A group of students visiting from Japan take a tour of The Florida Holocaust Museum in January.
Donor Spotlight

Aaron Weitman’s involvement with The Florida Holocaust Museum began when he was a student at St. Petersburg High School, in need of volunteer hours.

He recalls helping with several aspects of the Museum, from manning the cash register and the gift shop, to participating in docent training.

Now living in New Jersey with his wife Rebecca, their son Joshua and another baby on the way, Aaron continues to help the Museum, particularly as a supporter of the Teaching Trunks program, which sends trunks of educational materials on the Holocaust, other genocides, and character education to classrooms around the country, free to educators.

“You don’t have to look far in the world to see the problems and echoes of genocide, hate, racism, intolerance,” Aaron said. “All of those, the Museum works to counter.”

“It was a worthwhile organization,” he said of his time as a volunteer. “It’s one of the organizations that, since I’ve graduated college and entered the workforce, I’ve tried to contribute to every year.”

Aaron graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 2004, and moved to New Jersey, where he is now a senior partner at a hedge fund. His wife Rebecca is trained as a cantor and learning specialist, and works as a Bar and Bat Mitzvah tutor.

“Charity and giving back is important to my wife and me, and how we were raised and taught by our parents and grandparents,” he said.

The Florida Holocaust Museum is honored to have supporters like the Weitmans, who help to further the Museum’s mission across the country.

The Florida Holocaust Museum Leadership Council

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*of blessed memory
From the Executive Director

“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor.”
_Ecclesiastes (Kohelet) 4:9_

In this issue of Legacy, we’re talking about Partnerships and their importance to The FHM. Partnerships allow us to achieve much more than we would on our own. The Florida Holocaust Museum is privileged to partner with Holocaust centers, universities and school districts to bring resources, speakers, exhibits and educational trainings throughout Florida and the United States.

In some of our partnerships, we are the organization bringing resources and lessons of the Holocaust and other genocides to students and people across the state and the country. In others, we benefit from the knowledge and expertise of our partners. And in some partnerships – dare I say the best partnerships? – each organization’s contributions lift both organizations to new heights. This spring, examples of this last type of partnership abound!

In addition to the Yom HaShoah Commemoration at the Museum on April 16 in partnership with the Pinellas County Board of Rabbis and the Bay Area Cantorial Association, The FHM will partner with the Tallahassee Holocaust Education Resource Council to present a commemoration ceremony at our State Capitol. As this year commemorates the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps by the Allied soldiers, we know the program will be particularly meaningful to our government officials.

Throughout the month of April, the Museum is partnering with St. Hagop Armenian Church and the USF Library Holocaust and Genocide Studies Center to present events in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Please check the calendar on page 7 to find the variety of events that we hope bring Armenian heritage to life, and allow us to remember those lost in the Armenian Genocide while celebrating their ongoing legacy.

In May, we are proud to present the exhibition _Holocaust by Bullets: Yahad – In Unum, 10 Years of Investigation_. The Paris-based Yahad – In Unum (YIU) is dedicated to collecting testimonies of eyewitneses, and identifying and documenting the sites of mass crimes committed against Jews and Roma by the Germans and their collaborators during World War II in Eastern Europe.

This is a very special partnership because The FHM’s Curator of Education & Director of Research, Urszula Szczepinska, was tapped to author the Education Guide that will accompany the exhibition on its world-wide tour. In June, The FHM will host the first US teacher training about this rarely talked about aspect of the Holocaust, in partnership with YIU and the Saint Leo University Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies.

And, of course, I don't want to forget to mention our most important partners: YOU. The partnerships we have with our donors and volunteers are what make The FHM such an exceptional institution. Thank you for your continued support, ideas and advocacy. I hope you will let me know the next time you are visiting the Museum so that I can thank you personally for your partnership.

Elizabeth Gelman

The FHM Receives Grant for Legacy Planning Program

The Florida Holocaust Museum recently received the Life & Legacy Grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to assist the Museum in creating its legacy planning program.

The Tampa Orlando Pinellas Jewish Foundation (TOP) is facilitating the program, which gives Jewish organizations and cultural and educational institutions the opportunity to work together to secure endowment gifts.

Anyone can make a planned gift, regardless of financial means. Planned gifts of any amount help to ensure that children and adults alike continue to benefit from the Museum’s dynamic programs, learn about the dangers of intolerance and hatred, and receive tangible tools to create a better world for all.

