

HMH BEARING WITNESS

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HOUSTON

SPRING 2016, NO. 1

20 YEARS  OF HOPE



Butterfly Project Takes Flight

20th Anniversary Exhibit Launches

Samuel Bak Provides H-O-P-E

Bielski Brothers to Receive Moral Courage Award

Yom HaShoah Commemoration Set

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Kelly J. Zúñiga, Ed.D.

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Comments and suggestions are welcome and should be submitted to *HMH Bearing Witness* to news@hmh.org.

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Happy 20th Anniversary, Holocaust Museum Houston!

I have been extremely honored to serve as our Museum's chair during this milestone year. We have so much for which to be proud — a Museum that has welcomed more than 2 million visitors and has taught the crucial lessons of the Holocaust to thousands of students, teachers and other adults through docent-led tours, teacher workshops, public programs, world-class exhibits, annual luncheons and dinners, invaluable artifacts such as our railcar and Danish rescue boat (no other museum exhibits these side by side to show the juxtaposition of good and evil) and even butterflies!

Yes, and so many butterflies! One and a half million have been collected by the Museum over a 20-year period, handmade by students from every continent except Antarctica. These beautiful creatures, lovingly created from a great variety of mediums, took flight in the Museum's Central Gallery and in Neiman Marcus's valet windows in exhibits curated by well-known Houston artist Syd Moen. Six cases, artistically designed, fabricated and installed by TYart's Christopher Tribble, containing hundreds of butterflies, were first sighted at Neiman Marcus and the Galleria for two weeks and now will be soaring throughout Houston for the next two years. They inspire us and pay tribute to the children, ages 14 and under, who perished during the Holocaust.

We anxiously await our very exciting Lyndon Baines Johnson Moral Courage Award Dinner on June 2, celebrating the Museum's 20th anniversary. We encourage you to attend what promises to be an extremely powerful evening featuring the "Violins of Hope," eight precious instruments that were played by Jews in the camps and that survived

the Holocaust; and honoring the Bielski Family, four courageous brothers who served as partisans in the forests of Belarus for more than two years. Saving more than 1,200 of their brethren, they rescued more Jews than any other Jewish partisan group. And to end an already captivating evening, former television news anchor Ted Koppel will serve as keynote speaker.

Additionally, in this 2015 - 2016 fiscal year, we rededicated our Danish Rescue boat and launched Friends of the Library, while continuing our three other successful affinity groups — Art Circle, NEXTGen and The Guild. The Museum also hosted the 27th Annual Conference of the World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust and Descendants. Our Education Department continues to provide tremendous outreach with its "All Behaviors Count" curriculum as well as the Warren Fellowship, Spector-Warren Fellowship and Max M. Kaplan Summer Institute for Educators, a Houston Symphony Orchestra student program, Girl Scout collaborations and many other excellent initiatives. We also have completed a successful first-year Create-A-Legacy plan, co-sponsored by the Houston Jewish Community Foundation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, enrolling 18 participants who have remembered HMH in their wills, supported by our Generation to Generation Legacy Society.

We are thrilled to be working on the future expansion of Holocaust Museum Houston, which will enable us to accommodate significantly more exhibits and greater numbers of visitors. You will hear exciting details as time goes on.

As my tenure as chair comes to an end in early June, I reflect upon the urgent role that HMH plays in combatting the discord



Holocaust Museum Houston's affinity groups offer several ways members can support the Museum while networking and taking advantage of new opportunities to learn more about the Holocaust and the arts and culture environment in Houston.



NEXTGen, the Museum's young professionals group (ages 21 to 39), hosted more than 150 young professionals at their annual "Conversation with a Survivor" event. Holocaust Survivor Zoly Zamir shared his personal history with the group on April 6. The group is now planning its second annual Bocce Ball tournament.

NEXTGen is dedicated to promoting inclusion among individuals through preserving the lessons of the Holocaust and other genocides and cultivating awareness of these lessons in contemporary society.

NEXTGen also is looking for young professionals interested in participating on its Leadership Committee. To nominate anyone, contact Steven Hammer at shammer@hmh.org.



On April 10, Glen Rosenbaum graciously opened his home to the members of Art Circle and NEXTGen for a private tour of his new remodeled home, personal art collection and renowned train replica.

More than 40 excited, eclectic art patrons gathered at the home of Lester Marks and Dr. Penelope Marks on Jan. 28 for a special home tour hosted by Art Circle. The member-only event included some of Houston's most influential art enthusiasts.

