

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2022



Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University

FOUNDED BY THEODORE ZEV AND ALICE R. WEISS



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Photo Credits (top to bottom):

Annual Theodore Zev Weiss Lecture, Evanston, IL: Sarah Wachs

Regional Institute, Tempe, AZ: Timothy Langille

Emerging Scholars Workshop, New Orleans, LA: Jeremy Collins

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The horrors of war, racism, and gun violence proliferate. They are traumatic to those directly affected; and discouraging to the rest of us. They underscore the necessity of our collective and individual work and I continue to hope that we are having a net positive impact.

I take this opportunity to look back at what HEFNU has accomplished in the last several months and to look ahead to what the next few months hold.

Winter 2021-2022 appeared quiet at first in terms of HEFNU programs, but behind the scenes we began to ramp up preparations for the return of in-person programs even as we continued with some virtual events. In February, we reviewed applications for the Summer Institute and proposals for the Sharon Abramson Research Grant. We are delighted with the number and quality of submissions for both.

We awarded six Sharon Abramson Research Grants to: Claire Aubin (University of Edinburgh); Tiarra Cooper (University of Massachusetts Amherst); Julia Elsky (Loyola University Chicago); Maria Visconti, Bárbara Deoti, and Anna Viana (NEPAT, Brazilian Center for Nazism and Holocaust Studies); Steven Samols (University of Southern California); Carli Snyder (City University of New York, Graduate Center); and Alternate, Kamil Kijek (University of Wroclaw). For more information, visit our [website](#).

April was a busy and productive month. We began with a Regional Institute, “Spaces and Places of the Holocaust,” which took place in Tempe, Arizona from April 1-3. This Institute brought together Holocaust scholars and instructors from the US Southwest and beyond. While Arizona State University’s School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies and Jewish Studies program with the leadership of Timothy Langille and Volker Benkert, hosted the Institute, Northern Arizona University’s Martin Springer Institute and University of Arizona’s Center for Judaic Studies offered critical support.

We continued with a virtual roundtable on 3 April on “Putin’s Weaponization of History and Antisemitism in the Invasion of Ukraine,” which featured Benjamin Frommer as chair, and Marta Havryshko, John-Paul Himka, Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern, and Marci Shore as panelists. The roundtable was co-sponsored by the Penn State Behrend Department of History, the Association for Jewish Studies Holocaust Division, the Chabraja Center for Historical Studies, and the Northwestern University Department of History.

We rounded out the first week of April with a workshop for emerging scholars, “War, Genocide, Remembrance: The Holocaust and Contemporary Scholarship,” held in cooperation with The National WWII Museum’s Jenny Craig Institute for The Study of War and Democracy. This workshop featured the innovative and exciting work of early career scholars and was the start of what HEFNU hopes will be more programming for this demographic of scholars.

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

On May 10, HEFNU was delighted to host Professor Paul Jaskot (Duke University) for our annual Theodore Zev Weiss Holocaust Studies Lecture. Jaskot, who is Professor of Art, Art History & Visual Studies and Co-Director of the Digital Art History & Visual Culture Research Lab spoke about “Rethinking Holocaust Sources with Digital Methods: An Exploratory Case Study of Krakow and Its Ghetto under Nazi Occupation.” We opened the event by honoring HEF Founder, Theodore Zev Weiss, who passed about 18 months ago, with a moving [tribute video](#). You may add your own tribute to HEFNU’s founder and see other individual tributes on HEFNU’s [YouTube channel](#).

This summer, we look forward to being back on the Northwestern Campus for our 26th annual Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization. We have an incredible line-up of faculty and a great group of Fellows. It will be terrific to return to a residential program, which offers better opportunities for networking and cohort development than virtual spaces. We also are proud to co-sponsor the [London Summer Institute](#) at Royal Holloway, University of London.

This fall, we are excited to finally be able to host the twice postponed [Lessons & Legacies Conference](#) in Ottawa and hope to see many of you there. Registration is now open. Deadline for registration has been extended to July 15.

HEFNU’s [Virtual Mentors Program](#) will be on hiatus until Fall. Also, please utilize our [Virtual Speakers Bureau](#). This is a great opportunity to bring an expert Holocaust scholar into your classroom. Feel free to let others know about this great resource.

I wish you all a healthy and productive Summer and hope to see many of you in the year ahead as HEFNU returns to in-person and continues hybrid programming.

With respect and gratitude,

Sarah

Sarah M. Cushman, PhD (she/they)
Director

PROFILE: WOLF GRUNER

Wolf Gruner is Professor of History at the University of Southern California (USC), where he holds the Shapell-Guerin Chair in Jewish Studies, and is Founding Director of the USC Dornsife Center for Advanced Genocide Research (CAGR). He is committed to expanding the field of Holocaust Studies through innovative interdisciplinary research. Gruner is the author of ten books, including most recently the prizewinning *The Holocaust in Bohemian and Moravia: Czech Initiatives, German Policies, Jewish Responses* (2019), in which he focuses on a region typically found in the periphery of Holocaust Studies. Gruner has also co-edited four books including *The Greater German Reich and The Jews: Nazi Persecution Policies in the Annexed Territories, 1939-1945* (with Joerg Osterloh, 2015), and published over 70 articles and book chapters.

Gruner has made several major contributions that have advanced the fields of genocide and Holocaust Studies, particularly our knowledge about the history of Jewish persecution in Germany, Austria, and the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. In *Jewish Forced Labor Under the Nazis: Economic Needs Racial Aims, 1938-1944* (2006), he demonstrated that Jewish forced labor existed outside of concentration camps. Gruner has also highlighted the initiative role of municipalities in the persecution of Jews and the relationship between local and central governments in the creation and implementation of policies.

Growing up in the German Democratic Republic (GDR), Gruner encountered racist attitudes toward foreigners, which sparked his interest to investigate their emergence. In reading about racism, Gruner noticed a discrepancy between the common explanation – state-sponsored ideology – and the reality of East Germany, where the state promoted internationalism, equality, and solidarity, while the population expressed xenophobic and racist attitudes. Gruner decided that if the books could not explain it, he had to study this on his own. Hence, he majored in history with the main purpose of studying racism, and in the German case, the Holocaust as the prime example.