The FHM is working to enhance its Planned Giving initiatives, and has created the new Legacy of Hope Society, a planned giving program through which people may make or pledge gifts to the Museum.

The Museum’s Planned Giving and endowment professionals can help you create a legacy to meet your financial, tax and estate planning goals while supporting the Museum’s mission.

To learn more about creating a legacy gift, visit the Planned Giving section of The FHM website at www.flholocaustmuseum.org/support or contact Director of Advancement Maria Johnston at (727) 820-0100 ext. 274.
Exhibitions & Collections
Erin Blankenship
Curator of Exhibitions & Collections

The Florida Holocaust Museum and its Exhibitions and Collections Department is committed to preserving and sharing the stories of Survivors and the history of the Holocaust.

To this end, the Museum is always seeking original material related to Holocaust Survivors’ personal experiences. It is especially important to collect this material now, while Survivors and other eyewitnesses are still with us.

Some examples of material the Museum collects are: diaries, toys, personal documentation (i.e., identification papers), Judaica, photographs and clothing. Our goal is to impact our visitors through personal stories which can only be told through objects and documents used by Survivors and witnesses during World War II.

Please contact Erin Blankenship, Curator of Exhibitions and Collections, at (727) 820-0100 ext. 271 to learn more about the Museum’s collecting efforts.

Pictured at right: Helga Waldman’s Rucksack

In 1939, Helga Waldman (née Bejach) arrived in England with the Kindertransport with her sister. The children could bring very few belongings with them and she carried this rucksack with her.

The Kindertransport was an effort in which Jewish children were brought to Great Britain from Germany and Austria. Parents were not allowed to travel with their children, so Helga and her sister arrived alone. Helga lived with Lord Attenborough and his family for the duration of the war. The sisters left behind their father who was killed in Auschwitz (their mother had died in 1931).

Museum receives donation of artwork from artist Murray Zimiles

Artist Murray Zimiles made a donation at the end of last year of 120 pieces of artwork to The Florida Holocaust Museum. The Museum held the exhibition The Holocaust: Artwork by Murray Zimiles late last year. Creating much of this work in the mid-1980s, Zimiles’ interest in the Holocaust was sparked after reading a book about the Polish wooden synagogues that were destroyed during the Holocaust.

He created his artist’s book, The Book of Fire, in which he painted representations of these lost places of worship and other scenes of the Holocaust. The book has since been added to the collection of the Museum of Modern Art and other public collections.

Other art from this body of work juxtaposes familiar historic scenes of the Holocaust with domestic animals to symbolize the dehumanization that Jews suffered at the hands of the Nazis as well as the Nazis’ savagery.

“We are honored as the permanent repository for art of this caliber. Murray Zimiles’ works convey moments of rage, isolation and angst, and carry incredible emotional impact,” said Erin Blankenship, Curator of Exhibitions and Collections at the Museum.
I n 2014, I was invited by Yahad – In Unum to create a study guide for their special exhibition Holocaust by Bullets: Yahad–In Unum, 10 Years of Investigation which presents the results of Yahad’s efforts to collect evidence of the massacres committed by German mobile killing units – the Einsatzgruppen, other German militarized units, their Axis supporters, and local collaborators in Eastern Europe. The result of this cooperation is a formal partnership between Yahad – In Unum and The Florida Holocaust Museum with programs and initiatives built around the missions of both organizations.

Yahad – In Unum (“together” in Hebrew and Latin) is a Paris-based organization dedicated to collecting testimonies of eyewitnesses, and identifying and documenting sites of mass crimes committed against European Jews and Roma by the Germans and their collaborators during World War II.

Yahad – In Unum works on 4 levels: it provides educational programs for academics and teachers; investigates the actual crimes, identifies the sites and videotapes interviews with the witnesses; conducts and promotes research; and by seeing the Holocaust by bullets as a model for mass violence, investigates other genocides to help us draw lessons and prevent similar atrocities in the future.

Through its research, Yahad – In Unum identified five stages of the Holocaust by bullets: The Arrestation (rounding up), The Road, The Undressing, The Shooting, and The Looting. The exhibition and the study guide feature research results and numerous eyewitness interviews describing each of the steps.

By working together on joint projects, our organizations are able to fulfill some of our shared goals, such as enhancing awareness and understanding of this chapter of history, and retrieving individual identities of the victims.

