

INSIDE THE MUSEUM

Summer 2010

Museum Celebrates One Year Anniversary

The museum marked its one year anniversary with an event-filled two days in April. On April 18, the celebration kicked off with a Volunteer Appreciation Brunch in Museum Hall. Over 150 volunteers, docents and Speakers Bureau members enjoyed the festivities. Each volunteer was given a “goody bag” in appreciation of their dedicated service to the museum. The day’s events included “Eyewitness to the Holocaust,” talks by Board Member survivors Barbara Steiner, Ralph Rehbock, and Aaron Elster. For younger visitors, the “Man in the Yellow Hat,” portrayed by Museum Librarian Matthew Sackel, featured the reading of selections from *Curious George* in the Miller Family Youth Exhibition.

On April 19, the actual anniversary of the opening, the Museum offered free admission and extended hours. In addition to more “Eyewitness to the Holocaust” presentations by Museum President Fritzie Fritzshall and President Emeritus Sam Harris, architect Stanley Tigerman gave a lecture to a packed house in Goodman Auditorium, entitled “Symbolism in the Design of the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center.” That evening, a reception was held for major donors at which Stephen Smith, Director of the USC Shoah Foundation for Visual History and Education, spoke about our ongoing collaboration. The two day celebration brought nearly 1,500 visitors to the museum. ■



Back row left to right: Executive Director Rick Hirschhaut, President Fritzie Fritzshall, and high school student Zak Kolar. Front: Survivor Barbara Steiner



...and welcomes 100,000th Visitor

Just two weeks shy of the one year anniversary, the Museum welcomed its 100,000th visitor. The celebration occurred with a visit by 50 students from one of the Chicago International Charter Schools, an “Opportunity Grant” recipient. Museum President Fritzie Fritzshall spoke to the group, as did Executive Director Rick Hirschhaut, and the students were given museum t-shirts and Nestlé “100 Grand” candy bars. This significant milestone was enjoyed by all. ■

Summer 2010

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From Our President



Fritzie Fritzshall

I am so honored to be serving as President of this remarkable institution.

I would like to begin by thanking our outgoing President, Sam Harris. He has

been gracious and helpful, and is leaving the care of this wonderful, wonderful museum in my hands. I sincerely hope to carry out the responsibilities of this office as well as Sam did.

The Illinois Holocaust Museum exists today as the culmination of nearly thirty years of hard work and big dreams. My thoughts turn to the days of our former, small storefront location. There we struggled to create a display that would inform students, worried how we would fit into a limited space and where the buses that brought them would park.

We dreamed of one day creating a place that would not only serve as a memorial and resting place for our families and the millions we have lost, but also as a place

of learning. We dreamed of building an institution in which young minds could be exposed to history and taught the terrible dangers of prejudice and hatred.

I think of those dreams and how they were first voiced by the organization's first president, Erna Gans, who served from 1981 until her death in 1999. Erna was succeeded by Lisa Derman, who, until her death in 2003, nurtured the dream and helped it to grow. I think, too, of the many survivors who helped found the organization, shared the dreams and guided us along the path that eventually led to this world-class museum and education center.

This has been a year of milestones for the new Museum, each one a first, and each one contributing to our accomplishments. We were able to reflect on many of these at our Humanitarian Awards Dinner. That evening I had the privilege to be recognized along with two other outstanding recipients, Jeff Aronin and David Speer. How honored I felt to be in their company. When I stood on the podium, surrounded by family and friends, and looked out at the 1,600 people there, I was overwhelmed by the love in that room

for this museum and the commitment to its mission.

More recently, it was my pleasure to address students from Chicago International Charter School—Basil Campus. Those young people helped us reach a very important milestone. They accounted for the Museum's 100,000th visitor. But they are much more than a statistic to me. They are our ambassadors to the future.

Everyone associated with the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center has a great deal to celebrate. But we Holocaust survivors are particularly proud to trust this amazing Museum to teach from our experiences for the generations who will follow us. Hundreds of thousands of students will listen to our stories and the power of our words.

This is our legacy, leaving our memories behind, so that today's young people and future generations can take the lessons into a world we will never see. I look forward to working with each of you to ensure that this happens.

Fritzie Fritzshall
President

IN MEMORIAM

The museum mourns the passing of Bela Korn, beloved friend, founder and longtime Board Secretary. May her memory be for a blessing.

