The FHM's original exhibition Beaches, Benches, and Boycotts is on display through March 1, 2020.
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I can no other answer make but thanks, and thanks, and ever thanks.” – William Shakespeare

I’m penning this note just before Thanksgiving and all the people and things I’m thankful for are top of mind. I’m thankful for the opportunity to publicly thank:

1. Richard Rappaport and his family for endowing the Richard Rappaport Family Antisemitism Lecture, the first of which took place on October 27, exactly one year after the antisemitic murders at the Tree of Life synagogue. Former U.S. State Department Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, Ira Forman, spoke to over 200 people, giving an overview of the rise of antisemitism today and, most importantly, the steps that all of us can and should be taking to combat it.

2. Tampa Bay Times, without whom we could not have put together the critically acclaimed exhibition, Beaches, Benches and Boycotts: The Civil Rights Movement in Tampa Bay.

3. Marty Borell for organizing a fantastic trip to NYC for Museum supporters that included a cast-led backstage tour of the Yiddish Fiddler on the Roof after the performance, a tour from the curator of Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away. currently on display at the MJHNY, history walking tours and FOOD – so much food!

4. The State of Florida, not only for its continued support, but also for the special allocation to assist with constructing a new, more secure entrance for the Museum. (More on that soon and how you can help!)

5. Bank of America for underwriting a special FREE program aimed at teens and young adults on the morning of February 8, 2020. To Life honorees Elizabeth Dearborn Hughes and Claire Sarnowski will be discussing their extraordinary journeys, what inspired them, and the importance of taking action.

6. And my greatest thanks are for all of YOU: the community who continues to sustain The FHM. It is your support and engagement that allows us to do the critically important work of educating in Tampa Bay and across the state.

Lots more is happening this winter and I hope to see you soon at one of our public programs (Deborah Dwork will speak in January), our To Life gala (a few sponsorships and tickets are still available as I write this!), or in our Museum galleries (a new exhibition included a cast-led backstage tour of the Yiddish Fiddler on the Roof after the performance, a tour from the curator of Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away. currently on display at the MJHNY, history walking tours and FOOD – so much food!)

The Florida Holocaust Museum Leadership Council

David Baras, M.D. Adam Horn Jack Ross
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Franz Christensen Randy Kammer David Scher
Benjamin Diamond The Hon. Nelly Khouzam Debbie Sembler
Tony DiBenedetto Edward Kissi, Ph.D. Jeffrey Shear
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Carolyn Ellis, Ph.D. Catherine McGarry Howard Tevelowitz
The Hon. Nelly Khouzam Zena Lansky, M.D.
Edward Kissi, Ph.D. John J. Loftus Dr. Mary Kay Vona
Zena Lansky, M.D. Mitchell Lowenstein Mark Wright

Elizabeth Gelman
Rachael and Don Worthington

Rachael and Don Worthington became involved with the Museum through their friendship with Zena Lansky and Warren Rogers, who introduced them to Lisl Schick. Lisl was the first Survivor the Worthingtons had ever met, and her compelling story of rescue on a Kindertransport from Vienna, Austria, “made a huge impression.” They also met Toni and John Rinde, child Survivors from Poland, who later discovered that Rachael’s father had been involved with the liberation of one of the camps.

Having served as an infantry captain in World War II, her father’s recollections were painful and he was deeply affected. In 2013 he was invited to speak at the Museum and his testimony was recorded. As he said at the time, “I know this is important to counter those who would deny the Holocaust ever happened.”

That same year, Rachael and former board member Michael Brundage co-founded The FHM’s Lawyers of Conscience. The mission of the group is to provide a non-political forum for thought-provoking programs on past atrocities, lessons of history and contemporary issues, as well as to encourage attorneys and judges to promote the equality of rights and justice under the law.

Presenters have included Benjamin Ferencz, the last surviving prosecutor of the Nuremberg Trials, and Eli Rosenbaum, a U.S. Justice Department official who discussed his experiences tracking down and prosecuting Nazi war criminals. In 2018, the Florida Bar and the Office of State Court Administration granted approval for attorneys and judges to receive continuing education credits for their participation in Lawyers of Conscience-sponsored events.

