Remember

No. 35
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Remembrance is Continuing the Resistance

Holocaust Center News

Drew University Center For Holocaust Genocide Study

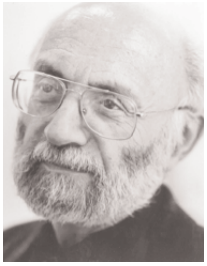
On Wednesday evening, October 28, 2009, internationally acclaimed photographer Yuri Dojc, a native of Slovakia, made a visual presentation entitled "What Remains" that spoke about his interviews with Slovak Jewish survivors of the Holocaust, as well as his portrayal of the physical remains of once vibrant Jewish communities that had lived there. While he photographed the tragedy, his main goal has been to reveal the beauty hidden within. Born to survivors after the war, Dojc emigrated to Canada after the Russian occupation of Czechoslovakia and achieved great success in his profession with the publication of several books and famed commercial photography. His current exhibit inspired by the memory of his father, a famous historian, will be shown in the Museum of Jewish Heritage in the fall of 2010. Since meeting a survivor of Auschwitz at his father's funeral, Dojc has taken 150 pictures of survivors in an effort to document their lives and stories.

On September 14, 2009, Benjamin Bingham, spoke about his father, the American diplomat Hiram Bingham, who helped many Jews flee Hitler, thereby saving their lives. As an American Vice-Consul in France, he enabled imperiled Jews and non-Jews to escape to the U.S. – artist Marc Chagall and Nobel Prize-winning physicist Otto Meyerhoff among them. His selflessness exacted a high personal price. Reprimanded for his handling of visas, he resigned from the Foreign Service under a cloud of dishonor. His honor was restored in 2002 with the posthumous "Constructive Dissent" award. He was also featured as one of six "Distinguished American Diplomats" in a set of commemorative postage stamps in 2006.

photo of Yuri Dojc courtesy of Peter Prochadzka

Commemorative stamp issued in 2006 – Hiram Bingham IV

Samuel Bak, and the Surrealist works that portrayed his childhood memories of the Holocaust, bringing to life the terror and sadness he experienced in Europe of the 1930s became the centerpiece of a conference whose theme was "Brushstrokes of Anguish" depicting the violence of Kristallnacht. In addition to Bak talking and the exhibition of his art, the conference also featured Yiddish music and a presentation by Allan Nadler, Professor of Jewish Studies at Drew University. The entire conference, which was made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, was open to the community.



Samuel Bak

Burlington County College Center For Social Justice

The goal of the Center's Educators' Film Series is to foster dialogue in ethics, conscience and moral responsibility. All interested educators have been invited to a film screening of one or both of the following most meaningful films accompanied by conversation related to classroom application. Both of these free events were held on the first floor of the Teleconference Center of the ILRC (Library) on the Pemberton Campus of Burlington County College. Registration was required since seating space was limited. Light refresh-ments were served at both screenings.

Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at 2:00 P.M. featured the powerful film "Hotel Rwanda:".

Thursday, December 2, at 2:00 P.M., the film shown will be "Sand and Sparrow".

Holocaust Center News

Kean University Holocaust Resource Center

On-going:

The Center offers two tuition-free graduate courses to school districts each academic year: Teaching the Holocaust in the fall and Teaching Prejudice Reduction in the spring. Teachers who complete the two courses, and wish to pursue additional study, may take a second year: Research Seminar in Teaching the Holocaust in the fall and Research Seminar in Teaching Prejudice Reduction in the spring. The courses are funded by the Center's Holocaust Research Foundation, made up of survivors, as well as Second Generation members. In 2009-2010, this faculty development sequence is available in Highland Park, Holmdel, Mountain Lakes, Monmouth Regional, New Providence, Perth Amboy and at Kean University. There is already a complete waiting list for the courses to be taught each year from 2010-2013.

