

# The Bulletin

OF THE CAROLYN AND LEONARD MILLER CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES

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## *Miller Center for Holocaust Studies Receives Major Award from New England Higher Ed Board*

by Jeffrey R. Wakefield, UVM Office of University Communications



Photo: Aaron Washington

The UVM delegation at the NEBHE awards dinner in Boston on March 4. Front row (left to right): Kathleen Kelleher, Vice President, UVM Foundation; William Falls, Dean, UVM College of Arts and Sciences; Alan Steinweis, Director, Miller Center; Thomas Sullivan, President of UVM; Jonathan Huener, Department of History. Back row (left to right): Corinne Cott, representing the Miller family; Jerold Jacobson, supporter of the annual Hilberg Lecture and member of Miller Center Advisory Board; Deborah Lichtenfed, Director of Development, UVM Hillel; Wolfgang Mieder, Department of German and Russian; David Scrase, Department of German and Russian and founding director of the Miller Center; Susanna Schrafstetter, Department of History; Kathy Rachlin; Robert Rachlin, Chair of Miller Center Advisory Board; Frank Nicosia, Department of History; Leslie Black Sullivan; Matt Vogel, Executive Director, UVM Hillel.

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Miller Center Receives Major Award, continued from front page



The New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) has chosen the Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont as the recipient of its 2016 Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement. The award was presented at NEBHE's 2016 New England Higher Education Excellence Awards Dinner in Boston on March 4, 2016. Four hundred higher education, government and business leaders from the region were in attendance.

"The Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement represents recognition for the highest level of learning by an institution of higher education that goes beyond the 'ivory tower' and reaches the community," said Michael Wool, a senior partner at Langrock Sperry & Wool in Burlington, UVM alumnus and NEBHE chair. "The Carolyn & Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies of the University of Vermont exemplifies higher education programming at the highest level."

"UVM's Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies is one of the preeminent centers in the world for the study of the Holocaust," said UVM president Tom Sullivan. "We're pleased that NEBHE has recognized its many contributions to understanding the Holocaust, to educating new Holocaust scholars and to maintaining awareness among undergraduates and the public at large of the scope and nature of the Holocaust."

"We are greatly honored to receive this award," said Alan Steinweis, director of the Holocaust Center. "It recognizes the collective efforts of many people in the extended UVM community -- faculty, administrators, students, donors and local supporters -- who have contributed to the success of the center since its founding a quarter century ago."

The Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont promotes scholarship, education and public awareness about the events that brought about, comprise and continue to issue from the Holocaust. Drawing upon the expertise of a distinguished faculty from across the university, the Miller Center offers an undergraduate minor field in Holocaust Studies and

supports graduate training in the disciplinary departments. Among the many public events sponsored by the center are the annual Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture and the Miller Symposium, an important intellectual forum for leading Holocaust scholars from around the world.

The serious academic study of the Holocaust began at UVM when the young scholar Raul Hilberg was recruited to join the Political Science Department at UVM in 1956 after completing his doctorate at Columbia. Hilberg would spend his entire academic career at UVM, eventually retiring in 1991. In 1961 he published his path-breaking book, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, which remains to this day a foundational, standard work about the subject. Upon Hilberg's retirement, faculty at UVM founded the Center for Holocaust Studies in order to perpetuate UVM's standing in the field. Instrumental in the founding of the center and the minor in Holocaust Studies were professors of German David Scrase and Wolfgang Mieder. Scrase served as founding director of the center for 15 years. After Hilberg's retirement, UVM's basic course on the Holocaust was shifted to the Department of History, where it has been offered continuously to the present day, first by Doris Bergen and then by Jonathan Huener.

In 2006, Leonard ('51) and Carolyn Miller, who had previously endowed the center's biennial symposium, made a gift of five million dollars to UVM to support Holocaust Studies. The Center for Holocaust Studies was renamed in their honor. While three of the five million was earmarked for the renovation of the historic Billings Library, where the center will ultimately be housed, two million were used to endow distinguished professorships in Holocaust Studies -- the Raul Hilberg Distinguished Professorship, currently held by Francis Nicosia, and the Leonard and Carolyn Miller Distinguished Professorship, currently held by Alan Steinweis.

The New England Board of Higher Education is an interstate compact founded in 1955 by the six New England governors that promotes greater educational opportunities and services for the residents of New England.

## Susanna Schrafstetter Presents New Book at Community Center in Munich

In late 2015, Susanna Schrafstetter, Associate Professor of History and a member of the Miller Center faculty, published a new book about fugitive Jews who attempted to survive the Holocaust in and around the city of Munich. In December she presented the book to an audience of several hundred people gathered at the Jewish community center in Munich. Radio moderator Armand Presser read several passages from the book, and Professor Schrafstetter was interviewed about her research by Jürgen Zarusky of Munich's Institute for Contemporary History. The *Jüdische Allgemeine*, Germany's major Jewish newspaper, published a lengthy reportage about the event, an image from which is reproduced here.

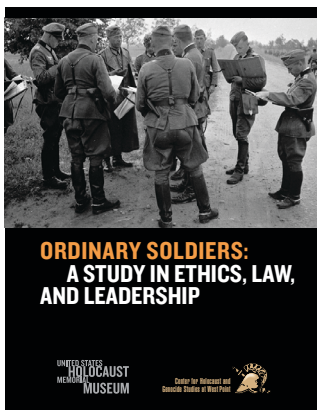
The new book, *Flucht und Versteck: Untergetauchte Juden in München - Verfolgungserfahrung und Nachkriegsalltag*, was published by the Wallstein-Verlag. An English-language translation will appear in the future.



Photo: Marina Maisel

## Ordinary Soldiers Project Update

by Jody Prescott



With the generous support of the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies, in 2012 the first iteration of the *Ordinary Soldiers* lesson plan was presented to the seniors in the UVM Army ROTC Battalion. *Ordinary Soldiers: A Case Study in Ethics, Law and Leadership*, was written by a multidisciplinary team under the auspices of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the West Point Center for Holocaust and

Genocide Studies. The case study uses the actions of a Wehrmacht infantry battalion in killing Jewish civilians in occupied Belarus in October 1941, and the trials held after the war of some of the German personnel involved, as a vehicle for small group work and discussion of the moral, legal and professional issues present in cases of atrocities against civilians.

As documented by Dr. Waitman Beorn in his book, *Marching into Darkness: The Wehrmacht and the Holocaust in Belarus*, the commander of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 691<sup>st</sup> Regiment, a rear-area security unit, ordered each of his three company commanders to kill all the Jews in their respective areas of operations. One commander, a member of the SS in civilian life, complied immediately. The second commander, a veteran of World War I, refused, despite the battalion commander ordering him to do so in writing. The third commander initially avoided complying with the order, but once it was confirmed, delegated the executions to the company's first sergeant, the senior non-commissioned officer in the unit, and then absented himself from the scene. One illegal order elicited three different responses by similarly situated small unit commanders.

After World War II, the commander of the third company, the first sergeant, and one of the soldiers on the execution detail were tried by domestic German courts for the murders of the Jewish civilians. The trial and appellate decisions in the case preserve a rich

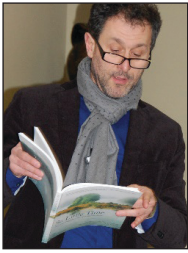
record of testimony by officers and soldiers in the battalion, covering details of command climate, reputations of the different commanders, and the reactions of the soldiers who conducted the executions to the significance of what they had done. Importantly, these were not front-line soldiers but were in many cases reservists, older than the typical Wehrmacht soldier at this time, with substandard training and poor equipment, and unbloodied in combat prior to their deployment to Belarus.

Since 2012, the lesson plan has been taught each year at UVM and Norwich University, and it has also been taught to cadets at West Point and the U.S. Air Force Academy. At Norwich University this fall, the lesson plan was expanded to include more in depth discussion of competing positive values, such as loyalty and integrity, and linked together with training on Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention given to the ROTC cadets. At UVM this spring, the lesson plan was modified to promote discussion of competing positive values in the context of following and applying the law of armed conflict and rules of engagement.

The lesson plan has also now been taught since 2014 at the Defense Institute for International Legal Studies (DIILS) on the U.S. Naval War College campus in Newport, RI. DIILS holds a human rights course for officers from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and South America twice a year, and the students use the case study as the basis for devising a plan to ensure appropriate instruction in preventing civilian atrocities to soldiers in a hypothetical multinational unit deploying into a combat theater of operations. Finally, planning is now underway with the Virginia Bar Association's continuing legal education (CLE) program, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Virginia Holocaust Museum in Richmond to present the lesson plan to Virginia lawyers earning CLE credits for their licenses. The first session will be held in Richmond and the second in Washington, D.C., in the last week of August, 2016.