Rachael is a Board Officer, serving as the Vice Chair of Development, and leader of The FHM’s Thank You Brigade. She is also a member of the To Life 20/20: A Vision for the Future Committee and Chair of the To Life Stewardship Subcommittee.

Both Life Members, Rachael and Don believe the dual mission of The FHM is more resonant than ever. “We must understand the history of the Holocaust and remember and honor those who suffered and died. Most relevant for today, however, is taking those lessons forward. Not only are future genocides possible, I think our survival itself depends on our changing our thinking. We need to learn to focus on our common humanity,” said Rachael.

The couple have been married for 32 years. Don’s son is an attorney in Louisville, and they have two grandchildren. The Florida Holocaust Museum is most grateful for their ongoing service and commitment.

Kelly Oliva  The FHM’s Writer and Editor

A Meaningful Way to Reduce Your Taxable Income

If you or your spouse have a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA), the IRS requires you to take funds out of your IRA beginning at age 70 ½. You can use your required distribution to support The Florida Holocaust Museum through an IRA Charitable Rollover Gift. This gift could reduce your taxable income.

For your gift to qualify:

• You must be 70 ½ or older at the time of your gift.
• The transfer must go directly from your IRA to The Florida Holocaust Museum.
• Your total annual IRA gift cannot exceed $100,000.
• Your gift must be made to The Florida Holocaust Museum by December 31st.
• You can use this gift to fulfill existing pledges to The Florida Holocaust Museum.

For more information, please contact: Debra Marcus at 727-820-0100 extension 276 or dmarcus@thefhm.org.

As always, if you have any questions about your personal financial situation, please consult your tax advisor.

Thank you for considering The Florida Holocaust Museum for your year-end gift. Today, more than ever, your support is vital to ensuring that we can continue to use the lessons of the past to create a better future for all.

Debra Marcus  The FHM’s Major Gifts Officer
The Florida Holocaust Museum is similar to most museums in that it collects, cares for and interprets historical objects. However, our goal is not to simply amass an impressively sized collection or to showcase objects of great worth. We use material items to collect stories about individuals and retell them to help make sense of the world, to make personal connections, and to highlight perspectives that can change the way we feel and think. The Museum utilizes the stories of Holocaust Survivors and victims to connect with our visitors: one person to one person, and in some instances create powerful, life-changing experiences.

Similarly, when Museum staff recently collected objects and stories from Tampa Bay’s African American communities for the current exhibition Beaches, Benches and Boycotts: The Civil Rights Movement in Tampa Bay, they made sure to connect with people as opposed to simply reading about the events that took place in books or newspapers. Because they are local, the stories told in the exhibition are not heard often enough, and we feel very fortunate to be trusted to share them with the community.

We spoke to Walter Gilbert of Sarasota who related his experiences during the freedom school movement in the Newtown Community. He described his first day in an integrated classroom and the embarrassment he felt when told he had to sit in the back of the room because he was black. We also spoke to Ralph Wimbish, Jr., son of St. Petersburg’s Civil Rights leader Dr. Ralph Wimbish, Sr., who told us of his excitement over hosting New York Yankee Elston Howard at his home when black major leaguers were barred from local hotels. He went on to describe his father’s bravery for refusing to be complicit in the city’s segregated policies and the resulting backlash the family received.

Fred Hearn, formerly of Tampa, relayed his love for the community around Tampa’s Central Avenue where he was raised, home to most of the city’s African Americans at the time. He described it as a safe, providing neighborhood where everyone felt accepted. The Museum’s Visitors Services Associate Eula Mitchell Perry, who grew up in South St. Pete, told us how neighbors took care of each other. She described her teachers in the city’s all-black schools as so dedicated and prepared that students had no idea their schools were underfunded in comparison with others in the area.