Gruner's original reasons for engaging in Holocaust Studies remain an important element that he incorporates into his courses on genocides, violence, and the Holocaust. By challenging his students through case studies and contextual evidence, Gruner encourages them to question the established tropes that simplify the causes of genocides. Gruner "tries to instill in them that [it] is not hatred; [that] hatred is just the outcome of these processes" that lead to genocides. Gruner's passion for showing his students the complexity and interconnectivity of genocides and the Holocaust came from his undergraduate professor Kurt Pätzold at the Humboldt University. Pätzold was, according to Gruner, open-minded and critical, which in East Germany was uncommon during the 1980s. Pätzold's impact on Gruner shaped his goals of inspiring his students through teaching and mentoring and grounding his scholarly work in systematic and critical archival studies as well as learning from other disciplines.

Pätzold's influence on Gruner is also present in his hopes for the future of Holocaust Studies. Gruner would like Holocaust Studies to be more welcoming, interdisciplinary, and interconnected with the field of Genocides Studies. This is primarily because "recent developments show that Genocide Studies has a lot to offer to the field of Holocaust Studies" as it has opened many avenues of research and access to new methodologies.

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Gruner's view on the prospective development of a more interdisciplinary field is the direction in which he sees HEFNU going. He distinguishes HEFNU's achievement in its role in advancing the field of Holocaust Studies in the United States and internationally through its academic programming such as the biennial Lessons & Legacies Conference, which Gruner co-chaired in 2016. One aspect of the Lessons & Legacies Conference that he highlights is its commitment to connecting academics from different countries and disciplines. Gruner finds the inclusion of scholars from other backgrounds to be essential. This creates international conferences with an "intimate collegial familial setting that allows scholars with different approaches to feel comfortable" discussing difficult topics.

Gruner's commitment to HEFNU and the future of the field can also be seen in his participation as a guest speaker at the London Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization (2016). Gruner believes that the guidance scholars provide in the HEFNU Summer Institutes is important as it exposes future scholars to different approaches and methodologies. At the same time, the summer schools create a network and provide junior scholars with additional mentoring; they develop relationships with other scholars. Gruner's value of mentoring the future generation of genocide and Holocaust scholars is further emphasized as he considers that by sharing his accumulated knowledge with his students he aims to "unlock [the] ideas, potentials, and skills" of his students, which he finds rewarding.

In the Fall of 2022, Gruner will publish a book, which aims to reassess the meaning and understanding of Jewish resistance during the Holocaust. Gruner expands the definition of resistance to include individual actions. Building on his personal experience in the GDR, Gruner notes that "it is not up to us to judge what resistance actually is. It is also not about the victims or the ones who perform resistance to judge what they mean with resistance or not. It is actually about... the perpetrators. They define what they see as dangerous." Through this approach and the use of a vast range of previously unexplored primary sources, Gruner uncovers a variety of forgotten acts Jewish men and women in Germany and Austria engaged in, which were punished by the Nazis as resistance. He highlights the need to include individual acts of resistance to better understand the Holocaust. By aiming his book to a broader audience, Gruner wants to show that "there is an obligation to resist" as the only way to prevent authoritarianism. Hence, there is a need to expand scholarship beyond academia.

Alexia M. Orengo-Green is a Doctoral student in the History Department at the University of Southern California (USC), where she is interested in researching children who immigrated to Latin America and Spain during the Holocaust. In 2021, she completed her MA in Public History at New York University (NYU) and in 2019 Alexia graduated from Dickinson College with a BA in History and Archaeology.

PROFILE: PHYLLIS LASSNER

Phyllis Lassner is Professor Emerita in The Crown Center for Jewish and Israel Studies, Gender Studies, and the Writing Program at Northwestern University. Her scholarship has examined women writers and novelists of the interwar period, World War II, and the Holocaust.

Lassner's career trajectory exemplifies Holocaust Studies' strength and potential - our field's interdisciplinary origins and the importance of community building, intellectual generosity, and international networks. Her interest in World War II began in 1952/1953 with NBC's broadcast of *Victory at Sea*, the popular documentary series, which Phyllis assiduously watched with her father. She delved into World War II topics in her graduate studies, which she completed in 1983, earning a Ph.D. in English literature at Wayne State University.

She found herself at odds with the dominant tenets and methods of literary studies almost immediately, however, noting what she calls a disturbing "disconnect." She found a willful negligence regarding antisemitism and an indifference to Jews' persecution during WWII by most of the important modernist 20th-century authors, including Virginia Woolf. The sociological roots of this disconnect have yet to be studied, but Phyllis's early observation about her literary colleagues' deliberate ignorance has proven correct: she has seen scholars become defensive about this or that author, rationalize not engaging with the topic, or bracket out the Holocaust altogether - all practices that take us farther away from understanding the historical event. Here, Phyllis's contribution to the 2009 *Cambridge Companion to the Literature of World War II* invites literary scholars to engage directly and critically with Holocaust literature. One text she has always used to foster such discussions—and that she considers among the most brilliantly written—is *Charlotte Delbo's Auschwitz and After* (*Auschwitz, et après*), the French resister's first-person account of the camp. Until today, however, neither Delbo nor Primo Levi belongs to the canon of modern literature. It is this gap that Phyllis always sought to fill with her students, her writing, and her conference presentations.

Lassner's engagement with HEFNU programs, particularly her first attendance at a Lessons & Legacies Conference in 2010, provided critical support as she tackled the underexplored Kindertransport literature. Literary scholars often wish to work with literature in its original language alone. As Holocaust literature is and has been written in many languages, Lassner sought translations to account for the international scope of the events. Translations would indeed come to play a central role in her writings—a tribute to her friend and colleague, the much-missed Rachel Feldhay Brenner, from whom she learned the complexity of Polish literature.

