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**HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTER PRESENTS VIRTUAL PROGRAM
“STOLEN VOICES WITH ZLATA FILIPOVIC” ON OCTOBER 3**

Best Seller “Zlata’s Diary” Chronicles Human Rights Activist’s Childhood During the Siege of Sarajevo

Farmington Hills, Mich., Sept. 2, 2021 – The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus presents “Stolen Voices with Zlata Filipovic.” The program will take place online as a live Zoom webinar on Sun., Oct. 3 at 3:00 pm. To register, visit www.holocaustcenter.org/voices. The suggested donation for the event is \$10.00.

In this online discussion, Filipovic will speak about growing up under one of the longest sieges in modern day history in her native city of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She will recount how her life suddenly changed at the young age of 11 from a peaceful existence to a war childhood. Filipovic shared her story through the publication of her diary as well as the lessons she learned through her survival of this horrific conflict. All of these experiences led Filipovic to become a human rights activist.

“Zlata’s courageous and inspirational story draws parallels to the Diary of Anne Frank, detailing a child’s view of war and the day-to-day survival of her and her family,” said Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, CEO, Holocaust Memorial Center. “We are honored to have Zlata join us to share her experiences and talk about her important work today.”

At the age of ten, Filipovic started keeping a diary, which, when the conflict began in former Yugoslavia, became a record of the war and survival in her city. *Zlata’s Diary* was published first in France in 1993 and was an instant international best-seller. It has since been translated into thirty-six languages and is required reading in many schools around the world.

Filipovic holds a B.A. in Human Sciences from Oxford University and an MPhil in International Peace Studies from Trinity College Dublin. She has spoken extensively at schools and universities around the world about her experiences and has worked with different organizations such as the Anne Frank House, United Nations and UNICEF. She also is a three-time member of the UNESCO Jury for Children’s and Young People’s Literature Prize for Tolerance.

Filipovic's written work includes contributions to several books, radio programs and newspapers, including a foreword for *The Freedom Writers Diary* (Doubleday, 1997). She also co-edited *Stolen Voices: Young People's War Diaries from WWI to Iraq* (Penguin, 2006). To order this book or *Zlata's Diary* (Penguin 2006) visit www.holocaustcenter.org/book

Filipovic served for six years on the Executive Committee of Amnesty International Ireland and is currently making documentary films in Ireland and internationally. Her documentary work includes the Emmy-Award winning documentary *The Farthest* as well as Grierson Award-nominated *Here Was Cuba* and Irish Film and Television Award winners *Somebody to Love* and *Blood of the Irish*. She specializes in social issues, science and historical documentaries.

The community partner for this event is the Interfaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit. Program supporters are Robin & Leo Eisenberg, Garry Kappy, Denise & Peter Rodgers, and Rochelle & Barry Rubin.

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, video testimonies, films, paintings, and a sapling from the tree located outside Anne Frank's hiding place window that is described in her diary. Located on the second floor above the museum, the Library Archive is an important resource for academics, the media and families researching their heritage. A national leader in innovative genocide education, the HMC serves over 100,000 Michiganders each year.

Hours: Sunday through Thursday 9:30 am to 5:00 pm and Friday 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. The last admission is one hour before closing. Face masks are required. Wheelchair accessible. Free parking. For additional information, visit www.holocaustcenter.org or call 248-553-2400.

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