We asked community members not only about the past, but also their hopes for the future. Jetson Grimes would like to see more black-owned businesses in the Newtown community of Sarasota. Elihu and Carolyn Brayboy, of Chief’s Creole Café, hope that more businesses are attracted to St. Petersburg’s 22nd Street South and return the former black business district to an economic success.

Similar to our work here at The Florida Holocaust Museum, each of the cities featured in the exhibition have made efforts to preserve the history of its African American communities. For example, in St. Petersburg, Gwendolyn Reese leads the African American Heritage Association, which created the African American Walking Trail to commemorate the people and places that have contributed to its rich history. And in Sarasota, Vickie Oldham is leading the charge to remember the history of its black community through the city’s NewtownAlive project.

The Florida Holocaust Museum invites you to connect with these community members and other civil rights leaders featured in the Beaches, Benches and Boycotts exhibition by reading and listening to their stories. We are honored to know them and, even more so, to be trusted with their histories to share with the rest of Tampa Bay.

Erin Blankenship The FHM’s Curator of Exhibitions and Collections
Let Me Be Myself tells the story of Anne Frank in a modern way, addressing current issues of identity, exclusion and discrimination. Anne’s experiences connect deeply with today’s youth as they mature and learn that all words and actions matter. The exhibition will feature a Virtual Reality (VR) component from Force Field VR and Oculus Studios that allows visitors to travel back in time to the Frank family’s hiding place, the “Secret Annex.” Making use of large size pictures, the exhibition shows the life of Anne from her birth in 1929 until her death in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945. Each exhibition panel contains images and texts about the world around Anne: the rise of Hitler, the persecution of the Jews and the Second World War.

Let Me Be Myself: The Life Story of Anne Frank, opens on January 25, 2020, and will be on display through January 24, 2021.

Developed by the Anne Frank House and sponsored in North America by the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect in NYC. Images from Photo Collection, Anne Frank House, Amsterdam

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Steve Jewell

If you have attended one of The FHM’s special events in which food and beverages were served, you have probably met Steve Jewell. Steve has volunteered at the Museum for almost five years and since retiring, has worked as a docent for nearly four. He can always be counted on to help wherever needed, and serves refreshments at many of our events. Steve has a long-standing interest in history, especially in regard to the WWII era and the Holocaust, as his uncle participated in the Battle of the Bulge as a member of the 9th Armored Division. Steve noted that the division’s patch is the same one on display in The FHM’s permanent exhibition, History, Heritage, and Hope, in the Liberation section. “When I learned that he was at the Battle of the Bulge at Remagen and among the first to cross into Germany, this made him the only free Jew in the country at that moment!” he said.

Almost twenty years ago, Steve heard Elie Wiesel give a presentation at Eckerd College. “At the end of his talk, I asked him to sign a copy of Night. When I thanked him for speaking to us, he looked directly at me and with the brightest bluest eyes said, “No! Thank you!”” He added, “It took me years to process why he was thanking me. Now I realize it was because he knew that if he could reach me with his story, then it would not die with him or other Holocaust Survivors. Shortly afterward, I became a Member of the Museum.”

Steve wanted to become a docent, but with a full-time work schedule he could not commit to the training schedule. So he contacted the Museum and asked if there was another way he could volunteer. A driver was needed to take Helga Waldman, a Survivor, to a Clearwater school presentation. Steve spent a wonderful day with her and remembered that during the war she stayed with the Attenborough family in Great Britain as part of the Kindertransport. “In my docent class, I mentioned my experience and was gobsmacked to discover that my Helga was featured in the Permanent Exhibition! It was full circle for me,” he said.

“Being able to give back through volunteering and docenting at The Florida Holocaust Museum has been a rewarding experience. I hope that my tiny contributions have helped some child or adult understand the meaning of ‘Never Forget.’”

