

CENTERED

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From the President

The Chicago White Sox are a championship team. Many home runs won the World Series. Our world class, state-of-the-art museum hit two grand slam homers this past November, one of which was our fantastic dinner on November 16th. We had almost 1,200 guests, who were held spellbound by Walter Cronkite and Bill Kurtis. J.B. Pritzker's dream of raising \$1,000,000 came true. We can't thank our Dinner Committee and our wonderful honoree, Jack Levin, enough.

A week prior to our dinner, we held the public unveiling of our German rail car, which will become the anchor artifact in our new Museum. The rail car was made possible with the assistance of Michael Berenbaum, Rick Hirschhaut and Rick Salomon, as well as the involvement of many others. We thank Chicago's Mayor, the Honorable Richard M. Daley, for an electrifying speech about hatred and the value of education in overcoming prejudice. Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen, Illinois Senate President Emil Jones, Rick Hirschhaut, J.B. Pritzker and Fritzie Fritzshall all added their own poignant words to this very special occasion.

I would like to thank the media - television, radio and newspapers - who so ably helped to share this experience with Chicagoland and, I might add, around the world. A special thanks also to our friends at the Financial Dynamics business communications firm for ensuring that this event was widely covered. An aunt of mine went to Israel for a wedding and sent me back a copy of

the *Jerusalem Post* with a picture of the rail car and a full story.

If you think the above is exciting, "you ain't seen nothin' yet." In 2006, we will hit another grand slam by actually starting to fulfill the dream of the survivors and all of our wonderful volunteers. We will break ground for the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. We promise that will be an exceptional occasion and will keep you informed as to the details.

Holocaust education is needed more than ever. With anti-Semitism prevalent throughout the world, with the President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, stating that the Holocaust "is a myth," all of us, especially survivors, must step forward to tell our story. This is why our work on behalf of the new IHMEC is of such importance and necessity for the future. Thank you for your support in helping us to reach our goal.

I wish each of you a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

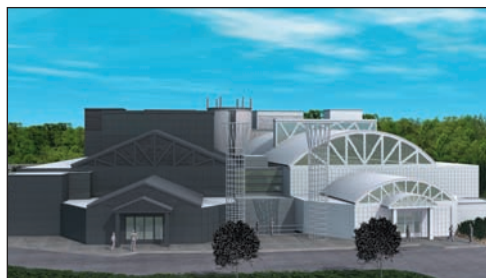
Samuel R. Harris
 President



OUR LATEST MUSEUM RENDERINGS



Northeast view of the Museum in winter at dusk



Front view of the Museum on a summer day



Southwest view of the Museum during summer at dusk

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The recent announcement by the Iranian government that it will convene a conference to examine the “scientific evidence” of Nazi Germany’s extermination of six million Jews is the latest salvo in a steady stream of anti-Western invective emanating from the regime and its leader, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Amidst this sad spectacle comes the uplifting news that Oprah Winfrey has chosen Elie Wiesel’s powerful memoir, *Night*, as her newest book club selection. In the span of a few short weeks, millions will come to understand the atrocities of the Holocaust, many who otherwise may not have had this opportunity. Oprah’s selection of *Night*, and sponsorship of a nationwide student essay contest, will introduce newer audiences to the Holocaust and its continuing relevance for our time. That same imperative is inspiring the dedicated Holocaust survivors and community leaders working to create the new Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center.

It was no accident that Oprah’s announcement came during our national observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. “Like Dr. King, I have a dream of my own, too, that the powerful message of this little book would become engraved on every human heart and will never be forgotten again,” Oprah declared, adding that *Night* should be “required reading for all humanity.”

Oprah’s selection of *Night* further resonated with the announcement of her visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp with Elie Wiesel. Their journey together, as pupil and teacher, reminds me of the four days that I spent in Poland last July, seeing the killing fields of the Nazi apparatus of murder. If Oprah’s experience is anything like my own, she will be forever transformed.

Having spent over two decades of my professional career in service to the Jewish community, the legacy of the Holocaust, and the occasional trivialization and distortion of its enduring lessons, is not unfamiliar to me. But, as I would learn, nothing would compare to the sheer enormity of actually walking the hallowed grounds where the cruelest example of man’s inhumanity to man unfolded. No intellectual grounding in Holocaust history is adequate preparation. My traveling companion and tutor in this journey was Michael Berenbaum, renowned Holocaust scholar and educator, who is serving as a consultant to our new Center.

