Farmington Hills museum plans special events for International Holocaust Remembrance Day

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By Anne Runkle

The Holocaust Memorial Center will host programs to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Sunday, Jan. 27, including a presentation by a Holocaust survivor, a docent-led tour of the museum and the screening of a new documentary film about the Warsaw Ghetto, “Who Will Write Our History.”

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR PRESENTATION

At 12:15 p.m., Paula Marks-Bolton, a Holocaust survivor from Ozarkow, Poland, will share her memories and experiences during a 45-minute presentation.

DOCENT-LED TOUR

At 1:30 p.m., there will be a one-hour docent-led tour of the HMC's 20,000 square-foot core exhibit spaces. Visitors are encouraged to ask questions. Tours are recommended for children ages 12 and up.

The Holocaust Memorial Center permanent exhibit includes artifacts such as an authentic World War II-era boxcar, text panels, photos, video testimonies, films, paintings and sculptures. On the campus is a tree grown from a sapling of the tree located outside Anne Frank’s hiding place window that is described in her diary.

DOCUMENTARY FILM

The Holocaust Memorial Center will host a screening of the new documentary film, “Who Will Write Our History” at 3:15 p.m. The event is part of a global screening of the documentary.

The documentary takes place in November 1940, days after the Nazis sealed 450,000 Jews inside the Warsaw Ghetto. Led by historian Emanuel Ringelblum and known by the code name Oyneg Shabes, a
clandestine group of journalists, scholars, and community leaders in the Warsaw Ghetto vowed to defeat Nazi lies and propaganda, not with guns or fists, but with pen and paper. The Oyneg Shabes members detailed life in the Ghetto from the Jewish perspective, which resulted in diaries, essays, jokes, poems and songs, as well as documents detailing Nazi atrocities with eyewitness accounts.

"Who Will Write Our History" combines the writings of the Oyneg Shabes archive with new interviews, rarely seen footage and dramatizations that transport the viewer inside the ghetto and the lives of these courageous resistance fighters.

The screening, the docent-led tour and the Holocaust survivor presentation are free with museum admission or membership. RSVP for the film to 248-536-9612 or tinyurl.com/HistoryHMC.

For more information, call 248-553-2400.

The museum is at 28123 Orchard Lake Road and is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.