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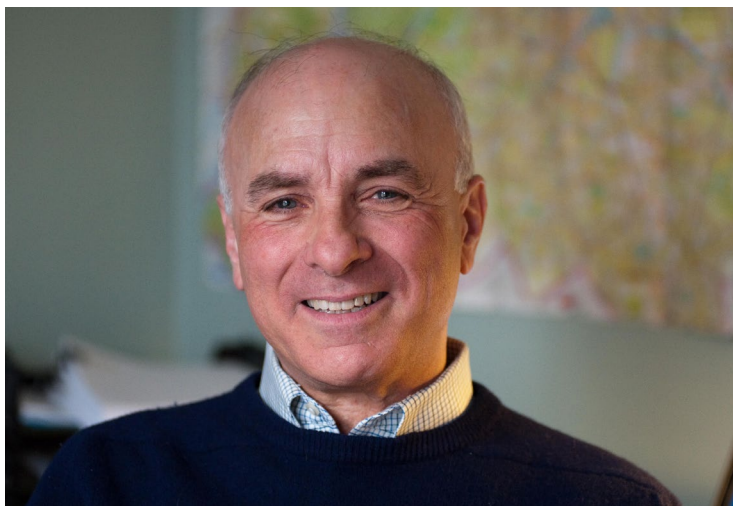
THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

SUMMER 2024

Remembering Frank Nicosia 1944–2023

by Alan E. Steinweis

Faculty, students, and friends of the Miller Center mourn the loss of their friend and colleague Francis R. Nicosia, affectionally known to all as Frank, who passed away on November 29, 2023, at age 79, after an extended illness. Frank was professor emeritus of history as well as the Raul Hilberg Distinguished Professor of Holocaust Studies at UVM Emeritus.



Born in 1944 and raised in Philadelphia, Frank received his BA from Penn State in 1966, having spent a semester studying in Spain. He went on to earn a master's degree at Georgetown University, after which he spent a year in Libya as a Peace Corps volunteer. Frank's next move was to the small town of Marktoberdorf in the Allgäu region of Germany, where he worked for two years as a teacher in a secondary school (*Gymnasium*). Frank then headed to Montreal, where, in 1978, he completed a PhD in German history at McGill University under the mentorship of Professor Peter Hoffmann. After teaching in temporary

positions at Dalhousie University in Halifax and Concordia University in Montreal, in 1979 Frank received an appointment to a tenure-line position at St. Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont, where he remained for almost three decades. Beginning in the 1990s, he worked closely with colleagues from the newly established Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont, serving on the Center's advisory

board and co-editing volumes based on the Center's Miller Symposia. In 2008 Frank moved to UVM to take up the newly established Raul Hilberg Distinguished Professorship of Holocaust Studies. He retired from UVM in 2018.

Frank was a prolific author and editor. He was best known for his research and publications on German-Jewish history, Zionism, and Nazi policy toward the Middle East. His first book, based on his McGill doctoral dissertation, was *The Third Reich and the Palestine Question* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1985). He then co-wrote, with

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Professor Frank Nicosia, continued from Page 1

Donald Niewyk, *The Columbia Guide to the Holocaust* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000). Returning to his focus on the Middle East, Frank published two additional major books: *Zionism and Anti-Semitism in Nazi Germany* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008), and *Nazi Germany and the Arab World* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014). Based on these books, Frank won the admiration of his colleagues in German history and Holocaust studies, who praised the depth and breadth of Frank's archival research, the nuance of his arguments, and his assiduous avoidance of partisanship or sensationalism when writing about subjects with potential implications for contemporary debates over Israel/Palestine.

In addition to his authored books, Frank produced many edited and co-edited volumes. Among them are five Miller Symposium volumes in the series "Vermont Studies on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust," published in New York and Oxford by Berghahn Books: (co-edited with Jonathan Huener) *Medicine and Medical Ethics in Nazi Germany: Origins, Practices, Legacies* (2002); (co-edited with Jonathan Huener) *Business and Industry in Nazi Germany* (2004); (co-edited with Jonathan Huener) *The Arts in Nazi Germany: Continuity, Conformity, and Change* (2006); (co-edited with David Scrase) *Jewish Life in Nazi Germany: Dilemmas and Responses* (2010); and (co-edited with Boğaç Ergene) *Nazism, the Holocaust and the Middle East: Arab and Turkish Responses* (2018). Frank produced two important edited collections of documents related to German Jews and Zionism: *The Central Zionist Archives Jerusalem, 1933 – 1938*, vols. 3 and 4 in *Archives of the Holocaust: An International Series*, ed. Sybil Milton and Henry Friedlander (New York: Garland, 1990); and *Dokumente zur Geschichte des deutschen Zionismus 1933 – 1941*. Schriftenreihe wissenschaftlicher Abhandlungen des Leo Baeck Instituts, vol. 77 (Tübingen: Mohr/Siebeck, 2018). Together with two prominent German colleagues, Frank published an important collection of essays on German Jews between the Kristallnacht and the start of the deportations, (co-edited with Beate Meyer and Susanne Heim), *Wer Bleibt, Opfert Seine Jahre, Vielleicht Sein Leben: Deutsche Juden, 1938 – 1941* (Göttingen: Wallstein, 2010).

He also published a highly regarded collection of essays on the German resistance, (co-edited with Lawrence Stokes) *Germans Against Nazism: Nonconformity, Opposition and Resistance in the Third Reich* (Oxford: Berg Publishers, 1990; new paperback edition, Berghahn Books, 2015).

Frank compiled an impressive list of fellowships and awards over his decades-long career. He held two senior Fulbright fellowships in Germany, in 1992–93 and 2006–07, and received the Revson Foundation fellowship at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington in 2000. He also received fellowships from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). Highly dedicated not only to scholarship, but also to teaching and mentoring, in 2000 Frank was recognized as "Vermont Professor of the Year" by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching/Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. In 2014, the Holocaust Educational Foundation awarded him its "Distinguished Achievement Award in Holocaust Studies."

Frank was a man of diverse interests and passions. He loved opera, gardening, and the Philadelphia Phillies baseball team. He was well travelled, having lived in Canada, Europe, China, and North Africa. He was deeply dedicated to several causes, including single-payer health care, the UVM faculty union, and peaceful coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians. His engagement with these serious issues did not, however, lead him to take himself too seriously. He was known to his friends, colleagues, and students as a compassionate and good-natured man with a self-deprecating sense of humor. All of us who are associated with the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies extend our condolences to Frank's wife, Professor Ellen Oxfeld of Middlebury College, and to other members of Frank's family. We are honored to have known and worked with Frank.

Alan E. Steinweis is professor of history and Raul Hilberg Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Vermont. He served as Director of the Miller Center from 2009 to 2018.

Miller Center Facilitates the Donation of the Wilhelm Moll Papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

by *Kassandra LaPrade Seuthe*

In November 2023, faculty and staff of the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies facilitated the donation of the Wilhelm Moll personal papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The papers reflect the work of Viennese-born Wilhelm Moll. Moll, who fled Nazi persecution in 1939, went on to serve with the US State Department in the postwar era. The papers are comprised of documentation related to Moll's work for the Editorial Projection Branch of the Information Services Division of the US High Commission for Germany (HICOG).

The documents were delivered to the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies in 2022 by Wilhelm Moll's son Kenneth of East Montpelier, Vermont, and were then archivally arranged and described by Miller Center staff assistants Patrick Sullivan and James Hughes, both graduate students in history. The comprehensive report prepared by Sullivan and Hughes details collection contents at the folder level, revealing a range of subjects from denazification to the Cold War politics of Germany. This report was instrumental in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's consideration of the collection and its suitability for the permanent archival collection of the Museum.

The Moll papers are situated squarely in a noted gap area of collecting for the Museum, namely in documentation that reflects the immediate postwar environment. Subjects of reports, including one on "The Increase of Antisemitism in Greater Hesse" and another on the co-called "Jewish Problem," underscore the collection's potential for research in this area. Further evidence of popular opinion can be found in statistical reports distilled from *Fragebögen* (questionnaires) probing the views of the German population on topics such as denazification.

The long-term goal of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is to ensure that the Wilhelm Moll papers are preserved and made accessible for research. While not yet digitized, the collection can be accessed onsite at the Museum's collection facility in Bowie, Maryland. In this instance, the continued collaboration between faculty and staff of the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies and program alumni has ensured that the Wilhelm Moll papers may serve Holocaust scholars in perpetuity.

Kassandra LaPrade Seuthe (MA, history, 2016) is curator with the Curatorial Affairs Branch of the David M. Rubenstein National Institute for Holocaust Documentation at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Holocaust Studies Courses Offered at UVM • 2023-2024

Fall 2023

Film and Television Studies 2460 – The Holocaust in Film (Neroni)
 German 3620 – Jewish Life in Germany (Levine-West)
 History 2700 – Twentieth-Century Russia (Merritt)
 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)

Spring 2024

History 2240 – World War II (Buchanan)
 History 2750 – History of Poland (Huener)
 History 2792 – Jews in Modern Europe (Steinweis)
 History 4790 – Seminar: Poland under Nazi Occupation (Huener)
 History 4790 – Seminar: Modern Genocide (Merritt)
 Sociology 2220 – Sociology of the Holocaust (Kaelber)
 World Literature 1020 – The Graphic Novel and World War II (McFadden)

Fall 2024

Honors 2000 – Jews under Fascism and Nazism (Schrafstetter)
 History 2240 – World War II (Buchanan)
 History 2700 – Twentieth-Century Russia (Merritt)
 History 2792 – Jews in Modern Europe (Steinweis)
 History 4790 – Seminar: Coexistence and Violence in Europe (Merritt)

Thirty Years of Holocaust Studies at UVM

Remarks on the Occasion of the Annual Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture

November 13, 2023

by Alan E. Steinweis



*Raul Hilberg, in 1961, as seen on the dust jacket of the original edition of *The Destruction of the European Jews*.*

In the beginning, there was Raul Hilberg. He was not the first scholar to write about the Holocaust, but he did elevate the study of that subject to a hitherto unprecedented level.

Born in Vienna, Hilberg fled with his family after Nazi Germany's annexation of Austria. After some time in Cuba, the family moved to Brooklyn. Hilberg enrolled in Brooklyn College, but his studies were interrupted for two years while he served in the United States Army. On account of his German language skills, he was attached to the War Documentation Project, which was charged with processing German archives seized by US forces at the end of World War II. Hilberg eventually returned to Brooklyn College to complete his degree, and then took his PhD in political science at Columbia University in 1955. In 1956, he moved to Burlington to become an assistant professor of political science at the University of Vermont. In 1961, Hilberg published his revised doctoral dissertation as *The Destruction of the European Jews*, universally regarded as a foundational work for the serious academic study of the Holocaust.

