



ALA
American
Library
Association

UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM

PRESENTED BY:



AMERICANS

AND THE HOLOCAUST

August 19 – September 30, 2026
Burlington Public Library

REPORTS AND STATISTICS

OCTOBER, 2026





PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Americans and the Holocaust Initiative, a groundbreaking project of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, is anchored in a special exhibition that opened to the public in April 2018 in conjunction with the Museum's 25th anniversary. This initiative stems from a mandate in the Museum's founding documents to reflect on "the American aspects of the Holocaust." By examining this topic, the Museum poses challenging questions that encourage people to think critically about the past, as well as our role in responding to threats of genocide today.

The Initiative aims to promote:

- An examination of how all parts of American society – the government, organizations, the media, popular culture, and the general public – responded during the rise of the Nazi threat and as news of the genocide became publicly known
- Self-reflection and critical thinking about the various factors that shaped attitudes and actions during that moment of crisis and the factors that influence us today

EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION

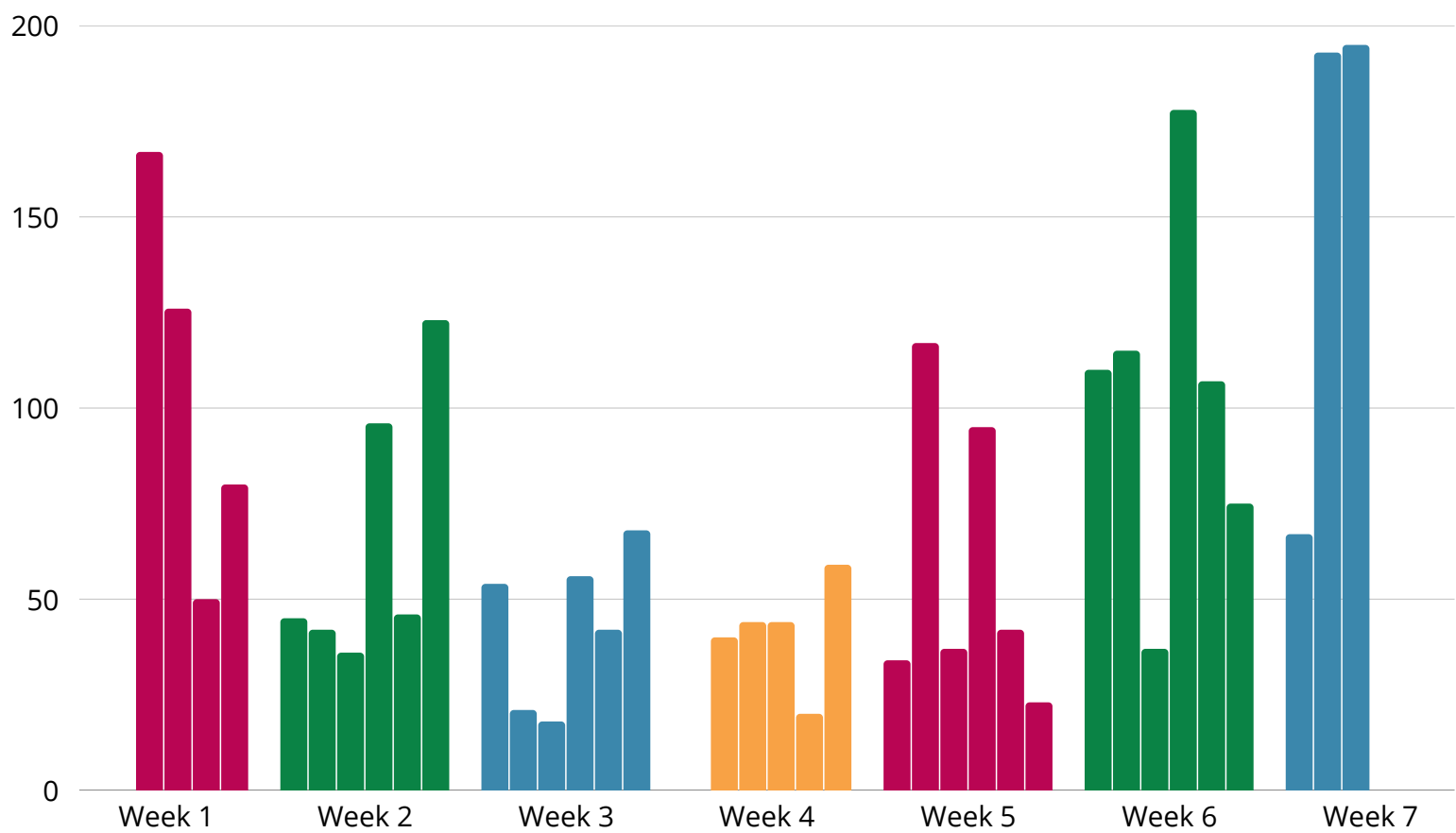
Holocaust history raises important questions about what Europeans could have done to stop the rise of Nazism in Germany and its assault on Europe's Jews. Questions also must be asked of the international community, including the United States.

