



VIRGINIA  
HOLOCAUST  
MUSEUM

# IMPACT 2022 2023 REPORT



ABOUT OUR COVER: Dr. Jocelyn Vorenberg plays the violin at VHM's 2023 Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Day.



From left to right: Holocaust Survivors Halina Zimm, Roger Loria, Henri Maizels and Inge Horowitz at VHM's 2022 Annual Meeting.



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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Virginia Holocaust Museum preserves and documents the Holocaust in exhibits and its archival collections. Through the permanent exhibit, educational programming, and outreach the museum employs the history of the Holocaust and other genocides to educate and inspire future generations of Virginians to fight prejudice and indifference.

## ADMISSION

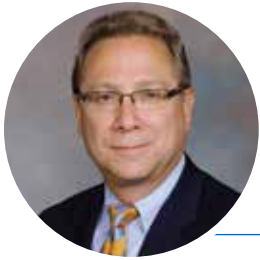
VHM is free and open to the public

## HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9 am-5 pm  
Saturday and Sunday: 11 am-5 pm

## LOCATION & PARKING

2000 East Cary Street, Richmond, VA 23223  
The Museum offers free, off-street parking directly across from its main entrance on Cary Street.



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SAMUEL ASHER

**In early February, the demolition team arrived, and work began made possible by the 25th Anniversary Capital Campaign.**

The new space was designed by the architectural firm of Raymond. Their design inspiration came from distilling the Museum's mission into its most basic elements: preserving history and shaping the future.

The architect's vision was brought to life by the construction firm of Leipertz Construction. Leipertz spent months deconstructing the old space and then crafting the new space, while doing their best to minimize downtime the public.

Now, upon entering the Museum, guests are greeted by an all-white, ultramodern information desk. The old wooden structure is gone. In its place is a stunning, horseshoe shaped design which allows individuals to flow organically around on either side and interact more congenially with our team.

The new ceiling is spectacular. It showcases the architect's design vision. One can't help but be dazzled by the white, lighted, architectural ribbons that form an intricate and striking web across the space - illustrative of shaping a better

future. With the Museum's original dark wooden ceiling still visible behind the new ribbons, one is reminded of our commitment to preserving history.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the expanded and relocated Museum Shop, Book Store and Media Room. Freshly painted white walls, increased book shelving and gleaming glass display cases welcome visitors into the new Museum Shop and Book Store. And soundproof walls and new seating make viewing a film in the new Media Room much more comfortable and impactful.

Your gifts to our 25th Anniversary Capital Campaign made all these renovations possible.

I encourage you to come and see the renovations in person. There is always something new to explore and learn at Virginia Holocaust Museum. We look forward to welcoming you.

Until next time,

Samuel H. Asher, Executive Director



Assistant Director of Guest Services, Kate Adams, behind the new information desk.



A close up of the architectural ribbons that form the striking new ceiling in VHM's front entrance.



# FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM IN VIRGINIA

**On May 8th Governor Glenn Youngkin signed House Bill 1606, adopting into law the Working Definition of Antisemitism put forth by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).**

*It reads: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."*

The bill came out of the recommendations sent to the Governor by the **Commission to Combat Antisemitism** which VHM Executive Director Samuel H. Asher, was a member of.



In front row, second from right, VHM Executive Director Samuel H. Asher along with his fellow Commission members and Governor Youngkin (center) before the Bill signing.

**On May 23rd the Museum held its 19th annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration.** More than 150 guests joined us for the lighting of candles by Holocaust Survivors and their family members, the awarding of the Carole Weinstein Prizes for Tolerance and Justice in the Visual Arts, a performance by violinist Jocelyn Vorenberg, and a keynote address by Meredith R. Weisel, Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), who shared insights regarding the alarming rise in antisemitic incidents in Virginia over the past year.

**On September 5th we hosted our first group of 20 Chesterfield County Police Officers who are participating in VHM professional development, "Law Enforcement: Ethics and Leadership."** Over the next year, 550 Chesterfield County Police Officers will take the workshop which focuses on the role of law enforcement during the Holocaust and the role that law enforcement plays today in combating antisemitism and understanding how to identify incidents of antisemitism.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



A classroom filled with educators listen attentively to a TEI session.