John Sanguinett, The FHM’s Volunteer Coordinator
MUSEUM EVENTS & PROGRAMS

International Holocaust Remembrance Day
“Where are You?” Looking for Loved Ones after the War featuring Debórah Dwork
Genocide and Human Rights Awareness Movement (GHRAM) Program
January 27, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. at The Florida Holocaust Museum

The Pardoll Family Lecture Series Presents: Debórah Dwork. At war’s end, surviving Jews searched for loved ones. Where were they? What had happened to them? Individuals created lists; organizations created lists. Lists of those found alive; lists of those known to be dead. Decades before photocopy machines, let alone fax, computer, database, and Internet technology, people looking for loved ones faced many obstacles. Eager to find their family and friends, and eager to be found, survivors in Europe developed their own means of communication. Dwork will trace how survivors searched and what they found. Admission to The FHM is free from 10am-5pm. The evening program is free to attend, but RSVPs are required via thefhm.org/events or 727.820.0100 x301.

Beyond the Shadows: The Holocaust and the Danish Exception, with Judith Glickman Lauder
February 25, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. at The Florida Holocaust Museum

The photographer behind The FHM’s exhibition Resistance and Rescue, opening February 22, describes the horrific sites of the Holocaust while telling the uplifting story of the Danish Rescue - how in 1943, the citizens of occupied Denmark spirited the country’s Jewish population to safety in Sweden. Sharply relevant to the issues of the world today, Beyond the Shadows passionately demonstrates what hate can lead to, and what can be done to stand in its path. Light refreshments will be served. Free to attend. RSVPs are required via thefhm.org/events or 727.820.0100 x301.

Beyond the Green Bench: A Community Conversation
Genocide and Human Rights Awareness Movement (GHRAM) Program
February 18, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. at The Historic Manhattan Casino

Join us for this panel discussion examining the role of controversial historical icons in modern society. What is the line between removing hateful speech and preserving history, and is it possible to use controversial icons as teaching tools to foster understanding and equality? Free to attend. RSVPs are required via thefhm.org/events or 727.820.0100 x301.

The Richard Rappaport Family Antisemitism Lecture Series Presents: Defining Antisemitism, with Mark Weitzman
March 5, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. at The Florida Holocaust Museum

Mark Weitzman is an expert on the history and modern manifestations of antisemitism and Holocaust denials. Join us as Weitzman shares how he and his colleagues worked for years to create a globally recognized definition of antisemitism as a means to combat hate worldwide. Free to attend. RSVPs are required via thefhm.org/events or 727.820.0100 x301.

Thank you to Wells Fargo for sponsoring The Florida Holocaust Museum’s Genocide and Human Rights Awareness (GHRAM) Series!
**CURRENT EXHIBITIONS AT THE FHM**

**Beaches, Benches, and Boycotts: The Civil Rights Movement in Tampa Bay**  
On display through March 1, 2020

The Civil Rights Movement in Tampa Bay may have had characteristics similar to other areas of the South but its stories are its own. This exhibition illuminates our region’s struggle with racial equality and shines a light on the local leaders who changed our cities.

*Pictured: Sanitation workers led by attorney James Sanderlin and Joe Savage picket for equal pay. Image credit: Courtesy of the Tampa Bay Times*

**UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AT THE FHM**

**Let Me Be Myself: The Life Story of Anne Frank**  
Opens January 25, 2020  
**Opening Event and Dessert Reception**  
January 25, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

Making use of large size pictures, the exhibition reveals the story of Anne Frank from her birth in 1929 until her death in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945. Each exhibition panel also contains images and texts about the world around Anne: the rise of Hitler, the persecution of the Jews and the Second World War. Opening Reception is free for Members, $9 General Admission. RSVPs are required via thefhm.org/events or 727.820.0100 x301.

*Developed by the Anne Frank House and sponsored in North America by the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect in NYC. Images from Photo Collection Anne Frank House, Amsterdam*

**Resistance and Rescue:**  
**Photographs by Judy Glickman Lauder**  
Opens February 22, 2020

The remarkable story of the flight of the Jews out of Denmark to safety in Sweden in the fall of 1943. This exhibition of photographs reopens a time in history when the bravery of a few overcame the brutality of so many. The story of the rescue is told through pictorial observations. In these images, we are reminded that without the courage of the Danish government and its people, the fate of Denmark’s Jews would have been similar to that of so many of their European neighbors.

