

# Horror! Emotions run high at center

By Karen Hermes Smith  
staff writer

As 20 previewers toured the new \$3-million Holocaust Memorial Center in West Bloomfield, a woman suddenly broke down crying inconsolably.

At her left, a fire burned under the names of 22 concentration camps where many Jews, including babies, were burned alive. At her right, screens flashed moving pictures of Jews being rounded up for slave labor, or the gas chambers, their starving faces and pleading eyes peering up at the Nazi German cameramen. The woman may have been crying for a parent, sibling or child she lost in the worst tragedy in modern-day history.

PERHAPS HER tears were for all Jews, or herself, at the time.

But certainly, the memorial center's grave displays arose in her the horror and fear felt by the people in the pictures.

Meanwhile, a cable-television announcer, quietly wiping away tears in front of a replica of a walled Warsaw

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— Rabbi Charles Rosenzweig, Holocaust director

ghetto where more Jews met their deaths, questioned whether she could sufficiently regain her composure to continue the tour.

EMOTIONS RUN high as people tour the center, which opens to the general public at noon Sunday, Oct. 21.

But Rabbi Charles Rosenzweig, Holocaust center founder/director, doesn't want remembered the cold-blooded, systematic murder of 6-million Jews by Adolf Hitler in the 1930s — or the destruction of their cities and culture.

Rather, he reminds visitors of why the Holocaust happened so they can prevent another from occurring. The last display in the center, called "Today We Make Tomorrow," summarizes how one man conditioned otherwise intelligent and civilized citizens to become so fearful of a race that they began to hate — allowing and participating in that race's destruction.

"WE SAW IN the Holocaust how low a human being can stoop," Rosenzweig said. "But also (in the case of the few non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews) how high he can reach. We hope their (the latter's) standards become the yardstick for all society."

As photographs of various races, including black Americans, flash across the screen, the last display asks probing questions about how viewers react to people different from themselves and whether they would risk their lives for them.

THE MEMORIAL center is a realization of a 20-year dream of Rosenzweig and the Holocaust Survivors (Shaarit Haplaytah) of Metropolitan Detroit.

Its displays, featuring historical records, documentary films and video testimonies, incorporate state-of-the-art audio-visual techniques.

"I haven't seen a major effort to learn the lesson of the Holocaust," Rosenzweig said. "You have history books, but who reads history books?"



ABOVE: These finely sculpted figures of a scholar and his students, commissioned in England by internationally renowned museum designer James Gardner who designed the Holocaust Memorial Center, represent the Jewish peoples' contribution through history to education. BELOW: Rabbi Charles Rosenzweig points to a copy of the anti-Semitic German newspaper of World War II. Other items in the display case include a concentration camp uniform and yellow star, required to be outwardly worn by every Jew.

You have to see the real things and learn the lesson of what intolerableness, hate can lead to."

THE TRIP through the center begins with a list of the center's objectives. To the left is a display of Jewish figures being taken to cattle trains, signifying the beginning of the Holocaust. Further on, on the right, is a photo of a Holocaust survivor, still branded with his concentration camp number, shaking hands with an American in this free country, signifying the end of the horror.

Proceeding on, a Jewish mother's comforting voice singing the Jewish lullaby, "Sleep My Child, My Dear Child," is heard against Hitler's irritating, hate-filled voice.

"THE GATHERING Storm (1919-1929)" shows how the Nazi party used propaganda to blame the Jews for

Germany's inflation, unemployment and food shortage while profiling Hitler as a caring, fatherly leader.

The display, "The Unbelievable Happens (1933-39)," includes a listing of the "Nuremberg Laws of 1935" declaring that only persons of German blood can be citizens of the New Reich. It also includes a copy of the anti-Semitic German newspaper Der Stürmer headlined, "The Jews are our misfortune."

Other displays include a replica of the Auschwitz concentration camp, videotapes of survivors from the Detroit area telling their experiences and examples of the Jewish peoples' contributions to mankind in medicine, art, literature and other facets of society.

The center, which was funded with donations, will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, and until 8 p.m. Wednesday. Admission is free.



