Trending:

Vulcan® Park and Museum tops off another successful year

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2016!
Never forget: Alabama Holocaust survivors commemorated through art in "Darkness into Life"

By: Andrea Walker – al.com

It’s been over 70 years, but Max Steinmetz still vividly remembers the horrors he was subjected to during a very dark era in history, known as the Holocaust. As you listen to his story, you eerily become transported to Poland 1940, standing amongst lines of other persecuted Jews as they were solemnly marched to the "Selection" as Steinmetz recalls. "There was a soldier with a leather whip standing before us. He looked at you and would tell you either to go to the left or the right. I went to the right, my mother, father, and little sister had to go to the left. We found out later that the people who had to go left were sent immediately to the gas chamber to be killed. I never saw my family again."

Max is one of 20 Alabama survivors who bravely tell their story again and again to as many diverse crowds who will listen. They don’t falter in their recollections. The memories flow through them as if those horrific events happened only moments ago. "For many survivors there is a compelling drive to tell their story, to bear witness for those that perished," says Ann Mollengarden, Education Director of the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center. "Their testimonies and speaking engagements provide solace that this cataclysmic event that they survived will not be denied or forgotten after they are gone."

It was during a local remembrance event that artists Becky Seitel and Mitzi Levin decided that these stories needed to be preserved through works of art.

The "Darkness Into Life" exhibit profiles the lives of nine Birmingham survivors before, during, and after the Holocaust through photography and original artwork. Each survivor endured their own unique experience, but the exhibit also captures how they rebuilt their life in a new country, and become contributing members to the Birmingham community.

This local connection to Birmingham prompted Vulcan Park & Museum to work alongside the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center to host the exhibit. "Birmingham has a rich cultural history that most locals have no idea about," says Mark Akerman, Director of Education at Vulcan Park & Museum. "We wanted to partner with the Holocaust Education Center to showcase this exhibit to a broader audience and further help these survivors in telling their stories to this new generation."

"For us, this partnership is huge. We are excited that so many people have an opportunity to see it," agrees Rebecca Dobrinski, Executive Director of the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center.

This complete article can be found on al.com. To learn more about Max’s story and those of the other survivors, take a moment to reflect inside the exhibit in the Linn-Henley Gallery at Vulcan Park and Museum. "Darkness Into Life" is open until May 16, 2016.
Vulcan® Park and Museum is dedicated to our community. 2015 was a year worth noting for several of Vulcan’s signature events. Here you’ll find us celebrating The Vulcans Community Awards 2015, the inaugural Vulcan Classic basketball game, rocking out at the 11th season of Vulcan AfterTunes, honoring our service men and women at the 3rd annual Thank-A-Vet program, hosting the City of Birmingham’s holiday lighting ceremony, and cheering on the teams at the 10th annual Birmingham Bowl. Thank you to all of our community partners and sponsors who help us fulfill our mission through these events year after year.
BIRMINGHAM REVEALED

For 2016, Birmingham Revealed offers up another round of our city’s creative best. Here’s what’s in store:

Jazz in Birmingham
March 10
5:00 p.m.
$8 Members | $10 Non-Members

Samford University students, under the direction of Dr. Grant Dalton, will provide an evening of jazz music with performances dedicated to Birmingham’s rich jazz heritage. Many of the region’s greatest jazz musicians and composers have roots that are distinctly Birmingham.

A Slippery Slope: The Consequences of Hate
April 21
5:00 p.m.
$8 Members | $10 Non-Members

*A Slippery Slope: The Consequences of Hate* is a musical performance that includes original poetry and scores by Deborah Layman, BHEC Vice President of Development, and Dr. Alan Goldspiel, chair of University of Montevallo’s Department of Music. The performance by The Seasoned Performers will include readings from personal testimonies of Holocaust survivors. Joining Dr. Alan Goldspiel on guitar are violinist Marilyn Pipkin and featured vocalist Gabriel Tajeu. The performance is a combination of the traditional Klezmar melodies from Eastern European Jewish culture and African-American spirituals. The music and readings together are used to parallel the struggles of Alabama’s Holocaust survivors and the Civil Rights Movement.

