

MICHAEL BERKOWICZ AND BONNIE SROLOVITZ

ARTISTS/DESIGNERS

ARTISTS' STATEMENT:

IN THE SHADOW OF THEIR ABSENCE

Artists: Michael Berkowicz and Bonnie Srolovitz

A Holocaust Memorial and Plaza dedicated March 29, 2012, in San Juan, Puerto Rico

Plaza includes "Path of the Righteous" that honors Righteous Gentiles

This Memorial is about the impact of the Holocaust on current and future generations. Its purpose is to ensure that civilized society carries the knowledge and memory of the suffering and pain that hatred causes when humans are targeted for their color, race or creed. This knowledge is a weapon in the struggle of good against evil, and acts as a moral compass to guide future generations to prevent unspeakable evil from happening again. It is intended to be relevant, meaningful and universal.

Here, we honor the victims, the survivors and those who refused to stand idly by while their neighbors were condemned to death. Here, we commemorate the Holocaust - the systematic murder of six million Jews by the Nazis during World War II. These murders created a tremendous void - an absence of those who were part of our people and our families and generations never born - fathers, mothers, sons and daughters - who might have been leaders and scholars, artists and businessmen, people whose potential was never realized and never will be.

This curved piece of weathering steel changes with time. It is a page torn from history, part of the holy Jewish Torah; it is a smoke stack of a crematorium through which the ashes rose. The top edge is torn, representing the *kri'ah*, the Jewish tradition of tearing one's garment, an act that manifests the anguish felt at the loss of life, urging us to always remember.

We live in the shadow of their absence.

This **Path of the Righteous** honors individuals who, at great risk to themselves and their families, made the effort to save Jews during the Holocaust. These righteous people set an example to us all by showing how, in the face of injustice, each of us can choose to take a moral stand and make a difference.

About Michael Berkowicz and Bonnie Srolovitz

Michael and Bonnie have been collaborators and partners and in business as designers and artists creating sacred objects and spaces for more than 20 years. They have won numerous awards and their work is in the permanent collection of the Jewish Museum in New York. For more information about their work, please visit either [Berkowicz Design](#) or [Presentations Gallery Ltd.](#)