

# The Holocaust Documentation & Education Center, Inc.

Presents the Traveling Exhibition

## State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda

Produced by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

We are delighted to invite you to the Grand Opening which will take place on

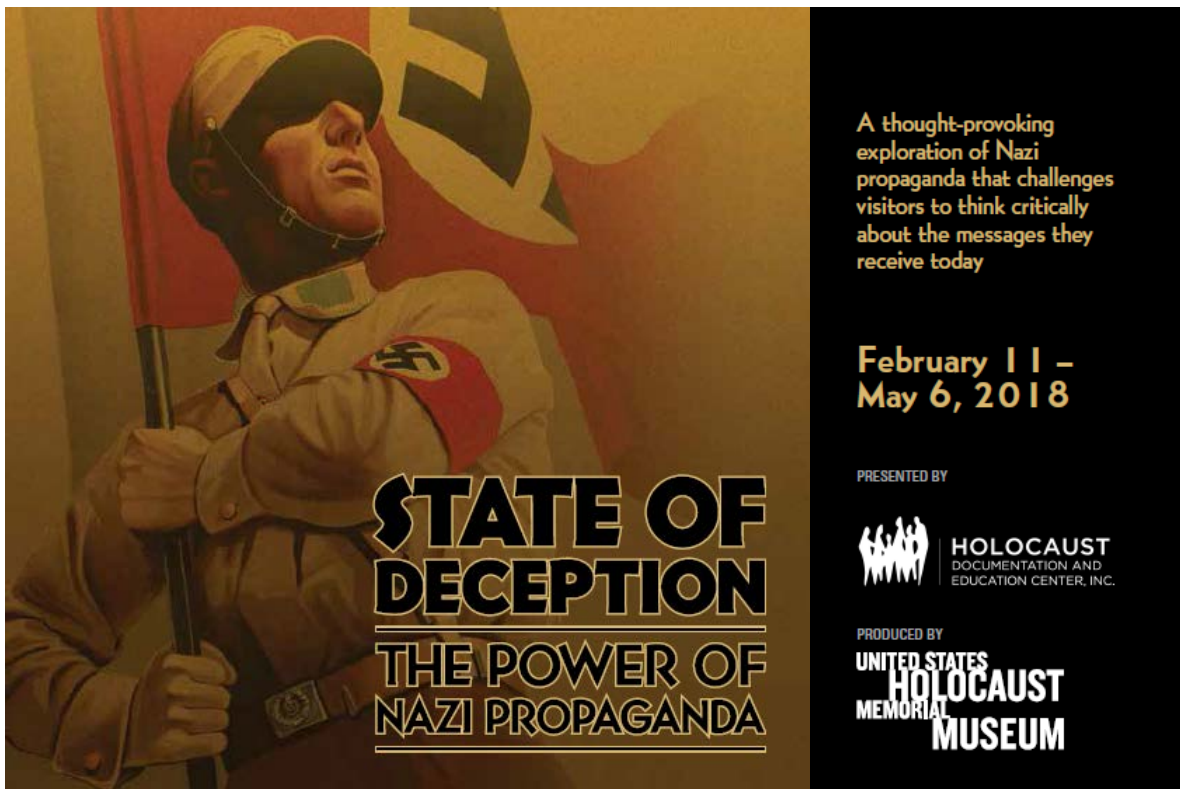
**Sunday, February 11, 2018**

**3:00 – 5:00 PM**

**303 N. Federal Hwy., Dania Beach, FL 33004**

**(954) 929-5690**

“Propaganda,” Adolf Hitler wrote in 1924, “is a truly terrible weapon in the hands of an expert.” During the subsequent two decades, Nazi leaders showed the world bold, new ways to use this tool. State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda examines how Nazi propaganda shaped German society and prepared the population to accept, support, or participate in persecution, war, and the mass murder of Europe’s Jews and others. It also challenges visitors to think about their responsibilities as consumers of information and how they can confront harmful propaganda today.



**RSVP** to Erin Cohen at 954-929-5690 ext.304 or [education@hdec.org](mailto:education@hdec.org)

*For security reasons, you must RSVP*

**General Admission \$10**

**Student Admission \$5**

**Survivors and Liberators will be admitted free of charge**

**Light refreshments will be served**

**Valet Parking**

This exhibition was underwritten in part by grants from Katharine M. and Leo S. Ullman and The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, with additional support from the Lester Robbins and Sheila Johnson Robbins Traveling and Special Exhibitions Fund established in 1990 and Dr. and Mrs. Sol Center.