What did the US government and the American people know about the threats posed by Nazi Germany? What responses were possible? And when? This exhibition examines the motives, pressures, and fears that shaped Americans' responses to Nazism, war, and genocide.



ATTENDANCE METRICS

ATTENDANCE DISTRIBUTION REPORT

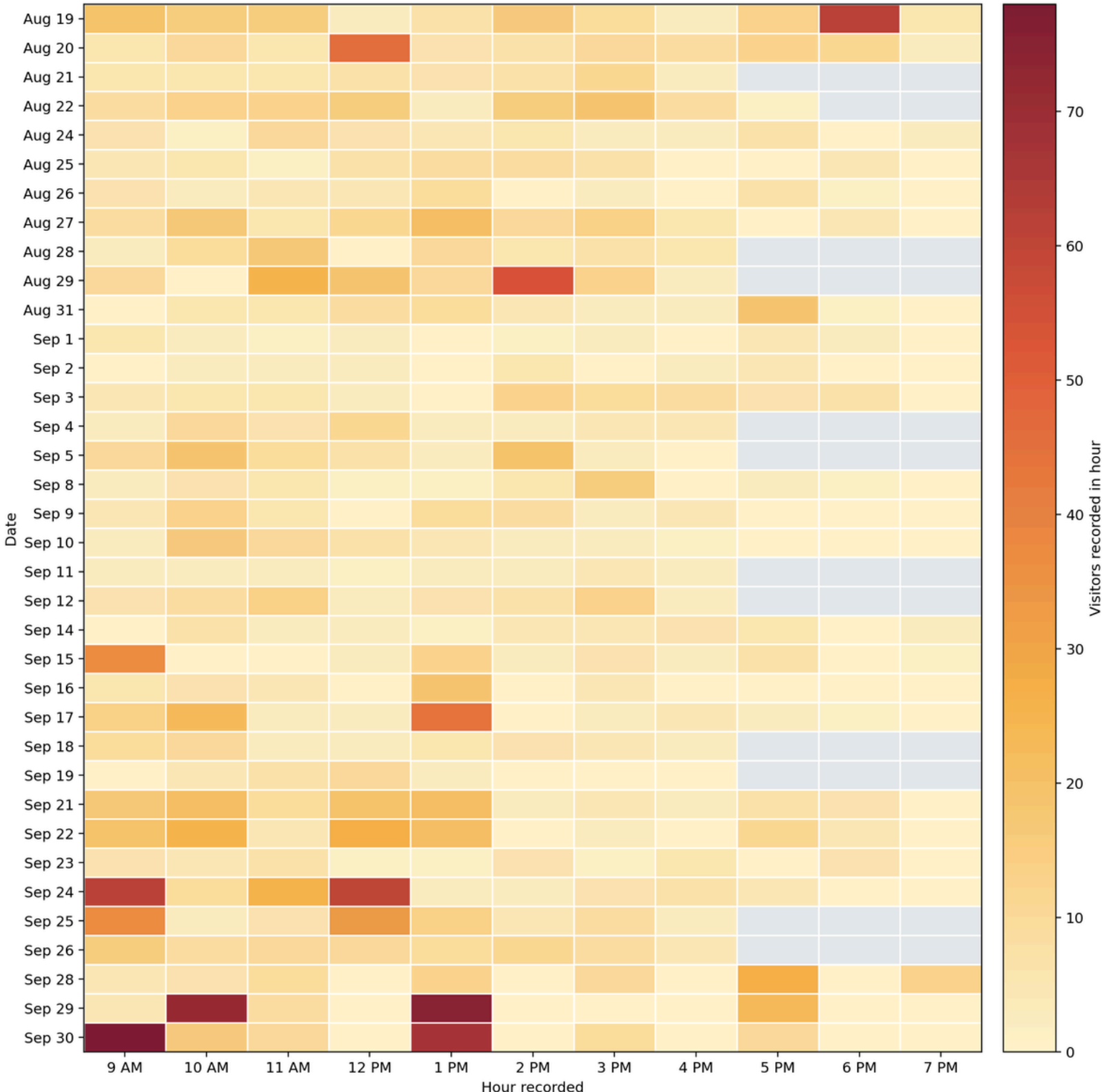


A significant drop in attendance is noted in the middle of our host period, with most attendance happening at the beginning of our host period and the end of our host period. Schools did not start visiting until week 5, and those numbers attributed to the spike in attendance the last 2 weeks. There does not seem to be a consistent day of high attendance, however 5 of the 7 Wednesdays show the lowest attendance for that week.

