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UVM's Hilberg Subject of Major Academic Conference in Berlin on 10th Anniversary of His Death

By Jeffrey R. Wakefield, University News and Public Affairs



Raul Hilberg und die Holocaust-Historiographie

Eine Tagung aus Anlass seines 10. Todestages
18. bis 20. Oktober 2017 in Berlin

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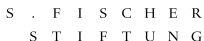
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Raul Hilberg, a towering figure in the field of Holocaust Studies who taught political science at the University of Vermont for 36 years, was the subject of a three-day academic conference October 18-20, 2017 in Berlin on the tenth anniversary of his death.

UVM's Miller Center for Holocaust Studies was one of the conference's sponsors, along with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and several high-profile German research institutes. The conference was hosted by the Center for Research in Contemporary History of Potsdam, Germany.

The conference, which attracted nearly 40 of the world's foremost Holocaust scholars from seven countries, examined the personal and intellectual influences that shaped Hilberg's scholarship and explored its continuing influence, especially the impact of his most important work, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, still a fundamental text six decades after its publication in 1961.

"The Miller Center was proud and honored to have co-sponsored and participated in this important international meeting of Holocaust scholars dedicated to UVM's own Raul Hilberg, who remains the single indispensable scholar of the Holocaust," said Alan Steinweis, director of the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies.

"Ten years after the death of Raul Hilberg, the conference aimed to explore his influence on the history of Holocaust scholarship and analyze his legacy for the future of the field," said René Schlott, a scholar at the Center for Research in Contemporary History. "Young researchers, eminent scholars, friends and colleagues explored the life and work of this pioneering scholar, who launched

Continued on next page

Transitions at the Miller Center

A number of personnel changes will take effect in the Miller Center on July 1, 2018. The Center has benefitted from a great deal of continuity in its leadership and personnel over the past decade. Change is inevitable, and it offers opportunities to reassess the mission and methods of an organization. We are confident that the Miller Center will continue to be a vital participant in the academic life of UVM and the state of Vermont, as well as in the international field of Holocaust Studies.

After a distinguished career of over 40 years of teaching and scholarship in the field of Holocaust Studies, first at St. Michael's College and then at UVM, Professor Francis "Frank" Nicosia is retiring. The author of three books and many articles, and the editor of numerous scholarly volumes, Nicosia is best known for his important publications about the Zionist movement in Nazi Germany and about the relationship between Nazi Germany and the Middle East. Since 2008, he has held the Raul Hilberg Distinguished Professorship of Holocaust Studies at UVM. Although Frank is retiring from teaching, he will continue to be active as a scholar of the Holocaust and, as a professor emeritus, will

remain a member of the Miller Center faculty. The Center celebrated Nicosia's career with a guest lecture by the eminent Holocaust historian Christopher Browning on April 25.

Alan Steinweis, the Miller Distinguished Professor of Holocaust Studies, will step down from the directorship, having completed his second term. He will assume the normal teaching and research responsibilities of a member of the UVM History Department, but will remain very active in the Miller Center in a variety of ways.

Jonathan Huener, a member of the UVM History Department who has been active in Holocaust teaching and research at UVM for over 20 years, will serve as Center director in the 2018-19 academic year.

Robert Rachlin will be stepping down from the chairpersonship of the Miller Center's Advisory Board, a position he has held since the Board's creation. A successor will be designated soon. We are grateful to Bob for his many years of service.

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UVM's Hilberg...., continued from front page

an entire discipline. The intention of this unique encounter of international scholars was to rediscover Hilberg's magnum opus, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, and to explore the impulse behind the historiography of the Holocaust."

Hilberg's masterwork was the first to show the methodical, bureaucratic nature of the program of genocide against the Jews, Steinweis said.

"He showed that it was a kind of national program of the German Reich and, in so doing, demonstrated the breadth of institutions and individuals in Germany who were involved, including a large number

of people who were not hands-on killers but who were participants in a process of destruction."

Hilberg joined the University of Vermont Political Science Department in 1955, eventually serving as chair. He was appointed emeritus professor when he retired in 1991. In 2006, the university established the Raul Hilberg Distinguished Professorship of Holocaust Studies. Each year the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies hosts the Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture.

[A detailed summary of the papers delivered at the conference will appear in next year's Miller Center *Bulletin*. -Ed.]



A Tribute to Ben Scotch

Ben Scotch, who served for many years on the community advisory board of the UVM Center for Holocaust Studies, passed away last January. The following text is drawn from a tribute broadcast on Vermont Public Radio on January 31. [Courtesy of VPR.]

Benson Scotch of Montpelier — a lifelong champion of the law, the arts and civil rights and liberties — has died at 83. Ben, as he was known to all, was long a genial Montpelier presence, known for his trademark straw boating hat and for bicycling the streets of the capital city in all sorts of weather. "You know you're alive when you're riding your bike at zero degrees," he told the Barre-Montpelier Times Argus in 2000. "It's not ambiguous."

When it came to those things he cared about, Scotch did not cheer from the sidelines. He stepped into the fray. As executive director of the ACLU of Vermont from 2000 to 2003, he defended civil liberties in the wake of 9/11 and the passage of the Patriot Act. For 15 years prior to that, Scotch pedaled to work at the Vermont Supreme Court, where he served as chief staff attorney. "He had a great energy for life; he combined a great intellect with that energy and a social conscience as well," says former Chief Justice Jeffrey Amestoy.

Amestoy says the two first met when Scotch was an assistant attorney general and Amestoy was a law clerk. As assistant AG, Scotch was instrumental in defending Vermont's "bottle bill,"

which went into effect in 1973. An earlier bill had been overturned because of beverage industry opposition. At the ACLU, Scotch had a hand in drafting Vermont's landmark civil unions legislation. As a private citizen, he spearheaded a town meeting resolution opposing the Iraq war. "He loved Vermont," says Amestoy. "He had a lot to do with changing policy in Vermont, not only legally but socially as well."

Scotch moved to Vermont in 1972 and worked for then-Attorney General James Jeffords before taking a job in 1980 with Sen. Patrick Leahy on a Senate Judiciary subcommittee. Scotch brought a love of language, a sense of humor and a desire to engage to the conversations he had with friends, colleagues and passersby. "He would consider almost anything that anybody said, even if he profoundly disagreed with it, because he wanted to understand why people thought the way they did," says Allen Gilbert, who succeeded Scotch as head of the ACLU of Vermont. "You always came out with a slightly different take on something or something new you were thinking about."

Scotch spoke often about the use of government power and a citizen's duty to understand and speak out when that power was abused. In a talk he gave in Shelburne in 2014 called "Who Decides About War?" Scotch discussed wars waged without justification or legal authorization. His admonition to the audience on these issues captured his broader view of the responsibilities of citizenship. "We are all relying on you," he said to those present at that talk. "And you, and we, have a really sacred duty to take these issues up and to act, to make it better, to restore the Constitution to what it was when it was adopted."

As a supporter of the arts, Scotch helped to found the Onion River Arts Council in Montpelier and for many years served on the board of the Craftsbury Chamber Players. "He was a very loyal supporter," says Ned Houston, president of the the Craftsbury Chamber Players board. "He had a sense about small arts organizations and what they needed to survive." Scotch's involvement with the chamber players dates back to the 1970s. Fran Rowell, the organization's music director, was a child when she first met him. "I vividly remember meeting this wacky, wonderful gentleman who was effusive about music," she says. Scotch dabbled in the arts himself, and was known to compose sonnets. "Our father passed away at the end of December," Rowell says. "Within days of the announcement, an email arrived from Ben with a sonnet he'd written for our dad. It's wonderful."

Scotch was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, to Maurice and Margaret Scotch. He received his B.A. from Yale before joining the Army. After the service, he attended and graduated from Harvard Law School. Scotch died Monday after a brief illness. Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Barbara; daughters Mariza and Sarah, son Oliver, sister Barbara Schreiber of New City, New York; and a granddaughter.

An Honors Thesis on Dorothy Thompson

by Kiara Day, UVM History Major



Last summer I received a research fellowship from the Humanities Center at UVM for my undergraduate thesis titled “A Mighty

Woman with a Torch: Dorothy Thompson’s Call for American Action, 1931-1945.” This funding enabled a two week archival visit to Syracuse University where over 140 boxes of Dorothy Thompson’s papers are kept. I was interested in exploring Thompson’s journalism and activism throughout the 1930s and the war years.