Hilberg became well-known outside academic circles for his appearance in Claude Lanzman's great Holocaust documentary *Shoah*, and played an important role as an academic advisor to the nascent United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. He remained at UVM for the entirety of his career, distinguishing himself not only as a great scholar but also as an inspiring and challenging teacher. After retiring in 1991, he remained active as a professor emeritus, speaking widely, conducting research, and writing. In 2003 he published what may be considered a capstone to his scholarship, the third edition of *The Destruction of the European Jews*, which appeared in three volumes with Yale University Press. Hilberg remained in Burlington throughout his years in retirement, passing away in 2007 at the age of eighty-one.

The Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont was born of the desire to honor Hilberg's scholarly and pedagogical legacy by institutionalizing research and teaching about the Holocaust after his retirement. Dean Howard Ball of the College of Arts and Sciences played an instrumental role in the establishment of the Center, as did several members of the faculty. These included Alan Wertheimer in Political Science, Carroll Lewin in Anthropology, David Scrase and Wolfgang Mieder in German, Richard Sugarman in Religion, and Doris Bergen in History. David Scrase became the founding director of the Center, a position he held for more than a decade.

In the early years of its existence the Center was sustained through the dedicated efforts of an advisory board drawn from the local and alumni communities, including such long-standing members as Michael Schaal, Arthur Kunin, Connell Gallagher, Jerry Jacobson, and the late Ben Scotch and Yehudi Lindemann. Robert Rachlin chaired the board for many years and continues as a member.

Over the years, a number of Holocaust survivors from Vermont, the northeast United States, and Québec were involved with the Center, visiting classes and participating in Center-sponsored summer seminars for high school teachers. These survivors included printing entrepreneur Emil Landau, author Aranka Siegal, IBM engineer Gabe Hartstein, and photographer Bernard Gotfryd. In addition to the survivors, a prominent rescuer in the Netherlands during the Holocaust, Marion Pritchard, supported the Center's work.

Not all the faculty who were present at the Center's creation remained at UVM. Doris Bergen left after several years and is now a distinguished historian of the Holocaust at the University of Toronto. She was succeeded in the Department of History by Jonathan Huener, who is now in his twenty-seventh year of teaching about the Holocaust at UVM. Through his instructional, research, service, and administrative contributions, Professor Huener has been a sure and steady anchor for Holocaust Studies at UVM.

For many decades, UVM has been a welcoming place for Jewish students from around the northeast and beyond. Several alumni who eventually attained financial success expressed their gratitude to UVM by supporting Holocaust Studies. First and foremost among them was Leonard Miller, a Burlington native and 1951 UVM graduate, who

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Thirty Years of Holocaust Studies, continued from Page 4

became a major developer of real estate in South Florida. In 2000, Lenny and his wife Carolyn began their relationship with the Center by supporting a symposium about medicine and medical ethics in Nazi Germany; this was the first of what are, as of October 2023, nine Miller Symposia. In 2006 the Millers made a major gift to UVM, creating two named professorships in Holocaust Studies (now held by professors Jonathan Huener and myself) and supporting restoration work on Billings Library, where the Center is now housed. In recognition of this generosity, in 2006 the Center was renamed the Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies.

The Center also has received endowments from several additional families: the Aders, the Koenigsbergs, the Kinslers, and the Altschulers. These donors' contributions did not simply rain down on UVM as a fortunate stroke of serendipity. Rather, they resulted from sustained collaboration between the donors and the UVM community. The major gifts to the Center were facilitated by members of the UVM administration, most notable among them President Daniel Mark Fogel and Kathleen Kelleher of the UVM Development Office (now the UVM Foundation). The Foundation continues to be an important partner for the Center, with much of the effort now spearheaded by Howard Lincoln.

The generosity of the Millers and other donors enabled an expansion of the Center's faculty, course offerings, and public-facing activities after 2006. In 2008, the historian Frank Nicosia was hired as the inaugural Raul Hilberg Distinguished Professor of Holocaust Studies, and in the same year, the Department of History also hired Susanna Schrafstetter. I, too, was hired in the same department and appointed director of the Miller Center. My job as director was an easy one, as I was tasked with leading a program staffed by talented and highly motivated faculty, overseen by supportive administrators, generously supported by local alumni, and located on a beautiful campus populated by idealistic and intellectually curious students. I remained director for a decade, and the Center is now in the capable hands of Jonathan Huener.

The Center still operates according to its original mission statement, which is to "promote scholarship, education,

and public awareness of the events that brought about, constitute, and continue to issue from the Holocaust." These goals are pursued within the structure of an interdisciplinary program, that is, by faculty drawn from many academic departments, who engage in teaching and research in their disciplines. Currently Holocaust Studies faculty are based in the Departments of History, German, Italian, French, Anthropology, Sociology, and English. This faculty offers between eight and ten Holocaust-related courses per year. It would be difficult to find a university in the United States that offers

more courses in this subject area than does UVM.

The members of the Holocaust Studies faculty are nationally and internationally recognized scholars in their disciplines. Grounded in facts, history, and rigorous adherence to methodology, they aspire to the high standards of research and teaching set by Raul Hilberg many decades ago. To give but a few examples: Lutz Kaelber of the Department of Sociology has recently published important original scholarship on the Nazi murder of the disabled. An exhibition about the Roma people of Europe, curated by Jonah Steinberg of the Department of Anthropology, was featured in the *New York Times*. Susanna Schrafstetter has produced influential scholarship on German Jews who went into hiding during World War II, and has embarked on a new project looking at the largest internment camps for Jews in Fascist Italy. Jonathan Huener is an internationally recognized authority on the German occupation of Poland during World War II. Professor of German Helga Schreckenberger is well known on both sides of the Atlantic for her research on texts produced by German-Jewish refugees.

The Center coordinates an undergraduate minor in Holocaust Studies and supports graduate students working on Holocaust-related subjects in their disciplinary areas. Graduates have moved on to prestigious PhD programs and then into faculty positions. They have taken jobs in secondary education and publishing houses. They have landed positions at Holocaust-related institutions like the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, where three of our graduates work, and the Los Angeles Holocaust Museum, where one of our graduates is the Vice



Wolfgang Mieder (right) presents Raul Hilberg (left) with the Festschrift in honor of his seventy-fifth birthday in 2001.

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Thirty Years of Holocaust Studies, continued from Page 5

President for Education. Two of our recent MA-level graduates work in the Office of Student Success at UVM.

This evening's Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture exemplifies the public-facing work of the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies; it dates back to 1992 and is our signature annual event. For the past fifteen years we have also sponsored an annual Yom Hashoah lecture. The Center typically sponsors two or three additional guest lectures each year, all open to the public. Many of the speakers visit classes to share their expertise with students. Three of our guests stayed at UVM for extended periods as distinguished visiting scholars, delivering multiple lectures and visiting several classes. These were the great historian of the Holocaust Christopher Browning of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, the art historian Paul Jaskot (now of Duke University), and Andrea Löw of the Institute for Contemporary History in Munich. We have also twice hosted as a guest professor David Barnouw, an Amsterdam-based scholar best known for having edited the authoritative edition of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Most recently, the Center has established post-doctoral fellowships, first in German and then in History. Our current post-doctoral fellow, Harry Merritt, received his PhD at Brown University under the supervision of the eminent Holocaust historian Omer Bartov, and at UVM he is teaching courses about Soviet history and the history of genocide.

As mentioned earlier, since the year 2000, the Center has organized nine Miller Symposia. These day-long events feature presentations on a single aspect of the Holocaust by scholars who have distinguished themselves as authorities on their subjects, and who have hailed not only from the United States, but also from the United Kingdom,

Germany, Italy, Poland, Canada, and Israel. The last two Miller Symposia, which have focused on Poland and Italy, respectively, have been co-sponsored by the Institute for Contemporary History, Munich-Berlin, Germany's leading center for research on Nazism, the Holocaust, and World War II. The papers presented at the Miller Symposia form the basis for a series published with Berghahn Books, a highly regarded academic publisher. Volumes in "Vermont Studies on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust" are in use in university-level courses around the country.

Aside from the Miller Symposia, the Center has co-sponsored several additional international conferences. Together with German and Israeli partners, we supported a project addressing the memory of the Holocaust in several world regions. This resulted in conferences at the Universities of Augsburg and Jena in Germany, and at the University of Haifa in Israel. The project culminated with a volume titled *Holocaust Memory in a Globalizing World*, published in 2017. In that same year, the Center came together with several German institutions to sponsor a major international conference in Berlin dedicated to the life and work of Raul Hilberg.

In the beginning, there was Raul Hilberg. Thirty years after the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies was founded, we remain dedicated to our original mission to continue his legacy of scholarly and pedagogic excellence, and we look forward to what the next thirty years may bring.

Alan E. Steinweis is professor of history and Raul Hilberg Distinguished Professor of Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont. He served as Director of the Miller Center from 2009 to 2018.



Left to right: Jerry Jacobson, David Scrase, and Raul Hilberg, 2006

Richard Ader

Dedicated Alumnus, Friend, and Generous Benefactor

1942 – 2023

by Kathleen Kelleher

Richard Ader (UVM Class of 1963), who passed away in September 2023, was a passionate advocate and supporter of the University of Vermont. His volunteer service to UVM stretched back decades. He was an advisor to the investment subcommittee of the Board of Trustees, a member of the UVM Foundation's inaugural Board of Directors and, at his passing, chair of the College of Arts and Sciences Board of Advisors.



Richard and his wife Pamela Ader were generous donors to a wide range of initiatives across the UVM Campus. The Aders endowed a Green & Gold Professorship currently held by William Mierse of the Department of Art & Art History, and they made lead donations to Kalkin Hall, the UVM Alumni House, the Athletics Facility Project, and the Billings Library, which is now home to the Miller Center. In 2003, Richard joined his longtime friend Paul Konigsberg (UVM Class of 1958) to establish the Ader-Konigsberg Endowment for the Center for Holocaust Studies.

The Ader-Konigsberg Endowment has helped sustain and enhance a wide range of programs at the Miller Center, including faculty research, visiting scholars, and lectures. In recent years, the Ader-Konigsberg Endowment has supported student and faculty research, public events, and curriculum development grants made to members of the UVM faculty to enhance the interdisciplinary outreach of the Miller Center. These grants have resulted in the creation of new Holocaust-related courses in academic departments not previously represented in the Holocaust Studies curriculum. The Ader-Konigsberg Endowment has also provided funding for book acquisitions for the Miller Center's in-house Raul Hilberg Collection.

