



ST. LOUIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM & LEARNING CENTER

IN THE

NEWS

MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE  
REMEMBER. HONOR. ACT.

25  
YEARS

FALL 2019



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## Upcoming Events

### **HMLC Art Collection Exhibition Opening**

Sunday, January 19 | 1 pm  
12 Millstone Campus Drive

### **Iron & Coal: Musical Performance by Jeremy Schonfeld**

Sunday, March 22 | 1 pm  
12 Millstone Campus Drive

### **Liberation Exhibition Opening Curated by Diane Everman**

Thursday, April 2 | 7 pm  
12 Millstone Campus Drive

### **Yom HaShoah**

Sunday, April 26 | 4 pm  
Congregation B'nai Amoona  
324 S. Mason Road

### **HMLC 25th Anniversary Dinner**

Sunday, August 23 | 5:30 pm  
The Ritz-Carlton St. Louis  
100 Carondelet Plaza

Learn more at [HMLC.org](http://HMLC.org).



## From Our Chair Bud Rosenbaum

Dear Friends:

I am deeply honored to share with you exciting news about our Holocaust Museum & Learning Center. As you know, our wonderful museum has been in continuous operation for 25 years, impacting the lives of tens of thousands of visitors.

That's a lot of wear and tear over the decades and it's no surprise that our beloved museum is in need of a facelift and expanded space to meet 21st century museum expectations!

I think you will be pleased to learn that an \$18 million renovation and expansion campaign is currently planned, aptly named Empowering the Next Generation: The Campaign for the St. Louis Holocaust Museum & Learning Center.

Please know that the Holocaust will remain the central focus of the new Museum. As one of only 22 such museums in the U.S., these special places provide an unparalleled opportunity to help visitors learn from the past to shape a better future, free of hate, prejudice and bias.

#### **The project includes four pillars:**

**Redevelop and Expand the Museum** – As decades pass and memories fade, the lessons of the Holocaust vanish at our peril. The new museum will double our space and allow us to better protect, preserve and share survivor stories, challenge visitors to be collaborators, bystanders, upstanders or liberators, and include a stunning butterfly wall to capture messages of hope.

**Create a Center for Positive Change** – Building on the powerful "Change Begins with Me" exhibit, the Center will empower visitors to create a future that embraces human potential and respects all people by connecting the lessons of the Holocaust to local, national and global challenges.

**Expand the Learning Center** – Every student should have the opportunity to visit a Holocaust museum. An auditorium, classrooms and flexible space will allow classes the ability to gather for self-reflection and discussion so they can grow up and do good in the world.

**Create an Archives & Research Center** – (future plans) An environmentally controlled and secure archival room will allow students and academicians to conduct on-site research, as well as encourage people to make in-kind donations of their family's treasures to add to our 12,000+ uniquely St. Louis collection.

I hope you will join us on this journey to build, for students, teachers, law enforcement, and the community as a whole, a world-class facility. Stay tuned for more information!

Bud  
Chair, Holocaust Museum & Learning Center



# Holocaust Museum A Resource for All, Says Local Christian Pastor

At age 20, Dr. Bryan Sharp remembers being startled and confused at seeing numbers on the arm of an older man at a construction site where both worked.

"I had no idea that it was a tattoo and the man was a Holocaust survivor," he said. "When I asked my boss, he replied that the other man was 'just a Jew.'"

Those three words, which Sharp found "dismissive and derogatory," set him on a spiritual quest that now includes annual pilgrimages to the Holocaust Museum and Learning Center with groups of visitors who are not Jewish.

"It's vital for all of us to learn about the Holocaust and to understand the phrase 'never again,'" Sharp said. "I figure that if I had no knowledge of the Holocaust as a young man at a time much closer to when the events occurred, then how can we expect people today to know what happened if we don't educate them?"

The group he brought to the museum this year included people from five states and pastors from the U.S. and Canada.

"Once pastors leave the museum, we hope they are on a path to share what they have learned," said Sharp, who preaches at Lafayette Bible Baptist Church in Wildwood and around the world. "That way, we can multiply the message many times over."

Third-time visitor Matt Kaiser echoed those thoughts.

