



ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM
& EDUCATION CENTER

Take history to heart. Take a stand for humanity.

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WORLD PREMIERE
ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER PRESENTS

Stories
of
Survival

OBJECT · IMAGE · MEMORY

MOVING STORIES OF CHICAGOLAND SURVIVORS
OF THE HOLOCAUST AND OTHER GENOCIDES
TOLD THROUGH THEIR EVERYDAY, PERSONAL BELONGINGS
JULY 19, 2018 – JANUARY 13, 2019

THE MUSEUM'S FIRST EXHIBIT CREATED TO TOUR NATIONALLY, CURATED IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH RENOWNED PHOTO-DOCUMENTARIAN [JIM LOMMASSON](#)

(April 2018) Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center proudly presents the world premiere of ***Stories of Survival: Object. Image. Memory.***, an epic new exhibition showcasing more than 60 personal artifacts brought to America by Survivors of the Holocaust and other genocides, never before on display. Exploring the relationship between objects, their meaning to the original owner and subsequent significance, each artifact is dramatically paired with oversized photographs by renowned documentarian **Jim Lommasson** with handwritten responses by Survivors or their family members.

The objects featured in ***Stories of Survival*** are as everyday as a baby doll and a black suitcase and as symbolic as a young mother's cook-book and a wedding announcement, as saved by Survivors from genocides around the world, including Armenia, Bosnia, Cambodia, Iraq, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Syria.

Working closely with Jim Lommasson, the Museum undertook the curation of this major exhibition to commemorate its 10th Anniversary in its Stanley Tigerman-designed building in 2009; ***Stories of Survival*** will be mounted at the Illinois Holocaust



Museum, 9603 Woods Drive in Skokie, IL, from July 19, 2018 – January 13, 2019, before traveling to Museums around the country. *Stories of Survival* shares a treasure trove of artifacts all from Chicago area Survivors or their descendants.

“Jim’s work so beautifully brings together photography with testimony,” said Museum Chief Curator Arielle Weininger. “The process of hearing each Survivor’s story and seeing it portrayed visually, in tandem with their cherished object—has been so touching, and the end result is incredibly powerful.”

Museum CEO Susan Abrams adds, “Our Museum team looks for compelling ways to tell personal stories that illuminate human rights issues. *Stories of Survival* is not just a photography exhibit, it is not just a display of personal artifacts. It is a poignant marrying of the two, in which the stories of those who suffered human rights atrocities come to life.”

Jim Lommasson is an award-winning photographer and author living in Portland, Oregon. He received the Dorothea Lange–Paul Taylor Prize from The Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University for his first book, *Shadow Boxers: Sweat, Sacrifice and The Will To Survive In American Boxing Gyms*. Lommasson's 2015 book *Exit Wounds: Soldiers’ Stories – Life After Iraq and Afghanistan* and traveling exhibition is about U.S. veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, and their lives after their return from war. Lommasson is a 2012-2016 Oregon Humanities Conversation Project Grant Recipient for his public discussion "Life after War" and was awarded a Regional Arts and Culture Council Project Grant for his current project: *What We Carried: Fragments from the Cradle of Civilization*. *What We Carried* is an ongoing collaborative storytelling project with displaced Iraqi and Syrian refugees who have fled to the U.S. *What We Carried* was published in 2016 by Blue Sky Books and was featured as an exhibition at the Illinois Holocaust Museum.

Stories of Survival: Object. Image. Memory. is a project of the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center and photographer Jim Lommasson.

Presenting Sponsor: Stories of Survival: Object. Image. Memory. is supported by the Breakthrough Fund: An Innovation of the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago.

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Additional Funders: George and Judith Giddens; Flyback Productions; The Golder Family Foundation supports all Illinois Holocaust Museum special exhibitions.

Community Partners: Armenian National Committee of Illinois; Association of Descendants of the Shoah-Illinois; Ayal Community Development Association; Bosnian-American Genocide Institute and Education Center; Cambodian Association of Illinois/National Cambodian Heritage Museum & Killing Fields Memorial; Center for Forgiveness and Peace; Chicago Association for the Lost Boys of Sudan; Chicago South Sudanese Community Center; Iraqi Mutual Aid Society; Roosevelt University Gage Gallery; Sudanese Community Association of Illinois; Sheérit HaPleitah of Metropolitan Chicago

About Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, located at 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, IL, honors the Survivors and victims of the Holocaust and transforms history into current, relevant, and universal lessons in humanity. Through world-class exhibitions and programs, the Museum inspires individuals and organizations and provides a universal wake-up call to action: Take history to heart. Take a stand for humanity. The Museum is open daily from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m. Learn more at <https://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/>.

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