

# Holocaust Reading Room and Study Center

Dedicated in 2007, the Schwab Family Holocaust Reading Room in the Penn State Harrisburg library is a visible centerpiece for the first research and outreach center devoted to Holocaust and Jewish studies in the region. The center sponsors public programming, develops special collections, and promotes educational opportunities in Holocaust and Jewish studies.

The Reading Room, community and University focal point for Holocaust education, is the result of a generous donation from Harrisburg resident Linda Schwab and the late Morris Schwab. It is located on the library's first floor, and also serves as a resource for preservation of local connections to the Holocaust.

The Reading Room includes materials from Penn State Harrisburg's extensive Holocaust and Genocide Collection of books and other media, now totaling more than 1,000 titles, and provides space for gallery presentations of art and documents of the Holocaust and Jewish experience. The collection is the largest specifically devoted to Holocaust studies in Central Pennsylvania.

The room's video and audio recordings of survivors, liberators, and witnesses in Central Pennsylvania allow visitors to learn about local connections to the Holocaust, while special collections, exhibits, documents, and oral histories provide additional perspectives. The room's collection continues to grow as interviews and documents of Central Pennsylvania survivors, their children, and liberators are added with ongoing special projects and coursework.

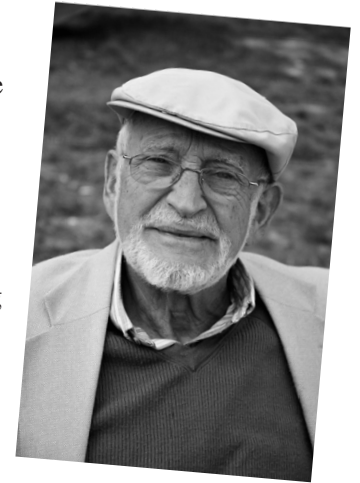
**Information:** [harrisburg.psu.edu/chjs](http://harrisburg.psu.edu/chjs)



# Grace. Dignity. Humility. Compassion. Photographic Portraits: The Holocaust Survivors of Baltimore

I titled this body of work "Grace. Dignity. Humility. Compassion. Photographic Portraits: The Holocaust Survivors of Baltimore" because these are the qualities that I see in the survivors as I have gotten to know them over the years.

I am a photographer who works in the Jewish community. I met a Holocaust survivor for the first time in 2000. After hearing his story and connecting with him, I started working with Holocaust survivors and began facilitating a Holocaust survivor social club in 2002. Shortly after, I started bringing my camera to work and photographed the survivors when we met as a group.



This project evolved as I began photographing the survivors in their homes, and they started telling me their stories. I had my first exhibition of this work in 2006 and since then the work has become an educational tool through which I teach about the Holocaust. I am still photographing as I meet new survivors, and I aspire to create a book about this work.

The survivors' ability to move on with life after surviving insurmountable persecution and loss has inspired me greatly. I am in awe of how people who have been through so much continuously communicate values such as tolerance, forgiveness, the importance of education, respecting others, valuing family, and appreciating freedom.

Whenever I hear a survivor speaking to a group about their experiences, the survivor always asks the audience to remember their stories, to tell them after they are gone, and to learn from them. I feel a personal obligation to share with you what I have learned from these remarkable people. I hope that you will take something with you that speaks to you.

## Catalogue of the Exhibition

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1. Leo Bretholz
2. Miriam Fromberg
3. Isidor Mayer
4. Halina Silber
5. Irma Prestsfelder
6. Dr. Werner V. Cohen
7. Martha Weiman
8. Rubin Sztajer
9. Rosa Marx
10. Bluma Shapiro
11. Veronica Kestenberg
12. Erich Oppenheim
13. Roman Ryterman

All of the portraits on display are for sale.

If you are interested in a particular piece, please contact the artist at [lisa@lisashifren.com](mailto:lisa@lisashifren.com)

Feel free to visit Lisa's website, [www.lisashifren.com](http://www.lisashifren.com)

## About the Artist:



*Lisa Shifren*

Lisa Shifren has been taking photographs for more than 20 years. In addition to being a photographer and digital artist, she works as a Jewish communal professional at Jewish Community Services in Baltimore with Holocaust survivors, who are the subjects of her recent body of work titled "Grace. Dignity. Humility. Compassion. Photographic Portraits: The Holocaust Survivors of Baltimore."

Lisa has been invited to exhibit her work at Clarion University, The Rosenberg Gallery at Goucher College, The Baltimore City Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) Commemoration, The Social Security Administration, The Reeves Gallery, Roland Park Country School, The Norman and Sara Brown Art Gallery, The Maryland Institute College of Art, Amalie Rothschild Gallery, Creative Alliance Main Gallery, Load of Fun Studios, Herring Run Artists' Network, School 33's Open Studio Tour, and The Center for Art and Visual Culture in Baltimore.

Lisa's work has been featured in The Print, Drawing, and Photographic Society of the Baltimore Museum of Art's newsletter, *the Baltimore Jewish Times*, *Jewish Women International Magazine*, and on WYPR's *Maryland Morning*.

This exhibition is part of programming organized by the Penn State Harrisburg Center for Holocaust and Jewish Studies under the direction of Dr. Anthony Bak Buccitelli. The Center acknowledges the support of Dr. Mukund Kulkarni, chancellor, Penn State Harrisburg; Dr. Gregory Crawford, interim director, School of Humanities, Penn State Harrisburg; Glenn McGuigan, library director, Penn State Harrisburg; Irwin and Nancy Aronson; Dr. Madlyn Hanes; Neil Leifert; Kurt and Doris Moses; Linda Schwab; Harry Yaverbaum; and Eileen Zagon.

**Lead Scholar:** Dr. Simon J. Bronner

**Curator:** Anthony Buccitelli

**Administrative Support:** Taneile Fasnacht

**Graphics:** Sharon Siegfried

**Website:** [harrisburg.psu.edu/chjs](http://harrisburg.psu.edu/chjs)