

# BEARING WITNESS

FALL 2025 / NO. 11





## Editors

Clare Legg

## Holocaust Museum Houston

Lester and Sue Smith Campus  
5401 Caroline Street, Houston, TX 77004  
TEL: 713-942-8000 FAX: 713-527-1652  
info@hnh.org

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ELYSE SPECTOR KALMANS

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members and Friends,

As I look back on this past year at Holocaust Museum Houston, I'm filled with gratitude, pride, and a deep sense of responsibility. In a time when our world is facing rising hate, division, and misinformation, the work we do together at the Museum has never been more important.

Over the past year, **more than 60,000 visitors** walked through our doors, engaging with the powerful lessons of the Holocaust and human rights. We welcomed **over 12,000 students** on in-person tours; each given the opportunity to confront history, reflect on moral choices, and imagine a more just future. Past our walls, our **education outreach programs reached nearly 23,000 students** across Texas and beyond. Through **professional development training, we equipped 757 educators** with tools to teach the Holocaust accurately and impactfully in their classrooms. These dedicated **educators reached an estimated 75,700 students internationally**, sharing the universal lessons of the Holocaust. We continue to strengthen our community through dedicated affinity groups, including **3GHTX**, a group for grandchildren of Holocaust survivors. 3GHTX members honor their family legacies by sharing their stories, fostering dialogue, and promoting Holocaust and human rights education.

We presented a powerful lineup of exhibitions that told stories of courage, resilience, and hope. ***Life and Death on the Border 1910–1920*** shed light on a painful chapter in Texas history, bringing attention to an often-overlooked period of racial violence and resistance along the U.S.-Mexico border. ***Ilan Ramon: A Life and Legacy*** honored Israel's first astronaut, a child of Holocaust survivors, and a symbol of perseverance and possibility. ***"7 Oct. 2023" by Zoya Cherkassky-Nnadi*** confronted the trauma and loss of the recent Hamas attacks in Israel through bold, deeply emotional artwork. ***Unveiled: From the Vault***, on view through January 4, 2026, gives visitors a rare glimpse into our collection, reminding us that behind every artifact is a human story. Finally, ***Growing Up Jewish – Art & Storytelling*** invites visitors to explore Jewish identity through contemporary art, imagination, and personal narrative.

This year also marked an exciting new chapter for Holocaust Museum Houston as we welcomed **Gary Weisserman** as our new CEO. Gary brings decades of experience in education and leadership, with a passion for community engagement that aligns beautifully with our mission. He has already shown a deep commitment to expanding our outreach and impact.

This work is urgent. With antisemitism and hate crimes on the rise around the world and here at home, Holocaust education is not just about remembering the past — it's about standing up to hate today and protecting the future. At Holocaust Museum Houston, we believe that learning leads to empathy, and empathy can lead to action. Every student we reach, every conversation we spark, and every memory we preserve makes a difference.

Thank you to our loyal members and supporters for being part of this journey. Your participation and generosity help us build a world where history is not forgotten and humanity is not lost.

With deep appreciation,

Elyse Spector Kalmans  
Board Chair  
Holocaust Museum Houston

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The annual fundraiser honored hostage advocates Rachel Goldberg-Polin and Jon Polin with the Lyndon Baines Moral Courage Award while raising a record \$2 million for the Museum. Award-winning journalist and October 7 survivor Amir Tibon served as moderator for an inspiring discussion with the couple.

## PAGE 6-9 EDUCATION

The Museum's Engines of Change Student Ambassador Program expanded the minds of 51 students from 22 different Houston area high schools. During the 2024-2025 school year, the Educator in Motion team reached 22,086 students across 28 school districts. The HMH Education Team provided resources and training for educators in Houston and beyond with the Warren Fellowship for Future Teachers, the Max M. Kaplan Summer Institute, the Lt. David Silverman Latin American Institute, and several teacher workshops.

## PAGE 12 CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

*Unveiled: From the Vault* is on view through January 4, 2026, along with *Growing Up Jewish – Art & Storytelling* through December 7, 2025, and *Anachronous* through March 8, 2026.

## PAGE 15 PUBLIC PROGRAMS

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



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## Meet HMH's New CEO

Gary Weisserman joined Holocaust Museum Houston this summer with more than 32 years of professional experience in K-12 and higher education and administration. Flip the page to read more about him and his goals for the future of the Museum.





