



Phoenix Holocaust Association Annual Report 2023

- 2023 was a busy year for the Phoenix Holocaust Association (PHA). Several milestone events took place last year, including the hiring of the organization's first executive director, Leslie Feldman. We were fortunate to have received a generous capacity-building grant from the Center for Jewish Philanthropy making it possible to bring on Leslie. She began her tenure in October. We hope all members can meet her in 2024.
- PHA had nearly 300 members in 2023 and renewals are strong for 2024. We hope to increase membership in 2024. Many members are active volunteers with the organization.
- PHA continued to strengthen our partnerships with other organizations with aligned missions. These efforts included:
 - **AZJHS** PHA is involved in the development of the Hilton Family Holocaust Education Center to be built at the site of the Arizona Jewish Historical Society (AZJHS). PHA has pledged funds for the facility and several PHA board members are actively involved on committees planning the design and content of the Center.
 - **ASU** PHA partnered with ASU on multiple programs including Genocide Awareness Week.
 - **Martin-Springer Institute at NAU** For 2023 International Holocaust Remembrance Day, PHA co-sponsored internationally renowned Holocaust scholar Michael Berenbaum at Temple Solel.
 - **Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival (GPJFF)** cosponsored with PHA and the **Bureau of Jewish Education** the film, *The Devil's Confession: The Lost Eichmann Tapes*.
 - **East Valley JCC (EVJCC)** which hosts regular meetings of Generations After.
 - **3GAZ** This group of grandchildren of Holocaust survivors started the year collecting donations for a Ukrainian family in Scottsdale. PHA participated in a multi-generational Purim event hosted by 3GAZ at a local park.

Education Plays a Major Role for PHA

- PHA offered two opportunities for area teachers to enhance their knowledge of the Holocaust. In March, PHA sponsored its first after-school teacher conference, with 40 attending the seminar at the Arizona Jewish Historical Society (AZJHS). The second conference was a daylong program attended by over 80 teachers including teachers from Flagstaff and Tucson. The Murray and Sabina Zemel z"l Educator Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide in partnership with ASU was held in October at the Burton Barr Library and AZJHS. Survivor Charlotte Adelman with her son, Marc Adelman in conversation with board member Tony Fusco told the story of Charlotte's experiences as a hidden child to the teachers. The keynote speaker was award-winning filmmaker Roberta Grossman.
- PHA continued its active Speakers Bureau providing survivors and descendants to speak in area schools and civic organizations. This service is in partnership with AZJHS.
- PHA released a third video for use in schools. *Inheriting the Holocaust: Children of Survivors in Arizona* features second-generation descendants of Holocaust survivors. The film has a companion teacher's guide.
- PHA spearheaded an update to the toolkit of resources on the Holocaust and other genocides that is housed on the AZ Department of Education website.
- Provided teachers with over 150 card sets featuring local survivors that can be used with the timeline exercise developed by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.
- PHA's Education Committee was active with multiple sessions both via ZOOM and in person. Speakers included:

- Dan Grunfeld, author of *By the Grace of the Game*, participated in an online program discussing history's only known journey from Auschwitz to the NBA.
- In partnership with the Descendants' Forum, we hosted a discussion with Ruth Finkel Wade who spoke about the book "The Ones Who Remember" which includes a chapter she wrote. Ruth is a Florida-based 2G whose survivor father lives in Tucson.
- Held an online discussion with author David de Jon about his book *Nazi Billionaires: The Dark History of Germany's Wealthiest Dynasties*.
- *Reckonings*, a documentary by Roberta Grossman, was available for home viewing. The Descendants' Forum hosted members in December to discuss the film.
- Miriam Friedman presented *The Art Legacy of Holocaust Survivor David Friedmann*
- Anna Salton Eisen discussed her book, *Pillar of Salt: A Daughter's Life in the Shadow of the Holocaust*.


Services for Survivors and Descendants

- 2023 was a successful year for Café Europa. Each month, PHA sponsors Café Europa featuring a kosher luncheon. Attendance is open to survivors, descendants, and other interested guests. Attendance ranges from 40-60 guests. Many descendants and friends of PHA offer to drive survivors to the luncheons which is greatly appreciated.
- PHA coordinated the attendance of survivors and descendants at a Holocaust-themed Musica Nova concert in January. The orchestra provided free tickets to survivors.
- The annual Yom HaShoah commemoration was held in April at Congregation Beth Israel. Many clergy participated along with over 20 Holocaust survivors. Shofar Zachor awards were given to AZ Rep. Alma Hernandez and Scottsdale Art's Christine Harthun. ASU's Hillel students and staff served as volunteers along with members of 3GAZ. Two pre-commemoration programs were offered – one featured two survivors in conversation and the other featured a professor from CA who spoke about life after liberation in Displaced Persons Camps. The latter speaker was made available by ASU Jewish Studies.
- Descendants' Forum: This past year, PHA continued holding events at the EVJCC, with speakers including survivors and 3Gs. Todd Larson, director of What You Do Matters, spoke in November. In addition to two events jointly sponsored with the Education Committee, the Forum also hosted the first showing of *Inheriting the Holocaust* (video for schools produced by PHA), and a discussion about the October 7th attack in Israel.

Phoenix Will Finally Have a Holocaust Center

- PHA is involved in the development of the Hilton Family Holocaust Education Center to be built at the site of the Arizona Jewish Historical Society. PHA has pledged funds for the new education center and museum and several board members are actively involved on committees planning the design and content of the Center. PHA hopes many of its members will become involved in this important Center.

Other Activities

- PHA participated in the celebration of Israel's 75th anniversary at the JCC with an informational table and games.
- PHA participated in the annual Hanukkah in Carefree event with survivor Dirk Van Leenen as speaker and sufganiyot for attendees.
- PHA Tuesday  had a successful Giving campaign. Donations are vital to the success of PHA.

PHA THANKS ITS MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND DONORS FOR SUPPORTING OUR IMPORTANT WORK.