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For Immediate Release

For more information, contact: Renee Goldstein at 847/441-5760, x105

Temple Jeremiah “Penny Project” Collects More Than 100,000 Pennies to Benefit Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center

Temple Jeremiah Students to Present Check for Skokie Museum Scheduled to Open Within the Year as Part of “Israel Extravaganza Day”

Temple Jeremiah, 937 Happ Rd., Northfield, will present a special gift to the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center at 12:30 p.m., Sun., April 27 as part of its “Israel Extravaganza Day.” After collecting more than 100,000 pennies during its two-year “Penny Project” campaign, the temple will officially present the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center with a check for \$1,800. Rabbi Paul Cohen will speak to Religious School children and parents about the Holocaust, the reason the temple embarked on the Penny Project and the significance of Israel becoming a state 60 years ago.

Cantor Amy Zussman embarked on this collective drive to commemorate Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. The pennies serve as a reminder of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. Cantor Zussman drew inspiration after hearing Linda Hooper, principal of a predominantly Christian middle school in rural Tennessee, speak about her now famous paper clip project. Ms. Hooper spearheaded a drive in 1998 to collect paper clips to teach students about the Holocaust. The project led to the moving documentary, “Paper Clips.”

“We are overwhelmingly grateful to the children of Temple Jeremiah for their tremendous support,” said Richard Hirschhaut, project and executive director, Illinois Holocaust Museum &

Education Center. “Their gift will help to ensure the memories of those lost in the Holocaust are preserved, so that future generations can experience the universal lessons of the Holocaust and understand the need to fight hatred, intolerance and genocide in today’s world.”

Expected to host 250,000 visitors each year, the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center will reach students throughout Illinois and across the Midwest, educating them about the Holocaust, other genocides and the dangers of unchallenged bigotry. By law, students in Illinois are required to learn about the Holocaust and other genocides. The museum, scheduled to open within the year in Skokie, Illinois, will help to fulfill this mandate.

Temple Jeremiah is a Reform Jewish congregation affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism and holds weekly worship services and study programs. Its facilities are fully accessible. For more information, contact the temple office at 847/441-5760 or office@templejeremiah.org or log onto www.templejeremiah.org/s/index.php#penny_project

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