COL. (Ret.) Jody M. Prescott is an adjunct professor in the Political Science Department at UVM. He is one of the co-authors of the *Ordinary Soldiers* lesson plan.

## News from the Faculty



**Antonello Borra** (Romance Languages and Linguistics) completed a book manuscript on Medieval Italian poet Guittone d'Arezzo, due to be published in 2016/17. A bilingual Italian / German edition of his animal poems was released in 2015 with the title *Alphabetiere / Alfabestiaro*. In the Fall of 2016 he will teach a World Literature class entitled "Italian Literature in Translation" and centered on 20th century writers such as Primo Levi, Carlo Levi, and Natalia Ginzburg.



**Adriana Borra** (German and Russian, Romance Languages and Linguistics) returned from her sabbatical, during which she divided her time between Turin, Italy and Regensburg, Germany and continued her work on Italian/German-German/Italian dictionaries. This time she translated neologisms for the 2nd edition of *Il tedesco SMART* (forthcoming at Zanichelli) and worked on more efficient ways to signal false cognates. She also researched the declining

dictionary user skills among students and the rising awareness of the problem by lexicographers and publishers specializing in dictionaries. In October she delivered two presentations on dictionary-making, based on her work as a lexicographer for two major German-Italian dictionaries. One lecture was held at the German House/Global Village, and one was delivered to the Department of Romance languages. She organized a guest lecture in October by Dr. Andrea Mehrländer (Berlin) on *Ich bin auch ein Berliner. Marketing a Heavy Past: Reshaping Berlin's Identity through Diversification*. Borra also developed three new classes for the German curriculum. One of these deals broadly with the history and culture of modern Germany. Finally, she attended a workshop on how to convey historical events while teaching German as a foreign language, held by Natalie Eppelsheimer at the Goethe Institute, Boston, in November.



**Andrew Buchanan** (History) had two articles accepted for publication: one, on American soldier-tourism in Italy during World War II, will appear in a special issue of *American Quarterly* in November 2016, and the second, on America's wartime occupation of Morocco and the rise of Moroccan nationalism, will be in *Global War Studies*. In the spring, Buchanan spent a term at the Modern European History Research Center in Oxford, where he conducted work on a comparative study of universal military service and the emergence of the modern nation state.



**Meaghan Emery** (Romance Languages and Linguistics) served in fall 2015 as assistant chair and in spring 2016 as acting chair of the committee to establish a Jewish Studies Minor at UVM. She is continuing her work on her manuscript *The Poetics and Politics of Rebellion*, a study of contemporary French film and literature.



**Rob Gordon** (Anthropology) co-edited a special issue of *Acta Academica*, which features papers originally featured in the *Silence After Violence* conference that the Miller Center helped sponsor. The volume features essays ranging from the French Revolution's Reign of Terror to civil war in Sierra Leone and critically

discusses the role of silence after mass atrocities. A German publisher has offered to publish the special issue as an edited volume. In addition, his work on genocide in settler societies continues. He published "*Vogelfrei and Besitzlos*, with no Concept of Property: Divergent Settler Responses to Bushmen and Damaras in German Southwest Africa," in Mohamed Adhikari, ed. *Genocide on Colonial Frontiers: When Hunter-Gatherers and Commercial Stock Farmers Clash*. Currently an essay on the role of civilians in genocide in settler societies is in preparation.

Of related interest is a paper he presented at a conference on Moritz Bonn in Hamburg, which argues that many of Hannah Arendt's ideas concerning the origins of Totalitarianism were prefigured in, if not derived from, Bonn.



**Jonathan Huener** (History) continues writing his monograph on the Catholic Church in German-occupied Poland. In work related to this project, he completed a book chapter "Niemiecka polityka kościelna i kościół katolicki polski w <Kraju Warty> i w diecezji łódzkiej" (German Church Policy and the Polish Catholic Church in the 'Reichsgau Wartheland' and the Łódź Diocese), which is based on a conference paper he delivered in Łódź, Poland, in 2015. The chapter is to appear in a publication of Poland's

Institute of National Remembrance: *Łódź w Kraju Warty (1939-1945)*, and analyzes not only the ways in which the German authorities in this western region of occupied Poland persecuted the Catholic clergy and institutional church, but also the use of the region as a testing ground for church policies to be implemented in the Third Reich of the future. He continues to serve on the editorial board of the Polish journal *Przegląd Zachodni*, and has also recently reviewed works for the journals *Slavic Review* and *Religious Studies Review*. On the UVM campus, he was instrumental in organizing the exhibit "Samuel Bak: Survival and Memory" currently featured at the Robert Hall Fleming Museum. The exhibit has been at the center of a number of university events and was also the destination of class visits by students in his spring 2016 courses on the history of Poland and the history of the Holocaust. Born in Wilno, Poland (now Vilnius, Lithuania), Samuel Bak is a noted artist and Holocaust survivor who currently resides near Boston. A feature on the Bak exhibit appears on page eight of this issue of the *Bulletin*.



**Lutz Kaelber** (Sociology) is continuing his research on the Hadamar "mixed-race ward" for minors in 1943-1945 and the biographies of the youths and their Jewish parents. He authored several book reviews in the field of medical crimes in Nazi Germany. In his other line of research, he published a chapter on the dissertation of Max Weber in *The Foundation of the Juridico-Political: Concept Formation in Kelsen and Weber*, edited by Ian Bryan, Peter Langford, and John McGarry (London: Routledge, 2016).



**Dennis Mahoney** (German and Russian) served as acting chairman of the Department of German and Russian during the 2015-16 academic year, which provided him the opportunity to organize the 2016 Harry H. Kahn Memorial Lecture by Stefan Koch on "From Vienna to Vermont: The Life and Music of Richard Stöhr (1874-1967)." As President of the International Novalis Society, Mahoney traveled to Germany on two occasions during this year. On October 30, 2015 he gave a lecture on the Orpheus Motif in the works of Novalis at a conference

and exhibit on "Novalis and Antiquity" at the birthplace of the poet in Oberwiederstedt, Sachsen-Anhalt. In May of 2016, he will be repeating this lecture as the concluding event of a weekend symposium at the Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena honoring the awardees of the biannual Novalis Prize for innovative interdisciplinary research in the field of European Romanticism. This award is co-sponsored by the University of Jena, where Novalis studied history with Schiller, his esteemed professor and mentor. Mahoney also gave a talk on *Der Runenberg*, a tale written by the German Romantic writer Ludwig Tieck, at an interdisciplinary conference on Minerals and their importance in German Art, Music, and Literature in Alsace, France in March of 2015, and used the occasion to pay a visit in Strasbourg to the German-Jewish writer Barbara Honigmann, whom he hopes to be able to bring to UVM sometime in the future. In addition to the publication of the scholarly translation, with an introduction and notes, of Joseph von Eichendorff's novel *Ahnung und Gegenwart* (Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 2015), Mahoney most

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recently has seen his book chapter on the centers of German Romantic activity in „Heidelberg, Dresden, Berlin, Vienna“ appear in *The Oxford Handbook on European Romanticism* (OUP, 2016).



