

NEWS

Holocaust Center in Farmington Hills to undergo major renovation



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FARMINGTON HILLS — The Zekelman Holocaust Center, Michigan's only Holocaust museum, is planning a major renovation of its permanent exhibit, which has been in place since 2008.

The core exhibit will close May 25 for the renovation, which is expected to last until early next year. The Holocaust Center will remain open during construction with events and special exhibits.

Upon reopening, visitors will be greeted with new interactive galleries and space for reflection. The museum will continue its emphasis on the experience of Holocaust survivors who came to call Michigan home following their liberation from concentration camps. The project has been the recipient of federal support.

“We’ve come to realize the core exhibit needs to change to meet the needs of current and future generations,” Holocaust Center CEO Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld said in a release. “As the population of survivors dwindles, most future visitors to The HC will not be able to meet a Holocaust survivor face-to-face and hear them speak. Our job is to give people an opportunity to connect with these individuals and their stories throughout time.”

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The museum educates people on Jewish life from before World War II through liberation at the end of the conflict. Aside from highlighting the horrors of the Holocaust, the center also shows local examples of anti-Semitism and aims to help prevent future genocides.

People who want to see the museum in its current form are encouraged to visit before May 25. The museum, 28123 Orchard Lake Road, is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday. A local Holocaust survivor speaks at noon every Sunday.

Adult admission is \$8. Seniors and college students pay \$6 and grade school students pay \$5.

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