



## WINTER PARK LIBRARY

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### ***Americans and the Holocaust* traveling exhibition coming to Winter Park Library**

Winter Park — Winter Park Library is one of 50 U.S. libraries newly selected to host *Americans and the Holocaust*, a traveling exhibition from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the American Library Association (ALA) that examines the motives, pressures and fears that shaped Americans' responses to Nazism, war and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s.

Following a highly successful tour to [50 libraries](#) from 2021 to 2023, the touring library exhibition—based on the special exhibition of the same name at the Museum in Washington, D.C. — will travel to an additional 50 U.S. libraries from 2024 to 2026, covering wide distances from Hawaii and Alaska to Texas and New Hampshire.

*"Hosting Americans and the Holocaust allows us to bring this vital history to our community in a deeply personal and accessible way,"* said Melissa Schneider, Executive Director of Winter Park Library. *"Through this exhibition and our programs, we hope to inspire reflection and conversations that connect the past to the challenges of today."*

*Americans and the Holocaust* will be on display at Winter Park Library, along with a series of related special events, from July 28, 2025 to September 2, 2025.

The 1,100-square-foot exhibition examines various aspects of American society: the government, the military, refugee aid organizations, the media and the general public. Drawing on a remarkable collection of primary sources from the 1930s and '40s, the exhibition tells the stories of Americans who acted in response to Nazism, challenging the commonly held assumptions that Americans knew little and did nothing about the Nazi persecution and murder of Jews as the Holocaust unfolded. It provides a portrait of American society that shows how the Depression, isolationism, xenophobia, racism and antisemitism shaped responses to Nazism and the Holocaust.

## AATH traveling exhibit

Winter Park Library will host a series of public programs in conjunction with the *Americans and the Holocaust* exhibition, offering historical insights, personal testimony, and local context. These events were developed in collaboration with the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida and are made possible with major support from AdventHealth, The Ginsburg Family Foundation, and the Central Florida Pledge.

- **July 30** – *Premiere Event: Voices of Survival* | 6:00 - 7:00 pm | *Events Center*: Suzanne Schneider reflects on her family's Holocaust story — a journey marked by loss, endurance, and the hope symbolized by arriving in America.
- **August 3** – *Uncovering the Past* | 2:00 - 3:30 pm | *Edyth Bush Theatre*: WPL archivist Rachel Simmons and historian Lilly Schorr discuss how local archives and research methods can bring Holocaust history closer to home.
- **August 6** – *Media and Memory* | 6:00 - 7:00 pm | *Edyth Bush Theatre*: Journalist Eliot Kleinberg examines how news coverage shaped American understanding of the Holocaust.
- **August 20** – *The Voyage of the St. Louis* | 6:30 - 8:00 pm | *Events Center*: Dr. Diane Afoumado, from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, explores the tragic 1939 journey of the St. Louis refugee ship, including its little-known connection to Florida and its role in shaping global responses to refugees.
- **August 24** – *Reflecting on Americans and the Holocaust* | 2:00 – 3:30 pm | *Events Center*: WUCF-TV moderates a panel with past speakers exploring how the experiences of one generation becomes the history of future generations.
- **August 27** – *History's Lessons* | 6:00 - 8:00 pm | *Events Center*: Dr. Michael Berenbaum, renowned Holocaust scholar and a key figure in the creation of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, explores how the American response to the Holocaust offers enduring lessons for understanding moral responsibility, civic awareness, and rising intolerance in our world today.

All events require registration and are free and open to the public.

For more information about *Americans and the Holocaust* and related programming at Winter Park Library, visit [winterparklibrary.org/aath](http://winterparklibrary.org/aath). To learn more about the exhibition, visit [ushmm.org/americans-ala](http://ushmm.org/americans-ala).

*Americans and the Holocaust: A Traveling Exhibition for Libraries* is an educational initiative of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the American Library Association. The traveling exhibition began by touring to 50 U.S. libraries from 2021 to 2023; due to widespread interest from libraries and communities around the country, a second tour was developed for 2024 to 2026.

*Americans and the Holocaust* was made possible by the generous support of lead sponsor Jeannie & Jonathan Lavine. Additional major funding was provided by the Bildners — Joan & Allen z"l, Elisa Spungen & Rob, Nancy & Jim; and Jane and Daniel Och. The Museum's exhibitions are also supported by the Lester Robbins and Sheila Johnson Robbins Traveling and Special Exhibitions Fund, established in 1990.

AATH traveling exhibit

### **About Winter Park Library**

Winter Park Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization connecting people to knowledge and resources to amplify learning and build a stronger community. As a modern library rooted in service, it offers access to information, technology, classes, cultural programming, and lifelong learning for all. The Library is located at 1052 W. Morse Blvd., with the adjacent Events Center at 1050 W. Morse Blvd. Learn more at [winterparklibrary.org](http://winterparklibrary.org).

### **About the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum**

A nonpartisan, federal educational institution, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is America's national memorial to the victims of the Holocaust dedicated to ensuring the permanence of Holocaust memory, understanding and relevance. Through the power of Holocaust history, the Museum challenges leaders and individuals worldwide to think critically about their role in society and to confront antisemitism and other forms of hate, prevent genocide, and promote human dignity. For more information, visit [ushmm.org](http://ushmm.org).

### **About the American Library Association**

The American Library Association (ALA) is the foremost national organization providing resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. For more than 140 years, the ALA has been the trusted voice for academic, public, school, government and special libraries, advocating for the profession and the library's role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all. For more information, visit [ala.org](http://ala.org).

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