*Tickets for both performances can be purchased at visitvulcan.com*
Once again, Vulcan® Park and Museum is offering couples the chance to marry or renew their vows on the most romantic day of the year – Valentine’s Day – with Vulcan as their witness. The knowledgeable staff of GoPro Event Solutions coordinates the ceremonies that will take place on the City Overlook with beautiful Downtown Birmingham as the backdrop. Packages include an intimate 30-minute, outdoor ceremony performed by a licensed officiate, a keepsake bridal bouquet and boutonniere, professional photographs, and a champagne toast for the bride and groom. Reservations are available for purchase on a first-come, first-served basis. Participating vendors include the following: Custom announcement by Allison R. Banks, Amerson Events, Cakes by Audrey, Event Rentals Unlimited, Florals by RD Designs, Jennifer Woodbery Photography, and Savoie Catering. For package details or to make a reservation, log on to visitvulcan.com or call 205.933.1409 x.113.

**SPRING WALKING TOURS**

$10 Members | $12 Non-Members

Join Vulcan® Park and Museum and friends for an educational and fun walking tour series of Birmingham’s neighborhoods. The series will begin on March 19 with a tour of Parkside. Starting with Railroad Park and Regions Field, Parkside quickly grew into a vital neighborhood that has attracted an explosion of building projects, tourists and visitors from all over Birmingham. Our tour focuses on the power of good design to invigorate development. The series will continue on April 16 with the Historic Retail/Theater District. The renovated Lyric Theatre is the centerpiece of recent development south of 20th Street. We’ll visit the Lyric and explore the history and revitalization of its neighbors. With new apartments, office buildings, lofts, hotels and restaurants, this area showcases the active investment in downtown Birmingham. Vulcan® Park and Museum will end the series at Forest Park. Jeff Dungan, AIA, is known for his modern approach to traditional vernaculars and classical architecture and few people are more knowledgeable on historic architectural styles. Dungan will lead through Forest Park, identifying styles, materials and proportions that resonate in timeless residences. Registration required at visitvulcan.com.

**DETERMINATION, DRAMA, AND DARING: THE LIFE OF LOUISE WOOSTER**

April 6
5:00 p.m.
$8 Members | $10 Non-members

This show, commissioned by Vulcan® Park and Museum, was a huge hit at the inaugural performance during the 2015 Birmingham Revealed cultural series. Vulcan® Park and Museum and the UAB School of Public Health will once again partner to bring the one-woman drama back during National Public Health Week.

Birmingham “madam” and humanitarian Louise Wooster lived a life unimaginable, complete with tragedy, comedy and her infamous dalliance with John Wilkes Booth. Referencing Birmingham’s rough and tumble early days, this one-woman show presents Wooster as she promotes herself, leaving the audience to decide what was fact, fiction or fantasy. Join playwright and actress Ellise Mayor in this production, drawn from archival research and Wooster’s, *The Autobiography of a Magdalen*. 
When Vulcan Park Foundation reopened Vulcan® Park and Museum in 2004, one comprehensive mission was crafted to lay the groundwork for the future of the organization and to pave the way for its enormous potential:

To preserve and promote Vulcan as the symbol for the Birmingham region, to advance knowledge and understanding of Birmingham’s history and culture, and to encourage exploration of the region.

Vulcan® Park and Museum continually seeks new ways to bring this mission to life to enrich the lives of the tens of thousands of annual visitors – not to mention the lives of the citizens who experience Vulcan in some way, every day. In fiscal 2015, new programs were created while long-time favorites were embraced by new audiences.

The fall of 2014 saw tremendous success with the creation of The Vulcans Community Awards recognition program. This mission-driven fundraiser recognizes citizens from the Birmingham region who exemplify pride, leadership and progress, just as Vulcan has symbolized for 111 years. In its inaugural year, nearly 200 individuals were nominated and 13 recipients were honored for their contributions to the betterment of life in our community.

A partnership with the Italian American Heritage Society allowed us to bring La Storia: Birmingham’s Italian Community to the Linn-Henley Gallery. This fascinating exhibit, dedicated to preserving and sharing the stories of the people who added to the rich fabric of our unique community, allowed guests to appreciate where we came from, recognize our progress, and appreciate our potential.

Living Legends, a new annual program created in partnership with Bright House Networks, gave students the opportunity to interact and learn from community leader Dr. Richard Arrington, Jr. During this forum, presented in recognition of Black History Month, students were inspired by the challenges Dr. Arrington overcame during his terms in office.

