

# MEMORY & ACTION

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM MAGAZINE | FALL 2015

## THE NEXT GENOCIDE? Burma's Rohingya at Risk

UNITED STATES  
HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
MUSEUM



# Travel with Purpose

## ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires  
March 13–19, 2016

## GERMANY

Berlin, Nuremberg, Munich  
September 18–25, 2016

**JOIN THE MUSEUM** for one or both of our upcoming international trips. Despite its history as a popular destination for Jewish refugees, Argentina also provided a safe haven for Nazi perpetrators. We will learn about the challenges facing Latin America's largest Jewish community as they advocate for Holocaust memory and recognition of their own country's dark past. In Germany, we will visit sites of significance to the rise of Nazism and to postwar efforts to memorialize the victims of the Holocaust. Community and political leaders, survivors, historians, and Museum partners will provide a unique perspective on local culture and history.

For more information, contact Nadia Ficara at [nficara@ushmm.org](mailto:nficara@ushmm.org). These programs are open to members who have made a minimum \$5,000 annual gift to the Museum.



Photos from top: The monument at Gleis 17 (Track 17) at the Grunewald railroad station in Berlin, from which numerous deportation trains departed; Israeli artist Yaacov Agam's monument to victims of a 1994 terrorist attack against the AMIA Jewish Center in Argentina; the Brandenburg gate in Berlin. *US Holocaust Memorial Museum*

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### United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Magazine

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## from the Director

**WE PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THIS MAGAZINE JUST BEFORE** the beginning of a new school year, when many Americans savor the final carefree days of summer.

At the Museum, however, summer is not a vacation. Amid the crowds of tourists who come at that time of year—topping 7,000 visitors on some days—hundreds of graduate students, teachers, and professors also travel to the Museum to prepare for the next academic year. Read more about the specialized programs they attended and the networks they formed on page four.

Leading a program for college and university faculty was one of the world's most esteemed scholars, Peter Hayes, who also chairs our Academic Committee. And, as you'll read on page 16, he and I discussed the future of Holocaust Studies and the importance of preparing a new generation of professors to meet the growing demand for courses on the topic.

While young scholars and educators filled the Museum with excitement and optimism this summer, our minds were also on the alarming news from Burma. The Rohingya, a Muslim minority there, are facing violent persecution from extremist Buddhist leaders as well as the government. Two Museum professionals traveled there to gain firsthand information about their plight.

Our work on Burma and our ability to develop tools and institutional structures to prevent future genocides just received a transformative \$20 million gift from the Samarian Foundation of Indianapolis, naming the Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide. In this issue, you'll read more about the Simon-Skjodt family. I had the opportunity to travel to Auschwitz with Cindy Simon Skjodt and her daughter, Samantha, in January. This extraordinarily generous gift reflects their great passion to make the future different from the past.

Above: Peter Hayes and Sara Bloomfield discuss Holocaust Studies. Story on page 16.

Cover: These Rohingya, a Muslim minority in Burma, are forced to live in an internment camp that Museum staff visited outside of Sittwe, Rakhine State. Story on page 10.

All photographs *US Holocaust Memorial Museum* unless otherwise indicated.

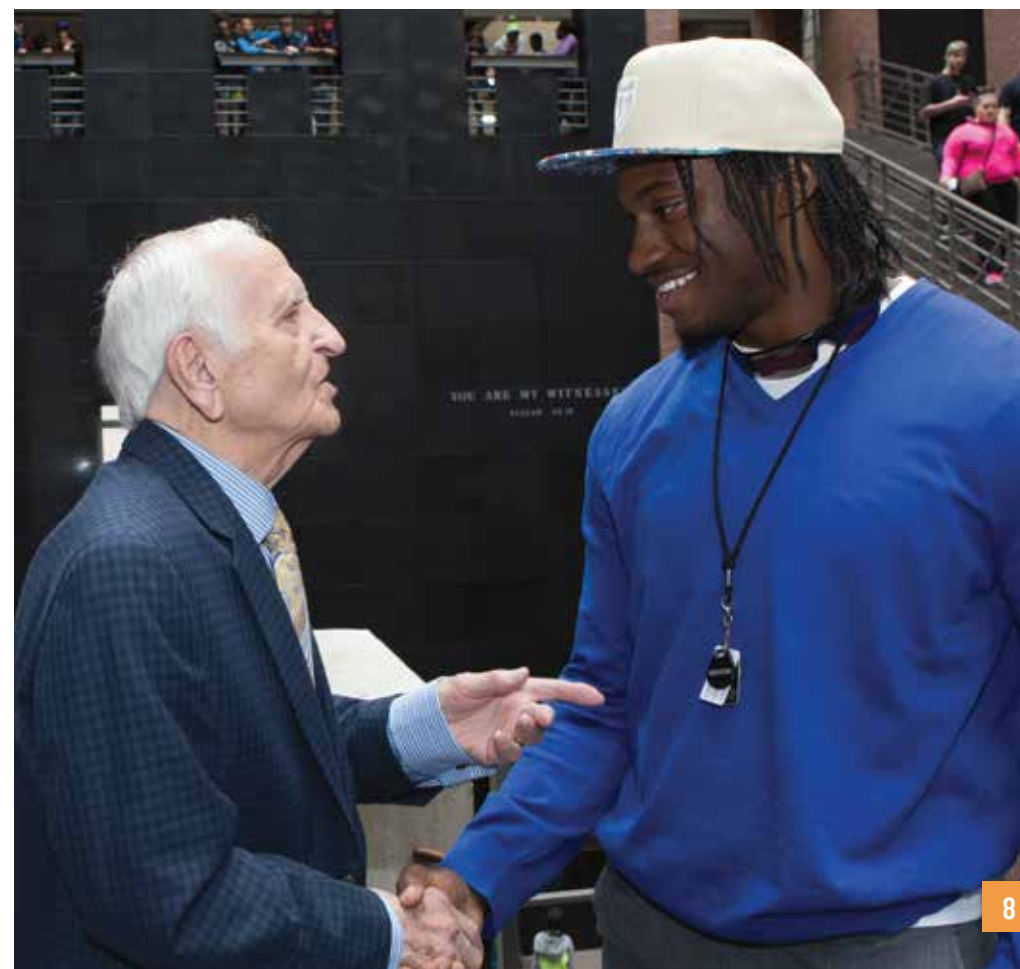
Photographs from Burma courtesy of *Paula Bronstein/Getty Images Reportage for the US Holocaust Memorial Museum*.