Thompson stands out as an important American voice who consistently warned about the Nazi threat and worked to shed light on the particular persecution that Jews faced. Thompson also became a leading activist who advocated for refugees and demanded U.S. intervention in Europe. Combining American, German, and women’s history, I am able to tell the story of Dorothy Thompson’s underappreciated role in American journalism and politics as well as her relentless personal and public actions to condemn Hitler’s regime and aid Jewish refugees.

Some of the central questions that guided my research are as follows: What does Thompson’s personal story tell us about the American perspective on Nazi Germany and Jewish persecution? How did Thompson differ from other American journalists in their coverage of the Nazi regime? What drove Thompson’s outrage at Hitler’s Germany and her subsequent mission to aid refugees and push for American intervention? Did Thompson’s journalism and activism respond to the intensification of Nazi policy and what impact did she have? In what ways does Thompson highlight the historical narrative of American apathy?

Much of my thesis relies on the primary sources that I found at the Syracuse archive as well as the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library. I was able to read letters, diaries, newspapers, speeches and manuscripts that illuminate Thompson’s relentless efforts against Nazism and for Jewish refugees. I found Thompson’s diaries and early reports on Nazi Jewish policy to be unique compared to other journalists, indicating her nuanced understanding of the Nazi threat. Further, much of the correspondence that I came across shows that Thompson was able to personally intervene in State Department visa decisions to allow entrance for some refugees. Her papers also reveal a persistent mission to

advise President Roosevelt and other officials about the European situation. Many letters from Americans across the country highlight Thompson’s influence by proclaiming admiration for her political and humanitarian activism. Some people even asked her to run for President.

In my thesis I argue that Thompson was a leader who consistently did three things throughout the 1930s and 1940s: attempt to educate American masses about Nazism and its threat; warn of the specific Jewish plight; and initiate a variety of political and humanitarian activism. By examining the Nazi period through the life of an important American individual, I weigh in on the existing historical

research about American apathy during the 1930s and 1940s. While the United States was suffering from widespread antisemitism and isolationist sentiment, Dorothy Thompson was actively involved in resistance to the Third Reich and working to open American doors to refugees. Ultimately, my research showcases the persistent and courageous efforts of an influential woman who highlights the American bystander narrative, diversifying our historical analysis of the international response to Nazism and Jewish persecution.

Photo Credit: BACHRACH



Dorothy Thompson ca. 1936

An Honors Thesis on the Extreme Right in Contemporary Germany

By Will Fitz, European Studies Major



My thesis, titled “Reactionary Postmodernism? Neoliberalism, Multiculturalism, and the Origins of the New Far Right in Germany since 1989,” aims to map the material, discursive, and ideological foundations of the new far right in Germany within the context of neoliberalism and multiculturalism, the economic and social regimes of modern globalization, as well as explore the right wing’s relationship with postmodernism

and the internet. It is an attempt to create a picture of the contemporary far right that utilizes a variety of different conceptual approaches, illustrating that it cannot be explained as a spontaneous revival of fascism, racism, etc. but rather must be seen as a product of the specific profound historical and social transformations of our time. As the title suggests, it will use Jeffrey Herf’s concept of *reactionary modernism*, describing the two-sided nature of Nazism: decrying the social projects of modernity like democracy while simultaneously obsessing itself with and efficiently using modern technology for its ends. This project evaluates that two-sidedness of contemporary far right movements: though xenophobic nationalism, welfare chauvinism, and appeals to tradition are certainly nothing new, there seems to be a distinctly postmodern (or “late modern”) quality to groups like the Identitarian Movement. Not only do they embrace and skillfully use new technologies such as the internet, but they also appeal to the identity politics of the mainstream while co-opting the leftist theories of cultural hegemony and metapolitics of Gramsci and Badiou. Given this, is it even right to view the contemporary right as a “regression,” or is it simply a different expression of 21st century culture?

To explore the characteristics described, the thesis will be divided into four chapters. The first will view the far right through

a materialist point of view, combining statistical comparative research on factors such as unemployment with systemic analyses of globalized neoliberal capitalism. The second concerns itself with the discursive developments of the past few decades, in which narratives of a “crisis of multiculturalism” have gained increasing acceptance across society, mainstreaming xenophobic talking points, and exerting a rightward pressure on existing German political parties. The third chapter focuses on ideology: what does the far right really believe? What are the underlying ontologies and epistemologies that form the logic of the current “right wing,” and in what ways do these oppose or coincide with postmodernism? It also asks the question of psychology: can people with far right worldviews simply be pathologized? The fourth and final chapter deals with the far right’s relationship to the new world of the internet. As a cheap, accessible, and increasingly ubiquitous form of media, it makes reproducing propaganda and building radicalized communities much easier. It has also enabled transnational linkages between right wing radicals of all nationalities, and while cooperation is sometimes only limited to common goals, pan-European movements like the Identitarian Movement are gaining popularity with younger people.

The sources currently collected for the thesis are a wide array of works—in English and German—ranging from statistical analyses of labor market effects on far right wing voting patterns to theoretical works such as Adorno and Horkheimer’s *Dialectic of Enlightenment*. The intent of using this variety is to avoid overusing any particular model; I attempt to illustrate that discursive and ideological explanations cannot be discounted with hard materialism, or vice versa. Political movements are often less monolithic than they seem, and the motivations that different individuals have for taking part are nebulous and far from homogenous; consequently, the phenomenon of the contemporary far right needs to be understood from a variety of angles to capture this quality.

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.

An MA Thesis on Foreign Child-Care Facilities in Nazi Germany

By Lauren Fedewa, MA Candidate in History



During World War Two, approximately 460 *Ausländerkinder-Pflegestätten*, or foreign child-care facilities, were established across Germany as collection centers for the infants of Polish and Eastern European forced laborers employed in the German war economy. My thesis examines two such foreign child-care facilities, the Velpke and Rühren children's homes, where approximately 450 Polish and

Eastern European infants perished. Three themes provide the framework for an analysis of these two facilities: the conflict between the two main principles of the Third Reich, racial cleansing versus the exploitation of forced labor; the question of whether the establishment of the facilities and treatment of the children depended on orders from upper-level or local-level authorities; and the issue of whether the children's deaths stemmed from malicious intent or reckless indifference. This thesis addresses the following questions: In terms of racial ideology and economic pragmatism, was one factor more significant in the establishment and use of the Velpke and Rühren children's homes? Who, among upper-level and lower-level Nazi officials, ordinary Germans, medical professionals, and factory executives, was responsible for the children's deaths? Were the children's deaths the result of deliberate neglect, murder, or indifference? And what do these two facilities tell us about the larger phenomenon of foreign child-care facilities? The research for this thesis draws upon two British War Crimes trials held in Brunswick and Helmstedt, Germany in 1946, the "Velpke Baby Home Trial" and "Ruehen Baby Farm Case," as well as records from the International Tracing Service Archives, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, and the National Archives in College Park, MD.

Ultimately, this thesis highlights the connections between the three conflicting—and often opposing—themes. First, the trial records reveal that both facilities were exclusively established, managed, and operated by local-level authorities and personnel. Yet, the narrow, localized focus of both trials led to an emphasis on the individuals directly responsible for the children's deaths, providing few answers about upper-level authorities' influence. Second, upper-level Nazi authorities in Berlin deemed alleged racial enemies a threat to the "Germanic race," and were intent on enforcing the racial hierarchy, often through extermination. However, local-level authorities involved in the establishment of these two children's homes were far more concerned with maintaining productivity from the Polish and Eastern European workforce, remaining indifferent towards the fate of foreign children. Third, while both the need for economic productivity from workers and Nazi racial ideology influenced the establishment and management of the Velpke and Rühren children's homes, there is minimal evidence that local authorities and personnel prioritized racial ideology over economics. Since both facilities were locally controlled, this thesis shows that rather than putting racial ideology into practice and intentionally murdering the children, local officials prioritized economic production, leaving the children somewhere between extermination and child-rearing—between being left to die, murdered, or raised.