The final aspect of our mission is now being upheld in a new, exciting, and creatively artistic way. Vulcans on Parade, the brainchild of five young professionals in our community, takes Vulcan from his pedestal and strategically places him in the community for all to see! Human-scale replicas of Vulcan, painted by local artists to showcase our area’s many cultural institutions, encourage exploration of our region. Be on the lookout for more Vulcans on Parade in the coming year!

As Vulcan® Park and Museum celebrates the successes of 2015 and looks forward to an exciting 2016, we invite you to take an active role. Invest in future generations by visiting, volunteering and supporting our programs and exhibitions. Since Vulcan® Park and Museum is a nonprofit organization, your gifts and memberships are needed to continue to expand our renown and new educational programs and community events.

Join us in making sure that the colossal icon of our citizens’ determined spirit is not just preserved but thrives for another 111 years.

Sincerely,

Earl F. Hilliard, Jr.
Chairman
Vulcan® Park and Museum
Condensed Financials 2014-2015

TOTAL INCOME

- Park and Museum Operations $798,150
- Grants and Contributions $338,725
- Government $483,962

Total $1,620,087

TOTAL EXPENSES

- Visitor Experience $646,090
- Educational Programs $327,636
- Community Outreach $325,453
- General and Administrative $187,863
- Fundraising $138,577

Total $1,625,618

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

- Accounts payable $7,323
- Accrued expenses $10,282
- Deferred revenue $70,717

Total Liabilities $88,322

- Net Assets
  - Unrestricted $1,841,938
  - Temporarily Restricted $21,916

Total Net Assets $1,863,854

Total Liabilities and Net Assets $1,952,176

ASSETS

- Cash and cash equivalents $264,485
- Certificates of deposit -
- Contributions receivable, net $40,513
- Accounts receivable $39,194
- Prepaid expenses $28,282
- Trademark, net of amortization $75,486
- Gift shop inventory $1,477,622
- Property and equipment, net $19,066
- Investment assets held by others $1,952,176

Total Assets $1,952,176
NUTS AND BOLTS

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

From left to right: The Vulcans Community Awards 2014; Mayor Bell blows out the candles at Vulcan's 111th Birthday Bash; Phase one of Vulcans on Parade installed with artists.

$10,000 AND UP
Alabama Media Group
Alabama State Council on the Arts
City of Birmingham
EBSCO Industries, Inc.
Greater Birmingham Convention and Visitors Bureau
Italian American Heritage Society
Kiwanis Club of Birmingham
Leddle Group Foundation
Linn-Henley Charitable Trust
Protective Life Corporation
Stewart M. Dansby
Suss Mott Webb Charitable Trust
The Daniel Foundation of Alabama
Vulcan Materials Company

$5,000 TO $9,999
Alabama Gas Corporation
Alabama Humanities Foundation
Alabama Tourism Department
Altice Industries, Inc.
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama
Bright House Networks
Coca-Cola Bottling Company United, Inc.
Dale's Seasoning, Inc.
Dale's Seasoning, Inc.
Dale Wayne and Neva Harmon

$2,500 TO $4,999
Warren Averett, LLC
Vulcan Painters, Inc.
EBSCO Industries, Inc.
Dale's Seasoning, Inc.
Coca-Cola Bottling Company United, Inc.
Energen Corporation