[ushmm.org/connect](http://ushmm.org/connect)

# Leading By Example

Museum visitors in recent months: 1) European Council President Donald Tusk, 2) Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, 3) Director of the Documentation Center of Cambodia Youk Chhang (right) and his colleague Savina Sirik look at a *krama*—a traditional Cambodian garment worn by the Khmer Rouge—that Chhang’s organization loaned to the Museum, 4) Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka, 5) US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, 6) Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, 7) Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, 8) NFL quarterback Robert Griffin III (right) meets Holocaust survivor and Museum volunteer Henry Greenbaum, and 9) Iraqi Member of Parliament Vian Dakhil (left).



# Summer Is High Season

## NOT JUST FOR TOURISTS



The Museum draws scholars and educators from across the United States and world year-round, but no other season compares with the energy of summer.

Participants in educational seminars slip through the sweltering heat and the crowds of tourists for discussions that inspire a commitment to Holocaust teaching and learning. They come for the unparalleled collection, archival resources, and expertise only the Museum can provide—on topics ranging from the causes of the Holocaust to its consequences and present-day commemorations. They also meet colleagues who share their interests, setting the halls of the Museum abuzz with accents and

languages. Those conversations continue long after the shared experience of summer, as distant colleagues continue to support each other through e-mails and Facebook groups.

“At the Museum I can access archives and collections from various countries all in one place, and many of them are digitized so they are easier to use,” said Anna Chebotariova, who traveled from L’viv, Ukraine, to attend a workshop on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union held by the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. “It’s also an opportunity to discuss my research with colleagues from other countries and academic disciplines, and to learn from peers at different stages in their careers.”



Chebotariova is one of 70 scholars and educators—from 25 states and 11 countries—who visited the Museum during just one month this past summer. They explored questions such as why victim survival rates varied in different countries, how Jewish-Christian relations have changed since the Holocaust, and what continues to make the Holocaust relevant in the classroom today.

Participants return home ready to share the latest scholarship and teaching methods. “I have revised my syllabus after each seminar,” said Jeanette Rodriguez, a professor of religious studies at Seattle University who attended her third Museum seminar this year. “Whatever I get here, I bring back there and share with colleagues.”

**They come for the unparalleled collection, archival resources, and expertise only the Museum can provide.**

The Museum’s programs also have a ripple effect in secondary schools. By training teachers and those who educate them, the Museum’s William Levine Family Institute for Holocaust Education has a direct impact on how the Holocaust is taught around the country and world. “I’m very involved in Holocaust education in my region, and I’m always talking about the Museum,” said Jeri Kraver, a professor of education at the University of Northern Colorado who attended the Holocaust Institute for Teacher Educators at the Museum. “We’ve hosted three teacher trainings led by Museum-trained educators. All of that means that I can bring the Museum to my community.” ■

Left: Mark Gudgel, a teacher from Nebraska and member of the Levine Institute’s Regional Education Corps, leads a session at the Belfer National Conference for Educators (English/Language Arts) held by the Levine Institute.

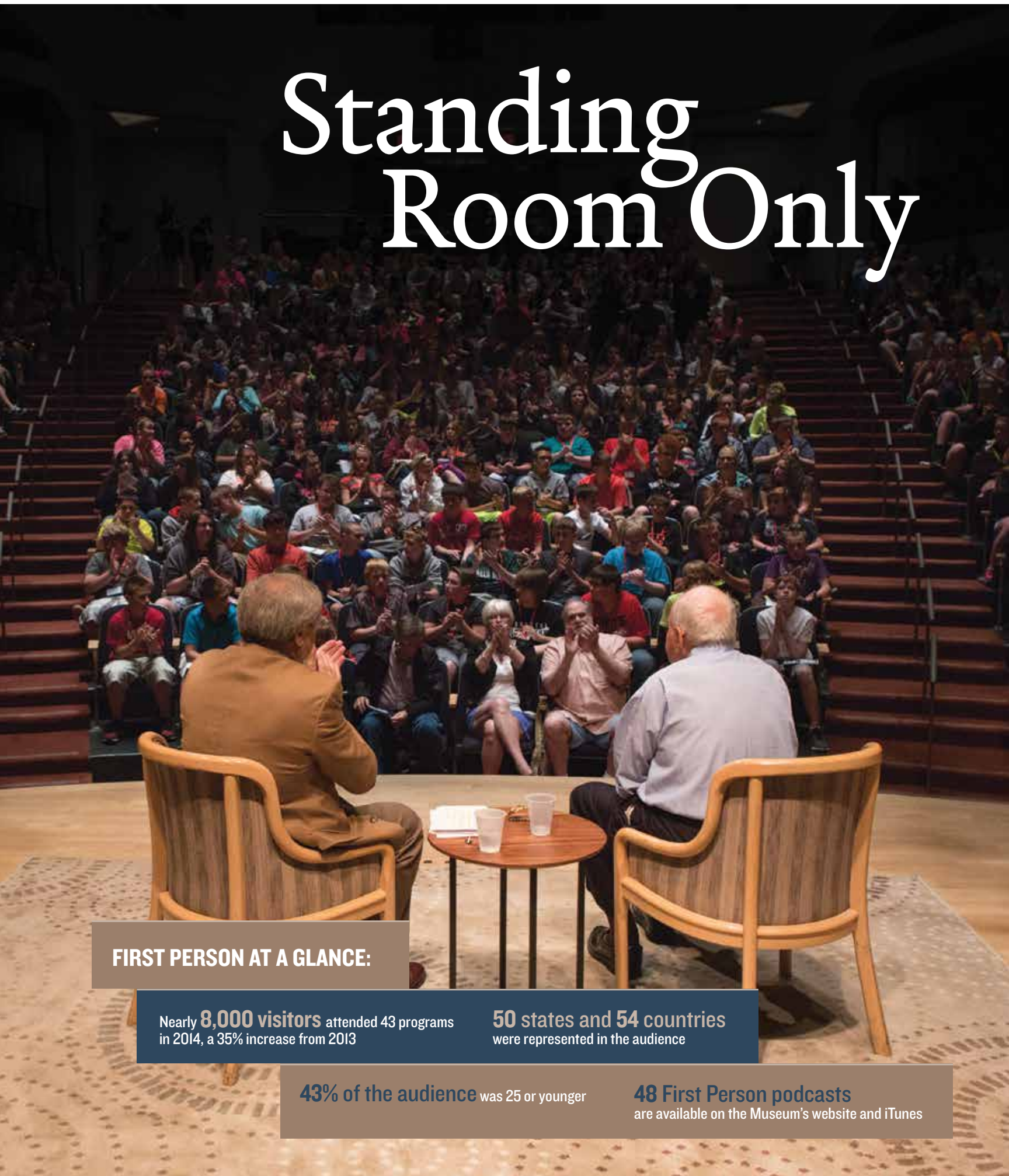
Above left: Andrea Löw of the Institut für Zeitgeschichte, Munich, speaks with Suzanne Brown-Fleming, director of the Mandel Center’s visiting scholar programs, during the 2015 Summit on Teaching the Holocaust at German Universities. Above right: Anna Chebotariova (left) and Milda Jakulyté-Vasil traveled from Ukraine and Lithuania, respectively, for the Mandel Center’s workshop on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union.