Three critical threads have informed Lassner's scholarship. First, she has never considered herself part of specialized literary societies interested in aesthetics alone. As a Holocaust scholar, she is painfully aware that "actual people were killed." Lassner brings heightened sensitivity and attention to individual voices, gaps, and silences - an acute awareness of representation's limits - to bring us as close as possible to the events of the Holocaust. While the written word has occupied most of her scholarly career, she has more recently shifted her attention to other means of

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communication and transmission, including music, as in the 2016 Israeli-German film *Past Life*, or graphics, as in her study of refugee artist Josef Herman. Lassner's work has "become more and more historical." With its firm anchor in events, places, and groups, her scholarship is an invitation to study "cultural expressions" of the Nazi genocide. Cultural historians cannot help but think of literature as "the fragility of history," in the vein of the French school of cultural history. Phyllis asks us to reflect on and accept this fragility, to incorporate into our frameworks the power of symbols, perceptions, and words that enabled, harmed, and saved.

The second thread that weaves through of Lassner's work is a feminist perspective and engagement with other feminist scholars, which took shape in the 1980s. Participating in feminist networks and meeting other feminist scholars was akin to "getting another graduate degree." Pushing attention to the gendered aspects of Nazi persecution, some of these scholars produced edited volumes, such as the 1999 *Women in the Holocaust*, edited by Dalia Ofer and Lenore J. Weitzman, which have become classics; books that remain on Lassner's bookshelf.

Finally, taking part in such networks led to a deep concern for teaching and community building within Holocaust Studies. Based at Northwestern University, also home to HEFNU, Phyllis consistently taught from a multi-disciplinary perspective, bridging three otherwise distinct departments: Jewish Studies, Gender Studies, and the writing program. "One cannot overestimate," Phyllis insists, "the importance of developing new and adapting existing seminars," as she did regarding the subject of children and women during the war. Every year, a range of new films about the Holocaust came out, which required keeping up with "a field that is so rich."

Teaching at Northwestern also meant that Phyllis observed and encouraged the development of HEFNU, which has helped scholars in and around Holocaust studies to connect, exchange, and stay in touch. Phyllis is deeply grateful to HEFNU for bringing our rich but highly fragmented subfields closer together via grants and professional development and for serving as a collective platform. In this sense, conferences, particularly Lessons and Legacies, have played an immense role for her. Being open to "getting your questions challenged" is the most important advice she can give to younger scholars. The wish to connect and support others, a "deeply rewarding experience," also prompted her to become a mentor at HEFNU in 2020. It was at the height of the pandemic that she felt not only how crucial our individual and collective work is but also how much community matters in our globalized and virtual times.

Lassner's publications reflect the diversity of topics and tools in our field. Two books on Elizabeth Bowen (1899–1973) appeared in 1989 and 1991. She then wrote *British Women Writers of World War II* (1998), *Colonial Strangers: Women Writing the End of the British Empire* (2004), *Anglo-Jewish Women Writing the Holocaust: Displaced Witnesses* (2008), and *Espionage and Exile: Fascism and Anti-Fascism in British Spy Fiction and Film* (2017). She also co-edited the volume *Antisemitism and Philosemitism in the Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries* (2008) and most

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recently, co-edited with Victoria Aarons, *The Palgrave Handbook of Holocaust Literature and Culture* (2020).

In her active retirement, Lassner continues to publish. Her other interests include refugee writing, postwar film, and video adaptations of Holocaust literature. It is this interdisciplinary engagement that she judges most urgent to bring to fruition—both within our overall field and, much more visibly, in public discourse. Married to a historian, Jacob Lassner, she has always paved the way for such transdisciplinary conversations. From her service on the Exhibition and Education Committees of the Illinois Holocaust Museum, she knows how critical conversations with an interested but nonacademic audience can be. How we bridge these gaps and reach out to fields that share many of our central concerns—violence, race, memory, and ethnicity, among many others—are for Lassner among the central questions of our lives as citizens and scholars.

Jan Burzlaff is the William A. Ackman Fellow for Holocaust Studies at Harvard University and the 2021-22 Dori Laub Fellow at the Fortunoff Video Archive, Yale University. He is currently completing his dissertation, a transnational history of Jewish survival during the Holocaust.

FEATURED REPORT: NICK UNDERWOOD



I have been the beneficiary of two HEFNU programs, which have enriched my research and served to help me connect it to my teaching. In March 2020, I was awarded a Sharon Abramson Research Grant. Originally, I planned to go to Paris and spend three weeks finalizing the Paris-based research for my second book project, which is currently titled *Jewish Migration, Yiddish Culture, and the Reconstruction of Post-Holocaust France, 1944-1965*. Then, the pandemic happened, and I postponed the research trip. Unable to get to archives in France, I have not made as much progress on this project as I had hoped. However, because HEFNU was so flexible about when I could use the funding, the Sharon Abramson Research Grant remained the catalyst I needed to keep this study moving forward. I now aim to have both the US- and France-based research completed by the end of this year. I can then begin the formal writing process. Without the Sharon Abramson Research Grant, I would not have been able to jump start this project during the pandemic. The support that the grant gives to researchers that may not have large research budgets is also tremendous benefit to our profession.

I am excited to have this project under way again because the results will help to transform our understanding of how Yiddish-speaking Jews in post-Holocaust France reconstructed their community. The postwar years saw both the revitalization of interwar Yiddish culture and the creation of new Yiddish cultural outlets. This book will bridge the pre- and postwar years. In addition to illuminating more about the postwar rebuilding process, this project traverses the years immediately after Liberation, the entirety of the Fourth Republic, and the years of the Algerian War to highlight the role that Yiddish culture played in determining how Jews in France attempted to reintegrate into French society. It also investigates Zionism in postwar France, which maintained its prewar use of Yiddish in its publications and cultural productions. This counters the standard narrative of postwar Zionist language practices, which asserts that Zionist Jews fully adopted Hebrew.

In addition to revitalizing my research during the pandemic, HEFNU has transformed my teaching. As part of my rotation of courses at The College of Idaho, I offer an upper division history course

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titled, “Nazi Germany and the Final Solution.” I first offered this course in spring 2021. In summer 2021, I participated in the Summer Institute, and I will never teach that class the same way again. I effectively learned that I was doing it all wrong - my assessment, not theirs.

