

Roseburg Library to Host Americans and the Holocaust Exhibition Kris Wiley for The News Review

Roseburg Public Library is one of 50 U.S. libraries newly 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.

We are proud to be selected from a competitive pool of applicants from all across the nation to host this important and powerful exhibition. I encourage community members to come explore it and the accompanying special presentations. I look forward to providing opportunities for reflection and thoughtful discussion.

Americans and the Holocaust will be on display at Roseburg Public Library from Nov. 7 through Dec. 19.

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 traveling exhibition on loan, Roseburg Public Library received a \$3,000 cash grant to support public programs. The grant also covers my attendance at an orientation workshop in May at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

During the exhibition's time in Roseburg, the library will host a number of speaker events. At this time, the following programs are planned.

- The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education will sponsor two programs – one with Clarice Wilsey, author of “Letters from Dachau: A Father’s Witness of War, a Daughter’s Dream of Peace,” and one for high school students titled “Understanding Judaism through Artifacts.”
- Dr. David Luebke, Professor in the Department of History at the University of Oregon, will present on his work writing, editing, and managing the

permanent exhibition's textual elements at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

- Dr. Miriam Chorley-Schulz, Assistant Professor and Mokin Fellow of Holocaust Studies in the University of Oregon's School of Global Studies and Languages, will present "Jewish Antifascist Activism in the U.S. During the Holocaust."

We also look forward to working with the Umpqua Valley Havurah, which was among the local community organizations that provided a letter of support for our grant application.

To learn more about the exhibition, visit ushmm.org/americans-ala.

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.

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 also are supported by the Lester Robbins and Sheila Johnson Robbins Traveling and Special Exhibitions Fund, established in 1990.

This Week's Library Events

Monday, March 25 through Saturday, March 30, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily – StoryWalk® at Stewart Park near YMCA

Tuesday, March 26, 4-5 p.m. – Kids spring break activity

Tuesday, March 26, 4 p.m. – Resume workshop (email csala@cityofroseburg.org to register)

Wednesday, March 27, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Wednesday, March 27, 3:30-5 p.m. – Building & Legos for all ages

Wednesday, March 27, 6:30 p.m. – Beaver landscape and habitats with Dr. Jeff Baldwin (co-sponsored by Umpqua Valley Audubon Society)

Thursday, March 28, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, March 28, 4-5 p.m. – Seasonal kids crafts

Thursday, March 28, 6:30 p.m. – Silent Book Group