### PROGRAMS HELD AT THE MUSEUM IN SUMMER 2015 INCLUDE:



All programs were held by the Mandel Center with the exception of those marked \*, which were held by the Levine Institute.

# Standing Room Only



## FIRST PERSON AT A GLANCE:

Nearly **8,000 visitors** attended 43 programs in 2014, a 35% increase from 2013

**50 states and 54 countries** were represented in the audience

**43% of the audience** was 25 or younger

**48 First Person podcasts** are available on the Museum's website and iTunes

## SURVIVOR CONVERSATIONS GO DIGITAL

**STUDENTS IN THE STANDING ROOM-ONLY AUDIENCES AT THE MUSEUM'S FIRST PERSON** program often line up afterward to continue the conversation with the featured Holocaust survivor: "Were you scared?" "What happened to your brothers and sisters?" "Who was your best friend?" "What did you play with?" "Did you meet Hitler?"

The answers to these "seemingly innocent, but profound" questions from children offer a familiar lens from which to view what can be an overwhelming and frightening period of history, according to host Bill Benson.

This rare opportunity to interact with a Holocaust survivor fills a Museum auditorium twice a week from March to August for First Person: Conversations with Survivors. The program, which just concluded its 16th season, features an interview between Benson and a survivor. In order to reach even more people with the transformational program, the Museum decided this year to broadcast several sessions live online via Google Hangouts. These interviews, along with First Person podcasts, can be played later on YouTube, iTunes, and the Museum's website anytime, anywhere.

Classrooms of students tuned in to the First Person broadcasts, and they were able to submit questions on Twitter. During survivor Steven Fennes's interview in March, teacher Jessica Kaiser tweeted on behalf of her ninth-grade class: "My students would like to know what happened to Steven after he was liberated. Did he get to see all of his family again?"\* Kaiser said her students, who live in Hammond, Indiana, were especially interested in finding out what life was like before the Nazis and how survivors today are still affected by their experiences during the Holocaust. Allowing the real-time questions extends and fosters personal connections to individuals who experienced the Holocaust.

At the Museum this past summer, Kveta Slobodnikova and her adult son, Zdenko Martin, heard survivor Sylvia Rozines\* speak and then stood in line to ask her more questions.

"I grew up hearing about World War I and World War II from my great-grandparents and grandparents and their struggles during both wars. It makes a big difference to hear it firsthand and to be able to ask questions," said Slobodnikova, originally from Czechoslovakia and now living in Mississippi.

"What struck me is how special it is that we have the opportunity to listen, when in 10, 20, 30 years, no one can have that opportunity again," Martin added. ■

Find past First Person audio and video at [ushmm.org/learnfromsurvivors](http://ushmm.org/learnfromsurvivors).

This year's season of First Person is made possible by generous support from the Louis Franklin Smith Foundation with additional funding from the Arlene and Daniel Fisher Foundation and the Helena Rubinstein Foundation.

\*Learn more about Steven Fennes at [ushmm.org/fennes](http://ushmm.org/fennes) and Sylvia Rozines at [ushmm.org/rozines](http://ushmm.org/rozines).

Left: On May 14, 2015, Julius Menn tells a capacity crowd of more than 400 people in the Museum's Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Theater about his family's escape from Poland to Palestine at the beginning of World War II. Above right: After Steven Fennes's March 19, 2015, First Person interview, he shows some young audience members the tattoo he received when he was sent from Auschwitz for forced labor.



## MEANWHILE, ON TWITTER...



MARCH 19, 2015

US Holocaust Museum

"Our live stream of First Person with survivor Steven Fennes starts in a few minutes. Join us!"

Jessica Kaiser

"My students would like to know what happened to Steven after he was liberated? Did he get to see his family again?"