"Each time I come to the museum I learn something new," he said. "And it's important that what I already knew gets reinforced because I don't want to forget."

"With anti-Semitism on the rise," Kaiser said, "I need to do my part to educate others and prevent something like this from happening again."

Sharp's commitment to Holocaust remembrance and education extends to Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial, which he has toured multiple times, and to Israel itself, which he has visited 40 times, often leading Christian travelers.

Those trips are sponsored by the Gentile Ministry, a group he founded 15 years ago that is dedicated to supporting Israel and Jews. It is the Gentile Ministry that brings visitors to the museum each year.

Sharp solicits interest in the subject by wearing a large ring with his name in Hebrew, hoping to hear questions from those who notice it. His goal is to engage people in a discussion of Jews, Israel and the Holocaust.

"I've watched the news and heard the lies from those who demean and belittle the Jewish people," he said. "I realized that I must speak up. I can't be silent."

Apathy, Sharp said, poses the greatest danger.

"If we don't do something, it could happen again."



*Dr. Bryan Sharp*

# Interns: What We Did on Our Summer Vacation

The Holocaust Museum & Learning Center was fortunate to have four outstanding college interns working this past summer on a variety of important projects. We thought it might be interesting to hear from them about what they learned.

**'After going through so many documents and reading so many stories, I know that my understanding of the Holocaust has changed greatly.'**

I picked the Holocaust Museum for my internship because it has always been a topic of interest to me, and I wanted to learn more. I was extremely nervous about the work here. But after the first day, my nerves were settled. The staff was so welcoming and kind. It truly made my experience so great.

Emma and I were assigned to the liberation exhibit that will be happening this upcoming April and May. The focus of our exhibit will be on liberators and their experiences with the camps. Emma and I went through the archive and found documents and photos that we felt could tell the story of the liberators best. This was one of the hardest things I have ever done. But after going through so many documents and reading so many stories, I know that my understanding of the Holocaust has changed greatly.

Diane Everman had so much trust and respect for us that I really felt like I worked there. I truly am amazed by the atmosphere of this place, and I really don't think anything I do will live up to it. What goes on here at the Learning Center is so important, and I'm so grateful that I get to contribute to that even in just the smallest amount. I would just like to thank everyone at the learning center because you have changed my life.

— Anna Breneman, Saint Louis University

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**'When listening to the voice of a person who experienced the events themselves, the listener forms a personal attachment, effectively bringing the history to life.'**

History is often held synonymous with words such as "dry," "dull," or "past." But in truth, history is simply an interpretation of events; events that are often exceptionally current.

The Oral History project at the HMLC breathes life into very real, very crucial historical events.

Oral history is one of the most important forms of history we have, especially in the telling of events such as the Holocaust. What makes oral history different is its personal nature. When reading about the Holocaust or any event, it's easy to distance oneself from the pages of a book. However, when listening to the voice of a person who experienced the events themselves, the listener forms a personal attachment, effectively bringing the history to life.

I was excited to take on this internship because I felt a very personal connection to this museum ever since survivor Jerry Koenig came to speak at my school a few years ago. Over the course of my internship, I have learned that everyone has a story to tell. It's so important to talk to people who have a shared experience, because their thoughts are invaluable, and we can't recapture them after they're gone.

I also never expected how close I would feel to a group of people I only met a few months ago. We have shared so much – they were willing to open up their lives to me. I feel humbled and honored to have shared this chapter of my life with this incredible group of survivors and descendants.

It is the participants themselves, however, who best put into words the value of this project. When asked why she felt drawn to share her story, interviewee Peggy Schaffer put it perfectly: "It's one more part of history that can be told."

— Anna Reynolds, Lindenwood University

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**'Working with the documents of the collection has been as if traveling with the family myself as Walter guides everyone through discouragement and danger.'**

It has been my delight and honor to spend these summer months with the Berger/Burns collection! My charge is to contribute to English language translation of documents and letters written in German pertaining to Walter Berger and his family – a moving and complicated story indeed. Walter was imprisoned in Buchenwald and released, after which he secured passage from Germany first to Shanghai, and subsequently to the U.S., settling in the St. Louis area.