**Construction & Renovations:** A multi-million dollar renovation transforming our entrance space into a striking, light-filled, guest reception area.

**Two New Exhibits:** Our Collections Department introduced two new exhibits: *'Selection - Confiscation'* and *'Crematoria.'* The new design employs bold graphics and limited text, making it easier for visitors to quickly grasp the important historical content and its ties to Virginia Holocaust Survivors.

**Holocaust Education & Outreach:** Thanks to \$50,000 in funding we received through the Virginia Department of Education, we were able to deliver a record number of educational workshops and other outreach events.

**Museum Events:** Record crowds came out to attend our Annual Meeting and Yom HaShoah Commemoration.

## Snapshot

- Multi-Million Dollar Renovation to front of the Museum
- Two New Museum Exhibits
- 20 Education Outreach Programs
- 2,500 Students and Teachers Reached

## Upcoming Improvements

- New Pepper's Ghost Holographic Theater
- Donor Wall
- Three New Exhibits
- Exhibit QR Codes to Replace Tour Booklet

New *'Selection - Confiscation'* exhibit showing bold graphics, limited text and a tie to a Virginia Holocaust Survivor, Esther Kutner.




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Co





# Selection – Confiscation



The primary purpose of the six extermination centers is to kill large numbers of Jews. Upon arrival, SS doctors select small numbers of healthy adult prisoners for work details while sending the rest for immediate "liquidation." The Nazis used deception throughout the killing process. They allowed Jews to bring luggage from the ghettos to trick them into thinking they were being safely relocated. As victims were unloaded, special prisoner units would remove the possessions from the trains. The plundering of victims in extermination centers was part of the Final Solution. In Auschwitz, the "Kanada Commando," named after the section of Birkenau where they worked, spent their day sorting through possessions for the Third Reich.

*"Then they robbed you. And you lost everything. And you feel like a shadow, like a minute thing... not anymore like a human being." —Esther Kutner*

Esther Kutner

Esther Kutner was transported to Auschwitz in 1943. She was the only member of her family selected for a labor detail. She survived the camp and escaped during a death march at the end of the war.




**Personal Effects**

At the end of the war, the Nazis left behind a vast amount of personal effects belonging to the victims of the Holocaust. These items, including clothing, shoes, and jewelry, were stored in warehouses and later sold or given to the German people. The photograph shows a wall covered in hanging coats and clothing, a stark reminder of the lives lost.



# THE ALEXANDER LEBENSTEIN TEACHER EDUCATION INSTITUTE (TEI)



Holocaust Survivor, Halina Zimm,  
posing with a TEI participant.





# THE PROGRAM

The Alexander Lebenstein Teacher Education Institute (TEI) assists educators with their understanding of the Holocaust and genocide. The program is offered in partnership with Longwood University and is recommended for middle and high school educators who currently teach or would like to teach the Holocaust in their classrooms.

TEI is named in honor of Alexander Lebenstein, OBM, a Holocaust Survivor who was passionate about the importance of Holocaust education.

Two sessions are offered each summer, focusing on historical background and pedagogy, linking to the Virginia Standards of Learning requirements.



Director of Collections, Timothy Hensley, sharing archival images with TEI participants.

## Program Snapshot

**From Context to Classroom Part I - June 26-27**

**From Context to Classroom Part II - July 17-19**

- Educators Attended Session I: **35**
- Educators Attended Session II: **40**
- Schools Represented: **41**
- Localities from Around the Commonwealth Represented: **23**
- Travel Scholarships Awarded: **34**
- Awarded in Travel Scholarship Aid: **\$17,000**



Dr. Melissa Kravetz of Longwood University leading a class.

## What 2023 Educator Attendee's Said:

"This course reminded me to think about what the purpose is of teaching a historical event or time period. It may seem obvious, but this course reminded me that I am teaching future leaders and change agents. Thank you!"

"This class has changed my perspective in every way imaginable. It will impact my teaching in ways yet to be seen."

"I already thought the Holocaust was one of the most important topics I teach. Now I really understand the responsibility I have to teach it in the correct way."



Director of Education, Megan Ferenczy, working with a TEI participant.



