In the News
ST. LOUIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM & LEARNING CENTER

MAKE A DIFFERENCE
REMEMBER. HONOR. ACT.

EVERY 19 SECONDS,
someone is the victim
of an act of Genocide.

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As I look at my calendar of upcoming events and initiatives of the HMLC, I continue to be amazed at the depth and breadth of all that we do, and how much we have matured as an organization since the Museum was created in 1995. (Don’t forget to mark your calendars for August 20, when we hold our 20th Anniversary Gala at the Ritz-Carlton St. Louis).

There was a time when survivors were hesitant to tell their stories. Now, they are writing books about their Holocaust experiences and speaking as frequently as they can to students that visit us, in addition to going out to schools in the region to talk in the classroom. And now we are fortunate that many second and third generations of these survivors are becoming involved at the Museum to tell their family members’ stories.

I look at the newly installed Genocide Clock, part of the “Change Begins with Me” exhibit, to help students understand and grasp the painful reality of ongoing genocide around the world. Every nineteen seconds this digital clock ticks by one to reflect in real time how many people have been the victim of genocide worldwide since 1945. The “Change Begins with Me” interactive exhibit which addresses bigotry, intolerance, lack of respect for diversity, and much more, is now being viewed and used by many of our visitors and is a key component of student tours.

I sometimes follow the docent-led tour when we have a group of police officers who come to see the Museum as part of their training. Ten years ago, the Anti Defamation League invited us to partner on what is known as the Law Enforcement And Society (LEAS) program and we have toured thousands of police officers from around the region. We have a full schedule of films and lectures, with frequent standing-room-only crowds to see powerful films from international sources, and listen to important and informative talks from experts brought in from around the country.

We are in the middle of a partnership with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum on propaganda, on display at the Missouri History Museum, and our own exhibit, “Capturing Hearts and Minds: Images of Nazi Propaganda and Disinformation,” derived from our own local archival collection.

Finally, our staff has been proactively involved in a wide variety of discussions, dialogues and initiatives, some held at the Museum, on race, tolerance and diversity, stemming from the events of last August in Ferguson.

Recently, HMLC was honored to have been chosen by FOCUS St. Louis as one of its 2015 recipients of the What’s Right With the Region! award given to organizations that exemplify “the tremendous work they do in the community”. I think they got it right! We do tremendous work. We have an outstanding professional staff, a dedicated group of volunteers, a real “team” of volunteers.

Thank you for helping us achieve tremendous community-wide recognition and respect and furthering our Mission and Vision goals. I look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,

Kent Hirschfelder
Chair, Holocaust Museum & Learning Center

A Note From Kent Hirschfelder

Upcoming Events

Sandra and Mendel Rosenberg
Sunday Afternoon Film Series
The Gray Zone
May 31, 2015 • 1:00 PM
Verbotene Klange
June 28, 2015 • 1:00 PM
Tisha B’av Film: Special Film (yet to be decided)
Sunday, July 26, 2015 • 2:00 PM
Hitler’s Children
Sunday, August 30, 2015 • 1:00 PM
X-Men First Class
September, 27, 2015 • 1:00 PM

Other Events

August 20, 2015
Remember, Honor, Act: Make A Difference
HMLC’s 20th Anniversary Dinner

September 20, 2015
Capturing Hearts and Minds: Images of Nazi Propaganda and Disinformation Exhibit closing lecture

October 18, 2015
Marilyn (of blessed memory) and Arthur Gale Family Lecture Series
Museum Holds Educational Forum Highlighting the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide

Several months ago, Lisa Bedian Kurtz, Chairman of the Metro St. Louis Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee, approached HMLC staff members Jean Cavender and Dan Reich about collaborative programming. It became immediately apparent that educating our community about the Armenian genocide and marking its 100th anniversary was extremely connected with the HMLC’s mission. These discussions culminated in a lecture, “A Centenary of Survival: Enduring Lessons and Legacies of the Armenian Genocide,” presented at Jewish Federation of St. Louis’ Kopolow Building on March 19. The speaker, Dr. Nicole E. Vartanian, Acting Executive Director of the Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) and noted educator, clearly and powerfully presented the history and legacy of the genocide perpetrated by the Turks, which occurred between 1915 and 1923. The capacity crowd was clearly moved by Dr. Vartanian’s presentation. Especially moving was video testimony of the speaker’s grandmother, survivor Zarouhi Norsigian, who described her experiences as a seven-year old, nearly left for dead in the aftermath of a Turkish attack. Ms. Bedian Kurtz noted, “I’m sure Dr. Vartanian’s grandmother would have been very proud of her presentation before the standing-room-only crowd.”

Dan Reich and other audience members were especially impressed by the parallels Dr. Vartanian drew between the Armenian genocide and the Holocaust. Reich, HMLC Curator and Director of Education, expressed the hope that “this very successful program would be only the first of many collaborations between the local Jewish and Armenian communities.”

This program was co-sponsored by the Metro St. Louis Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Rubin (of blessed memory) and Gloria Feldman Family Education Institute of the Holocaust Museum and Learning Center.

Save the Date
Thursday, August 20, 2015 (Please note new date)

HMCLC will recognize its 20th Anniversary with a dinner event at The Ritz-Carlton St. Louis, and we are happy to announce that Ladue News has agreed to be our exclusive media sponsor. Our dinner theme will revolve around the words REMEMBER. HONOR. ACT. - MAKE A DIFFERENCE. These words embody the sentiment that we try to impart each and every day through our programs, lectures and collaborations.
An Evening with Ben Fainer

On Thursday, February 5, Holocaust survivor Ben Fainer addressed more than 200 educators and special guests at the Holocaust Museum and Learning Center (HMLC). Ben spent the entire war as a Nazi prisoner, surviving for six years in six different camps. After losing his mother, three siblings, and more than 250 other relatives in the Holocaust, Ben was liberated by American soldiers while on a final death-march in the spring of 1945.

His memoir, Silent for Sixty Years, tells the story of how he survived and then thrived after the war, built a family and had a career in the ladies garment industry. Members of the audience were so inspired by Ben’s story that they formed a single file line and each one of them shook his hand upon leaving the room. One educator said, “I wanted to know what it was like to touch greatness.”

Ben’s dedication to his work on behalf of the HMLC is unwavering and he travels to many speaking engagements throughout the community to continue inspiring others to take action when they see social injustice occur. After sixty years of silence, Ben is making up for lost time.

This program was graciously underwritten by the Staenberg Family Foundation.

Yom HaShoah Celebration

Approximately 750 people attended the 2015 Yom HaShoah community-wide Holocaust commemoration on April 19 at Kol Rinah Congregation in University City.

Following the opening procession of Holocaust Torah scrolls and the candle-lighting ceremony, survivors and witnesses shared their memories of the Holocaust. Felicia Wertz spoke about her experience as a Jewish child who fled to the Former Soviet Union from Poland. The children of Abe and Frances Gersten shared their parents’ stories of survival in various camps, and how they rebuilt their lives together. Walter Finke spoke about his experiences sorting documents to be used during the Nuremberg Trials. The theme of this year’s commemoration, “Liberation and Survival: Where Do I Go Now?” included a rousing tribute to veterans of WWII and all those who have served in the military.

Vera Emmons, Yom HaShoah committee chair, noted how much effort the committee put into this program, and how important this commemoration has become—in memorializing the victims of the Shoah and honoring the survivors in our community.

Special thanks to Leo and Sara Wolf for their ongoing support of this annual event.
2015 Exhibit at HMLC Featuring Nazi Propaganda and Disinformation

A new exhibit, “Capturing Hearts and Minds: Images of Nazi Propaganda and Disinformation,” opened on Tuesday, April 14 at the Holocaust Museum and Learning Center. Richard Weiss, St. Louis editor, writing coach and author, presented the opening remarks, “Reading, Writing and Media Literacy: Children Are the Easiest Targets for Propaganda.”