Richard was, among other things, a successful businessman, devoted husband, father, and grandfather,

a gifted athlete, tennis enthusiast, and generous philanthropist. His remarkable life was marked by a relentless pursuit of excellence, both professionally and personally. During his undergraduate years at UVM, he was a star basketball player and, in recognition of his sporting prowess, UVM inducted him into the Athletic Hall of Fame in 2017.

After his basketball career at UVM, Richard turned to tennis and developed his skills as a competitive player. Most notably, Richard was a member and co-captain of the US Master Tennis Maccabi Team from 1981 to 1997. He regularly competed in the Maccabean Games, winning a bronze medal in 1985 and a silver medal in 1993.

Richard was also a dedicated advocate and supporter of women's athletics. He served on the board of trustees of the Women's Sports Foundation, which was established in 1974 by his longtime friend, Billie Jean King, to advance the lives of women and girls through sports and physical activity.

Even after suffering the debilitating effects of heart disease, Richard continued to dedicate himself to his business, family, and friends. In addition to his many accomplishments, he became an author, writing *How to Rally*, an inspirational memoir of his lifelong journey, as Richard would say, "beating the odds."

Richard is survived by his wife Pamela, his daughter Jennifer Ader, her husband Aaron and son Colt, his daughter-in-law Julie and her children Sophia, Jack, Asher and Ava, his son Jason, and extended family.

Kathleen Kelleher (UVM Class of 1983) is vice president and chief development officer of the UVM Foundation and a member of the Miller Center Board of Advisors.

The Ninth Miller Symposium: Italy and the Holocaust

by Susanna Schrafstetter



Left to right: Jonathan Huener, Gerald Steinacher, Amedeo Osti Guerrazzi, Thomas Schlemmer, Sara Berger, Susanna Schrafstetter, Adriana Borra, Sergio Luzzatto, Alexander Stille and Alan Steinweis

On October 28 and 29, 2023, the Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies hosted a symposium on the topic of Italy and the Holocaust. Bringing together accomplished scholars from Italy, Germany, and the United States, the symposium addressed the most recent findings and historiographical debates about Jewish life in Italy before and under Fascism, the nature of Fascist antisemitism, official measures of persecution, Italian participation in the deportation and murder of the Jews, and the position of the Vatican. The symposium was well attended by an actively engaged audience, whose many questions are testimony to the relative lack of public knowledge about this aspect of the Holocaust.

The event began on the evening of Saturday, October 28, with welcoming remarks by Dean William Falls of UVM's College of Arts and Sciences. This was followed by the evening's keynote lecture, presented by Professor Alexander Stille of Columbia University. Titled "More Italian than the Italians: Italy's Jews Before and During Fascism," Stille's lecture provided an overview of the situation of Jews in Italy in the late nineteenth century, showing that many Italian Jews strongly identified with a state that had granted them equality and opportunity. This nationalist sentiment was reflected in Italian Jews' enthusiastic service for their country in World War I and, subsequently, in significant Jewish support for the newly founded Fascist Party. Stille argued that Mussolini gradually started to use antisemitism for political expedience, fanning its flames with increasing frequency

and intensity, and culminating in the promulgation of a series of antisemitic laws in 1938. Eager to prove their loyalty to the nationalist cause, Jews who had supported Fascism failed to see through Mussolini's political manipulations.

The second day of the symposium began with a paper by Professor Ilaria Pavan from the IMT School of Advanced Studies, Lucca (Italy), which was read by UVM Senior Lecturer Adriana Borra. The paper, titled "What is Left Now of My Life?: The Italian Jewish Community Facing Fascist Persecution," examined Jewish reactions to persecution following the racial legislation of 1938. Pavan explained that the legislation, while thoroughly planned, came to many Jews as an unexpected "bolt out of the blue." But they developed a multitude of strategies that varied according to circumstances such as financial means, age, or level of integration into Italian society. One strategy pursued by numerous Jewish Italians involved writing petitions to Mussolini seeking exemptions from measures of persecution.

The second lecture of the day focused on the situation following the German occupation of northern and central Italy in the fall of 1943. In "Italo-German Collaboration in the Persecution of the Italian Jews," Professor Amedeo Osti Guerrazzi of the University of Padua (Italy) detailed how the first mass arrests of Jews by the Germans, which started in Rome in October 1943, were considered a

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failure. The Germans—unfamiliar with the territory and receiving little assistance from local Italians—captured far fewer Jews than expected. This disappointment led to a dramatic change in German strategy: taking advantage of the radicalization of Fascism that occurred in conjunction with the formation of the Italian Social Republic, the Germans began to rely on the massive collaboration of Fascist forces in hunting down and arresting Jews. The Italians handed them over to the Germans, who put them on trains to Auschwitz and other camps.

Following a short lunch break, Dr. Sara Berger from Frankfurt's Fritz Bauer Institute (Germany) discussed the reactions to the deportations among both Jews and non-Jews in Italy. As Berger explained, some Jews remained in their homes and communities despite the imminent danger, while others went into hiding, attempted to flee to Switzerland, or joined the partisan units operating throughout the occupied parts of Italy. The Delegation for the Assistance of Jewish Emigrants (Delasem), a Jewish aid organization that had been declared illegal under German occupation, continued its work underground. As Desalem's leaders fled or were arrested, some members of the Catholic clergy stepped forward to help continue the aid work. The Catholic clergy's hiding of Jews in monasteries was also substantial. While many non-Jewish Italians denounced and betrayed Jews, many other non-Jewish Italians provided a helping hand.

The position of the Catholic Church toward the persecution of the Jews was examined by Professor Gerald Steinacher from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In his paper, titled "The Vatican and the Holocaust in Italy: Old Controversies and New Insights," Steinacher explained that the opening of the papers of Pope Pius XII by the Vatican archives in 2020 has led to renewed interest in the much-debated role of Pius XII during the Holocaust. While important new information has surfaced, it appears that the documents will not lead to a fundamental reassessment of the Vatican's policy. Steinacher focused on three areas: the Vatican's position toward the Italian racial laws, the arrest and deportation of the Jews of Rome, and the (often overlooked) post-war period, during which the Vatican provided substantial aid to Fascists and Nazis fleeing arrest and prosecution. Although some members of the Catholic clergy in Italy were deeply committed to aiding

Jews, Steinacher showed that "the rescue of Jews was never the pope's priority."

The final presentation shifted the focus fully to the postwar period, specifically, onto the writings of Primo Levi, Italy's most prominent Holocaust survivor. In his lecture "Primo Levi and the Survivors of the Auschwitz Chemical Commando," Professor Sergio Luzzatto of the University of Connecticut explained that after Levi's liberation and return to Turin, he reestablished contact with other survivors among the Auschwitz prisoners. These men from the "chemical commando" also feature extensively in Levi's writings, most importantly, in *Survival in Auschwitz*, where Levi introduced them as examples of "the Saved." Luzzatto discussed the extent to which Levi turned these individuals into specific characters designed to underscore his points about the moral implications of survival, which later became widely known as "the gray zone."

The symposium ended with a commentary by Dr. Thomas Schlemmer of the Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History, Munich (Germany). Schlemmer drew particular attention to the question of Holocaust remembrance in Italy. In a memory culture that has focused on celebrating the *Resistenza* and its struggle against foreign occupation, and in a postwar political climate that has tolerated the emergence of neofascist political parties, the memory of Fascist collaboration in the mass murder of the Jews and homegrown antisemitism have long been suppressed. Integrating these uncomfortable facts into the historical narrative has become all the more important in a country that is now governed by a coalition led by the populist post-fascist *Fratelli d'Italia*. Schlemmer also pointed to several important topics that could not be covered by the conference program, among them the fate of the Jews in the territories occupied by Italy and the treatment of liberated and rescued Jews in postwar Italy. Questions and topics such as these surrounding Italy and the Holocaust could not be included in a short, two-day symposium, yet all the speakers provided valuable insights into a topic that remains under-researched in the field of Holocaust studies.

Susanna Schrafstetter is professor of history at the University of Vermont.

Wendy Lower Delivers Annual Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture

by Meghan Hessler



On November 13, 2023, historian Wendy Lower delivered the Annual Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture at the University of Vermont Alumni House on the topic of her popular and critically acclaimed book, *The Ravine: A Family, a Photograph, a Holocaust Massacre Revealed*. *The Ravine* draws upon Lower's extensive forensic and archival research on open-air massacres in Ukraine, and in particular on a photograph she came across during her tenure as Acting Director of the Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. That photograph captures the murder of a Jewish family in the "Holocaust by bullets."

Director of the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights, John K. Roth Professor of History, and George R. Roberts Fellow at Claremont McKenna College, Lower presented the research that led her to an intimate and devastating investigation into the real story and real people documented in this photograph. With meticulous analysis and contextualization, Lower guided the audience through the layers of meaning embedded in this haunting image.

Photography played an important role in the Holocaust, Lower noted, emphasizing its use as a tool for propaganda, documentation, and even resistance. Despite this overall importance, there has been a lack of comprehensive research into individual photographs, and Lower's lecture presented her efforts to fill this gap. From the positioning of the victims to the presence of bystanders, each element of the photograph she analyzed contributed to a broader understanding of the atrocities committed during the Holocaust.

Lower identified the photographer and characterized his capture of this image as an unexpected act of resistance, for he disseminated it to warn Jews in his hometown. Low-

er's analysis further revealed the collaboration among German and Ukrainian perpetrators, challenging common misconceptions about Ukrainian involvement.

Throughout her lecture, Lower emphasized the significance of individual stories within the broader history of the Holocaust. National commemorations and similar events often treat victims collectively. Lower asked, "But what about the loss of a family?" Lower briefed the audience on her investigation into the identity of the family in this photo. With the limited information available to her, she began drawing genealogical charts, and in so doing, "seeing the relationships and generations of loss."

She found two possible matches for the family in the photograph: the Vaselyuks and the Sandler. A surviving relative of the Sandler family provided Lower with a family photo taken in early 1941. With two photos in hand, Lower interviewed in the town of Miropol survivors of the war who might recognize the family. Unfortunately, no one could identify the families in these photos: "There was no memory and scant material evidence of Miropol's Jews, who comprised a third of the population for over a century and were very visible and influential." Ultimately, the ravine photograph produced more questions than answers. For example, who are the victims in this photo whom we cannot see? The empty pair of men's shoes in this photograph—to whom did they once belong?

