

The Bulletin

OF THE CAROLYN AND LEONARD MILLER CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES

VOLUME 27

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

SUMMER 2023

Prescott Receives Meritorious Public Service Medal

by Katherine Quimby Johnson



On Friday, February 10, 2023, Jody Prescott, member of the Miller Center Board of Advisors and lecturer in Computer Science and in Environmental Studies at UVM, was presented with a Meritorious Public Service Medal by the Norwich University Army ROTC Pioneer Battalion in recognition of the *Ordinary Soldiers* lesson plan he developed with the support of the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies and has presented to senior Norwich Army cadets over the past decade.

Prescott was nominated for the award by the Army ROTC battalion at Norwich University, and the nomination was approved by Major General Antonio Munera, commander of Army Cadet Command. Announcing the award for the Department of Computer Science at UVM, Geeda Searfoorce wrote, “Prescott’s outstanding commitment to educating senior Norwich Army cadets on ethical leadership during times of conflict has undoubtedly made a significant impact on their lives and future military careers. His dedication to this lesson plan is a testament to his passion for teaching and to making a difference in the

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Alan Steinweis Receives Distinguished Achievement Award

by Katherine Quimby Johnson



Photo: Crombie McNeill

At the 2022 biennial Lessons and Legacies Conference of the Holocaust Educational Foundation, Alan Steinweis, former director of the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies, Professor of History, and Raul Hilberg Distinguished Professor of Holocaust Studies, was honored with the foundation’s Distinguished Achievement Award. The Distinguished Achievement Award recognizes extraordinary contributions in the field of Holocaust Studies through groundbreaking scholarship and devotion to students.

As one of Steinweis’s first graduate students, Edward Westermann, Regents Professor of History at Texas A&M—San Antonio, delivered the *laudatio* and spoke from experience when he described the honoree as a superb mentor. Those who shared their commendations through Westermann included a number of outstanding scholars in Holocaust studies, many familiar to long-time friends of the Miller Center, including Gerhard Weinberg, Peter Hayes, and Christopher Browning, who praised Steinweis for his generosity as a colleague and as an academic role model, both in his scholarly publications and international standing.

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lives of the cadets with whom he works.”

The *Ordinary Soldiers* lesson plan uses a case study of a German reserve infantry battalion in World War II to explore leadership, ethics, and law during a genocidal armed conflict. Specifically, the seminar examines how an order to kill civilians was followed differently by three individual officers. At Norwich each fall, two lessons are set aside for the *Ordinary Soldiers* lesson plan: the first is a lecture on the case study, the second is dedicated to small group work. According to Prescott, the approximately 100 cadets who engage with the lesson plan each year are a great audience.

This widely successful lesson plan has also been taught at military service academies. In addition, the fall of 2023 will mark ten years of *Ordinary Soldiers* being used in “Human Rights and Law of Armed Conflict,” an annual course offered to international military officers at the Defense Institute of International Legal Studies on the campus of the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. There, it is one of three “blocks” Prescott offers over a day and a half; the maturity and experience of these audiences allows them to complete the work more quickly than the cadets.

A lecturer at UVM since 2012, Prescott retired from the Army JAG at the rank of colonel. While on active duty, Prescott was claims chief in Sarajevo in 1996 and was Chief Legal Advisor for the multinational forces in Afghanistan from 2008 to 2009. Following his military service, he taught at the US Army Command & General Staff College and at West Point. For the 2020–21 academic year, he was Adjunct Scholar for the Modern War Institute at West Point. In addition to co-writing numerous articles on gender, environment, the law, ethics, and military operations, Prescott is the author of *Armed Conflict, Women, and Climate Change* (Routledge, 2018), *Protecting Civilians and Detainees: Empirical Assessment of IHL Training* (Anthem Press, 2021) and, with D. Frey, W. Beorn, J. Ciardelli, and G. Skidmore, is co-author of *Ordinary Soldiers: A Case Study in Ethics, Law, and Leadership*, (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2014).

Ordinary Soldiers Lesson Plan:

[www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/media/Ordinary Soldiers Oct 2016.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/media/Ordinary%20Soldiers%20Oct%202016.pdf)

Steinweis Receives Award, continued from Page 1

Steinweis’s research was described as “careful,” “thoughtful,” and “thorough,” and that research has led to an impressive array of publications. They include four monographs published by, among others, Harvard University Press and Cambridge University Press. Steinweis’s nine co-edited volumes include two in Berghahn Books’ series “Vermont Studies on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust” (*The Law in Nazi Germany: Ideology, Opportunism, and the Perversion of Justice*, 2013, co-edited with Robert Rachlin; and *The Germans and the Holocaust: Popular Responses to the Persecution and Murder of the Jews*, 2015, co-edited with Susanna Schrafstetter). Steinweis is also series editor of *The Comprehensive History of the Holocaust*, a monograph series published by the University of Nebraska Press in association with Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, and he is a member of the International Advisory Board for *The Persecution and Murder of the Jews of Europe*, the English-language edition of *Die Verfolgung und Ermordung der europäischen Juden*, a multivolume documentary history of the Holocaust. Steinweis has also published over forty book chapters, articles in the field’s most prestigious journals, and a steady output of book reviews. As Westermann said, “It is of course, not only the volume of work, but also its quality and resonance within the field that is impressive.” Steinweis’s international standing is evidenced by fellowships and professorships at Oxford University, Ben Gurion University, the University of Augsburg, Munich’s Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, the Freie Universität Berlin, and numerous other German institutions. He has also served as Ina Levine Senior Invitational Scholar at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

We, at the Miller Center, are fortunate to have benefited from Alan Steinweis’s guidance and expertise since 2009, when he became the Center’s second director, a position he held until 2018. As a recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award, Steinweis joins the company of other former UVM faculty Doris Bergen and Frank Nicosia (emeritus). Dan Michman, who presented the 2018 Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture at UVM, was also honored at the 2022 ceremony.

www.uvm.edu/cas/holocauststudies

Yehudi Lindeman, Hidden Child, Scholar, Teacher, Member of the Miller Center Board of Advisors 1938 – 2022

by David Scrase and Katherine Quimby Johnson



Yehudi Lindeman was born to middle-class Dutch Jews in Almelo, Holland, in 1938. By 1942 it was clear that life in German-occupied Holland was fraught with mortal danger, and Yehudi's parents placed their only child in the hands of the Dutch underground, of which his father Nico was a member.

He was given a new identity under the name Rudy de Boer and was shunted from one rescuer to the next whenever danger threatened. He was later to recall that he came to a fresh feeling of stability, of security, whenever he was seated behind the rider on a bicycle going through the night to a new refuge. He also estimated that he changed location in this way at least fifteen times. "Forty, fifty, eighty people contributed in some essential way" to his survival, he underlined gratefully.

Of approximately 140,000 Jews in Holland before the war, only about 34,000 survived. Of those survivors only about 3,900 were children. As Yehudi later wrote, "Just as I believe that the saving presence of 'righteous' people at such a crucial stage of my early life has given me an unusually upbeat and positive outlook on life, it has also given me a special perspective on the ways of the world." That 'special perspective' was: ordinary, private people were to be trusted; the authorities were not. Those of us who knew Yehudi can attest to the power of both beliefs throughout his life.

After the war he was re-united with his mother Bets, who had passed as a Christian; his father did not survive. Yehudi began his studies in Amsterdam, but soon after moved to the US, where he studied and received a doctorate in comparative literature and spent his academic career at McGill University in Montreal.

Like most survivors, especially child survivors, Yehudi did not talk about his experiences for many years. By the 1980s, however, he began to acknowledge the desirability, the necessity, of coming to terms with one's past ordeals, of recording one's experiences, of speaking out. The news coverage of events in Argentina under the brutal military regime, the pictures of Argentinian women protesting the "disappearance" of their children and husbands raised his consciousness. Claude Lanzmann's film *Shoah* was another influence, and Yehudi then provided video testimony for the Shoah Foundation. In a flurry of activity in 1989

and 1990 he co-founded the Federation of Jewish Child Survivors and founded Living Testimonies, an archive of survivor accounts at McGill University. His work at Living Testimonies led him to edit and provide an introduction for the widely praised *Shards of Memory: Narratives of Holocaust Testimony* (2007). He also volunteered at the Montreal Holocaust Museum, the Board of which stated of Yehudi that "his impact on Holocaust remembrance and oral history in Montreal is unparalleled." He also worked tirelessly to develop a network of child survivors of Nazi persecution in Holland and beyond.

