

AMERICANS AND THE HOLOCAUST



Dear Educators,

The Metropolitan Library System will be hosting *Americans and the Holocaust*, a traveling exhibition that examines the motives, pressures and fears that shaped Americans' responses to Nazism, war, and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s starting **January 5, 2023**, at the Ronald J. Norrick Downtown Library. This exhibit will run through **February 12, 2023**, and is being presented in partnership with The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) and the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office (PPO).

The *Americans and the Holocaust* traveling exhibition addresses important themes in American history, including Americans' responses to refugees, war, and genocide in the 1930s and '40s. This exhibition will challenge the commonly held assumptions that Americans knew little and did nothing about the Nazi persecution and murder of Jews as the Holocaust unfolded.

Drawing on a remarkable collection of primary sources from the 1930s and '40s, the exhibition focuses on the stories of individuals and groups of Americans who took action in response to Nazism. It will challenge visitors to consider the responsibilities and obstacles faced by individuals — from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to ordinary Americans — who made difficult choices, sought to effect change, and, in a few cases, took significant risks to help victims of Nazism even as rescue never became a government priority. The USHMM and ALA PPO hope to challenge people to not only ask “what would I have done?” but also, “what will I do?”

We'd appreciate your support in promoting this exhibit and accompanying events with your students, along with your friends and family. Here's how you can help:

- Use this promotional toolkit to share digital or printed posters and flyers for our *Americans and the Holocaust* exhibit and supporting systemwide programs.
- Use this promotional toolkit to find crafted language and images for creating social media posts promoting our *Americans and the Holocaust* exhibit and supporting systemwide programs.
- Provide your students extra credit for attending this exhibit at the Ronald J. Norrick Downtown Library and accompanying events throughout our library system.

This exhibition 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.



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We hope you find this toolkit to be of value and appreciate your support to ensure that Oklahoma County community members are aware of the educational and enrichment opportunities offered by their public library system. If you have any questions about this event or the contents of this toolkit, please reach out to engagement@metrolibrary.org or call 405-231-8650.

Warmly,
Outreach & Engagement Services
Metropolitan Library System

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About the Exhibit: Americans & the Holocaust

About This Exhibition and the Museum's Educational Initiative

The *Americans and the Holocaust* Initiative, a groundbreaking ten-year project of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, is anchored in a special exhibition that opened to the public in April 2018 in conjunction with the Museum's 25th anniversary. This initiative stems from a mandate in the Museum's founding documents to reflect on "the American aspects of the Holocaust." By examining this topic, the Museum poses challenging questions that encourage people to think critically about the past, as well as our role in responding to threats of genocide today.

The *Americans and the Holocaust* Initiative includes the following components:

- The exhibition in Washington, DC
- The traveling exhibition, in partnership with the American Library Association (visiting 50 public and academic libraries from October 2021-November 2023)
- A documentary film by Ken Burns and Florentine Films; this is currently available for [check-out](#) at your local Metro Library location

The Initiative aims to promote:

- An examination of how all parts of American society – the government, organizations, the media, popular culture, and the general public – responded during the rise of the Nazi threat and as news of the genocide became publicly known.
- Self-reflection and critical thinking about the various factors that shaped attitudes and actions during that moment of crisis and the factors that influence us today.

Audiences

Grounded in new research, this initiative widens the aperture on the complexity of the United States in the 1930s and '40s, and challenges the assumptions of our audiences.

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The *Americans and the Holocaust* Initiative aims to reach a broad public audience, with special emphasis on high school and college students and thought leaders.

The traveling exhibition is intended to encourage Americans across the country to reflect on and have conversations about this history and consider our responsibilities in the world today. With the exhibition, the Museum aims to provide Holocaust education resources to communities with demonstrated need for access and exposure to the history.

Exhibition key messages

This exhibition raises challenging and important questions about this critical moment in American history. The introduction to the traveling exhibition reads: What did Americans know? What more could have been done?

Holocaust history raises important questions about what the international community, including the United States, could have done to stop the rise of Nazism in Germany and its assault on Europe's Jews.

