



CASE FOR SUPPORT



EDUCATION • HEALING • RECONCILIATION

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Mission | Vision | Purpose | Programs

The Holocaust Remembrance Association (HRA18) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization based in Kingwood, Texas, founded by Rozalie and Mitch Jerome, Jewish descendants of Holocaust survivors and allies to sensitize hearts to the issues of the Holocaust and facilitate education, healing, and reconciliation.

Our core vision is to end antisemitism and hatred of the Jewish people. Our core purpose is to grow a community of **UPSTANDERS** – individuals who boldly confront antisemitism and hatred of the Jewish people, driving real change toward a more just and compassionate world for current and future generations.

The Holocaust Remembrance Association works to inspire the world to stand in solidarity against persecution, prejudice, and indifference in all its forms. HRA18 brings this vision to life through three impactful programs:

Holocaust Garden of Hope, A groundbreaking open-air, “free to the public” museum, uniquely youth-focused, illustrating the experiences of children in Nazi ghettos and concentration camps across Europe. Groups of children and adults are inspired to stand what is right, honoring the memories of innocent victims with lives dedicated to healing, reconciliation, and moral courage.

Upstander Stone Project, a profound initiative inviting individuals to paint a memorial stone for each of the 1.5 million children who perished in the Holocaust, ensuring that every child is remembered.

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. To honor each young life lost, 1.5 million stones are being painted by individuals, families and volunteers from corporations, schools, clubs, nursing homes, and other groups throughout Texas and beyond. The memorial stones are being placed within the Holocaust Garden of Hope.

March of Remembrance Texas, an inclusive and uniting annual march of solidarity to remember the past, reconcile for the present, and inspire hope for the future. The March of Remembrance, held annually since 2007 on Yom HaShoah is a March that commemorate Holocaust and Genocide Awareness month to honor Holocaust victims and promotes remembrance, reconciliation, and action. Founded by Jobst and Charlotte Bittner in Germany, it involves descendants of Nazi perpetrators. Marches have taken place in 20 nations and over 400 cities with support from Christian and Jewish communities.



up for



The March of Life (Remembrance in the USA) is an initiative by Jobst and Charlotte Bittner from Tübingen, Germany. Together with descendants of German Wehrmacht soldiers and members of the SS and police force, they have organized memorial and reconciliation marches at sites of the Holocaust all over Europe. Since the beginning of this movement in 2007, marches have been held worldwide in cooperation with Christians from different churches and denominations, as well as from many Jewish communities.

Why the Holocaust Garden of Hope is Needed Now

Problem

According to *The Rise of Antisemitism and Political Violence in the US* by Callum Sutherland, a reporter with Time Magazine, states that “cases of antisemitism and hate crimes towards Jewish Americans have surged in recent years, particularly since the start of the Israel-Hamas war in October 2023. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reported that in the three months following the start of the war, antisemitic incidents in the U.S. skyrocketed by 361%.”

According to the same article, the recent attacks in Boulder, CO on June 1, 2025, where eight were injured at a rally of supporters for the release of Israeli hostages held in Gaza, and the one on May 21, 2025 where two Israeli embassy employees were shot and killed outside the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C. show the impact of the hate that continues to be felt by the Jewish community. Even though Jewish Americans make up only 2% of the U.S. population, the reported single-bias of anti-Jewish hate crimes made up 15% of all reported hate crimes in 2023 and 68% of all reported religion-based hate crimes. Experts highlighted three key areas they say have contributed to the rise of antisemitism in the U.S. – 1. The detrimental impact of social media, 2. A wider issue with education, and 3. Political violence is on the rise.

Misinformation is Spreading | Truth is Fading | History Being Forgotten

According to Mark Oppenheimer, a professor of practice at Washington University and editor of Arc: Religion, Politics, Et Cetera, says that there has been a decline of historical knowledge regarding humanities, Judaism, and the State of Israel, with people instead getting their information from social media. “Some students turn to TikTok or Instagram influencers for their understanding of a really complex geopolitical situation....” he says.

