Two extraordinary exhibits feature moral courage

It's a rare occasion to view together two exhibits that focus on moral courage. During March, April, and May that opportunity will exist in the Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico at 616 Central Avenue SW in downtown Albuquerque.

The local museum, a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico, will have two extraordinary exhibits during those months.

Rescuers: Portraits of Moral Courage in the Holocaust, a collection of photographs with text of persons from more than 10 European countries who risked their lives to save Jews from Nazi persecution will be presented by Gay Block and Rabbi Malka Drucker of Santa Fe.

In addition, from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the exhibit *Varian Fry, Assignment: Rescue, 1940-1941*, will be displayed. This American Christian went to France and saved more than 2,000 anti-Nazis and Jews such as Marc Chagall, Marcel Duchamp, Max Ernst, Jacques Lipchitz, and Henri Matisse. Those rescued included scholars, journalists, scientists, Nobel Prize winners, and world renowned intellects termed by sociologist Daniel Bell "the flower of European culture. All were desperately cornered individuals," he wrote, "at the edge of the water anxiously waiting for their fate to be decided."

Grand opening of the exhibits is scheduled for Sunday, March 7, from 2 to 5 p.m. with a keynote speech by Drucker and Block at 3:30.

The museum is open regularly Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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