**Wolfgang Mieder** (German and Russian) received his second honorary doctorate degree from the University of Bucharest in recognition of his life's work in international folkloristics and paremiology (study of proverbs). He published the three books *„Goldene Morgenstunde“* and *„Früher Vogel“*. *Zu einem Sprichwörterpaar in Literatur, Medien und Karikaturen* (Wien: Praesens Verlag, 2015), *„Different Strokes for Different Folks“*. *1250 authentisch amerikanische Sprichwörter* (Bochum: Norbert Brockmeyer, 2015), and together with Andreas Nolte *„Kleine Schritte sind besser als große Worte“*. *Willy Brandts*

*politische Sprichwörterthetik* (Würzburg: Königshausen & Neumann, 2015). He also edited *From Goethe to Novalis. Studies in Classicism and Romanticism. Festschrift for Dennis F. Mahoney in Celebration of His Sixty-Fifth Birthday* (New York: Peter Lang, 2015); Constant von Wurzbach's *Historische Wörter, Sprichwörter und Redensarten* (Hildesheim: Georg Olms, 2015), and volume 32 of *Proverbium. Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship* (Burlington, Vermont: The University of Vermont, 2015). Among his new articles are "Politics is not a Spectator Sport". Proverbs in the Personal and Political Writings of Hillary Rodham Clinton," *Tautosakos Darbai / Folklore Studies* (Vilnius), 50 (2015), 43-74; "These Are the Times that Try Women's Souls". The Proverbial Rhetoric for Women's Rights by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony," *Proverbium*, 32 (2015), 261-330; "Different Ways to Make Life's Gold". Three Valedictory Messages of a University Course on Proverbs," *Proceedings of the Eighth Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> November 2014, at Tavira, Portugal*. Eds. Rui J.B. Soares and Outi Lauhakangas (Tavira: Tipografia Tavirense, 2015), 122-147; "Der Mensch lebt nicht vom Brot allein". Zu Willy Brandts gesellschaftspolitischer Sprichwörterthetik," *Sie leben nicht vom Verb allein. Beiträge zur historischen Textanalyse, Valenz- und Phraseologieforschung*. Eds. Hartmut E.H. Lenk and Ulrike Richter-Vapaatalo (Berlin: Frank & Timme, 2015), 119-149; and "Origin of Proverbs," *Introduction to Paremiology. A Comprehensive Guide to Proverb Studies*. Eds. Hrisztalina Hrisztova-Gotthardt and Melita Aleksa Varga (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2015), 28-48. He also presented lectures at the annual meetings of the Western States Folklore Society (Long Beach, California), the American Folklore Society (University of California at Los Angeles), and at international meetings at Bucharest (Romania) and Tavira (Portugal).



**Francis Nicosia** (History) saw the publication of the new paperback edition of his co-edited volume (with Lawrence Stokes) *Germans against Nazism: Non-conformity, Opposition and Resistance in the Third Reich. Essays in Honor of Peter Hoffmann*. The revised new paperback edition of this book, originally published in 1990 by Berg Publishers in London, was published by Berghahn Books in July 2015. A formal presentation of the revised paperback edition to Professor Peter

Hoffmann took place at the German Studies Association annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in October 2015. Frank also completed the work on his edited volume of 208 mostly German documents (annotated in German) from 22 Archives in Germany, Israel, the United States and Russia. The volume will be published with the title *Dokumente zur Geschichte des deutschen Zionismus 1933-1941*, and it will appear in the Leo Baeck Institute's series "Schriftenreihe wissenschaftlicher Abhandlungen des Leo Baeck Instituts," published by Mohr/Siebeck Verlag in Tübingen, Germany. It will appear in late 2016 or early 2017. With our History Department colleague Bogac Ergene, Frank also began the editing process for the forthcoming book *Responses in the Middle East to National Socialism and the Holocaust*. The essays in this book are based on the lectures presented by a group of international scholars at the 7<sup>th</sup> Miller Symposium (with the same title) at UVM in April 2015. The book will be published by Berghahn Books in 2017 as part of the series "Vermont Studies on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust." Frank was also invited by the *Centre d'études et de recherches internationales*

(CERI) of *Sciences Po* in Paris to present a public lecture and seminar in the summer of 2015. The title of the lecture/seminar was "Zionism in Nazi Germany." Frank continued his service as a member of the Academic Council (formerly the Academic Board) of the Holocaust Educational Foundation at Northwestern University. This academic year, Frank taught the first year seminar "Revolutionary Ideologies in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century," as well as the courses "History of the Holocaust," and "History of Zionism to 1948."



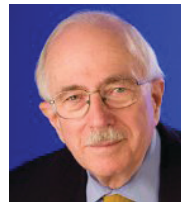
**Nicole Phelps** (History) continued research on her major project *The United States in the World: The US Consular Service, 1789-1924*, spending several weeks at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland, with the generous assistance of a UVM Faculty Research Support Award. She also launched a website about the project, which includes elements of the work in progress (and an exhibit of early twentieth century corporate letterhead); visit at <http://blog.uvm.edu/nphelps/>.

She contributed essays on embassies and consulates and the US Foreign Service to the supplemental volume of *Scribner's Dictionary of American History on America in the World*, and reviewed books for *Contemporary Austrian Studies*, the *American Historical Review*, *The Historian*, *H-Diplo*, and *H-SHGAPe*. As a recipient of a Coor Collaborative Fellowship Grant from the UVM Humanities Center, she participated in and helped to organize a series of workshops about tools and challenges in the digital humanities. She looks forward to presenting some of the work that came from that series at the 2017 American Historical Association conference, where she will also be commenting on a panel devoted to new scholarship on US-Habsburg relations.



**Jody Prescott** (Political Science) the lead author of the *Ordinary Soldiers* lesson plan (see feature elsewhere in this newsletter), is an adjunct lecturer in the Political Science department and the School of Environmental Studies, teaching U.S. Environmental Politics, U.S. Environmental Law, and Cyber Policy & Conflict. He also presented lectures on armed conflict, gender and climate change at the Defense Institute for International Legal Studies (DIILS) on the U.S. Naval

War College campus in Newport, RI. At the annual U.S. Naval War College conference on Women, Peace and Security in May, he gave a presentation on the Food Security Panel, focusing on the operational aspects of gender and food security. He and his two co-authors, Dr. Eiko Iwata and Dr. Becca Pincus, published an article, "Gender, Law and Policy: Japan's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security," in the University of Hawaii's *Asia-Pacific Journal of Law & Policy*.



**Robert Rachlin** (German and Russian) as pianist, performed music of Jean Françaix and William Grant Still with violinist Kevin Lawrence in November as part of the St. Paul's Cathedral Arts Series in Burlington. As a lawyer, he presented on civility in the practice of law in September to the Tri-State Defense Lawyers in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. In November he addressed a meeting of lawyers in Las

Vegas concerned with firm risk management on the attorney-client privilege as applicable to confidential communications within a firm.



**Susanna Schrafstetter** (History) published her book *Flucht und Versteck. Untergetauchte Juden in München - Verfolgungserfahrung und Nachkriegsalltag* (which translates roughly as *Escape and Concealment: Jewish Fugitives in Munich during the Second World War and their Experiences in the Postwar Period*) with the German publisher Wallstein in the fall of 2015. The presentation of the book was organized by the cultural affairs department of the Jewish community of Munich and took place in

December of 2015 at the Jewish Community Center in Munich. Together with Alan Steinweis, Susanna Schrafstetter published the anthology *The Germans and the Holocaust: Popular Responses to the Persecution and Murder*

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of the Jews, New York: Berghahn, 2016. Her essay "'Life in Illegality Cost an Exorbitant Amount of Money.' Ordinary Germans and German Jews Hiding from Deportation," is forthcoming in: Andrea Löw and Frank Bajohr (eds.), *The Holocaust and European Societies*, London: Palgrave, to be published in 2016. Schrafstetter spoke in November of 2015 at the University of Vermont, as part of a mini-symposium on *Survival Underground: Jews in Hiding in Poland and Germany during the Holocaust*. She gave a lecture on Jews in Hiding during the Holocaust as part of a lecture series on "Refugees in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century" at the University of Erfurt, Germany in January 2016. Schrafstetter also spoke on "Righteous Gentiles in the Collective Memory of the Federal Republic of Germany" at the *Ninth International Conference, Lessons of the Holocaust and Contemporary Russia*, International Forum, "The Holocaust: 70 Years On" in Moscow in June 2015.



**Helga Schreckenberger** (German) published three articles: "Es muß doch schön sein, immer im richtigen Augenblick auf der richtigen Seite zu sein"; Politische Verantwortung und Schuld in Reinhard Federmanns Das Himmelreich der Lügner" (*Journal of Austrian Studies*); "Man muss gute Nerven haben, um Metro auszuhalten. Die Arbeitsbedingungen exilierter Drehbuchautorinnen in Hollywood am Beispiel von Salka Viertel" (*Exilforschung*); "To Know or Not to Know: Oedipal Patterns in Wolf Haas's Detective Novel

*Das ewige Leben* (2004)." (*Colloquia Germanica*). She also wrote an entry on the Austrian singer and cabaret artist Karl Farkas for the online *Lexikon verfolgter Musiker und Musikerinnen der NS-Zeit* and contributed the article "'Ich war willenlos': Die dämonische Macht der unterdrückten Sexualität in Rainer Maria Rilkes Erzählungen Die Näherin (1894) und Das Haus (1899)" to the Festschrift in honor of Wolfgang Mieder's 70th birthday. In October 2015, she was able to participate in a week-long seminar on German exiles in France at Sanary-sur-mer where she delivered the paper "Flucht durch Frankreich: Die Erinnerungen von Marta Feuchtwanger und Lisa Fittko."



