From the Executive Director

Justice, Justice, shall you pursue…
Deuteronomy 16:20

Happy New Year! And welcome to the new issue of The Florida Holocaust Museum’s quarterly newsletter. We’re looking forward to a new year of dynamic speakers and educational programs, continuing to share our mission of teaching the members of all races and cultures the inherent worth and dignity of human life.

The founders and supporters of The Florida Holocaust Museum created this institution to give voice to the voiceless. Over the next few months, we have the privilege of hearing from people who have chosen lives pursuing justice for those who could not speak for themselves.

On February 10, we welcome Giselle Rodriguez of the Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking, as part of The FHM Genocide and Human Rights Awareness Movement. More than 20 million people are enslaved throughout the world today. Of that, 2.5 million live in slavery in the United States. Shockingly, the state of Florida has been identified as having one of the highest incidences of human trafficking in the country.

Eli Rosenbaum, renowned as the most successful “Nazi-hunter” in history, will receive the Loebenberg Humanitarian Award at this year’s annual To Life benefit event on February 26. What is less well-known about Mr. Rosenbaum is his commitment to returning property stolen by the Nazis from individuals and communities during the Holocaust. Through his efforts and the efforts of others, billions have been made in reparations payments, providing benefits to Holocaust Survivors. I hope you will join us as we honor this man who has spent his life tirelessly pursuing justice for the millions of victims and Survivors of the Holocaust.

Finally, on March 15, we will be celebrating the resilience of culture as we launch the 1st Annual FHM Passover Cook-off. Joanne Caras will share her journey compiling The Holocaust Survivor Cookbook, which is filled with Survivors’ recipes and stories that teach us how food helps us keep our links to the past alive.

Our goal at The FHM is to give our visitors tangible tools to help create a better world. As the great Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.”

We invite you to come and learn and make a difference.

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*of blessed memory
The Museum was a special place for Linda and Marvin Feldman before they recently became Life Members. The Feldmans had hosted an event at their home for Life Members, and had been to the Museum, and Linda recalled viewing the Museum’s Boxcar for the first time during a tour.

“It just goes right to your heart, that that’s what humans did to other humans and it was allowed to happen,” she said. “I think the Museum serves a very important purpose in that regard.”

The Feldmans live in Clearwater Beach. Marvin is originally from St. Louis, and moved to the area in the 70s. Linda moved to the area in 1984 from New Orleans. They met here, and have been married 25 years.

The couple has three daughters, each with several children of their own. Every year, the Feldmans pile their grandchildren into their motorhome and head out for a special no-parents-allowed vacation. They took one such trip to Disney’s Fort Wilderness Resort, with everyone chipping in on chores, the 2-year-old grandchild taking charge of lining up the shoes each night.

“I feel like we created memories,” Linda said.

Their grandchildren have also joined them on tours with the Horseless Carriage Club of America.

“This work is endlessly frustrating, but it has been the greatest privilege of my professional life to pursue these cases and secure a measure of justice for those who perished and those who survived,” Rosenbaum recently told the Jewish Press of Tampa.

Rosenbaum is the keynote speaker at the Museum’s annual benefit, this year titled To Life: To Justice.

He is also the 2015 recipient of the Loebenberg Humanitarian Award, which honors individuals whose own works furthers the Museum’s mission of helping all to recognize the inherent worth and dignity of human life, in order to prevent future genocides.

Tickets are on sale now for To Life, which will be held on February 26 at the Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg.

If you would like to purchase tickets or are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please call Maria Johnston at (727) 820-0100 ext. 274, or visit www.flholocaustmuseum.org.
Fall 2014
Exhibitions, programs and events at the Museum

Left: Artist Murray Zimiles donated more than 120 pieces of his artwork to The Florida Holocaust Museum.
Below: The FHM held an opening reception for the exhibition *The Holocaust: Artwork by Murray Zimiles* in October. The artist, at left, spoke with attendees.

Above: *The Memory Project* on display at The FHM.
Right: The FHM hosted a workshop in October with Bayshore Christian School students in conjunction with the exhibition *The Memory Project*. Students drew charcoal portraits of Holocaust Survivors and learned more about their stories.
Survivors and their families came together on Dec. 12 for good food and friendship at the Museum’s Survivor Luncheon. The luncheon celebrates the many contributions of the Holocaust Survivors in our community to the Museum. They are dedicated to giving their time and sharing their stories with the students and visitors who come here, ensuring our links to the past and the lessons of the Holocaust will remain strong.
Current Exhibitions

Richard Heipp: Germanic Guilt Symbols
January 10, 2015 - April 19, 2015

Richard Heipp’s photorealist paintings combine personal and cultural symbols of fear and security with images from historic photos used in the German race propaganda of the 1930s and 40s. A descendant of German immigrants and professor of art at the University of Florida, Heipp says that his provocative Germanic Guilt series “addresses autobiographical concerns dealing with [his] cultural heritage.” The exhibition is on display in the Janet Kohn Gallery.