Yehudi met his first wife and the mother of his only child, David Markus, in Burlington, and he was a quiet owner of vacation property in the Alburgh area. Robert Bernheim, a prominent member of the Miller Center's founding community, brought him to the Summer Seminar that the Center offered for several years. Michael Schaal, a member of the Miller Center's Board of Advisors, also invited Yehudi to participate actively in the Gatherings of Holocaust Survivors and their Families in those years, and Yehudi subsequently became an early and faithful member of the Miller Center Board. He also contributed to the Center's publications *The Holocaust: Introductory Essays* (1996), *Personal Accounts* (2001), and *Making a Difference: Rescue and Resistance During the Holocaust; Essays in Honor of Marion Pritchard* (2004). He will be missed.

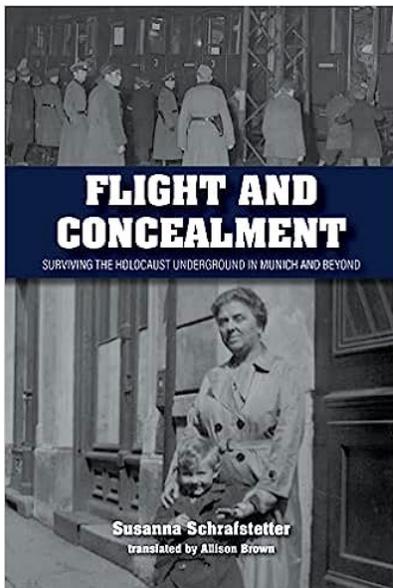
Yehudi Lindeman (pictured below, left, with two of his rescuers) died on June 12, 2022. He was 84. He is survived by his son, David Markus, his second wife Françoise de la Cressonnière, and her children and grandchildren.



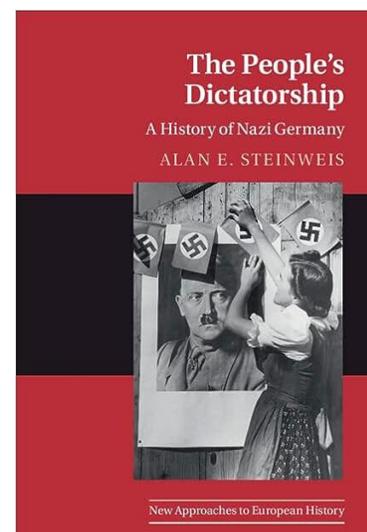
Book Announcements

The Miller Center for Holocaust Studies congratulates Professors Susanna Schrafstetter and Alan Steinweis on the publication of their latest books. Schrafstetter's *Flight and Concealment: Surviving the Holocaust Underground in Munich and Beyond*, translated by Allison Brown, was published by Indiana University Press in 2022. Steinweis's *The People's Dictatorship: A History of Nazi Germany* appeared in January 2023 as volume 64 in Cambridge University Press's series "New Approaches to European History."

Schrafstetter's *Flight and Concealment: Surviving the Holocaust Underground in Munich and Beyond* is more than simply a translation of her *Flucht und Versteck: Untergetauchte Juden in München–Verfolgungserfahrung und Nachkriegsalltag* (Wallstein, 2015). In addition to revisions and updating, the English-language volume includes a separate chapter on specific groups of helpers and those they helped, with a focus on hidden children and church aid. Mark Roseman, holder of the Pat M. Glazer chair in Jewish Studies at Indiana University, has described the book as "...one of the most thoughtful, well-researched, and genuinely comparative historical studies on rescue that I know of, and one of the only ones to reflect on restitution, postwar trajectories, and the place in postwar Germany for the survivors." Geoffrey J. Giles of the University of Florida lauds the book by writing "In terms of the critical analysis of all her sources and the existing literature, this study could stand as a model for undergraduate or graduate teaching. Beyond that, the searing stories of suffering, and the touching tales of assistance offered, make this a book that will appeal to a broader non-academic audience as well."



Steinweis's most recent book integrates the latest research into ordinary Germans' experience of Nazi Germany with previous knowledge on the subject to create a comprehensive account that is both wide-ranging and concise. *The People's Dictatorship: A History of Nazi Germany* covers its topic from "The Idea of Nazism" to "The Destruction of Nazi Germany" in under 300 pages. The spectrum of topics also includes Nazi policies and economic measures targeted at the working and middle classes, youth, and university students; persecution targeting Jews and other minorities; eugenics programs from forced sterilization to mass murder of the disabled; Nazi economic and foreign policy; the initial phases of World War II; the mass murder of European Jews during the war; and the German home front. The volume has been praised by scholars such as Elizabeth Harvey, professor of history at the University of Nottingham, who writes: "Steinweis expertly guides the reader through complex issues, highlighting the interconnectedness of Nazi expansionism and racial policy, and offering cogent reflections on the relationship between the Nazi regime and the German people." Or, in the words of Peter Hayes, Professor Emeritus of History and German at Northwestern University: "Bringing to bear a wide variety of source materials and angles of vision, Steinweis provides not only a fine introduction to the history of Nazi Germany, but also a sure-footed guide to the state of knowledge on a host of formerly or currently contested issues."



Elizabeth Farrell Interns at the Holocaust Museum LA

by Elizabeth Farrell

I began at the University of Vermont as an undergraduate studying history with a minor in Holocaust studies, with coursework that concentrated on twentieth-century European history and German language classes. I then entered the Accelerated Master's Program in history, which allows students to apply six credits toward both the bachelor's and master's degrees. As a graduate student, I expanded my studies both geographically and temporally, completing projects that related to Jewish history, including tolerance of Jews in the Ottoman Empire during the fifteenth century and the French Trial of the Talmud in 1240. I branched out in other classes to research issues relating to collective memory and memorialization, including the process of redress for Korean "Comfort Women" following World War II and the portrayal in texts for elementary school audiences of the first Thanksgiving. In spring 2023, I finished my second year in the Accelerated Master's Program.

In the summer of 2022, between my first and second year in the Accelerated Master's Program, I worked, with the support of the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies, as an intern at the Holocaust Museum LA in Los Angeles, California. The museum was founded in 1961 by Holocaust survivors who met while learning English.

My first day was spent touring the museum, listening to the various audio tours, and speaking with Renée Firestone, a Hungarian survivor of Auschwitz and a participant in the "Dimensions in Testimony" exhibit from the University of Southern California's Shoah Foundation. The Shoah Foundation, also known as the Institute for Visual History and Education, maintains a major collection of interviews with witnesses to the Holocaust and other genocides. The technology of "Dimensions in Testimony" allows visitors to speak one-on-one with Firestone, asking her questions and receiving real-time responses. Other days at the



museum I spent with interns and staff and also interacted with Holocaust survivors invited to speak to visiting student groups. These student visits typically included a survivor sharing the story of their Holocaust experiences, a question-and-answer session between the students and the survivor, and a reflection activity for the students.

Most of my time, however, was spent transcribing interviews from the Holocaust Museum LA's collection of video and oral testimonies of Holocaust survivors and American Jewish liberators. A memorable part of this experience was meeting Mary Bauer, a Hungarian survivor, after I had transcribed her video testimony. In the course of this work, I learned

about some of the complications of providing a witness account, about unusual methods for surviving, and about the experiences of Holocaust survivors after immigration to the United States. Additionally, I learned about the organization of the museum's archive, worked in the physical archive space, and maintained a log of digitized interviews. My work was supervised by Jordanna Gessler, vice-president for Education and Exhibits at the Holocaust Museum LA and a 2011 UVM graduate with a minor in Holocaust Studies.

Following my time in LA, I returned to Burlington and continued my work for the museum remotely. One of the most notable testimonial interviews I transcribed was with Shmuel Askler, who survived as a child with his family as refugees in the Soviet Union and Soviet East Asia. In his interview, he discussed not only his experiences as a refugee, but also his estrangement from the Holocaust survivor community; he never viewed himself as a "true" survivor. Building on my experiences of the summer, in the fall 2022 semester I wrote a research paper exploring questions that Askler's interview sparked. I subsequently expanded on that research in a broader project exploring questions of identity among Polish Jews who survived the Holocaust by fleeing to the Soviet Union.

UVM's Department of History and the Miller Center Welcome Dr. Harry Merritt



In July 2023 Dr. Harry Merritt began a two-year appointment as a postdoctoral fellow in history and Holocaust Studies at UVM. Merritt comes to us from Brown University, where he has been serving as Visiting Assistant Professor of History, and where he earned his PhD in 2020, under the supervision of Professor Omer Bartov. He also received an MA in history from Brown University, an MA in German and European Studies from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, and a BA in political science and Russian studies from Eckerd College. Prior to his visiting professorship at Brown University, Merritt also taught at Amherst College, Wesleyan University, and Boston University.