Social media has become a primary source of information for young people, shaping their beliefs and perceptions of history. Unfortunately, Holocaust denial and distortion are spreading rapidly across digital platforms, often misleading youth with false or manipulated content. Even platforms with strict content moderation policies struggle to combat Holocaust misinformation. As a result, young people are increasingly exposed to distorted versions of history, reinforcing misconceptions and fueling ignorance.

A 2023 nationwide study by the Claims Conference found a significant lack of Holocaust knowledge in the U.S.

- one in four young adults believe the Holocaust is a myth or exaggerated.
- 76% of Americans believe a similar atrocity could happen again today, the highest percentage recorded among eight surveyed nations.

According to Echoes and Reflections, an organization aimed at supporting Holocaust education in the U.S., as of 2025, only 29 states mandate Holocaust education.

Ellen Germain, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington D. C. provided the following remarks at the Courage Cannot Be Silenced: The 32nd Federal International Holocaust Remembrance Program on May 14, 2025:

“dealing with remaining Holocaust-era issues is part of fighting antisemitism and educating about the Holocaust. Learning about the Holocaust and sharing the testimonies of survivors reminds us to be vigilant about the current and dramatically rising tide of antisemitism that threatens values we hold dear — pluralism, diversity, democracy, and respect for human rights, including freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression. While antisemitism is surging, recent surveys – such as the one published last month by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany – demonstrate a deeply disturbing lack of knowledge about the Holocaust. This is most concerning in the younger generation. Between 12 and 46 percent of young adults ages 18-29 in the eight countries surveyed said they either had not heard of the Holocaust or were not sure whether they’d heard of the Holocaust. Accurate education and truthful commemoration of the Holocaust is necessary in and of itself.... United States is home to the world’s second largest population of Holocaust survivors... A fundamental lesson of the Holocaust is that the dehumanization of fellow human beings and unbridled hatred toward others can lead to wars that engulf whole peoples, countries, and continents. Six million Jewish men, women and children were systematically murdered by the genocidal Nazi regime.... And killed millions of others, including Roma and Sinti, Slavs, Soviet prisoners of war, Jehovah’s Witnesses, persons targeted based on their sexual orientation, and persons with disabilities.”

Antisemitism and Hatred of the Jewish people

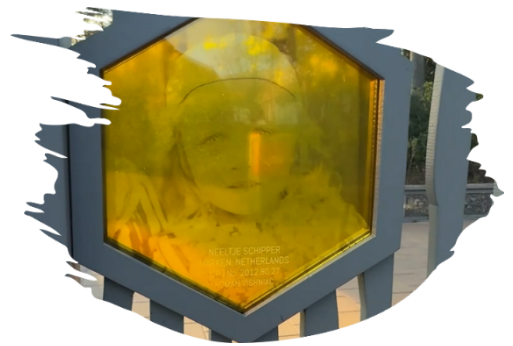
In the early 20th century, the worst genocide of the Jewish people in world history was perpetrated in plain sight by the Nazi regime. This only happened because Europe’s history of hatred for the Jewish people had been ingrained in society for centuries. It is that same ingrained hatred that continues to spawn acts of antisemitism today. 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.

Although mention of the Holocaust automatically evokes horrifying images of death and destruction, death is not our focus. Instead, the Holocaust Remembrance Association focuses on the stories of survivors, rescuers, and repentant descendants of Nazi perpetrators. We seek to inspire people to action with accounts of resilience, hope, and bravery.

A Child-Centered Approach to Holocaust History

The Holocaust Garden of Hope and its eight pocket exhibits will focus on the experiences of children in Nazi ghettos and concentration camps throughout Europe. By emphasizing first-hand accounts and real-life stories, the Holocaust Garden of Hope makes complex historical events accessible and engaging for young people. This approach is reinforced through interactive elements, including music, sculptures, and digital tools—allowing students to connect deeply with history and see themselves as Upstanders in the modern world.

