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Contact:

Susan Renfro
Marketing and Community Relations Officer
Fresno County Public Library
559-600-6273
Susan.Renfro@fresnolibrary.org

***Americans and the Holocaust* traveling exhibition coming to Fresno County Public Library**

The Central Library in Downtown Fresno 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 2023.

From Interim County Librarian Sally Gomez: *"Fresno County Public Library is honored to be one of fifty libraries nationally, and the only public library in the state, selected by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the American Library Association to host the Americans and the Holocaust traveling exhibition. This exhibition has been in the works since 2019, and we are honored to provide this important experience free of charge to our residents."*

Americans and the Holocaust will be on display at the Central Library in Downtown Fresno along with a series of related special events, from November 5, 2023 to December 30, 2023.

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, Fresno County Public Library received a cash grant to support public programs. The grant also covered one library staff member's attendance at an orientation workshop at the Museum.

For more information about *Americans and the Holocaust* and related programming at the Central Library visit fresnolibrary.org/taath 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.

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.

Additional programming support was made possible, in part, by The American Friends Service Committee, The Armenian Museum of Fresno, Avenues for Change: Holocaust and Genocide Education, Fresno Buddhist Temple, Fresno State University, The Pan Valley Institute, Temple Beth Israel, and United Japanese Christian Church.

ABOUT Fresno County Public Library

Established in 1909, the Fresno County Public Library has been an integral part of the community for more than 100 years. With 34 branches located throughout Fresno County, the library offers ever-evolving programs and services for our over one million residents.

Central Library in Downtown Fresno: 2420 Mariposa Street, Fresno CA 93721

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.

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.

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