On April 15, Museum President Fritzie Fritzshall (pictured here with Executive Director Rick Hirschhaut and Illinois Governor Pat Quinn) was the featured speaker for the 29th Annual Illinois Holocaust Commemoration at the Old State Capitol in Springfield. The event, co-sponsored by the Office of the Governor and Jewish Federations of Illinois, was part of the Days of Remembrance, an annual commemoration designated by Congress to recall the victims of the Holocaust. Fritzie, a teenage survivor, also addressed the Illinois State Senate, thanking the legislature for its visionary leadership on Holocaust education and for its part in advocating for creation of the new Illinois Holocaust and Genocide Commission.



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The Wartime Escape: Margret and H.A. Rey's Journey from France

Now through June 20, 2010

More than three generations of Americans have grown up reading the stories of an irrepressible little brown monkey known in this country as "Curious George." But few people know about the incredible journey made by his creators, Margret and H.A. Rey, to escape the Nazi invasion of Paris at the start of World War II. Stashing a few precious belongings and manuscripts in their knapsacks and the baskets of their bicycles, the Jewish couple fled Paris in June 1940, starting a five month odyssey by bike, train, and boat that would eventually bring them to American shores.

Beginning in the years prior to the war, "The Wartime Escape" explores the Rey's early creative collaborations and traces how the story of George himself (originally titled *The Adventures of Fifi*) spanned the wartime period. The monkey emerged as a character in one of the Rey's pre-World War II stories, and the manuscript that became *Curious George* was already in progress by 1939. However, wartime constraints on printing as well as the general turmoil of the period prevented the original contract from being fulfilled. When the Reys were forced to flee Paris along with thousands of other refugees in advance of the German occupation, the

manuscript and illustrations for the book were among the few personal possessions they managed to take with them. Escaping via Spain and Portugal, then across the Atlantic to Brazil, the Reys finally reached the United States in October 1940. A month later, they received a new contract from Houghton Mifflin for "The Adventures of Fifi," later re-titled "The Adventures of Curious George."

The exhibition features 27 framed art prints by artist Allan Drummond and supplemental archival images from the holdings of the DeGrummond Collection of Children's Literature at the University of Southern Mississippi. The exhibition is based in part on the 2005 publication, "The Journey that Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margret and H.A. Rey," written by Louise Borden and illustrated by Allan Drummond (Houghton Mifflin Company, New York).

Wartime Escape: Margret and H.A. Rey's Journey from France is sponsored by ExhibitsUSA, a national program of Mid-America Arts Alliance and The National Endowment for the Arts. ■



Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race July 22, 2010 through January 2, 2011

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's traveling exhibition, *Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race*, examines how the Nazi leadership, in collaboration with individuals in professions traditionally charged with



healing and the public good, used science to help legitimize persecution, murder and, ultimately, genocide.

From 1933 to 1945, Nazi Germany carried out a campaign to "cleanse" German society of individuals viewed as biological threats to the nation's "health." Enlisting the help of physicians and medically trained geneticists, psychiatrists, and anthropologists, the Nazis developed racial health policies that began with the mass sterilization of "genetically diseased" persons and ended with the near annihilation of European Jewry.

"*Deadly Medicine* explores the Holocaust's roots in then-contemporary scientific and pseudo-scientific thought," explains

exhibition curator Susan Bachrach. "At the same time, it touches on complex ethical issues we face today, such as how societies acquire and use scientific knowledge and how they balance the rights of the individual with the needs of the larger community.

This version of *Deadly Medicine* is based on the acclaimed exhibition of the same name that originally opened at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., in April 2004. Two other successful traveling versions of the exhibition have been on display in Canada and Germany. An online version of the exhibition is available at www.ushmm.org/deadlymedicine ■

Museum Celebrates Annual Humanitarian Awards Dinner

Over 1,600 guests attended the museum's 2010 Humanitarian Awards Dinner at the Hyatt Regency Chicago on March 8th, raising a record \$2 million to support the educational activities of the museum. Tom Brokaw, NBC News Special Correspondent, served as keynote speaker.

Civic and business leaders, community members, Holocaust survivors and Museum patrons celebrated the Illinois Holocaust & Education Center's inaugural year and honored three extraordinary individuals: Jeffrey Aronin, President and CEO of Paragon Pharmaceuticals, Inc; Fritzie Fritزشall, Holocaust survivor, educator and recently elected Museum President; and David Speer, Chairman and CEO of Illinois Tool Works (ITW). All three were presented with the Humanitarian Award for their many accomplishments, steadfast commitment to fighting hatred, injustice and intolerance, and dedication to educating current and future generations about the dangers of unchecked bigotry.