On the next page, attendance numbers are broken into hourly reports. It seems that the 4-5pm timeslot was consistantly very low attendance, as are many evening slots.

ATTENDANCE METRICS

Americans and the Holocaust Exhibit — Hourly Attendance Heatmap

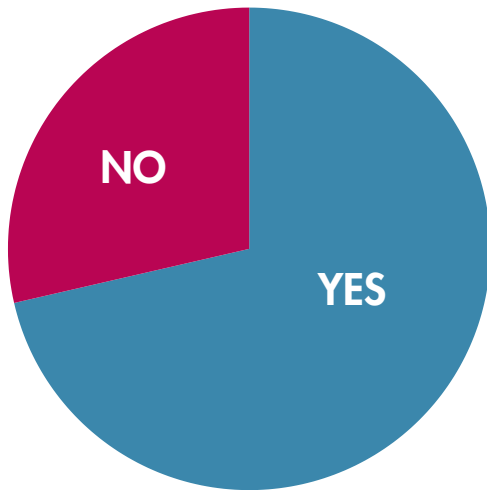


Blank/gray cells indicate no value recorded (not counted as zero).

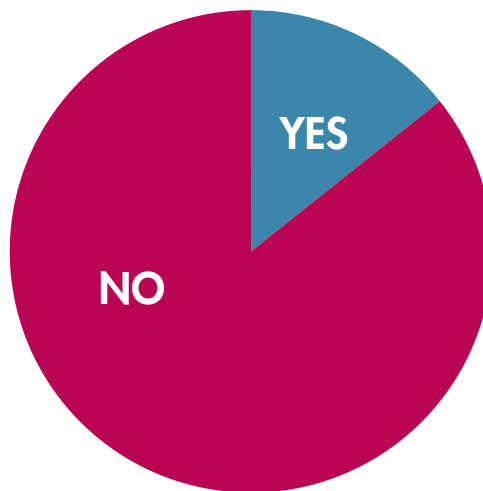
SURVEY RESULTS

OUT OF 210 SURVEYS COLLECTED OVER 6 WEEKS:

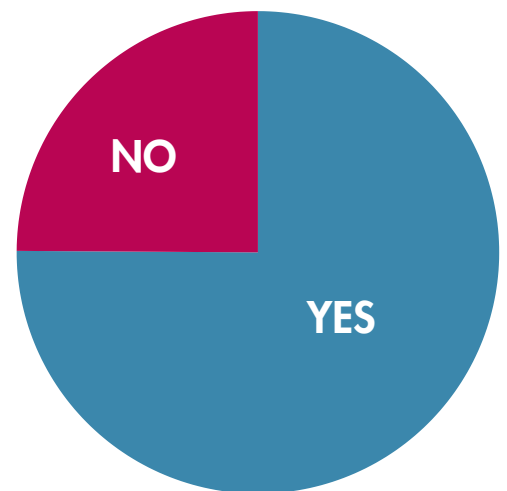
Do you have a
Library Card?



First time at
BPL?



Do you live in Des
Moines County?