My work has been to read personal letters and documents written in Walter's native German language and to translate them into English.

The hope is that Walter's family, in particular, and the world, in general, will have expanded access to this family's story of resilience and survival and to learn all the details of how this earnest and modest man – violinist, pianist, husband, dad – persevered to find a new life for his family.



Walter's wife was tragically killed in a U.S. airstrike against the Japanese when the family newly arrived in Shanghai, and so it was only Walter and his young daughter, Gittel, who survived to have a new life in America after the war. Happily, Gittel survives still, and it is she and her children who have so generously shared their father's materials with the Museum.

Working with the documents of the collection has been as if traveling with the family myself as Walter guides everyone through discouragement and danger. It is an honor to work closely with the collection and to trace Walter's steps in a most intimate way.

As a third-year German language student, it is my further benefit to have a crash course into reading memos and notes from wartime in the German language, and to familiarize myself further with customs and procedures at the time, along with all the ins and outs from daily life.

These summer months have flown by and I am deeply grateful to Diane Everman and the library and museum for guiding such a wonderful opportunity!

— Lisa Johnson, Webster University

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**'In all of my studies, I have never encountered anything more human than what I found in the archives at HMLC.'**

Over the course of a couple of months, I worked with fellow intern Anna Breneman in creating a rough outline for the museum's upcoming exhibit commemorating the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps.

History, as a field, is as much an academic discipline as it is a sociopolitical tool used to promote positive change and conceptualize the world around us. In order to understand history one certainly must understand people.

In all of my studies, I have never encountered anything more human than what I found in the archives at HMLC. Whether it be survivor Israel Hadari's manuscript, *I Was There*, or the oral history of Dr. Morris Abrams – the first Jewish reserve officer in the United States Army to become a division surgeon – I was given access to narratives that transcend both borders and time. Historians don't study the past, they report back on it; they are storytellers and yarn spinners. I am so honored to have been entrusted in helping to tell these stories and work under the brilliant Diane Everman.

This semester, with the aid of my academic advisor and using resources from the museum, I am compiling my own study. I will be looking at survivors' use of poetics and nonlinear narratives in Holocaust literature. I will argue that the pain engendered by the Nazis was so outside human understanding that it actively resisted language and, therefore, couldn't and cannot be fully represented in mere descriptive prose.

Again, I am so honored to have had this opportunity and want to express my gratitude to every individual I encountered this summer both in person and on paper. To the living and the dead: I thank you.

— Emma Platte, Smith College in Northampton, Mass



*From left to right: Anna Breneman, Lisa Johnson, Emma Platte, and Anna Reynolds*

# Children's Forest: Where an HMLC Scholarship Can Take You

*Editor's note: Occasionally, HMLC will provide scholarship funds for students who are taking trips to further their education about the Holocaust. In return we ask for a photo and an article about what impressed them the most about their trip. Yael Avni was one of our scholars. She wrote a most poignant article about her experience and we wanted to share her thoughts with our members.*

Masha was 2 years old when she was killed. Not killed, murdered. My scouts group and I were standing in a circle. Our counselors handed out different papers that had a picture, a name and some information and some information on them.

When I received my paper, it took me a minute to realize what I was looking at. I just stood there examining Masha's picture. Thinking about her life, her family.

We went around the circle, each person reading the name on their paper. Everyone was so serious, reading the names slowly, showing the picture. I couldn't comprehend what they were reading. I didn't notice it was my turn until I felt all eyes were on me. Waiting for me to read Masha's name. I was shaking; my voice cracked.

Right there, in the Children's Forest where about 800 kids died during the Holocaust. I had to read one name, one of too many.