Over the coming four semesters, Dr. Merritt will be teaching courses in Russian and Holocaust history, including a fully enrolled course on twentieth-century Russia in the fall 2023 semester. His current research centers on the social, cultural, and political impacts of World War II on Latvia, and he is working on a book that considers the creation, wartime experience, and legacies of Latvian national military units that fought on opposing sides of the war. His most recent publication is a chapter in *Defining Latvia: Recent Explorations in History, Culture, and Politics* (Central European University Press, 2022), and he has also recently had an article published in *Nationalities Papers*.

Kaelber Offers New Course in the Holocaust Studies Curriculum

In the fall semester of 2022, Professor Lutz Kaelber taught "Sociology of the Holocaust" at the University of Vermont for the first time. Thirty-nine students participated in this new course, which will be offered again in the 2023–24 academic year. In 2021, Kaelber received an Ader-Konigsberg Course Development Grant from the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies to plan this new course.

In developing one of the few courses at institutions in the United States or worldwide that provides a sociological approach to the Holocaust, Kaelber drew on a variety of scholarship in the fields of sociology and history. The course addresses themes such as the politics of exclusion, that is, the rise of Nazi ethno-nationalism and its policies in Germany and beyond; deviance and social control in Nazi Germany; and "eugenics" and "racial hygiene;" as well as broader themes such as disability, genocide, trauma, and collective memory.

The main readings for the course were four books, supplemented with some twenty articles. Doris Bergen's *War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust* provided a historical foundation, for few of the students were history majors or Holocaust studies minors. Other books included Christopher Browning's classic study on Reserve Police Battalion 101 (*Ordinary Men*), Henry Friedlander's study on "euthanasia" and the Holocaust (*The Origins of Nazi Genocide*), and Stefan Kühl's book on bureaucratic organizations and the Holocaust (*Ordinary Organizations: Why Normal Men Carried Out the Holocaust*), a pioneering study of the types of actions carried out by members of organizations ranging from Raul Hilberg's "desk-murderers," the railway bureaucrats, to members of the killing squads, and everything in between.

The course emphasized throughout how students can learn "with" history, rather than "from" it. Thus, when analyzing historical events, students explored how such events might be relevant to events today, or to events that may occur in the near future.

Peter Fritzsche Visits the University of Vermont

By Patrick Sullivan

On Monday, October 24, 2022, Professor Peter Fritzsche gave the annual Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture to an audience that included faculty, students, and members of the community at UVM's Jack and Shirley Silver Pavilion. The speaker is W.D. and Sara E. Trowbridge Professor of History at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where he is also affiliated with, among others, that university's Center for Global Studies and its Program in Jewish Culture and Society. Fritzsche's work has been recognized with McGill University's Cundill History Prize (2008), and a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship (1999). His published works span a wide range of historical subjects that include Nazism, memory, German aviation, the French Revolution, and the Berlin press, among others. His most recent book, *Hitler's First Hundred Days: When Germans Embraced the Third Reich* (New York: Basic Books, 2020), sheds new light on Germany's transition from democracy to dictatorship in 1933.

In his lecture, titled "Boycott! Saturday, April 1, 1933, 10:00 a.m.: How Germans Became Defenders of the Fatherland and Jews the Enemy," Fritzsche discussed the significance of the Nazi government's first public mass action against Jews. He introduced the titular, state-sponsored boycott within the context of the early Third Reich, less than a month after an NSDAP-led coalition secured a narrow parliamentary majority. During this period, Nazi officials sought to cultivate a national mentality that regarded Jews as outsiders and existential threats to Germany.

Fritzsche discussed how the April 1 boycott served this goal, as crowds gathered to watch soldiers stand at the doorways of targeted businesses while Nazi agitators shouted denunciations and distributed antisemitic leaflets. Describing the conversations among onlookers, he stressed that observers—regardless of their sympathies—discussed the "Jewish Question" as an abstract concept, ignoring

their German-Jewish neighbors while doing so. The event, Fritzsche explained, was an early and effective means of separating Jews from Germans in the public imagination of the Third Reich.

Throughout the talk, Fritzsche provided his audience with quotes, images, and anecdotes illustrating the paranoid and prejudiced atmosphere to which the boycott contributed. He directed particular attention to a family of German nationalists who admired Hitler, but faced social ostracism when the father's Jewish ancestry became public knowledge. Fritzsche then described how the father and daughter struggled to reconcile their patriotism with their Jewish heritage. Such examples offered attendees a close look at individual experiences that comprised the antisemitic social environment of Nazi Germany.

Prior to the Hilberg Memorial Lecture, Fritzsche spoke with students in Jonathan Huener's graduate seminar "Nazi Germany and the Churches." The students read Fritzsche's *Life and Death in the Third Reich* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2008) in preparation for the discussion, and had the opportunity to ask the author about his book. Conversation was not limited to this subject, however. Students enjoyed a lengthy discussion that encompassed the guest's winding career path, his varied areas of research, and his approach to the subject of history. Topics of conversation included ethno-nationalism, the role of religion in Nazi Germany, and the numerous ways to understand human behavior. The seminar visit provided graduate students with wide-ranging insights from a distinguished and multifaceted historian.

The Annual Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture is supported by Jerold D. Jacobson, Esquire, UVM Class of 1962, and his wife Gertraude Holle-Suppa.

Patrick Sullivan is a second-year graduate student in the Master of Arts Program in History at the University of Vermont.

Kevin Spicer at UVM

By Nathan Colgrove and Brooklyn Howe

On Tuesday, November 15, 2022, the Rev. Dr. Kevin Spicer gave a lecture in UVM's Memorial Lounge, sponsored by the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies. Ordained in the Congregation of Holy Cross, Spicer is Dean of the May School of Arts and Sciences at Stonehill College, where he has served as the James J. Kenneally Distinguished Professor of History. His research focuses on the relationship between the German state under National Socialism and the Roman Catholic Church. Spicer has authored a number of books, including *Hitler's Priests: Catholic Clergy and National Socialism* (DeKalb, IL:

Northern Illinois University Press, 2008) and *Resisting the Third Reich: The Catholic Clergy in Hitler's Berlin* (DeKalb, IL: Northern Illinois University Press, 2004). He is editor of *Antisemitism, Christian Ambivalence, and the Holocaust* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2007) and co-editor, with Martina Cucchiara, of *The Evil that Surrounds Us: The WWII Memoir of Erna Becker-Kohen* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2017). Spicer's current research investigates the relationship between Jews and Catholics in Germany between 1918 and 1945. Chair of the Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations, Spicer

Kevin Spicer, continued from Page 7

is also co-editor for the journal *Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations*.

Spicer's lecture, "Behind the Glass of their Lantern: German Catholic Bishops and National Socialism," examined the responses of the church hierarchy and individual Catholic clergymen to the Nazi party and National Socialism as a whole. Spicer believes that historians of the Nazi era have tended to generalize about the church's response to National Socialism, painting the church as either a bastion of resistance or a bystander to Nazi crimes. Such blanket characterizations do not account for differences between the Protestant and Catholic churches or for denominational or regional differences within those groups. So, Spicer argued, more scholarly attention must be focused on the individual. For example, in 1929, Monsignor Dr. Phillip Jakob Meyer argued that membership in the Nazi party and membership in the Catholic Church were mutually exclusive, an opinion that became unpopular shortly after Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933. German Catholic bishops also disagreed on how much antisemitism was acceptable. Some supported anti-Jewish legislation. Others, like Michael von Faulhaber, believed that Jews were included among the "neighbors" all Christians were supposed to love and care for.

During his time at UVM, Spicer also visited the graduate seminar "Nazi Germany and the Churches" and the undergraduate course "The Holocaust" for question-and-answer sessions about his research, particularly on the Catholic church's response to National Socialism. During his visit to "Nazi Germany and the Churches,"

Spicer discussed the research for his book, *Resisting the Third Reich*, and the state of the field, emphasizing that current research is moving toward local histories and the responses of individual clergy. For example, Spicer traced the life of Bernhard Lichtenberg, provost of Saint Hedwig's Cathedral in Berlin, and his resistance to the Third Reich.