The Wall Speaks - Voices of the Unheard by Wojciech Sawa
January 31, 2015 - April 26, 2015

The Wall Speaks – Voices of the Unheard by Wojciech Sawa is dedicated to Polish children and teenagers of World War II subjected to Nazi German and Soviet policies best summarized by the words: “We will make you less than human.” All interviews, photographs and artifacts in the multimedia exhibition are a reflection of a personal journey undertaken by the artist. The exhibition is on display in the Larry Wasser Gallery.

Perpetrators: Lithographs by Sid Chafetz
January 24, 2015 - May 24, 2015

Artist and master printmaker Sid Chafetz dedicated his career to creating art of profound social significance. In Perpetrators, he created a series of portraits of the “ordinary people” who executed Hitler’s ghoulish plans. Perpetrators depicts the complicity of industrialists, businessmen, soldiers, churchmen, physicians, lawyers and bureaucrats who implemented and executed the Nazis’ diabolical schemes. The exhibition is on display in the Herbert and Isabel Savel Teaching Gallery.

Hancock Bank Presents Highlights From Our Permanent Collection
Escape to Shanghai

The exhibit tells the story of Erich and Malvine Rosengarten (née Langberg). Erich grew up in a small town in Germany and was interned at Buchenwald Concentration Camp after Kristallnacht, and Malvine grew up in Austria. Both escaped to Shanghai with their families when they were teenagers. There they met and eventually married. The exhibit outlines their lives before the war, their experience in China and their eventual emigration to the US. The collection was generously donated by Susan Fader (née Rosengarten), the daughter of Erich and Malvine, and is on display in the Herbert and Isabel Savel Teaching Gallery.
Upcoming Events

GHRAM: Giselle Rodriguez, Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking
February 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at The FHM

Florida has been identified as a hub for human trafficking activity, citing one of the highest incidences of human trafficking in the country. The event is part of the FHM's Genocide and Human Rights Awareness Movement. Free, open to the public.

To Life: To Justice Annual Benefit
Thursday, February 26 at 6 p.m. at The Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg

Featuring famed Nazi hunter Eli Rosenbaum, recipient of the 2015 Loenbenberg Humanitarian Award. Sponsorship opportunities are available. To purchase tickets and sponsorships, call Lenora Walters at (727) 820-0100 x251.

Pass the Plate: The FHM Passover Cook-off
Sunday, March 15 at 2 p.m. at The FHM

Celebrate the 1st Annual FHM Passover Cook-off with special recipes from local Survivors. The public will have a chance to taste the dishes and vote on their favorites. Author Joanne Caras will share her experiences compiling The Holocaust Survivor Cookbook, which is filled with Survivors’ recipes and stories to pass down to future generations. Free, open to the public.

“Pre-War Politics and Jewish Resistance in the Ghettos”
The Debbie and Brent Sembler Florida Holocaust Museum Lecture
March 24 at 2 p.m. at USF St. Petersburg, Davis Hall 130

Dr. Evgeny Finkel, Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at George Washington University, presents the lecture “Pre-War Politics and Jewish Resistance in the Ghettos,” as part of the Debbie and Brent Sembler Florida Holocaust Lecture series, presented in partnership with USF St. Petersburg. Free, open to the public.

Yom HaShoah Commemoration
April 16 at 6:30 p.m. at The FHM

Dr. Suzanne Brown-Fleming, Director of Visiting Scholar Programs in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Jack, Joseph and Morton Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, will present “Love thy Neighbor”? Catholic Responses to the First Anti-Jewish Laws, April 1933. Presented in partnership with the Pinellas County Board of Rabbis and the Bay Area Cantorial Association.

Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide
In partnership with Saint Hagop Armenian Church and the University of South Florida

Orphans of the Genocide film screening and Q&A with director Bared Maronian, April 9 at 7 p.m. at The Florida Holocaust Museum

An Evening of Remembrance with song and prayer, April 24 at 7 p.m. at St. Hagop Armenian Church, 7020 90th Ave. N, Pinellas Park

“Rising from the Ashes of Tragedy” lecture with Armenian historian Dr. Garabet Moundjian, April 23 at USF Tampa, Main Library, and April 25 at St. Hagop Armenian Church
Dr. Stephen D. Smith, Executive Director of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education, presented “Changing The World Through Testimony” at the Museum in December.

