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The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus' newest permanent exhibit is the Viola and Garry Kappy Anne Frank Tree Exhibit & Garden.

Photo by Joshua Nowicki, courtesy of Holocaust Center

### Holocaust Memorial Center dedicates Anne Frank tree exhibit & garden

The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus dedicated its newest permanent exhibit, The Viola and Garry Kappy Anne Frank Tree Exhibit & Garden, on Sunday, Sept. 22.

Located at the entrance to the Harry and Wanda Zekelman International Institute of the Righteous, and made possible through the generous donation from West Bloomfield residents Viola and Garry Kappy, the new exhibit revolves around a sapling from the actual white chestnut tree that brought Anne Frank solace as she and her family hid from the Nazis during World War II. The exhibit also features photographs and scrolling quotations from the diary, culminating in a challenge and call to action.

In addition to acknowledgement of Mr. and Mrs. Kappy, the ceremony included an interview with Irene Butter, a Holocaust survivor who knew Anne Frank. Hazzan David Propis performed the musical selection.

"This tree and the surrounding exhibit exemplifies hope for humanity," said Holocaust Memorial Center Executive Director Stephen Goldman. "As is our goal with all of the exhibits we bring into the museum, be it permanent or temporary, we want to teach our visitors through the examples of those who risked their lives to save others, and ask them to react to contemporary challenges such as racism, intolerance, bullying and prejudice."

The exhibit dedication is one of many events hosted by the Holocaust Memorial Center to commemorate the acquisition and planting of the sapling, just one of 11 to be planted in the U.S. from the nearly 200-year-old tree that served as one of the Jewish teenager's only connections to nature while she and her family hid in a secret annex in her father's company building at 263 Prinsengracht in Amsterdam. It was awarded in 2009 by The Anne Frank Center USA in a process that was spearheaded by Holocaust Memorial Center Librarian and Archivist Feiga Weiss and local artist Gail (Rosenbloom) Kaplan.

Educational programming designed for children and adults, which began in June, continues into the month of October. On Oct. 6, the Holocaust Memorial

Center hosts the Anne Frank Journaling Project. Children fifth grade and up and their families will have the opportunity to meet a Holocaust survivor, explore the new Anne Frank Tree Exhibit & Garden and have the opportunity to start their own journals.

There also will be a showing of the award-winning documentary, "Anne Frank Remembered." Both will begin at 7 p.m. with the first taking place on Oct. 13 at the Holocaust Memorial Center and the second on Oct. 15 at the Student Center Auditorium on the campus of Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. The 1996 winner of the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature tells the story of the Frank family through previously unreleased archival material, contemporary interviews and footage filmed in the actual locations from Anne Frank's life.

The Holocaust Memorial Center began its series of events honoring Anne Frank on May 7 at Berkley High School when it partnered with Berkley Schools to host the American premiere of "My Name is Anne Frank," a cantata by German composer Volker Blumenthaler and librettist Alexander Gruber. The award-winning Berkley High School Choir and Orchestra received a standing ovation following its arrangement that included solos by Hazzan Daniel Gross and Cantor P. Enny Steyer.

Programs have been made possible by grants from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, DeRoy Testamentary Foundation and Michigan Humanities Council. The Silberstein-Boesky Family Foundation joined the DeRoy Testamentary Foundation among the exhibit sponsors. The Holocaust Memorial Center also received numerous gifts for the exhibit from individuals from the community. National sponsors of the Anne Frank Tree Project include The Anne Frank Center USA, Anne Frank House, KLM and Kingdom of the Netherlands.

For more information on the exhibit, upcoming programs, museum hours and admission prices, call 248-553-2400, or visit www.holocaustcenter.org.