

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

The Americans and the Holocaust traveling exhibition is coming soon to Roseburg Public Library.

Visit the library between Thursday, Nov. 7 and Thursday, Dec. 19 to view the exhibition, which examines Americans' responses to Nazism, war and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s. What did Americans know, and what more could have been done?

The exhibition – from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the American Library Association – also presents stories of individual Americans, some of whom took actions that went against the grain at the time, daring to rescue Jews from Europe.

Library hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The library will be closed Nov. 28-30 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the library will host three public programs that are free and open to the public.

At 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14, Dr. David Luebke will present "Examining the Holocaust through Narrative," sharing his work on the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's permanent exhibition along with his research and teaching on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. Luebke is on the faculty at the University of Oregon as the Katherine G. Brady & Thomas A. Brady, Jr., Roger Chickering & Alison Baker Professor of Central European Histories.

At 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, author Clarice Wilsey will share her book, "Letters from Dachau: A Father's Witness of War, a Daughter's Dream of Peace," the inspiring story of her late father, who was a liberator of and physician for the people of Dachau Concentration Camp.

His family knew little about his wartime experience, and it was not until 2009 that they discovered letters to David's wife, Emily, detailing his experiences in the camp. He urged his wife to "to tell thousands so that millions will know what Dachau is and never forget the name of Dachau."

The 280+ letters survived several moves and even a housefire. Wilsey embraces her responsibility to give voice to the message her father was unable to share after his experience.

At 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, Dr. Miriam Chorley-Schulz will present "Jewish Antifascist Activism in the U.S. During the Holocaust."

In the summer months of 1943, the first-ever Jewish delegation from the Soviet Union made their way to North America upon the invitation of several American Jewish antifascist organizations. The delegates journeyed through the colonized Global South and then toured through North and South America campaigning for a common fight against fascism.

They reached a mass audience, counting at least 350,000 attendees of public-facing events alone. Their tour was a milestone of global Jewish antifascist organizing in the fight against Nazism. It left a lasting, if still unacknowledged, impression in America on discussions on the unfolding catastrophe that we came to call the Holocaust.

Dr. Chorley-Schulz is Assistant Professor and Mokin Fellow of Holocaust Studies at the University of Oregon School of Global Studies and Languages.

For details about the project, visit www.roseburgpubliclibrary.org or 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.

Next week’s library events

Tuesday, October 29, 10 a.m. – Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last

Tuesday, October 29, 3-5 p.m. – Maker Space Time

Wednesday, October 30, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, October 31, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, October 31, 4-5 p.m. – Seasonal craft kits for pre-K through fifth graders