In the undergraduate course on the history of the Holocaust, Spicer fielded a variety of questions, concerning, for example, the responses of individual priests to the T-4 ("euthanasia") program and the deeper historical relationship between Judaism and Catholicism. Spicer also noted that of the roughly 26,000 priests living in Germany during the Third Reich, only about 100 helped Jews. For Spicer, this indicated that, while some clergy were willing to aid the persecuted, a vast majority were more concerned with members within the walls of the Catholic Church.

Spicer is a knowledgeable and experienced historian who clearly has a passion for his field of study. This, combined with his approachability and desire to help others learn, made for a meaningful experience in both classroom discussions and at his public lecture, as Spicer deepened for all in attendance our understanding of the relationship between Nazism and the Catholic Church.

Professor Spicer's visit to UVM was sponsored by the Kinsler Endowment for Holocaust Studies.

Nathan Colgrove and Brooklyn Howe are first-year graduate students in the MA program in history at the University of Vermont.

Edward Westermann Delivers Annual Holocaust Commemoration Lecture

by Ian Price

On Tuesday, April 18, 2023, Professor Edward B. Westermann, Regents Professor of History at Texas A&M—San Antonio, presented the Miller Center's annual Holocaust Commemoration Lecture. Westermann's extensive research focuses on Holocaust and genocide studies, Nazi Germany, World War II, and military theory. He has authored or edited six books, including *Flak: German Anti-aircraft Defenses, 1914 – 1945* (Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas Press, 2001), *Hitler's Police Battalions: Enforcing Racial War in the East* (Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas Press, 2005), and *Hitler's Ostkrieg and the Indian War: Comparing Conquest and Genocide* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2016). The recipient of numerous teaching awards, Westermann is also a former Fulbright Fellow at the Freie Universität Berlin, a United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Fellow, and a three-time fellow of the German Academic Exchange Service, among other honors.

Westermann's lecture, "Intoxication, Masculinity, and Mass Murder in Nazi Germany," explored the topic of his most recent book *Drunk on Genocide: Alcohol and Mass Murder in Nazi Germany* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2021). In his lecture, Westermann analyzed in detail the intersection between alcohol, hyper-masculinity, and the Holocaust. Alcohol, he argued, was not responsible for the Shoah, but it did facilitate violence. Far from being simply a "coping mechanism," alcohol was used in rituals of celebration by perpetrators before, during, and after acts of mass murder and sexual assault. In the "Nazi East's" "zones of exception," alcohol lowered inhibitions and promoted masculine competitiveness among German soldiers and their allies. In the process, perpetrators were intoxicated—literally and figuratively—with murder and power. Westermann marshalled an impressive source base, including testimonies, diaries, letters, and memoirs in support of his argu-

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Edward Westermann, continued from Page 8

ment, drawing from both perpetrators and survivors.

Even to those well-versed in Holocaust history, Westermann's examples were shockingly brutal. SS and Police Battalion Officers taking photographs of atrocities and distributing them as souvenirs; constructing sadistic games of humiliation, torture, and rape; and holding feasts at killing sites, complete with music and merrymaking, were just some of the many case-studies examined. Westermann ended his lecture with a powerful image of a Jewish woman and her child being interrogated by Nazi authorities. To Westermann, these two people were "six-million-and-one, and six-million-and-two"—a reminder that historians should never forget the human aspect of our discipline.

In addition to his public lecture, Professor Westermann visited two undergraduate classes on April 18: Professor David Massell's North American Indian History course and Professor Alan Steinweis' Nazism and Fascism seminar. In the former, he discussed his research concerning the similarities and differences between the American West and the "Nazi East." In the seminar, he discussed how *Drunk*

on Genocide evolved from his article "Stone-Cold Killers or Drunk with Murder?" and answered questions from students. Notably, he called attention to the use of music during the Shoah. Drawing on his personal experience with weapons as a former officer in the United States Air Force, he dispelled the notion that music was used to hide the sound of gunfire in mass killings, and was instead a component of the Nazi bonding experience. Westermann answered student questions with empathy and clarity, providing students with the opportunity to learn not only from an expert, but also one who was able to give clear answers to complicated questions without minimizing complexity.

Professor Westermann's visit to UVM was underwritten by the Henry and Lili Altschuler Endowment for Holocaust Studies.

Ian Price is a first-year student in the Master of Arts program in history at the University of Vermont.

Holocaust Studies Courses Offered at UVM • 2022-2023

Fall 2022

History 2240 – World War II (Buchanan)
 History 2790 – The Holocaust (Huener)
 History 5990 – Graduate Seminar: Nazi Germany and the Churches (Huener)
 Sociology 2220 – Sociology of the Holocaust (Kaelber)

Spring 2023

History 2240 – World War II (Buchanan)
 History 2750 – History of Poland (Huener)
 History 2760 – Modern Germany (Schrafstetter)
 History 2792 – Jews in Modern Europe (Steinweis)
 History 4790 – Seminar: Nazism and Fascism (Steinweis)
 World Literature 1155 – Italians and the Holocaust (Borra)

Fall 2023

Film and Television Studies 2460 – The Holocaust in Film (Neroni)
 German 3620 – Jewish Life in Germany (Levine-West)
 History 2760 – Modern Germany (Schrafstetter)
 History 2790 – The Holocaust (Steinweis)
 History 4790 – Seminar: Jews in Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy (Schrafstetter)
 World Literature 1155 – Italians and the Holocaust (Borra)

Book Review

Wendy Lower, *The Ravine: A Family, A Photograph, A Holocaust Massacre Revealed*
258 pp. Mariner Books, 2021.

By Nathan Gondelman

The Holocaust was a catastrophe, the size and scope of which pushes the boundaries of what one can comprehend. But its singularity can also obscure the reality that the Holocaust was, in many respects, the sum total of millions of discrete tragedies that played out against the backdrop of World War II. Indeed, capturing the individuality of the human tragedies within the broader context of the Holocaust is an especially challenging endeavor for any historian. This task becomes particularly difficult as the 1930s and 1940s grow more distant, inexorably escaping what remains of our collective living memory. Although Nazi Germany ultimately lost the war, the potential for the Holocaust to be sapped of each of its unique human threads threatens to reify the very dehumanization of the victims that facilitated the killing of so many innocent people. To counter this, and to provide respect and dignity to the victims, scholars must remain vigilant in foregrounding the human stories embedded in the larger genocide: the men, women, and children who were murdered and the perpetrators who voluntarily elected to participate.

In *The Ravine: A Family, A Photograph, A Holocaust Massacre Revealed*, Wendy Lower fluently moves between the micro and the macro of the Holocaust through the lens of one photograph. Lower, John K. Roth Professor of History and director of the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights at Claremont McKenna College, did not set out to write a conventional history. Rather, *The Ravine* is at least partially a memoir of Lower's journey after she was shown a photograph of an in-progress shooting in Miropol, Ukraine, in October 1941, while she was doing archival research at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

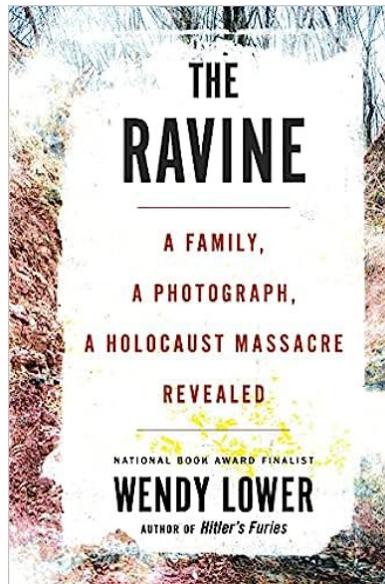
The photograph shows a woman being shot in the head over the edge of a pit while holding the hand of one child and protectively covering another child. These were but three victims among many more murdered as part of that day's *Aktion* against the Jews of Miropol in the type of mass, open-air shooting that characterized the beginning

of the systematic effort by the Third Reich to annihilate the Jews of newly occupied Soviet territory in summer and fall 1941. In addition to the victims, whose moment of death is captured in this haunting photograph, one can also see German and Ukrainian perpetrators and witnesses.

Instead of treating the photograph as yet another heartrending but anonymous image captured during the wider genocidal turmoil, Lower makes it her priority to discover everything she can about the photograph: precisely where in Miropol the massacre took place, as well as the identity of the photographer, the perpetrators, and the victims. This is of particular importance because so many of the Jewish victims of these types of open-air shootings in the Soviet Union—shootings which were responsible for around a third of the total number of murders that occurred during the Holocaust—remain anonymous, whereas the identity of victims of extermination camps was often recorded more formally by the Germans.