Sponsored locally by: The Scherr Family Foundation, The State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, JM Family Enterprises, Inc., and The Archdiocese of Miami, American Guard Services, Abbe & Steven Becker, Dr. Mary Lou Brotherson, Cheryl Deakter, Morris Deakter, Bobbi & Mel Dick, Edelsburg Family, Florida Peninsula Insurance Company, Helene & Don Hirschfeld, Hana Kovanic & Family, Carrie & David Schulman, Shechtman Family, Rose & Stuart Singer, Mark Snyder, and Judy & Larry Wiener.

Thank you to the following Committee Members for their tremendous support and commitment:  
Jane Basch, Deborah Tellerman Berkowitz, Esq., Hon. Norman Edelcup, Hon. Mara Giuliani,  
and Gail Sonnenschein

We wish to acknowledge the following, for their wonderful efforts and commitment:

Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits  
Howie Sonnenschein, Photographer

and

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# The Holocaust Documentation & Education Center Presents

## A Panel Discussion - The Power of Propaganda

**Date: Sunday, February 25, 2018**      **Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**Place: 303 N. Federal Highway, Dania Beach, FL 33004**

This panel featuring local experts will be chaired by senior political television reporter and columnist, **Michael Putney** of *WPLG, Channel 10*. Participants include:

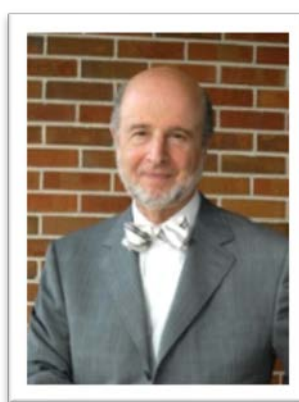
- **David Lawrence Jr.**, Leading National Advocate for Children, Newspaper Editor and Publisher, former Publisher of *The Miami Herald*
- **Bruce Rogow**, Founding Professor of Law at Nova Southeastern University Law Center and expert on First Amendment Law, Litigation, and Legal Ethics
- **Dr. Tom Steinfatt**, Fulbright Scholar, Professor, School of Communications, University of Miami, an expert on Political Communication and Propaganda



**Michael Putney**  
Moderator



**David Lawrence, Jr.**  
Panelist



**Bruce Rogow, J.D.**  
Panelist



**Dr. Tom Steinfatt**  
Panelist

PLEASE RSVP TO [education@hdec.org](mailto:education@hdec.org) or (954) 929-5690 X 304

◆ General Admission \$10 ◆ Student Admission \$5

◆ Survivors & Liberators will be admitted free of charge



**HOLOCAUST**  
DOCUMENTATION AND  
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**HOLOCAUST**  
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EDUCATION CENTER, INC.

Presents

**"Bitter Ironies"**

**A Prelude to "Colors of the Holocaust" Art Exhibition**

**with TOBY GOTESMAN SCHNEIER**



**Toby Gotesman Schneier** is a world-renowned Artist/Painter, an American Mannerist, Expressionist Oil Painter best known for her unique ability to transform seemingly ordinary objects, scenes, and events into jarring and provocative works of art. Recognizing that she is the daughter of Holocaust Survivors, as well as a formidable and recognized figure in Religious, Philanthropic, and Political Life, one can begin to understand and decipher a level of "coding" and "mission" embedded within the paintings... never knowing for certain whether the area in question was somehow accidental or purely strategic on the artist's part. This kind of "intriguing symbolism" has become a signature of Gotesman Schneier's work. Her Holocaust Collection, which she began painting in 2013, has gleaned extensive attention from the International Jewish Community. Her work speaks specifically to the parallel of what was happening outside in Germany and what was happening in the camps. Her work asks the question, "What motivated the perpetrator?"



**Date: Sunday, March 4, 2018**

**Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**Place: 303 N. Federal Highway, Dania Beach, FL 33004**

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**[www.hdec.org](http://www.hdec.org)**



**HOLOCAUST**  
DOCUMENTATION AND  
EDUCATION CENTER, INC.

Presents

**A German Life: Against All Odds Change is Possible**  
**Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger**



**Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger** will tell the riveting story of his experiences as a young man seeking the truth about his family, the relationship of father and son, entwined in German-Jewish history, and his spiritual awakening. He was born, raised and educated in Germany, the Christian son of a highly decorated Nazi war hero. Although his father had kept his past hidden from his children, Bernd learned the terrible truth about his father's role during the Holocaust. Horrified by it, he rebelled, converted to Judaism, and emigrated to Israel.

