On Sunday, May 21, Rabbi Michael Schudrich, chief rabbi of Poland, addressed a crowd of 260 at the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus in Farmington Hills. The presentation, “Polish Jewry Today: Fact and Fiction,” discussed the role Judaism currently plays in the lives of Polish Jews.

It was presented by the Wayne State University’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Guy Stern Endowment in Exile and Holocaust Studies.

Following the extermination of more than 3 million Polish Jews, the Jewish population of the country was all but decimated. During his presentation, Schudrich discussed that since the fall of communism nearly three decades ago, thousands of Polish citizens have rediscovered their Jewish roots and traditions and are enjoying the role that Judaism plays in daily life.

Schudrich has served as chief rabbi of Warsaw and Lodz since 2000 and chief rabbi of Poland since 2004. A native of New York, he previously served as rabbi of the Jewish community in Japan.

The event was also sponsored by the Holocaust Memorial Center, Detroit Jewish News, Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies, Hillel of Metropolitan Detroit and PNC Foundation.
Rabbi Michael Schudrich with Holocaust Survivor Manny Mittelman and Manny’s daughter Leah Kohn

Rabbi Michael Schudrich

Rabbi Michael Schudrich with Dr. Guy Stern

Arthur Horwitz, publisher/executive editor of the Detroit Jewish News, Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, CEO of the HMC, Dr. Guy Stern and Rabbi Michael Schudrich