**Jonah Steinberg** (Anthropology) is developing a research program centered around histories of Romani ("Gypsy") expulsion, eviction, and segregation over the past four centuries, focusing on modes of spatial exclusion from the Holocaust to the present. This summer, with support from the Miller Center, he will continue his multi-year research effort in the Marseille conurbation to engage ethnographic and historical approaches to this question. In the wake of

his earlier archival finds in Marseille attesting to two hundred years of Romani evictions from Marseille, 1577-1788, from a folio that terminates with the French Revolution, he will return this summer to examine similar archives for the Vichy period, endeavoring to fold them into a larger examination of spatialized relationships of Jews and Roma both in Holocaust deportations and underground/resistance formations (as part of a wider interest that extends as far as fluid Romani-Jewish boundaries in Black Sea shtetls). In Marseille, he works in particular with a set of Romani families, some of them musicians, in a predominantly North African neighborhood that once housed, nearly exclusively, Jews and Armenians (Le Panier, a favorite literary subject of Nobel-winner JMG Le Clézio). Steinberg is also doing preliminary work and site scouting for a film-oriented grant centered around the theme of "camps," on which he is collaborating with an already-successful filmmaker, Tyler Wilkinson-Ray, who is a recent UVM graduate and a National Geographic Young Explorer. Steinberg and his collaborator, in the consideration of camps as fraught and complex historically-determined socio-spatial forms,

are seeking sites where Nazi histories, Romani mobilities, and current refugee confinements converge, such as the new tent settlement in Dachau's herb garden (primarily for Syrian refugees, within the historical camp proper), Marseille's Camp du Grand Arénas, or Traiskirchen, a current refugee camp on the site of one of the Nazi-era Austrian *Nationalpolitische Erziehungsanstalten* schools. Steinberg is exploring, in cooperation with the HC, and as part of his new directorship of Global Studies, ways to bring discussions of Roma in the Holocaust to wider audiences, from UVM Faculty to appropriate museums, an effort which includes invitations to scholars and artists of note. Finally, Steinberg is also working this summer towards the fulfillment of his contract with Yale University Press by completing the book based on his prior NSF-funded research, *A Garland of Bones: Child Runaways and Postcolonial India*.



**Alan E. Steinweis** (History) published the volume *The Germans and the Holocaust: Popular Responses to the Persecution and Murder of the Jews* (Berghahn Books, 2016), which he co-edited with Susanna Schrafstetter, and which grew out of the 2012 Miller Symposium. In October 2015 he presided over the conference "Exile and the Holocaust," which was held

at UVM, and which Steinweis had co-organized with Helga Schreckenberger of UVM and Bettina Bannasch of the University of Augsburg. A volume based on this conference will appear later this year. He delivered the annual Hans Heilbronner lecture at the University of New Hampshire, and gave invited lectures at the University of Erfurt (Germany) and the University of Nebraska-Kearney. He continues editorial work on several projects, including a volume on Holocaust memory in global perspective, a collection of Holocaust essays being published in conjunction with the *Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte*, and a multi-volume collection of documents on the Holocaust being published by a consortium of German and Israeli institutions. He also continues work on a synthetic history of Nazi Germany, which is under contract with Cambridge University Press. In October 2015 he published an op-ed about gun control in Nazi Germany in the *New York Times*.



**Richard Sugarman** (Religion) continues his research and writing on the religious philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas. Levinas is widely recognized as the preeminent post-Holocaust Jewish philosopher. He continues to advise Senator Bernard Sanders, now US presidential candidate. In this capacity he has given numerous interviews in various media, including NPR, the *New York Times*, *New Yorker* and *Mishpacha*, both Hebrew and English editions. He will also be teaching the first course in the new Jewish studies minor in the fall of 2016.



**Steve Zdatny** (History) has spent the 2015-2016 academic year largely reaping the profits from the semester he spent in Spring 2015 as a Fulbright grantee and a visiting research scholar at the Institute for Advanced Study in the Social Sciences, in Paris. He published several book reviews in the *American Historical Review* and the *Journal of Modern History*, and contributed a chapter to an edited volume on the history of "female beauty systems." Mostly, however, he continued to work on his current book project: a history of hygiene in modern France.



## Student and Alumni News



**Mark Alexander**, B.A. 2012, M.A. 2015, is now completing his first year in the Ph.D. program at George Washington University in Washington, DC. Next year he will be finishing his course work and beginning preliminary research for his dissertation, which will expand on work done at UVM on the relationships forged between Nazi collaborators and Western intelligence during the tense early years of the Cold War. In the summer of 2016 he will serve as a research intern at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum



**Kassandra LaPrade Seuthe**, M.A. 2015, has joined the Curatorial Affairs Division of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. In her capacity as curatorial assistant, Kassandra provides support in the accessioning of new acquisitions to the museum's collections. This work aligns closely with her longstanding appreciation of the power of images and objects to evoke the individual stories that enrich our understanding of the past. Prior to pursuing her master's degree, Kassandra was employed as a

German language researcher on the team behind USHMM's exhibition *Some Were Neighbors: Collaboration and Complicity in the Holocaust*. She looks forward to continuing work in the field of her academic focus at The University of Vermont, during which time she saw her paper "Without House and Home": The Response of Jewish Welfare to the Dispossession of Elderly German Jews," published in UVM's *History Review*. Kassandra lives in Maryland with her partner Matthew. They enjoy exploring the Mid-Atlantic and adding new volumes to their overburdened bookshelf.

**Dana Smith**, M.A. 2011, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation at Queen Mary College, University of London. The dissertation, "The Jüdischer Kulturbund in Bayern: Art and Self-Representations of 'Jewishness' under National Socialism, 1934-1938," is now undergoing revision for publication.

Senior **Emma Waters** (Biology major with a minor in French) successfully defended her honors thesis, "The United Tasks of Healing and Witnessing: The Practice of Combined Ethics Within Médecins sans Frontières," in April 2016. The study traces the ethics of MSF in Holocaust literature and to Albert Camus' 1946 novel *The Plague*.

## A German Edition of *Personal Accounts*

by David Scrase

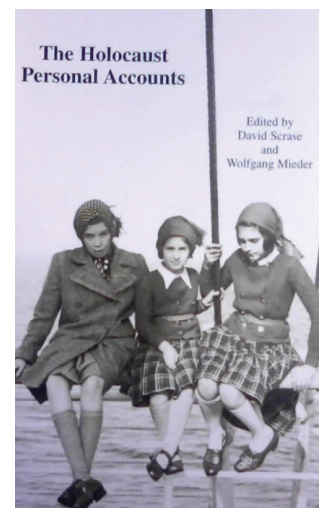
During the 1990s, the Center regularly offered a summer course for high-school teachers on teaching the Holocaust. Since there was no suitable textbook available at the time, we prepared and published *The Holocaust: Introductory Essays*, (edited by David Scrase and Wolfgang Mieder). The volume enjoyed some success and we decided to follow up with a second volume which incorporated the Holocaust experiences of the witnesses who spoke during the course and in public lectures. Most of the accounts provided to us were written especially for the book—some had been written earlier and were incorporated in the book with no changes. We endeavored to include accounts by survivors, by liberators, and by rescuers. The resulting book, *The Holocaust: Personal Accounts*, (also edited by David Scrase and Wolfgang Mieder), is now out of print.

In 2007 David Scrase was contacted by the grandson of the German poet Wilhelm Lehmann with a request to translate Scrase's English-language biography of Lehmann into German. The grandson, Michael Lehmann, was interested in Scrase's role as the then director of the Center, so we gave him copies of all the books published by the Center. In due course the German edition of the Wilhelm Lehmann biography came out (in 2014), and Michael Lehmann asked whether he might also translate one of the Holocaust volumes. Scrase suggested *Personal Accounts*, thinking that this book would find most interest among Germans. Lehmann finished the translation and we looked around for a German press that might be interested in the topic.

The one we found (Helmut Donat) was closer than we thought. Having published a novel by Wilhelm Lehmann, he attended a Lehmann conference, which Scrase and his translator also attended, and one word gave another – yes, he would take a look at the manuscript. And, a little later, he stated his willingness to publish, if we could help with the printing costs. Back in the USA, with the help of Gary Godwin, Scrase approached the Silk Foundation of St. Louis, Missouri, which quickly and positively responded. The Evan Scheuer Foundation, which supported the original *Personal Accounts*, contributed to the translation costs.