The evening sparkled with energy and excitement



Standing left to right: Rick Hirschhaut, David Speer, Sam Harris, Tom Brokaw, Jeff Aronin & J.B. Pritzker. Seated: Ruby Bridges and Fritzie Fritزشall



Fritzie Fritزشall and Women's Leadership Committee Chair Eileen Kugman

as Mayor Richard M. Daley made a surprise appearance to congratulate the honorees. Tom Brokaw graciously posed for photographs with the honorees and many dinner guests, taking time to trade stories with the Mayor during the cocktail reception.

The program had many highlights. Museum Executive Director Rick Hirschhaut gave an overview of the many activities that have taken place in the



Tom Brokaw and Mayor Richard M. Daley

Museum's first year of operation and then introduced a compelling video capturing some of these unique programs. J.B. Pritzker, Chair of the Museum's Board of Trustees, presented outgoing Board President Sam Harris with an award for his outstanding service and his invaluable help in building the new museum.

After dinner, civil rights activist Ruby Bridges kicked off the awards ceremony by defining the meaning of "humanitarian" and expressing her delight at being

a part of the event. Each honoree was featured in a tribute video highlighting their accomplishments and their speeches reflected their deep commitment to the goals of the museum. Fritزشall, a teenage survivor of Auchwitz, received a standing ovation.

Brokaw capped off the evening with a riveting speech about the need for individuals to make a difference and step up to solve the world's problems of bigotry and racism. Recounting his visit to Dachau as a young reporter, Brokaw said it left an indelible mark on him that affected his entire career of journalistic reporting. In his closing remarks, he offered his test of judging a person's character by asking himself the question, "Would this person hide me?"

It was a powerful evening for all, and a wonderful celebration to commemorate the museum's inaugural year. ■



Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White and Lexi Aronin

Spring Happenings



Benny the Bull surrounded by children from the James Jordan Boys and Girls Club.

Chicago Bulls Observe MLK Holiday

On Saturday, January 16, in recognition of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, Bulls center Jerome James, Bulls legend Bob Love, and thirty children from the James Jordan Boys and Girls Club spent the afternoon at the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center celebrating the civil rights leader's birthday and enduring legacy. ■



Authors Rita Lurie and Leslie Gilbert-Lurie

Bending Towards the Sun

On Thursday, December 3, the Women's Leadership Committee hosted an evening for generations of women with the presentation of *Bending Toward the Sun*. Holocaust Survivor Rita Lurie and her daughter, Leslie Gilbert-Lurie, shared passages from their book and discussed the multigenerational effects the

Holocaust plays on a family. Over 150 mothers, daughters, and granddaughters attended the presentation and shared in a dessert reception with the authors. Generous support for the event was provided by Susan Lichtenstein, John Rokacz, and HarperCollins Publishers. ■



Anne & Emmett

Anne & Emmett, an imaginary conversation between Anne Frank and Emmett Till, was presented by The Stanley C. Golder 11th Annual Interfaith Lecture on April 24. Temple Jeremiah hosted the program in cooperation with the Museum. The one-act play was written by Janet Langhart Cohen, a Washington-based journalist and wife of former U.S. Secretary of Defense William Cohen. Both attended the performance. ■

Anne Frank: On the Air

A different approach to Anne Frank's experiences was shared January 17, when GreatWorks Theatre Company presented "Anne Frank: On the Air" at the Museum. The play portrayed a group of 1940s radio actors who perform a new script, not realizing the story is true. Audience members interacted with the cast afterwards. ■



Actors from GreatWorks Theatre Company perform.

Education for a Generation

Best-selling author and Enough Project co-founder John Prendergast joined Chicago Bulls forward and Sudan native Luol Deng as the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center and Enough Project partnered to host "Education For A Generation," a special fundraiser and reception to benefit the Darfur Dream Team's Sister Schools Program. ■



Left to right: John Prendergast, Lonnie Nasatir, Luol Deng and Rick Hirschhaut



Left to right: Patty White, Zak Piper, Mally Rutkoff, Dr. David Rosenberg, Howard Reich, Pam Becker, Gordon Quinn and Jerry Blumenthal.

