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**MARIANE PEARL KEYNOTES ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST  
MUSEUM'S HUMANITARIAN AWARDS DINNER**

***John Rowe and Ted Schwartz Honored; Final Countdown to Opening of  
New Museum & Education Center in Skokie Begins***

**CHICAGO** - As the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center prepares to open its doors later this year, human rights advocate Mariane Pearl this evening will join nearly 2,000 of Chicago's civic and business leaders, Holocaust survivors and museum patrons at the Hyatt Regency Chicago for a preview of the new facility. The event is expected to raise \$2 million and will honor Chicago business leaders and philanthropists John Rowe, Chairman and CEO of Exelon, and Ted Schwartz, Founder and Chairman of APAC Customer Services and Founder and Principal of TCS Group, with the Museum's 2008 Humanitarian Awards.

"The Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center is embarking on a landmark year as we move ever closer to opening our doors," said Richard Hirschhaut, Project and Executive Director, Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center. "Having Mariane Pearl join us as we start this final countdown elevates the significance of this event and underscores our essential mission."

"We are also profoundly grateful to John Rowe and Ted Schwartz for their support and leadership," Hirschhaut continued. "Their strong belief in the Museum is a testament to their staunch and personal commitment to fighting hatred, bigotry and injustice in our world."

More than sixty years since the Holocaust, local survivors will soon witness their legacy in the long-awaited opening of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie. Now entering final stages of construction, the new 65,000 square-foot facility will be the largest center in the Midwest dedicated to preserving the memories of those lost in the Holocaust and teaching current generations about their role in combating intolerance and genocide in today's world.

"Seven years ago, this Museum and Education Center was little more than a shared idea by local Holocaust survivors," said Sam Harris, Museum Board President and Holocaust survivor. "We never dreamed we would be able to create such a dynamic center of activism right here in Illinois, where visitors will be able to reflect upon the lessons of history and apply them to our current challenges."

Expected to host more than 250,000 visitors each year, the new Museum will reach students throughout Illinois and across the Midwest, educating them about the Holocaust and other genocides and teaching them about the dangers of unchallenged bigotry, as required by Illinois law. The Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center will help fulfill this mandate.

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“The Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center will not only be a tremendous destination in the Midwest, it will be one of the leading Holocaust museums in the world,” said J.B. Pritzker, Museum Campaign Chair and Managing Partner, The Pritzker Group. “It is humbling to have the privilege to work so closely with Holocaust survivors and to be a part of ensuring their legacy lives on to inspire future generations.”

Previous recipients of the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center’s Humanitarian Award include Richard Kiphart, Principal of William Blair & Company; Michael Krasny, Founder and Former CEO of CDW Computer Centers and Founder and President of Circle of Service Foundation; Larry Levy, Founder and Chairman of Levy Restaurants and Chairman and CEO of The Levy Organization; and Jack Levin, partner in the law firm Kirkland & Ellis.

*The Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center is a project of the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois. Founded by Holocaust survivors more than 25 years ago, the organization is dedicated to teaching about the Holocaust and the dangers of unchallenged hate. The organization has taught school and community groups through a small storefront museum and speakers’ bureau since 1981.*

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