In my research, I focus on people - how they lived, how they constructed their communities, and how they understood the world around them. This was not how I approached teaching. The Summer Institute, with its emphasis on the interwar Jewish world and how Jews experienced the various phases of the Nazi genocide, inspired me to connect my own approach to understanding and researching the past with how I teach. As a result, I am overhauling my syllabus. When I offer the course again in 2022-2023, the sources we engaged with during the Institute that speak directly to the Jewish experience will be there.

The Institute’s initiative, to engage new scholarship and approaches to the study of the Holocaust and genocide more broadly, will affect how I approach future course offerings, too. The Institute challenged me to apply approaches I use in other settings to my pedagogy regarding fascism, genocide, and even Jewish history. For example, gender is a lens that I engage in my own historical analyses, but that I did not utilize in my courses. The Institute provided the tools to attend to gender in my teaching.

HEFNU invited my participation in the Summer Institute as part of being awarded the Sharon Abramson Research Grant. Most Summer Institute attendees are also grant recipients. The connection between these two programs, however, has been transformative for me. It has enabled me to finalize important research and it has inspired me to rethink the compartmentalization of my Holocaust research and my Holocaust teaching. As a result of the research and pedagogical support and guidance from HEFNU, I have been inspired to make connections among all of my scholarly work and introduce those approaches in the classroom.

Nick Underwood is an assistant professor of history and the Berger/Neilsen Chair of Judaic Studies at The College of Idaho. He recently published his first book Yiddish Paris: Staging Nation and Community in Interwar France (Indiana University Press, 2022).

FEATURED REPORT: JUDITH VÖECKER



I am a PhD candidate in history at the Stanley Burton Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Leicester. This year, I earned a Sharon Abramson Research Grant from the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University. The grant made it possible for me to undertake archival research in Poland and Germany, research crucial to the completion of my PhD dissertation.

My dissertation aims to provide the first comprehensive overview of the German legal institutions established in the General Government at the onset of the Nazi occupation of Poland. I will recount the history and activities of the so-called Special Courts and German Courts in Warsaw and Radom, which prosecuted more than 11,000 Jews, Poles and Ethnic Germans during the war years. These court records have remained largely unstudied, and the fates of the tens of thousands of people prosecuted there unknown. This dissertation analyzes how an artificial concept of 'law and order' existed in a genocidal environment, demonstrating how German jurisprudence expedited the Holocaust in Poland. My research underscores the necessity of considering the legal practices of the occupiers when researching the mechanisms of the Holocaust in occupied spaces. By recounting how thousands of Jews, Poles and Ethnic Germans were sentenced to imprisonments, fines, and most severely, death, I aim to uncover how the Nazi view on the different groups of society manifested itself in their legal sphere, how their laws were applied and amended over the time of occupation, and how German judges applied the plethora of laws and regulations.

Because my dissertation is based on archival sources, the Sharon Abramson Research Grant has been crucial in making extensive archival stays in Poland and Germany possible. Thanks to the grant, I spent several weeks each in the Federal Archives in Berlin, Bayreuth, and Freiburg, and a two-month stay in Warsaw to work with the original court files in the State Archives of Warsaw and Milanówek, as well as the archive of the Institute for National Remembrance (Instytut Pamięci Narodowej).

In the Federal Archive in Berlin, I looked at several dozen personal files of the men and women employed in various German legal institutions in the General Government. Their lives and activities remain largely unknown. My dissertation investigates the reasons for their relocation to the General Government, their legal academic background, and whether they had any influence on

FEATURED REPORT: JUDITH VÖECKER

court verdicts. The Federal Archives in Bayreuth and Freiburg also hold personal files of the former judicial staff, as well as administrative files from the General Government, including monthly reports of the legal department.

The State Archives of Warsaw and Milanówek hold the original files of the former Special Court and German Court in Warsaw. Since these vast collections are not scanned in their entirety, I have had to make several visits to copy the missing court files. In addition, since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the state archives in Poland permit access for only three hours a day, three days per week, which made a longer archival stay in Poland necessary. The Sharon Abramson Research Grant made this possible.

The Sharon Abramson Research Grant includes participation in the Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization at Northwestern University. I will attend in 2023 and I look forward to learning more of the interdisciplinary aspects of Holocaust Studies from established scholars in the field. I have already been able to meet and learn from a plethora of scholars in the field by presenting my research at the 2019 Lessons and Legacies Conference in Munich, as well as the Lessons & Legacies Regional Interim Meeting in Munich in the Fall of 2021. These international scholarly gatherings made it possible for me to receive feedback and advice from experts in my specific area, as well as to exchange ideas and approaches from Holocaust scholars in other disciplines. These exchanges have had a noticeable influence on my dissertation and have helped me in broadening my horizons and scope of research.

That HEFNU now streams its annual lectures has also enhanced my research, especially the recent Theodore Zev Weiss Lecture in May 2022, given by Prof. Paul Jaskot on “Rethinking Holocaust Sources with Digital Methods,” because my research interests include Cracow and its ghetto under Nazi occupation.

I am grateful to have received the Sharon Abramson Research Grant and to have the privilege to attend and partake in different lectures and events that the Holocaust Educational Foundation is organizing particularly for PhD students. Without this grant, my dissertation would have missed crucial archival sources and would have lost a lot of its argumentative structure and message. I encourage fellow PhD students in this field to apply for this grant, the Summer Institute, and further HEFNU opportunities.

Judith Vöecker studied German literature and linguistics, and Slavic studies in Cologne, Cracow and Moscow, and Eastern European History in Frankfurt Oder and London. During her studies, she interned at the Goethe Institutes in Moscow and Almaty and the German Embassy in Warsaw. Judith is a PhD student at the Stanley Burton Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies of the University of Leicester. She has received funding from the Midlands4Cities DTP of the Arts and Humanities Research Council in the United Kingdom. In addition, she has been a Fellow of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure, the German Historical Institute in Warsaw, the Vienna Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, and the Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History in Munich.

NOLA EMERGING SCHOLARS



“The Field of Holocaust Studies is in Very Capable Hands”

Collaborations are often among the most fruitful and enjoyable endeavors in the world of scholarship. They provide an alternative to the more typical experience of researching, which can be quite solitary. “War, Genocide, Remembrance: The Holocaust and Contemporary Scholarship,” the recent partnered program between the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University and The National WWII Museum’s Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy (JCI) held on April 7-8, 2022, came about after eleven months of very productive exchanges between the two institutions.