Lower also captures how personal the murders themselves were in the context of communities like Miropol. The perpetrators were not simply Germans who followed the advancing Wehrmacht east, where killers and victims were unknown to one other. Many Ukrainians willfully collaborated

with the Germans to murder Jews in large numbers, and many knew their victims by name. Often, there was nothing anonymous about these massacres. Moreover, because the woman being murdered in the photograph is presumed to be the mother of the two children, Lower takes special care to highlight Nazi emphasis on destroying the most elemental and intimate social unit: the family. For the Nazis, this was done not only to preempt any possibility of Jewish revival and vengeance in later generations, but also out of base, unalloyed cruelty. Because so many of these families, including the family we see in the photograph, had their lives brutally cut short in front of one another, Lower is determined to bring justice to the victims by



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Book Review, continued from Page 10

identifying them, their killers, and the circumstances that led to their deaths.

In reference to our own, possibly detached relationship with the rare images that display the exact instant when one of the millions of murders that comprised the Holocaust occurred, Lower exhorts her readers and other scholars to learn more about the picture before their eyes. Lower writes, imploringly, that “When we turn away from [these photographs], we promote ignorance. When we display them in museums without captions and download them from the internet with no historical context, we denigrate the victims. And when we stop researching them, we cease to care about historical justice, the threat of genocide, and the murdered missing.” In *The Ravine*, Lower follows her own guidance and engages in a meticulous, forensic reassembly of the murder recorded in the photograph without sacrificing an exploration of the history and memory that surrounds it.

Despite the seemingly endless catalog of photography from World War II and the Holocaust, Lower instructively points out that snapshots capturing the act of killing itself are rare. Instead, what we see depicted in most photographs are the moments before and after the murders. Photography was becoming an increasingly mainstream hobby before the war, and significant numbers of ordinary Europeans owned personal cameras. But as committed as the Reich was in its genocidal aims and its commitment to documenting the war for propaganda purposes, Lower notes its clear prohibition on photographing atrocities as they occurred in an effort to avoid a potential leak that could incite anti-German propaganda or jeopardize the security of its occupying forces—precisely what makes this photograph so aberrational and noteworthy.

Lower’s quest to locate the exact site of the massacre, as well as the victims, the photographer, and the perpetrators, takes her across three continents. The degree to which she is able to flesh out the context of this individual photograph, as well as a few others that were a part of the series, is a staggering feat of both research and persistence. Because *The Ravine* is unique among works of Holocaust scholarship in that Lower’s investigation reads like a thriller (albeit thoroughly tasteful and professional, given the subject matter), this review will forgo revealing exactly what Lower does and does not discover in her research, forensics, and travels. Yet it is undeniable that following Lower on her journey is as captivating for readers as it is revelatory, and the findings are striking. In many ways, the work and effort invested in uncovering the story behind this photograph and what

it depicts is an embodiment of Lower’s plea: that readers not permit photographs of victims to become hollow and stripped of the individual human tragedies within them. And Lower clearly demonstrates the intentionality and diligence required to meet the task. Her ability to implement the very same practice of contextualization and humanization of photographs that she encourages readers to undertake within the same book is a clever, creative, and engaging achievement of historical scholarship.

In *The Ravine*, Lower also effectively weaves the photograph and her accompanying research into a wider historical environment. Seasoned readers of histories of the Holocaust will find *The Ravine* stimulating because a photograph is an innovative lens through which to explore the subject, and the research into the individuals appearing in the image is original. But this is a book that can be equally appreciated by more casual readers. With efficiency and clarity, Lower interlaces the basic history of World War II, the Holocaust, the postwar Soviet reckoning, and twenty-first century Ukrainian memory into the narrative around the photograph in a way that should allow any reader to appreciate the book’s message.

That such contextualization is accomplished with brief, yet informative digressions that do not disrupt the cohesion of the primary narrative is a testament not only to Lower’s skill as a writer, but also to her purpose in writing the book. Many works of this type might assume a baseline historical knowledge from the audience and forego such an effort, making it less accessible to a mass readership. But Lower’s illumination of the history surrounding the photograph is useful, given that the mass shootings in the Soviet Union in 1941 are a facet of the Holocaust that is not nearly as well known among the general public as the deaths that occurred in concentration and extermination camps. It also is consistent with Lower’s broader wish to not let the individuality and humanity of the victims in these photographs evaporate with the passage of time. To accomplish this, engagement with the Holocaust, and with the photographs that enable us to reflect on how it was not just one mass tragedy but an aggregation of millions of individual acts of murder and destruction at the most intimate level, must transcend the world of historians and scholars in order to reach the general public. *The Ravine* demonstrates how such a task should be undertaken and is an inspired, powerful, and distinctive addition to Holocaust scholarship.

Wendy Lower will present the 2023 Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture November 13, 2023 (see page 18).

News from the Faculty



Adriana Borra (German, Italian, French), energized by her sabbatical and a dozen professional development opportunities, was happy to be back in the classroom, teaching Italian beginners during the 2022-23 academic year. While enjoying the steep learning curve of her Italian students, she is missing her “German side” and is looking forward to returning to the German program eventually. Her full-year-sabbatical felt like the perfect balance between traveling, some *Dolce vita* and some *Deutsche vita*, and reconnecting with both her mother

tongues and home countries on the one hand, and, on the other, writing and pursuing her passion for lexicography and “drama in education.” A fun project during her sabbatical grew into a forty-five-minute interview with Stephanie Tonneson, a former Italian student, for her [photoblog](#) and her podcast [Sit on the Floor](#), talking about growing up with and teaching multiple languages. The highlight of her sabbatical came in June 2022, when she took part, as a member of the most diverse group of people she has ever worked with, in *Kult- und Kulturstadt Berlin*, an intense one-week workshop offered through a grant from the Goethe Institute Berlin. After returning to UVM, she shared her new findings in two presentations: “Berlin 2023; Unterrichtsideen zu 6 digitalen Funden für eine virtuelle Reise in die Hauptstadt” (Ideas on How to Use 6 Digital Sites for a Virtual Trip to the German Capital), a one-hour workshop presented at the NHAWLT (New Hampshire Association of World Language Teachers) conference in Concord on March 25, 2023, and “What Drama in Education Taught Me,” a departmental presentation at UVM on October 5, 2022.

Andrew Buchanan’s (History) article “Globalizing the Second World War” was published in *Past & Present*, issue 258, in February 2023. He recently completed a short monograph for Bloomsbury Press entitled *From World War to Postwar: Revolution, Decolonization, Cold War, and the Consolidation of American Hegemony*, to be published December 2023. He is currently wrapping up editorial work (with Ruth Lawlor of Cornell University) on a collection of articles entitled *Essays on the Greater Second World War*.



Meaghan Emery (French) wrote two book chapters that were published in edited volumes: “The Absent Wife: An Embarrassing Oversight or Fundamental Other in *The Plague*,” published in *Critical Insights: The Plague* (Salem Press, 2023), and “Sickness, Heartache, Punishment, and War: Lessons on the Absurd, or Birth of an Ethic,” published in *Coming Back to the Absurd: Albert Camus’s The Myth*

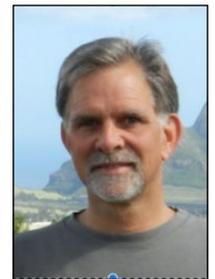
of *Sisyphus 80 Years On* (Brill, 2023). Her book, *The Algerian War Retold: Of Camus’s Revolt and Postwar Reconciliation*, has been accepted for publication in translation with Presses Universitaires de Rennes (France).



Rob Gordon (emeritus, Anthropology and African Studies) recently published *Ethnologists in Camouflage* (University of Namibia Press, 2022) describing the role of anthropologists in developing South Africa’s Apartheid policy and its subsequent field-testing in Namibia. He also published an article on the first trial for high treason in what was then

South West Africa in *New Contree*. An extended essay accompanying Margaret Courtney-Clarke’s *When Tears Don’t Matter* is currently in press with the art-book publisher Steidl in Germany. Courtney-Clarke is an internationally renowned photographer who collaborated with Maya Angelou on several projects. Currently on an extended research trip to Namibia, Gordon is working on a number of projects: preparing a book on the Bushman (or San) genocides during the early twentieth century in southern Africa; researching the Bondelswarts Massacre, which precipitated the first major crisis in the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations; and, having discovered that outside of Europe only Brazil and Argentina had more Nazi Party members than Namibia, he is currently writing an essay on the social organization of the colonial Nazis before and during World War II.