The eyewitnesses interviewed by Yahad – In Unum remember names of their murdered neighbors and testify about community life, with all its complexity, that was destroyed. Sometimes they remember the final words of those who were murdered. Without these interviews and individual decisions of eyewitnesses to share their memories, we would not have access to this invaluable information.

Yahad has interviewed eyewitnesses who were not willing participants in the crime. They testify in detail about atrocities committed in broad daylight by the perpetrators and about various responses – both positive and negative – of the local populations, including collaboration. In the exhibition and study guide, we examine different choices made by ordinary people and help draw lessons about human behavior that are relevant today. While challenging and disturbing, the first-hand accounts help us understand the ways in which people are able to exclude their fellow humans from their universe of obligation. We examine how each of us can contribute to preventing genocide and hate crime.

As our partnership grows, we are offering programs to teachers, exchanging resources, and raising awareness about the Holocaust by bullets through Yahad’s exhibition that will be available to our community members and visitors starting May 9 through July 19.
Exhibitions & Events

Hope: Artwork by Aithan Shapira
May 1 - July 19, 2015

In the exhibition focusing on artist Aithan Shapira’s works on contemporary notions of hope, he has created a universal symbol from an abandoned life preserver - one cut from discarded cardboard, another painted in a fox trap, and hundreds made of concrete. Shapira’s reconfigured visual metaphors display the life preserver as an emblem of our capacity as citizens to reach out and instill hope in each other.

Holocaust by Bullets: Yahad – In Unum, 10 Years of Investigation
May 9 - July 19, 2015

Father Patrick Desbois has spent his life researching the Holocaust, fighting antisemitism, and furthering relations between Catholics and Jews. The exhibition focuses on Father Desbois and Yahad – In Unum’s research in Eastern Europe, where they seek out eyewitnesses to the executions of Jews and Roma as they work toward identifying each execution site and mass grave.

Tempted, Mislead, Slaughtered - The Short Life of Hitler Youth, Paul B.
June 6 - July 18, 2015

Originally developed and shown in the Documentation Center Nazi Party Rally Grounds in Nuremberg, Germany, in 2004, the exhibition narrates the story of the nazification of the youth of Germany focusing on the life and death of Paul Bayer. It shows how the Nazi state, through its control of the education system and through a massive propaganda effort, was able to seduce the youth of Germany into active participation in its destructive mission.

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

Kevin P. Spicer, C.S.C., the James J. Kenneally Distinguished Professor of History at Stonehill College, Easton, Massachusetts, will present “Entreaty and Supplication: Catholic Clergy and Jews in Hitler's Germany.” Presented in partnership with the Pinellas County Board of Rabbis and the Bay Area Cantorial Association. Free and open to the public.

The FHM in partnership with the Holocaust Education Resource Council will also hold a Yom HaShoah Commemoration at the Capitol Building in Tallahassee on April 16.

“Rising from the Ashes of Tragedy” lecture  
Thursday, April 23 at 2 p.m. at the USF Tampa Main Library  
Saturday, April 25 at 7 p.m., St. Hagop Armenian Church, 7020 90th Ave., Pinellas Park  

“Rising from the Ashes of Tragedy - Armenia’s Triumph Over Its Genocide,” presented by Armenian historian Dr. Garabet Moumdjian. In partnership with St. Hagop Armenian Church and USF. Free and open to the public.

GHRAM: An Evening of Remembrance  
Friday, April 24 at 7 p.m. at St. Hagop Armenian Church, 7020 90th Ave., Pinellas Park  

Armenian heritage comes to life in performances of song and prayer to remember those lost in the Armenian Genocide. Presented in partnership with St. Hagop Armenian Church and USF. Free and open to the public.

Opening Reception  
Hope: Artwork by Aithan Shapira  
Saturday, May 9 at 7 p.m. at The FHM  

Meet the artist and enjoy light refreshments. Free to FHM members, $9 general admission. RSVPs required by calling (727) 820-0100 ext. 271.

Night Will Fall film screening  
Thursday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m. at The FHM  

The HBO documentary chronicles the making of the 1945 film “German Concentration Camps Factual Survey.” The film was to include newsreel footage of the harrowing discoveries Allied soldiers made when they liberated the Nazi concentration camps. Despite having Alfred Hitchcock as supervising director, the film was never finished. Warning: Graphic content. Recommended for adult viewing only. Free to FHM members, $9 general admission. RSVPs required by calling (727) 820-0100 ext. 271.