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# Holocaust Museum Houston's 2025 LBJ Moral Courage Award Dinner Raises Over \$2 Million

Holocaust Museum Houston presented hostage advocates Rachel Goldberg-Polin and Jon Polin with the Lyndon Baines Johnson Moral Courage Award Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at the Hilton Americas-Houston. A staggering 1,400 guests helped the annual event raise over \$2 million for the Museum, surpassing the event's fundraising goal.

Rachel Goldberg-Polin and Jon Polin's son, Hersh, was taken hostage by Hamas on October 7, 2023. Since then, the couple, who are dual American-Israeli citizens, have become full-time hostage advocates. Almost a year after being stolen, on day 330, the IDF announced that Hersh had been murdered by Hamas. Despite the devastating loss of their son, the Polins remained steadfast in their

quest for the freedom of every hostage held by Hamas. The event concluded with a powerful armchair conversation with the honorees led by award-winning diplomatic correspondent, Amir Tibon. A survivor of the October 7 attacks on Israel, Tibon's own experience and relationship with the Goldberg-Polins led to a deeply personal interview that paid tribute to their son and inspired guests.

Honorary Chairs Dr. Riva Collins and Ira Mitzner, Dinner Chairs Tali and Eric Blumrosen and Susan and Michael Bono, and Host Committee Chairs Susie and Jeff Raizner led the charge for the Museum's most successful fundraising event in the last 20 years. Presenting Sponsor Dorothy Lee Levinson helped ensure the event's triumph.



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1. Dinner Chairs Michael and Susan Bono, Dinner Chairs Tali and Eric Blumrosen
2. Honorees Jon Polin and Rachel Goldberg-Polin, HMH Board Chair Elyse Spector Kalmans
3. Host Committee Chairs Jeff and Susie Raizner, Sharon and Jeff Kirshenbaum

4. Y. Ping Sun, Dorothy Lee Levinson, Patricia Silverman
5. HMH CEO Gary Weisserman and Dr. Dolly Kerin Weisserman
6. Honorary Chairs Dr. Riva Collins and Ira Mitzner
7. Debbie Marshall and emcee Khambrel Marshall
8. Moderator Amir Tibon, Honorees Rachel Goldberg-Polin and Jon Polin



# Welcome Gary Weisserman

## HMH Chief Executive Officer

As Holocaust Museum Houston embarks on an exciting new chapter, we are honored to welcome Gary Weisserman as our new CEO. With more than three decades of leadership in both K–12 and higher education, Gary brings a deep commitment to learning and community. His distinguished career has spanned Jewish day schools, public education, and university administration—including roles as Head of School at Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School in Chicago and Milken Community Schools in Los Angeles. A Michigan native, Gary's passion for education and innovation has shaped countless lives. This Q&A provides insight on his journey, his vision for Holocaust Museum Houston, and the experiences that have prepared him to lead this vital institution into the future.



**Q:** What is a personal experience that shaped you as a leader?

**A:** I need to start by acknowledging I've been very, very fortunate. I've had some extraordinary professional mentors in my life to learn from and look up to, each of whom was a remarkable leader in their own right: Sy Gretchko, JoAnn Andrees, Jack Kay, Fred Goodman—the list goes on. Each of them had their hand in shaping who I am professionally, and I mention them now because I've always thought we're shaped at least as much by relationships as by events, and I couldn't be more grateful for their wisdom and examples.

Still, if I had to pick a single experience? I'd probably say the experience of creating Oakland Early College. It's a truly amazing school, one that changes lives, and the biggest impact it had on me has been the understanding that, with enough passion and purpose and the right people, almost anything is possible.

**Q:** What do you find most rewarding about the job?

**A:** I subscribe to a somewhat oversimplified version of Daniel Pink's idea that, after basic needs are met, dedicated professionals are most driven by three main forces: autonomy, mastery, and purpose. To that I add one of my own, which is "relationships." In local terms: We have agency over the future we imagine for our Museum and our community; we always can, and want, to do it better; we believe deeply in what we're doing and why we're doing it; and we have trust and (for lack of a better word) solidarity with the people we work with about the other three. To me, the Museum is a place where all four intersect in profound and meaningful ways. I get to work every single day with amazing people, doing something incredibly important, with only our own imagination and abilities to limit what we can do. That's my definition of a great job.

**Q:** What excites you most about the future of the Museum?

**A:** I don't think there's ever been a time where what we do has been more important. We live in a deeply fractured, often scary world, and we are uniquely positioned to imagine new ways to make it better, especially in how we teach the core, foundational lessons of the Holocaust (what we often refer to as the Five Universal Lessons).