Exploring these two foreign child-care facilities fills a gap in scholarship, sheds light on the fate of Polish and Eastern European children born in Nazi Germany, and reveals the relationship between Nazi racial and economic policies among the upper and lower levels of the Nazi administration. This case study also provides a thematic lens to facilitate the future study of all 460 facilities in Nazi Germany, research I will continue as a Fulbright scholar based at Leibniz University in Hanover, Germany during the 2018-2019 school year.

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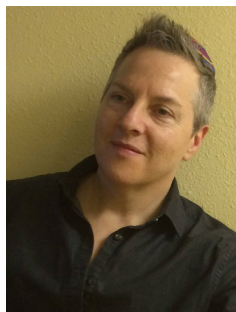
Lauren Fedewa Receives Fulbright Award

Lauren Fedewa, a masters degree candidate in the History Department and Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont, has received a Fulbright U.S. Student Program award to Germany in history from the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Fedewa will conduct research on the establishment and operation of German foreign child-care facilities during the Second World War. She will be affiliated with the Historisches Seminar at the Leibniz University in Hanover.

Fedewa is one of over 1,900 U.S. citizens who will conduct research, teach English, and provide expertise abroad for the 2018-2019 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement as well as record of service and leadership potential in their respective fields.

Creating a Memorial with Returned Headstones at a Jewish Cemetery in Ukraine

By Jordan Friede



Jordan Friede

The author is an M.S. candidate in Natural Resources with a concentration in Environmental Thought and Culture at the University of Vermont's Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources.

I recently returned from Poland and Ukraine where I was conducting research for my master's thesis project, with the generous support of UVM's Miller Center, through a David Scrase Student Research Grant. My degree

field is Natural Resources, with a concentration in Environmental Thought and Culture; my advisor is Adrian J. Ivakhiv, Professor of Environmental Studies at UVM's Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources.

My graduate thesis involves leading a Service-Based project that uses Participatory Action Research (PAR) concepts to create a plan for a memorial and rededication of the Jewish cemetery in Zhalishchyky, Ternopil oblast, in western Ukraine.

The Miller Center's support of this project demonstrates the Center's commitment to an interdisciplinary approach to Holocaust research, as Natural Resources and the Holocaust may not seem like the most intuitive fit at first glance. What these disciplines do have in common is enabling a sustainable future, where values of equity and social justice are foundational and actualized.

This was my second trip to Zhalishchyky, where I am collaborating with fellow Zhalishchyky descendant Hania Fedorowicz to garner community involvement, and raise awareness of the pre-World War II Jewish population of Zhalishchyky, which comprised approximately fifty percent of the six thousand residents. While some Zhalishchyky Jews survived the Holocaust, most were shot in the mass execution that occurred on November 14, 1941, murdered at the Belzec extermination center, or simply disappeared, their fates unknown.

During this trip, I met again with Mayor Alla Kvach, spoke to the city council, and gave a presentation about the once-thriving Jewish community to an assembly of middle and high school students. I invited the students to involve their families and friends in returning headstones and fragments to the Jewish cemetery. These stones were removed for use as building materials over the past seventy years, and will be incorporated into the onsite memorial, to reclaim the cemetery as a place of cultural, religious, and historical significance.

On our first night in town, we spoke with a class of adult English learners, where one of the participants volunteered that he knew of eight headstones located under a bridge on the Dniester River, which are only visible in summer when the current is low. Another resident recently came upon a large fragment with Hebrew inscriptions near the playground in a city park.

A highlight of the trip was walking from the Zhalishchyky State Gymnasium (middle/high school) to the cemetery, with students, teachers and administrators. History teacher Vasily Diakiv spoke

at length about the history and contributions of Jews in Zhalishchyky, noting the nineteenth century synagogue that still figures prominently in town, despite being turned into a diesel-generated electricity plant when Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union.

Ukrainian Catholic Priest Father Ivan Centchuk spoke about the headstones, saying he believed they were not removed simply because of their utilitarian value, but rather as a deliberate attempt to destroy the memory of Jews buried beneath them. Father Ivan also spoke about the obligation of the living to help heal devastations of the past, which underscored the importance of sustained community involvement in the cemetery project.

As a Jewish descendant of Zhalishchyky, I have a subjective relationship to this project and its outcomes. Acknowledging my own positionality allows me to frame my research and stakeholder engagement in a way that values local knowledge, and religious and cultural differences, and maximize the participation of diverse voices and viewpoints.

Additional project participants in Zhalishchyky included Peace Corps volunteer Emile Gable, principal Oleksandra Voychyshyn, teachers Iryna Luchyn and Maria Savchynska, council member Lubomir Katchur, historian Anna Oleynik, and many other community members. Next steps include collaborating with an educational institution to design a memorial, and raising funds for installation and maintenance, which will include multilingual interpretive signage.

Although there are no longer any Jews in Zhalishchyky, leveraging these headstones to create a memorial for commemoration and contemplation may foster awareness of perceived differences and stereotypes. Dividing people by their differences was a primary root cause of the Holocaust, and still threatens sustainable outcomes, locally and globally. These headstones are heavy—physically and psychically—and attest to the existence of a Jewish community which was driven from this place precisely because of its perceived otherness.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the Miller Center for supporting this thesis project, which has already prompted a community deeply impacted by the Holocaust to engage in pluralistic dialogue through engaging in place-based action and commemoration.



Headstone fragments to be incorporated into a memorial at the Jewish cemetery in Zhalishchyky

Update on the *Ordinary Soldiers* Project

By Jody M. Prescott, UVM Class of 1983

With the support of the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies, the first iteration of the *Ordinary Soldiers: A Study in Ethics, Law, and Leadership* lesson plan was taught to UVM Army ROTC cadets in the spring of 2012. Published under the auspices of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the West Point Center for Holocaust and Genocide studies, the *Ordinary Soldiers* lesson plan is the result of a multidisciplinary team making a case study of the actions of a Wehrmacht infantry battalion in German-occupied Belarus in early October 1941. In the first week of that month, the commander of 1st Battalion, 691st Infantry Regiment ordered each of his three maneuver company commanders to kill all of the Jews in their respective areas of operation. One commander, a member of the Nazi Party since 1929, complied immediately. A second commander considered the order, and refused it outright. The third commander hesitated to comply, until the battalion commander confirmed the order in writing. Once it was confirmed, he directed the company's first sergeant to gather a detail of soldiers together and conduct the executions, while he went back to his office and handled administrative tasks. One illegal order to three very similarly-situated small unit commanders – three very different responses. Why?

For the first time this year, the *Ordinary Soldiers* lesson plan was conducted simultaneously with both an undergraduate student audience and an active duty U.S. Army training audience. The 16th Special Troops Battalion (STB), headquartered in Baumholder, Germany, decided to use *Ordinary Soldiers* as part of its new leadership development program for battalion officers and senior sergeants. Rather than having a group of disconnected events on the topic of leadership as had been done in the past, the 16th STB organized a sequence of events using the Holocaust as the overarching training theme. In the first week, a lieutenant who was a history major at West Point gave the 70-strong training audience a briefing on the historical development of the Holocaust.

To nest the Holocaust theme within practical tasks the officers and sergeants might be expected to complete, they were assigned to individually write up the findings and recommendations portion of the standard Army Regulation (AR) 15-6 investigation report explaining why the different company commanders of the historical



Leaders of the 16th Special Troops Battalion touring Auschwitz.

1st Battalion had such markedly different responses to the illegal order, and what they would recommend to their actual battalion commander as improvements in the battalion training program to educate soldiers on the need to not obey illegal orders. The next week, the unit's legal advisor gave them a presentation on how to write up an AR 15-6 report, and then they received a lecture presentation via videoconference from the National Guard base at Camp Johnson, VT on the case study

itself. Each of the reports the officers and sergeants wrote was then graded by a Miller Center faculty member, and written feedback was provided to them.

The following week, in a second videoconference, a Miller Center faculty member briefed the training audience on the results of these evaluations, and answered questions about the legal and training aspects of the case study. The 16th STB commander was a Norwich University alumnus, and that same week, all of the senior cadets in the Norwich Army ROTC program received the same lecture given to the 16th STB. Feedback from the students showed they enjoyed receiving the same lesson that was being given to the soldiers in the field.