As one of the leading art collectors, Marks has been named by *ARTnews* magazine as one of the "Top 200 Collectors in the World"



Holocaust Survivor Edith Minberg talks to children at the "Kisses and Rainbows Storytime and Craft Day" hosted by Friends of the Library in December.

and as one to the "Top 100 Collectors" by *Art & Antiques*. In 2015, he and Penelope were named "Patron of the Year" by The Community Artists collective for his lifetime of contributions to the artists and their communities.

The Art Circle was created to connect members with artists and collectors engaged in social, political and/or human rights issues and to attract new members to join the Museum through this group.

Money raised by Art Circle membership supports the art exhibition program at the Museum. Krista Heide is now its staff liaison.



The Guild serves the mission of the Museum with commitment and to unite members of the Museum community at-large, through social, educational and service projects.

Guild members enjoyed a private reception before the April 14 lecture "Life Force Atrocities and the Assault on the Family in Times of Conflict" with Elisa von Joeden-Forgey, an assistant professor of Holocaust and genocide studies at Stockton University.

The Guild's book club has chosen "The Train in Winter" by Caroline Moorhead as its third selection. For more information regarding the book club, contact Courtney Tutt at ctutt@hmh.org.



With the help of The Friends of the Library, The Boniuk Library holds an evening book club on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Upcoming titles include Chris Bohjalian's "The Sandcastle Girls" and Michael Chabon's "The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay."

The Friends of the Library was created to connect HMH members and the Houston community with the library's collection and resources. All funds raised by Friends of the Library help build the collection, increase visibility and expand public access to the collection. Part of each Friends of the Library membership goes toward one or more books for the library,

Recent books added to the collection as tributes include "Terezin" (author unknown), donated by Dr. Richard A. Jackson in honor of William (Bill) Morgan, and "When Paris Went Dark" by Ronald C. Rosbottom, donated by Dr. James Riopelle in honor of Joel Kaye.

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that continues to exist in our troubled world. The Museum serves as a beacon of light and center of education that challenges us with the call to action to make the world a better place. As always, we are truly grateful to our beloved survivors whose inspiration was the foundation for HMH. Although we have lost so many, we cherish their memories and treasure those who are still with us.

I deeply thank all of you — our generous supporters, dedicated Board of Trustees, Board of Advisors, Chairs Circle and Foundation Board — for helping to create one of the most compelling museums in our great city. I also greatly appreciate and highly commend our devoted and capable staff, under Dr. Kelly J. Zúñiga's leadership, for their tireless efforts.

In this year of the butterfly, my year as chair seems to have flown by.

Yours, most gratefully,

Gail Klein
Chair



Members of the NEXTGen young professionals group gathered with Holocaust Survivor Zoly Zamir after their annual "Conversation with a Survivor" event on April 6.



"The Butterfly Project" Wins ADDY Awards

Holocaust Museum Houston's new video on "The Butterfly Project" was awarded two gold ADDY Awards from the American Advertising Federation's Houston Chapter in February. The two-minute video won in the categories of "Best Online Branded Content" and "Best Sound Design." The video was produced by HMH Board of Trustees member Tracey Shappro and her firm, VISION Productions. To watch the video, visit www.hmh.org/butterflies.

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A landmark exhibit 20 years in the making memorializes the 1.5 million children killed in the Holocaust.

Moral Courage Award Dinner to honor the Bielski Brothers

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The Bielski Brothers established a partisan camp in the forests of Belarus during World War II and saved 1,200 Jews from the Nazis.

Samuel Bak Leads Viewers on a Journey through Destruction to Hope

10

Holocaust artist Samuel Bak creates an astoundingly complex, beautiful and richly colorful journey for viewers in his newest exhibit, which opened April 1 at Holocaust Museum Houston.

The Butterfly Project Takes Flight

The crowd was all smiles as Holocaust Museum Houston marked its 20th anniversary with a VIP-only champagne reception at Neiman Marcus to launch its landmark Anniversary exhibit, one developed with help from children all across the globe.

More than 1.5 million handmade butterflies were submitted to the Museum from every continent to memorialize the 1.5 million children who were killed in the Holocaust. "The Butterfly Project," a series of six traveling cases of thought-provoking samples. The six cases will be on view at locations throughout the Houston area until March 2017. "Taking Flight," a related sampling of almost 1,500 of the butterflies submitted is on view at Holocaust Museum Houston through July 31.

