

PRESS REPORT

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Traveling exhibit about the Holocaust on display at Pueblo's Rawlings Library

By: [Carl Winder](#)

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PUEBLO, Colo. (KOAA) — For the next six weeks, a traveling exhibit about the Holocaust will be on display at the Rawlings Library in downtown Pueblo.

It's called 'Americans and the Holocaust.' It comes from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

The Pueblo City County Library District is one of 50 libraries across the U.S. to host this impactful display. The exhibit focuses on the people in the U.S. who took action in response to Nazism.

"Learning from history and making sure it doesn't repeat itself is important, so learning from this history, learning from our response, learning what we learn from the Holocaust and what happened and (the) travesty that happened from that and making sure we don't repeat it is extremely important," said Nick Potter with the Pueblo City County Library District.

The exhibit is free to visit and will be open from Thursday, February 5 to Thursday, March 19. For more information about the exhibit, visit the [Pueblo City County Library District's website](#).

Southern Colorado library will host ‘Americans and the Holocaust’ traveling exhibit

By **O'Dell Isaac** odell.isaac@gazette.com

The Gazette

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Following a successful two-year tour of 50 libraries across the U.S., the “Americans and the Holocaust” traveling exhibit is returning to Colorado.

The display, which chronicles the country’s relationship with one of the largest mass killings in history, will spend five weeks at Rawlings Library in Pueblo. During its nationwide tour from 2021 to 2023, it spent a month in Colorado Springs at the Pikes Peak Library District’s East branch.

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“The Pueblo City-County Library District is honored to host this traveling exhibition,” said Sherri Baca, executive director of the Pueblo City-County Library District.

“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.”

Sponsored by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the American Library Association, the exhibit is a comprehensive visual study of the years leading up to the Holocaust, what American leaders might have known beforehand, and the events that resulted in U.S. involvement in World War II.

The display is designed to elicit strong feelings, and it asks tough questions, but officials said the answers are not as simple as they might seem.

In the late 1930s and 1940s, there were warning signs that the rising Nazi party blamed much of Germany’s problems on the Jewish people, and was planning a campaign to expel Jews from the country. The U.S. government was initially reluctant to intervene, but it wasn’t because of a lack of empathy, according to Todd Hennessy, president of Colorado Holocaust Educators.

At the time of the Holocaust, the U.S. was still reeling from the longest and most devastating economic downturn in its history, and the nation’s leaders had legitimate reasons for being reluctant to get involved in a crisis thousands of miles from its own troubled shores.

“The United States was dealing with a lot of problems domestically at that time,” Hennessy said. “We were just coming out of the Depression, and we were dealing with the aftereffects of World War I. Geography was also an issue. So it was understandable that the U.S. didn’t want to get involved in another war, thousands of miles away.”

The “Americans and the Holocaust” website also notes that the U.S., on its own, could not have stopped the mass killing even if leaders had acted sooner.

“This history is not easy,” Hennessy said. “This history is complex.”

Drawing on a collection of source material from the 1930s and '40s, the exhibition also tells stories of individuals and groups of Americans who took risks to help victims of 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,” PCCLD officials said in a news release.

Hennessy, a career educator and historian, said that while the exhibit doesn't always depict Americans in a favorable light, it is a historically accurate portrayal of the years leading up to U.S. involvement in World War II.

It's a great look into a historic period,” Hennessy said. “It's not meant to show to United States favorably or unfavorably. It's meant to show what was taking place in its accurate form. If you're a true student of history, it's worth the time to check out the exhibit, and I hope people do that.”

In addition to the interactive exhibit, the library is offering a four-week speaker series featuring Pueblo community leaders, descendants of Holocaust victims and experts on the period, the release stated.

“I hope a lot of people turn out, come to the exhibit, see the programs we're offering, get a better understanding of what happened back then, and work to fight anti-Semitism and make our community better,” said Michael Atlas-Acuna, president of the board of directors for Pueblo's Temple Emanuel. “We have to keep educating people about this history, so that it does not repeat itself.”

IF YOU GO

“Americans and the Holocaust” will be on display on the second floor at Rawlings Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave., from Feb. 5 to March 13. For more information about the exhibit and related programming, visit pueblolibrary.org.

Pueblo City-County Library District getting head start on Valentine's Day

by: [Carl Winder](#)

KOAA

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PUEBLO COUNTY, Colo. (KOAA) — The Pueblo City-County Library District is getting a head start to celebrate Valentine's Day. The district will be having events all week to celebrate the occasion.

This includes blind date with a book, which gives people a chance to check out a book without knowing the genre or title, Valentine's Day themed craft classes, and Anti-Valentine's Day events at all library district locations.

"It's a chance for families to come in and do an activity together," said Ann Boyden with the Pueblo City-County Library District. "It's a chance for teens to come in and discover a teen hangout. It's a chance for patrons to come in who maybe aren't familiar with the library to get a library card as well as check out our all of our resources."

If you want a list of events each day, visit the [Pueblo City-County Library District's website](#).



Pueblo Library District hosts anti-Valentine's Day event for teens

[KOAA 5](#)

The event aimed to show that you don't need love to be able to celebrate the holiday, and it gives them a fun activity to do that's not lovey.



Pueblo City-County Library District hosting traveling Holocaust exhibit

KKTV

The library district is one of 50 in the U.S. selected to host a traveling exhibition from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the ALA, according to PCCLD.