*Image Credit: Permanent collection of The FHM, donated by Judy Glickman Lauder*
The FHM’s Sam Gross Summer Institute for Teachers

This summer our Education Department provided eight workshops as part of our Sam Gross Summer Institute for Teachers. The workshops were included in district-wide trainings organized by the school districts in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco Counties. Ursula Szczepinska, Curator of Education & Director of Research, and Kelsey Jagneaux, Museum Outreach Educator, taught sessions on several different topics, including Holocaust-era diaries, video testimony of Holocaust survivors, the experiences of German Jews during the Holocaust, and guidelines for teaching about the Holocaust. Workshop participants came from all school levels, with the majority from middle and high schools. We worked with experienced educators as well as new teachers just beginning to give lessons on this crucial subject matter.

During the district-wide training day for Pinellas County Schools held at Countryside High School in Clearwater, The FHM set up a teaching trunk station. Our Resource and Tour Coordinator, Charles Dickens, and Museum Docents Ricki and Mark Lewis, assisted teachers with information about this free resource that can be shipped to schools throughout the United States. Thank you to Ricki and Mark for dedicating their time to this project.

We couldn’t offer these much-needed workshops without our community partners. We would like to thank Matt Blum from Pinellas County Schools, Dr. Dennis Holt from Hillsborough County Public Schools, and Avgoustina Stavrou-Klem from Pasco County Schools for including our workshops in the district-wide trainings. We would also like to thank Dr. Benjamin Moore, Superintendent of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Venice, and Christopher Pastura, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of St. Petersburg, for sharing the information about workshops with their teachers.

This summer in Sarasota we also provided a teacher workshop in partnership with Sarasota County Schools, The Butterflies of Hope and Remembrance Project and The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee. Ursula Szczepinska taught about using Holocaust-era diaries as primary sources for Holocaust education at different levels. During the workshop, teachers got acquainted with specific diary excerpts and discussed various ways of incorporating them into the curriculum. Special thanks for hosting this workshop goes to Dr. Bernadette Bennett from Sarasota County Schools, Bette Zaret from The Butterflies of Hope and Remembrance Project, and Jessi Sheslow from The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee. We look forward to offering more teacher workshops in Sarasota!

Our Statewide Outreach Education Team has already scheduled 21 new teacher workshops to be held throughout the state. Others are also being planned, so don’t forget to visit the Teacher Training section on our website at www.TheFHM.org.

Urszula Szczepinska  The FHM’s Curator of Education and Director of Research
THE FHM’S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Improving Our Accessibility Model for Visitors with Disabilities

Over the past six months, educators at The Florida Holocaust Museum worked with community partners to improve the Museum’s accessibility model for visitors with autism and other disabilities. With the support and guidance from the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD), located on USF Tampa’s campus, and The Broach School Tampa, the Museum is developing ways to create a more welcoming and accessible environment for all visitors.

Working with CARD allowed us to view our Museum through the lens of visitors with autism or other sensory needs, as well as for those who are caregivers. We were better able to understand some of the barriers that might deter some people from visiting The FHM or from getting the most out of their experience onsite. CARD assisted us in identifying potential trigger points in the Museum’s Permanent Exhibition and helped create resources to both inform visitors and caregivers of what to expect, as well as to provide assistance upon arrival.

Another partnership that has been invaluable to this process is with The Broach School Tampa. One of the main demographics the school serves are students with autism and other disabilities, with specialized education offered to students needing more personalized instruction. Our contact began when instructor Raymond Villegas reached out to the Education Department to share his students’ Holocaust memorial project. Mr. Villegas expressed how moved they were by the history of the Holocaust and the stories of the victims.

Our contact with The Broach School coincided perfectly with our developing partnership with CARD, and over the next few months the Education Department was able to tour the campus and meet with the staff, administration and students. Educators at the school generously provided their feedback and suggested ways in which we could better accommodate their students. This project culminated with a group of Broach students touring The FHM in late May, and they received a presentation from Second Generation speaker Sandy Mermelstein and a docent-led tour of the Permanent Exhibition.

