

Holocaust Interfaith service

A MASSIVE, open-air interfaith prayer service in Skokie on Sunday, April 16, will launch a series of public programs generated as part of the community's response to the threat of a proposed Nazi march.

Several thousand people are expected to attend the event, set for 3 p.m. at the Niles West high school stadium under the auspices of the Niles Township Clergy forum.

The service will be a fitting opening to "Holocaust Remembrance Week," an area-wide observance being coordinated by the public affairs committee (PAC) of the Jewish United Fund. PAC is the umbrella group for 34 major Jewish groups in the Chicago area.

Sol Goldstein, chairman of a PAC committee on individual liberty and Jewish security, said he expects

Illinois Gov. James Thompson, Chicago Mayor Michael Bilandic, Skokie Mayor Albert Smith and other local officials to proclaim the week of April 16 as "Holocaust Remembrance Week." Both houses of the Illinois legislature have issued resolutions in recognition of the event, commemorating the slaughter of six million Jews, six million Christian civilians and hundreds of thousands of American soldiers during World War II.

REMEMBRANCE WEEK and other educational programs are one phase of the planned PAC response to the Nazi demonstration. The second is a large, but peaceful, counter-demonstration to be held only if the Nazis actually march. Those plans, Goldstein said, "will be announced once

litigation is concluded and the situation becomes clear."

A subcommittee of Goldstein's group, created especially to coordinate and develop Holocaust educational programs, said that more than a dozen have been scheduled, many of them at agencies supported by the Jewish United Fund through the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

David Lerner, chairman of the Education subcommittee, said that three of the programs would help prepare viewers for the NBC-TV series "Holocaust," to be aired April 16-19.

IN SKOKIE, the public library will exhibit a Holocaust display during April and is also developing a speakers bureau. Niles Township clergy will conduct a series of Christian-Jewish Bible studies on Sundays from April 2-23 at St. Peter's United Church of Christ.

Jewish community centers throughout the Chicago area will feature Holocaust programs during April. The Mayer Kaplan JCC, 5050 Church, Skokie, will hold a seminar for teenagers from 7 to 11 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, and one for adults from 8 to 10 p.m. Monday, April 24.

Federation Forum, a radio program of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, aired over WCLR-FM every Sunday at 11 p.m., will devote its April 16 broadcast to the Holocaust. WBEZ-FM public radio will feature two programs on the Holocaust as part of a seven-week series on Jewish communal life being aired at 8:30

p.m. Wednesday and 5:30 p.m. Saturdays.

A seven-week training course for 25 teachers in Holocaust curriculum will begin April 24 at Spertus College of Judaica. It is a joint program with the Anti-Defamation League and the Chicago Board of Education.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, which has developed a Holocaust resource center, will hold a four-week seminar for 25 high school social studies teachers from June 26 to July 21.

The Chicago Yiskor Committee has scheduled its annual Memorial for the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust at K. I.N.S. congregation, 2800 North Shore on April 30.

Also on April 30, thousands of Christians are expected to participate in what is believed to be the first united Christian response to the Holocaust in the United States.

The event will draw from many groups, including the Episcopal Diocese, the Catholic Archdiocese, the United Presbyterian church, the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist church, the Disciples of Christ, the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ and the Lutheran Church of America-Illinois Synod.

Yom HaShoah, the traditional Holocaust Remembrance day, is Thursday, May 4. On that day, the PAC, in cooperation with the Chicago Board of Rabbis and the Spertus Museum, will hold its annual observance at the Zell Holocaust Memorial, a permanent exhibit at the museum, 618 S. Michigan, Chicago.