



NEWS

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For Immediate Release: April 2, 2010

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Holocaust Awareness Weeks 2010: Grief, Remembrance, and Prevention

Grand Junction- Mesa State College's Holocaust Awareness Weeks is April 6-27. Holocaust Awareness Weeks is an interdisciplinary series of events and seminars that investigates various aspects of modern genocide.

The annual "Field of Flags Display" in Mesa State Campus Main Quad will be dedicated on Thursday April 8th at 11:00 am.

This year Mesa State College is honored to welcome Holocaust survivor Louise Lawrence-Israelis. Lawrence-Israelis will be discussing her memories of surviving the Holocaust on April 8 at 7:00 pm, Mesa State Campus, Saccamanno Lecture Hall Room 110. This event is generously sponsored by Bookcliff Knife and Fork Club and Congregation Ohr Shalom.

Events will continue through April 27. See below for a complete list of events. For more information contact Dr. Vincent Patarino at (970) 248-1490.

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Holocaust Awareness Weeks Schedule: 2010

Series Title: Grief, Remembrance, and Prevention: Presentations Observing Holocaust Awareness Weeks, April 6-27, 2010

Statement: Holocaust Awareness Weeks is an interdisciplinary series of events and seminars that investigates various aspects of modern genocide and which roughly coincides with the commemorations surrounding National Holocaust Awareness Weeks. Our programs focus on the origins, events, and experiences of genocide in the modern era, looking not only at all of the groups systematically targeted by the Nazi regime in the 1940s, but also by those who were the victims of government-sponsored atrocities such as the Armenian Massacre, the Cambodian genocide, ethnic cleansing and genocide in Rwanda, Iraq, and the Balkan region, and the current genocide taking place in the Darfur region of the Sudan. Our goal is to bring together local Grand Junction residents with the Mesa State academic community to focus on the issues of education and diversity within our overall populace. Once again, we will be hosting a Field of Flags display on the main academic quad, which will present flags that represent the many different groups targeted during the Holocaust.

All of these events are free and open to the general public.

Campus sponsors for the seminars and Field of Flags display: Social and Behavioral Sciences Dept. of Mesa State College, Gay-Straight Alliance, and Phi Alpha Theta. In addition, Louise Lawrence-Israels' presentation is sponsored U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and funded by the Bookcliff Knife and Fork Club.

Off-campus community: Our Field of Flags display flags were generously donated by local business, Grand Junction Pipe and Supply.

Information contacts and interviews

For all campus events, contact: Vincent V. Patarino Jr., PH.D., Lecturer of History, Dept. of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Mesa State College. Phone: 970-248-1490; e-mail: vpatarin@mesastate.edu Any of the individual presenters may be interviewed, but check first with Dr. Patarino, who will then contact them as appropriate.

For the Congregation Ohr Shalom Holocaust Remembrance Service contact Mr. David Eisner, david@davideisnerlaw.com

2010 Events Schedule

Tuesday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Mesa State Campus, Houston 130

Vincent Patarino, "The Role of Cinematic Propaganda in the Holocaust: the Nazi film *Der Ewige Jude*"

Dr. Vincent Patarino Jr., Lecturer of History, will screen the controversial hate film *Der Ewige Jude*- or *-The Eternal Jew-*, originally produced in 1940 under Nazi Propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels and currently illegal in Germany. This presentation will include a short lecture on the background of Nazi film propaganda, followed by a discussion after the film.

Wednesday, April 7 at 7 p.m.

Mesa State Campus, ACB 111

Barry Laga, "Remembering the Holocaust: Museums, Monuments, and Counter-Monuments."

Clearly there is a danger in not representing the Holocaust, and this danger has led many, as James Young points out, to draw ever more attention to the Holocaust. In fact, "Holocaust memory has begun to find its critical mass in something akin to a Holocaust 'museum boom'." Young goes on to point out that "Holocaust memorials are produced specifically to be historically referential, to lead viewers to an understanding or evocation of events." However, reverential counter-monuments, complex in concept and vexing in design, challenge traditional assumptions about the purpose and role of monuments and complicates the debates about a Gedenkkultur or "remembrance culture." Dr. Laga will discuss the design, function, and impact of some Holocaust memorials, ranging from early monuments built in Austria to recent counter-monuments in Germany.

