

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Andrew E. Masich  
President & CEO

## The Things We Value Most

In the weeks following the Tree of Life synagogue attack here in Pittsburgh, we have all continued to grieve and respond to the tragedy in our own ways. Some donated blood or funds to help families and friends. Others gathered for vigils and events to express solidarity, and some focused on political action. Many mourn privately or help make the world a better place by small acts of kindness, every day.

Here at the Heinz History Center, we've asked, "what can we do to help?"

After discussion with members of the Jewish community, and cultural and civic leaders, a recurring answer seemed to be, "do what you do best—help others remember the past, learn from it, and remind us of the things that we value most."

Following the lead of our Rauh Jewish History Program & Archives committee and the program's director, Eric Lidji, staff attended services and public gatherings, collecting the stories of the victims of the tragedy and its aftermath, and designed programs that will help people, now and in the future, understand what occurred and how we can learn to survive in a world in which anti-Semitism still exists, and create a future in which it can someday be eradicated.

In the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, our museum served as a place of comfort and solace. We offered museum tours that focused on the Pittsburgh Jewish community's tradition of providing care for others, as a measure of healing, with plans to adapt the tours for school groups in the future. A Community Response Wall in the Great Hall allowed visitors to respond to artifacts and primary sources with their thoughts and hopes for the future.

The Heinz History Center's Detre Library & Archives staff created a web page to collect and preserve the social media, photos, websites, blogs, and more that are being generated in response to the tragedy. You can visit [www.heinzhistorycenter.org/collections](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/collections) to learn more about contributing to these collecting efforts.

Our mission here at the History Center is to present the lessons of the past in ways that will help people make better decisions in the present and plans for the future. This mission is more relevant today than ever before, and our hope is to fulfill that mission and our promise to the people of Pittsburgh to help make our world a better place.

Our hearts are heavy but our resolve to come together as a community to protect and preserve our neighbors, our values, and our way of life is more solid than ever.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Heinz History Center and for being the kind of neighbor that makes Pittsburgh so special. 