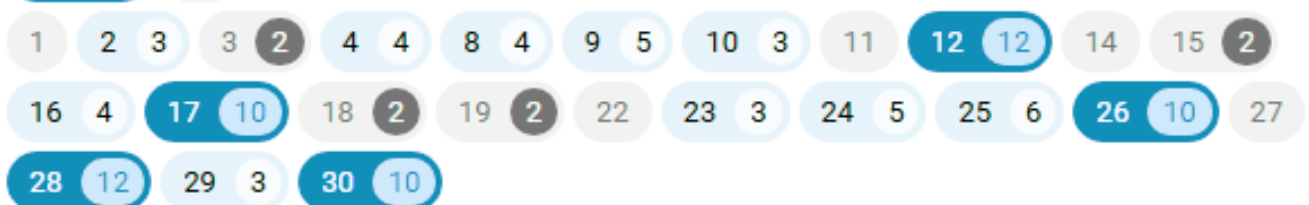


Date of Visit

Aug 2026



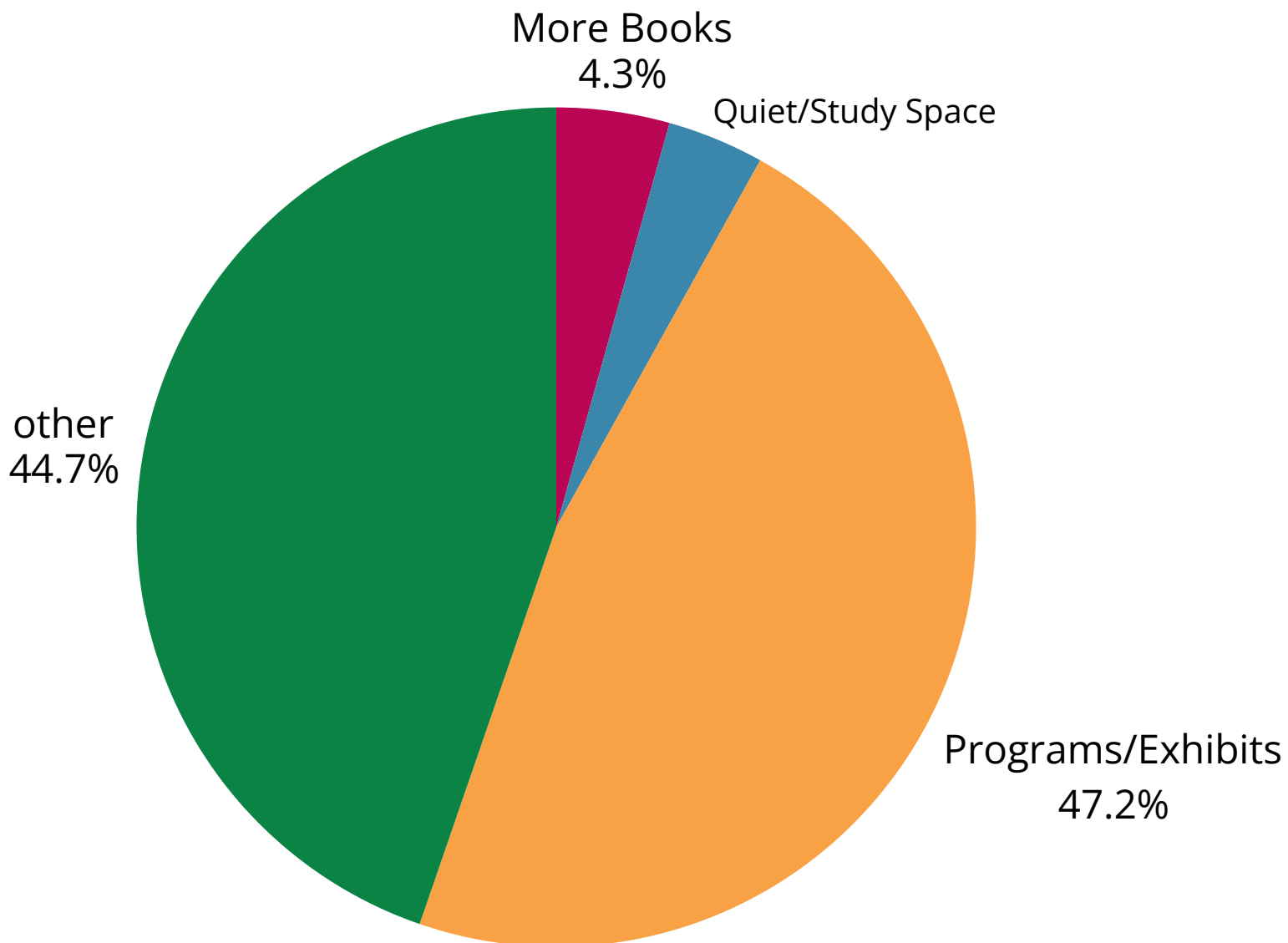
Sep 2026





SURVEY RESULTS

I WOULD VISIT MORE IF:





SURVEY RESULTS

I WOULD VISIT MORE IF: OTHER

- already visit often. We have a great library!!
- A version of "If I lived closer" or "If I lived here" x19
- better bathrooms
- We visit the library frequently. We love the exhibits, and frequently spend time putting puzzles together.
- We visit often/ are here a lot x10
- The BPL is awesome!
- access to a library card
- I really like it here
- This library rocks you guys do an awesome job
- "if i had more time i love the library" and other notes on limited time x10
- Okay as it is x2
- N/A the library is constantly coming up w/ new things. We utilize many of the current offerings
- magazines/newspaper
- new financial books
- Always more books! I visit the library on a regular basis.
- more manga books!
- I've been reading mostly hoopla and libby lately
- We attend Terry's Yesterday's News regularly
- cooler air
- More programs/ Another Exhibit, I visit when I need something or need help. I have group who meets here monthly.
- I do think the library is doing an amazing job!
- Coffee: I know it has been done in the past and did not work out, I would still like to see it work though
- best place in town
- free library use for Illinois residents
- the library is awesome!
- You do an excellent job



SURVEY RESULTS

DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING THAT SURPRISED YOU?

