



# 2025

# Annual Report



# **A message from Our Executive Director and Board Chair**

**Dear Friends of HERC,**

**We invite you to review our 2025 annual report, which highlights how strengthened community support has enhanced our sustainability. Our established endowment fund continues to grow, ensuring that future generations receive the education they need.**

**The lessons of history remain vital and they continue to affect thousands of students and teachers. Your contributions enable our board and staff to plan meaningful programs that address these needs. For 20 years, past and present donors have advanced the HERC mission, and we welcome all who wish to join us in the years ahead.**

**As we look forward, we embrace the future with the same vision that inspired a small group of volunteers to create HERC. As we plan our next chapter, we remain focused on mission alignment, expanding our reach, developing innovative programming, and strengthening partnerships. Together, we will continue to inspire educators, students, and our community.**



**Barbara Goldstein  
Executive Director**



**Carol Beerkowitz  
Board Chair**

## *A Special Thank You*

To the over 250 individuals, families, organizations and businesses that chose to financially support HERC in 2025. Because of your unwavering support, we have been able to continue to connect people to the history of the Holocaust.

## **2025 Board Members**

**Karen Asher-Cohen**

**Carol Berkowitz**

**Jessie Betts-Bono**

**Rick Feldman**

**Steve Friedlander**

**Lynn Grossman**

**Dana Lachter-Rivera**

**Karen Minert**

**Angie Pichard**

**Jared Ross**

**Ellie Simon**

**Susan Turner**

**Judy Winn**

# **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Remembrance Dinner**

**The 14th Annual Remembrance Dinner reached close to full capacity, welcoming more than 400 guests. The program featured a compelling address by acclaimed author Dara Horn and included the presentation of the Steve Uhlfelder Humanitarian Award to Bill Graham and Shelley Hill. Dara Horn's remarks offered guests a deeper understanding of contemporary antisemitism and the significant educational challenges it presents.**

**A unifying theme of the evening was the shared responsibility to improve our world and to ensure that future generations carry forward this essential work.**

**We extend our sincere appreciation to the sponsors whose generous support advances our mission each year. Their commitment enables us to continue providing high-quality educational programs and preserving the lessons of Holocaust history.**

# Remembrance Dinner Sponsors

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# 2025 Remembrance Dinner



# 2025 Remembrance Dinner



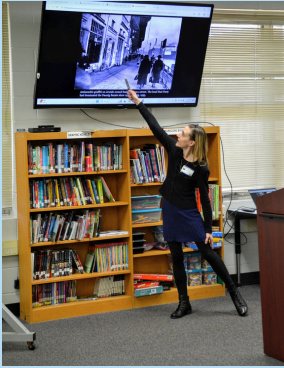
# Leon County Teacher Training Workshops



**Each year, HERC facilitates teacher training workshops that connect local educators with resources and instruction on the Holocaust. The impact of these workshops enables schools to access comprehensive, historically accurate information, encouraging students to develop a deeper and more meaningful understanding of the Holocaust and the origins of antisemitism.**

**HERC fulfills state-required instructional mandates by presenting lectures in classrooms in cooperation with school districts and educators. These presentations foster a significant discussion and encourage active student participation.**

## Holocaust Education Outreach

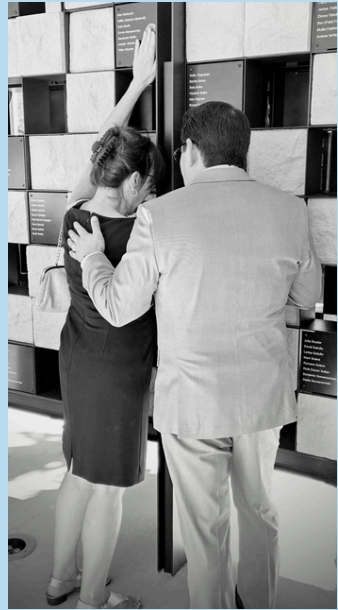


**HERC fulfills state required instruction by presenting lectures to classrooms with support from the school districts and educators. HERC facilitates classroom discussions and encourages student participation.**



# Florida Holocaust Memorial

On March 25, 2025, the Florida Holocaust Memorial was unveiled at the Capitol. The event was attended by many state officials, community members with honoring 95-year-old Holocaust survivor David Shaecter. This site serves as a reminder with the many names of survivors that made their home in Florida. Each person has a story of courage and luck to pass the torch of remembrance. We hope many will come visit the memorial to never forget.



## Principal's Trip to Washington D.C.

On June 2nd–4th, 2025, eleven Leon County School administrators joined HERC in Washington, DC for a life changing trip to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and National Museum of African American History and Culture. They heard Holocaust survivors, Mary Eckstein from Budapest, and Hershel Greenblatt from Ukraine, share their family stories. The experience was a time of learning and bonding with the goal to bring back important lessons to their schools and students.



## **Educator Testimony**

**“I am so glad I had the opportunity to meet you both. You have a standing, open invitation to visit my Holocaust History Honors classes at any time.**

**I always start the class with a summary and overview of the origins of antisemitism. This helps set the stage for students to connect with the long standing and invasive persecution the Jewish nation has encountered throughout history. The indoctrination that has taken place and still occurs within certain cultures is hard for students to understand before they know the way that the accusation and the false claims of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, etc. were used to influence the global opinion of Jews in general. These things set the stage for the Nazi regime to step in and make the Jews the cause of all of the negative results after WWI.**

**Your presentation made a mark on students' memories as I attempt to now humanize the atrocities that they are about to learn of. Our next assignment is to create a silhouette to hang in our hallway that highlights the life and experiences of 1 holocaust survivor or victim. It is a chance for them to take a deep dive into the real human stories that may seem so far removed from their reality. Having the opportunity to meet the daughter of survivors who thrived after their liberation was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I'm sure they won't soon forget.**

**I look forward to working with you in the future and thank you again for your willingness to help our students have a real understanding of how they can prevent a tragedy like the Holocaust from ever happening again.”**

**- Sharon Kerce  
Wakulla High School – Holocaust Class Educator**

## Principal Testimony

**HERC provides a vehicle that allows the past to not be forgotten. It opens avenues to learn, reflect, and be introspective. The Council provides the infrastructure that forges ahead with educationally relevant Holocaust information. The story must continue to be told. When we are silent and fail to tell the story, we fall grotesquely short and apathy, hatred, discrimination, and prejudice become victorious. Hatred should never be permitted to thrive in a culture where intelligence and reason should have the upper hand. The insidious nature of what occurred can never be forgotten. The HERC works tirelessly to keep this at the forefront of our brains, so this will never occur. Personally, I am forever changed from my summer experience. Since returning from Washington, DC, nearly two months ago, I have yet to remove my keepsake bracelet “What You Do Matters”. This is my forever reminder that my personal actions matter. I must lead by example to shun hatred and discrimination in all interactions. I am thankful to the HERC for providing this experience and for reaffirming my mission towards solidarity, love, and peace.**

**– Desmond Cole  
Principal at Godby High School**

# **HERC's Mission:**

**Provide instructional guidance, support and resources for educators who teach the history of the Holocaust, and educational programs for the community at-large.**

**Donate to support the mission with this QR code**