By now it was early 2016. Helmut Donat responded with alacrity; the trio Lehmann, Scrase and Wolfgang Mieder collaborated with similar energy, and the book has already (April 2016) gone into production. Its German title is a sentence taken from the account by the late Gina Gotfryd: "Nichts konnte schlimmer sein als Auschwitz!" the sub-title is: *Überlebende des Holocausts und ihre Befreier berichten*. ("Nothing could be worse than Auschwitz": Survivors of the Holocaust and their Liberators Report). The German version uses the same cover illustration as the English original, which is a photograph of three girls sitting on the railing of a liner bearing them to safety in the USA. One is the late Susi Learmonth, whose account is in the volume. Another is her sister. The name of the third is unknown.

The publisher is the Helmut Donat Verlag in Bremen. Details of how to obtain the German volume will be forthcoming.



**David Scrase** is Professor Emeritus of German and was the founding director of the UVM Center for Holocaust Studies.

## ART EXHIBITION

***Samuel Bak: Survival and Memory***

February 10 – May 22, 2016

Wolcott Gallery, Fleming Museum, UVM Campus

For seven decades, Samuel Bak's art has communicated his experience as a Holocaust survivor, while expressing universal truths about human frailty through deeply-layered symbols and rich art historical references. This spring, the Fleming Museum is presenting a selection of Bak's works, from the drawings and watercolors he did immediately after the war, to the complex allegorical paintings he has created throughout his career.

Born in Vilna, Poland, in 1933, Bak and his family were confined to the Vilna Ghetto after the German occupation in 1941. Bak's artistic talent was recognized even then, when at the age of nine the Ghetto's art jury chose to exhibit thirty of his paintings and drawings. Later that year, his family was sent to a labor camp, where his father and grandparents were killed. He and his mother escaped, hiding in a Benedictine convent until liberation.

From 1945 to 1948, Bak and his mother lived in displaced persons camps in Germany. His watercolors and ink drawings from that time aptly express the anxiety of dislocation in the immediate aftermath of war. The Fleming exhibition includes several examples of this rarely shown early phase of Bak's work. Bak emigrated to Israel in 1948, where he studied at the Bezalel Art School, and has since lived

in Paris, Rome, New York, Switzerland, and Weston, Massachusetts, where he settled in 1993.

In the 1960s, Bak's art evolved from dark, abstract expressionist canvases to finely detailed surrealist landscapes painted in the style and palette of the Renaissance. Continuing in this vein to the present day, Bak repeatedly returns to the same symbols, each with its own web of associations. Pears are a frequent subject, taking the form of crumbling monuments or used as stand-ins for human beings, representing the fragility of life and of civilization, but also the fruit of knowledge eaten by Adam and Eve. Jewish iconography is prominent, as the Jewish Star, the tablets of the Ten Commandments, or the Yiddish letters "vov" and "gimel," standing for Vilna Ghetto, appear in the landscape in various forms of decay. Particularly haunting is the image of a boy from the Warsaw Ghetto with his hands in the air, appropriated from a famous photograph, which Bak recreates in various forms as an emblem of the loss of innocence experienced by children in wartime.

Through this repertoire of recurring images and icons, Bak investigates the daunting questions about human nature that arise from the great communal trauma that was the Holocaust and the horror that such a genocide represents, for the Jewish people and for all people.

The Fleming Museum of Art is mounting this exhibition in collaboration with The Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont.



Samuel Bak (Polish, b. 1933), *Persistence of Memory*, 1989. Mixed media on paper. 25.5 x 19.75 inches.  
Courtesy of Pucker Gallery, Boston, MA.



Artist Samuel Bak visited the University of Vermont on April 26, 2016 to meet with faculty from the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies and staff members of the Fleming Museum. He is pictured here chatting with Fleming Director Janie Cohen.



The entrance to the Bak exhibition at the Fleming Museum



## Miller Center Acquires *Blood Libel* by Artist Lisa Rosowsky

*Blood Libel* looks at a story as old as history: that Jews ritually sacrifice Christians—particularly children—to use their blood for Passover matzah and other religious purposes. This artist's book by designer and studio artist Lisa Rosowsky recounts seven of the most well-documented accusations of blood libel, dating from as far back as 39 AD and as recently as 1946. Selected excerpts from primary sources and reproductions of period art and photographs, combined with engaging summaries of each of the cases, weave a centuries-long narrative of suspicion, misunderstanding, and hate.

The seven tales:

- Flavius Josephus responds to Egyptian-born historian Apion, who recounts in his book *Aegyptiaca* a story about Antiochus discovering a man imprisoned in the Temple being fattened up for sacrifice by the Jews.
- The tale of William of Norwich, whose abduction and murder in 12th-century England is blamed on local Jews (who were relative newcomers to the area). Encouraged by the Bishop of Norwich, a local monk named Thomas of Monmouth writes a multi-volume work about the boy—who became known as St. William of Norwich and in later years was credited with miracles.
- The tale of the murder of “Little Saint Hugh” in 13th-century England led to the first time that a death penalty charge for ritual murder was ever issued by a civil government.
- The tale of little Simon of Trent, who in 15th-century Trento in Italy was abducted and killed on Easter Sunday, shortly after inflammatory sermons had been delivered there by an itinerant Franciscan preacher. Eighteen men and women—the entire Jewish population of the town—were arrested and charged with murdering the child in order to use his blood for Passover matzah.
- The tale of 14-year-old Eszter Solymosi, who in 1882 disappeared from her Hungarian village while out on an errand. The 5-year-old son of the local sexton was bribed to say that he had seen members of his Jewish community drain the girl's blood, and fifteen Jews were arrested and charged. Although all fifteen were eventually exonerated, Eszter's grave site is an occasional site of anti-Semitic pilgrimages even today.
- The story of the spectacular Kiev show-trial in 1913 of Menahem Mendel Beilis, who was accused of kidnapping and stabbing to death a 13-year-old boy. Even the chief of police suspected that Beilis had been framed, and sacrificed his own career to exonerate him. After the trial, Beilis became a Jewish hero and celebrity, and even traveled to America to play the New York Yiddish theater circuit!
- The tragedy of the town of Kielce in Poland, to which a small number of Jews returned in 1946 after the nightmare of the Holocaust—only to fall victim to the accusation of a 9-year-old boy who claimed to have been abducted and held in the local Jewish community center. In the ensuing riots, 42 Jews were killed and 40 others injured, and residents of the town were ordered to bury the dead and attend the funeral. The so-called Kielce Pogrom was one reason why almost all remaining Jews fled Poland.



Artist Lisa Rosowsky

**Lisa Rosowsky** is an artist and graphic designer who lives and works in the Boston area. She holds an AB from Harvard College and an MFA in Graphic Design from Yale University, and has been a tenured professor at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design since 1996, where she teaches graphic design, typography, and book design. Her artist's books are in the collections of Harvard University, the Boston Public Library, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, the University of Vermont, and Wellesley College. She produces mixed-media work in her studio in a converted factory building near Boston, Massachusetts. You can see more of her work at [www.lisarosowsky.com](http://www.lisarosowsky.com).





Holocaust Educational Foundation  
of Northwestern University

FOUNDED BY THEODORE ZEV AND ALICE R. WEISS

7 March 2016

President Andrzej Duda  
President of the Republic of Poland  
Kancelaria Prezydenta Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej  
ul. Wiejska 10  
00-902 Warszawa  
[listy@prezydent.pl](mailto:listy@prezydent.pl)

Dear President Duda,

We write as members of the Academic Council of the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University to voice our commitment to academic freedom and our serious concern about recent statements and actions by the Polish government that threaten to suppress the objective study of history and freedom of expression overall.

A new law is pending in the Polish parliament that would impose five-year jail sentences on people who "blame the Polish nation for Nazi or Stalinist crimes." In a related development, your Chancellery has initiated a procedure to strip Dr. Jan T. Gross, professor of history at Princeton University and one of the leading scholars of modern Polish history and the Holocaust, of the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit, awarded to Professor Gross in 1996 for his public opposition to the communist regime in Poland. Such measures represent the intention of the Polish government under the Law and Justice party to promote "patriotic" education as part of its new "historical policy" that seeks to "reinforce national pride." The symbolic gesture against Professor Gross and, more significantly, the impending legislation constitute a government-initiated attack on intellectual inquiry and on the right to speak uncomfortable truths about the past. They represent a potentially staggering reversal of Poland's trajectory of open engagement with its history. It is also an attack on all of us as academics and a deep threat to our colleagues in Poland and other countries in the region.

