Board Chair Barbara J. Herz, Dinner Chairs Frank and Stephanie Tsuru
2. Honoree Ambassador Stuart E. Eizenstat, CNN Anchor Dana Bash, Marion Ein Lewin
3. Host Committee Chair Leisa Holland-Nelson Bowman, Honorary Chair Sue Smith

4. Bruce and Rhona Caress
5. Mindy and Steve Finger
6. Hon. Charles Eskridge and Monica Eskridge
7. Drs. Mia and Remus Wright, Donna Fujimoto Cole

8. Host Committee Chair Heidi Gerger, Jessica Strehlow
9. Steven and Erin Kaplan
10. David and Carol Neuberger
11. Hon. Fred Zeidman and Kay Zeidman

Educator in Motion

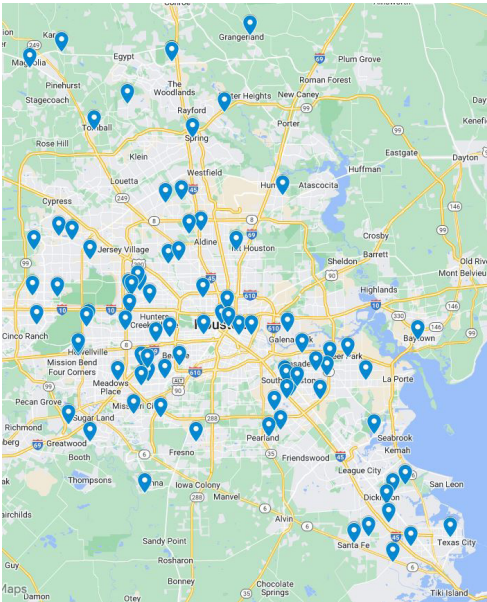
The Educator in Motion program (EIM) sends museum educators to school campuses and community groups to teach in-person about the lessons of the Holocaust, human rights, and civic responsibility. In its ninth year, during the 2023-2024 school year, the three-person Educator in Motion team taught 31,499 students in 97 schools across 29 school districts.

In middle and high schools, EIM focuses on the Holocaust, introducing the subject or digging deeper into topics such as Personal Narratives of the Holocaust, The Jewish Refugee Crisis and the World's Response, Art of the Holocaust, The Possibility of Individual Change: Upstanders During the Holocaust, and

Teen Leadership: Lessons from the Holocaust. These options are also supplemented by programs on contemporary genocides and human rights.

In elementary schools, EIM focuses on fostering upstander behavior, personal responsibility, and character building such as anti-bullying using children's literature and art.

In order to reach a record-breaking number of schools the Educator in Motion team drove 7,539 miles across the greater Houston area, which is the equivalent of driving across the United States multiple times over. As a result, we deepened relationships with Pasadena ISD, Santa Fe ISD, Dickinson ISD, Conroe ISD and were able to provide programs in College Station, Austin and New Orleans.



Map of Houston-area schools impacted by the Educator in Motion program



Museum Educator Ezequiel Castellanos at Worsham Elementary School presenting Standing Up to Bullying



Museum Educator Ingrid Patino at Petrosky Elementary School presenting Standing Up to Bullying



Museum Educator Amy Frake at Watkins Middle School presenting Images of the Holocaust

Engines of Change

The Engines of Change Student Ambassador program hosted 35 Houston-area students who deepened their understanding of the Holocaust and human rights through a family history project. Presenters included Armin Salek, founder of the Youth Justice Alliance, who focuses on building community support, and the ADL continued their partnership with the Museum through their Confronting Hate program, which provides students strategies to address hateful rhetoric.

At the end of the 2023-24 school year, the students presented a family history project. Utilizing their research skills, they were able to create a personal narrative centered around an artifact based on their family background.



2024 Young Ambassador Program

In partnership with the Smithsonian Museum of the American Latino and HMM's Latinx Initiatives program, the Education Department welcomed our 2024 Young Ambassador Program intern, **Rachelle Escobar**, to the museum this summer. As a part of her internship experience, Rachelle learned more about the museum and our work that promotes Holocaust education, combats antisemitism, and empowers individuals to take an active role in their community.