Each exhibit is carefully designed to transport visitors back in time, illustrating the events leading up to WWII, the unfolding tragedy of the Holocaust, and the remarkable acts of heroism by rescuers and liberators. The Garden's final exhibit, Hope for the Future, underscores that, even in the face of immense suffering, hope can inspire enduring beauty and positive action.



Exhibits

This one-of-a-kind children's memorial garden features eight pocket exhibits, each focusing on a specific aspect of the Holocaust. This beautiful series of art exhibits and plantings is enhanced with personal stories told by people who experienced the Holocaust as children or young adults.

An Immersive Outdoor Educational Experience

Location: 1660 W. Lake Houston Pkwy | Kingwood, TX 77345

Nestled in the heart of Kingwood, Texas, in northeast Houston, the Holocaust Garden of Hope is conveniently located near major roadways, just a short drive from one of the busiest international airports in the country, making the Garden easily accessible to visitors from Houston and beyond.

- **Immersive & Interactive:** The 500-foot lakeside pathway introduces visitors to captivating stories through visual storytelling, art installations, and QR-linked oral histories.
- **Dedicated to Youth:** Exhibits offer an age-appropriate introduction to Holocaust history, serving students, families, and educators.
- **Community-Centered Location:** Situated near dining, retail, and entertainment venues, the Garden reaches a broad audience, encouraging spontaneous discovery and engagement.
- **Reflection & Inspiration:** Landscaped seating areas provide quiet spaces for contemplation, while the Hope for the Future exhibit inspires resilience and personal responsibility in confronting hate.
- **Free Admission to the Public:** Ensuring accessibility for all, the Garden fosters community involvement and inclusive education.

Digital Engagement & Online Curriculum

On-Site Digital Integration

A key component of the Holocaust Garden of Hope experience involves **digital interaction** through strategically placed **QR codes**. As visitors walk along the Garden's pathways, they can use their smartphones or tablets to scan each QR code, instantly accessing **extended content**, including oral histories, videos, and interactive timelines. This approach caters to diverse learning styles, particularly for children and students who thrive on immersive, technology-driven educational tools.

Expanding Reach Through Fortnite

To connect with even broader and younger audiences, HRA18 has partnered with **Luc**

Bernard, recognized as a **Top 100 Jewish Influencer in 2024**, to preview elements of the **Garden within the popular online game Fortnite**, created and published by Epic Games. According to surveys, 61% of teens had played Fortnite by 2018 (source: NCEC), and in 2024, 35% of U.S. players—approximately 3.5 million teens—were aged 13–18 (source: Coolest Gadgets). By integrating aspects of the Holocaust Garden of Hope into this virtual environment, we meet a new generation where they already are, inspiring a deeper understanding of history through an engaging and familiar platform.

Online Curriculum & Collaborations

Supported by the 2023 Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission Education Grant, HRA18 is collaborating with **Texas A&M University** to develop an age-appropriate online curriculum **that complements and expands upon the Garden's physical exhibits**. Already shared with **over 100 Texas Independent School Districts (ISDs)**, this **digital platform dramatically broadens the Garden's reach**, offering teachers and students statewide—and potentially nationwide—an accessible way to explore Holocaust history and connect it to modern lessons in empathy, moral courage, and community responsibility.

Texas Senate Bill 1828 mandates Holocaust education in K-12 schools, but without a standardized, structured program, many districts struggle to provide students with deep, engaging, and lasting learning experiences. When the Holocaust Garden of Hope is fully built, thanks to the generosity of its supporters, it will be a premier Holocaust education resource in Texas—where history, remembrance, and action inspire the next generation of Upstanders.

Capital Campaign

The Holocaust Remembrance Association launched a \$5.2 million Holocaust Garden of Hope Capital Campaign to create a unique permanent outdoor garden-park-museum that honors the children who perished during the Holocaust while inspiring today's youth to become Upstanders —*individuals who courageously stand against all forms of prejudice and persecution*.