Shelby

"do you have a tattoo of the number they marked on you? if so, what does it look like?"

Hahira Middle School

"Google Hangout with Steven Fennes, Holocaust survivor, such a testament of knowledge is power."

Follow us on Twitter @HolocaustMuseum

# In Conversation

“I was so impressed with the stories I’ve seen and heard. I’m from Istanbul, Turkey, and I’ve been to Berlin many times, but the concept of this Museum was overwhelming. **THANK YOU!**”

—Dilge T. of Istanbul, Turkey, writes in the Museum guestbook



## POSTCARDS TO DANIEL

After viewing the exhibition *Remember the Children: Daniel’s Story* (designed for children ages eight and up) in the Anne and Isidore Falk Gallery, visitors are invited to write down their thoughts and put them in a “mailbox” to share with future visitors.




## THANK YOU NOTE FOR RESEARCH SERVICES

“Thanks again for a very informative email. It’s amazing and gratifying that so much information is available to help my family understand my great-grandmother’s fate. Fortunately, my other Austrian relatives got out safely; she is the only one we lost. But, that makes it all the more important to recover and preserve her memory. **THANK YOU FOR HELPING US DO THAT.**”



## COMMENTS ON FACEBOOK

More than 2,000 people “liked” this photo (left) of Holocaust survivor and Museum volunteer Margit Meissner and Museum staff member James Fleming on Facebook, and more than 200 shared with their own Facebook friends the story of how Fleming trained Meissner to lead tours of the Permanent Exhibition.

-  **Dominique**  
“How is this not the most wonderful picture of all time? #LoveThis”
- Rae**  
“I absolutely love this story!”
- Gerry**  
“Lovely friendship.”



“This museum was very educational for me and my 11-year-old little sister. I feel like she understands more and I feel that it is very important, not just for her, but for other future generations to understand. **I AM THANKFUL FOR THIS PLACE.**”

—Katie L. of Auburn, Maine, writes in the Museum guestbook

Top: The Museum’s Yaffa Eliach Shtetl Collection tells the story of a single small town, known in Yiddish as Eishishok, through hundreds of photographs showing the vibrant Jewish life there before the Holocaust, when almost all the town’s Jews were murdered over two days in September 1941. Right: Henry Greenbaum, a Holocaust survivor who was born in Starachowice, Poland, in 1928, volunteers at the Museum. He often can be found at a desk in the Museum’s Hall of Witness telling visitors his story.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION  
at [ushmm.org/connect](http://ushmm.org/connect)





# THE NEXT GENOCIDE?

Burma's Rohingya at Risk

Rohingya living in an internment camp ride their weekly bus to a market.

Denied citizenship by their government; subjected to restrictions on their right to marry and bear children; targeted by rampant hate speech that helps create a climate in which violence is possible. While Burma is not Nazi Germany, its Rohingya minority faces persecutions eerily similar to those experienced by Jews in 1930s Germany.



This mosque was destroyed during the outbreak of interethnic violence in 2012. No independent or credible investigations into the attacks have taken place.

**THE MUSEUM TEACHES THAT THE HOLOCAUST WAS** preventable and that by heeding the warning signs, individuals and governments can save lives. To help prevent an escalation of violence in Burma, the Museum is drawing attention to the plight of the Rohingya. This group of about one million Muslims lives in majority Buddhist Burma, also known as Myanmar. In recent years, they have experienced many of the warning signs of genocide—such as denial of citizenship and rampant hate speech. Neighbors and the police have attacked the Rohingya and their homes, another indicator that they could again become victims of mass violence.

“We’re at a turning point for Burma,” said Andrea Gittleman, program manager for the Simon-Skjodt Center

for the Prevention of Genocide, who first worked on human rights issues in Burma in 2007. “Ten years from now we’ll look back at 2015 as the year when we either prevented violence or missed an opportunity.”

### “They Want Us All to Go Away”

The government of Burma refers to Rohingya as “Bengali,” and state officials claim they have roots in neighboring Bangladesh and do not belong in Burma. It thereby legalizes their persecution, much as the Nuremberg Race Laws implemented 80 years ago institutionalized Nazi racial ideology. In fact, most Rohingya are hardly immigrants—they can trace their roots in Burma as far back as anyone



can remember. “By denying us citizenship,” said a Rohingya advocate based in Yangon, “they are denying our entire existence, our struggle, and our survival.” When asked what the Burmese government wants to do with the Rohingya, another advocate answered, “They want us all to go away.”

Gittleman traveled to Sittwe, in Rakhine State, this spring with Cameron Hudson, director of the Simon-Skjodt Center, to visit internment camps where an estimated 140,000 Rohingya were forced to live after an outbreak of mass violence in 2012.

**The conditions they witnessed were shocking:** Babies and children were sick and had limited access to medical care. Young men were despondent, with no hope for education or employment. Local police who helped burn Rohingya homes in 2012 now guard some Muslim neighborhoods, providing a tenuous security to internees who fear their former neighbors from the Rakhine ethnic group even more than they fear the police.

“National policies have mired the Rohingya in a climate of fear and tension that is unsustainable. When we met with them, people in the camps had no recourse—they were just waiting for things to get better,” said Gittleman. “Until those policies change, any small spark in this region could ignite a wave of violence.”

**“The Simon-Skjodt Center monitors early warning signs of genocide. Our visit to Burma left us deeply concerned that the Rohingya, surrounded by hatred and fear, might again become the target of state-sponsored violence.”**

**CAMERON HUDSON**  
Director, Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide





In recent years, Burmese authorities have cracked down on nongovernmental organizations and humanitarian groups that provided health care and other essential services to Rohingya. This woman lives in an internment camp with her two children, who have a serious skin condition. She said she doesn't know any way to get them the medical care they need.

