



April 26, 2011

For Immediate Release
Village Manager's Office

“RAINING SEASON”

Join the Deerfield Fine Arts Commission of the Village of Deerfield, the Deerfield Park District and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum on Monday evening, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. for "Raining Season," a powerful play created from interviews with survivors of genocide. The play will be held at Patty Turner Center, 375 Elm Street, Deerfield, IL.

In December 2007, under the auspices of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, a dozen high school and middle school students came together to form the Teen Committee on Conscience. Motivated by a desire to make the words "Never Again" become reality and fueled by their theatrical passions, this extraordinary group of teenagers developed a plan to educate their peers and encourage them to advocate for change.

Teen Committee members interviewed survivors from four different genocides: Cambodia, Darfur, the Holocaust and Rwanda. Each of the interviews was transcribed and woven seamlessly into a script by a professional playwright and director. After studying each of the genocides and carefully listening to the interviews, five teens immersed themselves into the survivors' lives and assumed their persona on stage. The script, using only words from the survivors, dramatically depicts how the sweet innocence of childhood is abruptly destroyed by the atrocities of genocide. Despite their tragic experiences, the survivors carry hopeful messages and the performance concludes with their fervent belief in the power of young people today to make a difference.

Holocaust survivor Margot Walton, who was interviewed for the play, will join the cast following the 45-minute performance and take questions from the audience. Next month is the observance of *Yom Hashoa* to commemorate the losses during the Holocaust.

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This event is free and open to the public. Reservations are requested and parking is readily available. We encourage you to spread the word to family and friends who would be interested in attending. To RSVP, please email Midwest@ushmm.org or call the event hotline at 847/604-1924. Further details and directions to the site or questions about the Fine Arts Commission are available through the Village at 847/945-5000.

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Released by the Village Manager's Office
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