Dr. Wollschlaeger currently resides in Miami, Florida where he practices Family Medicine. His practice features prevention of illness and includes caring for uninsured patients, integrating complementary treatment modalities such as herbal medicine and nutrition, and providing integrative healthcare solutions.

**Date: Sunday, March 11, 2018**

**Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**Place: 303 N. Federal Highway, Dania Beach, FL 33004**

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**[www.hdec.org](http://www.hdec.org)**

**Holocaust Documentation & Education Center, Inc. & B'nai B'rith  
Justice Unit #5207 & Broward County Bar Association Present**

**Pursuing Nazi Propagandists and Other Nazi Criminals**

Featuring

**Dr. Steven Luckert**



Senior Program Curator in the Levine Institute for Holocaust Education at the  
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC

**Date: Sunday, March 18, 2018 ~ Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**Place: 303 N. Federal Hwy., Dania Beach, FL 33004**

**Dr. Steven Luckert** is Senior Program Curator in the Levine Institute for Holocaust Education at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. He served for 20 years as the Curator of the Museum's acclaimed permanent exhibition, *The Holocaust*. In addition, he curated seven special exhibitions, including *State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda*. He has appeared in the following media outlets: *CSPAN, CNN, NBC Nightly News, Associated Press, Reuters International, History Detectives, The History Channel, Huffington Post, ZDF (German Television), PBS, Fox, Washington Post, New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, National Geographic Channel, National Public Radio, Newsmax, Telemundo, Iranwire, Al-Hura, The Atlantic, The Forward, Boston Globe, Cox News Service, USA Today, Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and Tass*. Steven Luckert received his Ph.D. in Modern European History from the State University of New York at Binghamton and has published on German history, the Holocaust, and Nazi propaganda.

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# Nazis' 'terrible weapon' on view at Holocaust Center in Dania Beach

**Phillip Valys Contact Reporter**SouthFlorida.com

February 7, 2018

For Rositta Kenigsberg, the most haunting images in the traveling exhibition “State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda” appear near the end, in between the Adolf Hitler campaign posters and anti-Semitic caricatures of conniving Jews. At the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center in Dania Beach, eight black-and-white photos taken in Eisenach, Germany, hang against a long divider wall painted black and red. In the images, hundreds of Jews young and old, carrying luggage and expressing fear, are being deported to ghettos. Eventually, those prisoners would be sent to death camps, says Kenigsberg, the Holocaust center’s president.

More than the frenzied rhetoric of Hitler and his campaign to exterminate the Jewish race, it is these unornamented photos of Jewish victims that Kenigsberg, the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, finds the most chilling.

“To drive a human being to hate to such an extent, it’s the question I’m still asking after so many years,” Kenigsberg says. “Propaganda is a terrible weapon in the wrong hands. It’s mind-boggling, and today, we are even still hearing about Holocaust deniers.”



"The Eternal or Wandering Jew," another Nazi propaganda poster, is part of "State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda," a traveling exhibit opening Sunday, Feb. 11, at the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center in Dania Beach. (U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum / Courtesy)



Through 100 campaign posters, photos of rallies and illustrations showing muscular Aryan men, the destructive influence of Nazi propaganda is explored in “State of Deception,” on loan from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Disseminated by the Nazis’ Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda, this agitprop targeted women, farmers and other vulnerable classes of society, selling the idea that the Nazi party brought stability, strength and prosperity to an economy foundering in the years after World War I and the Great Depression. Jews, considered an inferior race by the Nazis, threatened that stability.

Broken into four chronological sections, the show spans 1918, the start of Germany’s Weimar Republic, through 1948, when the Nuremberg Trials prosecuted Nazi propagandists for crimes against humanity. The propaganda is powerful and relentless: a circa-1935 photo shows Hitler inside a German classroom filled with students. In another photo, hundreds of uniformed Hitler Youth stand in formation.



Displayed near the photo is a children’s board game, titled “Jews Out!” which calls to mind a debauched version of Life: The first player to drive Jews out of a walled city wins the game.

“It’s a pretty scary idea that kids were exposed to propaganda so young,” says Sonia Booth, a U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum program coordinator. “It makes you question the things we take for granted in childhood, but also how [the Nazi party] targeted vulnerable populations.”