**Q:** What has surprised you about Houston so far?

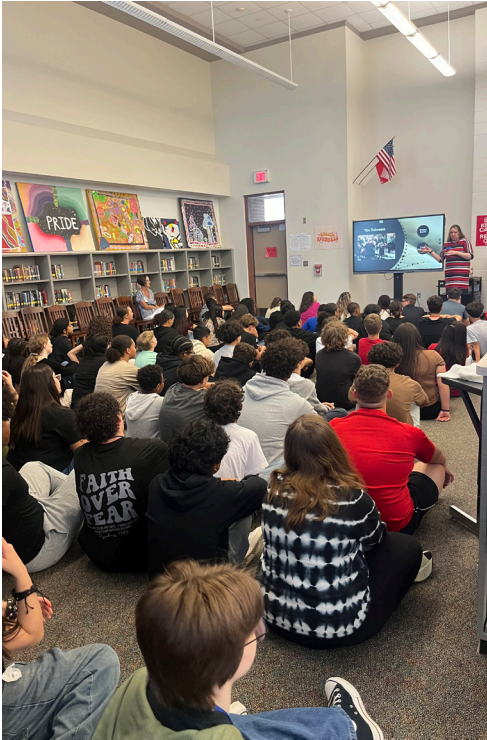
**A:** What a collaborative, welcoming place it is. It's truly an amazing community!

And, of course, the food scene! Best in the country by far.





# Educator in Motion



7th grade students at Ulrich Intermediate in Klein ISD participate in the Personal Narratives of the Holocaust program



Students at La Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon and la ciudad de San Nicolas de los Garza, a university in Monterrey, Mexico, after a virtual tour of Holocaust Museum Houston

During the 2024-2025 school year, the Educator in Motion program reached 22,086 students at 64 schools across 28 school districts. The team drove more than 5,500 miles, the equivalent of a flight from Bush Intercontinental Airport to Warsaw, Poland! In addition to schools in the greater Houston area, the program also reached students in Abilene, TX; Hallettsville, TX; New Orleans, LA; and Evansville, WI. In our most exciting program of the year, educator Ingrid Patino presented about the Holocaust in Spanish to students at La Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon and la ciudad de San Nicolas de los Garza, a university in Monterrey, Mexico.

## Engines of Change Student Ambassador Program

The Engines of Change Student Ambassador Program completed its ninth successful year. As a part of this program, students are introduced to Holocaust history, which enables them to better understand current issues and to develop their own informed opinions and voices. The 2024-2025 Engines class had a total of 51 students from 22 high schools across the greater Houston area.

Some of the topics that our Student Ambassadors learned about were issues facing their communities such as Examining the Bias Inside Us, Universities and Protests, and Hate Speech and Antisemitism Online. In December, the Student Ambassadors participated in a service project in collaboration with Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston in which they were able to create over 300 gift bags for the recipients of the Meals on Wheels program.

Since 2016, Engines of Change has empowered over 400 Upstanders!



1. Engines of Change Student Ambassadors - March 2025
2. Engines of Change student ambassadors working on their service project for Meals on Wheels
3. Engines of Change Student Ambassadors explored the Smithsonian exhibit, *The Bias Inside Us*



## TEACHER TRAINING

This year, as a part of our ongoing initiatives to provide educators with the tools to teach about the Holocaust in their classrooms, the Education Department trained over 750 teachers. In a combination of in-person and virtual programs across the greater Houston area, our educators provided training sessions in Conroe ISD, Pasadena ISD, and

Spring Woods ISD, in addition to teacher workshops offered at the Museum. During educator workshops, participants learned about HMH's bilingual resources, lesson plans, and activities that teachers can take directly into their classrooms. The Museum is committed to providing educators with the resources they need to provide high quality education about the Holocaust and antisemitism.



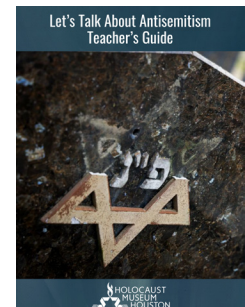
*Pasadena Independent School District teacher workshop taking a tour of the Bearing Witness Gallery*



*Holocaust Museum Houston hosted teachers from Pasadena Independent School District for a teacher workshop*

## LET'S TALK ABOUT ANTISEMITISM

In July 2025, the Education department launched a YouTube video series called "Let's Talk About Antisemitism" designed to help teachers, students, and the public understand antisemitism both historically and today. The first video, "Let's Talk About Antisemitism and the Holocaust," is available now and more videos are in production. The video series is accompanied by a teacher's guide that provides not only a history of antisemitism, but also recommendations and resources for use in the classroom.