Empty shoes have, especially since the Holocaust, figured as symbols of humanity in art, literature, and photography. At the end of her presentation, Lower recited some stanzas from the Yiddish poet Avraham Sutzkever's "A Load of Shoes," written after he discovered his own mother's shoes in a ghetto in Lithuania. As the poet looks further through the piles of shoes, he articulates the need to ask about the other empty shoes—"Where is the child / who fit in these? / Is the maiden barefoot / who brought these?"

With these questions in mind, Lower concluded her lecture by urging the audience to consider our responses to photographs like the one at the center of *The Ravine*: "Atrocity images, especially the rare ones that attest to acts of genocide, the crime of all crimes, offend and shame us. When we turn away from them, 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."

The Annual Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture was supported by Jerold D. Jacobson, Esquire, UVM Class of 1962, his wife Gertraude Holle-Suppa, and the Raul Hilberg Distinguished Professorship in Holocaust Studies.

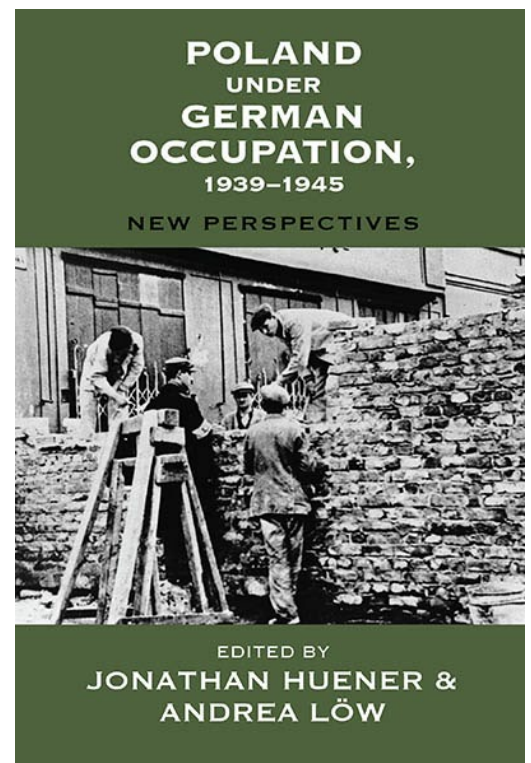
Meghan Hessler is a second-year graduate student in the Master of Arts program in history at the University

Hilberg Lecturers Through The Years

Christopher R. Browning	John Roth
Yehuda Bauer	Mark Roseman
Yaffa Eliach	Jeffrey Herf
Saul Friedländer	Robert P. Ericksen
Gerhard L. Weinberg	Richard Breitman
Allan Ryan, Jr.	David Cesarani
Peter Hayes	Marion Kaplan
Hans Mommsen	Doris Bergen
Omer Bartov	Dan Michman
Ian Kershaw	Norman J.W. Goda
Susan Zuccotti	Jürgen Matthäus
Jill Stephenson	Wolf Gruner
Claudia Koonz	Peter Fritzsche
Susan Suleiman	Wendy Lower
Michael Kater	

Book Announcement

The Miller Center is pleased to announce the publication of *Poland under German Occupation 1939 – 1945: New Perspectives*, edited by Jonathan Huener and Andrea Löw. Appearing in the Berghahn Books series “Vermont Studies on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust,” the volume includes essays from five historians who spoke at the eighth Miller Symposium on “Poland under German Occupation” at the University of Vermont (Natalia Aleksion, Winson Chu, Andrea Löw, Maren Röger, and Dariusz Stola), as well as contributions from Tomasz Frydel, Jonathan Huener, and Ingo Loose. Posing new questions and engaging hitherto untapped sources, the Polish, German, Canadian, and American historians featured in this volume provide unique and original analyses. Praised by Antony Polonsky, Emeritus Professor of Holocaust Studies at Brandeis University, as “an impressive volume, marked by detailed research and new approaches,” and by Jerzy Kochanowski of Warsaw University as “one of the most innovative, modern, and well thought-out books about the German occupation of Poland during World War II,” this latest volume in the “Vermont Studies” series expands the historiography surrounding Nazi racial and occupation policies, Polish and Jewish responses to them, persecution, police terror, resistance, and complicity. (See page 23 for ordering information.)



Andrew Buchanan on Antisemitism, the Holocaust, and the ‘Long’ World War II

by Katherine Quimby Johnson



On Wednesday, February 21, 2024, Andrew Buchanan, Senior Lecturer in History and 2024 Faculty Fellow in Holocaust Studies presented “Antisemitism, Imperial Autarky, and the Greater Second World War,” a lecture he dedicated to Frank Nicosia, “whose scholarly work,” Buchanan noted, “touches on issues treated today.” Buchanan’s own research focuses on aspects of the global World War II and the concept of “long history,” that is, the idea that a major historical event has roots in what came before it, and aftereffects that extend far into the future.

From this perspective, World War II appears as a series of regional, overlapping conflicts that began with the 1931 Japanese invasion of Manchuria. These regional conflicts led to global war (1938 – 1945), which in turn unwound in another series of overlapping regional conflicts that, in Buchanan’s view, lingered into the 1950s, giving World War II a series of “ragged endings.” (Given the lack of peace treaty between the two Koreas, one could argue that the last such regional conflict has yet to end.)

Within this wider context, the lecture focused on two specific topics: 1) the Holocaust as a manifestation of antisemitism that arose in reaction to the Great Depression, and 2) from this, the inextricable link between the Holocaust and World War II, which are often treated as separate events.

Buchanan began his analysis of the first topic by discussing the Nazi Party’s hostility toward what it regarded as anti-national Jewish capitalists (in Western Europe) and Jewish-led communists (in Eastern Europe). Moreover, in its modern antisemitism that was both anti-Jewish and anti-capitalist, Nazi Germany was far from alone. During the 1930s, antisemitism played a role in national politics across the globe, from, for example, Spain, where Franco said a conspiracy of Masonic, Jewish, and Bolshevik factions threatened Catholicism, to Brazil’s 1937 ban on Jewish immigration, to Britain’s Union of Fascists marching through Jewish neighborhoods, to the US, where Father Charles Coughlin broadcast antisemitic messages to millions and where FDR had claimed that Germans’ concerns about Jewish domination of certain professions were understandable. The main difference between antisemitism in the rest of the world and antisemitism in

Germany was the sheer depth of the economic crisis there, which, combined with the threat of working-class unrest, or perhaps revolution, contributed significantly to the Nazi Party’s rise to power.

While Nazi antisemitism and harassment of Jews predated the party’s rise to power, it increased after 1933 and continued to grow while the country re-armed. However, until the September 1939 invasion of Poland, the goal was to purge Jews from Germany, not to kill them. After September 1939, when the German goal became the autarkic-imperial expansionism known as *Lebensraum*, and with the invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, extermination became the goal. At first this took the form of “genocide by bullet,” (referenced in Wendy Lower’s Hilberg Lecture [see page 10]) until, for a number of reasons including US entry into the war and increased demand for slave labor, other forms of genocide came to dominate. Buchanan noted that mortality rates for Nazi slave labor far exceeded those of the American antebellum South.

The liberation of the camps and the end of combat in 1945 did not end the Holocaust. Jews were not welcomed back to Germany or Poland; nor were they welcome to migrate to the countries of the West. They were often confined to the so-called displaced persons camps, and often to the worst of those facilities. The one place Jews were encouraged to go was Palestine—40,000 joined David Ben-Gurion’s Haganah, a paramilitary organization dedicated to the formation of a Jewish state. But even there, British imperialist interests meant that thousands were detained in British-controlled Cyprus and others were shipped back to Germany.

However, by 1948, some 70,000 had emigrated to Palestine. The consolidation of the state of Israel that same year and the end of the Arab-Israeli War in 1949 marked the end of the “long Holocaust.” However, as Buchanan amply demonstrated, that did not mean an end to antisemitism. As part of “the ragged end of World War II in the Middle East,” a complex mix of interests—both local and imperial—meant that peaceful cohabitation for Jews and Arabs quickly became impossible, with results that make the current conflict between Israel and Palestinians seem one more tragic illustration of a long history.

Katherine Quimby Johnson (MA, German, 1984) is a freelance writer and editor and a member of the Advisory Board for the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies.

New Courses Enhance the Curriculum in Holocaust Studies

“Italians and the Holocaust”

In 2022 Antonello Borra (Italian) received a Altschuler Course Development Grant from the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies to develop a course on Italy and the Holocaust. That course, WLIT 1450, was offered for the first time in the fall 2023. “Italians and the Holocaust” contextualizes the Shoah within the long and complex history of Italy, a country that was unified only in the nineteenth century and where a Jewish presence can be traced back, uninterrupted, to the third century BCE. Italian Jewry greatly contributed to the country’s unification and produced some of its finest scholars, artists, and intellectuals.

WLIT 1450 is a literature and film course that concentrates on the writing of both Jewish and non-Jewish authors such as Primo Levi, Giorgio Bassani, and Rosetta Loi, as well as on the work of Oscar-winning directors such as Vittorio De Sica, Lina Wertmüller, and Roberto Benigni. Students investigate, in light of recent scholarship, Italian literary and cinematic representations of the Holocaust and the cultural climate that led to it. The authors and filmmakers studied in the course provide a vast and variegated portrayal of Jewish Italian life in the country of the popes both before, during, and after World War II. Fascist Italy’s attitude toward its Jewish citizens is compared and contrasted to that of the post-war decades, in which the liberated and now democratic country had to address its own responsibilities between collaboration and resistance. The films, novels, memoirs, poems, essays, and critical articles analyzed also allow students to reflect on the ways different genres and cultural artifacts contribute differently to our understanding of the Holocaust.



“The Holocaust and Film”

In fall 2023 Hilary Neroni (Film and Television Studies/English) taught “The Holocaust and Film” for the first time at UVM. In 2022, Neroni received a Kinsler Course Development Grant from the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies to plan this new course.

“The Holocaust and Film” investigates the complex relationship film has to the Holocaust. Students begin by watching all 9.5 hours of Claude Lanzmann’s documentary *Shoah* (1985), which allows for early discussions about how film as an art form addresses historical trauma. Students then consider the ways film actually participated in the Holocaust by learning about fascist filmmakers who were actively involved in the Nazi regime, and by taking a deeper dive into the role of propaganda. For this section the class watches such films as Leni Riefenstahl’s *Triumph of the Will* (1935) and Alessandro Blasetti’s *The Old Guard* (1934).

