

## **Nazi Hunter Simon Weisenthal to lecture at UCSD**

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### NAZI HUNTER SIMON WEISENTHAL TO LECTURE AT UCSD ON NOVEMBER 7

Simon Weisenthal, the single-minded independent Nazi hunter whose work led to the trial and execution of Nazi extermination chief Adolf Eichmann and more than a thousand other war criminals, will speak Monday, November 7, at 8 p.m. at the University of California, San Diego Main Gym.

Since he and his fellow prisoners were liberated in 1945 by American troops from a concentration camp in Mauthausen, Austria, Weisenthal has examined thousands of documents and followed up hundreds of thousands of tips to track down some of contemporary history's most vicious murderers living under assumed identities in the United States and elsewhere. He has worked closely with the governments of the U.S., Israel, Austria and West Germany in gathering and preparing the evidence that would lead to their conviction in court.

At the age of 80, he works in his small cramped quarters in Linz, Austria, continuing to lay the groundwork for Nazi trials. Considered by many "the conscience of the Holocaust," he has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Jimmy Carter. He is the author of several books and is the subject of a four-part television series, "The Life of Simon Weisenthal," to be aired on HBO in the spring.

Weisenthal, intent on keeping alive the memory of the 11 million Europeans, including 6 million Jews, who perished at the hands of the Nazis, will speak on "The Murderers Among Us" at UCSD.

He was born December 31, 1908 in Lwow, a Central European city that was shuffled back and forth between Poland and the Soviet Union during the first four decades of the century. He married and was launching a promising career as an architect during Hitler's climb to power in Europe during the 1930s. However, his plans, like those of millions of European Jews, were abruptly terminated when Germany marched into the Soviet Union in 1941. He spent the next four years in concentration camps throughout Poland, escaping twice, only to be recaptured.

His mother died in the Belzec concentration camp. Between the two of them, he and his wife, Cyla, lost nearly 90 relatives during the Holocaust. He considers it a "miracle" that both of them survived and were united after the war.

Just two weeks after gaining his freedom at Mauthausen, Weisenthal--convinced his wife had died during the war--went to work for the U.S. Army's War Crimes Office. The evidence that he supplied was utilized in the U.S. Zone war crimes trials. He also worked for the Army's Office of Strategic Services and the Counter-Intelligence Corps and headed an Austrian Jewish relief and welfare organization.

In 1947, the year his daughter Pauline was born, Weisenthal and 30 volunteers opened the renowned Jewish Historical Documentation Center in Linz to continue gathering evidence against war criminals.

Weisenthal is presented by the UCSD National Issues Forum in conjunction with the University Events Office.

Tickets for this event are \$9 for general admission, \$8 for senior citizens and \$5 for students. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office and all Ticketmaster outlets.

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