## BAK EDUCATION INITIATIVES

The Museum continues to integrate initiatives around the life and art of Samuel Bak. To support educators with teaching about the Holocaust through Bak's art, Dr. Mark Celinscak from the University of Nebraska Omaha presented interactive sessions that included tours of the Bak gallery at the 2025 Lt. David L. Silverman Latin American

Institute and the 2025 Warren Fellowship for Future Teachers. Laurie Garcia, Director of Education and HMH's Bak educator, presented sessions on Bak's life and how to use his poignant art in classrooms during 2024-2025 professional development trainings for teachers throughout greater Houston and beyond.



*Dr. Mark Celinscak and 2025 Warren Fellows in Bak Gallery*



*Pasadena ISD educators on a tour of the Bak Gallery*

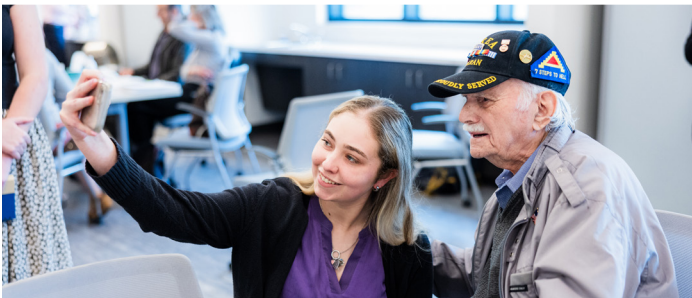




### 2025 WARREN FELLOWSHIP FOR FUTURE TEACHERS

In May, 32 pre-service educators from across the country gathered at HHM for a week of intensive study on Holocaust history and effective strategies for teaching this complex subject in their future classrooms. The Fellows learned from distinguished national and international scholars and educators, including Dr. Ruth-Anne Langa, Associate Professor at University College London; Dr. Benjamin Carter Hett, Professor of History at

Hunter College; Dr. Mark Celinscak, Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Nebraska; and Christina Chavarria of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. In addition to thought-provoking lectures, the Fellows toured HHM's galleries and heard directly from Survivor Bill Orlin, who shared his powerful story of resilience and survival.



### THE MAX M. KAPLAN SUMMER INSTITUTE

In July 2025, 31 educators attended the Max M. Kaplan Summer Institute for Educators, held annually at HHM. Thanks to the generosity of Martha and Don Freedman, teachers from across the United States were able to join teachers from the Houston area to learn how they can help their students make connections between what they learn about the Holocaust and the world today. Speakers included Rabbi Brian Strauss of Congregation Beth Yeshurun; Dr. J.E. Wolfson, State Coordinator of Education at the Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission; and survivor Mike Spiegel. We were proud to host the Gerald S. Kaplan Endowed Lecture with Dr. Dave Rich, MBE, a British expert on antisemitism, who discussed contemporary manifestations of antisemitism, particularly in the aftermath of the October 7<sup>th</sup> attacks.



Max M. Kaplan Summer Institute participants work together on an activity designed by HHM educator Ingrid Patino about Nazi medical experiments



Dr. Dave Rich, MBE discusses contemporary antisemitism during the Gerald S. Kaplan Endowed Lecture



Teachers at the Max M. Kaplan Summer Institute bond while working on an activity



## LATINX INITIATIVES

The Latinx Initiatives Program supports learning and teaching about the Holocaust through bilingual educational programs, education resources, and community outreach efforts designed for students, teachers, and community members. The program also encourages community building by highlighting the interconnections between Jewish and Latinx communities which includes Sephardic history, the history and stories of Jewish communities in Latin America, as well as Latinx Jewish communities in the United States. In September 2025, we hosted a free day for families and community members to celebrate Latinx Heritage Month. The free day included English and Spanish tours of the Holocaust gallery, family activities and special performances. In July 2025, the Museum launched a Spanish version of HMM's Holocaust Remembrance Toolkit to support Spanish-speaking students and teachers with learning and teaching about the history of the Holocaust. The toolkit includes lessons on different aspects of the Holocaust with student worksheets, videos, and resources to support Holocaust education in 6-12 classrooms.