Viewing information can be found on the Museum's website devoted to the project at www.hmh.org/butterflies.

Museum Executive Director Dr. Kelly J. Zúñiga opened the party, saying, "Not since our opening in 1996 has such a project been so important to our Museum's future and our community."

"Butterflies are a powerful symbol of transformation and the ability to make an impact with just a flap of one's wings," she said. "They symbolize all the good things that humanity can imagine, while reminding us that life is fragile and dignity is delicate."

Also addressing the crowd were Project Chair and former Museum Chair Tali Blumrosen and current Museum Chair Gail Klein.

Seen in the crowd were HMH Board members Leisa Holland-Nelson, Heidi Gerger, Nancy Dinerstein and Crystal

Ashby. Others included Holocaust Survivors Edith Minberg, Bill Orlin, Ruth Steinfeld and Chaja Verveer.

Joining the party were Board member Steve Estrin and wife Denise, Ann and Jorge Leis, Susan Bischoff, Eileen Weisman, Neiman's General Manager Bob Devlin, Trish and Katherine Morille, Kim Ruth and Laura and Rick Jaramillo.

These exquisite, colorful butterflies were created using an incredible array of materials and innovation. The memory of the children who died in the Holocaust and the loss of their talents and possibilities is felt in the grace and beauty seen in each of the butterflies displayed.

The project was imagined by three Houston-area teachers and based on an inspiring poem written by Pavel Friedmann in 1942, when he was a prisoner in the Terezin Concentration Camp in former Czechoslovakia. More than 12,000 children under the age of 15 passed through the Terezin camp between the years 1942 and 1944. More than 90 percent of the children who were there perished during the Holocaust.

The butterfly — with its story of rebirth and transformation into new life — has become a symbol of freedom from oppression, intolerance and hatred ever since Friedmann wrote his poem about life in the Terezin camp and the fact that he never saw another butterfly there.



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Artist Syd Moen



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1.5 Million Expressions of Hope and Remembrance



In 1996, Holocaust Museum Houston launched "The Butterfly Project," an educational study program designed to teach young people about the experiences of 1.5 million children who perished during the Holocaust and the lessons to be learned from it even today.

Since that time, 1.5 million handcrafted butterflies from children and adults of all ages have been collected and are now part of one of the most important art exhibits ever: 1.5 million expressions of hope and remembrance submitted from every continent except Antarctica – one even from space.

Buy your own copy of this stunning 100-page hardcover coffee-table photobook containing more than 100 images of the most creative, imaginative and thoughtful butterflies submitted over 20 years from around the world. From intricate stained glass, to concrete, to steel or to the simple drawings of a small child, each tells a special story.

Available online at www.hmh.org/butterflies or in the Museum Store.

Only \$29.95 plus shipping and tax where applicable.



Artist Syd Moen, Marsha Glickman



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EVENT



HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HOUSTON

20 YEARS  OF HOPE

PRESENTS LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON

Moral Courage Award Dinner

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2016

Registration 5:45 p.m. - Dinner 6:45 p.m.
Hilton Americas-Houston • 1600 Lamar Street

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The Bielski Brothers, Tuvia, Alexander (Zus), Asael and Aharon established a partisan camp in the forests of Belarus during World War II and saved 1,200 Jews from the Nazis.

Keynote Speaker TED KOPPEL



Presented by Central Houston Cadillac

The Violins of Hope



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Moral Courage Presenting Underwriter - \$100,000

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Upstander - \$25,000
Premier Seating (for two) \$2,000

Hero - \$15,000
Individual Tickets \$600



In 1994, Holocaust Museum Houston established the Lyndon Baines Johnson Moral Courage Award in memory of the 36th president of the United States.

"Moral Courage" refers to that single act, or lifetime of behavior, that depends on a certain resolve.

Recipients of this award are individuals who, like President Johnson, exhibit moral courage, individual responsibility and the willingness to take action against injustice.

To purchase a table or ticket, please contact **Krista Heide**,
Director of Development, at 713-527-1612 or hmhdinner@hmh.org.

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20 YEARS  OF HOPE

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Tributes from July 1, 2015 through Dec. 31, 2015

Holocaust Museum Houston's Tribute Program lets you honor or memorialize a friend, family member or loved one. Each tribute of \$18 or more provides the opportunity to make a donation to HMH in their honor. It's a meaningful way to support the Museum's mission. Your donation allows HMH to educate our community about the Holocaust, remember the 6 million Jews and other innocent victims and to honor the survivors' legacy. This listing includes donors who participated in the Tribute Program along with those they chose to recognize. Tributes are listed alphabetically.