This exhibit, drawn from the archives of the Holocaust Museum and Learning Center, demonstrates the breadth of Nazi propaganda used to indoctrinate the German nation, vilify the Jewish population and spread disinformation throughout Nazi Germany and the world.

Additional events will take place at the Museum during the exhibit, open through September 20, 2015. A closing lecture will be given on Sunday, September 20, by Jonathan Wiesen, Professor, History Department, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Dr. Wiesen will discuss “Advertising in the Third Reich: Corporate Self-Promotion or Nazi Propaganda?”

Special thanks to Archivist Diane Everman, Intern Jodi Cox, HMLC Curator and Director of Education Dan Reich and Graphic Designer Penny Taylor for putting this exhibition together.

The exhibition and programs are generously supported by the Rubin (of blessed memory) and Gloria Feldman Family Education Institute of the Holocaust Museum and Learning Center, and the Larry and Hannah Langsam Holocaust Program Endowment.

If you want to see more on the subject of the use of Nazi propaganda, be sure and visit the Missouri History Museum for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s traveling exhibition, State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda, currently on view through September 6, 2015.

HMLC and Aish St. Louis Present The Annual Rubin Feldman Memorial Lecture

The Holocaust Museum and Learning Center partnered with Aish St. Louis to present The Annual Rubin Feldman Memorial Lecture on Tuesday, February 17. The lecture, entitled “The Day the Rabbis Marched in Washington: The 400 Rabbis Who Helped Change U.S. Policy Towards the Holocaust,” was given by Dr. Rafael Medoff, founding director of The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies based in Washington, D.C. Dr. Medoff spoke to a capacity crowd about how the rabbis came from around the country to Washington, D.C. to plead for the United States government to take action to save Jews from Hitler. The event was graciously sponsored by Mrs. Gloria Feldman in memory of her late husband, Rubin.
Educator’s Workshop

On February 26, the HMLC hosted a day-long workshop for approximately 25 teachers from the area around Springfield, Illinois. Coordinated by Josephine Gon, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Springfield, Illinois, a busload of educators toured the HMLC permanent exhibition, learned about available museum resources and participated in several short workshop exercises. A highlight was listening to survivor Sara Moses who relayed her powerful Holocaust testimony. Short presentations were delivered by HMLC Curator and Director of Education Dan Reich and the exercises were facilitated by museum educator Dana Humphrey, based on her decades of classroom experience and expertise teaching the Holocaust and developing curriculum.

Dan Reich acknowledged the generous support of the Rubin (of blessed memory) and Gloria Feldman Family Education Institute, which allows the HMLC to educate teachers, who will then feel empowered to teach this important material in their classrooms. As one workshop participant noted, “It is still relevant in today’s world; prejudice and hate affect our students daily, and teaching about the Holocaust can give them the courage to stand up for what is right.”

HMLC Introduces the Genocide Clock as a New Teaching Tool

When HMLC Council Chair Kent Hirschfelder visited the Holocaust Memorial Center located in Farmington Hills, Michigan, he was struck by a digital clock ticking away in the exhibition. When he inquired about its purpose to Executive Director Stephen Goldman, the reply was “That’s our genocide clock.”

Kent was intrigued and inquired further. The clock was designed by an exhibition company on the east coast and its purpose is to tick up by one every nineteen seconds to represent the number of people who are victims of genocide all over the world.

Kent thought this was a great way to give tangibility to what is happening in today’s world for students touring the Museum.

Students will be asked by our docents to look at the number when they enter the exhibition and look at it again upon leaving. In the four or five minutes students are looking at the Change Begins with Me exhibition, they can see how many people’s lives have been claimed as a result of genocide during that short period of time.