## THE PLIGHT OF BURMA'S ROHINGYA:

- An estimated 140,000 displaced in violent attacks in 2012
- Targeted by hate speech from political leaders and Buddhist extremists
- Forcibly isolated, subjected to forced labor, and stripped of citizenship
- Prevented from accessing medical care and lifesaving humanitarian aid

### Sounding the Alarm

When Hudson and Gittleman returned from Burma, they issued a report on their findings—"They Want Us All to Go Away": Early Warning Signs of Genocide in Burma—that sounds the alarm about the need for urgent action. To focus attention on the opportunity for prevention, they have briefed senior staff in the US Congress, the US State Department, the White House, and the United Nations. Gittleman also spoke at the Oslo Conference to End Myanmar's Systematic Persecution of Rohingyas. "The Museum's concern elevates this issue on the global stage," she said.

The suffering of the Rohingya also has captured global headlines, as thousands of Rohingya took to the sea to escape their bleak and dangerous existence in Burma, only to encounter even greater perils. Human traffickers have held migrants for ransom and abandoned boats full of migrants at sea. Even those migrants who safely reach other countries face years of legal limbo while they apply for refugee status. In Malaysia, for example, they are not allowed to hold jobs and their children are not allowed to attend public schools. That Rohingya opt for this purgatory, Gittleman said, testifies to the desperation of their situation at home.

Burma faces challenges and opportunities. After decades of military rule it is transitioning to democracy—a change heralded by the international community. As it opens to the world, the country's leaders promote foreign investment, tourism, and greater freedoms for civil society. But the glitzy development in Yangon stands in stark contrast to the desperation of the Rohingya and other ethnic minorities who are kept at a distance from the former capital.

"Burma cannot become a true democracy unless it extends basic human rights to all citizens, regardless of their ethnicity or religion," said Hudson. "The Simon-Skjoldt Center urges immediate action to address these warning signs and to prevent future atrocities from occurring."

Please visit [ushmm.org/rohingya](http://ushmm.org/rohingya) to read Gittleman and Hudson's full report from their trip to Burma, which lists steps that the Burmese government and international community should take to prevent genocide. Learn more about the Simon-Skjoldt Center's work on early warning, dangerous speech, and other cases of concern at [ushmm.org/endgenocide](http://ushmm.org/endgenocide). ■



Peter Hayes spent two weeks in residence in June leading the 2015 Curt C. and Else Silberman Seminar for University Faculty, "Teaching the Holocaust: Causes, Course, Consequences."

# WHAT'S AT STAKE

## The Future of Holocaust Studies

**"What makes the Holocaust important is the kind of society that produced it—one that was a lot like ours. And that means it's particularly important for us to study it."**

**DR. PETER HAYES'S COURSE "THE HISTORY OF THE HOLOCAUST" AT NORTHWESTERN** University regularly drew more than 200 students from diverse backgrounds and academic disciplines. Their fascination with the Holocaust gave him an opportunity to shatter myths (yes, the Jews fought back) and pursue his research on the complicity of elites in German society, such as businessmen and diplomats. Young people's ever-growing interest in studying the Holocaust, he said, makes him bullish on the future of the field.

Hayes, one of the world's leading scholars, retired from teaching this year. He chairs the Museum's Academic Committee, which oversees the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies and its work to ensure the long-term vitality of the field by nurturing new generations of scholars. While leading a recent Mandel Center seminar for university faculty, he sat down with Museum Director Sara Bloomfield to discuss the future of Holocaust Studies and its importance to the Museum's mission.

**“One of the most important functions and purposes of studying the Holocaust is to expand the number of anti-antisemites.... Anyone who examines this history closely learns how destructive antisemitism has been, and therefore how important containing it is to the welfare of all people.”**

**BLOOMFIELD:** Why should students in the 21st century care about the Holocaust?

**HAYES:** Because it offers—this is going to sound terribly dark—a window into how people, even in a civilized society, can become so awful, so murderous. People who outwardly looked ordinary did these things. The Holocaust offers an unparalleled window into that. It’s important for people in free societies to know that can happen and therefore that there’s more at stake every day than they may think.

**BLOOMFIELD:** Weimar Germany had attributes that supposedly protect people now, like a democratic constitution, free speech, a system of laws, and a highly educated population. But those attributes failed to protect Germany from

social collapse and genocide. What does this mean for Americans?

**HAYES:** What makes the Holocaust important is the kind of society that produced it—one that was a lot like ours. And that means it’s particularly important for us, as citizens of a democracy, to study it.

**BLOOMFIELD:** You have been a scholar and teacher for 30 years. You helped shape the field of Holocaust Studies. When you think about its future, what are the big challenges that you see?

**HAYES:** Here in the United States, the challenge is that what most needs to be researched happened in countries whose languages Americans mostly don’t know—such as Ukraine, Poland, Romania,

and Hungary. Fortunately, we’re going to be able to depend on scholars in those places as more of them are now researching the Holocaust. Supporting scholars in central and eastern Europe is one of the Mandel Center’s crucial roles.

Another issue is that the study of the Holocaust and the study of genocide are subjects that overlap and can be mutually reinforcing. But it is important to keep that balance and make sure that both fields proceed with adequate investment of resources and attention.

**BLOOMFIELD:** Do you worry about the fierce competition for resources or the decline of the humanities on American campuses?

**HAYES:** No, I don’t. There is so much student interest in the Holocaust that courses have proliferated. Administrators know that, and they’re going to staff courses on this topic. That will save existing jobs and maybe generate new ones in the future.

**BLOOMFIELD:** So if you are optimistic about the new generation of scholars, what worries you?

**HAYES:** I am concerned that the reduction in tenure-track positions will have a negative impact on research. Holocaust scholars will be able to teach but will have less support for continuing their scholarship. That’s why the work of the Museum supporting scholarly research is so vital.