Dr. Smith spoke of how the testimony of Holocaust Survivors can help teach students the importance of empathy.

The Florida Holocaust Museum has partnered with the USC Shoah Foundation to digitize the Museum’s collection of testimonies by local Survivors and Liberators, in order to preserve them for future generations. The USC Shoah Foundation’s Visual History Archive includes testimony from Survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust and other genocides from 61 countries, in 39 languages.

The goal of GHRAM is to build public awareness about the Holocaust and other past and current genocides, including the genocides in Armenia, Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur.

GHRAM is held in memory of Dr. Stephen Feinstein who was a guest curator for the Florida Holocaust Museum for 10 years and founding director of the University of Minnesota’s Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

**GHRAM: Teaching Through Testimony**

*Above: Dr. Stephen D. Smith shows a video testimony of Holocaust Survivor and The FHM board member Lisl Schick.*

**Museum provides training program for local police**

*Urszula Szczepinska, Curator of Education & Director of Research, leads a LEAS session with Tampa police officers. /photo by Tampa Bay Times*

The Tampa Police Department is the first law enforcement agency in Florida to adopt the highly acclaimed Law Enforcement and Society: Lessons of the Holocaust program, which investigates the role German police played during the Holocaust and examines the role of law enforcement in a democracy today. When the department concludes the program with The Florida Holocaust Museum later in 2015, 1,000 TPD officers will have received this training.

The FHM provides the program in partnership with the Anti-Defamation League and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Urszula Szczepinska, Curator of Education & Director of Research, and ADL facilitators lead the discussions.

Tampa Police Chief Jane Castor learned about the LEAS program offered by USHMM, and approached The FHM about starting the program with Tampa police.

One officer who completed the program said, “I feel this visit today was a very moving and powerful experience. This training should be provided to all LE agencies around the country for our civic duty to each other and the citizens we serve.”

The USHMM and ADL established LEAS in 1999 in Washington, DC. It has reached nearly 100,000 officers in the United States and 80 countries.

The FHM plans to expand the program to other local agencies.

**Publix grant helps 1,000 students**

In 2014, a generous year-long transportation grant from Publix helped bring over 1,000 students to the Museum. The grant helped offset the cost of busing for field trips to the Museum from financially struggling schools.

The $15,000 grant helped bring students from 18 schools to see the Museum’s exhibitions and listen to the stories of Holocaust Survivors. Teachers called the grant “generous” and “helpful,” with one teacher adding that having the funds from the grant helped the school offer additional mini-scholarships for students who would otherwise not be able to attend.

Other generous donors have contributed to underwrite student admission fees. If you would like to underwrite student visits, please consider making a donation to the Martin H. Borell Scholarship, recently established in honor of Immediate Past Board Chair Marty Borell, which is available to schools that show significant financial need.

To make a donation to the Scholarship, please call Maria Johnston at (727) 820-0100 ext. 274.
The Museum held the opening reception for the new exhibition “Richard Heipp: Germanic Guilt Symbols” on January 15.

The artist Richard Heipp, a descendent of German immigrants and professor of art at the University of Florida, shared with attendees how he addresses issues of identity in his work. His work includes images taken from historic photos used in German race propaganda of the 1930s and 40s. The White Rose, for example (pictured above, right), features an image of a member of the non-violent resistance group The White Rose, made up of students from the University of Munich. Six of their members were arrested, tried for treason and executed in 1943.

In his work, Heipp works through issues of his own identity by using his likeness in the paintings layered over those of what the Nazis viewed as stereotypical Jews. At the same, the works focus on the potential of one group to dehumanize and victimize another. Heipp’s work will be on display at the Museum through April 19.
Marie Silverman stood behind a podium, as she had many times before, to share her story. She neatly set out her notes, and adjusted the mic before addressing the group of young students in front of her.

“In my earliest years, I lost the right to be alive,” Marie told the students visiting the Museum on a Tuesday in December. “This experience stayed locked up in me for many years.”

For nearly an hour, they sat quietly and listened, their eyes fixed on Marie as she shared with them the memories of a shattered childhood.

Marie volunteers at the Museum every Tuesday. She has been a volunteer since the Museum opened in downtown St. Petersburg in 1998.

