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Holocaust Memorial Center Names Ruth Bergman Director of Education

Farmington Hills, Mich. – June XX, 2018 – The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus (HMCZFC) has announced the appointment of Ruth Bergman as Director of Education. The announcement was made by Holocaust Memorial Center CEO Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld.

In this position, Bergman supervises the Education Department staff whose shared mission is making the Holocaust Memorial Center the nexus for interdisciplinary Holocaust educational programming and instruction throughout the state of Michigan. Bergman is responsible for establishing strategies for teaching the Holocaust, providing access to premier teaching materials, and delivering informative and impactful school visits for students.

In addition to providing creative and strategic leadership in all aspects of education within the museum and with schools statewide, Bergman also is responsible for developing meaningful museum experiences for the Holocaust Memorial Center’s diverse audiences exceeding more than 65,000 visitors annually.

“We are delighted to have Ruth in this important role of leading our education department,” said Holocaust Memorial Center CEO Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld. “As an educator for grade school, high school and adult education will be invaluable to advancing the educational experience for visitors to our museum as well as providing key insight into teacher trainings throughout Michigan.”

Most recently, Bergman was an instructor at the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit where she taught core and graduate courses from the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, a project of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Bergman was a speaker at Melton Master Teacher Conferences and International Directors Conferences, leading workshops on best teaching practices. She served as a mentor at the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, utilizing her expertise and insight to train instructors around the country. At the Frankel Jewish Academy, Bergman taught Hebrew language and literature, AP English and Jewish studies to students in grades nine through twelve.

While serving as an instructor at Hillel Day School, Bergman taught basic computer skills to grades three through five and taught Jewish studies and Hebrew to grades four and five.

Bergman graduated from Barnard College with a B.A. in English Literature and took graduate courses in education at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She resides in Farmington Hills with her family.

About 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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