GHRAM: Holocaust by Bullets: Yahad – In Unum, 10 Years of Investigation public program  
Thursday, June 11 at 6:30 p.m. at The FHM  

A public program featuring the researchers from Yahad – In Unum. Stemming from the initiative of its founder and president French Catholic priest Father Patrick Desbois, since 2004 the organization has identified over 1,400 execution sites and interviewed close to 4,000 eyewitnresses in 8 countries. Presented in partnership with the Saint Leo University Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies. Free and open to the public.
Museum introduces new **Witness to History** collection  
Available soon in the Museum store

**Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future**

The Museum introduced the first piece in its new Witness to History Collection at To Life: To Justice in February. The sterling silver brooch is inspired by the pin of a small dog belonging to Holocaust Survivor Ellen Bernstein.

Ellen Bernstein (née Herschmann) immigrated to the United States from Bonn, Germany, with her parents and older sister in 1938 in order to escape Nazi persecution. The original pin was given to her by her father and is on display in the Museum’s permanent exhibition, *History, Heritage and Hope*. She wears it in her passport photo, which is also on display with her pin.

"More than a souvenir, this silver replica pin was created to be a reminder about the stories on display at The FHM of individual lives affected by the Holocaust," said Erin Blankenship, Curator of Exhibitions and Collections. "We hope that when supporters wear the pin, it will spark conversations about the lessons of the Holocaust and about the Museum itself."

Ellen is an active volunteer at The FHM and continues to share her story of survival with student groups who tour the Museum.

The brooch her pin inspired will be available for purchase in the Museum store, and at Diamonds Direct in St. Petersburg.

The pin was created for The Florida Holocaust Museum by Diamonds Direct.

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**Volunteer Spotlight**

When she first began volunteering as a docent at The FHM, Ros Miller was nervous. But through docent training and figuring out how to relate her own family experiences to the information she shared during tours, Ros began making personal connections with visitors.

She recalled one student, after looking at a display featuring photos and quotes from Survivors, telling her, "I get it."

He related what he learned to bullying and how important it is to speak up in the face of injustice. Another young girl agreed: If it hadn’t been for Upstanders, her grandparents would not have survived.

Ros has spent much of her time working to make connections with her community and help others. She started support groups and other activities for military spouses during her husband’s deployments. She served on an education committee during President George HW Bush’s tenure that worked to enhance educational opportunities for students.

In May 2013, Ros’ daughter Jillian passed away...
Help support young Upstanders in Tampa Bay and Sarasota-Manatee communities

The Florida Holocaust Museum’s Anne Frank Humanitarian Award program recognizes the outstanding efforts made by high school juniors in the area to better their communities.

You can help support the positive impact these students make every day through a donation to the Award program.

Each award recipient receives a Family Membership to the Museum and 2 guest passes. Family memberships are valued at $85. The guest passes are valued at $32.

If you would like to support the Anne Frank Humanitarian Award program by underwriting a Family Membership or guest passes that are given to Award recipients, please call the Museum at (727) 820-0100 ext. 251.

You may also make a donation online at www.flholocaustmuseum.org/support. Click on the Donate Now page, and select the Anne Frank Humanitarian Award program under the “Special Request for Donation” drop down menu.

The AFHA, established in 2001, honors humanitarian efforts by high school juniors in public and private schools in Pinellas, Pasco, Hillsborough, Sarasota, and Manatee counties. Honorees cannot nominate themselves, but are nominated by their principals, guidance counselors or teachers.

The Museum will also soon open a new exhibit on the outstanding work of Anne Frank Humanitarian Award recipients.

Generations After:
A Group for Sons and Daughters of Holocaust Survivors and Holocaust Refugees

By Bonnie Stein

We are the first generation after the darkness. Through our parents’ memories, words, and silence we are linked to that annihilated Jewish existence whose echoes permeate our consciousness.

We dedicate this pledge to our parents who suffered and survived, to our grandparents who perished in the flames, to our vanished brothers and sisters, more than one million Jewish children, so brutally murdered.

To all six million Jews and five million non-Jews, whose unyielding spiritual and physical resistance, even in the camps and ghettos, exemplifies our people’s commitment to life.

We pledge to remember...

Welcome to Generations After at The Florida Holocaust Museum. If you are a child or an adult grandchild of Holocaust Survivor families, we welcome you to join us as part of Generations After. If you are not yet a member of The Florida Holocaust Museum, please call the Museum right away at (727) 820-0100 to join so you can be part of our group. There is no extra cost to be a member of Generations After.