When HEFNU Director, Dr. Sarah Cushman, reached out to me in May of last year, inquiring about the Museum’s openness to sponsoring a workshop for emerging scholars in Holocaust Studies, I could not have been more interested. As the research arm of the Museum, JCI has recently expanded, with strong backing from Taube Philanthropies, the number of lectures, panels, and website articles in its content offerings dedicated to the history of the Holocaust. With fewer and fewer Holocaust survivors, WWII combat veterans, and Resistance fighters every year, the importance of studying this period of world history cannot be overstated. We were eager to collaborate with HEFNU in putting on a workshop showcasing the research of young scholars in Holocaust Studies.

Although there were delays due to the pandemic and the impact of Hurricane Ida on the New Orleans area, Sarah met regularly via Zoom with my JCI colleagues Dr. Jennifer Popowycz, Leventhal Research Fellow, Jeremy Collins, the Museum’s Director of Conferences and Symposia, and myself. From these wonderful conversations came an organizing committee comprised of Sarah, Jennifer, and me, as well Dr. Günter Bischof, Professor of History at the University of New Orleans, and Dr. Maria Rethelyi, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Louisiana State University. The committee quickly gelled and, after an in-person meeting in New Orleans in early January, settled on eleven participants. All of us were extremely pleased with the quality and depth of the proposals submitted.

NOLA EMERGING SCHOLARS

The workshop did not disappoint. Beautiful spring weather greeted our panelists on April 7-8. Following an evening exploring the Museum and getting to know each other over dinner, presentations took up most of the 8th, with four panels and a roundtable with all the members of the committee. Of the 16 speakers, 3 represented international institutions (1 from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, 2 from Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland). The 13 American panelists came from institutions such as Yale University, the United States Military Academy at West Point, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Dayton, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Middle Tennessee State University. This institutional diversity was matched by an extremely rich array of topics. Panelists presented on survivors of the Treblinka extermination camp, the role of the Romanian army in the Holocaust in Ukraine, on Jewish ghetto policemen, and on the politics of Holocaust memory in contemporary Poland, among other subjects.

All of the discussion was illuminating, erudite, and collegial. Those present could not help but depart with the sense that the field of Holocaust Studies is in very capable hands. We at JCI feel grateful to Sarah Cushman for contacting us with the idea of hosting the workshop and for being such an outstanding partner through the entire process of planning and preparation. Speaking on behalf of my colleagues, we very much look forward to collaborating with HEFNU in the future.

Jason Dawsey is Research Historian in The National World War II Museum's Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy. He received his PhD from the University of Chicago in 2013 and has taught at the University of Southern Mississippi and the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. In the Institute, he examines the service records of World War II veterans and writes their biographies for family members, and regularly contributes to the Museum's website and public programming on subjects such as the anti-Nazi resistance, the Holocaust, and the lives and careers of scholars who shaped our understanding of World War II. Beyond his research on World War II, Dawsey co-edited (with Günter Bischof and Bernhard Fetz) The Life and Work of Günther Anders: Émigré, Iconoclast, Philosopher, Man of Letters (Studien Verlag, 2015) and is the author of several articles and book chapters on the philosophical and political thought of the German-Jewish intellectual and anti-nuclear militant, Günther Anders.

REGIONAL INSTITUTE AT ASU



Arizona State University (ASU) hosted the third Regional Institute on the Holocaust, a program of the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University (HEFNU) in Tempe, AZ, April 1-3, 2022. The Regional Institute, titled “Space and Places of the Holocaust,” analyzed a variety of sites of persecution ranging from locations of murder to sites of memory, including camps, ravines, frontiers, and other landscapes of violence. With ASU being a center for comparative genocide and a leader in online teaching, the Institute also engaged the topics of online Holocaust education and pedagogy, the Holocaust and comparative genocide, survivor testimony, reconciliation, migration and displacement, and memory of space and place.

The Regional Institute ran while ASU was also hosting Yahad-In Unum’s “Holocaust by Bullets” exhibition (March-April 2022, Hayden Library). It immediately preceded ASU’s first Genocide Awareness Week (GAW, April 4-8), the nation’s largest public humanities event about genocide. Institute fellows and presenters visited and toured the “Holocaust by Bullets” exhibition and the scholarship of Edward B. Westermann connected the Regional Institute to Genocide Awareness Week. Westermann delivered a masterful keynote lecture, “Drunk on Genocide: Alcohol & Mass Murder in Nazi Germany,” for the Institute on April 2 and gave the opening lecture for GAW. The Institute kicked off on the afternoon of Friday, April 1 with Jason Bruner and Timothy Langille, both of ASU, leading a seminar on “Comparative Genocide.” Institute participants then took the light rail from Tempe to Roosevelt Row Arts District in downtown Phoenix for First Friday, one of the nation’s largest, self-guided art walks. The light rail ride gave Institute participants a view of the corridor connecting the ASU Tempe campus to downtown Phoenix. Institute participants visited the Heard Museum, an internationally acclaimed museum dedicated to the advancement of American Indian art. Dinner followed with a taste of local fare.

These social events showcased downtown Phoenix, its thriving Roosevelt Row Arts District, its prestigious Heard Museum, and Southwestern cuisine. A visit to the Heard Museum was especially important with the call-for-applications including a focus on: “topics of frontiers, expansion, and borderlands in the Nazi East and the American West.” The Museum visit complemented classroom discussion of ways in which Nazi notions of expansion invoked images of ‘Manifest Destiny’ and settler-colonial expansion, including techniques and patterns of destroying Indigenous peoples and communities.

REGIONAL INSTITUTE AT ASU

Saturday morning began with a moving presentation by Northern Arizona University Professor Björn Krondorfer titled, “Unsettling Empathy.” Immediately following, Cheryl Bennett of Montana State University picked up the thread from the visit to the Heard Museum with her seminar on “American Indian Genocide and Resilience.” On Saturday afternoon, Jacob Flaws of ASU led a thought-provoking session on “Sensory Witnessing at Treblinka: Charting Spaces of Smell, Sight, and Sound.” The group then visited Hayden Library to tour the “Holocaust by Bullets” exhibition, which was arranged and curated by Sheryl Bronkesh, president of the Phoenix Holocaust Association. Saturday concluded with the engaging keynote lecture by Edward Westermann and dinner and drinks at a local culinary hotspot.