By the time Nazi Germany forced the world into war, democratic civilization itself was at stake. The US military fought for almost four years to defend democracy, and more than 400,000 Americans died. American soldiers and civilians alike made enormous sacrifices to free Europe from Nazi oppression. Yet saving Jews and others targeted for murder by the Nazi regime and its collaborators never became a priority.

The United States alone could not have prevented the Holocaust, but more could have been done to save some of the six million Jews who were killed. This exhibition examines the motives, pressures, and fears that shaped Americans' responses to Nazism, war, and genocide.

The traveling exhibition is intended to encourage Americans across the country to reflect on and have conversations about this history and consider our responsibilities in the world today. With the exhibition, the Museum aims to provide Holocaust education resources to communities with demonstrated need for access and exposure to the history.

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Americans & the Holocaust Promotional Tools

Sample Social Media Language

Option 1 (Upcoming):

Our friends @Metrolibraryok have been chosen to host AMERICANS AND THE HOLOCAUST, a traveling exhibition from @HolocaustMuseum and @ALALibrary. Stay tuned for the exhibit dates and program schedule!

Option 2 (Ongoing):

Now at @metrolibraryok from @HolocaustMuseum in Washington, D.C.: AMERICANS AND THE HOLOCAUST is “a portrait of American society that shows how the Depression, isolationism, xenophobia, racism and antisemitism shaped responses to Nazism and the Holocaust.”
<http://ushmm.org/americans-ala>

Option 3 (Event):

Today: Join [@SpeakerHandle] for a discussion of [#TOPIC] as part of the library’s AMERICANS AND THE HOLOCAUST exhibit. Free to all. [LINK TO CALENDAR LISTING] @HolocaustMuseum @ALALibrary

Please tag the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, American Library Association, and the Metropolitan Library System whenever possible.

Tags:

#AmericansandtheHolocaust
@ALALibrary
@HolocaustMuseum
@MetroLibraryOK

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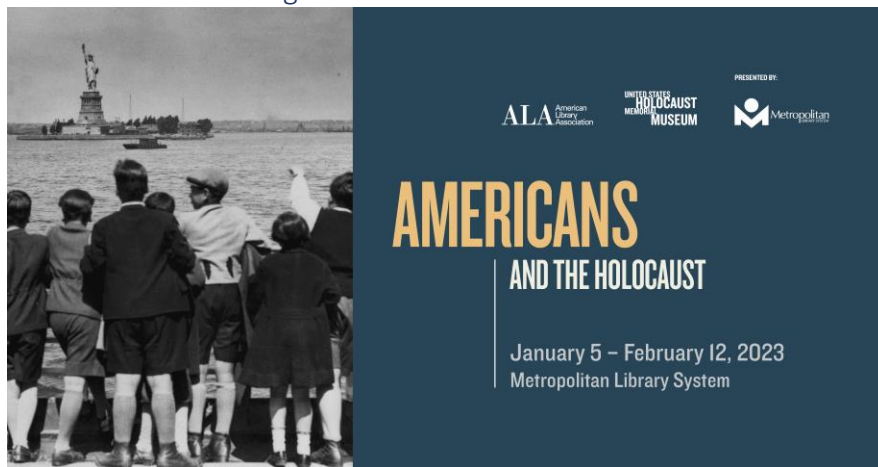
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Social Media Images & Web Files

For downloadable images and files, please visit [Metro Library - Americans and the Holocaust Marketing Pieces](#); sample images of included files are shared below for easy reference.