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Lila and Stephen Shain

Stephen Engel
Rae and Paul Engel

Celina Fein
Edith and William Orlin
Anna Steinberger
Ruth K. Steinfeld

Kelli and Martin Fein
Suzanne and Timm Wooten

Jerry Finger
Marci and Stewart Dallas

Carol Fisherman
Abigail Reeves

Nancy Freed
Gail and Milton Klein

Andrew Gardener
Lisa E. Stone and Scott B. Cantor

Peter Gingiss
Sandra Frieden

Michael Goldberg
Vera and Andrew Baker
Lisa and Lawrence Estes
Gary Rosenthal

Lynn Gordon and Hyman Penn
Byron Capito
Rochelle Skibell

Phyllis Gould
Karen Harrer

Walter Hecht
Carol and Barry Goodfriend
Linda and Herbert Lesser

Sandri Hedrick
Joy Jacobs

Ryan Heller
Edith and William Orlin

Mandy Hirsch
Lindy Kahn

Lewis Hoffer
Sharon and Stephen Schwartz

Anna Holliday
Elaine and Marvy Finger

Philip Jackson
Sandra and Thomas Hedrick

Brian Kapiloff
Jeri Amundsen

Marvin Kaplan
Marci and Stewart Dallas

Harvey Katz
Barbara and Ernest Henley

Gail Klein
Janet and Mickey Frost
Annette and Daniel Gordon
Sandra and Van Lessig

Sherry and Gerald Merfish
Judy and Jim Schwartz
Rochelle Skibell
Margaret Wische

Laura Leibman
Jamie Garrett

Richard Leibman
Marilyn and Stanley Epstein
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Arlene and Moshe Even
Frances D. Friedman
Janet and Steve Goldhill
Rhonda and Allan Goldstein
Rabbi Dan M. Gordon
Marc Grossberg
Barbara and Raymond Kalmans
Barbara and Robert Kauffman
Shirley and Emanuel Katzin
Lilly Lazarus
Rochelle and Max Levit
Vicki and Lawrence Levy
Nichole and Glenn Lowenstein
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Nightingale Code Foundation
Patricia and Mark Rauch
Shirley Rhyllis
Cheryl and Michael Rubenstein
Phyllis and Jack Selber
Congregation Brith Shalom
Ruth K. Steinfeld
Shirley and Herman Warshaw
Aileen and Jerald Zarin

Nat Levy
Annette and Daniel Gordon

Suzanne Lewis
Hedy and Jeff Wolpa

Cynthia and Richard Loewenstern
Tammy Benson



Citywide Yom HaShoah Commemoration

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2016
 3:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.
 CONGREGATION BRITH SHALOM,
 4610 BELLAIRE BLVD.,
 BELLAIRE, TX 77401

Join us for Houston's annual Yom HaShoah commemorative service in memory of all who died in the Holocaust and to pay tribute to those who survived. The service is free and open to the public, and advance registration is not required.

Scheduled speakers include Eitan Levon, consul general of Israel; Sandy Lessig of the 2nd Generation; Museum Chair Gail Klein and Holocaust Survivor Ruth Steinfeld.

Participating in the traditional candle-lighting ceremony in memory of the 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust will be Holocaust Survivors Gilbert Baruch, Madeleine Boskowitz, Hannah Cweren, Elsa Felsen, Al Marks, Charlotte Shamis and Ruth Steinfeld.

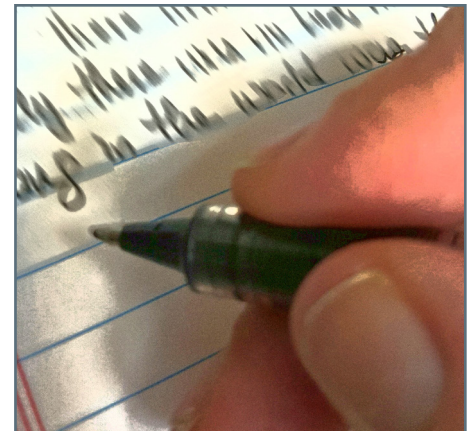
Music will be provided by youth choirs from Beth Yeshurun Day School, Congregation Brith Shalom and Congregation Emanu El.