The exhibit offers many examples of the brutally effective Nazi propaganda machine. One section’s bar graph charts the Nazi party’s grasp for power within Germany’s parliament, rising from 3 percent of the popular vote to 33.3 percent within 12 years. Another propaganda poster from 1943 assigns fault to the victimized: A large hand points an accusatory finger at a caricature of an overweight, long-nosed Jew wearing a yellow star. “He is to blame for the war!” giant block letters read atop the poster. All this is happening, of course, while railcars are shipping Jews to death camps.

“State of Deception” is the debut exhibit at the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center, a 26,000-square-foot warehouse near Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. A 4,000-square-foot side gallery contains the exhibit, but the rest of the warehouse is mostly empty save two symbols of the

war: a 30-ton Sherman tank used by American troops to liberate death camps and a Polish railcar that sent Jews to crematoriums.

Kenigsberg says the railcar and tank, both part of the Holocaust Center's permanent collection, represent "tragedy" and "triumph," respectively, and that Nazi propaganda shares modern parallels with fake news tactics used by political parties today.

"You have to listen carefully to fake news. If it sounds and looks untrue, it probably is untrue," Kenigsberg says. "The key is figuring out how to better teach our children what propaganda is."

Until March, the museum will host a lineup of propaganda-themed programming, starting with a 3-5 p.m. Feb. 11 talk by "State of Deception" curator Steven Luckert. A "Power of Propaganda" panel will follow on Feb. 25, and the discussion "Pursuing Nazi Propagandists and Other Nazi Criminals" will finish the series on March 18.

*"State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda" will open Sunday, Feb. 11, at the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center, 303 N. Federal Highway, in Dania Beach. The exhibit will close May 6. Admission is \$5-\$10, free for Holocaust survivors and liberators. Call 954-929-5690 or go to HDEC.org.*

## Nazis' 'terrible weapon' on view at center

Debut exhibit examines power of propaganda

By Phillip Valys  
STAFF WRITER

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PHILLIP VALYS/STAFF

The exhibit comprises 100 posters, photos and illustrations.

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### "State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda"

**Where:** Holocaust Documentation and Education Center, 303 N. Federal Highway, in Dania Beach.

**When:** Sunday through May 26

**Cost:** Admission is \$5-\$10, free for Holocaust survivors and liberators.

**Contact:** 954-929-5690 or go to [HDEC.org](http://HDEC.org)

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[pvalys@southflorida.com](mailto:pvalys@southflorida.com) or 954-356-4364

# Jewish Journal

## Nazi propaganda on exhibit at Holocaust Documentation & Education Center



Visitors view the State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda exhibit at the Holocaust Documentation & Education Center in Dania Beach. (COURTESY)



**Sergio Carmona Contact Reporter**

Exhibit produced by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum  
February 16, 2018, 3:38 PM

The eye-opening traveling exhibit *State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda* is now on display at the Holocaust Documentation & Education Center in Dania Beach.

This exhibit, produced by the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#), is running at the HDEC, 303 N. Federal Highway, through May 6. Through a multimedia environment,

the exhibit examines how the Nazis used propaganda to win broad voter support in Germany's young democracy after World War I, implement radical programs under the party's dictatorship in the 1930s and justify war and mass murder of Europe's Jews and others. It is intended to challenge visitors to think about their responsibilities as consumers of information and how they can confront harmful propaganda today.

"We feel this exhibit is so important because we would like today's generation to understand what propaganda is and, in this particular instance, how it was used," said Rositta Kenigsberg, the HDEC's president. "Propaganda in the wrong hands is extraordinarily dangerous, so the lesson here is that words matter, the truth is important and we need to speak truth."

This exhibit is the first traveling one that the HDEC, the organization behind South Florida's first Holocaust museum, has hosted.

Kenigsberg noted that the arrival of this exhibit as the museum's first traveling one is fitting as it exemplifies and explores how the use of propaganda shaped and transformed a society to accept, support and become "willing executioners" of the mass murder of millions of Jews and others.

"Visitors will see firsthand that early messages of Nazi propaganda began subtly and snowballed over time into extremist marketing for a dangerous and deadly campaign," she noted.

David Schulman, the center's chairman, said, "We're very proud that the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has allowed us to use their traveling exhibit on Nazi propaganda, especially at this time."

"We think it's an important exhibit that makes an important statement and we feel that it will make everyone who sees it think."

Steven Luckert, senior program curator in the Levine Institute for Holocaust Education in the USHMM and curator for the exhibit, said regarding the exhibit's goals, "We would like people to think about the importance of being critical consumers of information because today, as then, we're bombarded with a lot of messaging."