From these four days a cacophony of images still resonate within me. Consider the Majdanek death camp, nearly entirely intact, where hundreds of thousands perished, hauntingly adjacent to the city of Lublin. It is difficult to imagine that the local population could not have seen, heard, or smelled the evil that took place there.

FROM THE CAMPAIGN CHAIR



As progress for the new Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center continues to accelerate, I become increasingly more excited that I am involved with such an amazing endeavor. As Campaign Chair for the new museum, I am proud to announce that to date, we have raised nearly half of our \$35 million campaign goal, which includes both the building fund and endowment opportunities. This total has

helped us reach our “quiet phase” goal in advance of our groundbreaking in June. This leaves me with a feeling of confidence that the doors of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center will open in early 2008.

On the opposite page, you will see many of the generous donors who have contributed to our capital campaign. It is an impressive list that we only hope will continue to grow. I extend my heartfelt thanks to those of you who have given towards a cause that is very important to our Holocaust survivors, who for so long thought that a new Holocaust museum in Illinois was merely a vision. There are still many opportunities to become involved with the campaign, and I urge you to take part. Join me on this exciting journey – a commitment to the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center will greatly affect you, your children, and your children’s children for years to come.

J.B. Pritzker
Museum Campaign Chair

Or Belzec, situated in a rural area some fifty miles from the Ukraine, where all that remained was a large field, but where today a huge memorial cuts through the earth in a wedge reminiscent of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The area is ringed by a necklace of stone steps that chronologically attest to the speed with which the Final Solution was carried out.

Or Auschwitz-Birkenau, where Oprah will have visited, a site whose sheer enormity is beyond comparison. There is no more powerful evidence of the magnitude of the Nazi death machine than Auschwitz-Birkenau. A visit to this ghastly place should forever put to rest the temptation to compare political events of today to the Nazi crimes of sixty years ago.

Or finally, Treblinka, a lush forest-like setting that otherwise appears to be a pristine countryside vista. In this place, the victims speak out through jagged stones that signal a cemetery of ashes.

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HUMANITARIAN AWARD DINNER – A RECORD SUCCESS



Photo courtesy of Deja Views USA

Bill Kurtis and Walter Cronkite recount Cronkite's experiences as a reporter at the Nuremberg Trials, during the 2005 Humanitarian Award Dinner.

On November 16th, the 2005 Humanitarian Award Dinner honoring **Jack S. Levin** and commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the opening of the Nuremberg Trials was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Chicago. Emceed by Museum Campaign Chair, **J.B. Pritzker**, an exciting program was presented – a report on the activities of the organization by President **Sam Harris** was held before dinner; afterwards, Vice President **Howard Swibel** and Executive Director **Rick Hirschhaut** offered an exciting update on the activities of the new Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. Their remarks were followed by the keynote presentation about the Nuremberg Trials, beginning with a video about the Trials and followed by an engaging dialogue between special guests **Walter Cronkite and Bill Kurtis**. Their dialogue focused on Mr. Cronkite's experiences as a young reporter at Nuremberg and then went on to tell of other world events and leaders from a

perspective only an icon such as he can share. Following, a humorous and engaging tribute video to our honoree, **Jack S. Levin** was screened, with the award presentation made by last year's honoree, **Lee Rosenberg**, followed by a gracious and enthusiastic acceptance speech by Mr. Levin.

This dinner raised a record \$1,048,000 and the event was attended by nearly 1,200 people. We are most appreciative of our sponsors, the **Kirkland & Ellis Foundation** and Kirkland & Ellis' partners, **LaSalle Bank** and the **Pritzker Family Foundation**. We are also extremely grateful to the Dinner Chairs and Vice Chairs and the Dinner Committee, all of whom worked tirelessly to make this the most successful dinner in the organization's history. And we thank you, our members and friends, for your crucial support of the event and the organization.



Photo courtesy of Deja Views USA

J.B. Pritzker (left), Campaign Chair for the new Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, with Honoree Jack Levin, Lee Rosenberg, and Samuel Harris, President of the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois, at the 2005 Humanitarian Award Dinner.

