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Holocaust Memorial Center seeks volunteers for Remembrance Day observance

By Anne Runkle

The Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills is seeking volunteers to read the names of Holocaust victims for its virtual Remembrance Day observance.

The commemoration will be held at 7 p.m. April 8, and will be hosted online for community members near and far to watch at www.holocaustcenter.org.

Gary Karp, president of the Board of Directors, will offer opening remarks, and Rabbi Josh Bennett and Cantor Neil Michaels will lead the commemoration.

Yom HaShoah, also known as Holocaust Remembrance Day, occurs every spring as a commemoration for victims. The day is dedicated to remembering the millions of lives lost to Nazi persecution, as well as reflecting on the courageous acts of those who resisted the regime.

This year's program is presented in cooperation with C.H.A.I.M. (Children of Holocaust Survivors Association in Michigan); Hidden Children and Child Survivors Association of Michigan; Lester and Jewell Morris Hillel Jewish Student Center at MSU, Michigan Jewish Conference; Program for Holocaust Survivors and Families, a Service of Jewish Senior Life; The Shaarit Haplaytah Organization; and The Voice/Vision Holocaust Survivor Oral History Archive.

Throughout the day on April 8, the Holocaust Memorial Center will host Unto Every Person There is a Name, a worldwide memorial project when volunteers come together to honor victims by reciting their names.

The community may view the Yom HaShoah reading on the Holocaust Memorial Center website, www.holocaustcenter.org, and on the center's social media channels at www.facebook.com/hmczfc and www.instagram.com/holocaustmemorialcenter.

Coordinated by Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, in consultation with the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the project offers the opportunity to memorialize victims not only as a collective, but as individuals—one at a time—through public recitation of their names.

In preparation for the April 8 Unto Every Person There is a Name project, the Holocaust Memorial Center is inviting community members to record a video of themselves reading the names of Holocaust victims, which will be shared on the center's website and social media channels.

Volunteers, ages 12 and older, can sign up to participate by visiting www.holocaustcenter.org/names. Video submissions are due by 3 pm on Friday, April 2.

Those who do not wish to participate in the online reading of the names, but would like to honor Holocaust victims, can request a list of names to recite on their own by visiting the volunteer signup page, www.holocaustcenter.org/names.

Community members also are invited to post a video or photograph of themselves lighting a memorial candle on Instagram or Facebook with the hashtag #HMCRemembers and tagging the Holocaust Memorial Center using @HolocaustMemorialCenter.

For more information, call 248-553-2400.