The rest of the semester is spent on anti-fascist films. Over many decades, films responding to the Holocaust have attempted both to comprehend it and to work to prevent its reoccurrence. Looking at several main trends in such films allows students to investigate a diverse range of both narrative films and documentary films from around the world, while also considering issues explored in those films. By studying different films such as Wanda Jakubowska’s *The Last Stage* (1948), Bob Fosse’s *Cabaret* (1972), Christian Petzold’s *Phoenix* (2014), László Nemes’ *Son of Saul* (2015), and Ferne Pearlstein’s *The Last Laugh* (2017), students gain a greater understanding of the relationship between aesthetics, culture, and politics as it pertains to the Holocaust. To frame these discussions, students read various articles, often about the films, sometimes providing context. They also read anti-fascist theorists such as Walter Benjamin, Theodore Adorno, György Lukács, and Bertold Brecht, whose work influences the ways we analyze the role of art in relation to fascism and the Holocaust. To finish the course, students write a seminar paper on a topic of their choosing relating to film and the Holocaust.



Visiting Scholar Paweł Machcewicz at the University of Vermont

By Grace Elston and Emma Wapshare



On Tuesday, March 19, 2024, Paweł Machcewicz, distinguished scholar and historian from the Institute of Political Studies at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, gave a lecture in UVM's Memorial Lounge, sponsored by the Miller Center for Holocaust

Studies. The speaker was co-founder and director of the research and educational branch of Poland's Institute of National Remembrance from 2000 to 2006 and is a professor at Warsaw University. Machcewicz also served as the founder and director of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk from 2008 to 2017, until he was dismissed from that role shortly after the museum was opened to the public.

Machcewicz's research has been supported with numerous fellowships, including appointments at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin from 2017 to 2018 and the Imre Kertesz Kolleg at the Friedrich-Schiller University in Jena from 2018 to 2019. Two of Machcewicz's numerous books, *Rebellious Satellite: Poland 1956* (Stanford University Press, 2009) and *Poland's War on Radio Free Europe 1950–1989* (Stanford University Press, 2014), focus on Poland in the Cold War era. His most recent book, *The War That Never Ends: The Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk* (De Gruyter, 2019), is a detailed account of the controversial process of creating the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk and Machcewicz's central role in its establishment.

In his lecture, "The Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk: At the Crossroads of History, Memory, and Politics," Machcewicz told the story of the founding of the museum and the political controversies that arose and eventually led to his removal as director. Explaining the relevance of Poland's political climate leading up to and during the museum's creation, Machcewicz described the phenomenon of "historical politics," wherein history resonates with a public and thus becomes politicized and distorted to fit the political agenda of a group, such as the Law and Justice party in Poland, which won the majority of seats in parliament in 2015. However, historical politics also reflects the importance of Poland's history in the lives of the Polish people and their attempts to grapple with their nation's past. Machcewicz introduced this complicated story within the context of the crimes committed against the Polish civilian population during the Nazi occupation of Poland from 1939 to 1945 and then in the context of the brutality of the communist regime under the Soviet Union in the postwar period. Machcewicz and his team designed the museum as a place to tell the story of World War II from the Polish perspective and from the perspective of other nations in

Eastern Europe, with a central focus on civilians—a museum truly dedicated to the public and to the betterment of public memory.

Machcewicz also discussed how his book, *The War that Never Ends*, was his version of "fighting back" against the Law and Justice party's distortion of history throughout the museum's construction and after his removal as director. It was a great intellectual challenge for Machcewicz to navigate the transition from academic history to public history, to find a way to 'display' the story of the war and its importance to a greater audience. The book closes this chapter of his life, even as it addresses how the culture, political power, and rise of a nationalist right-wing populist movement in Poland has challenged the work of historians who, when confronted with political pressure, must defend their academic autonomy. At the end of his lecture, Machcewicz shared two short films that have appeared at the end of the museum's exhibit. Both the original film installed by Machcewicz's team and the film that replaced it after his departure were meant to leave a lasting impression on visitors. In marked contrast to the somewhat ambiguous original film, the overtly political messaging of the film installed by the new museum administration highlighted nationalist heroism and sacrifice as the key aspects of the Polish experience during World War II.

Prior to his public lecture, Machcewicz spoke with students in Andrew Buchanan's and Jonathan Huener's history seminars "World War II in Global Perspective" and "Poland During Nazi Occupation." Students read *The War That Never Ends* in preparation for this meeting, and had the opportunity to ask the author about his work. The discussion initially touched on issues of building a museum from the ground up and the political climate in which that process took place in Gdańsk. It then extended beyond Machcewicz's book to such topics as public education, historical reenactments, and the complexity of Polish historical memory of the Nazi and Soviet occupations.

During his visit, Machcewicz also met with students in Jonathan Huener's intermediate-level course "The History of Poland" and Susanna Schrafstetter's history course "The Cold War." The discussions in these classes deepened students' understanding of World War II, the Holocaust, and the Cold War in the Polish context, and likewise challenged students to think about the ways in which history is presented in public institutions and the malleability of historical memory.

Professor Machcewicz's visit and lecture were sponsored by the Ader-Konigsberg Endowment for Holocaust Studies and the Leonard and Carolyn Miller Distinguished Professorship in Holocaust Studies.

Grace Elston is a senior history major and Holocaust Studies minor. Emma Wapshare is a senior with majors in history and film and television studies.

Karen Baum Gordon Delivers the Annual Holocaust Commemoration Lecture on “The Last Letter: A Father’s Struggle, a Daughter’s Quest, and the Long Shadow of the Holocaust”

By G. Scott Waterman



How do we conceive of the Holocaust: as a world-historical event that represented the culmination of an ideology of exclusion and hate or as a collection of millions of individual, family, and community tragedies? How do we conceive of its victims: as those who suffered humiliation, dispossession, and death as direct consequences of Nazi policies or as those on whom escape and survival inflicted their own forms of agony? How do we conceive of historical research: as the professional pursuit of objective understanding of the past or as a personal quest motivated by a need to grasp the lives and experiences of those whom we consider significant? Conclusions drawn from Karen Baum Gordon’s book *The Last Letter: A Father’s Struggle, a Daughter’s Quest, and the Long Shadow of the Holocaust* (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2021), suggest that all of the responses to the questions posed above are correct.

Baum Gordon’s book intertwines the stories of members of three generations of the author’s family: her paternal grandparents, her father, and herself. As members of the established, upper-middle-class Jewish community of Frankfurt, Julie and Norbert Baum only gradually came to recognize that there would be no place for them in the new Germany. This growing realization was discernable in a number of the eighty-eight letters they (mostly Julie) wrote to their son, Rudy, after his emigration to the United States in late 1936. As was the case with many German Jews, by the time their unrealistic hopes for a change in their prospects were fully dispelled, it was too late: Rudy’s parents were deported to the Łódź Ghetto, where they died in 1942.

After a stint in the US Army, which included participation in the liberation of the Buchenwald concentration camp, Rudy Baum made a life for himself, and later his wife and three children, in the US, settling in Dallas and working as a traveling shoe salesman. He made no secret

of his connection with the Holocaust; in his later years he served as a speaker at events near and far related to the Holocaust. But no one anticipated his attempted suicide at the age of eighty-six. Decades of pain had apparently taken their toll. His daughter Karen, who came to understand “survival” as a multi-generational phenomenon, resolved to learn more about her father’s and his parents’ story—and thus her own. The eighty-eight letters served as a foundation, but it would require years of dogged effort to piece it together—on the internet and telephone, conducting library and archival research in the US and, later, on trips to Germany and Poland (one of which included the author’s sons, the fourth generation represented).

Doubtless mindful of the high proportion of students in the audience, Baum Gordon’s April 10 presentation focused on the methodological (and attitudinal) lessons she drew from her multi-year research project. Among them were to “go beyond the books,” emphasizing the value of, for example visiting the building in Frankfurt where her father spent his childhood, and visiting the Jewish cemetery in Łódź. “Don’t take ‘no’ for an answer” was advice she illustrated with examples of her own perseverance that led to important findings. One of the most productive—and doubtless personally gratifying—connections the author made was with a retired New York anesthesiologist she found while searching for survivors of the Łódź Ghetto. A cold call to Salomea Kape culminated in a friendship that entailed a shared trip to Łódź, a major center of pre-war Polish Jewish life where Dr. Kape had grown up, been confined in the ghetto, and later attended medical school.

With the “survivor generation” rapidly disappearing, there is justifiable concern about the consequences of the Shoah no longer being part of anyone’s living memory. Karen Baum Gordon’s work reminds us that, for good or ill, survivorship does not always recognize generational boundaries.

The 2023 Holocaust Commemoration Lecture was sponsored by the Altschuler and Kinsler Endowments for Holocaust Studies.

G. Scott Waterman (emeritus, psychiatry; MA, history, 2015) is chair of the Advisory Board of the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies.

News from the Faculty



Adriana Borra (German, Italian, French) has been teaching Italian beginners since returning from her sabbatical in 2022. While continuing to enjoy the steep learning curve of her Italian students, she is missing her “German side” and is looking forward to returning to the German program and teaching *Staging German* in spring 2025. During the summer of 2023 she attended *Laboratorio Bassani – Bassani e Torino*, an international conference organized by the University of Turin and the Bassani Foundation, to learn more about one of

her favorite authors. In 2023 she further pursued her passion for lexicography and drama in education and saw the publication of the third edition of *Il Tedesco smart*, edited by Luisa Giacomini and Susanne Kolb and published by Zanichelli, for which she was the revising editor of the Italian-German section and translator of roughly 600 neologisms. In October 2023 she also delivered the paper “What is left now of my life? The Italian Jewish Community facing Fascist persecution (1938 – 1943)” by Ilaria Pavan at the Ninth Miller Symposium on Italy and the Holocaust, organized by the Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont. Most recently, on February 28, 2024, she presented *The ABCs of Dictionary Making*, a lecture for UVM’s Faculty Brown Bag Series to introduce students in the new SWLC (School of World Languages and Cultures) to the craft of lexicography. She also published *Raus feiern*, a short story in the anthology *Fliegender Teppich*, edited by Annette Kipnowski and Marion Raschke (Norderstedt: BoD, 2024).

In the fall semester of 2023, **Antonello Borra** (Italian) taught his new course, “Italians and the Holocaust,” for the first time (see separate article, p. 13). In the summer of 2023, Borra attended a conference on Giorgio Bassani’s work in Turin, Italy and submitted a review of an article on Primo Levi due to appear in the next issue of *Italica: Journal of the American Association of Teachers of Italian*. He is currently working on the poetry written in his mother tongue, a minority language of Northwest Italy, and has published one article, “Piedmontese Poetry Today: Main Trends, Main Challenges” in *Italica* (100/1, Spring 2023) and the first installment of an anthology, “Piedmontese Poetry Today: An Anthological Selection (Part One)” in *Gradiva. International Journal of Italian Poetry* (n. 64, Fall 2023). Last year Borra’s own poetry appeared in 05401, *L’immaginazione*, and *Steve*.