Throughout her internship, Rachelle supported Education Department initiatives by helping with the Max M. Kaplan Summer Institute for Teachers, creating social media posts for our teacher workshops and institutes, designing our Latinx Heritage Month flyers, and leading a bilingual (English/Spanish) story time for visitors around the book *Spanish is the Language of my Family* with family friendly activities around the themes of the book. Rachelle's culminating project was a bilingual (English/Spanish) zine activity guide to support visitors in the Samuel Bak Gallery.



1. Rachelle Escobar viewing HMM's Bak Collection
2. Rachelle with Holocaust Survivor Bill Orlin
3. Rachelle leading a bilingual story time for guests
4. Rachelle leading bilingual family friendly activities with guests

THE WARREN AND SPECTOR/WARREN FELLOWSHIP FOR FUTURE TEACHERS

In May, HMH welcomed 46 university students from across the United States to the Warren and Spector/Warren Fellowship for Future Teachers. Universities represented included Syracuse University, Le Moyne College, Texas Christian University, the University of California at Davis, Texas A&M University, Stephen F. Austin University, and Rowan University. Over the course of a week, the Fellows learned about the life and legacy of survivor Naomi Warren, participated in lectures from some of the top scholars in the field such as Dr. Peter Hayes and Dr. James Waller, and collaborated with each other to create lesson plans based on an HMH artifact.

The evening lecture of the Fellowship was given by Mark Weitzman, Chief Operating Officer of the World Jewish Restitution Organization, on the vital topic of "Antisemitism Here and Now." Mark also led two sessions just for the Fellows, including a Q&A about antisemitism.



The 2024 Warren and Spector/Warren Fellows



Warren and Spector/Warren Fellows explore the Samuel Bak Art Gallery and Learning Center with Dr. Mark Celinscak



The Warren and Spector/Warren Fellows listen to a lecture from antisemitism expert Mark Weitzman



The Max M. Kaplan Summer Institute participants with survivors Bill Orlin and Ruth Steinfeld after hearing their testimony

THE MAX M. KAPLAN SUMMER INSTITUTE

In July, 29 teachers from across the Houston area and beyond spent three days at HMH learning how to better teach about the Holocaust from top experts. The theme of this year's Summer Institute was teaching the Holocaust through literature and the fine arts, with topics such as utilizing graphic novels, music as resistance during the Holocaust, diaries written by young people during the Holocaust, and the art of Charlotte Salomon and Samuel Bak. A group of teachers drove for six hours from central Texas to attend the Institute.



The Max M. Kaplan Summer Institute participants learn how to use the art of Samuel Bak in their classrooms from Dr. Connie Schaffer



The Max M. Kaplan Summer Institute participants explore using graphic novels to teach about rescue in Denmark with Amanda Friedeman from the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center

The Gerald S. Kaplan Endowed Lecture, which included both the Summer Institute participants and members of the general public, featured Rachael Cerrotti and her book *We Share the Same Sky*, which traces the journey of escape from the Holocaust via Denmark and Sweden of Rachael's grandmother.

LATINX INITIATIVES

The Latinx Initiatives Program had an exceptional year of programming to support students, teachers, and community members throughout the Greater Houston region and beyond. In celebration of Latinx Heritage Month, the museum hosted a webinar for educators on Teaching Central America in K-12 classrooms; a film screening of *Los Hermanos/The Brothers* with a special performance by Segundo Barrio Children's Chorus, Houston's first and only bilingual children's chorus; a film screening of *Zero Gravity* with a special presentation by the University of Houston's Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science; and our third annual Community Altar Workshop in partnership with HTX Art in the Heart. In December 2023, the program participated in Region IV's Bilingual ESL Conference where we shared information about our free bilingual museum resources for students and teachers and presented a session on our Young Upstanders Toolkit. In May 2024, the program partnered with the National Association of Multicultural Education Conference by inviting participants to the Museum for



a special tour of our galleries while learning about free resources available for teachers.