Facebook Shared Image



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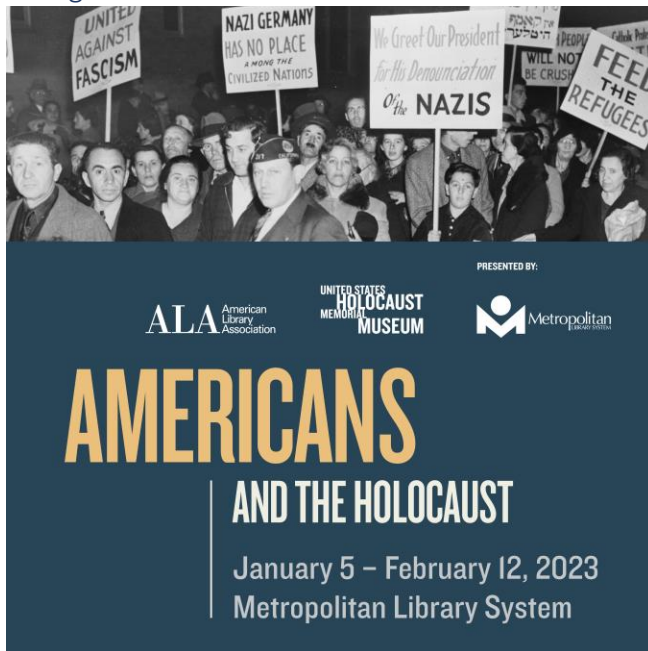
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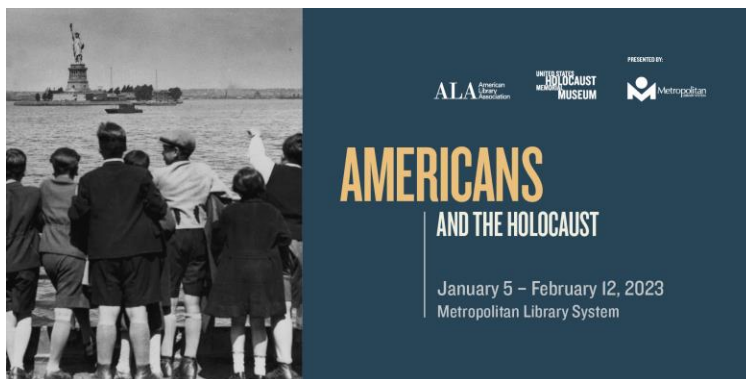
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Instagram Photo



Twitter In-Stream Photo



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If you want to link to the online exhibition on Facebook/Instagram, please use the following URL:

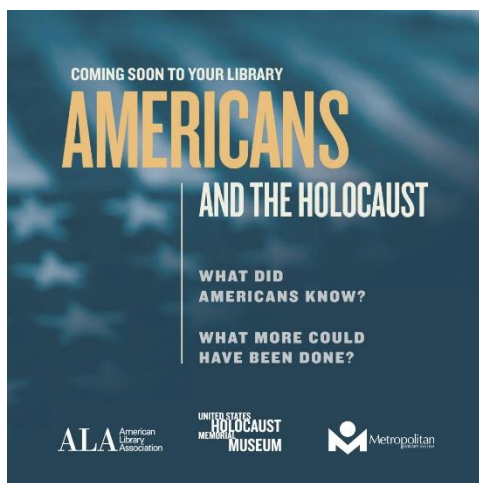
https://exhibitions.ushmm.org/americans-and-the-holocaust/main?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=socialmedia&utm_campaign=americansala&utm_content=americansexhibit

If you want to link to the online exhibition on Twitter, please use the following URL:

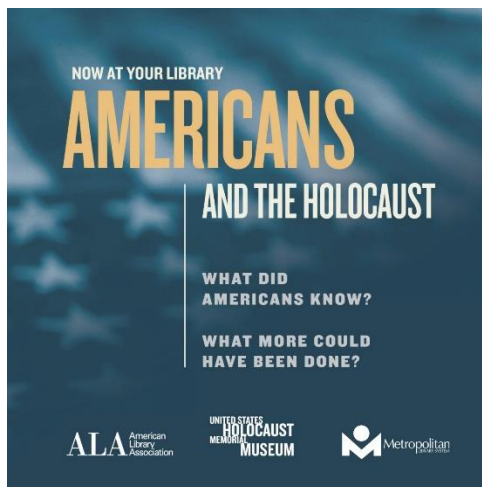
https://exhibitions.ushmm.org/americans-and-the-holocaust/main?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=socialmedia&utm_campaign=americansala&utm_content=americansexhibit