- 32 responded “yes” with no additional notes
- 8 responded “no” with no additional notes
- Eagle Grove, IA woman
- No, Though interesting to hear yvonne speak
- yes, Charlie chaplin?
- most american's didn't want jews here
- yes, the numbers that were involved
- So many things. How many refugees were saved and yet how many didn' survive.
- Yes, I didn't realize how many people in the us were against going to war
- How long americans knew and did almost nothing to help
- We didn't believe it was real
- not surprised but enlightened
- No, but excellent presentation. We are from New York and knowledgeable of the holocaust.
- Added to the background of holocaust reads!!
- Confirmed what I have read and heard from two relatives that servered in France WWII
- awesome- Representattion of those for And Against going to war against Hitler/ May we learn from out mistake! Hitler would have been less formidable had we gone in earlier!
- diffcuilaty of the jews lifes before war started.
- A lot of the stat specific reporting was completely new to me. for example I had no idea the famous lindbergh speech happend in des moines
- Surprise, no, didnt know, yes
- The Utter atrocity!
- how many killing camps there were and how many jews and soldiers died
- I was born after the war so I learned alot
- The anti semitism in our government that prevented saving many Jews



SURVEY RESULTS

DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING THAT SURPRISED YOU?

- yes the videos were quite interesting
- hadn't heard much about the American side of the Holocaust before
- The Public sentiment reflected in the poll numbers in various questions
- no ... well versed in this historical era
- yes, it appears that our government is treating immigrants the same as they treated and imposed their beliefs about so Americans and not making them apply for visas as they did the Jews look at the Vietnam War and then 9/11 tragedy so sad!
- yes, Camp Alton
- born in 1937- remembered most
- very few articles in the newspapers across the country describing / informing what was happening to the Jewish people
- yes I need to learn more about history I don't know much about Pearl Harbor
- Fort Ontario existence
- yes, Charles Lindbergh's opposition to the war
- Buchenwald was not known by me
- Dr. Süss did anti-war/Hitler/Nazi cartoons
- no already had most of the info
- I learned more than I had known about the US activity keeping Jewish refugees and immigrants out that was shocking!
- yes: how much this info WAS in the news
- Just how much WAS known, yet nothing done
- Yes: how hard it was to immigrate here, even then
- I came for Questers meeting and Holocaust Exhibit
- Quite a few things. Cried over a lot of it. Too similar to today in the U.S.
- How little Americans cared about the welfare of the Jews
- Learned how America first tried to sabotage our involvement to fight the Nazis
- we enjoyed this exhibit
- How much we could have done: but didn't



SURVEY RESULTS

DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING THAT SURPRISED YOU?

- Yes! The Eagle Grove, IA story
- Yes: the golden case and the we will never die references were new to me
- Yes. I've toured Dachau (sp?) in Germany. I didn't know the Americans opinion of the atrocities.
- There was a couple who adopted 50 kids
- People didn't want refugee children in America
- More than I originally knew! Love the history
- It's all horrifying
- news broadcasters
- nothing earth shattering, but more of the hesitance of the US to help
- no-nicely organized-needs more detail
- surprised at how much info Americans did have
- United States turning away those escaping to the US
- no, the information in this program is a good overview/review for me
- The percentage of unbelief about the events of the truth behind the Holocaust, though lower than some, is still shocking when you truly think about it and the atrocities that were occurring.
- Not too surprised. Solemn reminders another "lest we forget"
- The resistance to go to war on America's part was so strong government/population
- I knew this subject already, but this exhibit was a very good presentation.
- There were a few things like the hiding of info to Roosevelt
- The lack of outrage by the American public
- The number of Americans who opposed Jewish immigration
- So much: thank you for the exhibit
- I didn't realize that Americans didn't want Jews to live in the United States at first



SURVEY RESULTS

DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING THAT SURPRISED YOU?

- The fact Americans refused to take refugee children
- I knew the US State Dept made immigration difficult but their actions-or lack of action-were far more appalling than I realized. I was very disappointed in FDR for doing nothing for the people stuck on the ship that had to return to Europe.
- I learned a lot that I didn't know before.
- I knew much about it, you can never learn as much as you should
- Yes: timelines, majority of Americans not supporting war for a long while and refusing child immigrants, etc
- No; I have seen and read much over the years
- I didn't know the extent to which refugee immigration to US was restricted
- Knew much of it (WWII buff). Reminded in spades how evil people. Type casting by race or religion ??? people also sub-human as in was in Russia or Slavs were treated. How could babies and children or anyone be so mistreated/killed
- The number of people against entering WWII
- Just helped put American response into perspective of times
- US perspective to the Holocaust and accepting German Jew immigrants
- How little was done when confronted with the graphic evidence of the murder
- Yes: Americans who knew there was a problem but refused to act
- That most Americans did not want to take in Jewish refugees!
- Excellent exhibit on Holocaust and political sentiment
- A lot: very interesting. Learned I didn't realize how much we Americans didn't understand and also realizing our situation and understanding where the minds were of Americans.
- Yes, I enjoy learning the full picture
- Oswego reference
- Yes, how much Americans should have known



SURVEY RESULTS

DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING THAT SURPRISED YOU?