Two weeks later, the officer and noncommissioned officer leadership of 16th STB conducted a "staff ride," or field visit, to Auschwitz. There, they toured the death camp and the museum, and then at night discussed the connections between the *Ordinary Soldiers* case study, the Holocaust, and leadership. On their way back to Germany, the training audience toured the courthouse in Nuremberg where the International Military Tribunal was held, and discussed the leadership decisions made by the major Nazi war criminals, and the legal standards that flowed from those trials that are applicable to military personnel today. An anonymous survey of the training audience afterwards showed that the program was well received, and that the staff ride really made a significant difference in their understanding of the scope of the Holocaust and how they could apply lessons from it in their own work as leaders. An article about the leadership development program and photographs of the field visit to Auschwitz are posted on the Army news website, <https://www.army.mil/article/198488>. A video explaining the *Ordinary Soldiers* lesson can be found on the museum's website, www.ushmm.org/military/case-studies.

Exile and Good Fortune: Memoirs from 95 Years

By Hans Reiss

Munich: Petrarca, 2017

Reviewed by Dennis F. Mahoney, Department of German and Russian

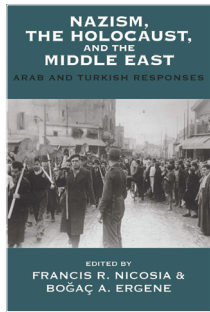
In these memoirs, the author looks back on a life and career that truly deserves the designation “international”; for readers of this bulletin, though, the initial chapter on “A vanished world” (pages 7-117) most likely will prove of greatest interest. Hans Reiss spent the first sixteen years of his life in Mannheim, Germany, where his father, born in 1875, was the senior partner in a successful printing firm. Like many patriotic German Jews of his generation, his father did not take Hitler’s threats seriously; even after he was compelled to sell his business in 1938, he continued to serve as advisor to the new owner, Dr. Burda, respected both for his talents and for his personal character. Hans Reiss recalls no anti-Semitic persecution at his secondary school, other than that he no longer received any prizes for his academic accomplishments. All this changed with the pogrom of November 9-10, 1938, when a mob of about 20 Nazis broke into the family residence, smashing all they could lay their hands upon and forcing father and son to march to the police station. Because of their respective ages, neither father nor son was transported to a concentration camp, but Hans Reiss was no longer permitted to attend the Gymnasium. Thanks to the efforts of the Heidelberg pastor Hermann Maas – Frau Reiss was Protestant – Hans Reiss was able to emigrate to Ireland via the Netherlands and England several days before the outbreak of World War II. But the depiction of his anxiety when on August 22 1939, three days after his seventeenth birthday, he had to say goodbye to his parents, not knowing whether he would ever see them again or in fact whether he would make it across the border into Holland without being taken off the train and sent to a concentration camp or shot (p. 111), makes the “Exile” portion of his memoirs unfortunately all too timely in today’s world.

“Good Fortune,” on the other hand, began for Hans Reiss in Ireland. Thanks to lodging and financial assistance from the Methodist Committee for Refugees, he was able to begin an academic career in German Literature at Trinity College, Dublin, earning a doctorate with a study on Arthur Schnitzler. Between 1946 and 1953 he taught at the London School of Economics, where he came into contact with renowned scholars like Karl Popper. After four years at Queen Mary College in London he accepted the invitation to come to McGill

University and helped develop the German Department there into one of Canada’s leading institutes. During these years he published works like *The Political Thought of the German Romantics. 1793-1815* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 1955) and the first book-length study of Goethe’s novels (Berne: Francke, 1963), to mention only two of the scholarly works which helped win him guest professorships at universities like Princeton, Munich, and Heidelberg. From 1965 until his retirement in 1988, he held the chair for German Language and Literature at the University of Bristol, England, where our own David Scrase encountered him during his student years at Bristol. In 1988 I had the pleasure of meeting Hans Reiss in Santa Barbara, California at an international conference on German Literature in the Age of the French Revolution and invited him to give a talk here at UVM prior to our attending a similarly-themed conference at SUNY, Albany; what a pleasant surprise to learn during his visit to Burlington that he had been a guest professor at Middlebury College during the same summer that Barbara Mieder had been a student there!

Like Raul Hilberg, Hans Reiss has received the Bundesverdienstkreuz Erster Klasse (German Federal Cross of Merit, First Class) from the Federal Republic of Germany – in his case as recognition for the many lectures and summer courses he gave in postwar Germany, thereby helping students and professors alike to rejoin the international scholarly community following the dark years of the Third Reich. Fortunately, his parents also survived the war, thanks in part to the courage and initiative of Frau Reiss, who as a former actress of note in the Mannheim Theatre was able to contact a colleague – the sister of Hitler Youth leader Baldur von Schirach – and secure protection for her husband (pp. 246-47); this also enabled them to move to Heidelberg and be closer to their friend Pastor Maas, who later founded a committee to combat any resurgence of anti-Semitism after the war. Since 2009, Hans Reiss himself is living in Heidelberg with his wife Linda – a talented artist who had to flee Estonia in 1944 with her parents and whom he met during his years in Montreal and married in March of 1963 in Heidelberg, with Pastor Maas officiating. Happy 55th wedding anniversary, and thanks for the memories!

Vermont Studies on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust Series



Volume 7

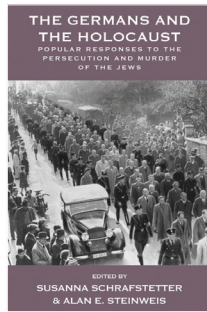
NAZISM, THE HOLOCAUST, AND THE MIDDLE EAST

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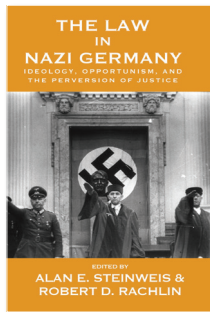
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Volume 5

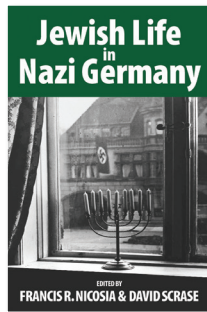
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Volume 4

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Dilemmas and Responses

Francis R. Nicosia and David Scrase [Eds.]

"This collection brings together the work of excellent scholars and can be used in the classroom to teach not only the interesting content but also its fine historiography."

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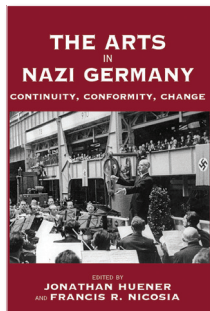
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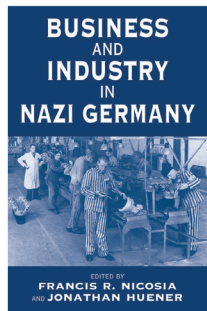
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Volume 1

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about the series

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The University of Vermont has been an important venue for research on the Holocaust since Raul Hilberg began his work there in 1956. These volumes reflect the scholarly activity of UVM's Center for Holocaust Studies. They combine original research with interpretive synthesis, and address research questions of interdisciplinary and international interest.



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News from the Faculty



Adriana Borra (Romance Languages, German and Russian) is very happy to keep one foot in the German and Russian department while enthusiastically continuing to teach Italian beginners. Recently her class *My Best Friend, The Dictionary* inspired her to present various papers about how to fill the gap between increasingly high-quality-dictionaries and

students' lack of dictionary user skills. She presented "Reintroducing dictionaries into the conversation about learner autonomy, error assessment and lifelong learning" at the AATI Conference in Palermo in June 2017. She continues to work as a lexicographer and as of May 2018 has started to work on the 4th edition of *Il nuovo dizionario di tedesco / PONS Großwörterbuch Italienisch* (Zanichelli Editore, Bologna and Klett Verlag, Stuttgart) as a translator of new entries and consultant for the Italian-German section. Her most rewarding teaching experience so far has been the advanced class *Staging German* in the spring 2017. To incorporate theater into the classroom was an old dream mainly motivated by the joy and benefit she got from performing in foreign language plays during her university years and the question "what kind of class would I have loved to take while learning French?". Her presentation for the upcoming AATI Conference in Cagliari in June 2018 will therefore focus on "Staging Italian. Creating an active classroom through theatre methods", sharing the most successful activities from her *Staging German* class, translated not just into Italian, but tailored to beginner instead of advanced students.