In addition to directing the Miller Center and teaching courses on the history of the Holocaust and history of Poland, **Jonathan Huener** (History) spent the summer of 2022 as a Distinguished Fellow of the Center for Holocaust Studies at the Institute for Contemporary History in Munich, Germany, where he continued research on his next book, a history of the Reichsgau Wartheland, a region of Poland annexed by Nazi Germany in 1939. While at the Institute, he delivered a public lecture titled “‘Mustergau’?: Nationalsozialistische Germanisierungspolitik im Reichsgau Wartheland” as part of a colloquium on “The Holocaust in its Contexts” with the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität. In October he presented a paper on “The Catholic Church and the Jews in German-Occupied Poland” at an international conference on “Les Églises face à la Shoah—Perspectives européennes” convened at the Paris Mémorial de la Shoah. In March 2023 he delivered the annual James J. Kenneally Lecture in Jewish-Christian Relations at Stonehill College on the topic “The Polish Catholic Church under Nazi Occupation, 1939-1945: Persecution, Perseverance, and Antisemitism.” With his co-editor Andrea Löw, Huener also completed work on *Poland under German Occupation, 1939-1945: New Perspectives*, which will appear later this year with Berghahn Books as the ninth volume in the



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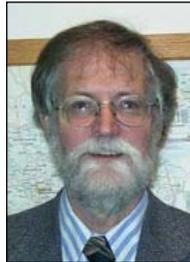
News From the Faculty, continued from Page 12

series “Vermont Studies on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust.” In October 2022, his book *The Polish Catholic Church under German Occupation: The Reichsgau Wartheland, 1939-1945* (Indiana, 2021) was named a finalist for the Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne (Polish Historical Association) *Pro Historia Polonorum* Award for the Best Foreign-Language Book on the history of Poland and Poles or the central European region published in the years 2017 – 2021.



Lutz Kaelber (Sociology) organized a panel at the 2022 Lessons and Legacies XVI Conference of the Holocaust Educational Foundation in Ottawa, Canada, and presented a paper on “Persecution and Killing of ‘Jewish Mixed-Race’ Minors at Hadamar.” In 2023, he published an article on Hadamar in the *Zeitschrift für Geschichtswissenschaft* and co-authored a book chapter on the physician Dr. Irene Asam-Bruckmüller, a mass murderer at the asylum in Ansbach, Bavaria, for an in-progress volume in the series *Täter-Helfer-Trittbrettfahrer*.

Dennis Mahoney (emeritus, German and Russian) has published a 1,200-word entry on Novalis (Friedrich von Hardenberg) in Volume 21 of the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter, 2023). In addition, he and his wife have just published their translation of one of Franz Kafka’s final stories: *Der Bau / The Burrow: A Bilingual Edition* (Burlington, Vermont: Fomite Press, 2022).



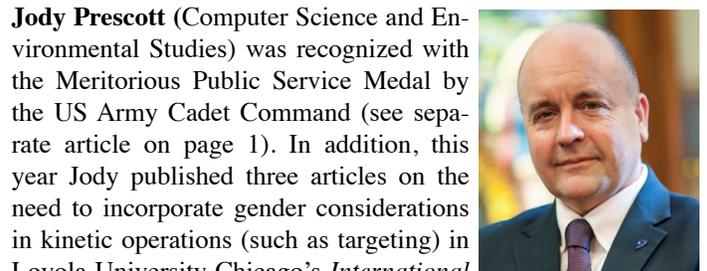
Wolfgang Mieder (emeritus, German and Russian) published four books: “*Ich nehme kein Blatt vor den Mund*”. *Sprichwörtliches in den Tagebüchern von Joseph Goebbels* (Würzburg: Königshausen & Neumann, 2022), “*Hinterfragte Weisheiten*”. *Modifizierte Sprichwörter in Literatur, Medien und Karikaturen* (Wien: Praesens Verlag, 2022), “*Der Mensch lebt nicht vom Brot allein*”. *Sprichwörtliches aus der Bibel in der modernen Lyrik* (Burlington, Vermont: The University of Vermont, 2022), and “*Keine Rose ohne Dornen*”, *sagte der Hase, als er die Igelin freite. Moderne Sagwörter aus Literatur und Medien* (Würzburg: Königshausen & Neumann, 2022). He received a special honor when twenty-one of his major essays were translated and edited by Juwen Zhang and appeared in Chinese as *Folkloristic Studies of Proverbs: Essays by Wolfgang Mieder* (Beijing: China Social Sciences Press, 2022). Several of Mieder’s articles on proverbs and other folkloric matters appeared in Egypt, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Russia, and the United States, among them “‘Mein Haus ist meine Burg’ – ‘My House is My Castle’: Zur Überlieferung und Bedeutung eines deutsch-englischen Sprichwörterpaars,” *Kairoer Germanistische Studien*, 24 (2022), 99-112; “‘Black Is Beautiful’: Hans-Jürgen Massaquoi’s Proverbial Autobiography *Destined to Witness* (1999),” *Pro-*

verbium, 39 (2022), 173-223; “‘Kein Blatt vor den Mund nehmen’: Sprichwörtliche Somatismen als Sozialkritik in der modernen Lyrik,” in *Aktuelle Trends in der phraseologischen und parömiologischen Forschung weltweit*, ed. Anna Gondek, Alina Jurasz, Przemysław Staniewski, and Joanna Szczek, 2 vols. Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovač, 2020. I, 25-57; and “‘Different Strokes for Different Folks’: Ruminations on Authentically American Proverbs,” *Reproducible Language Units from an Interdisciplinary Perspective*, ed. Joanna Szerszunowicz. Białystok: University of Białystok Publishing House, 2022. 17-55. He also presented several lectures in Europe and the United States.

Nicole Phelps (History) participated in a conference on Microhistory & the US in the World at University College London in May 2023. Her article, “Rights without Ratification: How the US Government Found Its Way to Peace with Austria in the 1920s,” will appear in the *Journal of Austrian-American History* in 2023. Since December 2021, she has led the College of Arts and Sciences’ effort to implement a new university-wide course numbering system and general education curriculum, which will take effect in fall 2023.



Jody Prescott (Computer Science and Environmental Studies) was recognized with the Meritorious Public Service Medal by the US Army Cadet Command (see separate article on page 1). In addition, this year Jody published three articles on the need to incorporate gender considerations in kinetic operations (such as targeting) in Loyola University Chicago’s *International Law Review*, NATO’s *Legal Gazette*, and the U.S. Army War College’s *Parameters*. He gave presentations at the joint workshops of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the European chapter of the International Society for Military Ethics in Amsterdam in September and Athens in May, and at the annual Women, Peace, and Security Symposium at the Naval War College in April. Jody also served as a consultant for a Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance project providing research and advice to the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense as it revamps its law of armed conflict education and training programs to meet the realities of the Russian invasion. He also gave a presentation on this subject in June at the Virginia Bar’s annual Military Law Section’s continuing legal education series in Richmond.



Susanna Schrafstetter (History) spent most of 2022 on sabbatical in Germany. She undertook research on several projects, including her book on German-Jewish refugees in fascist Italy. She also worked on a number of other publications, including a book chapter about the denazification of Nazi judges and executioners in postwar Germany. Her book *Flight and Concealment: Surviving the Holocaust*



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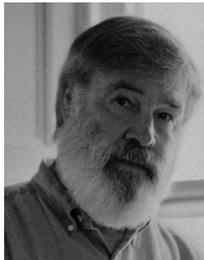
Underground in Munich and Beyond was published by Indiana University Press in 2022. (See the article on page 4.) Her article “Ferramonti, not Palestine: The Failed Aliyah Bet of the ‘Benghazi Group’ (1939–1943),” is forthcoming in *Holocaust & Genocide Studies*.



Helga Schreckenberger (German and Russian) attended the week-long conference “La Retirada (1939) and Exile (1933-45): The Pyrenees as location of Flight and Internment, Repression and Commemoration,” in Perpignan, France. She presented a paper on the Austrian writer Hertha Pauli’s escape from German-occupied France. She also presented

on the Austrian exile writer Vicki Baum’s novels in American context at a workshop at the Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften in Vienna. In addition, she attended the International Feuchtwanger Conference in Los Angeles, where she spoke on gender dynamics in Lion Feuchtwanger’s novel *Exil*. Her article, “‘Dort, wo die Logik versagt’—The Role of Coincidence in Dimitré Dinev’s *Engelszungen* (2003),” appeared in the journal *Monatshefte*. She also participated in a virtual panel discussion of the Israeli Documentary Film *Pizza at Auschwitz* at the Holocaust Museum LA in Los Angeles.

