IMPACT

St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum

Monthly Newsletter, July 2026



Pay-As-You-Wish Family Weekend

Join us July 25–26 for our Pay-As-You-Wish Family Weekend, with admission available for as little as one cent. Explore the Museum's permanent Holocaust exhibition and special exhibition, *Nazis Next Door*, then take part in family-friendly activities designed to engage visitors of all ages. Throughout the weekend, guests can examine artifacts from the Museum's collection, enjoy a drop-in craft activity, and gather for story time.

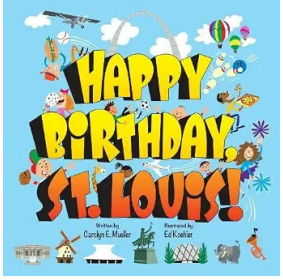
Saturday & Sunday Schedule

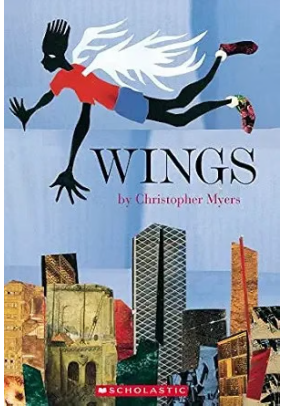
- **10:00 AM** – Museum Opens
- **10:00 AM–3:00 PM** – Drop-In Craft Session (Ages 5+)
- **11:00 AM–2:00 PM** – Hands-On History in the Lobby (Ages 5+)
- **1:30 PM** – Story Time (Ages 3–5)

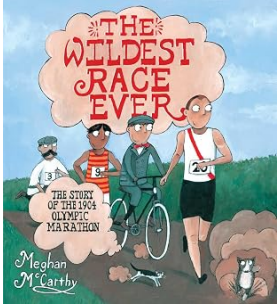
The Museum's permanent exhibition and *Nazis Next Door* will be open **10:00 AM–3:30 PM** and are recommended for ages 10+.

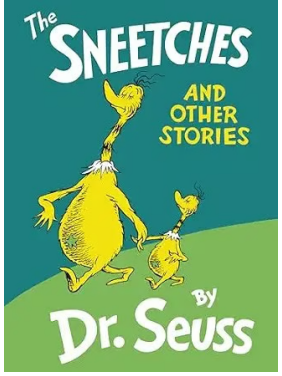
Tickets are available at the door.

Join us for Story Time at 1:30 PM - a selection of books the whole family can enjoy!


HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ST. LOUIS!
Written by Carolyn E. Mueller
Illustrated by Ed Koehler


WINGS
by Christopher Myers
SCHOLASTIC


THE WILDEST RACE EVER
THE STORY OF THE 1904 OLYMPIC MARATHON
Meghan McCarthy


The SNEETCHES
AND OTHER STORIES
By Dr. Seuss







Searching for the Power of Place: Reflections from a Journey Through Holocaust History

by Associate Director of Education, Zach Turner

In June, I received the amazing opportunity to participate in a program called “Power of Place: 2026 European Summer Institute for Holocaust Educators.” The trip, planned and co-led by the Humanus Network and the JCRC of Minnesota and the Dakotas, was a two-week professional development intended for teachers and educators from around the United States. Along with author of *Salvaged Pages* Alexandra Zapruder, we traveled through Lithuania, Poland, and the Netherlands following in the footsteps of young diarists featured in Alexandra’s acclaimed book.

We began by visiting the city of Kaunas, Lithuania, and the former home of Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara, a man responsible for saving thousands by issuing travel visas to Jews trying to escape the Holocaust. While in Kaunas, we also visited the only active synagogue in the city; the 9th Fort, a killing site that saw the murder of around 50,000 victims; and the site of the former Kovno ghetto. All three were stark reminders of the loss of Jewish life and community during the Holocaust.

We moved through Lithuania visiting the Lost Shtetl Museum and traveled to Vilnius, visiting the former ghetto there. One of the most poignant and difficult moments of the trip came with a visit to the Ponar Forest. As many as 75,000 victims were killed in a forest less than 10 miles from the city. As I stood in that place of incredible sadness, my mind began to spiral with questions. How can somewhere so beautiful and peaceful be the place where such horror occurred? How many people walked the path that I walked not knowing what awaited them, or worse yet, knowing exactly what was going to happen? The feeling of that place will not soon leave me.