## obituaries

### JOHN STEVEN ROSOWSKI

Mr. Rosowski, 22, of Hyde Park, N.Y., formerly of Farmington, died Sept. 28 in Vassar Bros. Hospital, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Mr. Rosowski was an engineer for IBM. He was a 1980 graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School and a 1984 graduate of the University of Michigan. He received a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering. Mr. Rosowski joined the IBM Co. in 1984 working at their Research and Development Center in Kingston, N.Y.

Survivors include his parents, Robert and Kathleen Rosowski; brother, Paul; sisters, Mary and Judi; grandparents, Erwin and Bertha Bates and Mrs. Ann Rosowski.

Services were Oct. 4 at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington. Mass was said at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church with the Rev. Sean D. Cronin officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Memorials may be made to John S. Rosowski Scholarship Fund, Catholic Central High School, 14200 Breakfast Drive, Redford 48239.

### BETTY JANE LANTZY

Mrs. Lantzy, 62, of Redford Township died Sept. 30.

Mrs. Lantzy was a homemaker. Survivors include her parents, Byron and Karen Henkle; brother, William Henkle; sister, Therese Courtney.

Services were Oct. 4 at the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

### JEAN FRANCES QUESNELLE

Mrs. Quesnelle, 69, of Farmington Hills died Oct. 1 in Providence Hospital.

Born in Ohio, Mrs. Quesnelle was an office manager in St. Alexander's Catholic Church.

Survivors include her sons, James, George and Richard; daughters, Jean Vogl and Kathy Strachan; brothers, James Delaney and Raymond Morris; 10 grandchildren.

Services were Oct. 3 at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington. Mass was said at St. Alexander's Catholic Church with the Rev. James B. Wright officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Memorials may be made to St. Alexander's Church Memorial Garden.

### MARK R. HAMER

Mr. Hamer, 35, of Novi died Oct. 2.

Mr. Hamer was a machinist for Mercury Gage. He formerly worked with Atlas-Tread Gage.

Survivors include his son, Randall; daughter, Cherie; mother, Glenna Hamer; brothers, Roy and Cary.

Services were Oct. 5 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. J. Kenneth Hoffmaster officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

### BETTY JANE MATHERS

Mrs. Mathers, 56, of Farmington Hills died Oct. 2.

Mrs. Mathers was a homemaker. Survivors include her sons, William, Robert and Jerry; daughter, Sally; four grandchildren.

Services were Oct. 4 at the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills, with the Rev. Thomas Finnigan officiating.

### ROBERT C. MONAHAN

Mr. Monahan, 59, of Livonia died Oct. 2 in Beaumont Hospital.

Mr. Monahan was vice president of a tool and dye company.

Survivors include his wife, Joan; son, Michael; daughters, Linda, Ott and Patricia; sister, Shirley Brundage; two grandchildren.

Private services were held at the McCabe Funeral Home.

### MARTHA J. DISLER

Mrs. Disler, 76, of Farmington Hills died Oct. 4 in Hospice of Southeastern Michigan.

Born in Ohio, Mrs. Disler was a homemaker. Survivors include her son, Richard; daughters, Jane Lowery and Joan Rider; nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services were private. Arrangements were made by the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills.

### CHARLES HENRY LEE

Mr. Lee, 67, of Arivaca, Ariz., formerly of Farmington, died Oct. 5.

Mr. Lee was retired from Holloway Construction and Local 247 Teamsters.

Survivors include his wife, Beatrice; sons, Ronald and David; daughters, Dixie Field, Dianne Richards and Connie McBride; sister, Marion Gow; 14 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were held at Grand Lawn Cemetery, Detroit.

### KENNETH LEE MARTIN

Mr. Martin, 18, of Farmington Hills died Oct. 5.

Mr. Martin worked in a restaurant. Survivors include his mother, Ruth Martin; brother, George; sister, Lynda; grandmother, Helen Martin.

Services were Oct. 11 at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. James Wright officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Memorial Park Cemetery, Livonia.

### LAURA M. CARLSON

Mrs. Carlson, 81, of Livonia died Oct. 5.

Born in Fort Perry, Ontario, Canada, Mrs. Carlson was a homemaker.

Survivors include her daughters, Gloria Parks and Clara Spittler; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services were Oct. 8 in the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with William James Jim Morehouse officiating. Burial was in Oakland Hills Cemetery, Novi.

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