The Institute concluded on Sunday afternoon with a catered lunch that followed two morning seminars. ASU faculty and Institute co-planner, Anna Cichopek-Gajraj focused on “Jewish Displacement and Migrations After WWII,” and Volker Benkert, also ASU faculty and Institute co-planner, presented on “Holocaust and Film.”

This highly successful event would not have been possible without our generous donors and sponsors: The Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University, Martin-Springer Institute (Northern Arizona University), The Arizona Center for Judaic Studies (University of Arizona), and several academic units at ASU: School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies; School of International Letters and Cultures; Jewish Studies; American Indian Studies; Religious Studies Department; and The Melikian Center. We welcomed the collaboration across ASU academic units and throughout the state of Arizona, which continued with Genocide Awareness Week. Scholars and academic units at ASU, NAU, and UofA are working together effectively and in meaningful ways to establish Arizona as a center for genocide studies.

One purpose of HEFNU’s Regional Institutes is to foster regional networks of college-level Holocaust instructors and researchers. Institute Fellows - those who traveled to attend in person and those who attended online - represented academic institutions in the US Southwest region and beyond. Although we spent only a few days together, there was a strong comradery among Institute participants and hopefully enduring connections. ASU aims to have Institute participants back in the future for GAW.

Planning an Institute during a time of COVID uncertainty and with multiple contingency plans was challenging to say the least. This event never would have functioned as it did without the outstanding staff at ASU: SHPRS (Becky Tsang, Carrie Montana, and Rachel Bunning—Rachel did so much with the lead-up to the event, including setting up the technology and teaching us how to use it in a functional manner), Jewish Studies (Dawn Beeson and Lisa Kaplan), and Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict (Carolyn Forbes and Jennifer Clifton). Finally, we are indebted to Sarah Cushman’s (HEFNU) steadfast leadership in bringing the Institute to ASU and guiding a first-time event planner through the challenges of planning such an event during COVID.

Timothy Langille grew up in Edmonton, Alberta. He completed his doctorate at the University of Toronto in the Study of Religion and Jewish Studies. At Arizona State University, Langille is a senior lecturer who primarily teaches courses on Hebrew Bible, Jewish history, comparative genocide, and religion, nationalism, and ethnic conflict. He is a member of the board of directors for Genocide Awareness Week and the Phoenix Holocaust Association.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL NEWS

Lawrence Baron

Baron's lists of streaming Jewish Studies events are posted on the Association for Jewish Studies website. His article "Persistent Parallels, Resistant Particularities: Holocaust Analogies and Avoidance in Armenian Genocide Centennial Cinema," appeared in *Armenian and Jewish Experience between Expulsion and Destruction*. He presented a paper on *The Revolt of Job: Salvaging Rural Hungarian Hasidism* at the Jewish American and Holocaust Literature Conference held in Miami Beach on April 26, 2022.

Samantha Baskind

Baskind has been appointed Distinguished Professor of Art History at Cleveland State University.

Judy Baumel-Schwartz

The Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research at Bar-Ilan University, that Baumel-Schwartz directs, has continued its activity throughout the academic year in its 10 national and international forums numbering close to 600 scholars and activists worldwide. These included national and international book launches, symposia and international conferences together with various universities (Towson U., Wagner College) and institutions (Second Generation Network, London, Museum of Jewish Heritage, New York) and others.

Marguerite DeHuszar Allen

Presentation: AHEA conference (April 8, 2022). Update 2022: William I. DeHuszar's name has been added to the list of "Ritchie Boys." The Ritchie Boys were young Jewish refugees from Nazi-dominated Europe who returned overseas to fight the Nazis in the army's Military Intelligence Service. Guest Editor, *Law and Literature* 29: 1 (2017). Symposium (2016). Visits to the USHMM, NARA, and numerous archives in Budapest while on a Fulbright resulted in the articles listed in the Publications section.

Jennifer Goss

Goss has taken on the role as Program Manager for Echoes & Reflections, a partnership between the USC-Shoah Foundation, ADL and Yad Vashem. In this role, she will be working to foster partnerships with organizations and schools across the United States to help expand access to professional development and resources for educators in the field of Holocaust and genocide studies. Goss is also currently serving as the Willesden Project Fellow for the USC-Shoah Foundation.

Laure Guilbert

Guilbert is currently a French independent historian and researches the issues of dance practices in the ghettos and camps. In 2020, she was a consulting historian for the documentary film "Petit rat", directed by Vera Wagman on the story of her mother who was a hidden child in France (Miami Jewish Film Festival: Audience Award for the best documentary film).

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL NEWS

Eyal Handelsman Katz

Handelsman Katz recently published a short documentary, *Slabe Jajko*, which navigates his grandmother's precarious memories of the Shoah. After the Holocaust, on 3 different occasions, Savta provided testimonies for 26 of her family members. Out of those testimonies, 25 remained the same from 1957 to 2015... but one was different. Through family footage and interviews with her family, the film explores what happens to a memory across time. You can watch it at <https://religionlab.virginia.edu/projects/slabe-jajko/>

Barbara Krasner

Krasner (HEFNU Summer Institute Fellow, 2019) has been invited to become a member of the USHMM Consortium of Higher Ed Holocaust Centers. As director of the Mercer Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Education Center, she has planned and delivered programs featuring world-class scholars including Dr. Wendy Lower, Dr. Alexander Hinton, Dr. Victoria Khiterer, and Dr. Hilary Earl. Krasner presents at JAHLIT (Jewish-American Holocaust Literature, virtually) on new pedagogical practices. She will virtually present "Seven Things You Didn't Know about Yizkor Books" at the annual conference of International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies in August 2022.

Golan Moskowitz

Moskowitz and John Cox are now the co-editors of book reviews for *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*.

