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ANNE FRANK: A HISTORY FOR TODAY

**Traveling exhibition tells the story of the Holocaust through the
eyes of young Anne Frank**

“I hope I will be able to confide everything to you, as I have never been able to confide in anyone, and I hope you will be a great source of comfort and support.”

— **From the first entry in Anne Frank’s Diary, June 12, 1942**

ELMHURST, IL – In 1942, on the occasion of her thirteenth birthday, Anne Frank received a small cloth-covered diary. According to the earliest entries, the aspiring young writer was thrilled with the chance to write down her innermost thoughts and dreams. Unknowingly, and with eloquence beyond her years, Anne Frank proceeded to document one of the most horrifying series of events known to mankind: the strategic elimination of Jews by the Nazi regime during World War II.

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl was first published in 1947. It has since been translated into 67 languages, and is one of the most widely-read books in the world. No doubt, it is Anne’s wise observations and heartfelt descriptions of her yearnings and worries that still resonate with readers more than 60 years later. Through the writings of this young teenager, the world has been given a window into the everyday life of the

Frank family as they hid for two years in the cramped quarters of a musty attic in Amsterdam.

Elmhurst Historical Museum proudly shares Anne's story through a national traveling exhibition, "*Anne Frank: A History for Today*," which will be on display at **Elmhurst Historical Museum, 120 E. Park Ave. in Elmhurst**, from **February 1 through March 27, 2011**. This traveling exhibit from the Anne Frank Center USA tells the story of the Holocaust through photos from the Frank family scrapbook, excerpts from Anne's diary, and images of the historical events that took place around them during the turbulence of World War II.

"*Anne Frank: A History for Today*" illustrates the continuing relevance of Anne's diary and the important lessons it teaches about the values of tolerance and respect, and the significance of human rights. The exhibit is appropriate for middle school and high school-age students with discretion and adults (note: some graphic photos of concentration camps are featured).

"*Anne Frank: A History for Today*" was developed by the Anne Frank House and is sponsored in North America by the Anne Frank Center USA. The exhibit will be open at Elmhurst Historical Museum on **Tuesday through Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.**, and general **admission is free**.

Special Events and Programs

The Elmhurst Historical Museum is hosting a number of special events and programs related to the exhibit in the coming weeks:

1) January 30—Exhibit Open House and Teacher's Workshop

On **Sunday, January 30**, a public open house and preview of the exhibit will take place from **1:00 to 4:00 p.m.** A documentary, "*The Short Life of Anne Frank*," will be screened in the Education Center at 2:00 p.m. followed by a brief discussion led by an educator from the Anne Frank Center in New York. In addition, a Teacher's Workshop will be held from 1:00-2:00 p.m. in the Education Center. A limited number of spots are

available for the workshop, so teachers should call **630-833-1457** or e-mail ehm@elmhurst.org now to make a workshop reservation. Admission to the open house and workshop is free.

2) February 17—Tea Time Talk: The Legacy of Anne Frank

On **Thursday, February 17 at 1:00 p.m.**, the monthly adult Tea Time Talk will be presented by a docent from the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Skokie who will share the legacy of Anne Frank and examine how Anne's story continues to engage a worldwide audience today. Admission is free.

3) March 6—Book Discussion

Interested participants are encouraged to read the book, *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* (the definitive edition is suggested). A limited number of books are available at the Elmhurst Public Library. On **Sunday, March 6 at 2:00 p.m.** in the Elmhurst Historical Museum's Education Center, the Museum will host a book discussion led by two former Elmhurst teachers. All ages are welcome and light refreshments will be served.

4) Community Diary Project

Throughout the exhibit's run, Elmhurst Historical Museum will provide an opportunity for visitors to share their reflections in a Community Diary that will be available within the exhibit. This journal will be placed in the Museum's archives following the exhibition and excerpts will be available online.

5) Online Resources

Resources to learn more about the Frank family's ordeal and the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam are available online at www.elmhursthistory.org in the Exhibits section (under Upcoming Exhibits). In particular, an award-winning virtual tour called "The Secret Annex Online," which was produced by the Anne Frank House, takes viewers into the rooms where the Frank family and others hid for two years. It is an excellent learning resource for anyone interested in knowing more about the Franks and the history behind the diary.

Anne Frank's Legacy

Anne Frank was determined to be a writer when she grew up but never made it past the age of fifteen; she died of typhus in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945. Little did she know as she faithfully wrote in her diary that one day she would achieve her dream and become one of the most famous writers of all time.

"Anne Frank: A History for Today" honors the courage and legacy of this prolific young writer. Be sure to see this provocative and touching exhibit, which will be on display from February 1 through March 27. For more information on the exhibit and related events, call the Elmhurst Historical Museum at (630) 833-1457 or go to www.elmhursthhistory.org.

The Elmhurst Historical Museum is a local history museum dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the history of Elmhurst and the surrounding community. General admission is free with nominal fees for special programs. For more information, call 630-833-1457 or visit our web site at www.elmhursthhistory.org.

PHOTO CAPTION:

Anne Frank's diary has been translated into 67 languages and is one of the most widely-read books in the world. Photo copyright © AFS/AFF, Amsterdam/Basel

PULL QUOTE:

"I keep my ideals, because in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart."

- Anne Frank

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