



[Survivor: Aron's Story Interactive Museum](#)

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Survivor: Aron's Story is an award-winning hardcover illustrated graphic novel and history book based on the first hand Holocaust testimony of Aron, a young Jewish-Soviet boy from 1940s Odessa, Ukraine, and extensive historical research by its creator, Alex Teplish, Aron Rabinovich's grandson. The book captures one of the least documented chapters of the Holocaust, detailing Aron's struggle for survival during the Nazi and Romanian occupation, the betrayal of his own neighbors, and the deep-rooted antisemitism within the Soviet regime. It also provides a comprehensive historical context, covering the Jewish Diaspora, Pale of Settlement, pogroms, Soviet oppression, Nazi propaganda, eugenics, WWII, and the Holocaust across Europe and its aftermath.

The interactive, virtual museum was developed as a supplement to *Survivor: Aron's Story*. [Visit the Museum](#)

Tips for Virtual Museum Navigation

- Encourage students to take their time exploring each room of the museum
- Suggest students take screenshots of important information
- Provide technical support information
- Recommend headphones for video testimony viewing

Content Warning

Due to the themes of discrimination and hardship that these lessons address, students should receive advanced notice of the challenging nature of some content. Frame the lessons as part of an ongoing conversation about human resilience and the importance of preserving historical memory. Remind students they can take breaks if needed.

Museum Lessons

- [Rooms 1 and 9: Immigration and Identity: Exploring Aron Rabinovich's Journey from the Soviet Union to America](#)
- [Room 2: The Jewish Diaspora: Origins of European Jewish Communities and the Path to the Holocaust](#)
- [Room 3: Understanding Historical Persecution and Oppression](#)
- [Room 4: Eugenics, Antisemitic Propaganda](#)
- [Room 5: World War I and the Rise of the Nazis](#)
- [Room 7: Jewish Resistance and in the Military](#)
- [Room 8: Civil Rights and Jewish Community: Shared Struggles and Solidarity](#)

About the Author / Developer of the Virtual Museum

Alex Teplish was born in Odessa, Ukraine—then part of the former Soviet Union—into a family shaped by strength and resilience. With grandparents who endured Nazi concentration camps and parents who faced systemic antisemitism, his family immigrated to Brooklyn, New York when Alex was a young child. Growing up in a vibrant, working-class neighborhood, he developed a lasting passion for science, technology, art, and storytelling—a fusion that would come to define both his professional path and personal mission.

After earning a degree in Business Management & Marketing from SUNY Stony Brook, Alex built a 25+ year career as a digital innovator, creative technologist, and team leader. He currently serves as Vice President of Digital Services at Omnicom Health Group, where he established and scaled the Global Development Center—driving digital transformation and operational innovation across the world's largest healthcare marketing network. Prior to this role, he founded and ran a digital agency focused on creative development and marketing strategy for diverse clients.

Alex's creative work reflects his passion for merging narrative, history, and technology. He is the author of two graphic novels: *In The Beginning: The Epic of the Anunnaki*, a speculative reimagining of ancient origin myths, and *Survivor: Aron's Story*, an award-winning illustrated memoir chronicling his grandfather's survival during the Holocaust in Ukraine. Developed through the COJECO Blueprint Fellowship, *Survivor: Aron's Story* has been adapted into a live multimedia presentation and an interactive virtual museum—recognized as a 2023 Webby Honoree for Science & Education—and is used in classrooms to teach empathy and historical awareness.

Committed to sharing his family's story and preserving Holocaust memory, Alex regularly presents *Survivor: Aron's Story* to students, educators, and communities. He also founded the Jewish Cultural Alliance ERG at Omnicom Health Group to promote education, inclusion, and cultural dialogue within the workplace. In 2022, at the onset of the war in Ukraine, Alex traveled to Budapest as a volunteer to assist families fleeing the violence. He provided translation support, helped coordinate logistics, and spent time consoling parents and children as they awaited safe passage to new lives.

In recent years, Alex has expanded his storytelling into film, creating several AI-powered short films that have been selected as finalists and semi-finalists at international festivals. His cinematic work explores the boundaries of emerging technology and the timeless need for human connection.

From shaping global digital operations to bringing personal stories to life through books, museums, and film, Alex remains dedicated to work that bridges the past and future—anchored in purpose, creativity, and service.