**BLOOMFIELD:** What is the state of research in the field?

**HAYES:** It’s still a relatively young field with new areas to research. Scholars have to find their own niche, and they can in this subject. Most young people studying the Holocaust are looking at Poland and the Soviet Union, where the majority of the victims of the Holocaust lived in 1939 and where important new work can be done.

**BLOOMFIELD:** Should we worry about the impact the political situation in Ukraine and other parts of Europe and the former Soviet Union will have on the field?

**HAYES:** There are issues of access and there will be issues of destruction. It’s very important to work quickly to get Holocaust records here at the Mandel Center, where they’re accessible to students and scholars worldwide.



Judith B. and Burton P. Resnick Postdoctoral Fellow Winson Chu, Diane and Howard Wohl Fellow Oleksandr Marinchenko, and Tziporah Wiesel Fellow Liviu Carare—whose research topics span Poland, Ukraine, and Romania—discuss their work while in residence at the Mandel Center.

**BLOOMFIELD:** How have the archives the Museum has amassed impacted scholarship?

**HAYES:** It’s remarkable how many of the new books landing on my desk were researched at the Museum by former fellows. I can’t imagine the field having grown as it has in the last ten to 15 years without the archival resources here at the Mandel Center.

**BLOOMFIELD:** Finally, the question on so many minds—do you think teaching the Holocaust can help address antisemitism?

**HAYES:** One of the most important functions and purposes of studying the Holocaust is to expand the number of *anti-antisemites*. Anyone who looks at the horrors at the heart of this topic comes away with the recognition of how illogical, immoral, and indecent it is to reduce human beings to a category. More specifically, anyone who examines this history closely learns how destructive antisemitism has been, and therefore how important containing it is to the welfare of all people. ■

Ina Levine Invitational Scholar Lawrence Douglas and Norman Raab Foundation Fellow Anna Wylegala talk in the library. Senior and junior scholars form important connections while in residence at the Mandel Center.



The Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide

# Making GENOCIDE PREVENTION a Global Priority

“A memorial unresponsive to the future would violate the memory of the past.”

—ELIE WIESEL, Museum Founding Chairman

ELIE WIESEL'S CALL TO ACTION CONTINUES TO CHALLENGE OUR living memorial, which stands as a permanent reminder not only that the Holocaust happened but also that it was preventable. In the early 1930s, the world could not have imagined the genocidal catastrophe that would soon unfold in Europe. Tragically, that was precisely the time when it could have been prevented. It is a failure that has been repeated far too often. Of all the ways the Museum memorializes the murdered Jews of Europe, what could be more powerful than to save lives now and in the future? Not only is preventing genocide a moral imperative, but also it is increasingly in America's national interest, because genocide and mass atrocities fuel regional instability, spark refugee flows and humanitarian crises, and breed terrorists. Nearly 60 million people are displaced around the world because of conflict and persecution, the largest number ever recorded by the United Nations. According to a June 2015

report released by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, about 14 million of those fled in 2014—an indicator that their governments are failing to protect them, one of the early warning signs of genocide and mass atrocity.

At a time of escalating risk, still too little is understood about which genocide prevention approaches are most successful. Building a robust and enlightened field of genocide prevention is an urgent priority, and it takes the long-term commitment of an institution like the Museum to do so.

The Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide, which was named through a recent \$20 million endowment commitment by the Samerian Foundation of Indianapolis, is dedicated to making the prevention of genocide a core priority for governments, international institutions, and leaders around the world through its multipronged program of research, education, and public outreach.

“This generous gift from the Samerian Foundation enables us to advance the field of genocide prevention in fundamentally new ways to drive better outcomes on the ground,” said Cameron Hudson, director of the Simon-Skjodt Center.

Recent examples of the Simon-Skjodt Center's innovative approach include the creation of the world's first public early warning system to forecast which countries are at greatest risk of new mass violence and a dangerous speech initiative to strengthen our ability to identify and counter the kinds of dangerous speech that could incite new violence. The goal is to get vital—and actionable—information to decision makers and the public well before atrocities begin. Both of these initiatives emanated from groundbreaking research by genocide prevention fellows at the Simon-Skjodt Center.

The fellowship program, also the first of its kind, serves as an incubator for new ideas and a new generation of leaders in the field. The 2011 Ganek Fellow, Dr. Benjamin Valentino from Dartmouth College, initiated research on the feasibility of creating the early warning system and is now a partner in its implementation. “What makes this fellowship so unique is that the Museum and I had a shared goal—a project that we were trying to create together,” explained Valentino. “The Museum has a convening power and a moral authority that is really unmatched.”

Never before has an organization with the international stature and assets of the Museum devoted itself to the goal of genocide prevention. “There is no silver bullet, no one thing we can do; but I fervently believe we can do so much better than we've done,” said Hudson. “With new tools, new partners, well-prepared governments, and a committed citizenry, we can be a game-changer and make the promise of 1945 less of a dream and more of a reality.”

Left: Interreligious violence in Central African Republic has displaced large portions of the population and restricted access to food and shelter. This young girl receives bread from Rwandan African Union soldiers in the capital, Bangui, in March 2014. ©Michael Christopher Brown/Magnum Photos

“If we can help move this mission forward to address one of the most perplexing and heart-breaking issues, even a fraction, then we will have accomplished something meaningful for future generations.”

—CINDY SIMON SKJODT, Samerian Foundation

## Genocide Prevention Fellows CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH THAT CAN SAVE LIVES

Through collaboration with other agencies and organizations, the genocide prevention fellowship program of the Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide is fostering a network of professionals—from government, military, academia, journalism, and civil society—who are at the forefront of creating new tools for preventing and responding to threats of genocide.

