

All events are free and open to the public. Unless otherwise noted, they are held in the Geisel Library's Seuss room and start at 5 pm. Refreshments provided. The Holocaust Living History Workshop is an education and outreach program supported by the UC San Diego Library and Jewish Studies

Oct. 11: Like Shadows Walking: Liberating Treblinka with the Red Army – with Jacob Sandbrand



Kolomyia is a town in the “bloodlands,” the part of Eastern Europe that suffered the worst socio-political turmoil in the late 1930s and 40s. When the Soviets invaded Eastern Poland in September 1939, Kolomyia fell into their hands. Almost overnight, Jews became Soviet citizens. Among them was Jacob Sandbrand. Barely sixteen, he was forced to enlist in the Red Army and to take part in the push westward. In the summer of 1944, he helped liberate

Treblinka, a name that has come to epitomize the horrors of the Holocaust. In this talk, Sandbrand shares his experience in the Red Army and relates how he ended up in the United States.

Nov. 15: Tales Retold: Holocaust Survivors on *Schindler's List* - with Jeffrey Shandler

Sponsored by Daniel and Phyllis Epstein

How are Holocaust survivors' life stories informed by other narratives with which they are familiar? Among the thousands of interviews conducted by the Shoah Foundation Institute's Visual History Archive between 1994 and 1999, there are dozens in which survivors discuss Schindler's List, the actual rescue list as well as Steven Spielberg's popular feature film of 1993. In the course of relating their life histories, survivors mention the film both in regards to their own story of survival and as they reflect on the differences between experience of the past and its narration. Jeffrey Shandler is a professor in the department of Jewish Studies at Rutgers University and a leading authority on Jewish culture past and present. His works include the groundbreaking monograph *While America Watches: Televising the Holocaust; Jews, God, and*



Videotape: Religion and Media in America; and, most recently, *Holocaust Memory in the Digital Age: Survivors' Stories and New Media Practices*.

Jan. 17: The Holocaust Litigations: Defining Guilt, Extracting Reparations – with William Lerach

Eliminationist antisemitism may have been the main reason behind the Nazis' lethal assault on European Jews, but there was also a profit motive: for some, the Holocaust was an opportunity for economic exploitation. This is the story of a small band of American lawyers who, 50 years after the fact, exposed the widespread complicity of major Swiss banks and multi-national German corporations in the Holocaust. Among the lawyers involved in this long-overdue attempt at *Wiedergutmachung* was William Lerach, a leading securities lawyer in the US. In this lecture, Lerach discusses the litigations that recovered stolen property worth several billion dollars. A member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, Lerach is the recipient of the prestigious Legacy Laureate award from the University of Pittsburgh. Patrick Patterson, a professor of history at UC San Diego, will provide an introduction and comments.



Feb. 7: Face to Face with Demjanjuk: The Elusive Quest for Closure – with Martin Haas

In 2009 San Diego resident Martin Haas participated as a co-plaintiff in the Bavarian Superior Court case against the Ukrainian-born Ivan Demjanjuk, a US citizen who had participated in the mass-extinction of European Jews during WW II. What does it mean to come face to face with a man who was involved in the murder of one's family? Does a belated reckoning such as the Munich trial permit true closure? In this talk, Haas relates the tragic history of his family and shares his experience in court. Born into a Dutch-Jewish family, Martin spent World War II in hiding with a Catholic family. In 1946 he was adopted by a distant relative and emigrated to Israel where he would earn a degree in Electrical Engineering and serve three years in the Israeli Army. He subsequently studied biophysics at UC Berkeley and obtained his Ph.D. in biology. In 1981 Haas joined the UCSD faculty as professor of biology and oncology.



Feb. 28: East West Street: On the Origins of “Genocide” and “Crimes Against Humanity” – with Philippe Sands Sponsored by William and Michelle Lerach



Lviv, Lwów, Lvov, Lemberg: one city, four names, multiple destinies. The city is at the heart of *East West Street*, Philippe Sands’ extraordinary story of champions of human rights and their adversaries. Sands is professor of law and director of the Centre on International Courts and Tribunals at University College London. He is a regular commentator on the BBC and CNN and writes frequently for leading newspapers. In 2003 he was appointed Queen’s Counsel (QC). His many publications include *Lawless World: America and the Making and Breaking of Global Rules*; *Torture Team: Rumsfeld’s Memo and the Betrayal of American Values*; *Environmental Law, the Economy and Sustainable Development* (with Richard Stewart and Richard Revesz); and most recently, *City of Lions* (with Jozef Wittlin). Sands features prominently in *My Nazi Legacy*, a documentary released in 2015.

Held in Hojel Hall – details to follow

March 14: Not like Sheep to the Slaughter: Vengeance or Justice? – with Michael and Bonnie Bart

European Jews have long been accused of having passively submitted to Nazi persecution in the Second World War. This charge belies the existence of several resistance groups including the “Avengers” of Vilna. Based in the Lithuanian Rudnicki forest, the organization included Leizer and Zenia Bart, the parents of San Diego resident Michael Bart. In the award-winning memoir *Until Our Last Breath: A Holocaust Story of Love and Partisan Resistance*, which won the prestigious Christopher Award of 2009, Michael recreated his parents’ remarkable experience. A decade later, his wife Bonnie completed the books’ visual companion piece, the eight-part documentary *Nekamah Freedom Fighters*. The film is based on several journeys to Lithuania, interviews with eye-witnesses, and extensive research in the Visual History Archive of the



Shoah Foundation Institute. At this workshop, Michael and Bonnie relate the genesis and experience of this double project came.

Sponsored by Judi Gottschalk

April 11: Rising from the Rubble: Creating POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews – with Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett Sponsored by Laurayne Ratner

This lecture explores the creation of POLIN Museum in Warsaw and its multimedia narrative



exhibition, a journey of a thousand years, and its potential to be an agent of transformation that can move an entire society forward. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett is Chief Curator of the Core Exhibition at POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. Her books include *Destination Culture: Tourism, Museums, and Heritage*; *Image before My Eyes: A Photographic History of Jewish Life in Poland, 1864–1939* (with Lucjan Dobroszycki); *They Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland Before the Holocaust* (with Mayer Kirshenblatt), and *Anne Frank Unbound: Media, Imagination, Memory* (with Jeffrey Shandler). Kirshenblatt-Gimblett received an award for lifetime achievement by the Foundation for Jewish

Culture, honorary doctorates from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the University of Haifa, and the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland from the President of Poland.

Sponsored by Laurayne Ratner - Held in Atkinson Auditorium, details to follow

May 30: Against all Odds: Born in Mauthausen – with Eva Clarke

What does it mean to be born in a concentration camp, arguably one of the most inhospitable places on earth? Eva Clarke was one of three “miracle babies” who saw the light of day in KZ Mauthausen in Austria. Nine days after her birth, the Second World War ended. As a newborn, Eva’s chances of survival were extremely slim. Against all odds, she lived, making her and her mother Anka the only survivors of their extended family. In 1948, they emigrated from Prague to the UK and settled in Cardiff. Nowadays, Eva regularly talks to audiences, and her remarkable story has been featured in the British and American media. She and



her mother are among the protagonists of Wendy Holden's book *Born Survivors: Three Young Mothers and their Extraordinary Story of Courage, Defiance, and Hope* (Harper, 2015).