“As a Survivor, I felt as if I wanted to be involved in any capacity the Museum needed me,” she said. “I’ve done just about everything.”

She’s stuffed envelopes, helped with filing and when she’s needed, she shares her story with students.

“I feel that I’m giving these youngsters who only have books to go by the reality of it,” she said. “I really feel that I’m accomplishing what I wanted to, that I did teach them that it was real.”

Marie was born in France, and lived with her parents and sister in Belgium. They went to school there, and she took violin lessons. But their lives were forever altered when Germany invaded Antwerp in 1940.

Marie told the students about the time her family spent in hiding in a cellar in France, and the deportation camp her family was taken to after the Gestapo found them. She told them of how she and her sister were smuggled from the camp again into hiding, and of their father’s death shortly after the family was reunited.

She explained what it was like to go with her aunt and uncle to Spain, and eventually the US, leaving their mother behind. They would eventually reunite in 1949, but at the time her mother, Marie told the students, “watched us leave knowing she had no alternative.”

Marie lives in Clearwater and began volunteering at the Museum with her late husband Melvin, who was a docent at the Museum.

“It was because of him that I started all this. He said, you should tell your story,” she said.

Marie has three children and three grandchildren. She also volunteers at her synagogue and participates in the Goodwill BookWorks program, where she reads to children at Head Start centers. And when schools aren’t able to send students to the Museum, Marie goes to them.

“I try to do as much as I can to give back,” she said. “My life was spared. I need to give back.”

Volunteer Spotlight

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the Florida Holocaust Museum, please call (727) 820-0100 or send an email to info@flholocaustmuseum.org.

Become a Volunteer!

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:
Pass the Plate cook-off, March 15
Noon to 2 p.m., set up
2 to 4 p.m., help during program
4 to 5 p.m., clean up

Anne Frank Humanitarian Award receptions,
May 27 & May 28
3:30 to 5 p.m., set up
5 to 6:30 p.m., check in students & families
8:30 p.m., clean up

Daily Needs:
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., help in the gift shop welcoming visitors
10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Gallery Guardians
In October, The Florida Holocaust Museum formally launched its 21st Century Technology Initiative, bringing together the business and community members with elected officials who supported the Museum’s push toward the future.

Rep. Ed Hooper, Sen. Jack Latvala and Sen. Bill Galvano were among many legislators from Tampa Bay and across the State of Florida who were honored for championing the Museum’s mission in Tallahassee. Their leadership for the Museum resulted in funding from the State of Florida that allowed the Museum to upgrade its infrastructure, digitize Survivor testimony, and use new technology to enhance exhibits and resources. These enhancements will help keep the stories of Holocaust Survivors, Liberators and Rescuers alive for future generations.

Thanks to a significant donation from Spectrio, the Museum re-opened the technology-enhanced Portraits of Courage & Sacrifice in the permanent exhibition, which now enables visitors to learn in a new, interactive way about the Rescuers and Liberators who risked their lives to save others during the Holocaust, and learn about the importance of personally taking a stand when confronted by injustice. Spectrio created and continues to work on the exhibit’s new technical components.

In addition, the Museum now features a new intelligent LED lighting system from Lumastream on its first and second floors. This game-changing, low-voltage lighting platform provides an energy efficient, safe environment for the Museum’s precious photographs, objects and documents.

The Museum also unveiled its new website, created by Absolute Mobile Solutions. Absolute staff has worked passionately to raise the bar on how the Museum presents itself and its collections. With the new website and new collection management software, The FHM is now moving toward breaking new ground in the way museums share resources with classrooms, educational institutions and casual learners. Working with a technical team from JPMorgan Chase’s Technology for Social Good, staff is creating a wireframe for an interactive platform to share its objects, artifacts, art and digitized Survivor testimonies.

The Florida State Legislature and Gov. Rick Scott’s commitment to fund The FHM’s Technology Initiative will help preserve the stories of Survivors, Rescuers and Liberators, and help the Museum better assist schools throughout the state meet Florida’s Holocaust Education Mandate.

To help ensure the future of The Florida Holocaust Museum, please remember us in your will or other estate plans. For questions or more information please call Maria Johnston at 727.820.0100 ext. 274.
**Visit**

**The Florida Holocaust Museum**

The Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Student and group tours available.

Docent led tours are available with admission every Tuesday and Saturday at 2 p.m.

For more information on admission prices and visiting the Museum, please visit us online at www.flholocaustmuseum.org or call (727) 820-0100.

*Our Mission: 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.*