

UCSD Lecture Series to focus on "Racism, Genocide, and the Holocaust"

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UCSD Lecture Series to Focus on Psychological Make Up of Holocaust Victims, Saviors. and Deniers

Fifty years ago, millions of Jews were brutally murdered in the Holocaust of World War II. To commemorate the lives touched by this tragic fate, the University of California, San Diego will host a free, 10-week public lecture series from April 3-June 5 on "Racism, Genocide, and the Holocaust."

The first three lectures in the series will provide insight into the psychological profiles of victims of the Holocaust, altruists who helped the persecuted escape certain death, and people who deny that the Holocaust ever occurred. All lectures will begin at 7 p.m. in Room 2250 of the Humanities and Social Sciences Building on UCSD's Muir Campus.

On Wednesday, April 3, Gerda Klein, survivor of the Holocaust and author of "All But My Life," will speak on the impact that the war had on her. Klein was rescued from years of confinement in a succession of Nazi slave labor and concentration camps by a U.S. Intelligence officer, who was later to become her husband.

Their romance is part of a documentary, "You Are Free," which received an Oscar nomination from the Academy of Motion Pictures in 1984. Klein also wrote a children's allegory, "Promise of a New Spring," which introduces children to the history of the Holocaust in a non-frightening way.

On Wednesday, April 10, San Diego State University Professor Lawrence Baron, director of the Lipinsky Institute for Judaic studies, will speak on the dynamics of altruistic personalities in a lecture titled, "Dynamics of Decency: Why People Rescued Jews in Nazi Occupied Europe."

Among his other accomplishments, Dr. Baron has consulted for an international research team studying Gentiles who rescued Jews in the Holocaust and edited the anthology, "Embracing the Other: Psychological, Philosophical, and Historical Perspectives on Altruism in Extreme Situations."

On Wednesday, April 17, Occidental College Professor Debra Lipstadt will discuss the psychological profile of people who deny that the Holocaust ever occurred in a lecture titled, "They Call Anne Frank's Diary a Fraud: The Tactics of the Holocaust Deniers."

Dr. Lipstadt is an adjunct professor of Religion and Jewish Studies at Occidental College and the director of research for the Skirball Institute on American Values, an arm of the American Jewish Committee. She wrote the critically acclaimed book, "Beyond Belief: The American Press and the Coming of the Holocaust," and is currently writing a book on Holocaust revisionism, focusing on those who deny that the Holocaust happened.

The lecture series is being held in conjunction with an internationally acclaimed exhibit from the Anne Frank Center in Amsterdam, "Anne Frank in the World: 1929-1945," which will open at UCSD on May 7. The lecture series is sponsored by the UCSD Division of Social Sciences and the UCSD Division of Humanities. Series coordinator is UCSD Sociology Professor Gershon Shafir, whose father was a friend of Anne Frank's father Otto.

School teachers can earn two units of credit through UCSD's University Extension by attending all 10 lectures in the series, paying a \$25 fee, and writing a paper about how they would use what they learned from the lectures and the exhibition in their classes.

Parking permits are required for evening events at UCSD. They can be purchased for \$1 at the Gilman and Northview Drive entrances to the campus. For further information, contact Gail Phillips at 534-0706.

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