Antonello Borra (Romance Languages) published an article on early 20th century Turin poet Guido Gozzano "Preliminari a una rilettura delle *Epistole Entomologiche*" in *Forum Italicum*, Volume 52(1), 2018 and his tribute to the memory of world famous Italian scholar (and unfairly underestimated poet) Giorgio Bárberi Squarotti "Un ricordo di Giorgio Bárberi Squarotti poeta" appeared in *Gradiiva. International Journal of Italian Poetry*, 53 Spring 2018.



Over the last year, **Andrew Buchanan** (History) has been working on a textbook entitled *World at War: A Global History of World War II* for Wiley-Blackwell. He is currently working on the photos and maps, and the book should appear in early 2019. Both in terms of its temporal (1931-1953) and its geographic scope, the book aims to offer a genuinely global study of this critical period in world history. In June 2017, Buchanan presented a paper "What

Would a Global History of World War II Look Like" to the Second World War Research Group conference in London.



Jonathan Huener (History) is completing his book manuscript, *The Polish Catholic Church under German Occupation: The Reichsgau Wartheland 1939-1945*, under contract with Indiana University Press. In May 2017 he participated in an international symposium at the University of Toronto on "Religion and Ethno-nationalism in the Era of the Two World Wars, speaking on "Vatican Responses to the Nazi Persecution of the Catholic

Church in German-Occupied Poland." In addition, he participated in the international symposium "Raul Hilberg und die Holocaust-

Historiographie," held in Berlin in October 2017. Closer to home, in June he gave a lecture "Cabaret in Context: Weimar Germany and the Culture of Modernism" at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts. He is currently organizing the eighth Miller Symposium on "Poland under German Occupation," to be held at UVM in October 2018. Finally, Huener served as Interim Director of the Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies for the first half of 2017. He will resume that position during the 2018-2019 academic year.



Lutz Kaelber (Sociology) revised a manuscript entitled "Jewish Children as Victims of 'Euthanasia' in Nazi Germany" for *Lessons and Legacies XIII: New Approaches to an Integrated History of the Holocaust: Social History, Representation, Theory*, edited by Alexandra Garbarini and Paul Jaskot (Northwestern University Press, projected publication in 2018). He presented on the topics of "Restitution for Victims of the Hadamar Mixed-Race Ward 1943-45 and their Relatives" and "Double Jeopardy: Jewish Children With Disabilities As Victims

of Nazi 'Euthanasia' Crimes" at academic conferences and continued his archival studies in Germany in the summer of 2017.



Dennis Mahoney (German and Russian) has continued his work with the International Novalis Society, for which he serves as President as well as co-editor of *Blütenstaub: Jahrbuch für Frühromantik*; its most recent volume contains his article entitled "Dämmerung will die Flügel spreiten": Die Funktion von Tageszeiten, Licht und Farbe in Joseph von Eichendorffs *Ahnung und Gegenwart*." Later this spring, after presiding over the yearly meeting of the International

Novalis Society at the birthplace of the poet in Oberwiederstedt, Germany, he will have the honor of speaking about "Ahnungen' von Goethes 'Gegenwart' beim jungen Eichendorff" at Goethe's birthplace in Frankfurt. While in Germany, he also will visit the University of Augsburg and give an invited lecture on *Motherland*, the 2014 novel by UVM faculty member Maria Hummel about the closing months of the Third Reich, whose title comes from a poem by the German exile writer Rosa Ausländer.



Wolfgang Mieder (German and Russian) published the two books "Entkernte Weisheiten". *Modifizierte Sprichwörter in Literatur, Medien und Karikaturen* (Wien: Praesens Verlag, 2017) and "Schließlich sitzen wir alle im selben Boot". *Helmut Schmidts politische Sprichwörterrhetorik* (Würzburg: Königshausen & Neumann, 2017; with Andreas Nolte). He also edited Gottlob Wunderlich's *Deutsche Redensarten. Zur Pflege vaterländischer Sprachkenntnis in der Volksschule*

(Hildesheim: Georg Olms, 2017) and the thirty-fourth volume of *Proverbium. Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship* (Burlington, Vermont: The University of Vermont, 2017). Among his new articles are "'To Build Castles in Spain': The Story of an English Proverbial Expression," in *Certas palavras o vento nao leva. Homenagem nao professor Antonio Pamies Bertrán*. Ed. Rosemeire Selma Monteiro-Plantin (Fortaleza: Parole, 2017), 149-174; "You Have to Kiss a Lot

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News From the Faculty, continued from Page 10

of Frogs (Toads) Before You Meet Your Handsome Prince.' From Fairy-Tale Motif to Modern Proverb," in *The Tale from the Brothers Grimm to Our Times. Diffusion and Study*. Eds. M.G. Meraklis et al. (Athens: Gutenberg, 2017), 180-204; "Futuristic Paremiography and Paremiology: A Plea for the Collection and Study of Modern Proverbs," in *Poslovitsy v frazeologicheskom pole: Kognitivnyi, diskursivnyi, spoostavitel'nyi aspekty*. Ed. T.N. Fedulenkova (Vladimir: Vladimirsii Gosudarstvennyie Universitet, 2017), 205-226; "'The American People Rose to the Occasion.' A Proverbial Retrospective of the Marshall Plan After Seventy Years," *Western Folklore*, 76 (2017), 261-292; "'Concordia domi, foris pax'. Zur sprichwörtlichen Mehrsprachigkeit der Rhetorik Helmut Schmidts," *Slowakische Zeitschrift für Germanistik*, 8 (2016), 85-103; "'Little Pitchers Have Big Ears'. The Intricate World of Children and Proverbs," *Children's Folklore Review*, 38 (2017), 39-55; "'Time is Money'. Benjamin Franklin and the Vexing Problem of Proverb Origin," *Proverbium*, 34 (2017), 391-404 (with Damien Villers); "'Stringing Proverbs Together'. The Proverbial Language in Miguel de Cervantes's *Don Quixote*," in *Proceedings of the Tenth Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs, 6th to 13th November 2016, at Tavira, Portugal*. Eds. Rui J.B. Soares and Outi Lauhakangas (Tavira: Tipografia Tavirense, 2017), 15-51; "'Nulla dies sine linea'. Die *Proverbium*-Korrespondenz zwischen den parömiologischen Freunden Matti Kuusi und Wolfgang Mieder," *Proverbium*, 34 (2017), 219-276; and "La correspondance de Demetrios S. Loukatos avec Wolfgang Mieder (1974-2000)." *Laographia*, 43 (2017), 265-298 (with Aristeides Doulaveras). He presented two keynote addresses on modern proverbs and the proverbial rhetoric of Senator Bernie Sanders at international conferences in Wrocław (Poland) and Tavira (Portugal) and an invited lecture on fairy tales at Freiburg, Germany. Other lectures on proverbial matters were delivered at folklore conferences in Eugene, Oregon, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and at various locations in Vermont.



Francis Nicosia (History) will finally see in May of this year the publication of his 700-page edited volume of 208 German documents from 23 Archives in Germany, Israel, the United States and Russia. The volume will appear shortly under the title, *Dokumente zur Geschichte des deutschen Zionismus 1933-1941*. It is published as part of the Leo Baeck Institute's long-standing series "Schriftenreihe wissenschaftlicher Abhandlungen des Leo Baeck Instituts," Volume 77. The publisher is Mohr/Siebeck Verlag in Tübingen, Germany. With our History Department colleague Bogac Ergene, Frank also saw the publication of their co-edited book, *Nazism, the Holocaust, and the Middle East: Arab and Turkish Responses*, in January of this year. The essays in this book are based on the lectures presented by a group of international scholars at the 7th Miller Symposium at UVM in April 2015. The book, published by Berghahn Books, is part of Berghahn's series "Vermont Studies on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust." Frank also gave two talks in Germany in October 2017. In Hamburg, he gave a public lecture at the Institut für die Geschichte der deutschen Juden, with the title "Deutsche Juden oder Juden in Deutschland? Quellen zur Geschichte des Zionismus in Deutschland in der NS-Zeit." A few days later, he participated in the international conference at the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Berlin and co-sponsored by the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at UVM and other institutions. This conference commemorated the life and the path-breaking Holocaust scholarship of UVM's Raul Hilberg. The title of Frank's presentation was, "Raul Hilberg und die Opferperspektive: Persönliche Erinnerungen."

