

# AMERICANS AND THE HOLOCAUST

## **Americans and the Holocaust traveling exhibition coming to Saint Peter**

*Saint Peter, MN* — Saint Peter Public Library is one of 50 U.S. libraries selected to host Americans and the Holocaust, a traveling exhibition from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum that examines the motives, pressures and fears that shaped Americans' responses to Nazism, war and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s. The touring library exhibition, based on the special exhibition of the same name at the Museum in Washington, D.C., will travel to U.S. libraries from 2020 to 2022.

*"We are so honored and excited to be able to finally host this important and powerful exhibit." said Library Supervisor Brenda McHugh. "We encourage community members to come experience the exhibit, and we're excited at the prospect to partner with multiple organizations by offering additional programs. The exhibit will challenge people to not only ask 'what would I have done?' but also, 'what will I do?'"*

Saint Peter Public Library will host Americans and the Holocaust May 23 – June 30.

Based on extensive new research of that period, Americans and the Holocaust addresses important themes in American history, exploring the many factors — including the Great Depression, isolationism, xenophobia, racism and antisemitism — that influenced decisions made by the U.S. government, the news media, organizations and individuals as they responded to Nazism. 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.

In addition to the traveling exhibition on loan, Saint Peter Public Library has received a cash grant to support public programs.

For more information about Americans and the Holocaust visit [ushmm.org/americansala](http://ushmm.org/americansala).

*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.

*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 & 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.

### **About Saint Peter Public Library**

The Saint Peter Public Library welcomes all people and fosters a safe environment to connect, learn, discover, and grow. Saint Peter Public Library is a place where all people can gather and are welcome. The library is a place to create opportunities for lifelong learning which will strengthen our community.

### **About the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum**

A living memorial to the Holocaust, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum inspires leaders and citizens worldwide to confront hatred, prevent genocide, and promote human dignity. The Museum's far-reaching educational programs and global impact are made possible by generous donors. 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).