

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ASSOCIATION

HISTORY

The Holocaust Garden of Hope is a project of the Holocaust Remembrance Association.

The Holocaust Garden of Hope illustrates for children the experiences of children during the Holocaust at the Jasenovac Camp and other European locations using painting, sculpture, music, and physical structures in a way that honors those who survived, serves as memorial to the victims, educates the public, and compels visitors to say, "Never Again!" in their own communities.

Children and adults will be inspired to stand up for what is right and honor the memories of innocent victims with a life dedicated to healing and reconciliation.

MISSION

The Holocaust Remembrance Association focuses on the stories of survivors, rescuers, and repentant descendants of Nazi perpetrators. The best way we can honor those who lost their lives in the Holocaust, as well as the survivors whose lives are marked by the suffering they endured, is to **inspire a new generation to defend the Jewish people against antisemitism now and in the future.** We seek to inspire people to action with accounts of resilience, hope, and bravery.

We are a 501(c)(3) educational organization based in Northeast Houston, Texas. The Holocaust Remembrance Association was formed by Jewish descendants of Holocaust survivors and Christian allies in order to sensitize hearts to the issues of the Holocaust and facilitate education, healing, and reconciliation.

The acronym HRA18 was chosen to represent our organization, due to the significance of the number 18 in Hebrew. Eighteen correlates to the Hebrew word for alive : chai. The word consists of the letters chet; which is the 8th letter in the Hebrew alphabet along with the yud, which is the 10th letter. Together they equal the sum of 18 and represent one of God's attributes.

We believe HRA18 is a fitting symbol of our vision to inspire people to action with stories of resilience, hope, and bravery. It is a permanent reminder that new life can spring from even the darkest places.

FOUNDERS

The Holocaust Remembrance Association was established on January 27, 2019, by the **Jewish descendants of Holocaust survivors and Christian allies.** We took this formal step after a 12-year series of Holocaust remembrance initiatives that facilitated interfaith reconciliation between Jews, Christians, and other faith communities.

CORE VALUES

Our core purpose is to create UPSTANDERS, a term for individuals who will stand against antisemitism as well as bigotry, prejudice, and persecution in all forms.

For far too long, the Jewish people have been isolated from other faith-based communities. We are living in a unique time in world history where Christians and other good-hearted people of faith want to build bridges with us. Many Christians recognize the role that religious bigotry has played in the persecution of the Jewish people and desire to reverse the sins of the past. We are eager to partner with faith community leaders who share our passion for eliminating bigotry and persecution.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

The Holocaust Garden of Hope

Memorializes the names of 1.5 million Jewish children, and will feature eight pocket exhibits, each focusing on a specific aspect of the Holocaust. This beautiful series of art exhibits and plantings will be enhanced with personal stories told by people who experienced the Holocaust as children or young adults. The garden connects these unique stories to Hebrew Scriptures from the Tanakh, which is the foundation of the Bible. More specific curricular materials for various grade levels will be made available on the website for classroom or personal education.

Upstander Stone Project

Memorializes the names of 1.5 million Jewish children who perished in the Holocaust, and gives people today a tangible way to remember them. This project seeks to paint a memorial stone for each of the 1.5 million children who were murdered during the Holocaust. These stones are being painted by individuals, families and volunteers from corporations, schools, clubs, nursing homes, and other groups throughout Texas and beyond for the Holocaust Garden of Hope. Stones are a traditional way for Jews to honor and acknowledge the true eternity of a person's existence. They are a common item left at Jewish memorials worldwide. Visitors to the Holocaust Garden of Hope can view the stones and begin to understand the astoundingly great number of innocent lives lost.