Happily retired for over a decade, **David Scrase** (emeritus, German and Russian) drops into his former academic life from time to time with equal pleasure. In October 2022 he delivered a Zoom lecture on Bernard Gotfryd, a noted photographer for many years with *Newsweek*, and a survivor who often visited UVM. Gotfryd wrote about his life growing up in Radom, Poland, in a volume of stories titled *Anton the Dove Fancier and Other Tales from the Holocaust* (1990). In his lecture about Gotfryd’s life and work, Scrase concentrated on one tale, “The Fountain Pen.” The adventures of the Waterman pen of the title, its different owners, the places, scenes, and actions, reflect the events of Gotfryd’s own life, first in prewar Poland, then during the war years in various ghettos and camps and, finally, as an immigrant in the US. Scrase’s lecture was part of a series celebrating the centenary of the sculptor Chaim Grossman’s own immigration to the United States. Grossman was a successful artist whose legacy led to the establishment of the Renee and Chaim Grossman Foundation in New York City. The Foundation houses the Bernard Gotfryd photographic archive.



During the summer of 2022, **Alan E. Steinweis** (History) served as a visiting professor at the University of Augsburg, where he taught a seminar on the Kristallnacht pogrom. He spent the fall 2022 semester on leave in Munich, conducting research for a book about an attempt to

assassinate Hitler in November 1939. His most notable achievement of the year was the publication of the *The People’s Dictatorship: A History of Nazi Germany*, which appeared with Cambridge University Press in early 2023 (see the article on page 4). He also published a book chapter, “Coming to Terms with the History of the Humanities in the Third Reich,” in Bernard Levinson and Robert Ericksen eds., *The Betrayal of the Humanities: The University in the Third Reich* (Indiana University Press, 2022). He gave several guest talks, including the annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day lecture at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and an online presentation for the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. In November 2022, he received the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University (see separate article on page 1).



G. Scott Waterman (emeritus, Psychiatry) is retired from teaching and clinical care but remains engaged in activities related to the philosophy of psychiatry and to Holocaust studies. He serves on the Executive Council of the Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry and chairs its Karl Jaspers Award Committee, which annually selects the best paper by a student or trainee on a topic within that subdiscipline. Since last spring he has published two articles in the journal *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology*: “Epistemic Humility: Accruing Wisdom or Forsaking Standards?” and a response to commentaries on that piece titled “Epistemic Humility, Justice, and Honesty in Clinical Care.” In May 2023 he chaired a panel titled “Conceptual Competence in Psychiatric Training: Building a Culture of Conceptual Inquiry” at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in San Francisco. He remains honored to chair the Advisory Board of the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies.

“Epistemic Humility, Justice, and Honesty in Clinical Care.” In May 2023 he chaired a panel titled “Conceptual Competence in Psychiatric Training: Building a Culture of Conceptual Inquiry” at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in San Francisco. He remains honored to chair the Advisory Board of the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies.

Steve Zdatny (History) was on sabbatical leave in 2022-2023. In Le Havre in October, he read a paper on the crisis of social housing in fin-de-siècle France, and took the opportunity of time off from teaching to finish the book he has been writing for several years. Success! *A History of Hygiene in Modern France: The Threshold of Disgust* is under contract. It was finished at Lincoln College, University of



Oxford, where Professor Zdatny was a resident and an Academic Visitor at the Oxford Centre for European History for the spring 2023 semester. While in Oxford, he presented his work at Lincoln College and Merton College, the Oxford Nineteenth-Century History seminar, and Oxford Brookes University. And he will finish up an article on Vichy France promised for a collection of essays honoring a French colleague, before (sadly) leaving Oxford and heading to France. He will return to Vermont for the Fall 2023 semester.

Student News



Elisabeth Champion (BA, Smith, 2021) has completed her MA in history at UVM with a focus on Holocaust studies and Nazi Germany. In spring 2023, she defended her MA thesis on gender, sex, and sexuality in the Hitler Youth. For the thesis, she examined Nazi sexual politics and

how such politics were applied to adolescents in the youth organization, revealing that teenage promiscuity became increasingly alarming for party officials and influenced the ways leaders in the Hitler Youth policed teenagers' sexuality. Supported by the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies and the Department of History, she had the opportunity to travel to Berlin for six weeks in the summer of 2022, where she participated in an intensive German language course. With a David Scrase Student Research Grant from the Miller Center, she returned to Berlin in January 2023 to conduct research for her thesis in the German Federal Archives. Elisabeth hopes to pursue a PhD in History and to continue exploring the topic of teenage sexuality in Nazi Germany.

Elisabeth Farrell (BA, History, 2021) completed her second year of UVM's Accelerated Master's Program in history and received her MA in May. During the summer of 2022, she worked as an intern transcribing survivor testimony at the Holocaust Museum LA. Her work at the museum



developed into research on Polish Jews who survived the Holocaust as refugees in the Soviet Union. (See separate article, p. 5.) In April Farrell completed an extended essay on these Polish Jews, examining their journeys and identity during and after World War II, as a final project for the MA. Farrell also completed her comprehensive exams on history and memory in memorial and museum sites, which she is now putting into practice leading tours and developing programs at the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse, New York.



Ian Price (BA, History, UCLA, 2020) completed his first year as a graduate student in the Department of History's MA program, studying modern Central and Eastern European history with a focus on fascist propaganda and economic discourse. For the 2022-23 academic year, he had the privilege to work as a Teaching Assistant for Professor Andrew Buchanan, and he served on the editorial board of the

2022-2023 *UVM History Review*. Next academic year, Price plans to examine the Nazi expansion into Eastern Europe as a colonial project and explore connections to Germany's colonial past. This summer he will be in Berlin, furthering his German skills at the Humboldt-Institut.

Patrick Sullivan (BA, History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2021) is a graduate student in his second year of the MA program in history. His main areas of interest include popular thought and national identity in fin-de-siècle Europe. During the past two years at UVM, he has had the privilege to work as a staff assistant at the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies. Among other tasks, he assisted in editing of a collection of essays for the forthcoming book *Poland under German Occupation*, edited by Professor Jonathan Huener of UVM and Andrea Löw of the Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History, Munich. He has also been a teaching assistant for Professors Sarah Osten and Sean Field, a research assistant for Professor Paul Deslandes, and the Executive Editor of the *UVM History Review*. Patrick worked on completing a master's thesis on the subject of German colonialism during the summer 2023.



www.uvm.edu/cas/holocauststudies

Alumni News



Lauren Fedewa (MA, History, 2018) is a PhD Candidate in the Department of History and the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto. Lauren's research interests include Holocaust and genocide studies, modern Jewish history, and European history. She is currently working on her dissertation, tentatively titled "'Always One Step Away from Death, and Always

Afraid': Jewish Women who 'Passed' as Polish-Christian Forced Laborers in Germany" under the guidance of Prof. Doris Bergen. Lauren holds a Claims Conference Saul Kagan Fellowship in Advanced Shoah Studies (2022-2024) and has been the recipient of several other fellowships and awards, including a fellowship for the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization (2022), the Connaught International Scholarship for Doctoral Students (2019-2024), a US Fulbright Student Research Grant (2018), the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies Summer Graduate Research Assistantship (2017), and the Auschwitz Jewish Center Fellowship (2017).



Will Fitz (BA, European Studies, 2019) has returned to the U.S. from a three-year stint in Germany, where he had moved after graduation with the intent to study disaffection and its relationship to right-wing populism in the formerly East German city of Leipzig. He likes to say that he spent much of this time, especially through

the turbulence of the pandemic and Brexit, studying *immigrant* rather than native discontent, as he became both fascinated with and at the mercy of social democracy's undersides of exclusion. In 2021 he successfully fought the city government in court when it misplaced his residence permit and subsequently classified him as an illegal immigrant subject to 20,000 Euros in fines. In his last year there, he had a unique firsthand opportunity to study the use of Confederate symbolism among the German far right, which he plans to turn into written work. This fall Will begins an MA in Social Science at the University of Chicago, where he hopes to learn survey methodologies to study how social policies can address discontent in majority populations without coming at the expense of minority and immigrant mobility.

