



Nevada Center for  

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Humanity

# Hall of Names



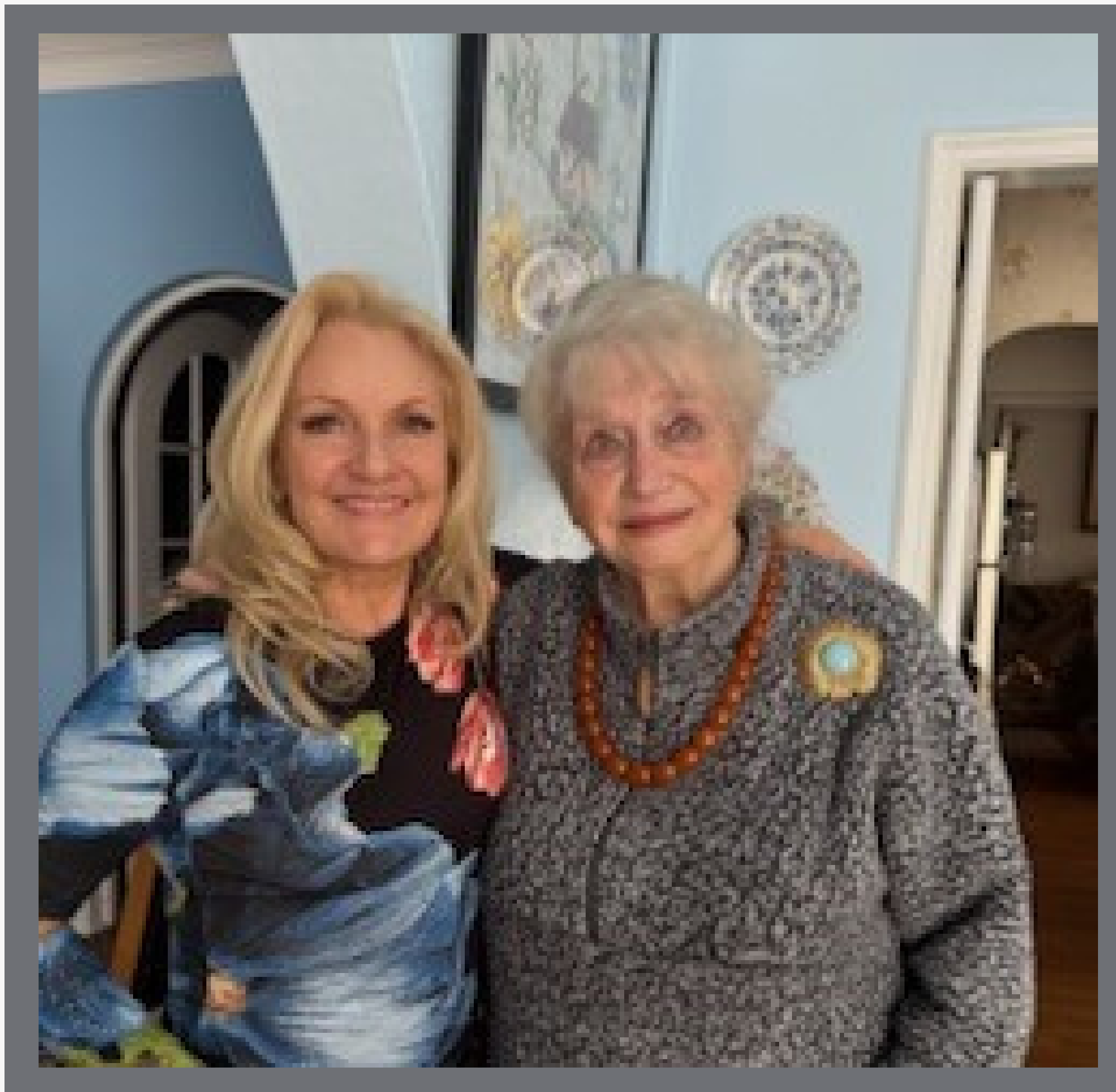
**“Unto every person there is a name”**













Nevada Center for Humanity presents:  
The Holocaust: How Did it Happen?  
For more information please visit:  
[www.nchnevada.org](http://www.nchnevada.org) or [www.USHMM.org](http://www.USHMM.org)

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. defines the Holocaust as:  
"the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators."



Berta Rosenheim poses with a "Schultüte," or large cone filled with sweets, stationery, and toys, traditionally given to German children on their first day of school. Leipzig, Germany, 1929. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

A large Hungarian Jewish family, pre-1933. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.



Prior to Nazi leader Adolf Hitler being named Chancellor of Germany in January 1933, there had been 2,000 years of vibrant Jewish life, culture, and contributions. Sixty percent of the world's Jewish population lived in Europe, comprising only 1.7 percent of the total European population. At the start of WWII in 1939, there were 9,000,000 Jewish men, women, and children in Europe; by war's end in 1945, 2 out of every 3 European Jews were murdered, including 1.5 million Jewish children.

Close to 5 million others were murdered by the Nazis either for what they did, what they refused to do, or who they were including: Slavic people, Gypsies (the Roma and Sinti), the mentally and physically disabled, homosexuals (males in particular), communists, trade unionists, Soviet prisoners of war, Jehovah's Witnesses, many church leaders (Protestant and Roman Catholic), people of color (black/afro-German), and other enemies, real or perceived.

The Holocaust was not inevitable (It did NOT have to happen)! It occurred because ordinary people made choices that legalized discrimination, allowed prejudice, hatred, and ultimately, led to mass murder.

A seventh-grade class, Jewish day school. Bielsko, Poland, 1934.



The Karshirskiy children, Yad Vashem.



Photo of both secular and religious Jewish men at an event. Yad Vashem.

Jewish carpentry workshop, a small Jewish town (a shtetl), Vilna, 1922.



Irrational and potentially dangerous, *antisemitism*, known as the "oldest hatred," is defined as: the hatred of, or prejudice against Jews as individuals, a group, or a concept. Since ancient times, Jews have been used as scapegoats for societies' ills: falsely accused of the murder of Christ (deicide), the Black Plague (poisoning of wells), the murder of Christian children for their blood in religious rituals (the blood libel), and in modern times, the global financial crisis, and the coronavirus pandemic. Throughout history, these lies have often resulted in massacres, also known as pogroms.

Where Jews were needed, they were tolerated. Since premodern Christianity did not permit usury (moneylending), the Jews played a vital role in commerce and trade. From the Enlightenment period of the 18th century through the constitutionally democratic Weimar Republic, Jews gained emancipation and with it, unprecedented freedoms as equal citizens. This allowed them integration into society, access to higher education, the ability to vote, hold office, sit on the judiciary, boards, and guilds. There were intermarriages and even conversions. Contrary to their image, most Jews were not prominent nor wealthy. They lived in ordinary conditions. Yet, this new status by the German Jewish population angered certain circles of the antisemitic "old-guard" and had to be stopped.



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Some Jews adopted the culture and language of their non-Jewish neighbors, while others preserved distinctly Jewish identities and communities.



A Jewish soccer team, France, Yad Vashem.