Prisoner of Her Past

On February 28 the Museum hosted a sneak peek of Kartemquin Films' new documentary, "Prisoner of Her Past," before an audience of nearly 200. The film, based on Chicago Tribune arts and jazz critic Howard Reich's book *The Final Nightmare*, depicts his journey to understand his mother and Holocaust survivor Sonia Reich's late-onset post traumatic stress disorder. The program also included a panel discussion with Reich, the film's director Gordon Quinn, and consultant Dr. David Rosenberg, moderated by Mally Rutkoff, who chairs JUF's Holocaust Community Services Leadership Committee. ■

2010 Leo & Antonia Gershanov Memorial Student Essay Contest Awards Ceremony

Over 250 Illinois high school students submitted essays addressing the theme, "One Person Can Make a Difference: Eliminating Genocide in My Lifetime." On May 16, ten finalists, their teachers and schools were recognized for their efforts with a special reception and awards ceremony at the Museum. Those gathered for the announcement of the winners had the opportunity to hear about the Holocaust-era experiences of contest sponsors Peter and Fred Gershanov and the steps their family re-traced on a recent trip to Slovakia.

In addition, the program's featured speaker, via Skype, was Paul Rusesabagina, the real-life hero of the acclaimed film "Hotel Rwanda" as well as President and Co-Founder of the Hotel Rwanda Rusesabagina Foundation. Himself an eyewitness to genocide and someone who makes a difference, Mr. Rusesabagina offered

an inspiring and powerful contribution to the program. The following students are the 2010 contest winners:

First Place
Taylor Greene, Guerin College Preparatory High School, 12th grade

Second Place
Allison Bigelow, Ramsey High School, 11th grade

Third Place
Ioana Guler, Ridgewood High School, 12th grade

Honorable Mention
Wladyslaw Tylka, Ridgewood High School, 10th grade

Their essays may be found on our website, http://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/pages/student_contests/50.php



Front row left to right: Taylor Greene, Allison Bigelow, Ioana Guler, Annalisa Nardulli, and Katarzyna Gibas. Back row left to right: Fritzie Fritzshall, Peter Gershanov, Wladyslaw Tylka, Nada Trivanovic, Steven Fisher, Joanna Cison, and Rick Hirschhaut

Wanted: Volunteers — No Experience Necessary

We are looking for additional Visitor Service Volunteers to greet visitors, sell admission tickets, staff the membership desk, help at the information desk, assist in the library, and work in the Museum's Legacy Shop.

If you are interested in any of the listed duties and are available on weekends and/or Thursday evenings, please contact susan.geisenheimer@ilhmec.org or 847-967-4864. ■

From a Former Action Reconciliation Service for Peace (ARSP) Volunteer



Dear Friends,

It was exactly one year ago today that I came in from Seoul to attend the big opening ceremony of the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center. I remember it as if it was yesterday. I was sitting up front, next to Magda Brown, and just a few rows ahead of me spoke former President Bill Clinton. I couldn't believe my eyes and had to pinch myself to check if this

was really happening. When the German ambassador said in his speech that he was there with 9 other Consuls-General and called the names of all former ARSP volunteers, including mine, I realized that this was a very special moment. Since this day one year passed by and the little museum in Main Street, where I was still volunteering, became a true world class museum. Congratulations on this tremendous success to everybody who helped make this possible!!!

I'm always impressed when I take a look on the IHMEC website or read its newsletter and see what amazing programs you are organizing. I often wish I could attend them. Maybe this summer. I'm still planning to come back once I finish my Bachelors Degree in June. Until then I'll be very busy. Besides writing my thesis, I'm

still the Speaker for the Thüringer ARSP Regional Group and lead the university chapter of SOS-Darfur. Both commitments are a direct consequence of my experiences in Chicago and even three years after my volunteer service my memories are still very vivid. When I visited Auschwitz three months ago for the 65th anniversary of its liberation, so many stories of survivors came back in my mind. The same happened last weekend when I attended the anniversary ceremony in Buchenwald. I saw how important and necessary it is to remember those dates and the past in general because of the big neo-Nazi demonstration in Dresden of which you might have heard. Hundreds of neo-Nazis from all over Europe came to Dresden to "remember" the victims of the Allies' bombing in February of 1945. Luckily there were thousands of peaceful anti-neo-Nazi demonstrators to prevent them from marching. I was one of them but have to admit that I felt very scared seeing so many neo-Nazis on one place. Facing them, I realized one more time the importance of education and creating an awakened society. So, keep doing your great job and let us "Remember the Past and Transform the Future" in the years to come. I wish you ongoing success for filling this slogan with action and send you all the best from Germany.

Gregor Darmer

Spotlight On...