The Museum Experience

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2016
 10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.
 MORGAN FAMILY CENTER

Join us for Houston's ultimate cultural block party. Each quarter, the Houston Museum District Association features several of Houston's top cultural attractions. At HMH, hear Houston-area Survivors of the Holocaust discuss their experiences at 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m., and experience the inspiring message of "Taking Flight: The Butterfly Project," a sampling of 1,500 of the 1.5 million handmade butterflies collected to memorialize the 1.5 million children killed in the Holocaust. Regular admission rates apply.



Writing Workshop: "Memoir as Monologue"

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2016
 6:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.
 MORGAN FAMILY CENTER

This writing workshop, which meets on four consecutive Mondays, will allow participants to express the challenges and achievements in their lives through creative form. Participants will learn to write an effective, moving and personally meaningful dramatic monologue about their lives and prepare for the presentation of the monologue on July 21. The workshop will be facilitated by Maria Harris, HMH librarian. Admission is free, but registration is limited to 12 participants. To RSVP online, visit www.hmh.org/RegisterEvent.aspx.

Keynote Speaker **TED KOPPEL**



Over the course of 26 years as anchor and managing editor of *Nightline*, Koppel became the longest serving news anchor in U.S. broadcast history. After leaving ABC in 2005, Koppel produced documentaries for the Discovery Network and served as managing editor. Since then he has worked as a contributing analyst for BBC America and a special correspondent for the NBC News magazine program, *Rock Center*.

In 2012, New York University named Koppel one of the “100 outstanding journalists in the United States in the last 100 years”. Among his numerous awards, Koppel has won 12 Columbia-Dupont awards and received 42 Emmy’s.

Koppel’s most recent book, a *New York Times* best seller, “Lights Out,” examines America’s power grid and evaluates potential ways to prepare for a cyber-catastrophe.

Honorees **THE BIELSKI BROTHERS**

The Bielski brothers, established a partisan camp in the forests of Belarus during World War II and saved 1,200 Jews from the Nazis. The Bielskis avoided the Nazis and their collaborators. The group disabled German trains, blew up rail beds, destroyed bridges and facilitated escapes from Jewish ghettos.

After liberation, Tuvia and Zus Bielski immigrated with their families to Palestine where they both fought in the 1948 war that established the State of Israel. Later, they moved to the United States.

Assaela Bielski Weinstein, daughter of the late Asael Bielski, will accept the 2016 Lyndon Baines Johnson Moral Courage Award on behalf of the Bielski family. Assaela is also the wife of Amnon Weinstein, who lovingly restored the violins.

The Violins of Hope

Even in the midst of the unspeakable evil of the Holocaust, there was music. In the ghettos and the camps, music was a source of comfort, hope and resistance — a way for the Jews to express themselves and prevent the Nazis from stripping them of their humanity.

In 1996, Amnon Weinstein, one of the world’s most respected violin makers, dedicated his life to locating and restoring violins that were played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust. This was a way for him to honor the more than 400 members of his family who perished and a way for him to give a voice to the voiceless. The violins have been played in London, Paris, Rome, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Berlin, Charlotte and most recently in Cleveland, Ohio. Today, Weinstein’s collection consists of 50 violins.

The Violins of Hope demonstrate the redemptive and healing power of music. While the instruments tell stories of great pain and suffering, their restoration and the opportunity to bring them to life pays tribute to their legacy. A concert featuring eight of the violins from Amnon’s collection will be performed at the dinner by the “Violins of Hope” orchestra with arrangement by Richard Brown.



DR. MARY LEE WEBECK
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

A Time of Inquiry and Introspection: A Time for Action

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” These are the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, and they are words that are weighing heavily in my thoughts these days.

Over the years, the Museum has made three public statements that define who we are and what we propose to be.

Our Mission

Holocaust Museum Houston is dedicated to educating people about the Holocaust, remembering the 6 million Jews and other innocent victims and honoring the survivors' legacy. Using the lessons of the Holocaust and other genocides, we teach the dangers of hatred, prejudice and apathy.

Our Vision

We envision a society that transforms ignorance into respect for human life, that remembers the Holocaust and affirms an individual's responsibility for the collective actions of society.

Our Public Value Statement

Holocaust Museum Houston builds a more humane society by promoting responsible individual behavior, cultivating civility and pursuing social justice.

These are important words that I live by in my work, always considering how to best be true to the intent of this trilogy of statements.

