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[About Us](#) [U.S. Citizen Services](#) [Visa Information](#) [U.S. Policy & Issues](#) [Meet the USA](#) [Trade & Commerce](#) [Deutsch](#)

ABOUT US

You Are In: [Home](#) > [About Us](#) > [Programs and Events](#)

- ▶ [Consul General](#)
- ▶ [About the Consulate](#)
- ▶ [Public Affairs](#)
- ▼ **Programs and Events**
 - [Upcoming Events](#)
 - [Selected Events 2006](#)
 - [Selected Events 2005](#)
 - [Selected Events 2004](#)

SELECTED EVENTS 2006

Ambassador Timken joins Artists and Students at Premiere of "Dances for the Blue House"



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August 3, 2006. Ambassador and Mrs. Timken along with Cultural Affairs Attaché Clausen participated in the opening performance of the cultural and youth outreach project "Dances for the Blue House" taking place in the southwest German cities of Breisach and Freiburg since mid-July. The Blue House in Breisach was the center of the city's local Jewish community before its destruction during the Holocaust.

[Jonathan Hollander](#) and [Aviva Geismar](#), two Jewish-American choreographers, and their New York-based dance companies [Battery Dance Company](#) and [Drastic Action](#) had worked with some 150 local German high schools students and dance groups to create new dance pieces that respond to the tragedy and commemorate the Jewish history of the town. Together they have forged a joint approach to the exploration of a universal issue: how do the next generations of Germans and Americans respond to the Holocaust?

In his [remarks](#) to the participants, German and international guests, some of them descendants of Jewish families in Breisach, the Ambassador emphasized the importance of "building a bridge between yesterday, today and tomorrow for coming generations." He commended the dancers on their efforts to foster mutual understanding with this exchange project that uses the power of dance to confront history.

Jonathan's and Aviva's initiative and work was honored by Eveline Metzen of [Koerber Foundation](#) who awarded them with the USable Transatlantic Idea Prize.

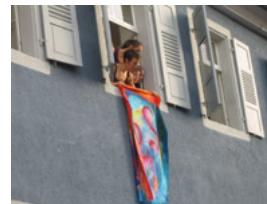
[More about the Blue House Project](#)



Dance performance at the former location of the synagogue...



... and in front of the Blue House



Ambassador Timken with other participants and guests follow the dance performances in the streets of Breisach



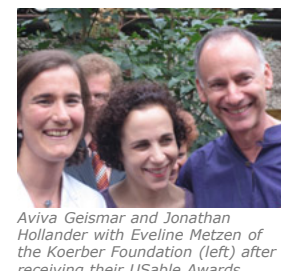
Ambassador Timken meets a young Breisach girl in front of the Blue House



Dr. Christiane Walesch-Schneller, Friends of the Blue House, welcomes the guests in the garden of the Blue House



Ambassador and Mrs. Timken with their grandson Brandon



Aviva Geismar and Jonathan Hollander with Eveline Metzen of the Koerber Foundation (left) after receiving their USable Awards

[back to top ^](#)

[HOME](#) | [ABOUT US](#) | [CITIZEN SERVICES](#) | [VISA INFORMATION](#) | [POLICY & ISSUES](#) | [MEET THE USA](#) | [TRADE & COMMERCE](#)
[CONTACT US](#) | [FAQ'S](#) | [SITE INDEX](#) | [PRIVACY](#) | [WEBMASTER](#)

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