As both academics and specialists in Holocaust Studies, we strongly condemn these actions and ask you to immediately reverse this course against freedom of speech. Academic freedom along with other civil liberties have been essential for the developments of the Polish state and Polish citizens in the last 3 decades and more. In particular, scholars must have the ability to debate and promote popular and unpopular ideas and interpretations if we are going to achieve our goals of a better understanding of our histories, our current conditions and our possibilities for growth and development into the future. This principle has been accepted across the spectrum of the world's leading universities and protected by the world's democratic governments, for example in the

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*Academic Council Letter, continued from Page 10*

Universal Declaration of Human Rights which is supported by the U.S. government and Poland's partners in the European Union. It would be a tragedy to see Poland's government turn away from the possibilities promised by this consensus, and it would isolate Poland's intellectual, social and economic contribution to the global community.

We take up this issue because the Holocaust Educational Foundation (HEF) has served since its founding in 1976 as a beacon for promoting tolerance and scholarship on the Holocaust. The HEF's founder, Theodore Zev Weiss, himself a survivor of the Holocaust and a trained educator, saw early on the importance of the most advanced intellectual work on the Holocaust as well as its transmission to our students and a broader public. This mission must be kept alive for all of our sakes, especially if we hope to learn from the past to make a better present. Professor Gross has been a leading participant in this scholarly community, and he deserves our highest respect for broadening our historical understanding of the past.

Please act immediately to reverse this attack against Professor Gross, against freedom of expression and, in its broadest sense, against basic human rights. This is a path that can only lead to further hatred and division. Sadly, this is a lesson that those of us who study the Holocaust know all too well.

Sincerely,

HEF Academic Council:

Dr. Natalia Aleksion (Touro College, USA)  
Dr. Sandra Alfors (Western Washington University, USA)  
Dr. Alan Berger (Florida Atlantic University, USA)  
Dr. Alexandra Garbarini (Williams College, USA)  
Dr. Jan Grabowski (University of Ottawa, Canada)  
Dr. Sara R. Horowitz (York University, Canada)  
Dr. Paul B. Jaskot (DePaul University, USA)  
Dr. Francis R. Nicosia (University of Vermont, USA)  
Dr. Kevin Spicer (Stonehill College, USA)  
Dr. Barry Trachtenberg (University of Albany, USA)

HEF Director:

Dr. Benjamin Frommer (Northwestern University, USA)

Cc: President Barack Obama  
Secretary of State John Kerry  
New York Times  
Washington Post

## EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR 2015–2016

**October 6, 2015**Lecture**“Such Much?” *Casablanca*, Hitler’s Refugees, and the Hollywood Screen**

Noah Isenberg, The New School

This presentation by Noah Isenberg served as the keynote lecture for the conference “Exil und Shoah/ Exile and the Holocaust,” which took place on the UVM campus over the following two days.

Although the legendary, award-winning Hollywood picture *Casablanca* (1942) has been called “everyone’s favorite émigré film,” as the scholar Thomas Elsaesser once put it, rarely is it discussed in this vein. Drawing on extensive research undertaken for his forthcoming book *Everybody Comes to Rick’s: How ‘Casablanca’ Taught Us to Love Movies* (to be published by W.W. Norton in the U.S. and by Faber & Faber in the U.K.), Noah Isenberg sought to shed new light on this often neglected aspect—refocusing attention on the dozens of refugees at work on both sides of the camera; on the strangely evocative if also veiled commentary on historical events; and on the furtive references to Jews and other targets of Nazi persecution. One of the all-time most cherished love stories and wartime dramas of the studio era may also be seen as one of the earliest and most successful feature films to address the menace of National Socialism, the flight of European refugees, and the personal stories embodied in even the most minor characters portrayed on screen.



Noah Isenberg is Professor of Culture and Media at Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts, in New York City, where he directs the Screen Studies program. The author, most recently, of *Edgar G. Ulmer: A Filmmaker at the Margins*, which the *New York Times* hailed as “a page turner of a biography” and was selected by the *Huffington Post* for its Best Film Books of 2014, he has received grants and awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Fulbright, the IFK in Vienna, and the Humboldt Foundation. His writing has appeared in such diverse venues as *The Nation*, the *TLS*, the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times*.

He is the book review editor at *Film Quarterly*, a fellow at the New York Institute for the Humanities, and an awardee of the inaugural NEH Public Scholar research grant for 2015-2016.

*Underwritten by the Leonard and Carolyn Miller Distinguished Professorship for Holocaust Studies Fund and the Miller Endowment*

**October 7-8, 2015**Conference***Exil und Shoah / Exile and the Holocaust*****Conveners:**

Bettina Bannasch (University of Augsburg) and Alan E. Steinweis (University of Vermont), in cooperation with Helga Schreckenberger (University of Vermont).

Underwritten by the Leonard and Carolyn Miller Distinguished Professorship of Holocaust Studies at UVM.

## Welcome and Introduction

Alan E. Steinweis, University of Vermont and Bettina Bannasch, University of Augsburg

Ein Exilant unter Exilanten. Raul Hilbergs frühe Jahre in den USA 1939-1961

René Schlott, Center for Research in Contemporary History, Potsdam

Write and Resist: Ernst Fraenkel and Franz Neumann on the Role of Natural Law in Fighting Nazi Tyranny

Douglas G. Morris, Federal Defenders of New York, Inc.

Friedrich Pollock and the Rethinking of Anti-Semitism in American Exile, 1939-1945

Philipp Lenhard, University of Munich

William G. Niederland und die Ursprünge des „Überlebenden-Syndroms“  
Claudia Moisel, University of Munich

“When the Facts about Auschwitz Came Through...” - Der traumatische Einbruch der Shoah ins Exil: von den ersten Berichten und Zeugnissen (1942/43) hin zum Versuch, Vernichtung in Sprache zu fassen  
Primus-Heinz Kucher, University of Klagenfurt

“Ungerettet gerettet”: die Shoah in der Exillyrik  
Helga Schreckenberger, University of Vermont

“Wir sind absolut und ganz im Exil” – Exil als *conditio humana* in der Essayistik  
Margarete Susmans  
Gerhild Rochus, University of Augsburg

Re-Interpretationen Shylocks. Alexander Granachs Briefe aus dem Exil

Mona Körte, Center for Literary and Cultural Research, Berlin

Lion Feuchtwangers Deutung der nationalsozialistischen Judenverfolgung

Sophia Dafinger, University of Augsburg

Exilliteratur als Literatur des Überlebens: zum Beispiel Peter Weiss  
Doerte Bischoff, University of Hamburg

“Der mit den sechs Millionen gestorben ist...” - Groteske Narrative der Verweigerung: Identität und Begrifflichkeiten des Exils am Beispiel Edgar Hilsenraths

Anna Zachmann, University of Augsburg

Nirgendwo war Heimat (2012): Die Rezeption der Shoah in Stefanie Zweigs *Exilromanen*

Natalie Eppelsheimer, Middlebury College

## EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR 2015–2016

**October 16, 2015**

Seminar

***Mixed Marriages in Nazi Germany***

Maximilian Strnad, University of Munich

Most of the German Jews who were liberated in Spring 1945 were “intermarried” to non-Jewish spouses. Inter marriage provided many German Jews with the opportunity to survive the Holocaust, as their deportation was suspended until shortly before the end of war. The history of German Jews in the late stages of the Holocaust is, therefore, to a significant extent the history of the mixed marriages. This lecture provided an overview of the very special situation of these intermarried Jews and their family members, the latter of whom were also persecuted because of their status as being closely related to Jews. From 1938 onward, the fate of the intermarried families in some major ways differed from those of German Jews in general. By focusing on the last year of war, the lecture gave new insights into the persecution of the last remaining Jews in the German Reich and shows that regional particularities were a major factor in determining their fate.