Spanning nearly one acre along the waterways of Lake Houston at Kings Harbor in Kingwood, Texas, these exhibits sit on land generously donated by Bradley Freels, CEO of Midway. It features sculptures, art installations, and interactive exhibits that steward history along landscaped pathways designed to immerse visitors in the profound lessons of the Holocaust. This reflective setting ensures that stories of survivors, victims, and those who stood against hatred resonate across generations, promoting empathy, resilience, and moral courage.

The plans for the Holocaust Garden of Hope were designed by the award-winning landscape architect, Lauren Griffith, who is known for designing facilities and landscapes such as Discovery Green, Sesquicentennial Park, and many others. Lauren designed this project as a tribute to her mother-in-law, who survived both Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen by claiming to be a gardener. The completed three exhibits have already proven their adeptness at surviving serious storms and flooding due to their design. More than 80,000 visitors of all ages have already visited the garden. Once completed, HRA18 expects more than 100,000 visitors annually, in person and virtually.



Construction Budget (\$5,191,000)

With \$2.1 million secured and \$1.4 million already expended for Phases 1 and 2, HRA18 seeks to raise the ~\$3 million to complete the remaining exhibits and water pavilion.

Phases 1 and 2 (Funded and Completed)		\$1,410,000
• Land	\$250,000	
• Founders Court	\$300,000	
• Exhibits 1 – 3	\$800,000	
• Other Costs (Permits etc.)	\$60,000	
Phase 3 (Fundraising underway – Construction Completion late 2026)		\$3,781,000
• Graphic Design, Layout, and Preparation	\$350,000	
• Professional Landscaping	\$36,000	
• Exhibits 4-8 construction	\$1,730,000	
• Pathway of Righteousness and Pavillion construction	\$800,000	
• Artwork	\$100,000	
○ Sculptures, Panels, Pavers, Iron Toys Displays, Pocket Signs etc.		
• Security Cameras, Lighting, etc.	\$400,000	
• Contingency (~10%)	\$350,000	
○ Cost escalation and unforeseen expenses		
• Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening	\$15,000	

Program Budget (\$500,000)

Upon completion of the project, HRA18 will create and design a traveling Holocaust exhibits to educate youth about the Holocaust in collaboration with Texas A&M and Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission.

Sources of Support (\$2,100,000)

The following sources of support are already committed, of which \$1.4 million has been expended for the first two phases.

• Nathaniel Foundation	\$750,000
• Teutsch Family	\$500,000
• Brad Freels (land donation)	\$250,000
• Greater Houston Golf Charity	\$100,000
• Insperity	\$100,000
• Schattner Foundation	\$72,000
• THGAACE Grant	\$50,000
• Reeves Family Fund and Trust	\$20,000
• Rawson Family Foundation	\$15,000
• Kingwood Rotary Club	\$13,600
• Greater Houston Community Foundation	\$10,000
• 250+ Individuals	\$219,400

Grants to be Submitted (\$4,000,000)

• Alexander (Stanford) Foundation	\$100,000
• Brown Foundation	\$500,000
• Fondren Foundation	\$250,000
• Herzstein Foundation	\$250,000
• Houston Endowment	\$750,000
• Houston Jewish Community Foundation	\$100,000
• Farish Fund	\$100,000
• Kaiser Lewis Foundation	\$25,000
• Merfish Family Foundation	\$108,000
• Smith (Lester/Sue) Foundation	\$200,000
• Wolff (Cyvia) Foundation	\$500,000

Corporate Requests for Insperity \$300,000 Challenge

Insperity has issued a \$300,000 challenge to 200 major corporations to raise \$2 million in funding for the Holocaust Garden of Hope. The requests are to be submitted in mid-August during their budget planning for grant consideration in Fiscal Year 2026 giving.

EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION

(Currently Open to the Public)

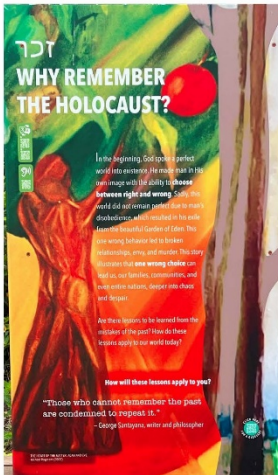


Exhibit One: Why Remember the Holocaust

The exhibit begins in the book of Genesis and emphasizes the inherent value of every human being, created in the image of God and how that powerful thought can shape our view of life. It invites visitors to explore the foundational question: 'Why remember the Holocaust?' by providing background on the dangerous thinking of Nazi ideology, how it affected millions of Jews, and how that relates to our current societal climate.

By remembering the Holocaust, we not only honor the victims but also equip ourselves to confront prejudice and hatred in our own time.

Exhibit Two: Life Before the Holocaust - Business & Everyday Pleasures

This exhibit provides a vivid snapshot of Jewish life in Europe before the Holocaust and a glimpse of the vibrancy and achievement accomplished. It highlights how, from the Enlightenment era through the interwar period, Jewish communities integrated into broader society, contributing significantly to culture, science, and the arts.

Prominent figures such as Albert Einstein, Marc Chagall, and Sigmund Freud thrived, while everyday life for Jewish families revolved around education, business, and community celebrations. For Jewish children, life was filled with possibilities, from sports and art to dreams of bright futures.