Thursday, April 8, 2010, 11:00 a.m.

Mesa State Campus, main Academic Quad: **Moment of Silence Dedication for "Field of Flags Display"**

Sponsored by the Social and Behavioral Sciences Dept. of Mesa State College and constructed by student members of GSA, Phi Alpha Theta, and ASG, the Field of Flags display will present over 2,000 flags representing all of the major groups targeted by the Nazis in World War II, including the Jews, Poles, Soviet Citizens, Communists/Socialists, Homosexuals, Jehovah Witnesses, Freemasons, the Roma, and the disabled. Each flag represents 5,000 individuals and colors will match the various known color schemes used by the Nazis. Flags will be on display one week, from late Wednesday, April 8 through Wednesday, April 14. Flags were generously donated by Grand Junction Pipe and Supply. Posted signs with details about the Field of Flags were created by members of the Gay-Straight Alliance.

Thursday, April 8 at 7 p.m.

Mesa State Campus, Saccamanno Lecture Hall (Science Lab 110)

Louise Lawrence-Israels, "Adjusting to a World without Walls: Surviving the Holocaust."

Holocaust survivor Louise Lawrence-Israels will discuss her memories of surviving the Holocaust. Sponsored by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and generously funded by the Bookcliff Knife and Fork Club. Lawrence-Israels volunteers at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial

Museum, in Washington, D.C.

Monday, April 12 at 7p.m.

Mesa State Campus, ACB 111

Gay-Straight Alliance presents “Paragraph 175”

With the coming to power of the Nazis, everything changed. The “golden age” of liberal culture during the Weimar period was over. Between 1933 and 1945 100,000 men were arrested for homosexuality under Paragraph 175, the sodomy provision of the German penal code dating back to 1871. Some were imprisoned, others were sent to concentration camps. Of the latter, only about 4,000 survived. Today, fewer than ten of these men are known to be living. Five of them have now come forward to tell their stories for the first time in this powerful film. Panel discussion and refreshments will follow the film presentation.

Tuesday, April 13 at 7p.m.

Mesa State Campus, ACB 211

Michael Delaney, “Reparations for Genocide Victims: The Who, Hows, and Whys of Compensation”

In the study of victims of the German Holocaust and other genocides few can deny the terrible losses sustained to individuals, cultures, and societies. While perpetrators may be brought to justice and punished, an outstanding issue often still remains: that of reparations. Professor Delaney will lecture and lead a discussion related to victim reparations, why are they awarded, how they are awarded, who pays them, and to whom are they paid. He will also address some of the politics of “victimization,” including mobilization of particular affected groups and how trauma narratives may invoke international response.

Wednesday, April 14 at 7 p.m.

Mesa State Campus, ACB 111

William Brown, “The Irreconcilability of Grief: Madness and Loss in *Adam Resurrected* and *Sophie’s Choice*”

Under the possible rubric of survivor-trauma or Holocaust-survivor fiction, Professor Brown will be giving a film vs. novel talk on William Styron's *Sophie's Choice* and Yoram Kaniuk's *Adam Resurrected*. Both authors explore the psychopathology of programmatic anti-semitism under Hitler and its perduring effects on their respective protagonists: Sophie, of the Styron novel, forced to choose which one of her children will live or die; and Adam Stein, an entertainer, who has to stand by at the point of a gun and play the fiddle while his wife and children are shunted into boxcars headed for the Nazi death camps. Sophie's story, like Adams's, is rendered in flashback. But the narrative of Kaniuk's protagonist is the much more dissociated, an interior melange of assaultive images: Adam himself a patient in an Israeli insane asylum in the 1960s defiantly hanging on to shreds of his personhood amid the full onslaught of psychotic breakdown and the claims of a past that he can never entirely escape. Professor Brown will read from both works and show clips of the film versions of each.

