

OSU HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL WEEK 2014

This year will mark the 28th consecutive annual observance of Holocaust Memorial Week at Oregon State University. As in past years, the university, in association with the City of Corvallis and School District 509-J, is undertaking this obligation in the belief that educational institutions can do much to combat bigotry of all kinds, and to foster respect for diversity, by promoting an awareness of the Holocaust, one of the most horrific historical indicators of the high cost of prejudice.

Monday, April 28, 7:30 p.m., Austin Auditorium, LaSells Stewart Center
Public Talk: Tom Segev

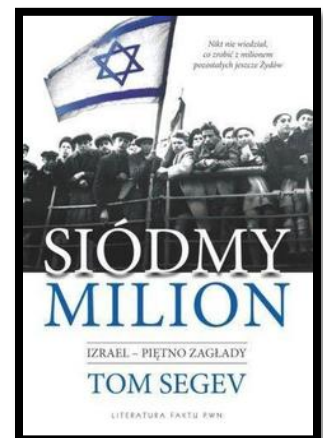
The Holocaust and the Shaping of Israel

Many historians have claimed that groups and governments outside Nazi Europe did too little to try to rescue Jews during the Holocaust, and some have claimed that this neglect even extended to the Zionist leadership in Palestine. Moreover, after the war, Jews who had survived Hitler's Europe and who attempted to immigrate to Palestine were not always welcomed. In the early years of its existence Israel was likewise slow to embrace the survivors. Later, however, this attitude would change, and the Holocaust would come to have a major impact on the evolving Israeli identity, with implications not only for Israel but for its allies, for the Middle East, and for the world.



The best-known chronicler of these developments is the celebrated Israeli historian and journalist Tom Segev. Segev's many books often deal with Holocaust themes, as have his recently published biography of the noted Nazi-hunter, Simon Wiesenthal, and *Soldiers of Evil: The Commanders of German Concentration Camps*.

His talk on April 28 will draw on, and expand on, *The Seventh Million: The Israelis and the Holocaust*, a work that incorporates extensive testimony from Holocaust survivors who immigrated to Palestine/Israel after the war. Copies of *The Seventh Million* will be available to purchase at the close of Dr. Segev's talk.



Tuesday, April 29, 7:30 p.m., Withycombe Hall, Lab Theatre
Play (preview; selected scenes):

Forty written by Leonora Rianda



Among the genocides of the twentieth century, the one most often likened to the Holocaust is the Armenian Genocide of 1915-16. In both cases, a religious minority was targeted, and in both cases the group that was victimized had long been the object of widespread hatred and persecution. As many as 1.5 million Armenians – perhaps half the total living in the Ottoman Empire -- perished in the genocide.

While the Holocaust is the subject of a vast literature, including many films and plays, the fate of the Armenians has seldom been dramatized. Now, Leonora Rianda, a fixture at OSU for many years, is nearing completion of a play on the Armenian Genocide. The entire work will premiere at OSU in April 2015. In the meantime, we are pleased to provide a sneak preview during HMW 2014. This event will culminate in a discussion of the play and of the genocide.

Wednesday, April 30, 7:30 p.m., C&E Auditorium, LaSells Stewart Center
Public Talk: William F. S. Miles

Shared Suffering and Empathy: Incorporating the Holocaust into Sub-Saharan Africa Thought and Commemoration

In the same year that apartheid ended in South Africa, 1994, Rwanda suffered through a major campaign of genocide in 1994. How have these and other African nations which have endured systemic evil and mass murder coped in the aftermath? How has such extraordinary trauma sensitized African attitudes towards the Holocaust? How have African educators and the general public incorporated the Holocaust into their own understanding of the world, and their suffering within it? This is the issue that will be addressed by Professor Miles.

William Miles is a professor of political science and the former Stotsky Professor of Jewish Historical and Cultural Studies at Northeastern University in Boston. Many of his books and articles focus on the respective societies and the interrelationships of Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Africa.



**Thursday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.,
Austin Auditorium, LaSells Stewart Center**
Public Talk: Laureen Nussbaum

Remembering Anne Frank



Almost seven decades after her death at Bergen-Belsen, the Dutch teenager Anne Frank remains the best known of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. On May 1, we will have an opportunity to hear from a childhood friend of hers, one of the last few people still alive to have been mentioned in Anne's iconic diary.

Referred to as "Hansi" in the diary, Laureen Nussbaum was born Hannelore Klein. Like the Frank sisters, she was born in Frankfort, about midway between Margot (born 1926) and Anne (born 1929). Their parents were friends in Frankfort and they remained so in Amsterdam, which became their refuge after the Nazis took power in Germany in 1933. The three girls were close, as well. During the war, however, the two families suffered very different fates. None of the Franks, aside from Anne's father, Otto, survived, but the Kleins did, for reasons that Laureen will discuss in her talk. At the close of the war, Hannelore married Rudi Nussbaum (like her, born in Frankfort, emigrated to the Netherlands, survived the Holocaust but lost both parents), and the two moved on to the United States, to complete their educations and go on to long teaching careers at Portland State University, he in physics, she in Foreign Languages and Literatures. Rudi passed away in 2011.

On May 1, Laureen Nussbaum will tell her own story of survival, but also share her unique memories of Anne and Margot, and appraise the extraordinary legacy that is Anne's diary. Her appearance at OSU represents an opportunity not to be missed.



**Friday, May 2, 10:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.,
Journey Room, OSU Memorial Union**

Student Conference:
Social Justice in Policy and Education



The objective of this conference is to address the issue of “social justice”: what the term does and should mean, given the complexity of society in the U.S. and the world; and how nations can best address issues such as diversity, poverty, equity, community, and conflict prevention.

Co-sponsored by Intercultural Student Services and the Master of Public Policy Program

Friday, May 2, 7:30 p.m., C&E Auditorium, LaSells Stewart Center
**Play: *In Quest of Conscience*, written by Robert David MacDonald;
directed by Charlotte Headrick**

Franz Stangl was the commandant of Treblinka August 1942-August 1943, and in that year he oversaw the killing of about 900,000 people, the preponderant majority of them Polish Jews. At the close of the war he was briefly imprisoned, but in 1948 he escaped, traveling first to Syria and then, in 1951, to Brazil, where he lived, under his own name, until 1967, when he was arrested and extradited to Germany. During his subsequent trial, he admitted supervising the gassing of prisoners, but claimed that his conscience was clear, because he had simply done his duty. Sentenced to life in prison, he was in the process of appeal when he died of a heart attack in June 1971.

In 1970 and 1971, Stangl was interviewed in prison by a noted Austrian journalist, Gitta Sereny. Sereny also interviewed others who knew him, particularly his wife. After Stangl’s death, Sereny published *Into That Darkness*, based on her interviews of him and her additional research. Sereny’s book remains a classic of Holocaust literature.

In Quest of Conscience is a dramatization of *Into That Darkness*. It focuses on the exchanges between Stangl and Sereny, and especially on Stangl’s efforts to justify himself. For this reason, it provides a chilling investigation into what Hannah Arendt famously called “the banality of evil.” The play will be performed as reader’s theater.