Among his various service and teaching endeavors, Frank continued to serve as a member of the Academic Council of the Holocaust Educational Foundation at Northwestern University. This academic year, Frank taught the first year seminar "Revolutionary Ideologies in the 20th Century," as well as the undergraduate/graduate seminar "Jewish Life in Nazi Germany," "History of Zionism to 1948," and the Honors College first-year seminar, "Hitler's Racial State."



Nicole Phelps (History) was awarded the inaugural UVM College of Arts & Sciences Distinguished Service Award. She also joined the editorial board of *Diplomatic History* and the advisory board for the Botstiber Institute for Austrian-American Studies, and she has served as the co-organizer of the 2018 Austrian Studies Association annual conference. Phelps spoke on "The Habsburg Consular Service in Comparative Perspective," at the conference "Looking for the National Dream: Austro-Hungarian Migrants in the Americas in Comparative Perspectives," which was held at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. She participated on a featured roundtable on "Reinterpreting the Nineteenth-Century State: Digital History's Intervention" at the Organization of American Historians 2018 conference and served as a commentator on panels at the annual conferences of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations and the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic. Her chapter on "One Service, Three Systems, Many Empires: The US Consular Service and the Growth of US Global Power, 1789-1924," is in press and will appear later this year from Duke University Press in *Powering Up the Global: Taking U.S. History into Transimperial Terrain*, edited by Kristin Hoganson and Jay Sexton. Her book reviews appeared in the *Journal of American History*, *Contemporary Austrian Studies*, *Diplomatic History*, *The Historian*, and *Passport: The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Review*.



Robert D. Rachlin (German and Russian; Classics) completed his service as chair of the Advisory Board of the Center for Holocaust Studies. During the Spring 2017-2018 semester, he taught a course entitled "Ancient Israel" as a component of UVM's newly-inaugurated Jewish Studies Program. In November, he performed as pianist with violinist Kevin Lawrence. The program comprised works of Schubert, Janáček, and Ravel. He and Lawrence appear annually as part of the Cathedral Arts series at St. Paul's Cathedral in Burlington.



Susanna Schrafstetter (History) held a fellowship from the Institute for Contemporary History in the summer of 2017 to conduct research on her new project about German-Jews who fled from National Socialist persecution to Fascist Italy. She drafted an article on the subject which has been accepted for publication by the *Vierteljahrshäfte für Zeitgeschichte*. She has been awarded the Judith B. and Burton P. Resnick Invitational Scholarship for the Study of Anti-Semitism at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. She also won a fellowship from the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) to conduct research at the *Fondazione Centro di Documentazione Ebraica Contemporanea* in Milan, Italy during the summer of 2018.

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News From the Faculty, continued from Page 11



Helga Schreckenberger (German and Russian) published two journal articles, “Flucht durch Frankreich: Die Erinnerungen von Marta Feuchtwanger und Lisa Fittko” in the yearbook *Frauen und Exil*, 2017, and “Reclaiming Moral Individualism: Jewish Identity in Arthur Schnitzler’s *Professor Bernhardt*.” In *German Quarterly* 90/3 (2017), 283-298. She also authored the book chapter “Gelungene Rückkehr? Der Fall Karl Farkas”

in *Return from Exiles – Rückkehr aus dem Exil. Exiles, Returnees and their Impact in the Humanities and Social Sciences in Austria and Central Europe*, edited by Waldemar Zacharasiewicz and Manfred Prisching (Vienna: Verlag der österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2017). In addition, she presented the following papers at three international conferences on Exile: “Exiles or POWs? German and Austrian Refugees at the Australian Internment Camp Hay” at the Triennial International Conference of the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies, University of London, September 13 –15, 2017; “In Support of Austria: Voices of French Intellectuals in the Exile Publication *Nouvelles d’Autriche* (1938-1940)” at the 8th Biennial Conference of the International Feuchtwanger Society, Maison Heinrich Heine, Paris, October 11-14, 2017; and “Ausnahmesituationen und ihre Darstellbarkeit in den autobiografischen Texten von Hertha Pauli und Lisa Fittko” at *Autobiographic von Exil, Widerstand, Verfolgung*. Institut für Neuzeit- und Zeitgeschichtsforschung, Vienna, November 23-23, 2017.



Alan E. Steinweis (History) completed his second term as Director of the Miller Center and looks forward to a life of less bureaucracy and more teaching. He wrote an historical introduction to *My Opposition*, the English language edition of the diary of Friedrich Kellner, published by Cambridge University Press, and continued work on a general history of Nazi Germany, which will also appear with Cambridge. He was awarded

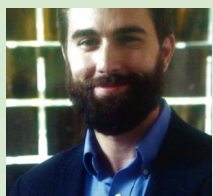
the Ida Levine Senior Invitational Fellowship from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, which he will hold in the Fall 2018 semester.



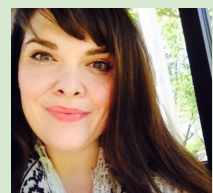
Richard Sugarman (Religion) taught “Moral and Religious Perspectives on Holocaust in Fall of 2017 at UVM. He delivered the annual Holocaust Memorial Lecture on “Jewish Religious Responses to the Holocaust” at UVM- April 2018. He published “Is There a Place for Ethics in Contemporary American Politics?” Finally, he authored the book, *The Bible and Levitas: A Phenomenological Approach*, which is forthcoming from the

State University of New York Press.

Alumni News



Mark Alexander received his BA and MA from the University of Vermont and is currently a PhD candidate at the George Washington University in Washington, DC. He has been working as a research assistant at the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project and as an independent contractor at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where he is helping to create a series of primary source educational supplements based on the archival holdings of the International Tracing Service. Alexander is also a permanent guest faculty member at several annual teacher training seminars at Holocaust Museum Houston. He is currently writing his dissertation on the collaborative relationships forged between United States intelligence agencies and Nazi collaborators during the early years of the Cold War. This spring and summer he is doing archival research in the US and the UK, and he will be traveling to Poland for several weeks with a fellowship from the Auschwitz Jewish Center.



Kassandra LaPrade Seuthe M.A. '16, continues her work with the Curatorial Acquisitions and Reference Branch of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. Over the last year Cassandra has begun the intake of collections directly, in one case acquiring the papers and diary of a Belgian-Jewish emigré

who later served as an UNRRA administrator at a DP camp in Wels, Austria. She has also conducted isolated research to lend context to collections that arrive with limited provenance. Her recent study of wartime correspondence and a photograph album attributed to a member of Police Battalion 131 revealed how a wife might participate in the commodification of her husband’s experiences in the East, not only as the recipient of ill-gotten goods sent home for her benefit, but also through her role in the reproduction of photographs shared with loved ones on the homefront. Cassandra remains a member of the Museum’s

digitization team and has provided photo reference and translation for the exhibitions *Americans and The Holocaust* and *American Witnesses*.



Dana Smith, MA in History from UVM, 2012, PhD from Queen Mary College, University of London, 2017, reports: Over the course of the past year I have been the American Academy for Jewish Research post-doctoral research fellow at the Center for Jewish History in New York City. My research examines the soon-to-be 100-year

history of the Academy, with a publication planned in time to celebrate its centennial anniversary in 2020. The American Academy for Jewish Research is the longest-standing organization of Judaic scholars in North America. It was founded in 1920 and incorporated into the state of Maryland in 1929. Its membership consists of high ranking, established, peer-elected Fellows active in Jewish scholarship and learning. I am particularly interested in the Academy’s early years and its reactions to Nazism, as the membership of European-born and European (mainly German)-trained scholars sought to bring persecuted Jewish scholars to the United States. With the advent of Nazism, Jewish scholarship was attacked at its traditional intellectual center. In the summer of 1933, Alexander Marx and Salo Baron initiated the Academy’s Research Fellowship program to provide financial and institutional support for refugee German – and later European – Jewish scholars. Among the noted scholars brought to the United States through the Academy’s fellowship program were the art historian Rachel Wischnitzer, the legal historian Guido Kisch, and historian/librarian Aaron Freimann. In the meantime, I have also completed two articles on Jewish art and cultural life in Nazi Germany, which should be out soon. Next autumn, I will be joining the Department of Holocaust and Genocide Studies right down the road at Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire, teaching Holocaust studies and Jewish history.

