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CONTACT: Clare Legg
clegg@hmh.org / 713-805-7882

Robin Cavanaugh
rcavanaugh@hmh.org / 713-851-4478

Museum to Offer Monthly Meet and Greet with Local Holocaust Survivors

Houston (December 19, 2019) . . . Starting in the New Year, visitors of Holocaust Museum Houston (HMH) will have the opportunity to meet with a local Holocaust Survivor once a month. “Survivor Sunday” is included in the cost of admission and will kick off with the testimony of Bill Orlin at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 26, 2020. Holocaust Survivors Chaja Verveer and Ruth Steinfeld are scheduled to share their stories on Sundays February 23 and March 22, respectively.

“There are very few of us left,” said Holocaust Survivor Bill Orlin, “We speak because the world needs to know that the Holocaust happened. We want to be sure that this does not happen again.”

[Click here for Holocaust Survivor photos.](#)

Between 1939 and 1945, Bill Orlin and his family lived on the run. The eldest son of Sender and Sonia Orlinski, Orlin was seven years old when German troops invaded Poland and occupied his hometown of Brok. The Jewish residents were forcibly marched to Ostrow Mazowiecki, about 50 miles northwest of Warsaw.

Holocaust Survivor Chaja Verveer was just one year old when she and her family went into hiding, splitting up because they were too many to stay in one place. She ended up in Leiden with the van den Berghs, a Dutch family active in the Resistance. In February 1944, the van den Berghs were betrayed and Verveer was sent to Westerbork, a transit camp in northeastern Holland, from there she was sent to both Bergen-Belsen and Theresienstadt concentration camps. Verveer was liberated at the age of three.

Ruth Steinfeld and her sister Lea lived in Sinsheim, Germany when Hitler came to power. The family was deported to the Gurs interment camp in 1940. Steinfeld and her sister's lives were forever altered when their mother made the difficult decision to let a Jewish philanthropic organization called Oeuvres de Secours aux Enfants (OSE) take her daughters to safety. The sisters never saw their parents again.

“Survivors are at the core of our Museum,” said HMH CEO Dr. Kelly J. Zúñiga, “As we continue to see a rise in antisemitism, their stories need to be heard now more than ever.”

Admission includes entrance to the exhibitions, [Dolores Huerta: Revolution in the Fields / Revolución en los Campos](#), on view through February 16, 2020 in the Minberg Gallery, and [Danny Lyon: Memories of the Southern Civil Rights Movement](#), on view through January 5, 2020 in the Spira Central Gallery. Permanent featured galleries include the Museum’s Holocaust Gallery, *Bearing Witness: A Community Remembers*, which is personalized with testimony of Holocaust Survivors who later settled in the Houston area. The Gallery was expanded and enhanced by bringing two of the Museum’s most important artifacts, the World War II-era railcar and the 1940s Danish rescue boat, into the new Museum facility. The Lester and Sue Smith Human Rights Gallery features educational displays of all UN-recognized genocides as well as tributes to international human rights leaders including Malala Yousafzai and Martin Luther King, Jr. among others. The Samuel Bak Gallery is the nation's largest collection of artwork by its namesake, Holocaust child survivor and painter Samuel Bak, with 131 works in exhibition rotation. Finally, *And Still I Write: Young Diarists on War and Genocide* brings to life the writings of 12 young diarists, including Anne Frank, who died in genocides around the world.

Admission is free for children and students (includes college students with valid college ID), \$15 for adults, and \$10 for seniors, AARP members and active military. As a member of the Houston Museum District Association, HMMH waives admission from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. each Thursday. Audio guides are available each day while supplies last for an additional \$3, but are available at no cost to children and students. Parking is available onsite in the Museum's lot for \$8 for the first four hours. The Museum's hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. For more details, visit hmmh.org.

ABOUT HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HOUSTON

Holocaust Museum Houston, Lester and Sue Smith Campus, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization founded in 1996 by Houston-area Holocaust Survivors, their descendants and members of the community, is accredited by The American Alliance of Museums. Average annual attendance is 130,000 visitors, including more than 71,000 middle and high school students. The Museum is dedicated to educating people about the Holocaust, remembering the 6 million Jews and other innocent victims and honoring the survivors' legacy. Using the lessons of the Holocaust and other genocides, we teach the dangers of hatred, prejudice and apathy.

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