ANTISEMITISM EDUCATION

The Education team is committed to our ongoing work in combatting antisemitism, especially in the wake of the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack on Israel. To support community members with understanding the history, dangers, and current manifestations of antisemitism in our world today, we have hosted various education programs on this topic including a film screening of *Screams Before Silence*, a public lecture on domestic terrorism and extremism in collaboration with the World Affairs Council, a film screening of *October 7* in partnership with the Israeli consulate, a public lecture by Mark Weitzman titled *Antisemitism Here and Now*, and Project Shema – an antisemitism training program – in collaboration with Interfaith Ministries. Additionally, we joined the Antisemitism Roundtable network, partnered with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) on their *Antisemitism Uncovered* video series, cosponsored Houston's

October 7 commemoration, will host a public program featuring the testimony of an October 7 survivor on January 27, 2025, and will cosponsor the upcoming *Antisemitism and Antisemitism: A Growing Convergence* Conference with Rice University and Baylor College of Medicine. Ongoing initiatives include antisemitism presentations to enhance our teacher fellowships, facilitating adult education programs for community members, attending Yad Vashem conferences and partnering with them to bring exhibits to the museum, local Houston area survivor talks, teaching students about antisemitism through the Educator in Motion program, teaching law enforcement officers and medical residents about antisemitism during the Holocaust and today, training staff and docents on these topics, and launching an antisemitism toolkit for teachers to address this issue in their school communities.



Holocaust survivor, Ruth Steinfeld, posing with students from Caney Creek High School in Conroe ISD at her survivor talk





Dr. Celinscak leading an interactive tour for Warren and Spector/Warren Fellows in the Bak Gallery



BAK EDUCATION INITIATIVES

To support HMH's Samuel Bak Gallery and Learning Center, the museum is thrilled to present education initiatives around the life and art of Samuel Bak. By highlighting the meaning and significance of Bak's poignant art within the gallery and through community programming, Bak's message and legacy will continue to teach and influence future generations about the Holocaust, human rights today, and how to become empowered Upstanders in our world.

Throughout 2023-2024, the Education team collaborated with Bak scholars Dr. Mark Celinscak and Dr. Connie Schaffer from the University of Nebraska Omaha during the Warren and Spector/Warren Fellowship for Future Teachers and the Max M. Kaplan Summer Institute for Educators. They presented sessions to pre-service teachers and current educators on the life and art of Samuel Bak while offering resources to incorporate Bak's art in their classrooms. In April 2024, HMH Bak Educator, Laurie Garcia, presented a session on Bak's art to support Texas State University's Genocide Awareness Symposium. During the presentation, participants learned about Bak's life, explored powerful

themes and symbols in his paintings, and reflected on the meaning of Bak's art today. Additionally, we continue to offer special tours, trainings, and presentations to community members around the gallery and Bak's art.



HMH Bak Educator Laurie Garcia leading a Bak session at the Genocide Awareness Symposium



Dr. Connie Schaffer - Max M. Kaplan Summer Institute



2024 Young Ambassador Program Intern learning about Bak Education Initiatives



The Kinsey African American Art & History Collection

January 12 - June 23, 2024

Josef and Edith Minckberg Gallery

The Kinsey African American Art & History Collection celebrated the achievements and contributions of Black Americans from 1595 to present day. Considered one of the most comprehensive surveys of African American history and culture outside the Smithsonian Institution, the exhibition of the same name featured the shared treasures amassed by Shirley and Bernard Kinsey during their five decades of marriage. The collection includes masterful paintings and sculpture, photographs, rare books, letters, manuscripts and more that offer a well-rounded look at the African American experience and provide new perspectives on the nation's history and culture.

The Kinsey African American Art & History Collection

Organized by – *The Bernard & Shirley Kinsey Foundation for Arts & Education and KBK Enterprises, Incorporated*



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Facing Survival | David Kassan

On view through January 5, 2025
Josef and Edith Minberg Gallery

This compelling and transformative exhibition features the masterful paintings and drawings of acclaimed artist David Kassan, capturing the poignant stories and portraits of Holocaust survivors.

Facing Survival stands as a profound testament to the enduring power of art in narrating the untold stories of resilience and survival. Through the evocative paintings and sketches meticulously crafted by Kassan, the exhibition unveils the profound journey of more than two dozen Holocaust survivors. By intertwining the visual representation of the survivors with the sketches revealing Kassan's artistic process, this exhibition transcends conventional forms of testimony, forging a poignant visual language that surpasses the limitations of spoken or written word.

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The Bias Inside Us

September 13 - October 6, 2024

Lester and Sue Smith Human Rights Gallery

Through compelling images, hands-on interactives and powerful testimonials and videos, the Smithsonian's *The Bias Inside Us* unpacked and demystified the concept of bias.

