

CHECK IT OUT

AMERICANS AND THE HOLOCAUST



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AMERICANS

AND THE HOLOCAUST

**WHAT DID
AMERICANS KNOW?**

**WHAT MORE COULD
HAVE BEEN DONE?**

PRESENTED BY:

ALA American
Library
Association

UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM



LIBRARY CLOSINGS

AUGUST 18TH -
STAFF DEVELOPMENT

SEPTEMBER 7TH -
LABOR DAY

LIBRARY HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY
9 AM - 8 PM

FRIDAY-SATURDAY
9 AM - 5 PM

SUNDAY - CLOSED

Over two years ago we received word that the Burlington Public Library was one of 50 libraries nationally, and the only library in Iowa, chosen to receive the 6-week touring exhibit - Americans and the Holocaust. Being selected for this competitive grant was the first of many hurdles, and it all started with and is thanks to the work of BPL's Becky Nelson and Stephanie Jones for their excellent grant proposal.

With two years to plan and prepare for this 1,100 square foot display, we were given ample time to clear the additional hurdles of space planning, committee and volunteer gathering, marketing, and program development. These six weeks will provide an opportunity to connect our community with a world-class museum as well as to look at an important moment in history and ask ourselves, what did Americans know? With hindsight on our side, we know that during the war information given to everyday Americans was limited, skewed, and sometimes outright propaganda. If Americans knew more at the time, would their reaction have been different? By looking at this event with a focus on information that Americans had access to, we can develop a more thorough understanding of our current information landscape. The timing of this exhibit couldn't be better as new technologies and AI are flooding information streams with mis- and dis-information, presenting a skewed depiction of reality which begs one to wonder - what do Americans know today?

Bringing this nationally renowned exhibit to Burlington has been a team effort, and I am so proud of the BPL staff and volunteers for enthusiastically coming together to pull this off. This is just one more example of how incredible the Burlington Public Library is at coming up with new and unique ways to create opportunities for all people to connect with others, to learn about the world around them, and to imagine the futures before them. I hope you'll join us at the library for this incredible opportunity as we reflect on the past, learn together in this moment, and imagine a better future for us all.

See you at the library,
Brittany Jacobs
Library Director



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AUGUST

- 7 FIRST FRIDAY:
FILM VIEWING - THE U.S. AND THE
HOLOCAUST, PART 2**
10 AM, BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
- 19 OPENING RECEPTION**
Guests are invited to explore the exhibit, and light refreshments will be provided.
6-7 PM, BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
- 20 LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS**
In 1938, Forest Spaulding, the Des Moines Public Library Director, watched as Nazi book bans opened the door for genocide. In an attempt to ensure no such thing would happen here, he wrote a document that would impact libraries across the world.
6 PM, BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
- 24 MOVIE MONDAYS:
THE GREAT DICTATOR**
6 PM, CAPITOL THEATER, 211 N 3RD STREET
- 31 MOVIE MONDAYS:
CASABLANCA**
6 PM, CAPITOL THEATER, 211 N 3RD STREET

SEPTEMBER

- 4 FIRST FRIDAY:
FILM VIEWING - THE U.S. AND THE
HOLOCAUST, PART 3**
10 AM, BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
- 5 THAT'S YESTERDAY'S NEWS**
Join local historian Terry Abrisz as he explores the local newspaper articles reporting the Holocaust and exploring the themes related to the AMERICANS AND THE HOLOCAUST exhibition.
10 AM, BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
- 12 BANNED CAMP BOOK CLUB:
NIGHT BY ELIE WIESEL**
10 AM, BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
- 12 REFUGE, TORTURE, & RESISTANCE:
THE ROLE OF MUSIC DURING
THE HOLOCAUST**
Through the heartbreaking stories of Jewish composers whose lives were extinguished by the Nazi regime, Dr. Beard exposes how the Nazis twisted music into a weapon of psychological cruelty, even as prisoners reclaimed it as a lifeline.
NOON-1 PM, BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
- 14 FILM VIEWING: RACE**
Presented in partnership with the NAACP.
6 PM, CAPITOL THEATER, 211 NORTH 3RD STREET

This exhibition 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.



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SEPTEMBER, CONTINUED

17 BEYOND THE BOOK CLUB

Check in at the welcome desk for this month's title.

NOON-1 PM, BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

18 VACATION THRU TIME: HOPE IN A HIDING PLACE

This month, join the team as they journey to the Netherlands during WWII. Meet the Boom family, who risked everything to hide and rescue Jews fleeing Nazi persecution. Also meets September 19 from 9am-5pm and September 21 from 12-6pm.

1-5 PM, BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

18 POW CAMP ALOGNIA

Step into a fascinating and little-known chapter of Iowa's World War II history as Brian Connick explores the story of the German prisoner of war camp located in Algona, Iowa. Enjoy a special evening at the library for this wonderful talk and unique after hours access to the exhibition. Light refreshments will be provided. Registration is required to attend, please register on our online calendar.

6 PM, BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

19 DISCOVERY READERS: A NON-FICTION READING CLUB

For September, in conjunction with the Americans and the Holocaust exhibit on display at the library, bring something related to the Holocaust, World War II, propaganda, misinformation, or the power of information. A guided tour of the exhibit will be provided after the meeting.

10-11 AM, BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

19 TICOS AND ANNE

For this meeting we will be touring the Holocaust exhibit at the library, learning about how close we are to Anne Frank, and planning for October.

2-3 PM, BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

21 MOVIE MONDAYS: WALT DISNEY'S ON THE FRONT LINES

Disney propaganda shorts.

6 PM, CAPITOL THEATER, 211 N 3RD STREET

24 SAMUEL MARDER: A CONVERSATION WITH A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

Live, virtual, and in person, join us for a special conversation with a Holocaust survivor as he reflects on his experiences and the ways they have shaped his perspective on life, humanity, and how we treat one another. This live Zoom program offers an opportunity to listen, learn, and consider the lasting impact of one person's experiences and memories. Experience the conversation in person at the library or via zoom. Link available on our event calendar.

10 AM, BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

26 PANEL DISCUSSION

Burlington Public Library will host a panel discussion featuring local experts, including Dr. Ute Chamberlain (Western Illinois University) and colleagues, exploring the exhibition's key themes.

10 AM, BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Friends of the Burlington Public Library



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August 19 – September 30, 2026

Burlington Public Library