"There's some information that's both dangerous and potentially dangerous that we need to be aware of," Luckert continued. "Hopefully through this exhibition, we can have

visitors see how the Nazis used propaganda and how even images of propaganda that might seem very positive can have extremely negative consequences for somebody else. I think now, as we see the growth of extremism, the growth of anti-Semitism and the growth of racism in many parts of the world, it's important for people to be on guard against those things."

Robert Tanen, Southeast regional acting director of the USHMM, said, "I think what it's [exhibit] trying to show is the way a society can be manipulated and conned into believing an ideology through propaganda."

The exhibit has had a profound impact on Gail Sonnenschein, a Sunny Isles Beach resident who viewed it.

"As a child of Holocaust survivors, I was brought up to be aware of how society can be manipulated by using propaganda and false information," Sonnenschein noted. "The exhibit shows how things started very small with name calling and euphemisms, but step by step, psychologically vulnerable people were strategically and incrementally manipulated into tolerating and then actively participating in terrible actions."

Sonnenschein continued, "It's a really absorbing exhibit that demonstrates the techniques the Nazis used, even down to marketing, art directing and branding their message, and the historical importance of making informed judgments."

Viewing hours are Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. General Admission is \$10. Visit [hdec.org](http://hdec.org) or call 954-929-5690 for more information. Visit [ushmm.org/propaganda](http://ushmm.org/propaganda) for more information about the history of Nazi propaganda and to discover connections between that dark period in history and issues affecting today's world.

## When words kill

Holocaust museum dissects Nazi propaganda to instill lessons in today's youths

Jim Davis

Thursday, April 12, 2018

*Rositta Kenigsberg, right, director of the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center, shows the opening panel of the "State of Deception" exhibit on Nazi propaganda. With her is Erin Cohen, educational coordinator.*



DANIA BEACH | Swastikas saw through chains, blond soldiers stand proud, stereotyped Jews skulk and scowl. "State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda," shows how Hitler used lies and half-truths to win support, control a nation and commit mass murder.

The exhibit, showing through May 6 at the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center, is far more than a collection of Nazi posters. The show narrates the history leading up to the rise of Hitler and his supporters. And it helps viewers recognize propaganda, rather than fall prey to it.

In an age of resurgent hate and newly poisoned words and pictures, such a message is vital, said museum director Rositta Kenigsberg.

"This topic is extraordinarily important, and it's perfect for this moment in history," said Kenigsberg, herself a child of Holocaust survivors. "[The Holocaust] didn't start with the gas chambers — it ended there," Kenigsberg continued. "And the people allowed it. Almost like they were brainwashed."

The exhibit, on loan from the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., has the support of the Archdiocese of Miami, which is helping publicize it. Father Patrick O'Neill, director of the Office of Ecumenism and Interfaith for the archdiocese, not only helped distribute more than 20 posters around South Florida; he also was on the board of the Holocaust center when it organized in 1980.

"This story belongs to everybody, not just Jews," Father O'Neill said of the exhibit. "To me, this is part of the gospel — not just telling the good news, but defending it. Not letting bad news, including bigotry, compete with it."

The Holocaust center is lining up Catholic schools to send classes to the show. Thus far, [St. Lawrence School](#) in North Miami Beach and [Christopher Columbus High School](#), a Marist school on Miami, have scheduled visits.

They'll see an exhibit that takes up nearly 4,000 of the Dania Beach museum's 26,000 square feet. Along its winding path, one can see the ways in which Hitler and his deputies gained German confidence, then attacked and silenced those who disagreed with them.



Nazis tailored their message to appeal to many parts of society -- students, workers, farmers, even mothers -- says Erin Cohen, educational coordinator of the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center, whose "State of Deception" exhibit runs through May 6. Erin Cohen, the museum's educational coordinator, noted that the Nazis were not the first or last to use propaganda. "But theirs was more sophisticated. It told a story about the workers awakening, and about the people who were said to be holding them back."

## EXPLOITING RESENTMENT

Interestingly, "State of Deception" opens not with Nazis but with the Treaty of Versailles. That treaty, drawn up after World War I, took land from Germany, limited its military, and imposed punitive reparation payments. The penalties brought hardship to Germans, wounded their national pride and bred resentment that the Nazis exploited.

A revealing series of posters shows how the Nazis fine-tuned their message for various groups: students, farmers, laborers, even housewives. A frequent scapegoat was "the Jew" — in one poster, a fat, big-nosed undesirable who gets a punch to the eye.

Visitors learn about Paul Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's minister of "public enlightenment and propaganda." As the exhibit says, Goebbels directed not only the media but cultural output, including film, music and architecture.