Our journey continued to Poland with visits to cities like Lodz and Krakow, but also rural towns like Bodzentyn. Walking through the former ghetto of Lodz, standing on the steps of the church that features so prominently in the model in our own exhibition, I could not help but feel as if those families whose stories I tell in the Museum were there with me. We finished in Poland by visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau including a behind the scenes tour of a portion of their archives.

We concluded our visit in the Netherlands, visiting the Anne Frank House, going on a walking tour of Amsterdam's Jewish sites, and visiting Camp Vught. It was at Vught that I was able to again share part of the Museum with our group, telling them a portion of Gerda Nothmann's story. Gerda was the mother of our board member and volunteer Vera Emmons. To be able to stand in that space, with other professionals, and share such a personal story of a friend's family was an incredible honor, and I thank Vera for giving me permission to do so.

If I had to distill the experience down to a paragraph, I'd say this: the trip reminded me what an incredible privilege it is to travel to different parts of the world. The trip reminded me how grateful I am to have management and a board that saw the value in this trip and encouraged me to pursue it. The trip reminded me how much I love doing what I do, educating people about this history and how they can use it to inform their actions moving forward. And this trip reminded me that a place can hold power, even if it's not where the Holocaust occurred. A place is powerful when it connects its audience to the people that experienced this history, gives voice to those who were silenced, and understands that never again must be a call to action rather than a slogan. And based on those criteria, I know I work in a powerful place.

Photo credit: Ethan Roberts

Thank You for Joining Our Book Talk, *Our Nazi: An American Suburbs Encounter With Evil*



We were thrilled to welcome more than 100 attendees for an engaging and thought-provoking conversation. A special thank you to author Michael Soffer and moderator Jordan Palmer of the *St. Louis Jewish Light* for sharing their expertise and guiding such a meaningful discussion. Your participation and thoughtful questions helped make the evening a memorable success. We look forward to continuing the conversation with our next featured title, *Footnote to History* by Andrew Laszlo Sr., and hope you'll join us for our August 2 Survivor Hour where the author's son, Andrew Laszlo Jr., will speak on his father's story.

Artifact Feature



The Museum's Collection contains many artifacts of World War II that were brought home from the front by returning American servicemen. This example is a felt-covered aluminum water canteen issued to field medics in the German Wehrmacht. We can differentiate this canteen from the standard item issued to most soldiers due to its size. Instead of the regular 0.8-liter capacity, this canteen is a 1-liter model, which was given to medical personnel due to their specialized work. We also know this item was issued earlier in the war, before aluminum was reserved for producing more essential items and canteens were made of steel instead. The felt covering provided insulation as well as reducing glare for soldiers in the field.

Join Us October 29 for a Night of Confronting Antisemitism with Ambassador Dr. Deborah Lipstadt



Join us for the Museum's most anticipated evening of the year as we welcome Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt, former U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism and internationally renowned Holocaust historian, for a special gala event at the Ritz-Carlton on Thursday, October 29, 2026.

Sponsorships and tables are now available for this unforgettable night which will bring together community leaders, supporters, and advocates for Holocaust education. Gather friends, colleagues, or clients and be part of an inspiring evening in support of preserving survivor testimony, fighting antisemitism, and ensuring the future of Holocaust education.

Tables and sponsorship opportunities are limited and now open. To learn more, contact Jessica Fischoff at jfischoff@stlholocaustmuseum.org.