There is currently a rhetoric of hate and intolerance reverberating through our nation, through our world, and this should concern us all.

As we teach the history of the Holocaust, there is much work to do and ever more to know. As esteemed Holocaust scholar Lawrence L. Langer recently wrote, “... there is no escape from the captivity of Holocaust memory, only the entreaty to go on witnessing its unbearable truth.” We must be diligent in the education we do, making sure the fundamentals are taught and learned and looking in ever-expanding ways for the many stories we have yet to tell and the many questions that remain, essential and unanswered.

For me, these stories and the unanswered question serve as a beacon, and they inspire the questions I must ask myself, about working from our Museum's mission, through its vision and to our fulfillment of our public values statement. This is work I cannot do singly. And so I would ask you to read this trilogy again, perhaps read it aloud, so the sounds of the words move around you. Then, think about what this trilogy of statements asks of you. Please choose one or two concepts from the statements and consider how you can find within yourself and your busy life to advocate for and act toward that goal. It is a time for inquiry, introspection and action.

Latino Initiatives Advisory Committee Formed

In Houston, our nation's most diverse city, there is much work to be done to reach the city's largest demographic group, Houston's Latino population, with the Museum's message of the dangers of hatred, prejudice and apathy. The newest committee at HMH is the Latino Initiatives Advisory Committee (LIAC), which has been formed to help the Museum reach this group and meet the Museum's strategic goals.

LIAC will support programming geared toward the Museum's Spanish outreach and Latin American initiatives. The group has shown particular interest in the Museum's planned translation and outreach projects.

Chairing the new group is HMH Board of Trustees Member Laura Jaramillo, the senior vice president and community development manager for a six-state region in the Government and Community Relations Group at Wells Fargo. Staff liaison for the project is Michelle Tovar, the Museum's associate director of education for Spanish outreach and Latin American initiatives.



Volunteer Tour Guides Needed to Teach the Dangers of Hatred, Prejudice and Apathy

Holocaust Museum Houston is now accepting applications for tour guides, commonly called docents, to help teach students and other visitors the dangers of hatred, prejudice and apathy. Volunteers will be trained in the history of the Holocaust and taught to give tours as volunteer guides during five weeks of training.

This year's class will meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. from Aug. 3 through Sept. 2, 2015. Applications must be received by May 20, 2016. All classes will be held at the Museum's Morgan Family Center, 5401 Caroline St. Interviews will be held in the spring, and approximately 15 people will be chosen.

Docents must commit to giving tours for a one-year period. Weekday docents generally give one two-hour tour per week. Weekend docents lead at least two tours per month. During the school year, 20,000 to 30,000 students in middle school, high school or college will tour the Museum and more than 140,000 adults from around the world will visit. Tours are conducted every day, and several schools may be represented on any day.

"Volunteers need only a desire to learn, an interest in public speaking and a commitment to helping change our future by teaching the lessons of the past," said Catherine Caverly, the Museum's director of visitor and volunteer services.

"Visiting Holocaust Museum Houston is an adventure in learning for many students. Often, a visit will be the first time for a student to come

face to face with the dangers of racial prejudice or religious intolerance. Our docents are trained to respond to their questions regarding the history of prejudice and current attitudes today," she said.

Docent Committee Chair Sherry Sinor said she became a docent at HMH in 2006 with the idea that "I would get to teach history - which I love."

"What I have found through the years is that yes, I get to teach history. More importantly though, I feel I am able to open the eyes of students and adults alike to social awareness. History will always repeat itself. Discrimination, racism, intolerance and ignorance have no place in this world, yet we all see it every day. I feel as a docent at HMH I can, hopefully, in my own small way change the thinking that allows these to be so prevalent. As a mother especially, I find it empowering to hopefully make this world a better place for my children. Every tour I give is an adventure where often times we both learn from each other. I've been giving tours for nine years now and don't see myself stopping anytime soon," she said.

For more information on becoming a docent, visit http://www.hmh.org/uploads/pdf/Docent_Application_2016.pdf or contact Caverly at volunteers@hmh.org or 713-527-1602.

The Museum's docent training program is generously underwritten by the Emil and Anna Steinberger Endowment Fund.

Dr. Hy Penn, Cameron Dallas and Marci Dallas congratulated Survivor Edith Mincberg on the opening of the Museum's new interactive display on the destroyed Jewish communities of Europe. The display complements the Museum's memorial slope memorializing the 20,000 Jewish communities that were destroyed. HMH's Destroyed Communities Memorial and interactive exhibit serve as a permanent memorial to those Jewish communities that were obliterated during the Holocaust, with more than 340 communities remembered on the memorial wall alone.



