

# OAKLAND PRESS

## 3 new exhibits opening at Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills

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Three new exhibits will open this month at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills.

By Anne Runkle

The Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills will unveil three new exhibits this month, which include “Jehovah’s Witnesses: Faith Under Fire,” “Rwanda: Personal Images” and “The Tragedy of War: Japanese American Internment.”

The exhibits run from Jan. 13 through April 1 at the museum, 28123 Orchard Lake Road.

“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.”

Here are the details on the three exhibits.

**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 to 1 million 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.

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

For more information, call 248-553-2400 or visit [www.holocaustcenter.org](http://www.holocaustcenter.org).