**Read Yael's full article on our website at [HMLC.org/Childrens-Forest](https://www.hmlc.org/Childrens-Forest).**





# THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR TRIBUTES

## TRIBUTES

**Juner 1, 2019 to  
October 16, 2019**

## IN MEMORY OF:

### Harold Akrongold

Theda Caplan

### Michael Altman

Sheilah Gross,  
Renee Caminati, &  
Ron Tamler

### Rita Balk

Jerry & Joan  
Kaskowitz

### Elaine Carp

Burt & Stacey  
Newman

### Joann Chelist

Barb & Danny  
Bindler

### Bill Cohen

Judy Allen  
Buddy & Marilyn  
Cooper

### Robert Cohn

Paul Schoomer

### Stanley Dobkin

Fran Poger

### Charles Donovan

Buddy & Marilyn  
Cooper

### Harvey Friedman

Fran Poger

### Kate Gibbs

Roberta & Michael  
Gutwein

### Luida Gildenberg

Sandy Engber  
Rhoda Grimsky  
Rick & Mimi  
Schuchet

### Marla Grabell's Dad

Kathi & Stuart  
Rosenberg

### Flavia Gronski

Devy Goldenberg  
Nancy Keyser  
Shirley Snitzer  
Lynn Spewak

### Rena M. Herz

Bob Herz

### Nanette Holtzman

Barbara DuBois

### Sandy Jaffe

Fran Poger

### Douglas Jarett

Gloria Feldman

### Howard Lee

#### Kanefield

Buddy & Marilyn  
Cooper

### Jerry Kaskowitz

Bryan Berger  
Gail Glaser  
Peter & Marianne  
Gleich  
HMLC Staff &  
Friends

Tom, Lisa, Clay,  
Caroline &  
Jonathan

Lesniak  
Bob & Patty

Paster & Family

Fran Poger  
Jodie & Sue Rich

Sandy & Mendel  
Rosenberg

Steve & Karla  
Rosenblum

Karen Shankman  
Julie & Michael

Solot

The SRS Sunshine  
Club

Nancy & Marlene  
Zafft

### Sheilah Katz

Gloria Feldman

### Bernie Kaufmann

Bernie & Gloria  
Morgenstern

### Bilha Levy

HMLC Staff &  
Friends

### Bonnie Lander

Fran Poger

### Frances Oppenheim

Rhoda Grimsky  
Ruth & Don  
Solomon

### Harvey Present

Jerry & Joan  
Kaskowitz

### Lenny Raiffie

Fran Poger  
Andrew Rich

### Nancy Satz

Jerry & Joan  
Kaskowitz

### C.W. Scherer

Nancy & Steve  
Keyser

### Noreen Schuman

Evelyn M  
Federbush

### Naomi Taub

Jerri & Bill  
Livingston  
Marilyn & Gary  
Ratkin

Sharon & Alan  
Weissman

### Joyce Torgove

Marilyn & Buddy  
Cooper & Family  
Gary Sokolik

### Martha Wagerman

HMLC Staff &  
Friends

### Nancy Weinreich

Fran Poger

### Allan Zerman

Rob Loewenstein  
& Marilyn Schear  
Fran Poger

## IN HONOR OF:

### Dylan & Skylar

Adler's Bnai  
Mitzvah

Bob & Barb  
Hoffman

### Kenneth Chapel's

90th Birthday  
Ron & Paula  
Meyer

### Rabbi Cindy Enger

Deanna & Lee  
Witt

### Sheldon Enger's

2nd Bar Mitzvah  
Gary Handelman

### Jennifer Guller &

Zach Kaseff's  
Bridal Shower

Judy & Art Lewis

### Shuli Igielink

Iva & Andrew  
Youkilis

### Jerry Kaskowitz

Shirley Weiss

### Gerry Kent's 80th

Birthday

Jerri & Bill

Livingston

### Hannah & Larry

Langsam's  
Anniversary

John Brandvein  
Ron & Paula  
Meyer

### Ethan Liederman &

Rebecca Ring's  
Wedding

Dr. Lisa Ring

### Rachel Miller

Jean Peters Baker  
University City  
Library

### Dan Reich

Beverly Friedman  
& Sofia Kent

### Betty & Buddy

Rosenbaum's  
55th Wedding

Anniversary

Barb & Danny  
Bindler

### Kenneth & Peggy

Brown

Marcia Harris  
Frances Poger  
Mary & Sandy  
Pomerantz

### William Rubin

Linda Yatkeman

### Mendel & Sandy

Rosenberg  
Debbie Cohen

### Mendel Rosenberg

Susan Van Hooser

### Eliot Simon's 60th

Birthday

June R. Bierman

### Hal Sitrin

Pat & Wayne Bare  
M. Gilbert & Judith  
R. Grand

Eugene Kahn  
Joel Herman &  
Milt Sleeter

Kenneth B.