Maximilian Strnad is a PhD candidate at the University of Munich, where he received his MA in 2007. Until 2013 he served as a research assistant at the NS-Documentation Center in Munich. In the fall of 2015 he was a Sosland Family Foundation Fellow at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington D.C. Among his recent publications are: “The Fortune of Survival - Intermarried German Jews in the late stage of the Shoah” (*Dapim*, Fall 2015); *Flachs für das Reich. Das jüdische Zwangsarbeitslager ‚Flachsroste Lohhof‘ bei München* (Munich: Volk Verlag, 2013); *Der Holocaust in der deutschsprachigen Geschichtswissenschaft* (co-edited with Michael Brenner) (Göttingen: Wallstein, 2012); and *Zwischenstation ‚Judensiedlung‘. Verfolgung und Deportation der jüdischen Münchner 1941-1945* (Munich: Oldenbourg, 2011).

*Underwritten by The Richard Ader/Paul Konigsberg Endowment for the UVM Center for Holocaust Studies*

**October 20, 2015**

Lecture

***Ich bin auch ein Berliner — Marketing a Heavy Past: Re-shaping Berlin’s Identity through Diversification***

Andrea Mehrländer, Academy of Transatlantic Studies, Berlin



This talk reflected on how Berlin, chronically underfunded, has been dealing with the burdens of the past (World War II; a divided Berlin from 1961-1989) beyond the renowned Holocaust Memorial, making up for an overstretched budget with numerous small creative projects and by encouraging the city’s ethnic groups to flourish and share their identities.

Andrea Mehrländer, a native of Berlin, has been Executive Director of the Academy of Transatlantic Studies since 2014. Previously she served as Executive Director of the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation. She specializes in German-American relations, as well as 19th Century North-American History.

*Sponsored by the Department of German and Russian; co-sponsored by the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies, the European Studies Program, the Global Studies Program, and the Department of Geography*

## EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR 2015–2016

**November 2, 2015**

The Annual Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture

***Jewish Refugees in Portugal, 1940-45***

Marion Kaplan, New York University

This talk examined the difficult escapes of Jews from Central Europe and their sojourn in Portugal as they waited to sail onward. Many fled to France, but once the Germans invaded in June 1940, Jews joined the mass exodus towards Spain and Portugal. Their frightening odysseys from impending doom to fragile safety, their fearful wait in an oddly peaceful purgatory, and their grateful surprise at the reactions of Portuguese citizens linked up with more personal, private agonies.



Marion Kaplan is the Skirball Professor of Modern Jewish History at New York University. She has written or contributed to a wealth of published works. Books published include: *Gender and Jewish History*, co-edited with Deborah Dash Moore (2011); *Dominican Haven: The Jewish Refugee Settlement in Sosúa, 1940-1945* (2008); *Jewish Daily Life in Germany, 1618-1945* (2005); *Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Life in Nazi Germany* (1998); and *The Making of the Jewish Middle Class: Women, Family, and Identity in Imperial Germany* (1991). Three of her books have won the National Jewish Book Award, and one of them was a finalist for that award. All of her monographs have been translated into German.

*The Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture is made possible through a generous gift from Jerold D. Jacobson, Esquire, of New York City, UVM Class of 1962*

**November 12, 2015**

Symposium

***Survival Underground: Jews in Hiding in Poland and Germany during the Holocaust***

Natalia Aleksium, Touro College, and Susanna Schrafstetter, University of Vermont

Susanna Schrafstetter's paper explored the wide variety of experiences of Jews who went into hiding in Nazi Germany, analyzing the specific conditions of life underground in different regions of the country. Given that most of the hidden Jews survived in Berlin (an estimated 1,500-2,000 individuals), which had by far the largest Jewish community in Germany, it is no surprise that historical research has concentrated on the German capital. We still know comparatively little about Jews who went in hiding and their helpers in other parts of Germany. Flight attempts and rescue efforts were complex social processes within the history of expropriation and deportation. They involved not only fugitive Jews and different kinds of helpers (with very diverse sets of motives) but also profiteers, traitors, and black marketeers.

Drawing on archival sources, oral testimonies, diaries and memoirs in Polish, Yiddish, Hebrew and English, Natalia Aleksium's lecture reconstructed several aspects of the daily experiences of Jews in hiding in what is today western Ukraine, but was prior to the Nazi occupation the part of Poland known as Eastern Galicia. A close reading of testimonies reveals the daily, intimate, seemingly mundane aspects of daily life that intersected with death and the realization of its genocidal magnitude in local communities and in the region. The lecture focused on relationships that formed in the hideouts among Jews of all ages, and from a variety of social backgrounds, and on the interactions of hidden Jews with Polish and Ukrainian neighbors.



Susanna Schrafstetter is Associate Professor of History at the University of Vermont. She received her PhD from the University of Munich in 1998. Her research interests include the Cold War, German foreign policy, and the politics of memory of Nazism and the Holocaust in an international perspective. Some of her recent work has focused on compensation for the victims of Nazi persecution, on former Nazis in post-1945 West German society. Her new book on Jews fleeing deportation in Munich and Upper Bavaria was published in November 2015 under the title *Flucht und Versteck. Untergetauchte Juden in München - Verfolgungserfahrung und Nachkriegsalltag* (Göttingen: Wallstein, 2015). She is the co-editor of *The Germans and the Holocaust: Popular Responses to the Persecution and the Murder of the Jews* (New York: Berghahn, 2015), and is the author of two earlier books on the history of nuclear non-proliferation.

Natalia Aleksium is Associate Professor of Modern Jewish History at Touro College, Graduate School of Jewish Studies in New York. She received her first Ph.D. in history at the University of Warsaw in 2000 and her second Ph.D. in Jewish studies at New York University in 2010.

## EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR 2015–2016

She has published a monograph titled *Where to? The Zionist Movement in Poland, 1944-1950* (in Polish), and articles in *Yad Vashem Studies*, *Polish Review*, *Dapim*, *East European Jewish Affairs*, *Studies in Contemporary Jewry*, *Polin*, *Gal Ed*, *East European Societies* and *Politics and German History*. She has coedited the twentieth volume of *Polin*, devoted to the memory of the Holocaust. Together with Brian Horowitz she is co-editing volume 29 of *Polin*, titled *Writing Jewish History*. She has completed a book manuscript on Jewish historians in Poland before the Holocaust, and is currently working on a book about the so-called cadaver affair at European Universities in the 1920s and 1930s and on a project dealing with daily lives of Jews in hiding in Galicia during the Holocaust.



*Underwritten by the Kinsler Endowment for Holocaust Studies at UVM, and co-sponsored by the Russian and East European Studies Program*

### March 15, 2016

#### The Annual Harry Kahn Memorial Lecture

#### ***From Vienna to Vermont: The Life and Times of Richard Stöhr (1874-1967)***

Presented by Stefan Koch (cello) and Robert Conway (piano)

Born into a prominent Jewish family in Vienna, Richard Stöhr received not only an M.D. degree from the University of Vienna, but also a doctorate from the Vienna Academy of Music, where he taught from 1901 to 1938, with students including Herbert von Karajan, Rudolf Serkin, and Erich Leinsdorf. During this time, he was the author of several widely used textbooks on musical theory, all the while composing in every major classical genre and having dozens of performances of his works each year. After being forced by the Nazis to resign from the Academy and to emigrate, he was able to obtain teaching positions at the Curtis Institute, where Leonard Bernstein was one of his pupils, and then St. Michael's College, which now houses his musical archives. Determined to ensure that the Nazis' attempts to silence and eradicate the memory of composers like Richard Stöhr would not prevail, Stefan Koch and his musical partner, pianist Robert Conway, performed two pieces for cello and piano that they also have recorded on CD for Toccata Classics (TOCC 0210). Present in the audience was the composer's daughter, Hedi Ballantyne, a 1950 graduate of the University of Vermont and also someone whom Stefan Koch has interviewed regarding her childhood memories, participation in the 1939 "Kindertransport" from Vienna, and experiences in wartime England.

*Sponsored by the Department of German and Russian*

### March 16, 2016

#### Lecture

#### ***A Children's Opera in the Holocaust: Staging Brundibár***

Anna Hájková, University of Warwick, UK

This talk offered a historical biography of *Brundibár*, perhaps the best known opera staged in Terezín. Written in 1938 by the composer Hans Krása together with the writer Adolf Hoffmeister, it was meant to be staged in the Jewish orphanage in Belgická street. The orphanage director, Rudolf Freudenfeld, staged it in 1941 with Krása's help, and drew attention of a fellow composer Raphael Schächter (*Requiem*), who brought a copy to Terezín. After Krása's deportation to Theresienstadt one year later, he staged the opera with children, many of them boys he knew from the Prague orphanage. The opera was shown 55 times to great acclaim. Examining the composer, stage designer, choreographer, audience, and especially the actors, Dr. Hájková explored the Terezín ghetto through the lense of a children's opera, while situating the opera back into the context of the ghetto, outside of redemptive narratives. This lecture took place in connection with a community-based performance of the opera (see below).