Nate Gondelman is a UVM alumnus (BA, History, 2009; MA, History, 2016). As a student, Nate's primary focus was the relationship between German military fortunes and the trajectory of the Holocaust. Currently, Nate is the Assistant Program Director at UVM's Stu-



dent Accessibility Services Office, where he helps oversee the implementation of accommodations for students with disabilities. Nate has previously written articles for the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies *Bulletin* and served as an editor and writer for the *UVM History Review*. He also serves on the Miller Center's Board of Advisors.

After finishing his spring semester, **Liam Hilferty** (BA, History, 2021) spent his summer improving his German-language skills at the Humboldt-Institut Berlin. When he returned, he completed his MA in history after successfully defending his thesis, "*Glorry to the Heroes: The Commemoration of the OUN and UPA in the Ukrainian Diaspora*, in September 2022. This work, supervised by Professor Susanna Schrafstetter, examined the history of twentieth-century Ukrainian nationalism during World War II and its legacy by focusing on Ukrainian nationalist monuments built in the United States after the war. Moreover, the thesis analyzed issues of historical memory, mythmaking, and conflicts that arise when an accepted historical narrative is challenged. Since then, Liam has found employment with the New York State Assembly as a Constituent Liaison in his local Assembly member's district office. In the future, he hopes to continue studying German and potentially pursue his PhD.



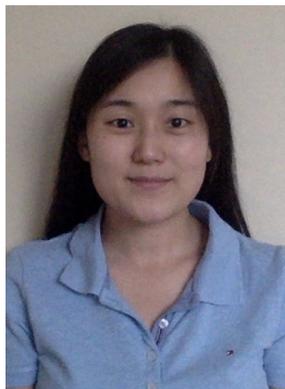
Dženeta Karabegović (BA, Political Science and German, Holocaust Studies Minor, 2004) is working on her habilitation at the University of Salzburg's Sociology and Human Geography Department, where she has also taught since 2018, focusing on diaspora, social movements, migration, and research methods. Her co-edited volume with the University of Missouri press, *Bosnian Studies—Perspectives from an Emerging Field*, was published in February 2023. The book's essays bring together

scholars who are themselves members of the second- and third-generation Bosnian diaspora to reflect on how the study of Bosnia and Herzegovina has changed over the last three decades. The volume reflects on the asymmetrical nature of knowledge production, the positionalities of scholars in the Global North, those with migration backgrounds, those working in post-conflict settings, and the narratives and discourses created as a result. Utilizing primarily qualitative and interpretative methods, the essays set out what the field looks like and the direction it will take in the next three decades—about who will study, what kinds of topics will be studied, and the approaches that could be undertaken, foregrounding important themes relevant in post-conflict societies like Bosnia and Herzegovina: genocide, inter-

continued on Page 17

Alumni News, continued from Page 16

generational trauma, and migration. Last year, Karabegović was a co-editor of a book based on the Sixth Biennial Conference for Migration and Integration Research in Austria, which she helped to organize at the University of Salzburg in 2020. The volume succinctly brought together critical scholarship demonstrating that migration research cannot be limited to conducting “migrantology,” but needs to engage with global hierarchies and social developments while not losing sight of the agency of migrants and migration processes.



Michelle Magin (MA, History, 2012) is an Associate Editor in the Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Currently, she works on the academic journal *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, an independent, peer-reviewed international journal featuring research articles, interpretive essays, and book reviews in the social sciences and humanities. Previously, she was a

Program Assistant in the Social Welfare division at the New York

offices of the Claims Conference, a nonprofit organization that secures material compensation for Holocaust survivors around the world. In 2016, she completed her PhD in German Studies at the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom.



Dana Smith (MA, History 2012) is currently in her fifth year as an Assistant Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire. She teaches introductory-level courses on the Holocaust, women and the Holocaust, and Jewish history,

as well as upper-level courses on art and the Holocaust, Nazi Germany, and Holocaust memory in popular culture. Following the publication of *Jewish Art in Nazi Germany: The Jewish Cultural League in Bavaria* (New York: Routledge, 2022), she has begun work on her next project. Tentatively titled *The Führer and the Bard: Shakespeare in Nazi Germany*, this work will explore the creation, consumption, and reception of Shakespeare during the twelve years of the Third Reich—placing the “Aryanized” version of Shakespeare produced under Nazism in the broader scope of the centuries-long German cult of Shakespeare.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS DURING THE 2023–2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

Please note: as dates may change, please continue to check our website for details and scheduling information!

www.uvm.edu/cas/holocauststudies

Saturday and Sunday, October 28 – 29, 2023

The Ninth Miller Symposium: “Italy and the Holocaust”

“More Italian than the Italians: Italy’s Jews Before and During Fascism”
Alexander Stille, Columbia University

“What is Left Now of My Life?’: The Italian Jewish Community Facing Fascist Persecution.”
Ilaria Pavan, IMT School for Advanced Studies, Lucca

“Italo-German Collaboration in the Persecution of the Italian Jews”
Amedeo Osti Guerrazzi, University of Padua

“All Are Going to Devise Ways to Save Themselves. But how?’: Reactions of Italian Jews and Italian non-Jews to the Persecution and Deportation of Jews from Italy (1943-1945)”
Sara Berger, Fritz Bauer Institute, Frankfurt

“The Vatican and the Holocaust in Italy: Old Controversies and New Insights”
Gerald Steinacher, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

“Primo Levi and the Survivors of the Auschwitz Chemical Commando”
Sergio Luzzatto, University of Connecticut

Commentary and Closing Discussion Moderated by
Thomas Schlemmer, Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History, Munich

PREVIEW OF EVENTS DURING THE 2023–2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

Please note: as dates may change, please continue to check our website for details and scheduling information!

www.uvm.edu/cas/holocauststudies

Monday, November 13, 2023

“The Ravine: A Family, a Photograph, a Holocaust Massacre Revealed”

The Annual Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture
Marking Thirty Years of Holocaust Studies at UVM with

Wendy Lower, Claremont-McKenna College

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

“Anti-Semitism, Imperial Autarky, and the Greater Second World War”

Andrew Buchanan, Faculty Fellow in Holocaust Studies
University of Vermont

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

*“The Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk:
At the Crossroads of History, Memory, and Politics”*

Paweł Machcewicz, Polish Academy of Sciences

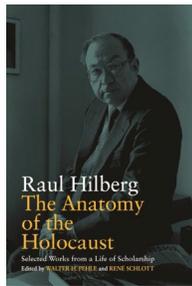
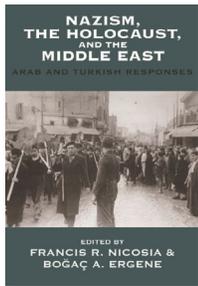
Wednesday, April 10, 2024

*“The Last Letter: A Father’s Struggle, a Daughter’s Quest,
and the Long Shadow of the Holocaust”*

The Annual Holocaust Commemoration Lecture

Karen Baum Gordon, Independent Scholar

Vermont Studies on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust *Series*



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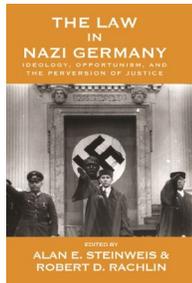
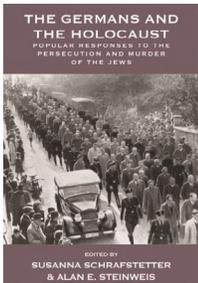
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Volume 5

THE LAW IN NAZI GERMANY Ideology, Opportunism, and the Perversion of Justice

Edited by Alan E. Steinweis and Robert D. Rachlin



Volume 8

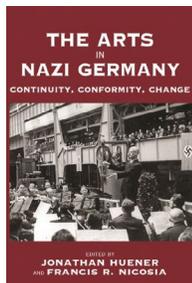
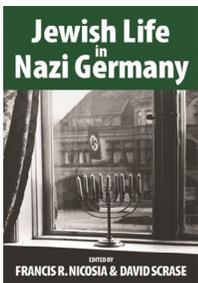
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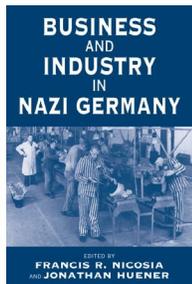
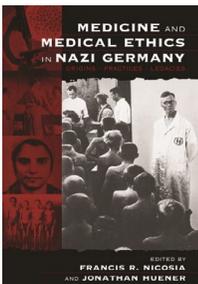
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The Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for
Holocaust Studies *Bulletin*
is published annually and is edited by
Katherine Quimby Johnson
and Jonathan Huener