Visitors explored the foundational blocks of bias, the psychology of how it forms and how it influences behaviors both consciously and unconsciously. Interactive elements displayed how implicit and explicit bias shows up in the world and how bias influences systems and policies that have consequences for many people and communities. Among the videos in the exhibition was a series that features eight voices from diverse perspectives sharing personal experience with bias.

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Photo by Michelle Groskopf

Caribbean Indigenous Resistance / Resistencia indígena del Caribe ¡Taíno Vive!

November 1, 2024 – January 12, 2025

Lester and Sue Smith Human Rights Gallery

This Smithsonian-created exhibition highlights the strength and resistance of the indigenous peoples of the Caribbean under the harsh reality of European colonization. Emphasizing the relevance of the Taíno culture in the Americas and within our own community, their stories help us understand not only the oppression of foreign occupiers, but the endurance of their heritage against all odds.

Houston Survivor Series: Liberation

December 13, 2024 – May 4, 2025

Spira Central Gallery in memory of Brenda Spira

Curated in-house by our Collections and Exhibitions team, this exhibit will feature Houston-area Holocaust Survivors in the fifth installment of our Houston Survivor Series. Observing the upcoming 80th anniversary of the liberation of most concentration camps across Europe, this installment will focus on local survivors who experienced liberation and went on to become an integral part of the Houston community.

LEAD SPONSORS

Texas Jewish Historical Society; Ronald Graboís Family Endowment Fund; Levenback Family Endowment Fund; Lynn and Marcel Mason Endowment Fund; Wermuth-Meicler Endowment Fund in Memory of Tola and Sol Rosenberg; George Wozasek Endowment Fund in memory of Miriam Gerger; and Nina and Michael Zilkha Endowment Fund



Holocaust Survivor Walter Kase, z"l



Life and Death on the Border 1910-1920

January 24 – May 25, 2025

Josef and Edith Minberg Gallery

Originally produced by the Bullock Texas State History Museum in collaboration with Refusing to Forget and coming to HMH, *Life and Death on the Border 1910-1920* sheds light on a difficult time in history that included both the Mexican Revolution and World War I. This exhibit examines the hardships and racial violence faced by people of Mexican descent on the border between Texas and Mexico in the second decade of the 20th century. The conflict in Texas would spur the Mexican American civil rights movement and inspire a cultural renaissance along the border and beyond that can still be felt today.



Human Rights Day

December 10, 2024

Human Rights Day is observed every year on December 10 – the day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Join us for a day of celebration with free admission, featured human rights organizations, and a Holocaust Survivor talk.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day

January 26 and 27, 2025

The United Nations General Assembly designated January 27 – the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau – as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. HMH will commemorate and honor the six million Jews and other innocent victims of the Holocaust with free admission Sunday, January 26.

Additionally, on Monday evening, January 27, HMH will cosponsor a program with special guest, Amir Tibon, award-winning Israeli correspondent and author of *The Gates of Gaza*.



Film Screening: *Black Raven*

February 27, 2025

Join Holocaust Museum Houston in partnership with the Ukrainian American Cultural Club of Houston for a free film screening of the documentary, *Black Raven*, memorializing the largely forgotten horror of the Holodomor. In early 1930's Soviet Ukraine, the regime of Josef Stalin ran a genocidal campaign of starvation against the rural peasant class. With the intention to both collectivize Ukraine's rich agricultural industry, as well as wipe out the Kulak class, food was withheld from millions of civilians in the countryside, leading to one of the worst, and unfortunately overlooked, genocides of the 20th century.

RSVP for these events and more: hmh.org/events



March is Member Appreciation Month

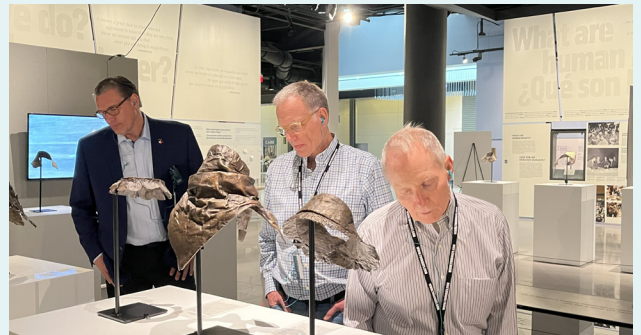
Throughout the month of March, we celebrate our members and their generosity in helping the Museum achieve its mission to teach the dangers of hatred, prejudice and apathy.

