

PRESS RELEASE

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HOLOCAUST
CENTER *for*
HUMANITY

Educate. Inspire. Take Action.

The Journey that Saved Curious George: *The true wartime escape of Margret and H.A. Rey*

A FEATURE EXHIBIT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

March 8 – May 24: Open to the public Wednesdays and Sundays, 10am – 4pm

Student and community groups weekdays by appointment
On exhibit at the Henry and Sandra Friedman HOLOCAUST CENTER *for* HUMANITY
2045 Second Ave at the corner of Second & Lenora
Reserve tickets at HolocaustCenterSeattle.org; Suggested admission \$10 adults; \$5 students and seniors; Children under 10 free.

March 19 is Family Day

Join us for a day of Curious George readings and child-friendly activities including passport sticker books, coloring, stone painting, and refreshments. Open 10am – 4pm.



The Holocaust Center for Humanity is proud to present this exhibit that introduces visitors to Margret and H.A. Rey, who escaped Paris by bicycle on the eve of Nazi occupation — with the original manuscript in hand.

Why do so many people feel that the story of his creators must be shared? More than three generations of Americans have grown up reading the stories of Curious George. But few people know about the incredible journey made by his creators to escape the Nazi invasion of Paris at the start of World War II.

Based on the book of the same name, illustrated by Allan Drummond and written by Louise Borden, the exhibit tells their story. The Center's core exhibit "With My Own Eyes" will remain up in a separate gallery.

The Journey that Saved Curious George is more than just the tale of escape from wartime Europe. The exhibition celebrates a timeless story of survival and reminds us of the power of the human spirit and creativity. It reminds us of the importance of standing up against bigotry, prejudice, and discrimination in our world today.

ABOUT THE CENTER: Through universal lessons of the Holocaust, the Holocaust Center for Humanity teaches students to become engaged citizens and to speak out against bigotry and prejudice. The Center provides immersive programs and resources to teachers, students, and community groups across the Northwest. The Center's museum opened to the public in 2015, reaching 15,000 students of all ages during the 2015-2016 school year. *The Center's mission is to inspire teaching and learning for humanity in the schools and communities of this region through study of the Holocaust. Find out more at HolocaustCenterSeattle.org.*

Curious George Exhibit CONTEXT: Following the German occupation of France in 1940, Jews were subject to exclusion from public life, forced to wear the yellow-star badge, and experienced other unimaginable forms of persecution. Deportations of Jews from France began in the summer of 1942 to Nazi transit and concentration camps. Some went into hiding or fled. Although a great percentage of Jews who resided in France at this time somehow survived, 77,000 were deported and murdered in Nazi concentration camps. We can surmise what might have happened had the Reys remained in Paris: generations of children would never have known the stories and characters that are now an indelible part of our collective memory.

The Reys' work was not the only creative voice to survive the darkness of this time. Others including diarist Anne Frank speak to us even though their creators did not survive. But like the Reys, many writers and artists did manage to escape the Nazi advance — including Marc Chagall, Max Ernst, Jacques Lipchitz, Walter Gropius, and Marcel Duchamp. Often they did so with help from courageous individuals whose work was only recognized decades later.

Left: Illustration of Margret and H.A. Reys' escape from Paris, by Allan Drummond.

Below: Book Cover. High resolution images available on request.

