

SARATOGA COUNTY

Traveling Holocaust exhibit to continue its tour of region



Schuylerville Public Library MELISSA SCHUMAN — MEDIANEWS GROUP FILE

CLIFTON PARK, N.Y. >> The traveling exhibit “Messages From Survivors: One Family’s Holocaust Legacy” is spending the month of January at the Schuylerville Library, then moving to the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library for the month of February.

According to a press release, created by The Memory Project Productions, Inc., the exhibit is built on 40 years of filming a family of Holocaust survivors in the Bronx,

Miami, and a bungalow colony in the Catskills between 1962 and 2016. Six videos introduce the Holocaust through powerful personal stories of a family of Holocaust survivors.

Six exhibit panels researched using the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's resources provide historical context for the video footage. The exhibit covers the family's experiences from 1938 through the 21st century. An additional feature is the use of QR codes to bring the Holocaust survivors' voices directly into people's lives, both onsite and at home. Take-home cards keep the story alive once visitors return home.

Each card contains stories of family members — some who survived and some who didn't, along with QR code links to the videos.

"I want people to feel as if they are personally meeting my family," said exhibit co-creator Roz Jacobs in the release. "My parents met at a forced labor camp. My mother's entire immediate family was murdered and my father lost most of his family. My mother said, 'No one could believe things could get so bad. But they did.'

"Their message to the world was, 'Don't let it happen again. No place. In no country.' We hope this exhibit will inspire every community to address even the smallest incidents of hatred, injustice, and cruelty."

"The Jacobs family show us that resilience and joy can co-exist with loss and pain. By sharing their stories, we share their hard-earned wisdom with the world," exhibit co-creator Laurie Weisman said in the release.

The Clifton Park/Halfmoon Library is working in partnership with the Southern Adirondack Library System to host "Messages From Survivors: One Family's Holocaust Legacy."

"We are honored to host this important exhibit for our community," Library Director Alex Gutelius said in the release. "We understand the importance of continuing this conversation and hearing the first-hand accounts of the remaining survivors. This exhibit will give our patrons an opportunity to expand their historical knowledge and gain a deeper understanding of these events."

Supplementing the exhibit will be a special program on Feb. 6 at 7 pm, titled “Never Forget: Conversations with a Holocaust Survivor.” The program is hosted by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. It will be livestreamed, with a live Q&A session following the conversations. All ages are encouraged to attend and no registration is required.

At the end of February, the “Messages From Survivors” exhibit will move to the Saratoga Springs Public Library, where it will spend the month of March.

“We are humbled by the generosity of the Memory Project participants in sharing their stories, and grateful for the opportunity to provide access to these materials that echo the experiences lived by some in our community, so that we may potentially learn from this history,” Saratoga Springs Public Library Director Issac Pulver said in the release.

During the March exhibition, the Saratoga Springs Public Library will hold two supplemental programs. “A Child’s Memories of the Holocaust: A Conversation with Survivor Ivan Vamos” will be on March 10 at 1 p.m. Vamos will talk about his experiences and show personal artifacts during this conversation, and there will be time allotted at the end for a Q&A session. All ages are encouraged to attend.

On March 18 at 6 p.m., the library will host a book discussion of “Finding Kalman: A Boy in Six Million” by exhibit creator Jacobs, followed by a viewing of an accompanying documentary.

For more information, visit the respective libraries’ websites at www.cphlibrary.org and www.sspl.org.