$500 TO $999
Virginia S. Ladd
CityVision, Inc.
Claire Silberman
Curt and Brandy Lee
Dale Wayne and Neva Harmon
Dan K. Anderson
David and Pat Carder
David E. Knox
David N. Nix
Deborah Taratuto
Debra Perry
Donald H. McFall
Doreen G. Oyadomari
Dudley and Mary Neal Reynolds
Edgar G. Aldridge
Elaine G. Culver
Felix M. Drennen
Frank J. Dawson
George Droutant
Gregory L. Vitalis
Hillary Carneal
Hubert C. Nall
J. Mason and June Davis, Jr.
J. Wray and Joan B. Pearce
Jack P. Faulkner
Jacob and Jennifer VanLoox
James C. Griffio
James C. Walker
James F. Ozmien
James H. Beasley
James Rushing
James W. Emison
Jenessa L. Arbuckle
Jared and K singly
Jeanne L. Jackson
Jeffrey Burson
Jennifer S. Kilburn
Joyce K. Lanning
Jim and Jane Hicks
John H. Owens
John L. Cobb
Karen K. and Eugene C. Jones
Katelyn Wilbanks
Katherine E. Billmeier
Kathryn J. Mathis
Kevin Whitaker
Lamar and Gail Vought
Lara Guin
Lauralee E. and Morgan F. Barnes
Lee and Sally Morris
Lelia G. Neil
Leonard J. Kostek
Lora L. Griggs
M. B. and James G. Donald
Mac Moor
Marc Turner
Marianne M. Schoel
Marketing 24/7 Inc.
Martha J. Weber
Matthew H. and Mary Lembke
Michael A. Nelson
Michael and Susan Matlock
Michael L. McKerley
Michael Schmiederman
Neal R. Berte
Pamela Smith
Patrick Cather
Paul A. Wooldridge
Paul S. and Linda P. Berthon
Phil and Jolene Thrower
Ricardo and Anita Herring
Richard and Virginia Stewart
Rick Mackay
Robert S. Parker
Rosemary H. Strous
Roy C. Green
Samuel D. Herring
Sandia Yates
Scott L. Berte
Stephen M. and Jean P. Pierce
Steve and Glenda Hester
Susan Haynes
Tabitha Holcomb-Crocker
Tara Cambardella
Teresa D. Dupree
Thomas F. Talbot
Thomas R. Cosby
Torrey Dekeyser
United Way of Central Alabama
Victor T. Adams
William F. Jones
William Stoffelhaas
Wyatt R. and Susan N. Haskell

UP TO $99
Ada T. and T. J. Ingram
Adam S. Balzli
Alan J. Drehar
Alan J. Drehar
Albert G. Folcher, Jr.
Alton B. Parker
Amanda Morris
Amber and Jon Ginop
Andrew Guyton
Andy Page
Angelo and Greg Olea
Angelo Tomasso
Annette Drummonds
Arlene Linder
Arthur and Joyce Servitz
Barbara D. Waltz
Betty D. Womack
Brian and Heather Collins
Brian and Joan Watkins
Brian K. Davis
Brooks T. Adams
Cameron and Laura Buchina
Camille and David Seale
Carol Ann Hobby
Carol Ball
Carol Gordon
Cari Walker
Carolyn and Lawrence Garrity
Cedrick and Cynthia D. Thomas
Charles E. Hatcher
Charles K. Brammer, Jr.
Charles M. Burkett
Charles O. Baker
COLOSSAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY
14 (Sun)— I Do With A View
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

MARCH
10 (Thurs)— Birmingham Revealed - Jazz in Birmingham
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
19 (Sat)— Spring Walking Tour: Parkside
9:00 a.m. – Noon

APRIL
1 (Fri)— The Vulcans Community Awards nominations open
6 (Wed)— Determination, Drama, and Daring: The Life of Louise Wooster
In Partnership with the UAB School of Public Health
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
16 (Sat)— Spring Walking Tour: Historic Retail/Theater District
9:00 a.m. – Noon
21 (Thurs)— Birmingham Revealed - A Slippery Slope: The Consequences of Hate
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
31 (Sun)— The Vulcans Community Awards nominations close

MAY
14 (Sat)— Spring Walking Tour: Forest Park
9:00 a.m. – Noon
16 (Mon)— Linn-Henley Gallery exhibit closing
Darkness into Life: Alabama Holocaust Survivors through Photography and Art

JUNE
3 (Fri)— Linn-Henley Gallery exhibit opening:
Patience, People, and the Plan: Birmingham’s Revitalization and Five Points South
5 (Sun)— Vulcan’s 112th Birthday Bash
Noon – 4:00 p.m.

JULY
4 (Mon)— Thunder on the Mountain
9:00 p.m.

AUGUST
26 (Fri)— Event Venue Open House
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER
25 (Sun)— Vulcan AfterTunes
3:00 p.m.

OCTOBER
9 (Sun)— Vulcan AfterTunes
3:00 p.m.
23 (Sun)— Vulcan AfterTunes
3:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER
3 (Thurs)— The Vulcans Community Awards

BECOME A PART OF THE LEGACY

Vulcan has been Birmingham’s symbol of pride and accomplishment for 111 years. Help us set Vulcan’s legacy in stone with a commemorative paver embossed with your personal message. Commemorative pavers are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for you and your family to become a part of the visual history of Vulcan Park. Generations to come will see your contribution to a symbol that has been preserving the rich history of our city for the last 111 years. For more information or to order a paver, visit www.brickmarkers.com/donors/vulcan.html. All orders must be received by March 6, 2016 to be unveiled at Vulcan’s 112th Birthday Bash on June 5, 2016.