SELECT CAMPAIGN GIFTS AND PLEDGES

If you would like to change how your name is listed, please contact the Project Office (847) 491-0905

Gifts of \$1,000,000+

Anonymous
Lawrence J. Ellison
State of Illinois
J.B. and M.K. Pritzker
Family Foundation

\$500,000 to \$999,999

Circle of Service Foundation
Glenview State Bank
The Irving Harris Foundation

\$100,000 to \$499,999

Cole Taylor Bank
Exelon Corporation
Michael W. and Jacqueline Ferro
James and Ann Goodman
Sam and Dede Harris
Al Lachman
The Ronald & Mary Ann Lachman
Foundation
Rick and Lynda Strusiner
Howard and Sheryl Swibel
Louis Weber

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Anonymous
Fifth Third Bank
Larry and Laura Gerber
Philip and Ellen Glass
Joseph D. and Sheila Gutman
Diane Israel
Harley and Kathy Korman
Estate of Ray Israel Piterman
Philip and Mindy Rosenberg
John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe
Gregory H. Sachs
Richard and Jacquie Salomon
Harvey and Yetta Saltzman

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Gary and Johanna Brainin
Gershanov Family
Mitchell and Gladys Greenberg
Jeffrey and Ilene Hechtman
Michael and Dovie Horvitz
Keith and Caryl Jaffee
Robert and Phyllis Jaffee
Norman Schwartz
Michael and Jane Strauss
The Thalheimer Family
Randall and Karen Winters

RAIL CAR UNVEILED – THE BIRTH OF A MUSEUM

The Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center unveiled its anchor artifact on November 9th, 2005, at Block 37 in downtown Chicago. An early 20th Century German rail car of the type used by the Nazis during the Holocaust to transport millions of Jews to concentration camps and ultimately, their deaths, the rail car will be on permanent exhibit in the new Museum and Education Center when it opens in early 2008.

The rail car was unveiled on the morning of the 67th anniversary of Kristallnacht, or the Night of Broken Glass, when the Nazis ordered a nationwide pogrom against German Jews that included the destruction of homes, shops and synagogues. Kristallnacht marked the beginning of the Nazi reign of terror; the freight car symbolizes the horrific end for many who were taken from their homes and mass murdered in camps and ghettos.

Chicago Mayor **Richard Daley** and Skokie Mayor **George Van Dusen**, along with Illinois Senate President **Emil Jones, Jr.**, addressed the crowd of over 300. Fritzie Fritzhall, Sam Harris, J.B. Pritzker, and Richard Hirschhaut also spoke at the event.

“It is impossible to see this car and not sense the terror and despair felt by the millions of men, women and children who were placed

into such cars during the Holocaust,” said Richard S. Hirschhaut, Project and Executive Director of the Museum. “We believe this car will provide a platform for telling the story of the Holocaust in a way that goes beyond just words and pictures, making visitors understand on a deeper level the horror of the Holocaust, the essence of which is that people were completely stripped of their humanity, and eventually often lost their lives, once they entered these cars.”

Fritzie Fritzhall, a survivor of Auschwitz and a vice president of the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois, stressed the importance of a museum dedicated to preserving her story and the thousands of stories like hers. “I speak out in memory of those who did not survive, because the world must know,” she said.

Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois President **Sam Harris** remarked: “When I came to Chicago, I left behind the war and terrible memories, such as traveling in a monster cattle car. I say monster because as an eight-year old child, I felt

like I was in the belly of a monster. We have brought this car here for our children and grandchildren, so that they can learn and remember and act; so that such atrocities never happen again.”

“I speak out in memory of those who did not survive, because the world must know,” she said. “I speak out to educate about yesterday so the world should remember tomorrow, so that things like this never happen again.”

—Fritzie Fritzhall, Survivor



Photo courtesy of Deja Views USA

Chicago Mayor **Richard Daley** addresses the large crowd in attendance with a message of hope and urgent persistence for continued Holocaust education. Also pictured: Holocaust survivor **Fritzie Fritzhall**, Executive Director **Richard Hirschhaut**, Skokie Mayor **George Van Dusen**, Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois President and Holocaust survivor **Sam Harris**, and Illinois Senate President **Emil Jones, Jr.**



Photo courtesy of Deja Views USA

Dr. Jeff Ellison speaks to the 8th grade students from **Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School** about the significance of the German rail car. Over 100 diverse students from across Chicagoland attended the unveiling and heard the personal testimony of a Holocaust survivor prior to the ceremony.