Free Day English and Spanish Tours in Holocaust gallery



Searching for Belonging lecture presented by Dr. Mark Goldberg

## 2025 LT. DAVID. L. SILVERMAN LATIN AMERICAN INSTITUTE

In January 2025, the Museum team welcomed 18 Silverman Fellows to an international, bilingual conference that gives educators from the United States and Latin America an in-depth exploration of the history of the Holocaust and how to integrate Holocaust instruction in their classrooms. The cohort included 7 educators from across the United States and 11 educators from Latin American countries such as El Salvador, Colombia, Ecuador, Argentina, Peru, Costa Rica, and Uruguay.

Sessions included a historical overview of the Holocaust by Dr. Peter Hayes, Holocaust education through the art of Samuel Bak with Dr. Mark Celinscak, contemporary antisemitism since October 7th featuring Dr. Dave Rich, a Holocaust survivor talk with Ruth Steinfeld, as well as education sessions with our partners at USHMM, Yad Vashem, Centropa, Yahad-In Unum, and the Auschwitz Institute.



2025 Silverman Fellows with HMM Education Team



The Rescue Film-Concerto



# Guiding With Heart: The Impact of Our Docent Program

Every day, visitors walk through our doors seeking understanding and connection. Our dedicated volunteer docents are at the heart of making those moments possible. With deep knowledge, compassionate storytelling, and an unwavering commitment to our mission, docents transform each tour into more than just a visit; it becomes a meaningful experience that stays with visitors long after they leave.

Docents guide visitors through our galleries, illuminate history with care, and encourage thoughtful reflection. They foster conversations that help connect the lessons of the past to the challenges of the present, ensuring that each visitor leaves informed and ready to make a difference. Whether they are welcoming school groups, leading adult tours, or engaging with special exhibitions, our docents embody the spirit of education, empathy, and remembrance.



## Become an HMH Docent

If you have a passion for history, a love for learning, and a desire to make a difference by connecting with people from all backgrounds, we invite you to consider becoming part of our docent community. Training is comprehensive and deeply rewarding, and the friendships and sense of community you'll gain are immeasurable.

To learn more about the docent program or to express your interest, please contact us at **[tours@hmh.org](mailto:tours@hmh.org)**.

Together, we can preserve this history as a living testament for generations to come.





# Exhibitions at Holocaust Museum Houston

Holocaust Museum Houston (HMH) continues to offer exhibitions that connect history, memory, and the human experience. We strive to present exhibitions that remind us that remembrance is not passive—it demands vigilance, empathy, and courage. Recent and upcoming showcases explore resilience, identity, and the ongoing relevance of our human past.

## *Ilan Ramon: A Life and Legacy*

*May 30 – August 3, 2025*

On view in the Lester and Sue Smith Human Rights Gallery, *Ilan Ramon: A Life and Legacy* celebrated the extraordinary story of Israel's first astronaut. The exhibition, curated by HMH with artifacts from the Ramon Foundation and the National Library Israel, traced Ramon's journey from a family shaped by the Holocaust to his groundbreaking space mission aboard the Columbia.

Divided into four sections—early life, military and NASA training, the Columbia mission, and the enduring work of The Ramon Foundation—the show highlighted Ramon's resilience and commitment to education. Among its most powerful artifacts was a restored page from his space diary, recovered after the Columbia disaster, along with personal items and Holocaust remembrance objects he carried into orbit.



**ILAN  
RAMON**   
**A LIFE AND LEGACY**



## *“7 Oct. 2023” by Zoya Cherkassky-Nnadi*

*June 21 – August 24, 2025*

In the Spira Central Gallery, *7 Oct. 2023* presented 12 evocative prints created in response to the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023—an event known in Israel as “Black Shabbat.” Ukrainian-born, Israeli artist Zoya Cherkassky channeled grief and shock into works that blend direct depictions of violence with references to iconic Western art traditions. The result: a haunting meditation on trauma, resilience, and the role of art in times of conflict.

This work was loaned to HMH by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, which acquired the portfolio through a generous donation by Nina and Michael Zilkha.



# Unveiled: From the Vault

July 24, 2025 – January 4, 2026

Currently on view in the Josef and Edith Minberg Gallery, this special exhibition was conceived and curated by HMM. It pulls from the Museum's vaults to reveal rarely seen artifacts, including personal belongings, letters, identification papers, ghetto and camp currencies, and Nazi propaganda materials. These intimate objects tell powerful stories—of lives disrupted, communities destroyed, and survival against all odds.

The exhibition also features materials from Rice University's South Texas Jewish Archives, connecting local stories to global history. More than a collection of artifacts, *Unveiled: From the Vault* is a call to vigilance—reminding visitors that the Holocaust was not inevitable and that silence in the face of hate has consequences.