# VISITING EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS

## PICTURES OF RESISTANCE: THE WARTIME PHOTOGRAPHS OF JEWISH PARTISAN FAYE SCHULMAN

January – March

Pictures of Resistance: The Wartime Photography of Jewish Partisan Faye Schulman, a compelling traveling exhibition produced by the Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation (JPEF) and curated by Jill Vexler, Ph. D, poses probing questions about this incredible woman and the people whose images she documented.

Schulman's rare collection of images captures the camaraderie, horror, loss, bravery, and triumph of the rag-tag, resilient partisans—some Jewish, some not—who fought the Germans and their collaborators.

Born in Poland in 1924, Faye Schulman received her first camera from her brother when she was 13. That camera ultimately saved her life and allowed her to document Jewish partisan activity later. As a result, she is one of the only known Jewish partisan photographers.



Faye Schulman, in a leopard hat and coat, surrounded by her fellow partisans. They are smiling joyously after an unexpected reunion in the forest — each believing that the other had been killed.

Faye Schulman holding the camera she used to take more than 100 photos while living as a partisan in the forest. Courtesy of the Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation and "A Partisan's Memoir, A Woman of the Holocaust," Second Story Press.

## HALT! REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST

Artwork by G. Roy Levin

April – October



Warsaw Ghetto, 1940, an original work by G. Roy Levin.

While serving on the faculty of Goddard College in 1980, G. Roy Levin received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities which resulted in a book containing interviews with documentary filmmakers. Through this research, he came upon the documentary "Shoah" directed by Claude Lanzmann. He began to create artwork based on images from the film using various mediums.

Levin started with paintings in color using discarded fruit and vegetable crates with wire and unframed canvases. He eventually switched to black and white photographs on boxes, reminiscent of the railroad cars that carried passengers to the concentration camps. The light in his paintings has a shimmering quality so that remembering becomes an "act of empathy and compassion for the unspeakable pain that was endured by so many." Levin wanted his paintings to not necessarily show what the Holocaust was like, but to stimulate the viewer's imagination to think about what it was like.

# OUR COLLECTION



Our collection consists of objects, documents, photographs, digital files, and oral histories related to the Holocaust (1933-1945) and World War II (1939-1945). Although these two time periods are the focus of our collection, we also collect objects from before the Holocaust and WWII if they are related to local Survivors and Liberators—or to events that contributed to the Holocaust. Finally, the collection also encompasses artifacts associated with the aftermath of these periods, including but not limited to the Nuremberg Trials, Displaced Persons Camps, and emigration out of Europe.



Self-portrait of Hermann Lismann, n.d.

## FROM OUR COLLECTION: MEET HERMANN LISMANN

Elsie Levistein married Gerhart Lismann (later Gerald Lisman) in 1934. When the Nazis came to power, they started to work on securing a visa to emigrate. They were eventually successful and moved to Virginia in March 1938.

Gerhart's uncle, Hermann Lismann, was born in Munich in 1878. Hermann practiced and studied art in Munich and Lausanne under Franz von Stuck and Heinrich Knirr. From 1904 – 1914, he lived in Paris and belonged to the group of artists who regularly met at the Café du Dôme, including Rudolf Levy, Hans Purrmann, and Albert Weisgerber.

While living in Paris, he exhibited his first solo show at the Galerie Eugène Blot in 1907. But with the onset of World War I, he moved back to Frankfurt and served as a soldier and employee of the German Red Cross. In 1919, he went back to his art and served as a professor at Universität Frankfurt am Main (now Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main) and taught painting classes at the Städel Museum. While in Frankfurt, he was part of the Frankfurter Künstlerbund and active with the Jewish Cultural League.

With the rise of the Third Reich, Lismann's art was labeled as “degenerate,” and he fled Germany to return to France. He lived in Tours until the outbreak of World War II when he was interned as a foreign enemy. He managed to escape and make his way to Montauban until 1943 when he was rounded-up and sent to Gurs and then on to Majdanek where he was murdered.

The self-portrait is an example of Lismann's work and is but one example of what is housed in the Virginia Holocaust Museum's archival collection.