In June, **Andrew Buchanan** (History) gave the keynote address at the Second World War Research Group conference in Edinburgh, and in January this year he participated on an invited panel on “The Second World War’s Global Turn” at the American Historical Association conference in San Francisco. As the 2024 Miller Center Faculty Fellow, Buchanan presented a lecture on “The Holocaust in the Long World War II” to a large audience of faculty, students, and the public on February 21 (see p. 12), and was later interviewed by Mark Johnson for a WCAX 802news podcast (<https://www.wcax.com/page/802-news-podcast/>) on the same subject. In December, Buchanan’s new book, *From World War to Postwar: Revolution, Cold War, Decolonization, and the Rise of American Hegemony*,

1943 – 1953, was published by Bloomsbury Press, and a collection of essays on the global World War II edited with Ruth Lawlor (Cornell) will be published by Cornell University Press next year.



Meaghan Emery (French) has received a Fulbright US Scholar Program award for France for the 2024–25 academic year from the US Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Emery will engage with French scholars in Rennes (University of Rennes II) and Paris (Institut d’Études Politiques) to investigate these French cities’ transition

to net zero. She intends to analyze the adaptation of French attitudes, customs, and traditions to changing climactic conditions in view of current educational efforts, initiatives to modernize facilities and municipal infrastructure, and governmental policy. The central question she will uncover is how the French are reconciling their attachment to individual freedom with collective goals and action.

Emery’s manuscript in translation, *L’Algérie d’après Camus* (original title: *The Algerian War Retold: Of Camus’s Revolt and Postwar Reconciliation*, published in 2019 by Routledge) has been accepted for publication by Presses Universitaires de Rennes. In 2023, she also published “The Absent Wife: An Embarrassing Oversight or Fundamental Other in *The Plague*,” in *Critical Insights: The Plague*, ed. Robert C. Evans (Pasadena, CA: Salem Press, 2023), and the dictionary entry “Feuillade, Louis” in *The Art of Directing: A Concise Dictionary of France’s Film Directors*, ed. Michaël Abecassis, Marceline Block, and Felicity Chaplin, (Oxford and New York: Peter Lang, 2023).

Rob Gordon (emeritus, Anthropology) continues to be engaged in research and activism focused largely on Namibia. He has recently submitted a manuscript *The Bushman Myth Revisited: A “Forgotten” Genocide* to the University of Namibia Press. Gordon’s work contends that while the Herero-Nama genocide of 1904–07 is widely touted as the twentieth century’s first genocide, in the maelstrom of its aftermath, the government condoned and indeed encouraged “Bushman Hunts.” The book documents why foragers were particularly vulnerable and how racism by both black and white settlers ensured that it would be “forgotten.” In addition, Gordon continues preparing a book-length manuscript on the first international crisis faced by the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations: the bombing of the Bondelswarts, a group of Khoekhoe who ostensibly refused to pay their dog-taxes. An article he co-authored, “Research codes and contracts do not guarantee equitable research with Indigenous communities” in *Nat Ecol Evol* (2023), <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-023-02101-0>, has received much comment. He also published a chapter “The Enigma of the Namaqualand Trekboer” in Lenggenhager, et al., eds. *The Lower !Garib* (Columbia University Press, 2023). In addition, a chapter titled “The



continued on Page 17

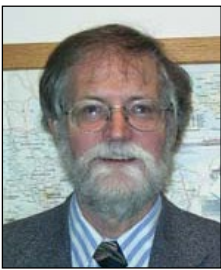
News From the Faculty, continued from Page 16

Nazis in SWA” has been accepted for publication in *On the Homefront: The Home Front in South Africa*, as has “Can One Obtain Dignity While Using the Master’s Categories?” which will appear in *Critical Arts*.



In addition to directing the Miller Center and teaching at UVM, **Jonathan Huener** (History) attended a conference in May 2023 in Kochel, Germany, on the theme “The Holocaust and Migration: Beyond Flight and Displacement” where he presented a paper on “Germanization and Forced Migration in the ‘Mustergau Wartheland.’” In the fall of 2023, in Berlin and Washington, DC, he continued his research on his next book, a study of the “Reichsgau

Wartheland,” a region of Poland annexed by Nazi Germany. In the spring 2024 semester he taught courses on the history of Poland and a senior/graduate seminar on “Poland under Nazi Occupation.” In early 2024, *Poland under German Occupation, 1939 – 1945: New Perspectives* appeared with Berghahn Books. Co-edited with Andrea Löw from the Institute for Contemporary History, Munich, the book is the ninth volume in the series “Vermont Studies on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust.” Huener will continue research on his monograph in the fall at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where he has been awarded the 2024–25 Shapiro Senior Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship at the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies.



Dennis Mahoney (emeritus, German and Russian) published “Joseph von Eichendorff” in *Literary Encyclopedia* (www.litencyc.com) in February 2023. In addition, “Romantisches Gipfeltreffen im Hause Schlegel und die Folgen: Ein Fragment in 11 Szenen”—the play he wrote for performance in 2022 at the festivities surrounding the 250th anniversary of the birth of Novalis (Friedrich von Hardenberg)—appeared in

Blütenstaub: Jahrbuch für Frühromantik 8 (2023). Finally, he has published “Intertextualität bei Joseph von Eichendorff: Goethe-Reminiszenzen in *Ahnung und Gegenwart* und Sprichwörterzitate in *Aus dem Leben eines Taugenichts*” in “*Standing on the Shoulders of Giants*,” the *Festschrift* celebrating the eightieth birthday of Wolfgang Mieder. The *Festschrift* is in volume 3 of the Online Supplement Series of *Proverbium*, the Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship for which Mieder served as editor for so many years, and appeared as a surprise gift to Mieder on February 17, 2024.

Harry C. Merritt (History) had an eventful first year of his postdoctoral fellowship with the Miller Center and Department of History at UVM. In addition to teaching two courses (“Twentieth-Century Russia” and “Modern Genocide”), he presented papers at the Lessons & Legacies Europe Conference in Prague and the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) convention in Philadelphia. His article, “The Latvian Lost Cause: Veterans of the Waffen-SS Latvian Legion and Postwar Mythogenesis,” is forthcoming in the *Journal of Modern European History*. He also completed a book manuscript on Latvian national units in World War II, which is undergoing peer review at an



academic press. This summer, Harry will embark on a research trip to the Hoover Institution Library and Archives at Stanford University and will present at the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS) conference in New Haven, Connecticut.

Wolfgang Mieder (emeritus, German and Russian) published the following books: “*A Rising Tide Lifts All the Boats*”: *The Proverbial Rhetoric of John F. Kennedy* (New York: Peter Lang, 2023), “*Wendige Wendungen*”: *Modifizierte Redensarten in Literatur, Medien und Karikaturen* (Wien: Praesens Verlag, 2023), *International Bibliography of Paremiology and Phraseology* (Osijek, Croatia: University of Osijek, 2023), “*A Good Friend is a Treasure*”: *Five Decades of Correspondence Between the Folklorists Dan Ben-Amos and Wolfgang Mieder* (Burlington, Vermont: The University of Vermont, 2023), and, as co-editor, *Diligence Brings Delight: A Festschrift in Honor of Anna T. Litovkina* (Osijek: University of Osijek, 2023). Among his new articles are “‘Freedom Is Not Given’: Democratic Principles in Modern American Proverbs” (published in Croatia), “‘Was den—nur Kleingeld’. Zur Entromantisierung des ‘Sterntaler’-Märchens (in Germany),” “‘The Truth Shall Make You Free.’ John F. Kennedy’s Reliance on Proverbial Wisdom from the Bible” (in Spain), “‘Proverbially, ‘Nothing Can Beat a Proverb’: English Poetic Proverb Collages” (in Portugal). He also presented keynotes and other lectures in Wrocław (Poland), Milano (Italy), Tavira (Portugal), Portland (Oregon), Las Vegas, and Philadelphia. While these represent his larger trips, he also continues to present lectures in his beloved Vermont, to wit his presentations in Shelburne, Springfield, and his very own village of Williston.



Jody Prescott (Computer Science & Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources) once again taught the *Ordinary Soldiers* lesson plan to senior Army ROTC cadets at Norwich University and to international military officers at the Human Rights & Law of Armed Conflict course conducted by the Defense Institute for International Law Studies in Newport, Rhode Island. In April, he judged qualification and semi-final rounds in the Geneva Centre for Security Policy’s Cyber 9/12 Challenge, in which student teams from around the world compete to present the best set of policy briefings in response to a cyber incident scenario to international panels of judges. In May, his co-author, Sally Torani, and he presented at the Naval War College’s annual Women, Peace and Security Symposium on gender oppression in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change in that country. Jody will be working over the summer to develop his new fall course for the Rubenstein School, SEP 3990, *Biodiversity Law*.



Susanna Schrafstetter (History) spent the summer of 2023 in Europe conducting research for her project on German Jews who fled to Fascist Italy. In the fall of 2023, she taught a seminar titled “Jews and Fascism and Nazism.” With help from Jonathan Huener, Alan Steinweis, and Antonello Borra, she organized the Ninth Miller Symposium,

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News From the Faculty, continued from Page 17

which focused on Italy and the Holocaust. The event took place at UVM in late October of 2023 (see p. 8). In November, she presented a paper titled “Not Enemy Aliens but Jewish Enemies: The Internment of Foreign Jews in Fascist Italy, 1940 – 1943,” at the Lessons & Legacies Europe Conference in Prague. Also in November, she visited Munich to deliver the annual lecture commemorating the anniversary of the first deportation of the Jews from that city in 1941. Her article “Ferramonti, not Palestine: The Failed Aliyah Bet of the ‘Benghazi Group’ (1939–1943),” has just been published in *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*.



Helga Schreckenberger (German, Russian, and Hebrew) published the articles “‘Geisterwelt der österreichischen Inseln’—die Topografie des Verbrechens bei Ilse Aichinger und Wolf Haas” in *Konstellationen österreichischer Literatur: Ilse Aichinger*, ed. Christine Ivanovic und Sugi Shindo (Wien: Böhlau Verlag 2023); and “Die Funktion von Sprichwörtern in Theodor Fontanes *L’Adultera (1880)*” in “*Standing on the Shoulders of Giants*”: *A Festschrift in Honour of Wolfgang Mieder on the Occasion of his 80th Birthday*, edited by Saša Babič, Fionnuala Carson Williams, Christian Grandl, and Anna T. Litovkina, Proverbium Online Supplement 3 (2024). She also presented the papers “‘I come from Klingonia’: Identity and Language in Vladimir Vertlib’s *Schimons Schweigen (2012)*” at the conference on Translingualism and Exophony at the University of Oregon in February 2023; and “The Pioneer Myth and Alice Herdan-Zuckmayer’s *Die Farm in den Grünen Bergen*,” at the Annual German Studies Conference, in Montreal in October 2023. In addition, she participated in a virtual panel discussion on Stefan Bühling’s film *Martha Liebermann: A Stolen Life (2022)*, at the Holocaust Museum Los Angeles in July 2023.