Member Appreciation Reception
March 17, 2025

JOIN LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Leadership Circle is HMH's upper-level patron group whose sustaining contributions provide vital funds across all the areas of the Museum. Members of this group receive enhanced benefits in recognition of their philanthropy, including complimentary parking at the Museum, one gift of membership for a friend, special pricing on HMH event space rentals, and invitations to exclusive behind-the-scenes events, programs and more.

Visit hmh.org/membership to upgrade your membership today!



Give the Gift of Membership This Holiday Season

Give a meaningful gift of membership to a friend or a family member. Membership to Holocaust Museum Houston makes an excellent present for any occasion, one that can be enjoyed all year round. As a Museum member, your gift recipient will be invited to participate in special programs for members and receive full membership benefits.

To give a Gift Membership visit hmh.org/membership.





Art Circle is Holocaust Museum Houston's art affinity group that was created to connect HMH members and the Houston community with artists and collectors engaged in social, political, and human rights issues.

Art Circle takes members of the group into private collectors' homes, artists' studios, and art galleries for incredible behind-the-scenes experiences. The revenue from this membership supports the changing exhibitions program at the Museum.

Learn more and join Art Circle at hmh.org/ArtCircle.



2024 - 2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Supporter Member Connoisseur Member

DECEMBER

Festive Holiday Gathering at Home of Ben Johnston & Erich Ploog Monday, December 16 | 5:30 p.m.

Join us at the Hollywood Regency-inspired residence of Ben Johnston and Erich Ploog, that showcases Neoclassical elegance with a modern twist. Explore their collection of vibrant contemporary and modern art with works by Gilad Efrat, John Cornu, Rob de Oude and Don Voisine.



FEBRUARY 2025

Special Visit to Home & Collection of Elizabeth & Barry Young Monday, February 3 | 5:30 p.m.

Elizabeth and Barry Young are staunch patrons of the arts in Houston and have created a dynamic and thought-provoking collection of contemporary artists including Marilyn Minter, Ori Gersht, Mel Bochner, Allison Schulnik, Dorothy Hood, Cindy Sherman and Jorinde Voigt.



MARCH

Exclusive Visit to Home & Collection of Elena & Kenny Marks Monday, March 3 | 5:30 p.m.

Join us at the River Oaks home of philanthropists and collectors Elena and Kenny Marks and experience their vibrant collection of modern and contemporary art. Explore a stunning array of artists, from the bold strokes of Gerhard Richter and Roberto Matta to the vibrant expressions of Nicolas Party and Scott Kahn.



APRIL

Exclusive Visit to Home & Collection of Barbara & Michael Gamson Monday, April 7 | 5:30 p.m.

You are invited to tour the stunning home of Barbara and Michael Gamson, featured in ArtNews' Top 200 Collectors. Their impressive collection emphasizes women artists and artists of color, including Cecily Brown, Mark Bradford, Yayoi Kusama, Rashid Johnson, Nicolas Party and Shara Hughes.



MAY

Season Closing Event at Home of Bill Baldwin & Fady Armanious Monday, May 5 | 5:30 p.m.

Join us for an exclusive reception and tour of Bill Baldwin and Fady Armanious' newly remodeled home in the heart of Montrose. Be among the first to take in the stunning modern home's completely revamped kitchen, library and primary closet while appreciating their diverse art collection, which features paintings and sculptures from all around the world.



Art Circle is generously sponsored by:
Lauren and Benjamin Hendin



The HMH Guild serves the Museum's mission by building a community of like-minded supporters and uniting HMH members through social and educational programs, service, and fundraising projects. This vibrant group offers unique, monthly events, and programs ranging from interesting lectures to fascinating trips, happy hours, and a book club. The Guild is generously underwritten by Dorita Aron, Karen and Critz Cullen, Iris Fisherman, Catherine Holste.

Learn more and join the Guild at hmh.org/Guild



Members of the Guild visit Judaica Beth Yeshurun



Members of the Guild gather in the Boniuk Library for the Book Club meeting



Guild Holiday Party



Holocaust Museum Houston invites you to join NEXTGen, the Museum's young professionals group for supporters ages 21-45. Through a variety of educational and social events, NEXTGen aims to inspire young professionals to be Upstanders, people who stand up for social change, human rights, and community progress.