ARTIFACT CAMPAIGN GATHERS MOMENTUM

Over the past few months, IHMEC staff and devoted volunteers have been reaching into the community for the stories and artifacts of Holocaust survivors and their families. Volunteer committees have initiated and presented at promotional events for the artifact campaign at senior centers, libraries, caregiving facilities, synagogues, and schools in the Chicagoland region. We have initiated an 8th-grade curriculum guiding students through a process of discovering family histories and will host an exhibition and presentation at the Gidwitz Center in Deerfield on Sunday, March 19th, in conjunction with the Council for Jewish Elderly.

Here are a few highlights of new additions to our collection through these efforts:

- **A Ketubah, or Jewish marriage certificate, from Jewish refugees of the Holocaust living in Shanghai, China. The marriage took place in 1946. The ketubah is written in Chinese characters, with the names of the couple written also in our standard alphabet.**
- **A dress made in the late 1920s and worn while escaping from Warsaw to Russia in late 1939.**
- **Maccabi Games documents and photos from the 1930s in Bialystok, Poland.**

The Museum continues to seek original artifacts and documents: photos, diaries, travel documents, art, clothing or almost anything related to pre-war life, survival experiences, life in the camps, anti-Semitic paraphernalia, post-war resettlement and emigration, and the attempted 1978 neo-Nazi march in Skokie. For more information or to donate artifacts, please call Museum Registrar Bethany Fleming, (847) 491-0905 or by email, bfleming@hmfi.org.



THE AUSCHWITZ ALBUM: STORY OF A TRANSPORT

In commemoration of the 61st anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp on January 27, 1945, The Field Museum is presenting an exhibition of large-scale black-and-white photographs taken by Nazi S.S. officers of the arrival and imprisonment of Hungarian Jews at Auschwitz. The exhibit will run through June 4, 2006.

This exhibition, created by Yad Vashem and made possible by the American Society for Yad Vashem, presents images that are the only visual evidence of what took place inside this infamous death camp.

Originally assembled as a photo album, these photographs were hidden and somehow survived the ravages of World War II. They have been reassembled and restored, creating an extraordinary human and historic document.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

In partnership with The Field Museum, the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center has organized two educational programs for this exhibition:

Witnesses to the Holocaust

Please join local Chicago students and teachers as they hear from

members of the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois' Speakers' Bureau – Aaron Elster (Hidden Child), Fritzie Fritزشall (Auschwitz survivor); Kate Lipner (Rescuer); and Phillip Drell (Liberator of Dachau), who will speak and answer questions regarding their experiences and lessons of the Holocaust.

Tuesday, May 2, 2006
10:30 a.m., Lecture Hall
Free with General Admission

Auschwitz: The Making and Unmaking of Hell

Dr. Robert Jan van Pelt, School of Architecture, University of Waterloo

Find out more about the history of this infamous camp from one of the world's leading experts on Auschwitz. Dr. Robert Jan van Pelt, author of *The Anatomy of the Auschwitz Death Camp*, *Auschwitz: 1270 to the Present*, and *The Case for Auschwitz*, will present how Auschwitz was built brick by brick, the daily culture that existed in the camp, and who the men were who made the decisions that had terrible consequences for millions of people.

Friday, May 12, 1:00 p.m.
Free with Museum Admission

GLOBAL CURRENTS

Iran

In the wake of the recent announcement by the Iranian government that it would hold a conference "to examine the scientific evidence" concerning Nazi Germany's extermination of six million Jews, IHMEC released the following statement:

"Today's announcement from Tehran is the latest in a disturbing pattern of anti-Western invective spewing forth from the regime and its leader. Jews, Israel, and the Holocaust have become the targets of choice in the Iranian regime's ongoing campaign of hate. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad threatens to wipe Israel from the map, denies the Holocaust, and defies the democratic world by supporting terrorism and extremism.

Iran represents a grave threat not just to Israel and the Middle East, but to the entire world. Civil societies everywhere should be alarmed by this unrelenting campaign of hate, and those dedicated to applying the lessons of the Holocaust to our world today need look no further than Iran to understand where such unbridled hatred, left unchallenged, ultimately may lead. We call upon all responsible governments, as well as the United Nations, to unequivocally repudiate this planned hate fest."