- Only 18 African Americans were at the 1936 Olympics. Interesting to see some mentions of Iowa throughout
- yes about Charles Lindbergh
- Yes, used to live in Eagle Grove area didn't know about the postal worker
- yes about Dorothy Johnson
- Newspapers in the US were telling the story but there were also org and govt employees keeping the truth hidden or distorted
- I was already aware of most of this
- Germany/Hitler was not compassionate of Jews or disabled
- I knew most of the information due to a trip I took to DC in 8th grade that showed me the horrors and atrocities that were WWII and the assault on Jews and people not of the "superior" race
- I already knew people were prone to repeat history but it's disgusting to know we could have made a difference sooner. I hope hat our newer generations won't make the same mistakes those before us did.
- I knew some of this information. it refreshed my knowledge.
- The number of people trying to immigrate to US and those on waiting lists!
- It was well done-fortunate to have it in Burlington. Thanks to the library staff.
- Always something new
- I am familiar with this part of history, however certain details were new (Dr Seuss) and the visuals, as well as the electronic information was enlightening
- Yes-how much was known and how little was done. We have come forward concerning equality, but have a long way to go. How do you change hearts and minds about racism and prejudice?
- Yes: did not know the extent of what Americans knew and how early they knew it about the Holocaust
- Dr Seuss was involved! 16 million died 6 million Jews



SURVEY RESULTS

DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING THAT SURPRISED YOU?

- The indifference of the American public
- No. I'm of the age that I learned from the Hitler time and Holocaust from my parents who had to live through that era.
- How they made soap and fertilizer with the bodies
- About the American's depression (?) of the Jews
- Great exhibit
- yes-all of the war in Italy
- How many Jewish refugees were not able to get to the US during the war in order to escape persecution
- We know more about history because of our ages. Most young people need to be made aware of this tragedy!
- always learning!
- The extent to which Americans were aware of the Holocaust during the war
- Learned how some Americans didn't want to go to war
- Yes, but it was heartbreaking to see how the Trump admin is trying to do these things now!
- I was surprised how long it took America to respond
- How strong the US isolation attitude was prior to 1944
- yes: how long before US got involved
- Yes I didn't know that the US denied Jewish people from coming to the US
- Yes...all of the information felt new. The biggest surprise is how similar some quotes are to today's political speech.
- shocking how few immigrants were let in...how things don't change
- yes was not aware how much US knew
- yes-how similar today is to yesterday
- Absorbed all displays; very interesting-no surprises
- Yes, it also saddened me to hear about no one wanting to hire Jesse Owens after he accomplished such great victories in Berlin Olympics
- Yes and no, but only because I've studied this subject before