Become a member of NEXTGen at hmh.org/NEXTGen and join us for our upcoming events.



Collections

HMH's Collections and Exhibitions department has been working hard to ensure the longevity and accessibility of the Museum's collections. Through regular inventories, condition assessments, and conversations with archive and artifact donors, our team maintains a well-organized collection with great potential for digitization and further development.

Through extensive organizing of our collections vaults, the team has updated and restructured the management of the collection. Investigating and solving decades-old mysteries in the collection has been extremely helpful for us to implement higher museum standards when dealing with our artifacts and archives. We have taken the last year to tighten our practices to make sure we are running a smooth and efficient process, complete with policies and procedures for accessioning, cataloging, displaying, and deaccessioning.

We are pleased to share that through these efforts, we have been able to start digitizing our collection on the Museum's website. So far, we have been able to place over 350 artifacts online. It is a time-intensive enterprise and a very ambitious one, but we are looking forward to sharing our collections with anyone who needs access.


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[2013.3.24](#)

[2019.3.75](#)

[Poster, Political](#)

[2013.3.15](#)

[2019.3.186](#)

[Pamphlet](#)

[2019.3.134](#)

[Letter](#)

[2019.3.107](#)

[2019.3.141](#)

[Poster, Political](#)

[Ribbon, Military](#)

[2019.3.157](#)

[Painting](#)

Learn more about the collection, including how to contribute artifacts, at hmb.org/collections.



HMH Board Chair Elyse Spector Kalmans, German Consul General of Houston Kai Hennig, second-generation Holocaust Survivor Sandy Breisacher Lessig, Bavarian National Museum of Munich Curator Dr. Matthias Weniger

Family Heirloom Stolen by the Nazis Returned to Second-generation Holocaust Survivor Sandy Lessig

Dr. Matthias Weniger, a curator of the Bavarian National Museum of Munich, Germany, has made it his mission to return the 350 heirlooms in his museum's collection that were confiscated by the Nazis during WWII. In 1939, to humiliate Jews, the Nazis required they turn in their silver and precious metals to designated brokers and pawn shops so it could be melted down and used for the war, but some items were deemed valuable antiques and saved. In Munich alone, 10 tons of silver were taken in.

On Friday, October 4, Dr. Weniger met with Sandy Breisacher Lessig, a second-generation Holocaust survivor, to return a more than 200-year-old silver fish server. She inherits the heirloom from her great aunt and uncle, Rosa and Jakob Schmalgrund, who escaped Germany into Shanghai during WWII. The piece

will be on loan to Holocaust Museum Houston, which also holds Rosa and Jakob's passports, photos and other objects in their collection.

It has been 85 years since this silver piece has been in the hands of family. By chance, the return happened during Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year and start of 10 days of asking for forgiveness that leads up to Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year.

Dr. Weniger has researched and personally returned 83 items to more than a dozen families in the United States, England, Spain, France, and Israel.

Group Tours

The Museum offers both in-person and virtual experiences that can be customized to your group's interests. Our volunteer docents are trained to help visitors understand the lessons of the Holocaust, connect with the stories of our local Survivors, and leave the Museum feeling empowered to be an "Upstander."

Tour requests must be submitted a minimum of 3 weeks in advance of your earliest preferred tour date. The Group Tours Manager will contact you within 7 business days to discuss details for your visit.

To learn more and book a tour, visit hnh.org/tours.



Survivor and Descendant Speaking Engagements

To complement your group tour experience, Holocaust Museum Houston is proud to offer speaking engagements with local Houston Holocaust Survivors and their descendants at no additional cost. Hearing a Survivors' story can leave a lasting impact and inspire action in each of us. These one-hour speaking engagements require a minimum of 50 individuals and are offered within the tour request forms above.

To learn more, visit hnh.org/tours.



EVENT SPACE RENTALS



Albert and Ethel Herzstein Theater featuring the Mady and Kades Stage



HMH Classrooms



Eric Alexander Garden of Hope

Treat your guests to an experience they will never forget — choose Holocaust Museum Houston (HMH) for your next event. HMH offers versatile spaces both architecturally stunning and educationally rich. In addition to world-class exhibits and cutting-edge galleries, the 57,000-square-foot facility features state-of-the-art classrooms, beautiful reception areas, a 187-seat theater, and an amphitheater for events and meetings.