The numbers used are derived by calculations of the loss of life as a result of genocides since 1945 from the organization tracking this activity all over the world—Genocide Watch.

The cost of the HMLC’s genocide clock was graciously underwritten by Mrs. Gloria Feldman.
Reflections on a visit to the HMLC

By Ella Schmidt, 9th grader at John Burroughs School

The Wednesday our ninth-grade class went to the St. Louis Holocaust Museum, I woke up feeling grateful that the day would serve as a break from pop quizzes, note-taking and cramming for Algebra midterms. The tired air—as sharp and unforgiving as it had been the day before—looked on bleakly as one hundred fifteen-year-olds arranged ourselves into familiar social factions, filling three groaning buses with absent-minded chatter. Our conversation sounded routine, like we were reading off of a script—it felt weird to talk about where we were going, even if it was wrong not to. In a word, it was normal; the kind of morning I would never remember if it weren’t for the day that followed.

I didn’t even realize how uneasy I felt until our tour guide asked the group if we were nervous. Not one person raised their hand. The nerves bubbling up inside me were so turbulent that the idea of no one else feeling nervous was laughable—I knew I wasn’t the only liar in the room. I was nervous that I would say the wrong thing at the wrong time and nervous that it was wrong for me to be nervous at all. The deaths of millions of people is nearly impossible to wrap your brain around, which makes it hard to hear—and even harder to talk about. I think that’s why I watched in awe as a Holocaust survivor spoke to one hundred adolescents and countless additional adults about this very subject. Without any form of notes or outline, this woman spoke to us candidly and openly about the horrors she experienced first-hand, while still managing to be one of the most eloquent speakers I’ve ever heard. While her personal story provided this era with a direct element of tangibility, it also forced us all to remember that not one survivor or witness of the Holocaust can ever act as a spokesperson for the eleven million voices that the post-Holocaust world will never hear from. While we may often picture them among a sea of indecipherable skeletal bodies and corpses, each one of these voices represents a life, a family and a brilliant mind of which the world was robbed.

Around every corner of the museum was another concentrated dose of what it was like to be a Jew living in Germany during the Holocaust. From the despicable instances of propaganda spewed out by the German government to poignant images of the mass torment endured by Jews in concentration camps, this museum made the Holocaust much more palpable to a fifteen-year-old who was born in a different millennium than the one in which the largest hate crime in history occurred. This, I found, was the greatest value of experiencing the Holocaust Museum: it disallowed me to distance myself from this great hate crime and forced me to instead bear witness. As young people, we are too easily detached from a history that is on our shoulders as much as anyone else’s. With anti-Semitic incidents and hate crimes on the rise worldwide, this seemingly harmless mindset of forgetting the past in order to “move forward” is in fact dangerous and hints at the recurrence of darker times. If anything, educating today’s youth about the horrific events of the Holocaust is more important now than ever, as we are the last generation who will ever have the opportunity to speak with a Holocaust survivor.

I woke up feeling grateful for a break from a typical school day and came home grateful for the life-altering experience with which my fellow ninth-graders and I were provided. The Holocaust Museum and Learning Center will play an imperative role in altering the perspectives of generations to come, and I hope it will continue to expand the public’s understanding of the Holocaust. Rather than dissociating ourselves from the past, it is everyone’s responsibility to understand the relevance of the Holocaust. Only then can we truly “move forward” to a world without streets littered with hate crimes.

Call for Artifacts and Memorabilia

Survivors, veterans and descendants: Please consider donating memorabilia relating to the Holocaust or pre-WWII life, documents, immigration papers, or artifacts brought back from the war. Those crumpling papers and military souvenirs, so important to a parent or grandparent, would be a welcome addition to the HMLC’s archival collection. Documents and artifacts would be respectfully preserved.