& Marilyn D.  
Steinback

Sammy Weindorf  
& Sandy

Wasserman

### Irl & Myra Solomon

Gloria Feldman

### Linda & Richard

Stein's

Anniversary

The Rebys

### Shirley Weiss'

Special Birthday

Ann & Marty

Epstein

### Sarah Wieder

Iva & Andrew  
Youkilis

### Anne Zvibleman

Scott & Linda  
Malin



# HMLC: A Year in Pictures



**Above and right:** Holocaust survivor Sonia Warshaski gave her testimony at The Governor's Mansion. She attended as an honoree during Holocaust Education Week. Missouri Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe presented Museum Director Jean Cavender with a proclamation.

**Below:** Dr. Jan Grabowski welcomed questions at the Arthur Gale Family Lecture.







**Above:** The Jewish Motorcycle Alliance held its Ride2Remember in St. Louis. More than 160 motorcyclists from around the world helped raise money for the museum. From left to right: Gloria Feldman, Mendel Rosenberg, Rachel Miller.

**Below:** HMLC was thrilled to co-sponsor a presentation of “The Soap Myth” at Congregation Temple Israel. The reading featured acting legend Ed Asner. The



From left to right: Hope Goffstein, Ed Asner, Leslie Wolf







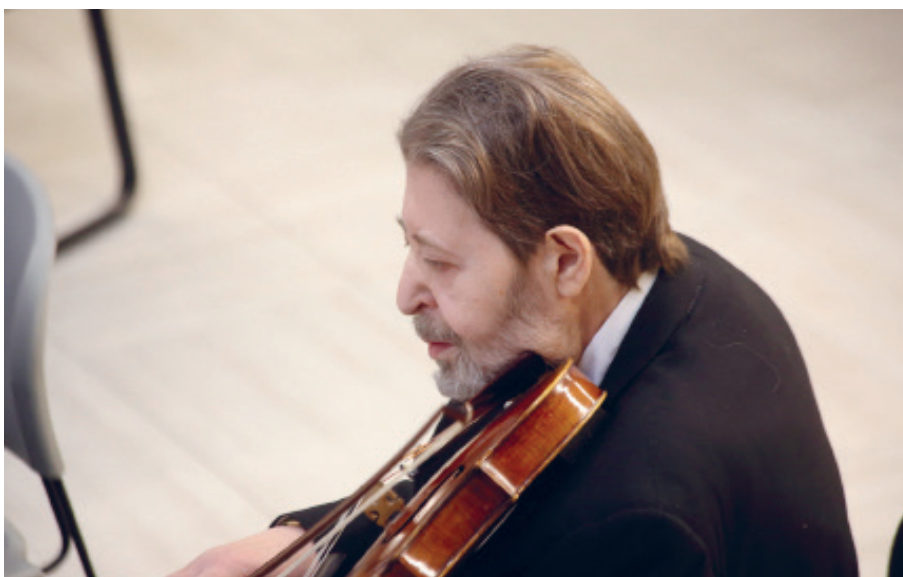


**Above left:** This year marked the completion of a more than 30 year Oral Histories Project.

**Below left:** More than \$2,500 in cash prizes were awarded to 24 winners of the Holocaust Museum & Learning Center's 17th Annual Art & Writing Contest.

**Below right:** The St. Louis Post-Dispatch interviewed survivor Mendel Rosenberg for their project "Story of Honor."

**On this page:** Hundreds came out to hear about violinist Gregor Braitberg's story of struggle and survival and for two performances by Gregor's son Mischa Braitberg and granddaughter Tova Braitberg.



## 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 crumbling 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. Contact Dan Reich at 314-442-3714 or [DReich@JFedSTL.org](mailto:DReich@JFedSTL.org) for further information.







## HOLOCAUST MUSEUM & LEARNING CENTER

In Memory of Gloria M. Goldstein  
A DEPARTMENT OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION  
12 Millstone Campus Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63146-5776

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