Alicja Podbielska

Podbielska, Postdoctoral Fellow at Yale University's Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, has accepted a position as visiting assistant professor of Holocaust and Antisemitism Studies at Emory University.

Alessio Ponzio

In the summer of 2021, Ponzio was a fellow at both the US Holocaust Memorial Museum (Silberman Faculty Seminar) and at the HEFNU Summer Institute. In February 2022, he received a teaching grant offered by the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University. In the winter of 2023, he will teach at the University of Saskatchewan, for the very first time, a first year course completely focused on the Holocaust. The history of the Holocaust has never been taught at his institution.

Avraham "Alan" Rosen

"Launch of The Elie Wiesel Living Archive at the 92Y: A Conversation with Avraham Rosen, Elisha Wiesel, and Peter Rubinstein", Zoom, March, 2022; "The Enduring Legacy of Elie Wiesel: A Conversation with Avraham Rosen and David Patterson", Zoom, February, 2022.

Kirril Shields

Shields recently became Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Genocide Studies and Prevention*. The journal seeks papers from across the scholarly world (political science, history, law, as examples) and is open to submissions that are non-traditional reflections on genocide including essays, short stories, poems, and visual materials. The journal welcomes prospective ideas on special editions dedicated to specific topics, such as the upcoming issue on environmental degradation.

Melanie Carina Schmoll

Schmoll works on a research project on Holocaust Education and the impact on Antisemitism. As of 2022, she is chief editor for history at the leading German publishing house and online learning platform for school books and educational material. Schmoll also works as an author, advisor, developer and expert for other publishers. In 6/2022, she presents "Holocaust Education in Israel in a Diverse Society and the Idea of Reflecting on Identity" at Ann.Con. of the Ass. for Israel Studies.

PUBLICATIONS

David Barnouw

Il Fenomeno Anne Frank, Postfazione di Massimo Bucciantini, Ulrico Hoepli Editori, Milano 2022

Lawrence Baron

"Persistent Parallels, Resistant Particularities: Holocaust Analogies and Avoidance in Armenian Genocide Centennial Cinema," in *Armenian and Jewish Experience between Expulsion and Destruction*, ed. Sarah M. Ross and Regina Randhofer (Oldenbourg: De Gruyter, 2022), 267-296.

Omer Bartov

Bartov's new book, *Tales from the Borderlands: Making and Unmaking the Galician Past*, will be published by Yale University Press in June 2022. Focusing on the former province of Galicia, the book tells the story of Europe's eastern borderlands, stretching from the Baltic to the Balkans, through the eyes of the diverse communities of migrants who settled there for centuries and were murdered or forcibly removed from the borderlands in the course of World War II and its aftermath.

Judy Baumel-Schwartz

Publications the Finkler Institute sponsored include: *Women Defying Hitler: Resistance and Rescue Under the Nazis*, Bloomsbury, 2021; *Researchers Remember: Research as an Arena of Memory Among Descendants of Holocaust Survivors*, Bern 2021; *Goodbye America: Fifty Years of American-Jewish Women's Immigration to Israel, a Collective Autobiography (1967-2017)*, Bern 2021; *The List: The Making of an Online Transnational Second Generation Community*, Bern: 2022.

Christopher Browning

"Yehuda Bauer, the Concepts of Holocaust and Genocide, and the Issue of Settler Colonialism," *Journal of Holocaust Research* 36/1 (2022), pp. 30-38; "World War II and the Final Solution," *Legacy* (2021), pp. 16-25 (in Hebrew only); "Die Entwicklung der Holocaust-Forschung. Eine amerikanische Perspektive," *Aufarbeitung des Nationalsozialismus: Ein Kompendium*, ed. by Magnus Brechtken (Göttingen: Wallstein Verlag, 2022), pp. 143-170; "When Did They Decide?" *NYRB* 3/24/22, pp. 29-31.

Jan Burzlaff

Burzlaff published two articles about wartime social dynamics in Western and Eastern Europe: "In the Shadow of the Gas Chambers: Social Ties and Daily Life around the Death Camp of Bełżec (1941–1945)," *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, vol. 35, 3, Winter 2021, 445–463, and "Silence and Small Gestures: Jews and non-Jews in the Netherlands (1940–1945)," *Contemporary European History*, March 2022, FirstView.

PUBLICATIONS

Marguerite DeHuszar Allen

"The WWII Diary of a Former Hungarian Refugee in US Army Military Intelligence: A Study in Intransigence," *Law & Literature* 29: 1 (2017): 99-107; "The Saddest History Ever Written. A Review article on Randolph L. Braham", ed., *The Geographical Encyclopedia of the Holocaust in Hungary*. 3 vols (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2014) in *Hungarian Cultural Studies: E-Journal of the American Hungarian Educators Association* 7 (2014): 1-10; *East Central Europe* 41 (2014): 297-329.

Laure Guilbert

"The Micro-Gestures of Survival: Searching for the Forgotten Traces." in Naomi Jackson, Rebecca Pappas, Toni Shapiro-Phim, eds., *Handbook of Jewishness and Dance in Contemporary Perspective* (International Conference of the Arizona State University, "Jews and Jewishness in the Dance World," Center for Jewish Studies, Tempe, 13-15.10.2018). Oxford University Press, 2021.

Steve Hochstadt

Hochstadt published *Death and Love in the Holocaust: The Story of Sonja and Kurt Messerschmidt* with Academic Studies Press in March 2022. The Messerschmidts tell their journey of love and endurance in their own voices, from meeting in Berlin to marriage in Theresienstadt to Auschwitz and beyond, through death marches to ultimate survival. Hochstadt places the stations of their survival into a history of the Holocaust. Introduces students at all levels to history and individual narratives.

Marion Kaplan

Kaplan's book, *Hitler's Jewish Refugees: Hope and Anxiety in Portugal*, was published in March 2022 in Portuguese as *Os Refugiados Judeus de Hitler*, published by Temas e Debates. It will be published in German during the summer of 2022 by Wallstein Verlag as *Transit Portugal: Jüdischer Flüchtlingsalltag im Exil, 1940-1945*.