Some limitations based on size and volume, Call Dan Reich at 314-442-3714 or email DReich@JFedSTL.org for further information.
Thanks to all our Donors

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Hannah & Larry Langsam
Marcia Mayer Eisen & Rick Eisen
Production Castings, Inc
OPTICOTE, Inc
Ambassador Sam & Marilyn Fox
Mike & Fritz Lainoff
Saul Rozen
Marcia & Tim
Thomsen
A Speedy Recovery for
Susan Sale
HM LC Staff & Friends
Abigail Schachter’s
Engagement
Ilse Altman
Carol Stenberg on the
Holocaust Museum &
Learning Center’s 20th
Anniversary
Mark & Nancy Kodner
The Community Work of
Carol Stenberg
Harv & Barb Citerman
Karen Suroff being
installed as the new
Board Chair of Jewish
Family & Children’s
Service
HM LC Staff & Friends
Naomi & Joseph Taub
Felice & Gerry Joyce
Marilyn Weinberg
Martha Wastler
Harvey Wolf’s 60th
Birthday
Simone & Leonard
Goldberg
HM LC Staff & Friends
Leo Wolf
Stephen & Darien
Arnstein
Leo & Sara Wolf being
honored at Temple
Israel
HM LC Staff & Friends
Myrna Meyer
Leo & Sara Wolf: Happy
Birthday to a very
special couple
Simone & Leonard
Goldberg
Leo & Sara Wolf on the
Holocaust Museum &
Learning Center’s 20th
Anniversary
Dr. Harvey & Francine
Cantor
Leo & Sara Wolf on the
occasion of Yom
HaShoah
Joan Abrams
Doris Zinn’s Special
Birthday
Rita & Barry Worth
Mandy Rubenstein
Dr. Gary Zuckerman’s
Special Birthday
Gail Fischmann &
Donald Goldblum

HMLC Wish List

New Lift—the current lift is 20 years old and we
need a new one to safely transport elderly and
disabled visitors.

New chairs for the museum theater—the
current chairs are not comfortable. Chairs are
being made out of different material today that
would allow our audiences to sit comfortably
for longer programs.

New lighting in the Museum—after 20 years,
we could use a more efficient lighting system in
the Museum to reduce cost.

Name the Oral History project—the Museum
needs an endowment to continue the work
Vida “Sister” Prince has devoted more than 30
years of her life doing with our Oral History
project.

Name the Docent Lounge—an endowment of
the Docent Lounge would allow this important
space to be maintained throughout the years
so our Docents can continue to comfortably
volunteer for the Museum and support the
annual volunteer luncheon.

If you have a desire to help us with our wish list
or any questions about the projects listed
above, please contact Jean Cavender, Director,
at 314-442-3715 or JCavender@JFedSTL.org.

Purchase a brick paver to be
placed in the Holocaust Museum
Kopolow Memorial Garden
• Inscribe the name of a loved one
• Honor special lifetime events
• Memorialize family members

Please contact Jean Cavender at
314-442-3715 or JCavender@JFedSTL.org

2015 Friends Campaign

I want to join the FRIENDS of the Holocaust Museum and Learning Center as a:
☑ $1,000 Guardian of Remembrance ☑ $125 Sustainer ☑ $18 Student
☑ $500 Benefactor ☑ $36 Young FRIEND (age 40 and under)
☑ $200 Patron ☑ $36 Educator (professionals in the field only)
☑ Check enclosed in the amount of $ ____________ (Make payable to FRIENDS of the Holocaust Center)
☑ MasterCard ☑ VISA ☑ Discover? ☑ I will cover the 2.5% processing fee

Name on account: __________________________________________
Account no.:____________________________________ Exp. date:______ 3-digit code: _____
Signature:_________________________________________ Email: ______________________

I want my/our name(s) listed in the FRIENDS Newsletter and other acknowledgments to read:
__________________________________________________________

I am interested in: ☑ information about remembering the Museum in my estate plans
☑ a tour of the Museum ☑ volunteering at the Museum

Return this form along with your donation to: Holocaust Museum & Learning Center, 12 Millstone Campus Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146