BUY A PIECE OF BIRMINGHAM

THERMOCHROMATIC COFFEE MUG

The latest and greatest Vulcan souvenir item is so cool it’s hot! When the 15 oz. mug is filled with hot liquid, vibrant, full-color graphics of Vulcan are revealed. $18.99+ tax

VULCAN GLASS PAPERWEIGHT

(3” tall, 2” length, 2” width)
Surprise your boss and co-workers with a classic Vulcan souvenir for their office. This beautiful paperweight with a laser etched rendering of Vulcan is sure to make their day! $14.99+ tax

ATTENTION VULCAN MEMBERS!
Receive a 10% discount in Vulcan’s Gift Shop year-round. (Available in-store only)
ENHANCING THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE

For 12 years now, Vulcan® Park and Museum has been a great experience for the Birmingham community as well as for the thousands of visitors we welcome annually. The City of Birmingham will soon embark on several renovation projects throughout the park that will enhance the total “Vulcan” experience. In addition to a few smaller projects, the gift shop inside Vulcan Center will be given a much-needed facelift and expansion. This new gift shop, triple the size of the current, will offer a larger selection of Vulcan souvenir items as well as locally made gifts.

“We see so many visitors from out of town who want to take something home with them that represents their visit to our area,” said Darlene Negrotto, President and CEO. “With a bigger gift shop, we plan to expand the line of local merchandise to better serve those visitors and enhance their overall experience.”

 Appropriately, the new shop will be donned “The Anvil: Gifts Forged in Alabama, Loved Everywhere.” We’re excited to see this construction project take place over the next several months while we aim to meet more than our visitors’ expectations.

FUNDAMENTALS

**Vision**
To evoke inspiration and pride in the region and its potential for the future, just as the statue of Vulcan did when it was first created in 1904.

**Mission**
To preserve and promote Vulcan as the symbol for the Birmingham region, to advance knowledge and understanding of Birmingham’s history and culture, and to encourage exploration of the region.

**Contact Information**

- **General Questions or Comments:** info@visitvulcan.com; 205.933.1409
- **Field Trips & Group Tours:** fieldtrips@visitvulcan.com; 205.933.1409 x114
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** volunteer@visitvulcan.com; 205.933.1409 x112
- **Event Venue Usage:** events@visitvulcan.com; 205.933.1409 x110
- **Membership & Giving:** development@visitvulcan.com; 205.933.1409 x111
- **Vulcan’s Gift Shop:** oblomeley@visitvulcan.com; 205.933.1409 x102
It is rare to find an individual who, like Vulcan, acts as a beacon of the community and is a symbol of Birmingham and all its good works. Philip Morris, expert in civic design, is one of these individuals. If you know Philip, you know that his passion for Birmingham is evident in his life's works.

After a 31-year editorial career with Southern Living magazine, Philip channeled his talents into the historical preservation of Alabama's most beloved landmarks. He is a past board member of the American Architectural Foundation and received the Alabama Humanities Award in 1994. Philip acted as a co-chair during the Vulcan statue restoration in the early 2000's and was instrumental in the planning and redesign of the park.

With an eye for architecture, he used his knowledge of existing national park layouts to conceptualize a design that seamlessly blended the existing infrastructure with the new event center and museum. He wanted everything to look authentic to the area, and his efforts have resulted into the park we love today.

He is often credited as a “mover and shaker” in Birmingham’s renaissance and the revitalization of the downtown district. In addition to his work at Vulcan® Park & Museum, he was an active member of the planning committees for Railroad Park, Red Mountain Park and Linn Park. Philip authored the book, 

Vulcan & His Times, which details Vulcan’s origins; he is also credited as the mastermind and curator behind Vulcan® Park & Museum’s Spring Walking Tour series.

Philip was honored in November at a party celebrating his impact on the park and Vulcan Park Foundation. A plaque will be displayed on the City Overlook at Vulcan® Park & Museum, illustrating that his good deeds extend far beyond the perimeters of the park. We want to say “thank you” to Philip for his dedication to the park and the city of Birmingham. Because of his labors, generations of park patrons can enjoy Vulcan – and that is truly a giant impact!

“Design has to be part of the culture of the city.”

– Philip Morris