Generations After has a Facebook page where we keep our members informed about our meetings and activities. We want to make our members aware of all the informative programs at the Museum as well as the important educational and social opportunities offered by Generations After.

To be on our list, after you have joined the Museum, please email Bonnie Stein at Bonnie@AceWalker.com.

Generations After participates in events at the Museum such as the Yom HaShoah and Kristallnacht commemorations. We speak at the Museum as well as in schools throughout the Tampa Bay area, telling our parents’ stories as well as our own story of what it means to be part of a Holocaust Survivor’s family. We volunteer as docents to help student groups never forget the important lessons of the Holocaust.

Generations After presents educational programs that are of particular interest to children of Survivors and Refugees. We bring in speakers to talk about the issues of Holocaust Survivor families. We have also taken educational trips to Washington, D.C., New York, and New Orleans. Together we have attended annual Holocaust conferences in Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Las Vegas, and more. This year’s conference will be in Houston. We also offer social events and activities for sons and daughters of Survivors.

About Generations After

Belonging to Generations After is an opportunity to network with other sons and daughters of Survivors and Refugees. Do you know anyone else who is a 2G? Please tell them about us, and let us know about them. A 2G is anyone whose parents lived under Nazi rule, or in countries persecuted by the Nazis. You are also a 2G if your parents had to leave any Nazi occupied country, even if your parents do not consider themselves Holocaust Survivors. We are bonded together by our similar situation of being raised by parents who survived this dark and traumatic time period.

Generations After meets to develop education programs to learn about the Holocaust and how our parents’ experiences impacted us. Some of us are docents at the Museum as we recognize the importance of learning more about the Holocaust so that we can teach others and help the world to remember.

As our parents get older or are no longer available to tell their stories, it will be us, the generation closest to the Survivors, who will be the speakers of truth to the world.

Email Bonnie Stein at Bonnie@AceWalker.com if you have any questions. We hope to meet you soon.
Winter 2015
Museum programs and events

Top: The FHM held the opening reception for the exhibition The Wall Speaks - Voices of the Unheard by Wojciech Sawa in January. The exhibition is on display through April 29.

Middle: Giselle Rodriguez of the Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking spoke at The FHM in February about how to recognize human trafficking and how to report suspected cases of human trafficking to law enforcement.

Bottom: The FHM held the inaugural Passover Cook-off, Pass the Plate!, in March. Author Joanne Caras spoke about writing The Holocaust Survivor Cookbook. Rosa Miller (left) and Ellen Bernstein (right), both Holocaust Survivors, took home prizes for their special family dishes, Rosa for her Khroset and Ellen for her Passover Nut Cake.
When Eli Rosenbaum, who has spent more than 30 years investigating Nazi and other war criminals at the U.S. Department of Justice, attended the Museum's annual gala To Life: To Justice at The Mahaffey Theater in February, he not only accepted the 2015 Loebenberg Humanitarian Award, he shared with the audience about his remarkable work.

“For as long as I live, I will be especially grateful to the Survivors of atrocity crimes who have trusted my colleagues and me to present their testimony in federal courts throughout the country. They are the real heroes of these cases,” Rosenbaum said.

Rosenbaum highlighted the continued need to educate this and future generations on the dangers of intolerance and hatred, and the importance of being an Upstander.

“Touching and enriching many thousands of lives every year, The Florida Holocaust Museum's powerful exhibitions and state-of-the-art online resources give its crucial messages of remembrance, tolerance and accountability a vast international reach,” he said.

To see more photos from To Life: To Justice, visit The FHM website at www.flholocaustmuseum.org or Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TheFHM.

Above: Many of the Museum’s Life Members at To Life.

Top to bottom: The To Life Committee members Lisl Schick, Toni Rinde and Rachael Worthington with Eli Rosenbaum.

Rosenbaum with Board Chair Nathaniel Doliner, Executive Director Elizabeth Gelman and Sandy Mermelstein.

Bill and Judy Groom. Judy Groom’s father Sender Wajsman was a Holocaust Survivor whose testimony helped convict a Nazi war criminal who had sentenced Jews to death during WWII. In 1995, Rosenbaum wrote a letter to Mr. Wajsman commending his efforts in testifying.

St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman and his wife Kerry Kriseman (right) with Advisory Committee member Lois Pardoll (center).
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.

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.