Thursday, April 15 at 7 p.m.

441 Kennedy Avenue, Grand Junction (across from Grand Junction High School)

Congregation Ohr Shalom Holocaust Remembrance Service

Friday, April 16 at 1 p.m.

Mesa State College, Houston 230

Rabbi Lewis Bogage and David Eisner, “Holocausts Historical and Contemporary: An American Rabbi’s Perspective on How We Can Learn from and Prevent Them”

Rabbi Bogage will discuss the Nazi Holocaust as an historical event and its enduring legacy for Jews and the State of Israel today. David Eisner will extend the discussion to modern genocide, including Darfur and African human slaughter. Rabbi Bogage is the Rabbi for Grand Junction’s Reform Congregation Ohr Shalom and part of the rabbinic team for Adventure Rabbi in Boulder, Colorado. He was the New England Jewish Civic Leader for the Eichmann Trials and covered them to their conclusion. Although now retired, he served as Rabbi and Professor of Modern Jewish Philosophy and Religious Thought at the University of South Florida and DePauw University in central Indiana.

Monday, April 19 at 7 p.m.

Mesa State College, Saccamanno Lecture Hall (Science Lab 110)

Dr. Sarah Swedberg, “Homosexuality in Nazi Germany”

This presentation will combine exposure to primary documents from the Holocaust, specifically around the theme of persecution of gay men, with a discussion afterwards of the dangers of homophobia then and now.

Tuesday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Mesa State College, Houston 130

Phi Alpha Theta presents Leni Riefenstahl’s “Triumph of the Will”

Phi Alpha Theta, the History Honor Society, will present the 1935 production of Leni Riefenstahl’s “Triumph of the Will.” This film is, perhaps, one of the most controversial of the early half of the twentieth century, and carried long lasting effects in not only in the film industry but also the historical field. Riefenstahl’s unique use of propaganda allowed her to convey a powerful message about National Socialism. Students of Phi Alpha Theta encourage students, and the community alike, to come to the presentation and participate in the student led panel discussion about the use of propaganda in societies capable of modern genocide following film.

Thursday, April 22 at 7 p.m.

Mesa State Campus, Saccamanno Lecture Hall (Science Lab 110)

Susan Konantz, “Family and Child Images in Picture Books about the Holocaust”

Some of the top Holocaust picture books deal with the abandonment of children by their families. Abandonment is probably the biggest fear of any child, physical and emotional, whether through death, divorce, separation, or mental illness. How do authors who write for children deal with such large issues such as the Holocaust and family abandonment? They do this through eye-catching illustrations, ear-catching storytelling, and authentic information. In this interactive presentation, Susan J. Konantz, lecturer in Developmental Programs at Western Colorado Community College/MSC, will examine a group of picture books from the last thirty

years that exemplify the ability of this genre to provide historical fiction in an authentic yet compassionate manner. She will show, through the use of both words and pictures, how authors represent families and their children, who feared for their very existence during the Holocaust. During the presentation, the audience will have an opportunity to see the illustrations and hear the words, along with making some judgments about the topic themselves.

Monday, April 26 at 7 p.m.

Mesa State Campus, ACB 111

Cynthia Lebowitz, “America and the Holocaust”

This PBS program, written and produced by Martin Ostrow, paints a troubling picture of the United States during a period beset by anti-Semitism and a government that not only delayed action but suppressed information and blocked efforts that could have resulted in the rescue of thousands of people. An examination of these factors is framed by the moving story of Kurt Klein, a German Jew who immigrated to America and struggled against a wall of bureaucracy to free his parents from Europe. Discussion to follow.

Tuesday, April 27 at 7 p.m.

Mesa State Campus, ACB 211

Elizabeth Propes, “Denying Genocide”

While nations and individuals argue over the meaning or seriousness of events within history, genocide is one issue that is consistently denied having happened. This presentation will consider the origins, arguments, and goals of efforts to deny the genocidal nature of the Holocaust, Armenian Genocide, and the Rape of Nanking, and how those denials differ from the Rwandan genocide.