

# Castle Museum of Saginaw County History

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **FIGHTING THE FIRES OF HATE: AMERICA AND THE NAZI BOOK BURNINGS OPENS AT CASTLE MUSEUM**

On Friday, August 20, the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History opened a traveling exhibition that provides a vivid look at the first steps the Nazis took to suppress freedom of expression, and the strong response that occurred in the United States both immediately and in the years thereafter.

*Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings* is produced by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C.

On May 10, 1933 – a full six years before World War II - German university students carried out an “Action Against the Un-German Spirit” targeting authors ranging from Helen Keller and Ernest Hemingway to Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud. Covered widely in the media, the Nazi book burnings provoked immediate, strong reactions in the United States among writers, artists, scholars, journalists, librarians, labor unions, clergy, political figures and others.

The exhibition focuses on how the book burnings became a potent symbol during World War II in America’s battle against Nazism, and concludes by examining their continued impact on our public discourse. It will be on display until October 4, 2010.

In addition, the Castle Museum will feature a small exhibit chronicling the lives of Emelie and Leo Kahan. Leo Kahan escaped from Germany in 1938 just prior to its invasion of Austria. He became a prominent Saginaw businessman and married Emelie Oppenheim in 1941. The couple was ardent champions of the Saginaw arts community.

The Museum is pleased to announce that Professor Guy Stern of the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills, co-curator of the exhibit, *Fighting the Fires of Hate*, will speak on **Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at Noon.**

Janet Rubin, professor of theatre at Saginaw Valley State University, will give a presentation *Teaching About the Holocaust Through Drama* on Friday, **September 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.** Immediately following Ms. Rubin's presentation, the Museum's Assistant Curator, Jennifer Gildenstern, will lead guests on a gallery tour of the Fighting of Fires Hate exhibit.

The Castle Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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