



FARMINGTON HILLS

Exhibit explores rescue of children from Holocaust

By Anne Runkle

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The Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills has opened a new exhibit telling the story of the Kindertransport, the organized rescue effort that brought thousands of Jewish children from Nazi Europe to Great Britain in the late 1930s.

“Kindertransport—Rescuing Children on the Brink of War,” commemorates the 80th anniversary of the start of the humanitarian mission to rescue 10,000 refugee children from Nazi-occupied Europe.

The exhibition explores the story of this rescue effort through moving personal stories, artifacts and engaging media. The exhibit runs through Dec. 31.

The exhibit asks visitors to consider the painful choices parents had to make, entrusting their children to strangers in order to save them. The exhibit also offers a glimpse into the challenges the children faced —moving to a new country, learning a new language and navigating a foreign culture without their parents to guide them.

Artifacts from Detroit-area Kinder will be included in the exhibit on display at the Holocaust Memorial Center, 28123 Orchard Lake Road.

The exhibition makes a strong first impression with a striking red wall covered with thousands of paper name tags. The refugee children wore manila tags attached by twine around their necks during the Kindertransport, serving to identify them and their belongings. The tags completely fill one wall of the exhibit, representing the scale, anonymity and eventual bittersweet success of the transport effort, which was able to rescue children, but not their families.

The Holocaust museum will host an opening event at 7 p.m. July 18 featuring Nick Winton Jr., enti-

Docent-led tours of the exhibit will be hosted at 2 p.m. July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 27 and Nov. 10, and at 7 p.m. Aug. 12, Sept. 23, Oct. 28 and Nov. 4. Sign up for a tour by calling 248-553-2400 ext. 145.

tled “From Stockbroker to Hero: The Story of Sir Nicholas Winton.”

Winton is the son of Sir Nicholas George Winton, MBE, a British humanitarian credited with organizing the escape of 669 mostly Jewish children from Czechoslovakia on the eve of World War II.

What made 29-year-old Winton give up his skiing holiday to rescue these children from the Nazis and how did he do it? Winton’s son Nick will tell his father’s inspiring story about the life-changing events that transformed the destiny of so many.

The July 18 opening program is free to members or \$10 for non-members. A dessert reception will follow. RSVPs are required by July 15 to 248-556-3178 or at http://bitly.com/NickWintonJr_HMCZFC.

The Kindertransport exhibit was created and organized by Yeshiva University Museum and the Leo Baeck Institute, New York.

The exhibit is open Sunday through Friday and is free with museum admission or membership. Docent-led tours of the exhibit will be hosted at 2 p.m. July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 27 and Nov. 10, and at 7 p.m. Aug. 12, Sept. 23, Oct. 28 and Nov. 4. Sign up for a tour by calling 248-553-2400 ext. 145.

For more information on the exhibit or the museum, visit holocaustcenter.org.