Register Here

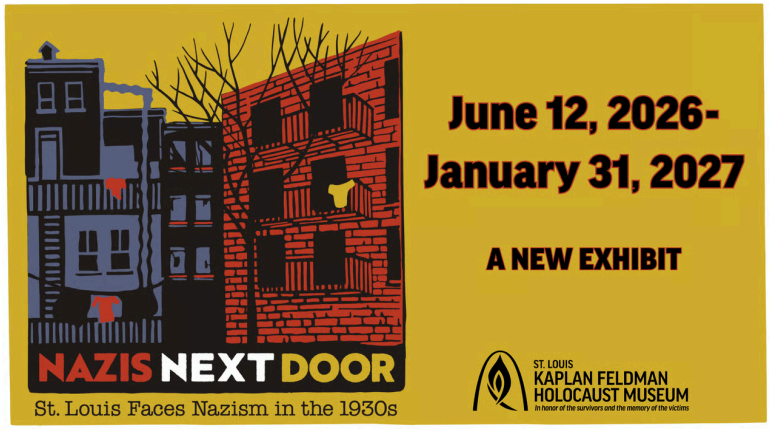
Summer Volunteer Orientation is August 30



Looking for a meaningful way to give back, meet new people, and make a lasting impact? Become a Museum volunteer! Our volunteers are at the heart of what we do, helping create meaningful experiences for every visitor while advancing our mission of remembrance and education. Join us for Volunteer Orientation on Saturday, August 30, from 9AM - 2PM to become part of our volunteer team. Whether welcoming guests, serving as a Gallery Attendant, assisting in the Research Center, or supporting behind the scenes, there's a place for you at the Museum.

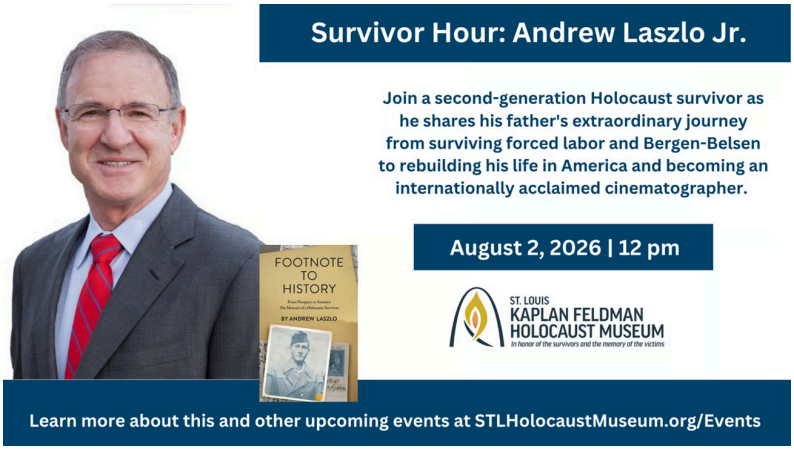
Interested in volunteering? For more information, email Zach Turner at ZTurner@STLHolocaustMuseum.org.

Upcoming Events



An original exhibition created by the St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum, *Nazis Next Door* explores the ways in which Missourians, particularly St. Louisans, made the choice to support or resist Nazi ideas of extremism and antisemitism right here at home.

Register Here



Join the Museum on August 2, at 12 PM, for a moving presentation by a second-generation Holocaust survivor, Andrew Laszlo Jr. as he shares his father's remarkable journey—from persecution in Hungary, forced labor, and imprisonment at Bergen-Belsen to building a new life in America after the Holocaust.

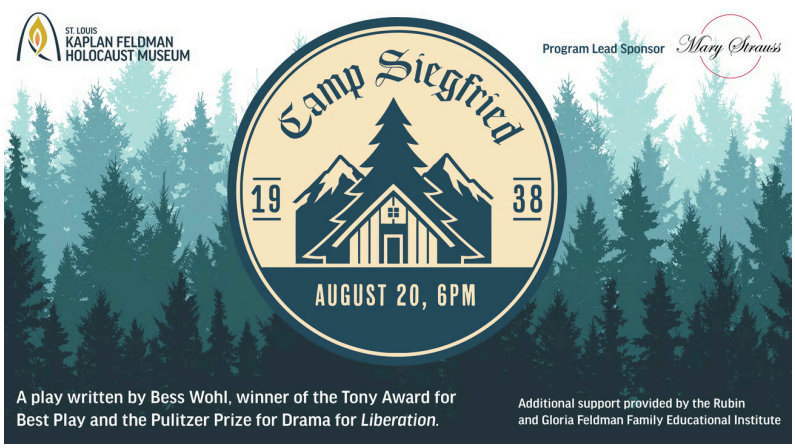
Register Here



The Museum is hosting an open house for potential Survivor/Descendant Speakers on August 11, at 10 AM Join us to learn more about how you can begin sharing your story or your family's story of Holocaust survival through educational engagements with visitors at the Museum.