## Growing Up Jewish – Art & Storytelling

September 18 – December 7, 2025

On view in the Spira Central Gallery, this vibrant exhibition by Jacqueline Kott-Wolle blends paintings and personal narratives to explore the evolution of Jewish identity in North America. Drawing from decades of family photographs, Kott-Wolle portrays five generations of Jewish life, from the 1920s to today.

While the Holocaust's shadow lingers, her work celebrates renewal, joy, and cultural continuity. Through colorful, intimate scenes, *Growing Up Jewish* asks a timeless question: What does it mean to be Jewish for past, present, and future generations?





## *Anachronous*

*November 7, 2025 – March 8, 2026*

Debating in the Lester and Sue Smith Human Rights Gallery, *Anachronous* by Argentine artist Cynthia Isakson redefines how family history is seen and remembered. Featuring 18 digital photographs on breathable fabric and four immersive projections, this work overlays past and present—merging moments across five generations in Warsaw, Buenos Aires, and Houston.

Printed on delicate, foldable fabric, the images evoke both fragility and endurance, suggesting the lightness required to escape persecution and the permanence of memory. This world premiere installation invites viewers to consider how family photographs can transcend time, carrying stories of love, loss, and survival across generations.



## *Boris Lurie: Nothing To Do But To Try*

*February 12 – July 19, 2026*

Opening in the Josef and Edith Minberg Gallery, this landmark exhibition explores the life and art of Boris Lurie—a Holocaust survivor whose work stands as a raw chronicle of trauma and perseverance. Anchored by his early *War Series* and rare items from his personal archive, *Nothing To Do But To Try* confronts the lingering scars of genocide and the struggle for artistic freedom.

The title, drawn from Lurie's own memoir, underscores his relentless resolve: survival as the ultimate act of creation, and creation as the ultimate act of survival. This exhibition offers both a deeply personal narrative and an important contribution to 20th-century art history.



Naomi Warren



Arthur Tyler

## *Letters from Liberation: Naomi and Arthur*

*March 12 – August 2, 2026*

In the Spira Central Gallery, a remarkable story unfolds—a story born from the liberation of Bergen-Belsen on April 15, 1945. British soldier Arthur Tyler encountered Naomi Kaplan, a Polish Jewish survivor of Auschwitz and Belsen, and wrote a letter that changed her life. That single message, sent to her family in Houston, set off a chain of events that reunited loved ones and allowed Naomi to begin anew.

Through original letters, photographs, and personal artifacts, *Naomi and Arthur: Letters from Liberation* traces a journey from horror to hope—revealing how a single act of kindness can alter the course of history.



# Collections

The HMH Collections Committee was excited to accept over 100 pieces of correspondence from the family of Leona Zagraniczna Trachtenberg into the Permanent Collection this Spring. This collection contains letters and other documents from 1938 to 1941 highlighting life inside the Warsaw Ghetto. Featuring correspondence between Leona, her mother, sisters, friends, and family, this donation tells the story of a family torn apart but also one who exhibited resilience and courage in a time of worldwide crisis. The collections department would like to express our sincerest thanks to Ellen and Dan Trachtenberg for their generosity in making this donation and are thrilled to showcase pieces from this collection on future displays.



Visitors to the Boniuk Library will notice two additions to the space in the form of encapsulated miniature dioramas. These pieces were donated to the HMH by the artist, Burton David Reckles, whose miniatures and models are in museum collections in Japan, Europe, Israel, and the United States, including the Smithsonian Institution. The dioramas show opposing aspects of the Holocaust – the horrors of the death camps and the compassionate spirit of humanity.

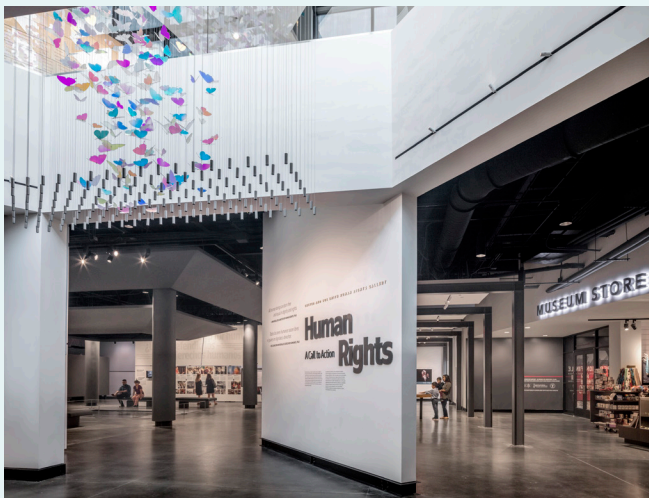
The first piece, titled "Auschwitz Aftermath... When The Jews Are Gone What Remains," is centered around a railroad box car on tracks inside of a bottle. The bottle sits in the middle of a model depicting the unloading portal of the Auschwitz death camp. The entire scene is completely devoid of people, but the path leading from the railroad car to the camp gates is strewn with personal possessions of the victims.