David Scrase (emeritus, German and Russian) has completed an autobiographical memoir for German readers, translated by Michael Lehmann and forthcoming from Sujet Verlag. In *Ein Leben auf Deutsch*, Scrase examines the crucial influences on his life as a teacher of German and the Holocaust stemming from his birth as an evacuee (in utero) from the East End of London to rural Dorset in September 1939. There he received an education certainly superior to the schooling he would have had because the East End docks were prime targets for German bombers, and schools throughout the area were constantly closed and relocated. By 1945, hardly a single building was left standing. Rural schools, on the other hand, enjoyed continuity that was greatly beneficial for his education. He also benefited from the Education Act of 1944, which vastly improved public schooling for working-class children. In 1953, his rural high school arranged its first post-war exchange with a German school, and Scrase’s visit to Kassel led to an abiding passion for German language and culture, not to mention an interest in the Third Reich. Both as a schoolboy and as a student he benefited from policies developed by the Federal Republic of Germany to change the negative image of Germans that Europeans had formed throughout the 1930s and war years, and was actually in Germany at conferences or in courses when, for example, Adolf Eichmann was located, and when the American television miniseries “Holocaust” was aired and sparked nation-wide debate.

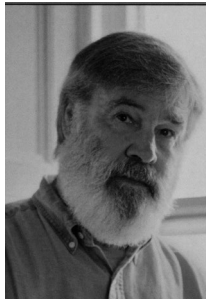


Photo: Crombie McNeill

Alan E. Steinweis (History) published a coedited book, *Recht, Unrecht und Gerechtigkeit: Justiz zwischen Diktatur und Demokratie; Festschrift für Jürgen Zarusky zum 65. Geburtstag*, co-edited with Annette Eberle, Thomas Schlemmer, and Susanna Schrafstetter (Berlin: Metropol-Verlag, 2023).

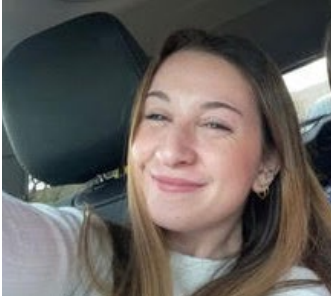
His own contribution to that volume was “Zwei gescheiterte Schauprozesse in NS-Deutschland: Die Fälle von Herschel Grünspan und Georg Elser.” His current projects include an issue of the *German Yearbook for Contemporary History*, dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Institut für Zeitgeschichte, which he is co-editing with Susanna Schrafstetter and Thomas Schlemmer, and to which he is contributing an essay on “The Institute for Contemporary History and Raul Hilberg’s *Destruction of the European Jews*.” He completed a chapter on Kristallnacht for the forthcoming *Cambridge History of the Holocaust*, to be published by Cambridge University Press. He also supervised to completion the MA theses of four graduate students in the UVM History Department: Elisabeth Champion, Sandor Farkas, James Hughes, and Patrick Sullivan.

G. Scott Waterman (emeritus, Psychiatry) continues to chair the Advisory Board of the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies. He also continues to serve on the Executive Council of the Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry (AAPP) and to chair its Karl Jaspers Award Committee, which annually selects the best paper by a student or trainee on a topic within that subdiscipline. He was conference co-chair for the 2024 Annual Meeting of the AAPP, held at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, where he delivered a presentation titled “Dualism, Reductionism, and Medical Explanation: Addressing the ‘Metaphysical Morass.’” This year he and three colleagues from around the US published “Conceptual Competence in Psychiatric Training: Building a Culture of Conceptual Inquiry” in *BJPsych [British Journal of Psychiatry] Bulletin*. That article is based on their panel presentation at last year’s Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association. Closer to home, he participated in Public Philosophy Week 2024, organized by Tyler Doggett of the UVM Department of Philosophy, in which his presentation was titled “What Are Mental Illnesses?”



Steve Zdatny (History) spent the spring 2023 semester on sabbatical as a visiting academic at the University of Oxford, where he finished writing his latest book, *A History of Hygiene in Modern France: The Threshold of Disgust* (Bloomsbury) which began flying off bookstore shelves and out of Amazon warehouses in April 2024. In November he traveled to Nantes, France, to participate in the conference on the theme “Quelles histoires du droit social?” [Histories of Labor Law]. He is now at work on a new research project: a history of infanticide in modern France.

Student News



Zoe Alpert is a junior at UVM pursuing a BA in history with minors in Holocaust Studies and art history. She has taken several Holocaust Studies courses including History of Poland, World War II, and Jews in Modern Europe. Under the guidance of Professor Andrew Buchanan, Zoe is working

on her honors thesis on US Militarization of the Arctic during World War II and the subsequent Cold War and its far-reaching environmental consequences. In the spring of 2024 Zoe also served as a teaching assistant for Professor Buchanan's global history course. During that same semester, Zoe interned at the UVM Fleming Museum of Art, where she focused on learning skills such as object handling, documentation, and research. A frequent museum-goer, she finds that her courses in Holocaust Studies have provided her with the historical context necessary to grasp the complex themes expressed in exhibits related to the Holocaust. Her most memorable visit was to Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Israel.

Grace Elston is a rising senior history major and Holocaust Studies minor from Denver, Colorado. In her undergraduate seminar class with Professor Susanna Schrafstetter in the fall of 2023, she researched the extent of German public knowledge of the persecution of Jews from the passage of the



1935 Nuremberg Laws until the end of the Third Reich in 1945. By determining what, how, and when the German general public acquired knowledge of the persecution of Jews, she was able to discuss the role of a 'general consensus' in favor of the National Socialist regime as a necessary precondition for the escalation of the 'Final Solution' from identification to annihilation. In the spring of 2024, in her undergraduate seminar with Professor Jonathan Huener, she researched Chaim Rumkowski, the head of the Łódź Ghetto Jewish Council, and his complex role as victim and collaborator. Her research project incorporated Primo Levi's notion of a "gray zone" between victim and perpetrator and the extensive primary source material available documenting ghetto inhabitants' perspective of Rumkowski's leadership. During the 2024–25 academic year, under the supervision of Susanna Schrafstetter, she will pursue an honors thesis focusing on the experience of Jewish women at Auschwitz.



Meghan Hessler (BA, History, Sociology, Philosophy, 2024) completed her bachelor's degree at UVM in May 2024 and was honored with the John Dewey Prize for Most Outstanding Senior Major in Philosophy, Most Outstanding Senior Major in Sociology, and the Paul D. Evans Award for Excellence in History. Meghan worked as a staff assistant at the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies and served on the editorial board of

the 2023–24 *UVM History Review*. Prior to graduation, she defended an undergraduate thesis about racialized stereotypes surrounding criminality in the true crime genre—from the origins of sensationalized crime stories in fifteenth- and sixteenth-century Germany to the many popular true crime podcasts in the US today. Meghan begins her second year of the Accelerated Master's Program in history this fall and will be developing her MA thesis proposal this summer. She is interested in researching the process by which German leadership and legitimacy in the criminological and penological fields were severely undermined during and after the Nazi period, as German criminologists were previously widely regarded as pioneering the field.

Ian Price completed his second year as a graduate student in the Department of History's Master of Arts program, studying modern German history with a focus on colonialism and memory. Before coming to UVM, he graduated from UCLA with honors, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in history with a focus on the Russian Revolution of 1917. With support from the Miller Center, Price spent the summer of 2023 studying German at the Humboldt-Institut in Berlin. During the 2023-2024 academic year he had the privilege to work as a teaching assistant for Professors David Lightbody and Andrew Buchanan, and also served as Executive Editor of the 2023-2024 *UVM History Review*. He also worked as a staff assistant for the Miller Center. In the summer of 2024, Price plans to complete an extended essay exploring how the National Socialists instrumentalized the memory of Germany's colonial past for their own ends.



Alumni News



In spring 2023 **Elisabeth Champion** (MA, History, 2023) defended her MA thesis on sex and sexuality in the Hitler Youth, showing that teenage promiscuity became increasingly alarming for party officials and how leaders in the Hitler Youth policed teenagers' sexual-

ity. Since her May 2023 graduation, Champion has worked as a staff member at UVM in the Center for Academic Success. Starting in the fall of 2024, she will pursue her PhD in history at the CUNY Graduate Center in New York City, where she hopes to continue research on the policing and criminalization of sexual behavior in the Hitler Youth and Nazi Germany.

Lauren Fedewa (MA, History, 2018)

is an advanced doctoral candidate in the Department of History and the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto (UofT) specializing in Holocaust and genocide studies, modern Jewish history, and European history. Lauren's doctoral dissertation, scheduled for completion in December 2025, focuses on the experiences of Polish-Jewish women who attempted to 'pass' as Polish-Christian forced laborers in Germany during the Holocaust. Beyond her research, she is a co-organizer of the 27th Workshop on National Socialist Camps and Killing Sites in Utrecht, the Netherlands, as well as the CJS Graduate Student Conference at the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies at UofT. Lauren also teaches as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at UofT and facilitates an educational program on genocide and human rights for high school students across the Greater Toronto Region.

The recipient of several fellowships and awards, Lauren is currently a Claims Conference Saul Kagan Fellow in Advanced Shoah Studies (2022 – 2024). The results of her work as a research contractor at the USHMM in 2021 and 2022 are forthcoming in the *Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, 1933-1945. Vol. V: Nazi Sites for Racial Persecution, Detention, Resettlement, and Murder of Non-Jews* (Indiana University Press). In the upcoming academic year, Lauren will hold an eight-month Sosland Foundation Fellowship at the Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

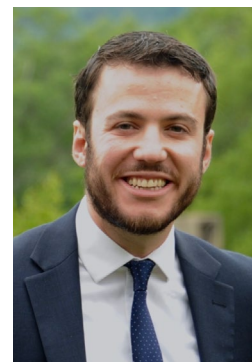


Will Fitz (BA, European Studies, 2019) reported in last year's *Bulletin* that he was about to begin a MA in Political Science at the University of Chicago. Instead, he deferred and began a position at a research organization at the university, the Chicago Project on Security and Threats (CPOST).