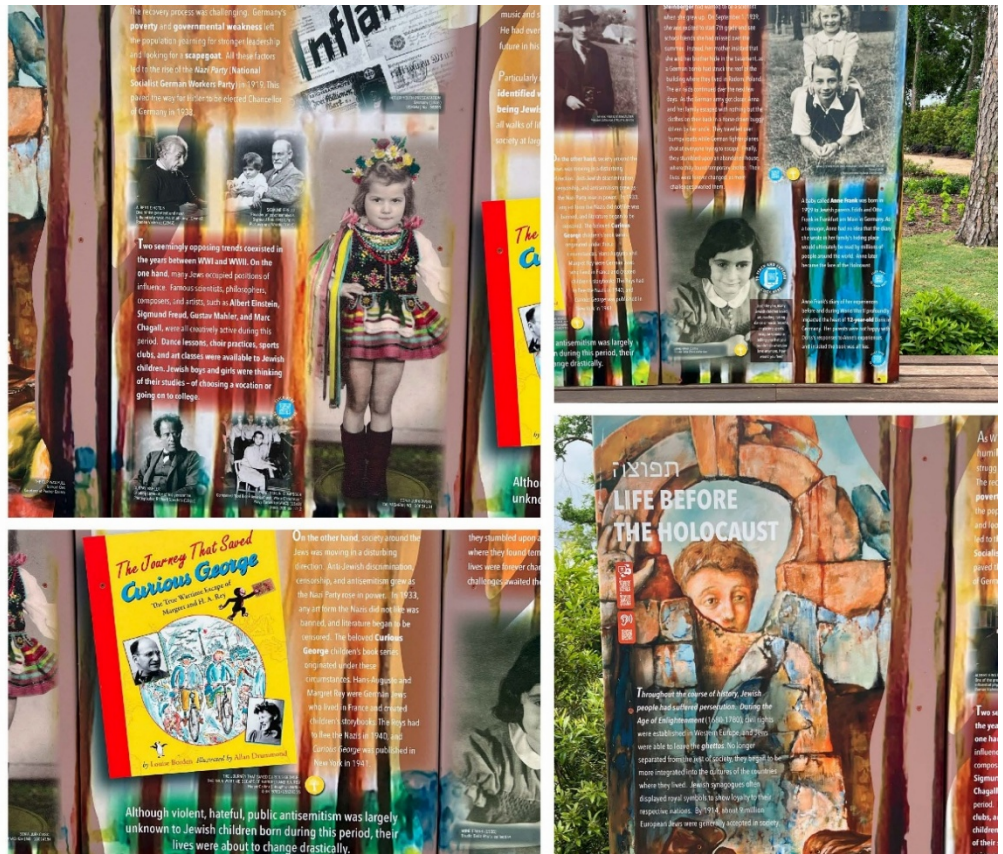


Exhibit 2 - Despite these achievements, this era also saw the rise of antisemitism, from socio-economic envy to pseudo-scientific racial theories. The seeds of hatred, paired with political instability in the Weimar Republic, created an ominous undercurrent. Jewish families, such as Anne Frank's, felt the growing pressure to flee, leaving behind the vibrant lives they had built. This exhibit reminds visitors of the humanity and normalcy that preceded the Holocaust, emphasizing the catastrophic loss of life and culture.



Exhibit Three: The Web of Deception Politics & Propaganda

Exhibit Three sheds light on how propaganda and political manipulation fueled one of history's darkest eras. From the rise of the Nazi Party in post-World War I Germany to the chaos of Kristallnacht, visitors are confronted with the harrowing consequences of unchecked prejudice and indifference.

The exhibit vividly portrays the atmosphere of fear and terror that spread across Germany, where propaganda transformed neighbors into enemies and silence into complicity. Stories of bravery, like that of Paul Grüninger, who risked everything to save over 3600 Jewish refugees, offer a glimmer of hope and highlight the importance of moral courage.

Exhibit 3 - This exhibit also honors individuals who stood as upstanders amidst the darkness, including teachers like Andree Geulen, who saved Jewish children in Belgium, and Joseph Migneret, a Paris school principal who joined the resistance. These inspiring stories are interwoven with narratives of unimaginable loss, like Houston's Ruth Steinfeld's separation from her mother at a French concentration camp to ensure her survival. By juxtaposing heroism with tragedy, this exhibit not only educates but deeply moves its visitors, reminding us of the profound responsibility to remember and act against prejudice in all its forms.

COMING EXHIBITS

(Late 2026)

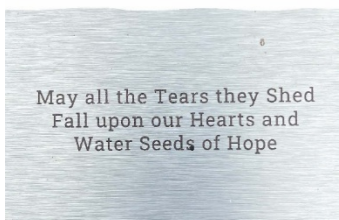


Exhibit 4: The Atrocities – Perpetrators, Bystanders, and Victims

Visitors are confronted with the profound tragedies and suffering faced by Jewish communities and others targeted under Nazi ideology. The exhibit illustrates the devastating impact of a regime consumed by racial purity and false narratives surrounding the people they persecuted. Stories like those of Dr. Janusz Korczak, who chose to perish alongside the orphaned children he cared for highlight both the inhumanity of the Nazi's and the enduring bravery of those who resisted wrongdoings.

Despite the suffering, courage flourished in unexpected places. The exhibit honors

individuals like Irena Sendler, who smuggled over 2,500 children out of the Warsaw Ghetto, and the Zabinski family, who turned the Warsaw Zoo into a refuge for Jews. Stories of Polish rescuers risking their lives to hide Jewish neighbors in attics, barns, and underground bunkers stand as a testament to human compassion amidst unimaginable cruelty. These acts of heroism provide a counterpoint to the chilling accounts of systematic persecution, reminding us of the power of individual choices in the face of evil.

Exhibit 5: The Expansion of Genocide - From Hatred to Action

This exhibit illuminates how Nazi racial hatred extended beyond Jews, targeting anyone considered inferior—Roma, disabled individuals, and other marginalized groups. Visitors will learn how propaganda, systematic policies, and chilling coordination, such as the Wannsee Conference, turned ideology into death.

Amid the horrors, remarkable stories of heroism emerge. From Aristides de Sousa Mendes, who defied his government to issue visas to Jewish refugees, to Raoul Wallenberg, who saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews, these accounts inspire hope and demonstrate the power of individual action against evil. The exhibit also showcases survivors like Agi Kreissler and Eva Kor, who endured the horrors of Auschwitz and Dr. Mengele's experiments, as well as cultural resilience, such as the art and music created in Terezin's "model camp." These narratives remind us that even in the darkest times, human compassion and courage can shine through.