SURVEY RESULTS

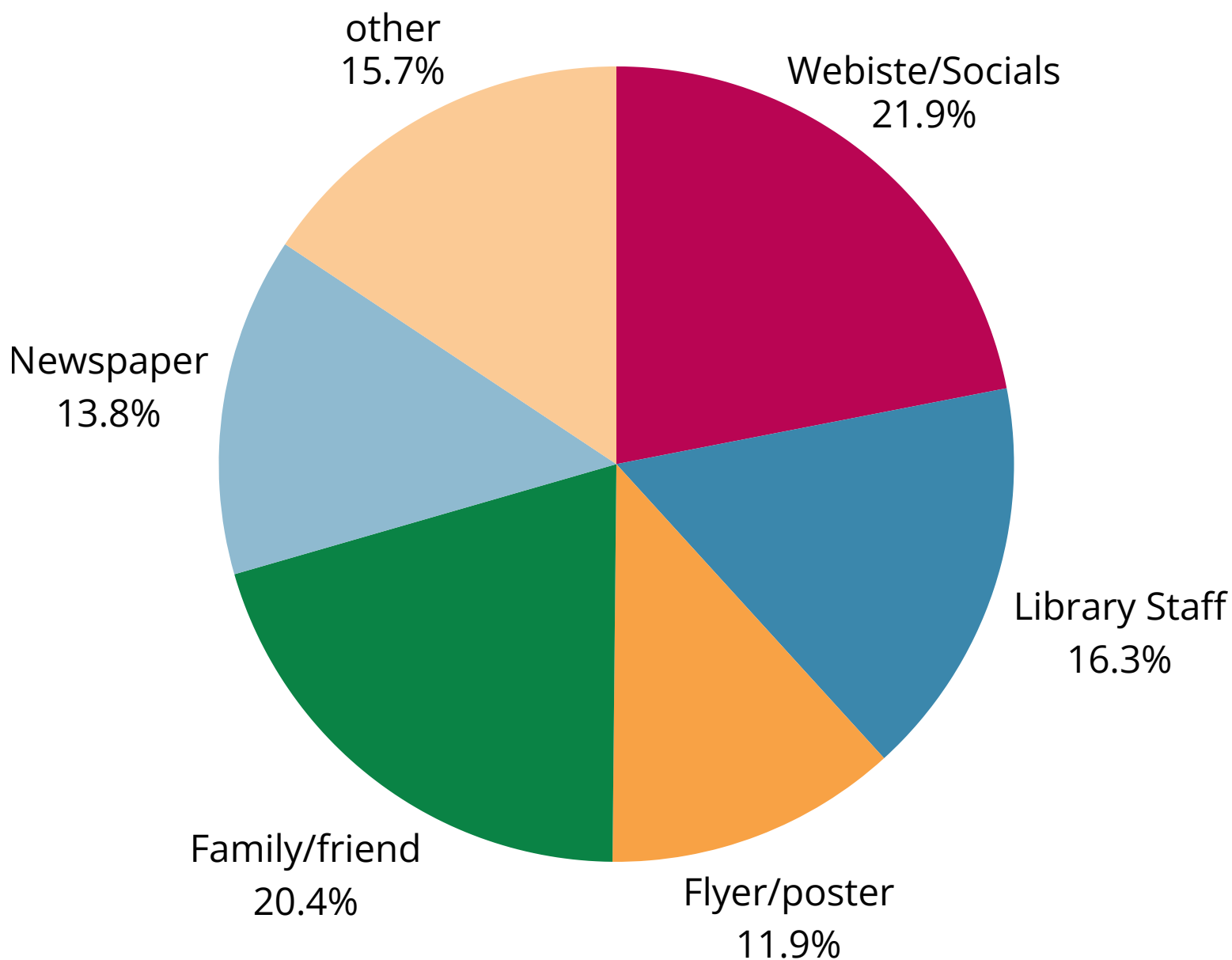
DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING THAT SURPRISED YOU?

- The power of knowledge/information is so important especially when not trying to influence others to think in a specific way, but to think for themselves.
- The extent to which America opposed involvement in the war
- Not surprised: just refreshed
- very historical
- Just the sheer magnitude of the Holocaust



SURVEY RESULTS

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS PROGRAM?





SURVEY RESULTS

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS PROGRAM?

OTHER:

- Through Viking in various ways x6
- Just by walking in x5
- At the anne frank museum
- volunteer in front of library
- over heard people talking about planning it several months ago
- Advertising at danville library/ anne frank museum
- Newspaper, KBUR radio
- Donnellson Public Library
- radio interview
- interview with WQAD
- Our library will have this exhibit next
- mentioned by a group member at a meeting in the library
- radio
- Scout activity
- school field trip
- staff who shared about it at Blue Women and King's Daughters
- Library Staff, Blue Women Group
- teacher
- Boy Scouts
- library newsletter
- friend on library board
- hecqc.org (?)
- KBUR
- channel 6 Davenport x3
- my Aunt Alice



SURVEY RESULTS

ANY OTHER THOUGHTS OR COMMENTS?

- Do you have any other thoughts
- Wonderful Exhibit!
- Amazing and so worthwhile; very educational and thought provoking. Thank you
- I liked it alot, very fun and exciting!
- It was very well put together. The memory and information was wonderful and extemely sad.
- Thank you for your efforts to obtain and present the exhibit
- Fantastic! We need programs like this to continue so we dont forget
- Thanks , for keeping git current!!
- Thank you for your two years effort.
- loved this education of history. young people need to learn how not to repeat!
- Thank you!
- Thank you for having this important exhibit here
- It should be spread across the community, had information that I didnt even know of.
- Thank you so much. What a well done thoughtful informative exhibit. Im better for having been through it
- Sobering
- awesome educational display visting area from scott co ia. thank you!
- thank you for hosting this is was very informative and well done
- Very informative and well rounded
- It was wonderful loved the free passes for danville
- Very effective presentation really found the listen kiosks facinating



SURVEY RESULTS

ANY OTHER THOUGHTS OR COMMENTS?

- This is an excellent display and a public service to the community, thank you
- i had a wonderful tour
- thank you for providing this, looking forward to similar informative exhibits
- Thank you for this wonderful exhibit
- wonderful program i learned alot after visiting danville library anne frank museum
- very well done
- great display!
- Well done! not only is the exhibit succint, but informative the other events and talks have been extreamly interesting
- very interesting, everyone should see this, including president trump and his entire administration
- good educational program makes us appreciate the sacrifices that have been make to preserve our freedom.
- this was a thoughtful and well done project, i believe it should be mandated of all jr and sr highschoollers
- it was great!
- much needed especially today
- i am just so grateful to have the opportunity to see it and take my son as well since we cannot afford to tavel to the holocaust museum
- Thank you! Keep it up. It's important especially now (but always)
- This is a timely exhibit
- Thank you for this: it's easy to judge society in hind sight: this gave insight into everyday life in the 30s and 40s



SURVEY RESULTS

ANY OTHER THOUGHTS OR COMMENTS?

