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Contact: Glenn Oswald/Lauren Herrin
Marx Layne & Company
248-855-6777

Holocaust Memorial Center Launches *Anne Frank: A History for Today* with Opening Program, Jan. 19

Noted Anne Frank scholar, Dr. Rolf Wolfswinkel, to answer thought-provoking questions about the young author

Farmington Hills, Mich., -- Dec. XX, 2016 – The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus will host its exhibit opening program, “A Girl Who Never Was,” 7 p.m. Thurs., Jan. 19. Its corresponding exhibit, *Anne Frank: A History for Today*, will open to the public the following day and run through June 4.

About “A Girl Who Never Was”

Featuring a keynote presentation by Dr. Rolf Wolfswinkel, NYU Professor of Modern History, the special event will answer questions such as, “Was Anne Frank a typical Holocaust victim?” In his presentation “A Girl that Never Was”, Wolfswinkel will make the case that it has been Anne Frank’s very popularity that has obstructed proper knowledge of her and the circumstances in which she lived. For many people her Diary is the first - and sometimes only - introduction into the Holocaust. He intends to argue that she nor her Diary should be asked to play that role. She is not a typical Holocaust victim and her Diary does not represent the horror and abyss that the Holocaust was.

A noted scholar in the areas of World War II, Anne Frank and the Holocaust, Wolfswinkel serves on the advisory board of the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect.

The program, which is supported by the PNC Foundation, will include a dessert reception. The cost to attend is \$10 admission, or free for members, and RSVPs are requested by Jan. 15 to 248-553-2400 x 112 or hannah.iwrey@holocaustcenter.org.

About *Anne Frank: A History for Today*

Developed by the Anne Frank House, and sponsored in North America by the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect, *Anne Frank: A History for Today* shares the story of Frank and her family against world events before, during and after the rise to power of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party.

Told in a timeline format, it includes split panels showing Holocaust history on one side and what was happening with the Frank’s on the other. The exhibit also features photographs of the Frank’s, as well as the additional occupants of the Secret Annex, and shows how millions of people, such as Jews, Gypsies, the disabled and Slavs, were persecuted by political decisions and the actions of individuals.

“What is so special about this exhibit is that it helps visitors truly grapple with what was happening in Europe through the lens of a young girl.” said Robin Axelrod, Director of Education, Holocaust Memorial Center. “At a time when acceptance of others is at such a low point, the lessons that *Anne Frank: A History for Today* teaches are more important now than ever.”

“The preeminence of the Holocaust Memorial Center gives this exhibition special meaning to us at the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect. The Holocaust Memorial Center is not only the finest institution of its kind in Michigan, but it’s also one of the world’s leading Holocaust-related institutions,” said Steven Goldstein, executive director of the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect. “What an extraordinary opportunity to share the message of Anne’s life and diary to empower students, families and communities to work together to build a world based on mutual respect.”

The Holocaust Memorial Center is one of 11 sites worldwide to receive a sapling from the chestnut tree that inspired Anne Frank. It originally spent three years in quarantine and was ultimately planted on-site at the museum as part of the Viola and Garry Kappy Anne Frank Tree Exhibit and Garden.

Anne Frank: A History for Today is supported by the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs, Masco Corporation Foundation, Art Works, The Anne Frank Center USA, Pam and Ken Bloom, Rozie and Bernie Friedman, Sue and Nelson “Nick” Hersh, The Karp Family, Jackie and Larry Kraft, Michael Liebowitz, Denise and Peter Rodgers, Anita and Ken Volk, Henrietta and Alvin Weisberg and Lori and Alan Zekelman.

The Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect, founded in 1959 by Otto Frank, is the U.S. national organization in the Anne Frank family of organizations worldwide. The Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect not only teaches about Anne Frank and the Holocaust, but also produces educational and grassroots programs across the country to address contemporary issues of prejudice – therein building the kinder and gentle world of which Anne Frank dreamed. The Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect is headquartered in New York, has an additional office in Los Angeles, and partners with state and local organizations in every part of the United States. www.annefrank.com.

About Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus

The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus opened in 1984. Local Holocaust survivors, with community support, founded the museum to teach about the senseless murder of millions, and why everyone must respect and stand up for the rights of others if the world is to prevent future discrimination, hate crime and genocide. As Michigan’s only Holocaust museum, the Holocaust Memorial Center annually touches the lives of more than 65,000 individuals, who leave the museum profoundly affected with a newly acquired sense of history, social responsibility and morality. The Holocaust Memorial Center’s exhibits create a call to action, teaching visitors through the examples of those who risked their lives to save others, and asking its guests to react to contemporary challenges such as racism, intolerance, bullying and prejudice.

For more information on the Holocaust Memorial Center, visit www.holocaustcenter.org or call 248-553-2400.

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