As a Project Lead at CPOST, Will has been supervising research collaborating with the Combating Terrorism Center (CTC) at West Point to study how domestic extremist organizations recruit military veterans. The Department of Defense-funded project aims to create a database of contemporary extremist propaganda for narrative analysis, informing future phases of focus groups and survey experiments. This fall he plans to start the MA, for real this time, after which he hopes to work in intelligence or adjacent research. He still plans to turn his "ethnographic" experiences in Germany into published work, including his time observing Confederate symbolism in far-right biker bar culture, but his current priorities are learning computing and statistical modeling methods.

Nate Gondelman (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 Student Accessibility Services Office, where he helps oversee the implementation of accommodations for students with disabilities. Nate has previously served as an editor and writer for the *UVM History Review* and continues articles and reviews for the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies *Bulletin*.



Liam Hilferty (BA, History, 2021; MA, History, 2023) has, since leaving academia, seamlessly transitioned into the realm of public service, and is currently serving as a Legislative Assistant for the New York State Assembly. In this capacity, he leverages his expertise in research, analysis, and communication to support

his local Assemblymember's legislative initiatives. Liam's role involves in-depth examination of bills, engagement with constituents and state agencies, and fostering dialogue with diverse interest groups to shape legislation.

Dženeta Karabegović (BA, Political

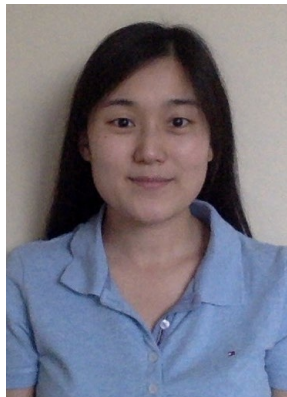
Science and German, Holocaust Studies Minor, 2004) is working on finalizing her habilitation at the University of Salzburg. She gave a talk at UVM's Global Studies Department in September 2023 titled, "Making a Monument: ŠTO TE NEMA and Genocide Remembrance in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Beyond." Recently, she published an article in *Globalizations* focusing on second-generation diaspora political office holders, using a case study of a German-Bosnian politician to argue that they adeptly use their identity to



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Alumni News, continued from Page 18

impact politics, demonstrating adaptability and evolving strategies. Her ongoing research is continually fueled by the academic foundation laid at UVM.



Michelle Magin (MA, History, 2012) continues in her position as an associate editor in the Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. There, 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.

Dana Smith (MA, History, 2012) is an Associate Professor in the Holocaust and Genocide Studies department at Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire. There she teaches courses on the Holocaust, women and the Holocaust,



Nazi Germany and the Holocaust, art and the Holocaust, and Holocaust memory in popular culture. She recently published her first book, *Jewish Art in Nazi Germany: the Jewish Cultural League in Bavaria*, with Routledge—a project she began as her MA thesis while at UVM and continued during her PhD studies at Queen Mary, University of London, before finally completing it while at Keene. Currently, she is working on an integrative study of Shakespeare performance and scholarship in Nazi Germany.

After defending his thesis on German colonialism and national identity to complete his MA in history at UVM in the summer of 2023, **Patrick Sullivan** began a Master of Library Science program at Indiana University (IU) the following autumn. His specialization in the MLS program is Archives and Records Management. At IU, he has had the pleasure of working as a research assistant, facilitating professorial studies in the field of information science. He has also co-authored a book chapter with IU faculty member Pnina Fichman on a socio-ecological model of internet challenges for a forthcoming social informatics book to be published by Routledge. Following his time at IU, Patrick plans to utilize both his MA and MLS degrees at an archival institution.



Report on the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous Summer Institute for Teachers, 2023

by Joshua White, White River Valley High School

In my nine years of teaching, the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous's Summer Institute for Teachers is the best professional development event I have ever attended. The information I gained and the connections I made will serve me greatly in the future. Each presenter was extremely knowledgeable and made complex information approachable for all participants. I have spent a good part of my adult life trying to understand the horrors of the Holocaust. As someone with Jewish ancestry, the Holocaust was talked about early on in my life, and from a young age, I wanted to know how and why this horrific event occurred. The Alfred Lerner Fellowship and the support I received from the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at UVM did more in five days to help me answer this question than my four years in college.

While all the presenters were excellent, a few stood out. I have always admired Doris Bergen, and I made a point of bringing my copy of her book *War and Genocide* for her to sign. I found her talk on anti-Judaism and antisemitism both informative and alarming, in particular her statement that the 2018 Tree of Life massacre of Jews highlighted the urgency of confronting modern-day antisemitism. One of the main concepts I will bring to the classroom is reversing the gaze on antisemitic imagery. In the past, when showing Nazi propaganda, I have had students ask how Jewish people are depicted, but now I will have students focus on the perpetrators and ask, "What is it about antisemites that

make them view the world in this way?" I plan to utilize this when looking at racist imagery from Jim Crow America as well.

One question consistently asked by my students over the years has been, "How did Hitler come to power?" Benjamin Hett, author of *Death of Democracy*, was excellent in breaking down this issue, highlighting how antisemitism played a secondary role and describing the primary driver of the Nazi's coming to power as a reaction to the effects of economic globalization. I was incredibly grateful for the way he broke down the German electorate to show how each party performed in German elections. Illustrating some of the chaos of German politics helped show when and why some individuals in the middle class were willing to back a man like Hitler. He also highlighted the role that elites played in Hitler's rise to power.

In my nine years of teaching, I have never attended a more effective intensive seminar. I am better equipped to answer the tough questions my students have about the Holocaust. I still recognize, however, that there is more to understand. As I have learned, answering one question often leads to two more. I am grateful to the University of Vermont and the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous for allowing me to expand my knowledge, and am proud to have been an Alfred Lerner Fellow.

Joshua White teaches history at White River Valley High School in South Royalton, Vermont.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS DURING THE 2024–2025 ACADEMIC YEAR

All events are free and open to the public.

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

www.uvm.edu/cas/holocauststudies

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

“Children Considered ‘Unworthy of Life’ and Nazi ‘Racial Hygiene’”

Annette Eberle, Katholische Stiftungshochschule Munich–Benediktbeuern
Lutz Kaelber, Department of Sociology, University of Vermont

Monday, October 14, 2024

“Jewish Refugees Fleeing Europe: An Emotional History”

Lecture in Memory of Professor Emeritus Francis R. Nicosia

Marion Kaplan, New York University

Monday, November 11, 2024

“Auschwitz: A New History”

The Annual Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture

Nikolaus Wachsmann, Birkbeck College, University of London

Monday, February 24, 2025

“Primo Levi and Poetry: Teaching Survival, in Auschwitz and Beyond”

Antonello Borra, Faculty Fellow in Holocaust Studies, University of Vermont

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

“Dueling Diasporas: Latvians and Jews in the Aftermath of the Holocaust”

Harry Merritt, Postdoctoral Fellow in History and Holocaust Studies
University of Vermont

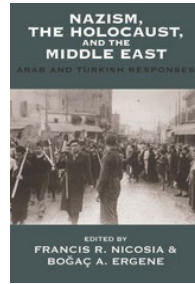
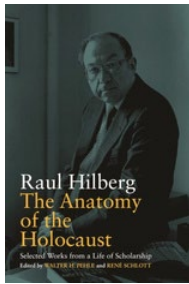
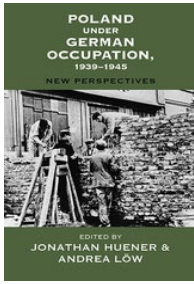
Tuesday, April 8, 2025

“The Archive Thief: The Man Who Salvaged French Jewish History in the Wake of the Holocaust”

The Annual Holocaust Commemoration Lecture

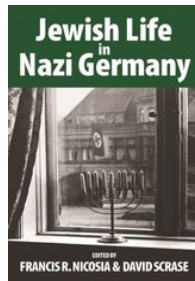
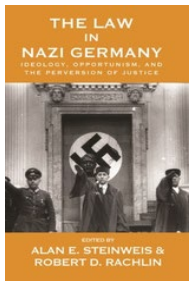
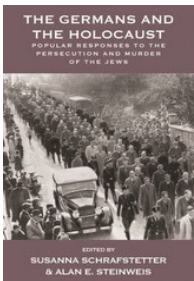
Lisa Leff, Director of the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
Professor of History, American University

Vermont Studies on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust *Series*



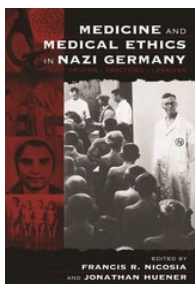
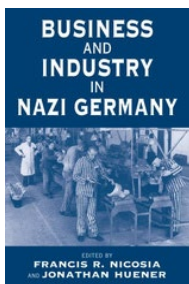
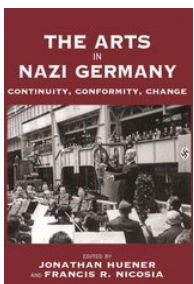
Volume 9
POLAND UNDER GERMAN OCCUPATION, 1939-1945
New Perspectives
 Edited by Jonathan Huener and Andrea Löw

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
THE ANATOMY OF THE HOLOCAUST Selected Works from a Life of Scholarship
 Raul Hilberg, edited by Walter H. Pehle and René Schlott

Volume 4
JEWISH LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY
Dilemmas and Responses
 Edited by Francis R. Nicosia and David Scrase



Volume 7
NAZISM, THE HOLOCAUST, AND THE MIDDLE EAST
Arab and Turkish Responses
 Edited by Francis R. Nicosia and Boğaç A. Ergene

Volume 3
THE ARTS IN NAZI GERMANY
Continuity, Conformity, Change
 Edited by Jonathan Huener and Francis R. Nicosia

Volume 6
THE GERMANS AND THE HOLOCAUST Popular Responses to the Persecution and Murder of the Jews
 Edited by Susanna Schrafstetter and Alan E. Steinweis

Volume 2
BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY IN NAZI GERMANY
 Edited by Francis R. Nicosia and Jonathan Huener

Volume 1
MEDICINE AND MEDICAL ETHICS IN NAZI GERMANY
Origins, Practices, Legacies
 Edited by Francis R. Nicosia and Jonathan Huener

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To join the list, send an email message to listserv@list.uvm.edu and place a subscribe command, sub chs your_name_here, in the body of the message. Replace "your_name_here" with your first and last name, for example:

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sub chs Mary Smith
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(You may receive a confirmation message from LISTSERV; just follow the instructions in the message.)

If you would like to consider making a gift to support the teaching, research, and community outreach activities of the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies, please contact the UVM Foundation, 802-656-2010, or foundation@uvm.edu.

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