Exhibit 6: Rescuers & Upstanders

Visitors will discover the stories of people like Oskar and Emilie Schindler, who rescued 1,200 Jews by using their factory as a haven, and Princess Alice of Greece, who hid Jews in her palace despite the dangers. This exhibit honors both individual heroes and entire

communities, such as the village of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon in France, where all 5,000 residents participated in a “Conspiracy of Goodness” to shelter Jewish refugees. Stories of bravery are paired with accounts of creative resistance, like that of Marcel Marceau, whose pantomime skills helped Jewish children stay quiet while escaping to safety. The stories of rescuers and upstanders are more than historical accounts—they are living lessons of compassion, courage, and moral conviction.

Exhibit 7: The Impact of Liberation

This exhibit explores the profound challenges faced by Holocaust survivors and Allied liberators as the war came to an end, honors the remarkable contributions of America’s Nisei warriors—second-generation Japanese Americans—who volunteered by the thousands after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and the legendary 442nd Regimental Combat Team fighting valiantly to liberate Europe and Nazi concentration camps despite facing discrimination at home. President Dwight D. Eisenhower ensured these atrocities were documented, inviting the media to witness the evidence to prevent future denial. For survivors, liberation was bittersweet—many returned to their homeland to find their communities destroyed, their homes occupied, and antisemitism still widespread.

Despite the unimaginable trauma, survivors began rebuilding their lives in displaced persons (DP) camps, which became hubs of cultural, educational, and spiritual renewal. Families reunited, new lives were born, and the seeds of hope for a Jewish homeland took root. The exhibit shares powerful stories like that of Morris Narunsky, born in a former concentration camp, and Bob Horowitz, who rebuilt his life after surviving DP camps. This exhibit underscores that liberation was not just an end but a beginning – *a call to remember, educate, and rebuild a world committed to justice and dignity.*

Exhibit 8: Hope for the Future

This exhibit will include a beautiful, covered pavilion with a tribute to resilience, healing, and the promise of renewal. Visitors of all ages including schoolchildren will be able to sit and enjoy the waterfront overlook that is home to a variety of birds and waterfowl.

This exhibit showcases the extraordinary stories of Holocaust survivors and their descendants, highlighting their ability to rebuild lives, families, and communities despite the devastation they endured. It celebrates milestones like the creation of the State of Israel, which became a sanctuary for many survivors, and the courage of individuals who transformed their pain into hope for future generations. Through testimonies, art, and personal narratives, visitors will encounter the enduring power of faith, resilience, and the commitment to tikkun olam—repairing the world.

ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP

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Chairman, Trustee, and President, Hebraic Christian College

Dr. Gideon Greif

Former visiting lecturer for Jewish and Israeli History at the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Texas at Austin

Maryann Gremillion

Former Writer-in-Residence and Program Director for Writers in the Schools (WITS) in Houston, and author of the Holocaust Garden of Hope Mini-Lessons for K-12 students

David Lawhon

Professor Emeritus of American history and Holocaust Studies at Texas A&M University at Galveston

Avi Lipkin

Former Senior Editor and translator for the Israeli Government Press Office under Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir

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Emanuel Rund

Documentary Filmmaker and Producer, Initiator of International Holocaust Remembrance Day

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President, Jewish Community of Zagreb

Elizabeth Moreno Tolman

Descendant of American Liberator & co-author of My Dream of Freedom: From Holocaust to My Beloved America, the autobiography of Helen Colin

Rev. Jim Welch

President Pro Tempore, Trinity Conference

Dr. D.M. Woodward

Former Senior Pastor, Kingwood Bible Church



HOLOCAUST REMBRANCE ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 6556
KINGWOOD, TEXAS 77325-6556
1-888-546-8111
Admin@HRA18.org