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Contact: Leslie Pardo/Glenn Oswald
Marx Layne & Company
248-855-6777

Holocaust Memorial Center To Unveil Special Exhibits in January

Special exhibits explore experiences of Jehovah's Witnesses during the Holocaust, Japanese American Internment during WWII and drawings about the Rwandan Genocide

Farmington Hills, Mich. -- Dec. XX, 2018 – The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus has announced its newest special exhibits which runs January 13 through April 1, 2019. The special exhibits include “Jehovah’s Witnesses: Faith Under Fire,” “Rwanda: Personal Images” and “The Tragedy of War: Japanese American Internment.”

“We take our mission very seriously and remain committed to learning lessons from the Holocaust and applying what we have learned to other genocides. In a world still filled with hate and bigotry, this is more important than ever,” said Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, CEO, Holocaust Memorial Center. “The most important lesson we teach is that history is made through a series of choices and that every choice has a consequence. Choices by individuals have power.”

The three special exhibits debuting at the Holocaust Memorial Center in January include:

Jehovah’s Witnesses: Faith Under Fire. A Christian community of 35,000 Jehovah’s Witnesses in Germany and occupied lands refused to conform to the Nazi ideology of hate. They were thrown into Nazi camps and became eyewitnesses of Nazi genocide. The exhibition documents the story of Jehovah’s Witnesses in the Holocaust and provides an in depth look at ordinary people who followed their conscience in the face of tyranny. The exhibit was created by the Arnold-Liebster Foundation in Germany.

Rwanda: Personal Images-Artwork by Vivian Bower. The exhibit is a series of pastel drawings by Vivian Bower about the genocide that took place in Rwanda during 1994 and 1995 when 500,000-1,000,000 Tutsis were brutally massacred by Hutu friends, family and colleagues. Bower’s intention is to confront the truth and express her pain and horror. The exhibit is on loan from the Florida Holocaust Museum.

The Tragedy of War: Japanese American Internment. During World War II, 120,000 ethnic Japanese on the west coast were forced into a series of camps to live under armed guard. Two-thirds of them American citizens. The exhibit revisits the injustice of Japanese-American confinement by telling their stories and asking a question that resonates today: How could the

United States imprison people without due process, based solely on their ethnicity? The exhibit was curated by the Kennesaw State University Museum of History and Holocaust Education in Georgia.

“Jehovah’s Witnesses: Faith Under Fire,” “Rwanda: Personal Images” and “The Tragedy of War: Japanese American Internment” are generously supported by Barbara and Jim Bayson, Julie and Peter Cummings, Robin and Leo Eisenberg, Nadine and David Farbman, Nancy and James Grosfeld, the Karp family, Jackie and Larry Kraft, Susie and Norman Pappas, Malke and Gary Torgow, and in memory of Barbara and Lee C. Saperstein and Craig A. Saperstein.

The special exhibits are open Sunday through Friday and are free with museum admission or membership. Docent-led tours are available at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 17 and March 31. Docent-led tours also are available at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 4, March 11 and March 25. Sign up for a tour by calling 248-553-2400, ext. 145.

For more information, please call 248-553-2400.

About the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus

The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus is a 55,000 square foot museum and Library Archive in Farmington Hills that teaches about the senseless murder of millions and why each of us must respect and stand up for the rights of others if we are to prevent future genocide and hate crimes.

The lessons of history are used to create a call to action, teaching visitors through the examples of those who risked their lives to save others, and asking our guests to react to contemporary challenges such as racism and prejudice. Exhibits include artifacts such as an authentic WWII-era boxcar, text panels, photos, video testimonies, films, paintings, sculpture, and a sapling from the tree located outside Anne Frank’s hiding place window that is described in her diary. Public tours are available daily on a walk-in basis at 1:30 pm. These tours, led by a docent, last approximately 1.5 hours. As often as possible, a Holocaust survivor will speak from 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm daily. Visitors can call in advance to verify that a Holocaust survivor will be speaking. Located on the second floor above the museum, the Library Archive is an important resource for academics, the media and families researching their heritage.

Hours: Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:30 am to 5 pm (last admission at 4:00 pm), Monday 9:30 am – 8:30 pm (last admission 7:30 pm) and Friday 9:30 am to 3 pm (last admission 2:00 pm). Wheelchair accessible. Free parking. For additional information, visit www.holocaustcenter.org or call 248-553-2400.

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