Two UVM Scholars Earn Fellowships at U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum



Professor of History Susanna Schrafstetter (left) will be the Judith B. and Burton P. Resnick Invitational Scholar for the Study of Anti-Semitism. Professor of History Alan Steinweis, Director of the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies, will hold the Ina Levine Invitational Senior Fellowship. (Photos: Sally McCay)

Two members of the UVM history department and the UVM Miller Center for Holocaust Studies have been invited by the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. to take up prestigious research fellowships in the fall 2018 semester.

Professor Susanna Schrafstetter will be the Judith B. and Burton P. Resnick Invitational Scholar for the Study of Anti-Semitism while working on her project “Seeking Survival in the South: German-Jewish Refugees in Italy, 1933-1950.”

Professor Alan Steinweis, who is also the Director of the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies, will hold the Ina Levine Invitational Senior Fellowship, which he will use to work on several research and writing projects related to Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. Both scholars will be in residence at the Mandel Center in Washington, D.C. from September through December 2018.

Schrafstetter’s project focuses on the thousands of Jews from Germany who fled from National Socialist persecution between 1933 and 1940 to Fascist Italy. For the majority of these individuals Italy served as a temporary refuge, but a substantial number of Jewish refugees from Germany and other European countries remained in the country until the end of the Second World War. Following the Italian entry into WWII in 1940, they experienced internment, and, after the German occupation of Italy in September of 1943, they faced arrest and deportation to Auschwitz. Schrafstetter will explore questions including the reasons German Jews fled to Fascist Italy, and how they perceived everyday life as refugees and internees in Italy.

Steinweis is writing a book on the history of Nazi Germany now under contract with Cambridge University Press. The

book will contain extensive sections about Nazi racial policy and the Holocaust, but will situate those topics in the broader historical context of the Nazi regime. He will also begin research on a new project about Georg Elser, a German cabinetmaker who came close to assassinating Hitler in November 1939. Steinweis says Elser’s story has received much less attention than the failed attempt on Hitler’s life by German military officers in July 1944. His work will focus on Elser’s actions in 1939 while exploring why it took so long for post-war German society to honor his deed.

“We’re delighted to welcome Dr. Schrafstetter and Dr. Steinweis to the Mandel Center as research fellows this fall,” said Dr. Wendy Lower, Interim Director of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. “Each day the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum receives new material on the Holocaust, arriving from around the globe. Professors Schrafstetter and Steinweis will benefit from our extensive holdings and in turn, their research findings will enrich our understanding of how and why the Holocaust happened.”

The Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont promotes scholarship, education, and public awareness about 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.

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies is an integral part of the Holocaust Museum, supporting scholarship and publications in Holocaust studies, promoting the growth of Holocaust studies at American universities, and initiating programs to ensure the ongoing training of future generations of scholars specializing in the Holocaust.

EVENTS OF THE PAST ACADEMIC YEAR

October 2, 2017

Anti-Semitism and the Alt-Right in the United States

Mark Potok, former Senior Fellow, Southern Poverty Law Center



Mark Potok is an internationally renowned expert on the American radical right who for 20 years helped lead the legendary Southern Poverty Law Center in exposing hate groups, right-wing terrorism, and the rapidly increasing infiltration of extremist ideas into the political mainstream. In that role, Potok faced numerous death threats from white supremacists and constant vilification by leaders of the far-right media — a remarkable measure of just how effective his work was. Potok has been described in one book on social justice activists as having “a reputation as the preeminent editorial commentator who follows the American radical right.”

As the director of the SPLC’s Intelligence Project and, later, Senior Fellow at the SPLC and Editor in Chief of its award-winning “*Intelligence Report*” investigative magazine, Potok was a key spokesman for the SPLC, a civil rights organization based in Alabama. He has testified before the U.S. Senate, the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights, the Helsinki Commission, and in other key venues. An acclaimed and dynamic speaker, he has given scores of keynote talks in university, government and other settings throughout the United States and Europe. They include such prestigious forums as the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Potok’s study of the radical right began even before he joined the SPLC in 1997. As a national reporter, he covered the 51-day siege in Waco, Texas, that led to the antigovernment militia movement; the Oklahoma City bombing and the trial of mass murderer Timothy McVeigh that followed; and many other instances of right-wing extremism and violence. He has led numerous investigations into various aspects of right-wing extremism, winning key awards for investigative reporting and other journalistic efforts for himself and for the *Report*.

Co-Sponsored by UVM Hillel and the L&C Miller Distinguished Professorship of Holocaust Studies

October 19, 2017

An Evening with Art Spiegelman

In an onstage presentation and interview by Professor Daniel Mark Fogel of UVM, Art Spiegelman discussed his extensive body of work. Spiegelman has almost single-handedly brought comic books out of the toy closet and onto the literature shelves. In 1992, he won the Pulitzer Prize for his masterful Holocaust narrative *Maus*—which portrayed Jews as mice and Nazis as cats. *Maus II* continued the remarkable story of his parents’ survival of the Nazi regime and their lives later in America. His comics are best known for their shifting graphic styles, their formal complexity, and controversial content.

Sponsored by the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies, the Department of German and Russian, and the Jewish Studies Program

Supported by the Richard Ader/Paul Konigsberg Endowment for the UVM Center for Holocaust Studies

Presented in Cooperation with the Vermont Folklife Center’s Pulp Culture Comic Arts Festival and Symposium



Photo: Sally McCay

EVENTS OF THE PAST ACADEMIC YEAR

October 24, 2017

Annual Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture

Getting it Right, Getting it Wrong: Recent Holocaust Scholarship in Light of the Work of Raul Hilberg

Dan Michman, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem



Professor Michman reflected on Raul Hilberg's two basic conceptualizations of the Holocaust and its protagonists, and how these might be better understood in view of Michman's own research on a number of aspects of Holocaust history, e.g, ghettos, Jewish Councils, religious life, and economic persecution. He discussed how some important dimensions of Hilberg's work, including that about the early phase of Nazi anti-Jewish policy and about the German railroad during the war, have been ignored by scholars such as Timothy Snyder, Mark Mazower, and Donald Bloxham, leading them to miss essential aspects of the Holocaust.

Dan Michman is Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and Incumbent of the John Najmann Chair of Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem. He is also Emeritus Professor of Modern Jewish History, Chair of the Arnold and Leona Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research and Incumbent of the Abraham and Edita Spiegel Family Chair in Holocaust Research at Bar-Ilan University. He was born in Amsterdam in 1947 and came to Israel as a child in 1957, when his father, Joseph Michman (then Melkman) was appointed General Director of Yad Vashem. Professor Michman has published numerous books and articles in a variety of languages on the history of Dutch and Belgian Jewry, Israeli society, and mostly on various aspects of the Shoah—historiography, ghettos, Jewish Councils, and Jewish leadership, Jewish religious life, problems of Jewish refugees and migration, resistance, Western Europe, the survivors, the impact of the Shoah on Israeli society and religious Jewry, and more. Professor Michman has been involved with Yad Vashem's scholarly and educational activities since the early 1980s, is on the editorial board of Yad Vashem Studies since the mid 1990s, and served as Chief Historian from 2000 to 2011. He is a member of editorial boards of several scholarly journals and of academic boards of institutions in Israel and abroad.

The annual Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture is supported by a generous gift from Jerold D. Jacobson, Esquire, of New York City, UVM Class of 1962, and his wife Gertraude Holle-Suppa.



November 9, 2017

The Child Murder Accusation against the Jews of Norwich: Meaning, Memory and Legacy

Miri Rubin, Queen Mary College, University of London

This talk was based upon Miri Rubin's work as the editor and translator of Thomas of Monmouth's *The Life and Passion of William of Norwich* (2014). This mid twelfth-century text is generally regarded as the earliest accusation that Jews annually murdered a Christian child, the seed of what eventually became known as the "blood libel." Prof. Rubin brought her unmatched erudition to an analysis of the meaning, memory and legacy of this "chilling, highly significant" text.

Miri Rubin is Professor of Medieval and Early Modern History at Queen Mary University of London. A world-renowned expert on the religious history of the European Middle Ages, Prof. Rubin is the author of seven books, including *Gentile Tales: The Narrative Assault on Late Medieval Jews* (1999), and *Mother of God: A History of The Virgin Mary* (2009).