Myrna Urkov

Myrna Urkov knew she wanted to volunteer at the new museum as soon as she saw the building being built. She is very supportive of the museum's mission and began volunteering in April 2009. Myrna realizes the importance of membership for the growth of the museum and decided to be a membership volunteer. You can find her every Monday and Wednesday morning selling memberships near Admissions. In fact, Myrna won a "Lettuce Entertain You" gift certificate for being the volunteer who sold the most memberships during February.

To Myrna, the museum is like her second home. She says "she is in the right place in the right time of her life." Myrna is the mother of three grown daughters and has two granddaughters and two grandsons. ■

Welcome Aboard!



Rachel Hellenga

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Rachel Hellenga as Director of Program Services. Rachel brings to this position nearly twenty years of experience in museum exhibits, collections, education, and outreach. Most recently Rachel served as Project Director of Science Storms, the new and highly-regarded permanent exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry. Previously, Rachel served as an Associate Vice President at the Chicago Children's Museum. She also spent eight years in progressively senior positions at The Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose, CA. Rachel holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Harvard University and is an active participant in the activities of the American Association of Museums (AAM). ■



Ken Cooper

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Ken Cooper as Director of Development. Ken brings to this position twenty-four years of professional experience in developing donor relationships across Chicago's philanthropic community. For the past ten years, he has served as Executive Vice-President & Director of Strategic Development of Keshet, an organization delivering educational and recreational activities to adults and children with developmental disabilities. Ken previously served as Associate Director of the Chicago chapter of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science. He has extensive experience in major gift solicitation, event management, and planned giving. Ken holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Arizona State University. ■



Arielle Weininger

We also are pleased to announce that Arielle Weininger has joined the museum staff as Curator of Collections and Exhibitions. Arielle has spent the last 13 years in various positions with Spertus Museum, most recently as Managing Director. She previously served as Registrar/Collections Manager, Associate Curator, and Education Coordinator. Arielle received her M.A. in Near and Middle East Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London and her B.A. in Art History and Photography, with a minor in Religious Studies, from the University of Iowa. She either curated or co-curated nearly a dozen installations during her tenure at Spertus and is excited to be bringing her skills and experience to our Museum. ■

Museum Staff

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Executive Director
Richard S. Hirschhaut
Executive Assistant
Nancy Libman Luck

PROGRAM SERVICES

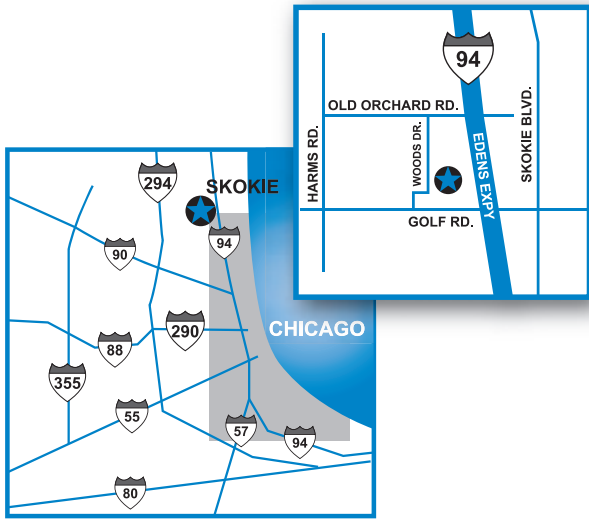
Director of Program Services
Rachel Hellenga
Curator of Collections & Exhibitions
Arielle Weininger
Registrar
Susan Lerner
Collections Manager
Renny Bergeron
Director of Education
Noreen Brand
Associate Director of Education
Kelley H. Szany
Director of Special Projects
Lillian Polus Gerstner
Program Assistant
David Kurzmann
Librarian
Matthew Sackel
Education Coordinator
Laura Krain

DEVELOPMENT

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Ken Cooper
Director of Corporate Relations
Patricia White
Development Coordinator
Jessica Bialorucki Lindholm
Donor Relations Coordinator
Laura Iwanenko

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Evette L. Simon
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Julie Avchen
Operations Coordinator
David Carrasquillo
Director of Security
David Smart
Assistant Director of Security
Ilan Levine
Visitor Services and Volunteer Programs Coordinator
Susan Geisenheimer
IT Manager
John Klimek
Accounting Manager
Keith Kijek
Retail Manager
Frank Weissman
Receptionist
Anita Nuccio
Building Operations Manager
Tony Scheurich
Head Custodian
Omar Ortiz
Custodian
Matt Duda



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to get museum news, updates & invitations

SEND US

your email address and have a chance to
win a private tour of the museum for 12 people!

E-MAIL

updates@ilhmec.org with your e-mail address today!