The second piece is entitled "Danish Escape, Swedish Welcome...A Fishing Boats Journey to Freedom." It depicts the port of a small Danish town where a line of Jews await their turn to board a Danish fishing boat, Hannah Frank. Boats like these were used nightly to smuggle Jews out of Denmark prior to a planned Nazi roundup.



*Learn more about the collection, including how to contribute artifacts, at [bmb.org/collections](http://bmb.org/collections).*





# Human Rights Day

December 10, 2025 - Free Admission

December 14, 2025 - Human Rights Celebration

Human Rights Day is observed every year on December 10 – the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). At HMH, the day is commemorated with free admission on December 10 each year. In addition, join us December 14, 2025, for a day of celebration with free admission, featured human rights organizations, tours in English and Spanish, and a Holocaust Survivor Talk.

# International Holocaust Remembrance Day

January 27, 2026

The United Nations General Assembly designated January 27 – the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau – as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Museum admission will be free for all on this annual day of commemoration to honor the six million Jews and other innocent victims of the Holocaust.



# Yom HaShoah

April 19, 2026

Please join us in observance of Yom HaShoah, a day of remembrance for the 6 million Jewish people who lost their lives during the Holocaust. During this annual commemoration, we will mourn the loss of all who perished, honor those who survived and come together as a community to remember and reflect.

Coordinated by the Yom HaShoah Steering Committee and Holocaust Museum Houston

Funding for this service is generously provided by:  
**The Morgan Family Endowment Fund, the Morgan Family Center and the Morgan Family Foundation**

Learn more at [hmb.org/events](https://hmb.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 19, 2026

## 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 [hnh.org/membership](https://hnh.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 [hnh.org/membership](https://hnh.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 [hnh.org/ArtCircle](https://hnh.org/ArtCircle).



## 2025 - 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Supporter Member Connoisseur Member

DECEMBER

### Holiday Gathering at Gallery & Home of Hiram Butler Monday, December 8 | 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a special evening with Hiram Butler, a visionary gallerist who has helped shape Houston's contemporary art scene. Since founding his gallery in 1984, Hiram has championed numerous public art projects, including works by James Turrell, Jennifer Bartlett and Ellsworth Kelly. The gallery is currently working in collaboration with the Barnett Newman Foundation to realize a synagogue that was designed by Newman in 1963, which is now planned for the Emery/Weiner School campus in Houston, Texas.



FEBRUARY 2026

### Special Visit to Home & Collection of Amy Kapiloff Monday, February 16 | 5:30 p.m.

Join longtime Art Circle member Amy Kapiloff for an intimate preview of her dynamic collection, spanning two Bellaire homes. Built with her late husband David, the collection features works by Helen Frankenthaler, Ross Bleckner, Roy Lichtenstein, Dorothy Hood and Christian Eckart.



MARCH

### Visit to McClain Gallery Monday, March 2 | 5:30 p.m.

McClain Gallery invites you to experience Nick Vaughan and Jake Margolin's solo exhibition, featuring a special performance-lecture by the artists. The show highlights their Wind Drawings—ghost-like images of windows and doors from former queer spaces across mid-America.



APRIL

### Exclusive Visit to Home & Collection of Tracy & Glen Larner Tuesday, April 14 | 5:30 p.m.

Tracy Levit Larner and Glen Larner are passionate Houston philanthropists known for championing the arts and cultural preservation. Their vibrant collection—featuring McKay Otto, Claudio Bravo, Cassandra Blackmore, Zhuang Hong Yi and Sharon Kopriva—reflects their bold eye for innovation and deep love for community.



MAY

### Season Closing Event at Home of Liz & Steve Crowell Monday, May 4 | 5:30 p.m.

Join us for an unforgettable evening at Liz and Steve Crowell's art-filled Museum District home, featuring works by Jean-Michel Basquiat, John Chamberlain, Jenny Holzer, Robert Mangold and Edward Ruscha – alongside rare Mesoamerican carvings, Chinese terracotta sculptures, medieval maps and African statuary.