**NIXON ANDU AMOS**

Atlas Corps Fellow (2014)  
Instructor at Juba University,  
South Sudan

**SUSAN BENESCH**

Edith Everett Fellow for Genocide  
Prevention (2013)  
Founder, Dangerous Speech Project,  
Harvard University

**ANNIE BIRD**

Visiting Fellow (2014)  
Policy Advisor, US State Department  
Bureau of Conflict  
and Stabilization Operations

**CHARLES J. BROWN**

Leonard and Sophie Davis Genocide  
Prevention Fellow (2015)  
Former Senior Advisor on Atrocity  
Prevention and Response,  
US Department of Defense

**RACHEL BROWN**

Genocide Prevention Fellow (2014)  
Founder and CEO of Sisi ni  
Amani-Kenya

**MICHAEL DOBBS**

Goldfarb Fellow (2011)  
Author and Former Washington Post  
Foreign Correspondent

**JAMES P. FINKEL**

Leonard and Sophie Davis Genocide  
Prevention Fellow (2014)  
35-Year Veteran of the  
US Civil Service

**ANDREW MARX**

Visiting Fellow (2013)  
Former Civil-Military/Complex  
Emergencies Analyst,  
US Department of State

**SCOTT STRAUS**

Winnick Fellow (2011)  
Assistant Professor of Political  
Science and International  
Studies, University of  
Wisconsin-Madison

**BENJAMIN VALENTINO**

Ganek Fellow (2011)  
Associate Professor of  
Government, Dartmouth College

# A Commitment for the Generations



Paul Skjodt and Cindy Simon Skjodt (speaking) challenge attendees at the Museum's National Tribute Dinner in April 2015 to join the fight against genocide. "What could be more important than working together to save lives and promote human dignity? In my humble opinion and in today's global environment, the answer is nothing is more important. We simply must try."



From left: Holocaust survivor and Museum volunteer Henry Greenbaum, Cindy Simon Skjodt, and Samantha Skjodt traveled to Poland as part of the Museum's delegation to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau in January 2015. *Augustas Didzgalvis*

**"HEART-WRENCHING AND LIFE-CHANGING."** That is how Cindy Simon Skjodt describes the trip to Auschwitz she made with her daughter, Samantha Skjodt, as part of the Museum delegation marking the 70th anniversary of liberation. "Being there with survivors, I came away amazed by their inner strength and will. After all the horror they experienced, they faced the future not with hatred and bitterness, but with hope and resilience," she explained. "Visiting Auschwitz makes you question everything about humanity, but visiting Auschwitz with the survivors also renewed my faith in the potential for humanity. That's what the Museum is about for me—reminding us of both the darkest and the brightest possibilities of human nature."

While Simon Skjodt's immediate family was not directly affected by the Holocaust, she recalls family discussions about how it could have happened. "My parents were teenagers during the Holocaust, and while they were born in the United States, they were deeply impacted by what was happening in Europe. The questions of how and why—how human beings could commit such crimes and why so many

others were complacent—lingered throughout their lives. It is an enormous privilege to be in a position to make this gift, to support this remarkable institution that we believe can help answer these questions and use that knowledge to prevent atrocities in the future."

In 2003, Simon Skjodt and her husband, Paul Skjodt, founded the Samerian Foundation to perpetuate their vision of active philanthropy inspired by her parents. The Foundation is named for their children, Samantha, Erik, and Ian, who serve on the board. "My parents were my philanthropic mentors," said Simon Skjodt. "Just as they inspired me, we hope to inspire others to become involved in preventing genocide—starting with our own children because the next generation is so important."

"This extraordinary gift comes at a moment when the problem of 'never again' is bigger and harder than ever," said Museum Director Sara Bloomfield. "Thanks to the exceptional generosity of the Samerian Foundation and our other partners, the Simon-Skjodt Center will play a leading role in tackling one of humanity's most intractable problems."

## Corporate Partners Hone Early Warning System



**"This cause is one of very few where you can say someone sitting at a computer can literally save the lives of people on the other side of the world. Booz Allen data scientists are passionate about using their skills to help solve this type of large societal challenge, and as a firm, we are extremely proud to contribute to this important project."**

—HORACIO ROZANSKI, President and Chief Executive Officer, Booz Allen Hamilton

Booz Allen Hamilton teams participating in a 12-hour hack-a-thon designed the technology for automating the early warning system's aggregation. World leaders and civil society will have immediate access to real-time data that can be updated daily or hourly so they can make informed decisions and mobilize resources to prevent genocide.



**WHAT STARTED AS A PRO-BONO SYSTEM "STRESS TEST"** led to important improvements in a new model that will help revolutionize the field of genocide prevention. In a 12-hour data science marathon, called Hack-a-thon for Hope, data scientists from international consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton worked with Simon-Skjodt Center experts to help enhance the Museum's new early warning system.

The web-based system is unique in its aggregation of on-the-ground reports from members of a global network of experts with cutting-edge forecasting technology. That innovative combination of quantitative data and crowd-sourced knowledge translates into a widely accessible system that assesses the risk of genocide country by country. "Today we monitor ongoing violence," explained Cameron Hudson, director of the Simon-Skjodt Center. "But the unique power of this tool is its ability to determine where it is likely to occur 12 to 24 months into the future."

More than 80 Booz Allen Hamilton software engineers, data analysts, and social scientists participated in the August 2014 hack-a-thon—just the start of the team's support as the Museum refined and implemented the recommendations. "Using their technological expertise to 'do good'—to change the world—animates the data science community in general," said Steve Mills, Booz Allen's chief data scientist. "Our staff is so excited to see this project go live because of its amazing potential impact. We are committed to continuing to work with the Museum as it rolls out the system."

EVENTS

**Two Americans Who Defied the Nazis**

In early 1939, Waitstill and Martha Sharp, a young American Unitarian minister and social worker, moved to Prague and aided hundreds of refugees fleeing Nazi persecution. Join us for selections from an upcoming documentary and a discussion about their remarkable actions.