Anna Hájková is Assistant Professor of Modern Continental history at the University of Warwick (PhD, University of Toronto, 2013). Her book manuscript on everyday history of Theresienstadt was awarded the Irma Rosenberg as well as the Herbert Steiner prize for 2014. From 2006 to 2009, she was coeditor of *Theresienstädter Studien und Dokumente*, and she also co-edited *Alltag im Holocaust: Jüdisches Leben im Großdeutschen Reich, 1941-1945*. Her essay on sexual barter received the Catharine Stimpson Prize for Outstanding Feminist Scholarship 2013. In 2015/16, she was a Humboldt Fellow at the University of Erfurt with her new project, "Dreamers of a New Day: Building Socialism in Central Europe, 1930-1970."

*Sponsored by the Leonard and Carolyn Miller Distinguished Professorship of Holocaust Studies at UVM.*

## EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR 2015–2016



Photo: Anthony Pagani

### **March 2016**

#### ***Brundibár***

A community-driven, original conception of Hans Krása's 'Brundibár' with translation by Tony Kushner, was produced by Burlington's Theatre Kavanah. Performances took place on March 11-13 and 18-20, 2016 at Contois Auditorium in Burlington City Hall. Anna Hajkova's lecture (described above) provided background and context for the work.

### **March 28, 2016**

#### Lecture

#### ***The Phantom Holocaust of Soviet Cinema***

Olga Gershenson, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

The Soviet Union made an entire canon of films between the 1930s and the late 1980s about the Holocaust and Nazi anti-Semitism. Mostly forgotten or banned, and unknown until recently, they attest to how a totalitarian regime chose to remember - or forget - the crimes and catastrophe of the extermination of the Jews. Focusing on work by both celebrated and unknown Soviet directors and screenwriters, Olga Gershenson has written *The Phantom Holocaust: Soviet Cinema and Jewish Catastrophe*, the first book about all Soviet narrative films dealing with the Holocaust from 1938 to 1991. In addition to studying the completed films, Gershenson analyses the projects that were banned at various stages of production. The book draws on archival research and in-depth interviews to tell the sometimes tragic and sometimes triumphant stories of filmmakers who found authentic ways to represent the Holocaust in the face of official silencing. By uncovering little known works, Gershenson makes a significant contribution to the international Holocaust filmography. A companion website to the book, including film clips, is available at [www.phantomholocaust.org](http://www.phantomholocaust.org). In her lecture, Prof. Gershenson discussed the films and show clips including rare and unknown films.



Olga Gershenson is Professor of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she is also on the Film Studies faculty. She earned her BA in Russia, her MA in Israel, and her PhD in the US. Her earlier book, *Gesher: Russian Theater in Israel* (2005), pioneered the study of Russian immigrant cultural production.

*Underwritten by the Henry and Lili Altschuler Endowment, co-sponsored by the Russian and East European Studies Program*



## EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR 2015–2016

**April 6, 2016**Lecture***Holocaust Survivor as Master Artist: Samuel Bak's Images of the Past and Present***

Jeffrey Diefendorf, University of New Hampshire

This lecture accompanied an exhibition of works by Samuel Bak at the Fleming Museum on the UVM campus from February 10 to May 22, 2016. Please see the feature on this exhibition elsewhere in this issue of the *Bulletin*.

Professor Diefendorf's lecture illustrated some of the ways in which both the Holocaust as well as later experiences have shaped Samuel Bak's art. Bak's work employs a complex and very personal iconography of experience. Some of the themes discussed could be seen in the Fleming Museum show, while others moved beyond the limits of the exhibition in order to offer a broader picture of the artist's amazingly rich and coherent life's work.

Jeffrey Diefendorf is the Pamela Shulman Professor in European and Holocaust Studies at the University of New Hampshire. He has published widely in the fields of German history and urban history.



*Sponsored by the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies and the Fleming Museum, co-sponsored by the Russian and East European Studies Program.*

**April 18, 2016**Annual Holocaust Memorial Lecture***Raul Hilberg and the Beginnings of Holocaust Scholarship***

Magnus Brechtken, Institute for Contemporary History, Munich

Observing the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Raul Hilberg's retirement from UVM.

Raul Hilberg, who taught in the Department of Political Science at the University of Vermont from 1956 to 1991, was a founding figure of scholarship about the Holocaust. His study, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, originally published in 1961, is an enduring classic in the field. This lecture provided an overview of how Hilberg developed his position in Holocaust research in the context of the general discourse about Germany's coming to terms with its past. It described the difficulties Hilberg experienced in writing and publishing the work, the contacts he made to other scholars in the field, and his changing attitudes to Germany. The lecture focused on Hilberg's special relationship with Christopher Browning and the significance of this relationship to the establishment of Holocaust research since the 1970s.



Magnus Brechtken is Deputy Director of the Institute for Contemporary History (Institut für Zeitgeschichte), Munich-Berlin. He studied History, Politics, and Philosophy at the Universities of Münster and Bonn, and was subsequently employed in research projects in Germany, Britain, France, Poland, and the United States. He is the author of an important book on the stillborn Nazi plan to resettle European Jews on Madagascar, and of a second book on perceptions of international relations among political elites in Britain, Germany and the US before the First World War. He is currently writing a biography of Nazi architect and Armaments Minister Albert Speer.

*Underwritten by the Raul Hilberg Distinguished Professorship of Holocaust Studies*

**PREVIEW OF EVENTS FOR 2016–2017**

*Please check our website for details and  
up-to-date scheduling information!*

<http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmchs/>

**September 18, 2016**

Symposium

***Psychiatry in the Third Reich: Historical, Scientific  
and Philosophical Perspectives,  
Legacies and Lessons***

**October 15, 2016**

Concert

***Guy Mendilow Ensemble***

Presented as part of the UVM Lane Series

**October 26, 2016**

Lecture

***The Voyage of the St. Louis and American “Refugee” Policy***  
Paul Vincent, Keene State University

**November 14, 2016**

Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture

***Raul Hilberg and the Future of Holocaust Studies***  
Doris Bergen, University of Toronto

**April 6, 2017**

Lecture

***Strange Bedfellows: Arendt and Heidegger — Technology,  
Mass Society, and the “Banality of Evil”***  
Richard Wolin, CUNY Grad Center

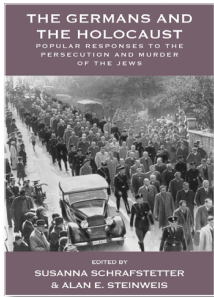
**April 23, 2017**

Film and Discussion (in observance of Holocaust Memorial Day)

***Lost Town***

A screening of the documentary film *Lost Town*, followed by Q&A with Avrom Bendavid-Val, author of *The Lost Town Book* and central figure in the film

## Vermont Studies on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust Series

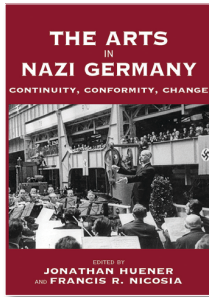


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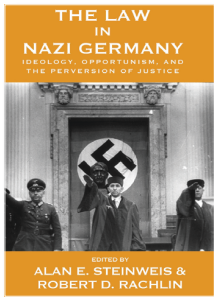


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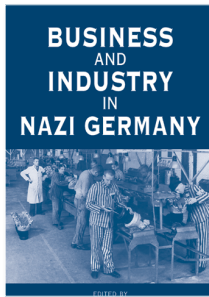


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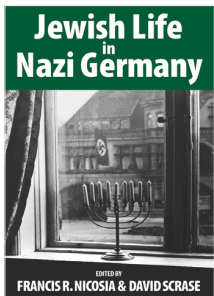


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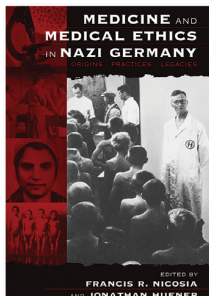


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The Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at UVM has established a mailing list (listserv) for members of the community who would like to receive notices about the many guest lectures and other public programs sponsored by the Center. If you would like to join the mailing list, please refer to the following directions:

To join the list, send an email message to [listserv@list.uvm.edu](mailto: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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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](mailto:foundation@uvm.edu).

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