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Chief Rabbi of Poland to Speak at Holocaust Memorial Center, May 21
Rabbi Michael Schudrich to address the current state of Judaism in Poland

Farmington Hills, Mich. – Apr. XX, 2017 – Rabbi Michael Schudrich, the Chief Rabbi of Poland, will present “Polish Jewry Today: Fact and Fiction” at The Holocaust Memorial Center (HMC) Zekelman Family Campus (28123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills) at 11:15 a.m., Sunday, May 21. The event, which will start with coffee and bagels at 10:30 a.m., is presented by the Wayne State University’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and The Guy Stern Endowment in Exile and Holocaust Studies.

More than three million Polish Jews were victims of the Holocaust. Those who survived came back to a hostile environment, with many leaving or refusing to return to their hometowns. Of those who came back or remained, some openly returned to their faith while others hid their Jewish identities until the end of Communism in 1989. Since then, thousands of Poles have discovered their Jewish roots. During his lecture, Rabbi Schudrich will discuss how Jewish traditions have returned to communities and the role Judaism plays in daily life.

Rabbi Schudrich has served as Chief Rabbi of Warsaw and Lodz since 2000 and Chief Rabbi of Poland since 2004. Born and raised in New York, he has been instrumental in reviving the once-vibrant Polish Jewish life and culture by acting as the official intermediary with the Polish government and Catholic Church, counseling those who have discovered their Jewish background, coordinating programming and helping to preserve Jewish heritage sites. Prior to moving to Warsaw in 1992, he served as rabbi of the Jewish community in Japan.

“We are honored to welcome Rabbi Michael Schudrich to the Holocaust Memorial Center. What he has done for Jewish communities internationally has been remarkable,” said Guy Stern, director of the Harry and Wanda Zekelman International Institute of the Righteous at the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus. “It will be fascinating, especially for those in our community whose families were from Poland, to hear about the evolution of Jewish life there over the last several decades.”

The event is sponsored by the Wayne State University’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Guy Stern Endowment in Exile and Holocaust Studies, Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus, *Detroit Jewish News*, Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies, Hillel of Metropolitan Detroit and PNC Foundation.

The cost to attend is \$5 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Seating is limited and registration is requested by May 17. To RSVP call 248-536-99605 or email rsvp@holocaustcenter.org.

About Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus

The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus opened in 1984. Local Holocaust survivors, with community support, founded the museum to teach about the senseless murder of millions, and why everyone must respect and stand up for the rights of others if the world is to prevent future discrimination, hate crime and genocide. As Michigan's only Holocaust museum, the Holocaust Memorial Center annually touches the lives of more than 65,000 individuals, who leave the museum profoundly affected with a newly acquired sense of history, social responsibility and morality. The Holocaust Memorial Center's exhibits create a call to action, teaching visitors through the examples of those who risked their lives to save others, and asking its guests to react to contemporary challenges such as racism, intolerance, bullying and prejudice.

For more information on the Holocaust Memorial Center, visit www.holocaustcenter.org or call 248-553-2400.

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