**Thursday, October 15**  
The Auditorium at 66 West 12th St.  
New York, NEW YORK

**Monday, November 30**  
Congregation Beth Shalom  
Northbrook, ILLINOIS

**Tuesday, December 1**  
Mesirw Financial  
James C. Tyree Auditorium  
Chicago, ILLINOIS

**A Lost Love: One Family's Forgotten History**

Journalist Sarah Wildman's debut book, *Paper Love*, describes her search for the woman her grandfather left behind in prewar Vienna. Wildman will discuss how the Museum's collection helped her uncover the story of her family's persecution.

**Wednesday, October 14**  
Chizuk Amuno Congregation  
Pikesville, MARYLAND

**Thursday, October 15**  
Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El  
Wynnewood, PENNSYLVANIA

**Witnesses to History: Americans Abroad in Hitler's Europe**

Join us for a compelling glimpse into the years leading up to the Holocaust with Andrew Nagorski, author of *Hitlerland: American Eyewitnesses to the Nazi Rise to Power*.

**Tuesday, December 1**  
San Diego Center for Jewish Culture, Lawrence Family JCC, Jacobs Family Campus  
La Jolla, CALIFORNIA  
Co-presented with the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center

**Wednesday, December 2**  
The Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center  
Scottsdale, ARIZONA



Martha and Waitstill Sharp in 1939, before departing New York. *Gift of Artemis Joukowsky*

**My Dearest One: A Wife's Final Good-bye**

As a young boy, Frank Grunwald survived incarceration in Terezin, Auschwitz, and Mauthausen. The collection he donated to the Museum includes a heartrending letter written by his mother to his father just before she was murdered at Auschwitz.

**Tuesday, January 5, 2016**  
B'nai Torah Congregation  
Boca Raton, FLORIDA  
Co-presented with B'nai Torah Congregation

**Wednesday, January 6, 2016**  
Temple Emanu-El  
Palm Beach, FLORIDA  
Co-presented with Temple Emanu-El

**Battleground for Truth: Confronting Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial**

Seventy years after liberation, we are seeing a frightening rise in European antisemitism. Join us for a timely discussion with Jeffrey Goldberg, a national correspondent at the *Atlantic*, who will examine what it will take for society to grasp the harsh and enduring lessons of the Holocaust.

**Tuesday, December 1**  
Beth Torah Congregation Benny Rok Campus  
North Miami Beach, FLORIDA  
Co-presented with the Beth Torah Congregation Benny Rok Campus

**Wednesday, December 2**  
Boca Raton Synagogue  
Boca Raton, FLORIDA  
Co-presented with the Boca Raton Synagogue

**Exposing the Darkness: Perspectives on Mass Atrocities**  
Join us for a discussion with activists and journalists who put themselves in harm's way to document groups at risk.

**Tuesday, December 1**  
The Temple Emanu-El Skirball Center  
New York, NEW YORK  
Co-presented with the Skirball Center

Visit [ushmm.org/events](http://ushmm.org/events) to learn about and register for upcoming programs.

EXHIBITIONS

For a complete schedule of traveling exhibitions, visit [ushmm.org/traveling-exhibition](http://ushmm.org/traveling-exhibition).

**Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race**

through October 25  
Gannon University's Nash Library  
Erie, PENNSYLVANIA

**The Nazi Olympics: Berlin 1936**

through Friday, January 29, 2016  
The University of Texas at Austin, The H.J. Lutcher Stark Center for Physical Culture and Sports  
Austin, TEXAS

**February 21–August 28, 2016**  
Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center  
Skokie, ILLINOIS

**State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda**

through Sunday, February 21, 2016  
The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art  
Tulsa, OKLAHOMA

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum exhibitions program is supported in part by the Lester Robbins\* and Sheila Johnson Robbins Traveling and Special Exhibitions Fund established in 1990.

\*Deceased

# Securing the Future

The Museum is grateful for its dedicated CORPORATE PARTNERS, who support our extensive national and international programs. Thank you for committing to our vision of a world where people confront hatred, prevent genocide, and promote human dignity.



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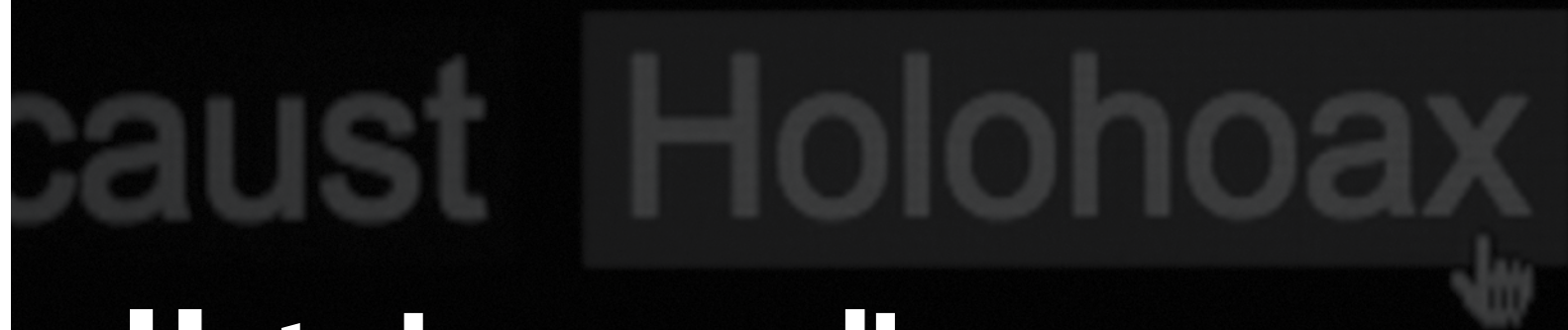
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# Hate is spreading like a virus online.

**AND IN JUST OVER A DECADE**, less than 1% of World War II veterans will be alive and the youngest Holocaust survivor will be 82. Who do we want to tell these stories to the 1.9 billion young people across the globe who need to hear them?

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