The Florida Holocaust Museum will continue to grow and develop new methods of creating a welcoming environment for all visitors. We hope to strengthen our existing partnerships with CARD and The Broach School and to create new community partnerships during the next school year. The Museum would like to extend a special thank you to Elizabeth Burke from CARD and to Raymond Villegas, Jamie Cook-Martin, and Eugene Kendrick of The Broach School for their support and assistance throughout this process.

Kelsey Jagneaux The FHM’s Outreach Educator

Speak Up, Speak Now!® Across Greater Tampa Bay

This fall, the educators and volunteers at The FHM have worked with hundreds of students and teachers across the Greater Tampa Bay Area to bring Holocaust education into classrooms. We are so incredibly grateful to all the schools who participated in the program and look forward to continuing this spring!

During a recent session of The FHM’s Speak Up, Speak Now!® (SUSN) at Dunedin Highland Middle School, Museum educators worked with multiple middle school classes throughout the year. They most recently worked with Ms. Laura Playford’s 6th grade Gifted Studies classes. The students showed up each week ready to have thoughtful and engaging conversations about the Holocaust, universal human rights, racism and discrimination in the United States, and Holocaust memorialization.

At the end of the program, Ms. Playford, her students, and the administration presented the Museum with cards and certificates to thank the educators. We would like to especially thank Dunedin Highland Middle School Principal Michael Vasallo, Assistant Principal Jenieff Watson, Ms. Playford, and all the wonderful students who participated in the program.

Kelsey Jagneaux The FHM’s Outreach Educator
SUMMER & FALL HAPPENINGS

In May, local Holocaust Survivor Ellen Bernstein spoke to a group of eighth grade students at The Cathedral School of St. Jude in St. Petersburg. The FHM received a note from the students thanking Ellen for sharing her story.

In June, Diane Mandell served as a speaker for the first time at the Museum. She relayed her parents’ harrowing experiences during the war for a group of USF students and discussed the impact that it made on her own life. Diane is a member of The FHM’s Generations After group, comprised of the adult children of Holocaust Survivors. Her parents, Halina and Ed Herman, make regular presentations to school groups.

This summer, Courageous Twelve member Leon Jackson visited The FHM. The Courageous Twelve were a group of black police officers from the St. Petersburg Police Department who took a stand against racism and injustice in the 1960s. Serving on the police force allowed these men to make a difference in the community. Jackson visited the Museum in anticipation of Beaches, Benches, and Boycotts: The Civil Rights Movement in Tampa Bay, in which the Courageous Twelve are featured.

At the end of a Speak Up, Speak Now!® (SUSN) program this summer, a 6th grade Gifted Studies class and administrators from Dunedin Highland Middle School presented thank you cards and certificates to The FHM educators.

In July, Loss and Affirmation: Illustrations and Drawings by William Pachner opened to the public. Pachner turned to his work, using pen and paper, paint and canvas, to communicate his grief and reaction to man’s inhumanity to man. The artwork he created directly following the war conveys feelings of despair, anger and bitterness. His later works focused on human connection, comfort and affirmation. The exhibition is on display through January 5, 2020, at The FHM.

When The FHM interviewed professional baseball player Bill White for Beaches, Benches, and Boycotts, he remembered visiting Florida: “Getting off the plane, going to the hotel, and being told I couldn’t stay there. Then they got a black cab to take me to the black area where we stayed.” This was a bit of a shock for White, as he had stayed in a hotel with white teammates when attending spring training in Arizona as a player for the Giants. In St. Pete, African American players were not allowed to stay in the same hotel with the rest of the team. They had to find lodging with local families who would house black athletes and celebrities.
For additional photos and information, follow The FHM on Facebook at facebook.com/TheFHM, Instagram @TheFHM, and Twitter @FLHolocaustMus.
The Florida Holocaust Museum honors the memory of millions of innocent men, women and children who suffered or died in the Holocaust. The Museum is dedicated to teaching the members of all races and cultures the inherent worth and dignity of human life in order to prevent future genocides.