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### **Rawlings Library hosts *Americans and the Holocaust* traveling exhibit**

PUEBLO, Colo. – The Pueblo City-County Library District (PCCLD) is one of 50 U.S. libraries 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.

“The Pueblo City-County Library District is honored to host this traveling exhibition. As a library, our mission is to provide access to information. We recognize that the themes of the Holocaust can be difficult to process. However, by bearing witness to this history together, we strengthen our collective resolve to support a more informed and compassionate society today.” Sherri Baca, executive director of PCCLD said.

*Americans and the Holocaust* will be on display on the second floor at Rawlings Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave., along with a series of related special events, from February 5 to March 13.

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.

In addition to the interactive exhibit, a four-week speaker series features experts, descendants, and Pueblo community leaders who illuminate the many facets of Jewish life, the Holocaust, and the ongoing fight against antisemitism.

- February 8: Antisemitism: A New Psychological Perspective, featuring speaker Dr. Dorit Ilani
- February 15: Relatives of the Holocaust, Part I, featuring speakers Helena Atlas-Acuna, Michael Herzog and Margaret Knight.
- February 22: The History of Pueblo's Jewish Community, featuring B'Nai Jacob Cemetery with speaker Lizzy Kippur; B'Nai Jacob Congregation and the United Hebrew Center with speaker David Israel; Temple Emanuel with speaker Michael Atlas-Acuna
- March 1: Relatives of the Holocaust, Part II, featuring "From the Ghetto to Life: My Family's Fight to Survive" with speaker Nathanael Robbins; "Resistance" with Cat B.

This engaging program series takes place in the Maker Space located on the first floor of Rawlings Library.

"We invite you to walk through these stories—not just to look back at the past, but to understand our shared responsibility in the present," Baca continued.

Free screenings of the new documentary series "U.S. and the Holocaust," by Ken Burns, Lynn Novick and Sarah Botstein take place 5:30-8 p.m. February 12, March 5 and 12 in the Bret Kelly A Meeting Room, first floor. "U.S. and the Holocaust" examines the rise of Hitler and Nazism in Germany in the context of global antisemitism and racism, immigration and eugenics in the United States, and race laws in the American south.

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

Baca continued, "I am looking forward to the public library providing a platform for learning about this history, understanding its meaning, and joining thoughtful discussions about how it applies today."

*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.

In addition to the traveling exhibition on loan, PCCLD received a \$3,000 cash grant to support public programs. The grant also covered one library staff member's attendance at an orientation workshop at the Museum.

*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 and Allen, Elisa Spungen and Rob, Nancy and 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.

## About PCCLD

PCCLD is dedicated to serving as a foundation for the Pueblo community by offering welcoming, well equipped and maintained facilities, outstanding collections, and well-trained employees who provide

expert service encouraging the joy of reading, supporting lifelong learning and presenting access to information from around the world.

Stay up to date with PCCLD visit [www.pueblolibrary.org](http://www.pueblolibrary.org) and follow our social media pages.

### **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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