Young Germans were a special target, the exhibit shows — not only through schools but through the Hitler Youth. The goal was "to produce obedient, self-sacrificing Germans who would be willing to die for Fuhrer and Fatherland."

Among the biggest purveyors of anti-Semitism was *Der Sturmer*, the Nazi newspaper. A 1935 copy of the weekly paper at the exhibit accuses Jews of amassing wealth, then using it to agitate for war. Editor Julius Streicher openly called for "the annihilation of the Jewish race."

Also at the exhibit is a clip from *Jud Suss*, a famous film about a Jew who disguises himself in order to infiltrate high society. It was more popular than *The Eternal Jew*, an anti-Semitic film masked as a documentary.



"Juden Raus (Jews Out)" was a Nazi-designed board game for children. The goal was to collect as many Jews as possible and send them to Palestine. The picture is part of the "State of Deception" exhibit at the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center. There's even a board game, called "Juden Raus! (Jews Out!)," conditioning children to reject Jews as true Germans.

For ugliness, though, it's hard to beat the pictures showing "the Jew" as a scowling, bearded, black-hatted, hook-nosed sneak. "HE is to blame for the war!" says one finger-pointing poster.

"Even your neighbor could become your enemy," Kenigsberg said. "And (the propaganda) resulted in the deaths of millions of men, women and children."

Rallies themselves became a form of propaganda, as the exhibit shows. With hordes of uniformed loyalists raising their hands and chanting "Heil Hitler" — and with a flood of paintings, posters and busts of Hitler for sale — it became hard to resist the tide of the "cult" surrounding him.



## INDIFFERENCE TO MURDER

Once in power, the Nazis retooled their message from discontent to praise for the new regime: the jobs it created, the new cars like the Volkswagen it built, the national pride it restored. This in the face of depressed wages and mass arrests.

Those arrested — not only dissenters but Jews, gays, Roma (Gypsies) and Jehovah’s Witnesses — were sent to concentration camps, some of which became mass extermination sites.

“Nazi propagandists did not dictate anti-Jewish policy,” says an exhibit text. “But they helped to create the climate of indifference, hate, and fear that made mass murder possible.”



Rositta Kenigsberg, director of the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center, is sponsoring the "State of Deception" exhibit on Nazi propaganda through May 6. The center is in Dania Beach.

"This story belongs to everybody," Father Patrick O'Neill, interfaith officer for the Archdiocese of Miami, says of the "State of Deception" exhibit at the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center. Viewers of "State of Deception" are prodded to do

more than look and listen passively. They're offered a checklist on elements of propaganda: It tells information selectively, simplifies issues, tells lies or half-truths, plays on emotions, attacks opponents and targets a particular audience.



The center's 20-plus docents — trained according to a 28-page manual — coach visitors on lessons of the exhibit. They may ask how the Nazis created a “national community” that welcomed some people and excluded others. They may get people to analyze the words and pictures for their manipulative elements.

The Allies themselves used propaganda after World War II to “re-educate” the German people, “State of Deception” acknowledges. Allies also banned displays of swastika flags and publication of *Der Sturmer*, the Nazi newspaper. Editor Streicher himself was executed after conviction by a postwar military tribunal — the first-ever time that someone was convicted for killing through propaganda.

Nor do propaganda and its toxic effects merely lurk in the dark past.

The Anti-Defamation League reported 1,986 anti-Semitic incidents in America last year, up 57 percent from 2016. Among them were swastikas scratched onto cars in Miami Beach, “fecal matter” on synagogue windows in Delray Beach, and a lacrosse player in Wellington called “Jew boy” and told to “burn in the oven with the rest of them.”

This on top of smaller versions of the Holocaust over the years: mass killings in Kosovo and Rwanda, and mass expulsions in Syria and Myanmar.

All the more reason to have students see “State of Deception,” to try and inoculate the next generation from hate-speech campaigns, said Kenigsberg, who expects about 2,000 to see the exhibit before it leaves in mid-May.

But she said she already sees the show affecting students for good.

“You see kids change before your eyes after the program, and they realize they can make a change,” she said. “They go into the world as ambassadors for humanity. I feel like there is life and hope.”

**James Davis, Religion Writer for The Florida Catholic Newspaper, sent this article on the *State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda* exhibition which is currently on the Archdiocese of Miami’s website. This story was also promoted on the New Advent front page. New Advent is the largest Catholic webpage, with more than a million hits each month.**