Darfur

This statement was approved by the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois Board of Directors in January, 2005.

The Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center and the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois express outrage at the

continued escalation of genocidal atrocities and human rights violations occurring in the Darfur region of the Sudan.

Since 2003, over 400,000 Africans have lost their lives and over two million have been driven from their homes in Sudan's western region of Darfur in an ongoing campaign of ethnic cleansing carried out by a government-supported Arab militia known as "Janjaweed." Committed to the annihilation of the native black African inhabitants of the territory, the Janjaweed have fueled continued ethnic and racial violence through the systematic rape of women, burning of entire villages, restricting international humanitarian access (which threatens mass starvations), and perpetuating a policy of forced slavery for those who survive. We align our voices with the many others calling upon the United States government and the international community to be more proactive in helping to bring security and peace to the people of Darfur.

We implore the Sudanese government to grant full, unconditional, and immediate access to Darfur by humanitarian aid organizations, human rights investigators, and international monitors. We urge that the government of Sudan immediately cease its attacks on the people of Darfur and concurrently disarm and bring members of the Janjaweed militias to justice. In addition, we urge the United Nations to call upon the international community to take all appropriate steps necessary to stop this genocide.

For ways you can help, please visit www.savedarfur.org or www.millionvoicesfordarfur.org.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE BOARD UPDATE

The Holocaust Remembrance Board (HRB), the young leadership committee of the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois and the new Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, is off to a great 2006. On January 24th, the HRB hosted a new member event in which several interested people attended. This meeting explained the group's mission: to educate younger adults about the Holocaust, learn the stories of Holocaust survivors, and raise awareness about the new museum. In addition, the gathering allowed for the prospective members to choose programs in the upcoming year they would like to help coordinate. Upcoming programs include a Yom HaShoah event, a Holocaust-related movie viewing, as well as a prominent speaker in early Fall. For more information about the Holocaust Remembrance Board, please contact Julie Avchen at the Project Office, either by phone (847) 491-0905, or by email, javchen@hmf.org.



Marv and Charlotte Levy, pictured with Executive Director Rick Hirschhaut, are on a quest to collect six million pennies in memory of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. This mission was started by the late Adam Starkopf, who chose to collect pennies because he was once told "no Jew's life was worth a cent." Moved by Starkopf's statement, Marv and Charlotte have collected over \$525 in pennies and are donating them to the new Museum to carry on this sacred mission. We salute their spirit and determination.

EDUCATION REPORT

The year 2005, served as a milestone for our Speakers' Bureau and educational efforts, as we received over 300 field trip and outreach requests, and reached over 30,000 audience members throughout the Midwest. Many thanks to our thirty-eight member Bureau of survivors and liberators, who continue to serve as stewards to our educational mission, and who touch the hearts and minds of so many young people by speaking of their experiences and life lessons.

The year 2006 will bring only further growth as we continue to expand our educational endeavors. With nearly 2.5 million school children in the state of Illinois, and millions more throughout the Midwest, so much more must be done to ensure generations to come learn the consequences of bigotry and indifference. The new Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center will bring us ever closer to fulfilling this essential mission.

MAIN STREET UPDATE

UPCOMING PROGRAMS: SUNDAY MATINEE SERIES

Mark your calendars to join us on Main Street for this outstanding lineup of films:

Sunday, March 12th - 2:00 p.m. - "Avi Hoffman's Too Jewish?"

Set aside the afternoon to see this taped performance of a one-man musical comedy revue, which ranges from Mr. Hoffman's favorite Yiddish songs to Jewish Shakespeare ("Zu zayn oder nit zu zayn?")

Sunday, April 2nd - 2:00 p.m. - "Downfall"

Let this award-winning feature film take you into Hitler's bunker during the final days of the Third Reich. Shown in German with English subtitles.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. Please call 847/677-4640, or E-mail: info@hmf.org.

CONTINUING EDUCATION OFFERING: "HOLOCAUST: FROM UNIMAGINABLE ATROCITIES TO IMPERFECT JUSTICE"

Monday nights: February 27 through May 22, 2006

A dozen different presentations, featuring a faculty, that includes Dr. Peter Hayes, Dr. Elliot Lefkowitz, Dr. (Rev.) John T. Pawlikowski and Dr. Leon Stein will address topics ranging from post-war Polish pogroms to the Nuremberg Trials to the dynamics of the Displaced Persons Camps. Some evenings will follow a lecture and discussion format, while others will feature the use of film. Open to all K-12 educators and interested members of the community, the series may be taken for credit or personal enrichment.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED. For information regarding cost and registration, please call 847/677-4640 or E-mail: Lgerstner@hmf.org.