AROUND HMH



Evelyn Rubenstein JCC Theatre Committee Chairwoman Maida Asofsky welcomed actor Tom Dugan along with HMH Executive Director Dr. Kelly J. Zúñiga and Museum Chair Gail Klein at the opening night of the one-man, off-Broadway play "Weisenthal," cosponsored by HMH at the JCC in March.



Holly Alves, program director of the Robert and Janice McNair Educational Foundation, visited the Museum in March along with students the foundation helped to visit. When school budgets are cut, opportunities for field trips are often eliminated. The foundation funded the McNair Title I Field Trip and Family Access Program this year, providing funds for 14 bus transportation scholarships for Title I schools and family pack tickets for 1,680 parents.



KPRC news anchor Khambrel Marshall emceed November's Ruth Vinn Hender Lack Lecture featuring Susannah Heschel and a talk on the anniversary of the March on Selma and passage of the Voting Rights Act. Heschel, the Eli Black Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College, is the daughter of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King at Selma.

HMH Joins the Girl Scouts Badge Program

Using a curriculum co-written by the Girl Scouts and the Holocaust Museum Houston staff, HMH has introduced two new badge opportunities for Houston-area scouts to empower them to be a positive force for change by recognizing and standing up against the five types of social cruelty: ganging up, exclusion, taunting, rumoring and bullying.

In March, Cadette Girl Scouts between the ages of 11 and 13 gathered at the Museum to learn how to be Upstanders. Representing 14 troops across the San Jacinto Council area, the girls joined HMH staff and docents to learn about Holocaust history as well as understand the dangers of hatred, prejudice and apathy in their own lives. The Cadettes completed portions of the aMAZE Journey by exploring historical leadership, prejudices and experiences in comparison with their modern-day lives. In doing so, they earned the Science of Happiness badge by learning how to be an advocate for positivity in their community.

Using Holocaust survivor testimony, the girls identified acts of social cruelty as they toured the Museum's permanent exhibit and discussed the differences between social cruelty and genocide. The girls also wrote and acted out brief skits highlighting different aspects of social cruelty and how to react as a target or witness.

After viewing the new exhibit, "Taking Flight," the Cadettes created their own butterflies to take home as a reminder of what they had learned that day. As one Cadette put it, "Today, I'm going to leave here with my new knowledge and go make this world a better place." Their butterflies were decorated with Holocaust motifs reflecting their absorption of the day's heavy subject matter, but also depictions of hope, remembrance and optimism for the future.

One Cadette summed up her experience, "Before I came here, I'd often be like the rest of the world, social cruelty isn't something I can fix. Being almost 13, I learned here it literally affects every one of all ages. I'll take away that no matter your age or size, you can definitely make a change, even if it's only to one person."



On March 6, 28 Cadette Girl Scouts between the ages of 11 and 13 gathered at the Museum to learn how to be Upstanders. Representing 14 troops across the San Jacinto Council area, the girls joined Museum staff and docents to learn about Holocaust history as well as understand the dangers of hatred, prejudice and apathy in their own lives.

Artist Samuel Bak Leads Viewers on a Colorful Journey through Destruction and Ruin to H-O-P-E

Holocaust artist Samuel Bak creates an astoundingly complex, beautiful and richly colorful journey for viewers in his newest exhibit, which opened April 1 at Holocaust Museum Houston.

In "H-O-P-E: Paintings by Samuel Bak," the letters from the word H-O-P-E appear in various phases, some partially hidden, others fragmented, some large, others small. The paintings in the H-O-P-E series do not attempt to illustrate the atrocities of the Holocaust, yet they show viewers the destruction, ruin and sadness left in its wake.

“The call to create art – and indeed to respond creatively to its power – allows us to find hope even in shattering despair,” Bak has said.

The new exhibit by the Massachusetts-based artist runs through Sept. 11, 2016, in the Museum’s Minberg Gallery.

The exhibition includes a selection of 33 works by the artist. Dr. Henry Knight, director of the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College in Keene, NH, has written about Bak’s work, “With a canvas called ‘The Painter’s Window,’ Bak invites us to pause before his images with a sense of double vision, alert to what we see while being aware of the frames through which we see. In this case, we are invited to peer into a canvas that is both a doorway and a window... An even closer look reveals the letters H, O, P and E are present in two locations on the canvas – first slightly obscured by the cobbled window frame just below the faded rainbow and also hidden on the table among discarded pieces of taken-for-granted, daily life. These artifacts are now of a lost civilization, specifically items that express the routine of daily life related to food and drink, from formal Sabbath meals to casual teas.”