Supported by the Kinsler Endowment for Holocaust Studies at UVM

Co-Sponsored by the Department of History

EVENTS OF THE PAST ACADEMIC YEAR

November 13, 2017

The Semer Ensemble

A Golden Age of Jewish music almost forgotten - the songs captured in 1930s' Berlin by Hirsch Lewin on his Semer label, thought lost when the building was destroyed on Kristallnacht, but recently rediscovered. The Semer Ensemble brings this astonishing music back to life with critically acclaimed concerts and their first album, recorded live at the Maxim Gorki Theater, Berlin. We were very fortunate to be able to present them at UVM in this limited US tour. The all-star ensemble of eight musicians from both the old and new world includes Alan Berg (Brave Old World); Lorin Skanberg (Klezematics); and Daniel Kahn (Daniel Kahn and the Painted Bird).



Sponsored by the UVM Lane Series, with financial support provided by the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies



February 26, 2018

The Red Cross in the Shadow of the Holocaust

Gerald Steinacher, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Professor Steinacher discussed his new book, *Humanitarians at War*. From the publisher, Oxford University Press: *Humanitarians at War*, published by Oxford University Press in May 2017, explores a particular period in the history of the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) — one of the world's oldest, most prominent, and revered aid organizations. But at the end of World War II things could not have looked more different. Under fire for its failure to speak out against the Holocaust or to extend substantial assistance to Jews trapped in Nazi camps across Europe, the ICRC desperately needed to salvage its reputation in order to remain relevant in the post-war world. Indeed, the whole future of Switzerland's humanitarian flagship looked to hang in the balance at this time.

Torn between defending Swiss neutrality and battling Communist critics in the early Cold War, the Red Cross leadership in Geneva emerged from the war with a new commitment to protecting civilians caught in the crossfire of conflict. Yet they did so while interfering with Allied de-Nazification efforts in Germany and elsewhere, and coming to the defense of former Nazis at the Nuremberg Trials. Not least, they provided the tools for many of Hitler's former henchmen, notorious figures such as Joseph Mengele and Adolf Eichmann, to slip out of Europe and escape prosecution - behavior which did little to silence those critics in the Allied powers who unfavorably compared the "shabby" neutrality of the Swiss with the "good neutrality" of the Swedes, their eager rivals for leadership in international humanitarian initiatives. However, in spite of all this, by the end of the decade, the ICRC had emerged triumphant from its moment of existential crisis, navigating the new global order to reaffirm its leadership in world humanitarian affairs against the challenge of the Swedes, and playing a formative role in rewriting the rules of war in the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

Gerald Steinacher received his Ph.D. in History from the University of Innsbruck (Austria). He came to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from Harvard University, where he was the Joseph A. Schumpeter Fellow at the Center for European Studies. He is the author of numerous publications on German and Italian twentieth-century history, most recently *Nazis on the Run: How Hitler's Henchmen Fled Justice* (2010), also published by Oxford University Press, which was awarded a National Jewish Book Award in the Holocaust category by the Jewish Book Council in 2011.

Supported by the Henry and Lili Altschuler Endowment

EVENTS OF THE PAST ACADEMIC YEAR



April 12, 2018

Holocaust Remembrance Day Lecture

Jewish Religious Responses to the Holocaust

Richard Sugarman, University of Vermont

There is a specific literature dealing with rabbinic responses to urgent questions that were asked at the time. Raul Hilberg found this to be among the most difficult and emotionally disturbing genres of Holocaust literature. This literature is quite sparse in English translation—it features questions that were asked in the Kovno ghetto to which Rav Ephraim Oshry responded. The overall theme of this questioning concerned what was permissible and not permissible under such dire and often unprecedented circumstances. When was it possible to “endanger oneself to save another”? May a person save himself by causing the death of a fellow Jew? The implications ranged from what the Jewish council was allowed to do when it had a finite number of “exemption cards that would permit someone to survive for a while longer while working as a slave laborer.”

Richard Sugarman’s fields are phenomenology, Jewish philosophy, existentialism, and the humanities, ancient and modern. His long list of publications includes several important works on the Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas. He has won each of the three teaching awards at UVM: the Kroespsch-Maurice Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Dean’s Lecture Award, and the George V. Kidder Outstanding Faculty Member Award, given by the UVM Alumni Association. He has been teaching at UVM since 1970.

April 25, 2018

*From Humanitarian Relief to Holocaust Rescue:
The Story of Tracy Strong Jr.*

Christopher R. Browning, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Tracy Strong Jr. was a 26-year old American living in Geneva, Switzerland, when he volunteered to serve as a humanitarian relief worker in the internment camps in southern France where the Vichy government had ordered recent refugees--mostly Jews from central Europe--to be detained. Soon Strong realized that it was more important to get prisoners out of these camps than to improve conditions within the camps, and he set out on an innovative path that made him a rare American Holocaust rescuer.



Christopher R. Browning is the Frank Porter Graham Professor of History Emeritus from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to taking up that position in 1999, he taught for 25 years at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. He is the author of eight books, including *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*; *The Origins of the Final Solution*; and *Remembering Survival: Inside a Nazi Slave Labor Camp*. He has served as an expert witness in various trials of accused Nazi perpetrators as well as in the Holocaust denial trials of Ernst Zuendel in Toronto (1988) and David Irving vs. Deborah Lipstadt in London (2000). He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

This lecture was delivered in honor the retirement of Professor Francis R. Nicosia from UVM

Supported by the Richard Ader/Paul Konigsberg Endowment for the UVM Center for Holocaust Studies

New Miller Center Offices in Billings Library

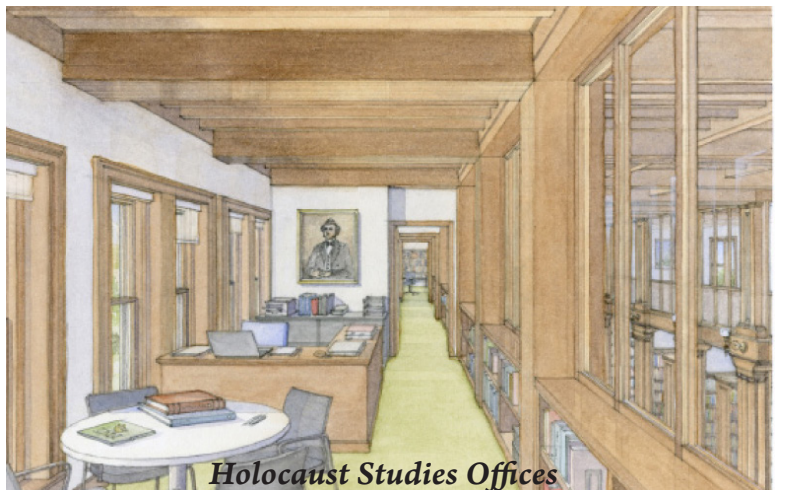
We are happy to report that the renovation of the historic Billings Library is now nearing completion. The building will house the Special Collections Department of the UVM Library, the Center for Research on Vermont, the Humanities Center, and the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies. The move-in date is projected for late summer 2018, and the entire facility is expected to open in time for the start of classes on August 27, 2018. The Miller Center’s offices will be located in the west mezzanine, with views of Lake Champlain. In addition to the historic venue and the great scenery, the Center will benefit from expanded meeting space and shelving for its growing library. The Center is extremely grateful to the Miller Family and the other donors who helped make its new facility possible.



Spiffing up!



Renovation Work in Billings



Holocaust Studies Offices



View into the North Lounge



Billings Main Facade

PREVIEW OF NEXT YEAR'S EVENTS

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

www.uvm.edu/cas/holocauststudies

October 12, 2018

Who Owns Anne Frank in the Twenty-First Century?

David Barnouw, Netherlands Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies (NIOD)

October 21, 2018

The Eighth Miller Symposium

Poland under German Occupation, 1939-45

Speakers:

Natalia Aleksion, Touro College, New York

Winson Chu, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Andrea Löw, Institute for Contemporary History, Munich

Maren Röger, University of Augsburg

Dariusz Stola, Polin–Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw

November 12, 2018

The Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture

The Trial of Klaus Barbie

Norman Goda, University of Florida

March 27, 2019

Lecture by James Waller, Keene State College

Topic TBA

May 1, 2019

Holocaust Remembrance Event, TBA



The University of Vermont

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How to Join Our E-Mail List

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 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:

sub chs Mary Smith

(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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