

UNITED STATES
MEMORIAL
HOLOCAUST
MUSEUM

WHAT YOU DO
MATTERS

2020 LOS ANGELES DINNER
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Honoring **RENÉE FIRESTONE,**
DEBORAH OPPENHEIMER, and **DANA M. PERLMAN**

WHAT YOU DO MATTERS

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SPECIAL GUEST



ERIN GRUWELL started teaching at Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach, California, and had 150 of the district's worst performing students in her freshman English class. After intercepting a racist note in class and telling her students that drawings like that one had led to the Holocaust, she learned that her students had never

heard of the Holocaust. Erin was determined to teach her students ways to combat intolerance, and encouraged them to write in journals of their own. Her students dubbed themselves "Freedom Writers" after the Freedom Riders of the 1960s, and thanks to Erin's unique approach to teaching, all 150 Freedom Writers graduated high school. Erin and her students met Holocaust survivors, such as Renée Firestone, and read *The Diary of Anne Frank* to better understand the horrors of the Holocaust. Her students' stories became the *New York Times* bestselling book, *The Freedom Writers Diary*, which later adapted into the 2007 feature film *Freedom Writers* starring Hilary Swank and the documentary *Freedom Writers: Stories from the Heart*, currently available to stream on PBS.org. Erin and the Freedom Writers now travel the world, sharing their story and teaching others about their innovative approach to learning.

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In loving memory of
Miriam and Sam Goldberg
Always in our hearts

Nancy Mishkin

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Barbara and John Helman
Never Forget!**

The Helman and Stulberg Families

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