## COLLECTION STATISTICS

Sept 1, 2022 - Sept 1, 2023

### PRIMARY SOURCES VIEWED (ONLINE):

• 1,384

### ASK COLLECTIONS A QUESTION:

• 674

### DONATE AN ARTIFACT REQUEST:

• 654

### VIEWERS WATCHING ORAL HISTORIES (ONLINE):

• 3,300

# CAMPAIGN FOR THE FUTURE



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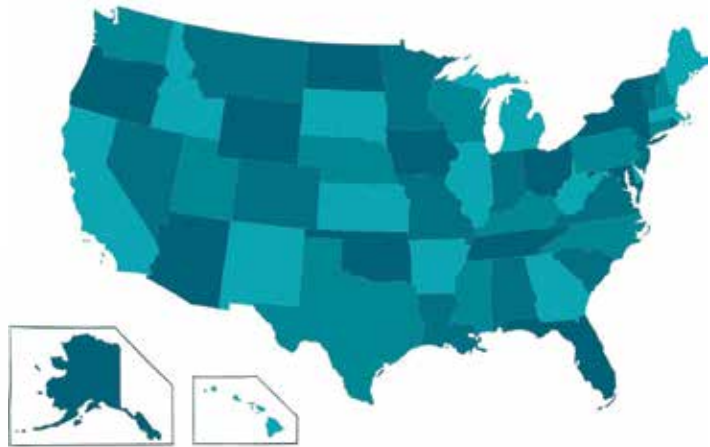
\* Denotes a 2nd or 3rd Generation Holocaust Survivor

+ Denotes Bequest

# OUR VISITORS

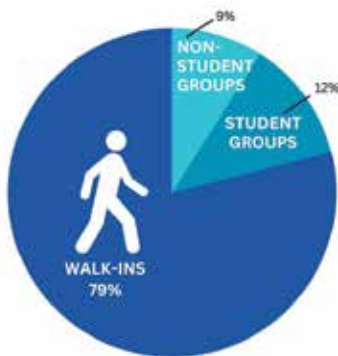


VHM hosted visitors from all 50 states (and the District of Columbia) and from countries around the globe. ▶



▶ VHM hosted 2,340 students over the last year.

## WALK-INS VS GROUPS



## NON-STUDENT VISITORS IN GROUPS



**21,435 people visited the Museum**

# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2022  
WITH COMPS FOR YEAR ENDED 2021

	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	2022 TOTAL	2021 TOTAL
<b>Revenue and Support:</b>				
<b>Public support:</b>				
Contributions and grants	\$766,426	\$692,151	<b>\$1,458,577</b>	\$1,633,761
<b>Other income:</b>				
Museum sales, net	(\$483)	—	<b>(\$483)</b>	\$9,052
Rental income	\$9,488	—	<b>\$9,488</b>	\$10,493
PPP loan proceeds	—	—	—	\$100,687
In-kind donations	\$835	—	<b>\$835</b>	—
Interest and dividends, net	\$23,093	\$5,890	<b>\$28,983</b>	\$14,052
Realized gain (loss) on investments	\$70,865	\$16,240	<b>\$87,105</b>	\$53,956
Unrealized gain on investments	(\$191,609)	(\$45,154)	<b>(\$236,763)</b>	\$66,796
Total other income	(\$87,811)	(\$23,024)	<b>(\$110,835)</b>	\$255,036
<b>Net assets released from restrictions</b>	\$375,462	(\$375,462)	—	—
<b>TOTAL revenue, gains, and support</b>	<b>\$1,054,077</b>	<b>\$293,665</b>	<b>\$1,347,742</b>	<b>\$1,888,797</b>

<b>Expenses:</b>				
Program services	\$887,367	—	<b>\$887,367</b>	\$923,790
Management and general	\$178,300	—	<b>\$178,300</b>	\$173,320
Fundraising	\$59,202	—	<b>\$59,202</b>	\$88,784
<b>TOTAL expenses</b>	<b>\$1,124,869</b>	—	<b>\$1,124,869</b>	<b>\$1,185,894</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	(\$70,792)	\$293,665	<b>\$222,873</b>	\$702,903
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	\$3,603,136	\$3,651,254	<b>\$7,254,390</b>	\$6,551,487
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	\$3,532,344	\$3,944,919	<b>\$7,477,263</b>	\$7,254,390



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**Sat–Sun 11 am–5 pm**

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Yom Kippur, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day,  
and New Year's Eve