Holocaust Museum Houston is an ideal location for:

- Business Meetings
- Corporate breakfasts and luncheons
- Cocktail receptions
- Elegant seated dinners
- Offsite workdays
- Private Celebrations
- Private Film Screenings
- Lectures
- Live performances

HMH FACILITY BENEFITS:

- Event spaces fully equipped with state-of-the-art A/V capabilities and Wi-Fi for any event or meeting, including event livestreaming and recording
- Admission to exhibition galleries that are fully bilingual in English and Spanish
- Private docent-led tours available upon request
- Easily accessible on-site parking
- Central location in the heart of the Houston Museum District

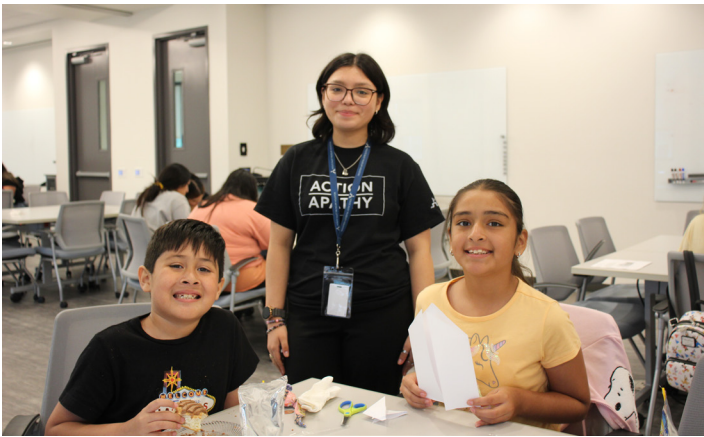
To schedule a tour of the facility or for more information, please contact Hayley Rosenberg, Manager of Development Events, at hrosenberg@hnh.org or 713-527-1621.



Moral Choices Hall



Moral Choices Hall



2024 Young Ambassador Program Intern Rachelle Escobar leads a bilingual storytime of the book *Spanish is the Language of my Family*



Deliman Ziggy Gruber and Holocaust Survivors celebrating National Deli Month at Kenny & Ziggy's



Local Holocaust Survivors gather for an annual luncheon at the Museum



HMH Trustee Khambrel Marshall moderates a talk with local artist Ava Cosey, discussing her piece featured in the Kinsey African American Art and History Collection



Bernard Kinsey leads a tour of the Kinsey African American Art and History Collection exhibition



Second-generation Holocaust Survivor Hy Penn (The Great Hydini) performs a human rights-focused magic show during Human Rights Day



2024 Warren Fellows



Holocaust Survivor Fred Floersheimer lights a candle during Yom HaShoah



HMH Chief Learning and Interpretation Officer Wendy Warren with 2024 Yom HaShoah Scholarship recipient Gaby Brown



Artist David Kassan shares details of the painting, Martin Greenfield, featured in the Facing Survival | David Kassan exhibition



Khalil Kinsey, former Mayor of Houston Sylvester Turner, and Lester Marks pose for a photo at a VIP preview of the Kinsey African American Art and History Collection exhibition



Holocaust Survivor Ruth Steinfeld meets with a visitor during Spring Break

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BEARING WITNESS



ANNUAL FUND GIVING MAKES AN IMPACT

With more than 1,060 donors giving to Holocaust Museum Houston's Annual Fund last fiscal year, it is with great pleasure that we take this opportunity to thank all those who participated for your generosity.

Gifts to the Annual Fund are in addition to membership dues, and, because they are unrestricted, provide immediate support to help the Museum accomplish its meaningful goals. Your tax-deductible gift provides the stability and continuity that allows Holocaust Museum Houston to fulfill its mission of using

the lessons of the Holocaust to teach the dangers of hatred, prejudice, and apathy.

Every gift, large or small, makes an impact. Your support will make a significant difference in educating and inspiring a new generation to stand up against the hatred, prejudice, and apathy of the past, that are still permeating our present. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to HMH's 2024 - 2025 Annual Fund campaign, visit hmh.org/annualefund.

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Donate