- Glad it came to our local library
- I learned a lot and thank you!
- It was awesome thanks
- fantastic displays, informative
- Thanks for bringing it to the area
- Loved it!
- Excellent resource for community/area
- They did a very good job
- It was put together nicely and the flow was great
- More books maybe-or more history exhibits
- well done
- Thank you! I'll return and see it again
- Thank you for this exhibit. It provides a comprehensive overview of our involvement leading up to and through WWII.
- Thank you for sharing history with the rest of the community. With so much hatred being spread rampant, it is important to remember the past and learn from it to ensure we do not repeat the same mistakes in the future
- Great job! Thanks to all who worked 2 years to get it here. We need to keep these events alive.
- Very important to get "truth of Holocaust" out to more young and old adults also
- Thank you for bringing the exhibit!
- Glad to see it
- Very well done, good job by all library personnel



SURVEY RESULTS

ANY OTHER THOUGHTS OR COMMENTS?

- excellent
- It is important to continue these exhibits. Humans forget history-or never learn it-too soon.
- I enjoyed it
- It was very well done. Thank you for working so hard to bring this exhibit to Burlington.
- Very special and enlightening experience. Need a wider wheelchair.
- Well done-have more. Need also a wider wheelchair please-people all shapes and sizes
- Thank you!
- A huge thanks: very sobering
- Keep up the GREAT work
- Have many more every 3 months. Acoustics in genealogy room?
- wonderful display
- Excellent! Docents were fabulous! I came three times
- Thank you for bringing this exhibit to the library-more people need to learn about the atrocities of the Holocaust and the internment of the Japanese.
- Very informative, appreciate hosting this exhibit
- Let's have more of these in-depth programs
- The exhibit was very thought-provoking! Unfortunately history tends to repeat itself :(
- Thank you for the exhibit
- I feel honored to be able to walk through this exhibit. Thank you.
- Really good to bring this info to young people in Des Moines County
- What a gift for us to have this exhibit here!



SURVEY RESULTS

ANY OTHER THOUGHTS OR COMMENTS?

- I enjoy interactives and pointing out details and statistics.
- Thank you for courage and truth!
- Brittany does amazing work
- Very well done
- Where your journey began-needs to include the world, not just IA and USA. That is not very inclusive and promotes a small mind. Change it please!
- Excellent!
- I'm glad for exhibits to be here!
- Very well put together!!!
- Very informative
- It was great. Have seen the museum in DC several times. Brought some of info here to people who cannot get to Washington.
- I appreciate the honor of our own library hosting. Thank you for the hard work to bring it here.
- Thank you all for your hard work in getting this exhibit
- Several friends didn't hear about it
- very interesting
- Very well done, informative
- Thank you for this presentation. More special projects would be appreciated.
- Thank you for having this!
- Excellent exhibit! It's frightening to see that similar anti-immigrant sentiments are reflected in some of today's American public.
- Very interesting and sobering



SURVEY RESULTS

ANY OTHER THOUGHTS OR COMMENTS?

- Amazing job! So grateful for this opportunity
- Thank you for all of the work that went into bringing this here
- Great job in bringing this to our community!
- Amazing exhibit! Great job BPL!
- Very thought-provoking and educational. Kudos to you folks!
- Wonderful opportunity to learn about the Holocaust
- Thank you for doing this!
- It was very interesting. Glad I came for it.
- So relevant today-never forget the price of peace, freedom, religion
- Fix Ipads so they work. Show more of the films available RE: The horrible times of Nazi vs Jewish
- Excellent job! Need more such programs to inform the public!
- Thank you for bringing this exhibit to Burlington!
- thank you so much for getting this exhibit. It is a very important piece of history and much needed to remember today.
- Very excited and appreciative of the additional related programming
- Very pleased Burlington Public Library was only Iowa library to exhibit Holocaust display
- thank you for hosting it and telling the truth; though truth be told, it feels like the realism was toned down
- Great job to all involved! You should all be very proud of yourselves. This exhibit couldn't be more relevant then now in the current political climate. However, the realism being downplayed makes sense, but the truth and the tragedy matter.
- Display pieces for folks who want to see artifacts
- The speaker Yvonne A was amazing. Thank you!

COST

This grant came with a \$3,000 programming allowance, and expenses exceeding that came from BPL private funding such as The Murray Foundation, Friends of the Library, and Friends of the Library Foundation.