Web Button/Square

Coming Soon to Your Library



Now at Your Library



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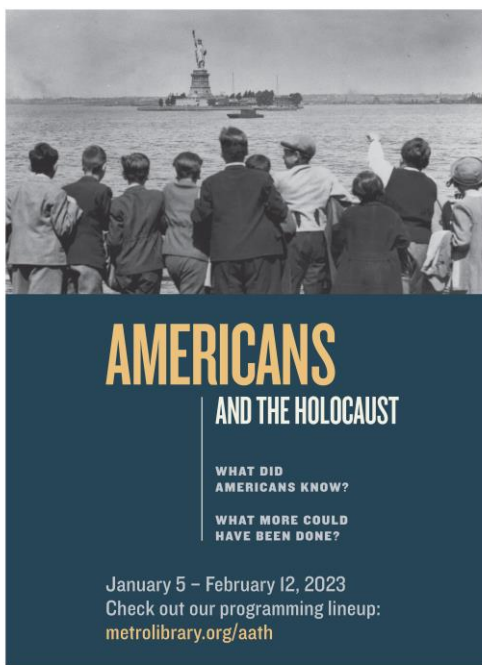
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Printables

For downloadable printables please visit [Metro Library - Americans and the Holocaust Marketing Pieces](#); a couple sample images of included printables are shared below for easy reference.

11x17 Poster Exhibit poster



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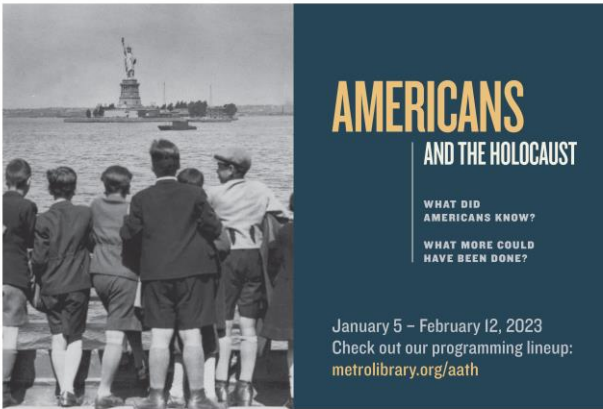
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8.5x11 Flyer
Exhibit flyer



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Visiting the Exhibit: Americans & the Holocaust

Location

Exhibit: Americans and the Holocaust

Location: Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library, 300 Park Ave., OKC, OK 73102

Dates of Exhibit: January 5-February 12, 2023

General Hours for Viewing the Exhibit: Monday-Thursday: 9am-9pm; Friday: 9am-6pm; Saturday: 9am-5pm; Sunday: 1-6pm

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Grand Opening & Reception: January 5, 2023 | 4-6pm

Americans and the Holocaust Grand Opening includes remarks by the Jewish Federation, Professor Michelle Brockmeier, Holocaust Survivor Eva Unterman, and the Interfaith Alliance. Light refreshments will be served and guided tours will be available. Jan. 5, 4:00 - 6:00 pm Downtown Library Friends of the Library Room.

Parking

The Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library is accessible via street and garage parking in Downtown OKC. More information about metered and garage parking can be found at <https://parkingokc.com/rates>. Please note that street parking is free on weekends and after 6pm M-F, excluding holidays.

Guests visiting the Americans & the Holocaust exhibit can request parking vouchers, while supplies last, to cover up to 1.5 hours of time parked in the Arts District Parking Garage, located directly to the west of the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library at 431 W. Main.

Americans & the Holocaust Exhibit-Supporting Programs

Visit us at <https://www.metrolibrary.org/aath> to discover programs supporting our Americans and the Holocaust exhibit.

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Staff Contacts

Have questions? Give us a call at 405-231-8650 so we can help direct your call or reach out to any of the staff contacts noted below. We are here to help!

All General Questions

Kimberly Boldt, Director, Outreach & Engagement Services

405-606-3835

Kimberly.Boldt@metrolibrary.org

School Visits to the Exhibit at The Downtown Library

Judith Matthews, Special Collections Librarian, Special Collections & Research

405-606-3877

Judith.Matthews@metrolibrary.org

Emily Williams, Teen Services Manager, Outreach & Engagement Services

405-606-3834

EWilliams@metrolibrary.org

Tour Guides & Docents

Kelley Riha, Outreach Engagement Specialist II, Outreach & Engagement Services

405-606-3836

KRiha@metrolibrary.org

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