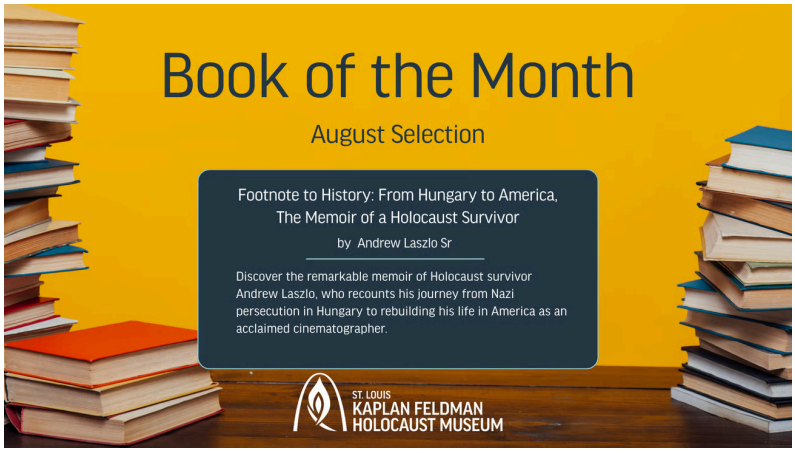
For more information or to RSVP, please contact Zach Turner at zturner@stlholocaustmuseum.org or **314-442-3716**.

More Info



Join the Museum on August 20 at 6 PM, for a night of theater featuring a staged reading of *Camp Siegfried* by Tony Award winner Bess Wohl. History is made vivid in this story of two teenagers negotiating their relationship in a microcosm of growing fascism. *A Nazis Next Door* exhibition program.

Register Here



Read *Footnote to History*, the subject of our August 2 Survivor Hour, and discover the extraordinary story of Andrew Laszlo, a Holocaust survivor who endured forced labor and imprisonment before rebuilding his life in America as an acclaimed cinematographer. In this powerful memoir, he shares the experiences he kept hidden for nearly 50 years, offering a moving testament to resilience, survival, and remembrance.

Get Book Here

Host Your Next Event with Us



Looking for a space that's meaningful, memorable, and unlike anywhere else in St. Louis? The St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum offers an unique and elegant setting for corporate meetings, community gatherings, fundraisers, private parties, discussion groups, and more. Hosting your event here supports the Museum's mission while giving your guests an experience that truly resonates.

We're now booking for the rest of 2026. To learn more about how we can help bring your vision to life, contact Kelsey Jones for details. Email kjones@stlholocaustmuseum.org or call 314-442-3752.

Make your next event matter.

Get Involved



Become a Museum Member and receive FREE Museum admission, invitations to exclusive programs, guest passes, and MORE. Learn More



Join our Museum Volunteer Team, a group dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Holocaust. Multiple roles available. Learn More



Book Your Museum Visit and engage with the history of the Holocaust through our Permanent Holocaust Exhibition Learn More

St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum 2026 Board of Directors

Board Chair: Greg Yawitz

Vice Chair, Secretary: Clint Zweifel

Vice Chair, Development: Chrissy Laycob

Vice Chair, Marketing: Nancy Keyser

Vice Chair, Treasurer: Nicky Stern

At Large Directors:
Dr. Kelvin Adams
Cheryle Feldman Atkin
Dr. Matt Berman
Rev. Rodrick Burton
Vera Emmons
Gloria Feldman
Ted Flom
Steve Gallant
Dave Hageman
Ted Isaacs
Diane Kalishman
Kaytlin Kopen
Rick Knox
Erin McGlothlin, PhD
Craig Rosenthal
Harold Sitrin, MD
Carol Staenberg

Executive Director: Myron Freedman



Your support allows us to teach the crucial history and lessons of the Holocaust to future generations. Join our mission with a tax-deductible donation today!

Donate Now

St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum, 36 Millstone Campus Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146, United States
Click here to unsubscribe