Barbara Krasner

Krasner's proposal for a young adult novel in verse about Camp Nordland, the Nazi Bund camp that operated in her home state of New Jersey, 1937-1941, has been accepted by Calkins Creek/Astra Books for Young Readers. This follows her YA novel in verse forthcoming September 2022, *Ethel's Song: Ethel Rosenberg's Life in Poems*, with Calkins Creek.

Jan Lambertz and Jan Lániček

Lániček and Lambertz announce the publication of their coedited volume, *More than Parcels: Wartime Aid for Jews in Nazi-Era Camps and Ghettos* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2022), with wide-ranging case studies by Eliyana R. Adler, Laurie A. Drake, Rebecca Erbelding, Silvia Goldbaum Tarabini Fracapane, Stefan Cristian Ionescu, Alicja Jarkowska, Jan Lambertz, Jan Lániček, Anne Lepper, Katarzyna Person, Pontus Rudberg, and Gerald J. Steinacher.

PUBLICATIONS

John J. Michalczyk

Michalczyk has coproduced with his wife, Susan A. Michalczyk, a recent documentary, *Hitler's Mein Kampf: Prelude to the Holocaust*. (Distributors: First Run Features/American Public Television). The film was screened January 30 in Landsberg, Germany, a short distance from the prison in which Hitler wrote his anti-Semitic manifesto. Bloomsbury (UK) has just published the companion volume on their work, *Hitler's Mein Kampf and the Holocaust: Prelude to Genocide*.

Dan Michman

Authored book: *Holocaust Historiography Between 1990 to 2021 in Context(s): New Avenues, Insights, Perceptions, and Understandings—An Overview and Analysis, Search and Research 34* (Jerusalem: Yad Vashem, 2022), 124 pp. [a comprehensive treatise + the resulting redefinition of the Holocaust/Shoah]. Edited book: *Emotions, Imaginations, Perceptions, Egos, Characteristics: Egodocuments in Dutch Jewish History* (Amsterdam: Amphora, 2021), 251 pp. [most chapters deal with Holocaust-related issues].

Benjamin Nickl

Real is Not Real Enough, podcast movie by Benjamin Nickl, The University of Sydney, Chris Müller, Macquarie University, Helen Wolfenden, Macquarie University. An immersive audio experience based on the work of the writer and philosopher Günther Anders née Stern, a Jewish German thinker and cultural critic who escaped the Nazis in 1933 to start a new life in exile in California--writing about the Holocaust while exiled in Hollywood. Link: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/0CFKz2jRMlKHj1XsuXmDO2>

Galit Noga-Banai

A Medievalist's Gaze: Christian Visual Rhetoric in Modern German Memorials, 1950–2000 (Peter Lang, 2022). This study offers an unconventional reading of modern and postmodern German memorials from a medievalist perspective. Beginning with a memorial for German soldiers in El Alamein and continuing with memorials for victims of the Nazis in Germany, Noga-Banai challenges the visual differences between modern and medieval art and transforms the interactions between the two into six productive conversations.

Avraham "Alan" Rosen

Review of "Holocaust Memory in UltraOrthodox Society in Israel," by Michal Shaul. *AJS Review* 46:1 (2022).

Ariane Santerre

Publication of a monograph: Ariane Santerre, *La Littérature inouïe: Témoigner des camps dans l'après-guerre* (Rennes: Presses universitaires de Rennes, 2022). This book analyzes written French and Italian testimonies published by survivors of the Nazi camps in the immediate post-war years. By intersecting literature and linguistics, it is the first monograph to prove the cultural value of unknown post-war testimonies.

PUBLICATIONS

Melanie Carina Schmoll

Schmoll published *Alles Geschichte?*, ÖVB, a history text book for grade 10 in Austria. Her new book about Geography is called: *Escape Room Erdkunde*, Auer Verlag, Germany. Schmoll also developed and published major units on economics. This teaching material was published in cooperation with Hagemann and the Bavarian Association of Banks. Also, she develops education and teaching material for Sofatutor, Duden and Cornelsen on various historical topics.

Dorian Stuber

Stuber's essay "Cutting Across Lines: Teaching Holocaust Literature in Arkansas" appeared in the fall 2021 issue of *The Oxford American*, 102-108.

Barry Trachtenberg

Trachtenberg has published *The Holocaust & the Exile of Yiddish: A History of the Algemeyne Entsiklopedye* (Rutgers, 2022). Initially planned as a reference work of universal knowledge, the *Algemeyne Entsiklopedye* (Berlin, Paris, New York, 1932-1966) became over its long history a record of the displacement, destruction, and restoration of the Yiddish language and culture.

<https://www.rutgersuniversitypress.org/the-holocaust-and-the-exile-of-yiddish/9781978825451>

Gerhard Weinberg

Yad Vashem in its series Search and Research has published as No. 30 his lecture "The Holocaust, Seventy-five Years after It Ended: A Panoramic View of Achievements and Challenges in Research and Interpretation."

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE HEFNU COMMUNITY

Wolf Gruner

The USC Dornsife Center for Advanced Genocide Research is proud to announce its Holocaust research project entitled #LastSeen - Pictures of Nazi Deportations. The project is an ongoing search to discover photos from the Nazi mass deportations to tell untold stories. If you think you have or you know of an image of a Nazi deportation of Jews, Romani people and/or people with disabilities, please contact: cagr@usc.edu.

Avraham "Alan" Rosen

The Holocaust's Jewish Calendars, International School of Holocaust Studies, Yad Vashem, in-person, July and August, 2022.



Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University

FOUNDED BY THEODORE ZEV AND ALICE R. WEISS

The mission of the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University (HEFNU) is to advance Holocaust education at institutions of higher learning around the world. To achieve this mission, HEFNU aims to develop professors qualified to teach Holocaust courses, grow the number of colleges and universities that offer Holocaust courses, and thereby increase the number of students who study the Holocaust.

If you wish to support our mission, there are two ways to make a tax-deductible contribution. To make an online contribution, [click here](#). To contribute via mail, please send a check or money order payable to “Northwestern University,” Memo: Holocaust Educational Foundation, to: ARD 1201 Davis Street Evanston, IL 60208 Attn: Jill Smith. Please let us know a check is on the way via email at hef@northwestern.edu.

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