



August 1, 2013

**New exhibit: 'Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow' opens at center
Aug. 4**

The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus (www.holocaustcenter.org) will host the exhibit, "Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges," Aug. 4 to Dec. 15.

The exhibit tells the story of Jewish professors who fled Nazism and came to America in the 1930s and 1940s, finding teaching positions at historically black colleges and universities. The exhibition explores the encounter between these scholars and their students, and their impact on each other, the Civil Rights Movement and American society.

The Rev. Kenneth J. Flowers, pastor at Greater New Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit, will be the keynote speaker at the exhibit opening event at 4 p.m. on Aug. 4. Tickets are available at \$10 (free for Holocaust Memorial Center members with registration).

A nationally and internationally renowned community and social activist for human rights issues, Flowers has traveled on goodwill missions to Israel, was the first African American to speak at the World Trade Center in Johannesburg in 1993, and has spoken before the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) on numerous occasions.

"Intolerance is not something that affects just the Jewish community or the African American community," said Holocaust Memorial Center Executive Director Stephen M. Goldman. "It affects people of all religions and ethnic backgrounds. By bringing exhibits like this to the museum, we can show visitors how the power of mutual respect between two groups can help one day to bring us closer to reaching universal hope, tolerance and understanding of one another."

"Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow" tells the story of Jewish academics from Germany and Austria, who were dismissed from their teaching positions in the 1930s.

After fleeing to America, some refugee scholars found positions at historically black colleges and universities in the Jim Crow South. Jim Crow laws mandated segregation in all public facilities, creating a "separate, but equal" status for African Americans. Together with the use of intimidation and terror by whites, these laws isolated blacks physically and culturally.

The exhibition explores what it meant to the students to have these new staff members as part of their community, how they were affected by the presence of these teachers, and what life was like for white, European Jews teaching at black colleges and universities.

The exhibit looks at the empathy between two minority groups with a history of persecution, some of whom came together in search of freedom and opportunity, and shared the early years of struggle in the Civil Rights movement.

“Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges” is made possible through major funding from the Leon Levy Foundation. Additional support provided by the Helen Bader Foundation; The Lupin Foundation; The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation; public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; the Alpern Family Foundation; and the Charles and Mildred Schnurmacher Foundation.

During its appearance at the Holocaust Memorial Center, programmatic sponsors include: the Anti-Defamation League, Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Montford Point Marines and Michigan Department for Civil Rights.

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