Bak is recognized internationally as one of the most important artists of his generation.

Born on Aug. 12, 1933 in Vilna, which is now Vilnius, Lithuania, Bak was recognized from an early age as possessing extraordinary artistic talent. For centuries, Vilna had been known as the “Jerusalem of Lithuania” because it was a major center of Jewish cultural, religious and educational life.

Bak describes his family as “secular, but proud of their Jewish identity.” Immediately following the German invasion of Poland in September 1939, Vilna and the whole East of Poland was attacked by the USSR.



"Interspersed," by Samuel Bak

After one month, the Soviets retreated, giving the city to the Republic of Lithuania. An estimated 30,000 Polish Jews found refuge in the city. As Vilna came under German occupation on June 24, 1941, Bak and his family were forced to move into the Vilna Ghetto.

At the age of nine, he had his first exhibition inside the ghetto, even as massive executions and murders perpetrated by the Nazis and their Lithuanian collaborators took place almost every day. Bak’s father secured freedom for his son by smuggling him out of the ghetto in a cloth sack. Bak and his mother escaped the destruction by hiding in a Benedictine convent. They were helped by a Catholic nun named Maria Mikulska, and spent most of their time there in an attic. By the end of the war, Bak and his mother were the only members of his extensive family to survive. Bak’s four grandparents and father were murdered in the Ponary forest outside of Vilna.

The artist continues to deal with the artistic expression of the destruction and dehumanization which make up his childhood memories. He speaks about what are deemed to be the unspeakable atrocities of the Holocaust, though he hesitates to limit the boundaries of his art to the post-Holocaust genre.

This exhibition is presented in conjunction with Pucker Gallery in Boston, MA, and the artist, and is presented with the generous support of Lead Sponsor Susan D. Saraofim, Patron Sponsor The Sterling Family Foundation, Media Sponsor KPRC Local 2 and United Airlines, the official airline of Holocaust Museum Houston.



Samuel Bak with wife Josée



Eileen Reed and Ruth Steinfeld



Eric Blumrosen and wife former Museum Chair Tali Blumrosen



Samuel Bak discussed the artwork during the opening reception.



Laurie and Milton Boniuk with Sandi Hedrick



Bernie Pucker of the Pucker Gallery with Josée and Samuel Bak



Chaja Verveer and Jim Getola



WWW.HMH.ORG

Giving Today to Teach Tomorrow

If you see Betty Babendure at Holocaust Museum Houston, chances are that you will find her in her natural habitat: surrounded by school children. For the past two years, this former kindergarten teacher of 31 years has guided weekly tours of the Museum for children, tweens and teens. Babendure's mission is to find engaging, age-appropriate ways to relate the history and lessons of the Holocaust and other genocides – events that are still incomprehensible to many adults – to younger generations.

Even though Babendure first visited the Museum only a few years ago, she was moved to make a legacy commitment. Babendure was inspired to share more than her gift for teaching with the Museum. When she recently updated her will, she designated a portion of her estate to the Museum.

Babendure was inspired by her fellow volunteers – people of all faiths who have come together to educate the next generation on the dangers of hatred, apathy and prejudice – and counts the diversity of the volunteer corps, staff, visitors and exhibits as one of the most special aspects of the Museum. "I'm in such awe of all that these volunteers have done, and I wanted to give something. I haven't given a lot of thought to my legacy. I just made the change to my will, told my kids that this organization is important to me, and it was done."

Babendure went on to explain, "It was a simple thing to do. When you give so much to an organization, and you want it to go on into perpetuity, then you want to do something that will make a difference. This place has meaning. The survivors who are still telling their stories won't be around long to share their experiences themselves. Their stories have to be told so these tragedies don't keep happening."

Babendure's gift will help ensure that the Museum's lessons will be taught to generations of school children well into the future.

To join the Museum's Generation to Generation Legacy Society or for more information about planning gifts to the Museum, please call Stephanie Dugan, the Museum's planned giving officer, at 713-527-1629 or email sdugan@hnh.org.

GENERATION
to GENERATION
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HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HOUSTON



Betty Babendure