Art Circle is generously sponsored by:



Sanford L. Dow, Jacqueline Hecht & Wayne Dorris,  
Lauren & 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 Karen and Critz Cullen, Jacqueline Hecht and Wayne Dorris, and Dr. Catherine Holste.

Learn more and join the Guild at [hmh.org/Guild](https://hmh.org/Guild).



Exclusive Museum Tour for Guild Members



Members of the Guild



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](https://hmh.org/NEXTGen) and join us for our upcoming events.







3GHTX creates an outlet for Holocaust remembrance and education in Houston, focusing on the perspective of grandchildren and great grandchildren of survivors.



3GHTX group

## We are a living link to the Holocaust

Our generation is the last living link to survivors. We ensure that future generations will hear stories of our grandparents' survival. We provide the legacy, testimony and context for how this event is viewed and discussed today.

**Join us as we explore our shared history and bring together anyone who is committed to "Never Forget" and "Never Again."**

Learn more about 3GHTX at [hnh.org/3GHTX](http://hnh.org/3GHTX).



3GHTX event at Hotel St. Augustine



Ride for the Living



# Action Through Service: Building Community through Volunteers

Museum. Memorial. Educational Center.

Holocaust Museum Houston serves multiple purposes to our community, and this includes housing a volunteer program full of caring and compassionate individuals who regularly donate their precious time and energy. As invaluable representatives of the Museum, HMM volunteers are the first in line to guide visitors, answer their questions, and cultivate an atmosphere that encourages curiosity and inspires guests to learn more.

Volunteers like HMM's Greeters, who serve as the face of the Museum, ensure that every visitor has a positive and informative start to their experience. Greeters play a key role in setting the tone for each guest's visit by offering a warm welcome, answering initial questions, and providing essential information about the Museum's layout and offerings. Volunteers also have the opportunity to engage visitors on the content of the galleries by becoming a Gallery Host or leading a tour as a Docent.

Please consider joining a vibrant community of volunteers who contribute thousands of hours of service every year and help HMM guarantee a positive and educational experience for the Museum's visitors.

Visit our website [hmm.org/volunteer](https://hmm.org/volunteer) for more information or contact us at [volunteers@hmm.org](mailto:volunteers@hmm.org).





# 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](mailto:hrosenberg@hnh.org) or 713-527-1621.



*Moral Choices Hall*



*Moral Choices Hall*





Award-winning journalist and October 7 survivor Amir Tibon signs a copy of his book at HMH's International Holocaust Remembrance Day evening program



An Engines of Change Student Ambassador reflects on what being an advocate means to him at the March meeting



Joined by family members, Holocaust Survivor Edith Mincberg lights a candle at the Citywide Yom HaShoah Observance



Artist Josephine Kott-Wolle discusses one of her contemporary paintings on view in her exhibition, *Growing Up Jewish – Art & Storytelling*



Dean Peter Hotez of Baylor College of Medicine gives the keynote speech at "Antiscience and Antisemitism: An Alarming Convergence," the conference he organized with Rice University's Professor Matthias Henz



*Life and Death on the Border 1910-1920* was on view in the Josef and Edith Mincberg Gallery from January 30 to May 31, 2025



3GHTX members mingle at an event at Hotel St. Augustine in July





Denise and Walter Kurt with Holocaust Survivor Charles Kurt at the Holocaust Survivors and Descendants Lunch in September



Ilan Ramon: A Life and Legacy was on view in the Lester and Sue Smith Human Rights Gallery from May 30 to August 3, 2025



Ziggy Gruber hosts Holocaust Survivors, including Bob Ullman, to celebrate National Deli Month at Kenny and Ziggy's



Angela Cole and Valerie Baron at the Behind the Scenes: Explore the Collection event for HMMH Members in May



Children participated in a Community Altar Workshop during Latinx Heritage Month



Young professionals mix ingredients at the NEXTGen Challah Bake in September



Unveiled: From the Vault is on view through January 4, 2026, in the Josef and Edith Minberg Gallery



Dr. Alex Kor, the son of Holocaust Survivors Eva and Mickey Kor, shares his family's story



Lester and Sue Smith Campus  
5401 Caroline Street | Houston, Texas 77004

[hmh.org](http://hmh.org)

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# BEARING WITNESS



## ANNUAL FUND GIVING MAKES AN IMPACT

With more than 880 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 2025 - 2026 Annual Fund campaign, visit [hmh.org/annualfund](http://hmh.org/annualfund).

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Donate