GERSHANOV ESSAY CONTEST ENGAGES ILLINOIS STUDENTS

The **2006 Leo & Antonia Gershanov Memorial Holocaust Essay Contest** will examine the theme, "In Pursuit of Justice." This competition is open to all students in Illinois in grades 9 through 12.

It has been sixty years since the end of World War II and the military tribunal at Nuremberg passed judgment on twenty-one Nazi defendants. The recent death of Holocaust survivor Simon Wiesenthal, who dedicated his life to tracking down fugitive Nazi war criminals and bringing them to justice, appears to mark the end of an era. For this year's contest, high school students are urged to submit essays examining the theme "In Pursuit of Justice." Contest winners will receive U.S. Savings Bonds between \$500-\$2,000.

Entries may approach the theme in a variety of ways, including:

- Should there be a statute of limitations on crimes against humanity committed during the Nazi Holocaust 1933-1945?
- What is the legacy of Nuremberg vis-à-vis contemporary incidents of genocide and human rights violations?
- Simon Wiesenthal's life work can be described as a pursuit for justice. Through his efforts generations learned not only to remember the Holocaust, but also to speak out against

indifference. What can the next generation do to ensure that the crime of silence, which contributed to the Holocaust, is not committed today?

All entries must be typed or word processed, double spaced, with one inch margins, on one side of white, unlined paper, pages numbered and no longer than three pages in length.

All entries must be accompanied by the official entry form (or photocopy) with complete information indicated. Only one entry per student is permitted.

Hard copies of entries must be mailed. Entries submitted by fax will not be accepted. **Deadline for all entries is April 7, 2006.** Entries must be received, not postmarked, by this date in order to receive consideration.

Awards will be presented at a public ceremony of recognition to be held on Sunday, June 4, 2006.

For complete information and entry materials, please contact Lillian Polus Gerstner, 847/677-4640, or E-mail lgerstner@hmf.org.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL FOUNDATION OF ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER

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IHMEC JOINS IN PERFORMANCE OF “MY HEART IN A SUITCASE”

The Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center is collaborating with the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts (NSCPA) Foundation and Centre East, a children and family theatre. The NSCPA will sponsor a performance for youth and family audiences of “My Heart in a Suitcase,” adapted for the stage from Anne L. Fox’s gripping memoir of her escape from Nazi Germany as a 12-year old girl with her entire life packed into a single suitcase. The one-hour play will be presented by the ArtsPower National Touring Theatre on the Centre East stage at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie on Sunday, February 26th at 2pm. Following the performance, IHMEC will present

an interactive educational program with featured speaker Walter Reed, who was a part of the kindertransport. “We are excited to be partnering with Centre East for ‘My Heart in a Suitcase.’ This is a unique opportunity to bring Holocaust programming to a diverse audience, and to inspire young people to believe that amidst such unbelievable darkness, there is hope for the future and they too can make a difference,” stated Richard Hirschhaut, Project and Executive Director for the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center.

For information, call the IHMEC Project Office at 847.491.0905.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *continued from page 2*

Closer to home, the universal lessons of the Holocaust, and genocides past and present, will be illuminated in the new Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. This new institution will be a vibrant human rights center where young people from Illinois and across the Midwest learn to apply the lessons of history to the fight against hate, extremism, and genocide today.

The new Center also will be a place where the courage and resilience of our Holocaust survivors is honored through the telling and re-telling of their personal experiences with evil. Their collective exhortation of “Never Again” will be the guiding

principle underlying the Center’s powerful educational mission.

No, the Iranian president may never pass through the doors of the new Center. But surely Oprah Winfrey, Elie Wiesel, and millions of others will – bearing witness to this greatest of human tragedies and affirming the obligation we all share to prevent it from ever again recurring. May we make this our own personal requirement for humanity.

Richard S. Hirschhaut

Project & Executive Director

Design Courtesy of McKNIGHT KURLAND BACCELLI www.mkb363.com

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