Dr. Samuel Kassow

The Murray Pantirer Memorial Lecture held at 7:50 P.M. on Monday evening, November 30, 2009, featured noted historian and acclaimed Holocaust scholar, Dr. Samuel Kassow who will discuss "History and Catastrophe: the Secret Archives of the Warsaw Ghetto". Dr. Kassow is a leading authority on Emanuel Ringelbaum and the secret Jewish documentation of the Warsaw Ghetto. Charles H. Northam Professor of History at Trinity College, Dr. Kassow is also the 2008 winner of the Orbis Book Prize, nominee for the National Jewish Book Award, as well as author of "The Distinctive Life of East European Jewry", "Students, Professors and the State of Tsarist Russia" and numerous articles in professional journals. Another in a series of public lectures sponsored by the Holocaust Resource Foundation, this presentation is free and open to the public.

The Wilkins Theatre for the Performing Arts presented another of the public lectures entitled "A Morning with Nesse Godin" at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, December 1, 2009. Nesse Godin is a survivor of three concentration camps, four labor camps and a death march. A dynamic international lecturer and member of the Speakers Bureau of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Ms. Godin has made presentations at the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Department of Defense, schools, colleges, universities, churches, synagogues and civic groups. She has also been interviewed by Walter Cronkite, Bill Moyers and the History Channel.

Dr. Socorro Herrera

The keynote speaker at the Diversity Council Teacher Education Conference held at the University Center-Room 228 from 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. was Dr. Socorro Herrera, Professor of Education at Kansas State University and Executive Director of the Collaborative Intercultural Multilingual Advocacy Center in the College of Education. Her most timely and significant topic was "Making the Grade: Latinos, Cultural Considerations and Academic Success". Certified in elementary, as well as in bilingual Education and Counseling, Dr. Herrera's recent duties and teaching have emphasized emergent literacy, reading strategies and the differential accommodations for language learning students. Professional development certificates were awarded at the end of the day.

Seton Hall University

Sister Rose Thering Endowment

On Sunday, October 28, 2009, Norman Conard, social studies teacher from Fort Scott, Kansas was the featured speaker at the Annual Teacher Orientation Program. Mr. Conard provided the impetus for his high school students' research that brought the story of Irena Sendler, "smuggler of children", to the attention of the world. Irena was a young social worker during World Was II who literally smuggled 2500 children from the Warsaw ghetto to safety. Mr. Conan spoke about the teaching techniques based on the motto of "He Who Saves One Person, Saves the World", as well as about the drama "Life in a Jar", produced and staged by his students. The Sister Rose Thering Endowment also presented 18 scholarship recipients with certificates.

On Sunday, December 6, 2009, Norman Bikales, a child survivor from France, showed his film "The Children of Chabannes", in which he starred and was one of the producers . A question and answer period followed this Sister Rose Thering Endowment Colloquium.

Holocaust Center News

College of St. Elizabeth

On October 1, 2009, the Holocaust Education Resource Center conference, co-sponsored by the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education and by the Linda and Murray Laulicht Holocaust Education Teacher Training Fund of the College of Saint Elizabeth, held a full-day workshop entitled "Finding Refuge: The Holocaust and Latin America". The focus of the conference was on how Holocaust victims of Nazi policies of World War II mounted a desperate search for a country of refuge. The program highlighted the role that Latin American and Caribbean countries played as rescuers. Presenters told the story of Spanish-speaking Jewish communities that developed in Latin America during this period.

Educators from public, Catholic and Jewish schools came together to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and learned how they could teach lessons from the Holocaust and its links to the Spanish-speaking community.

Christina Chavarria, program coordinator for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, was the keynote speaker. Educators could choose diverse breakout sessions, such as: learning about Rwanda and about the plight of people facing contemporary genocide – as well as meeting survivors who found refuge from the Holocaust. Teachers could also benefit from viewing a Stephen Spielberg and Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation film, "Some Who Lived", followed by a discussion and testimony from Holocaust survivors now living in Argentina and Uruguay. Participating educators received eight professional development hours and resource materials for taking part in this most informative free, all-day workshop.

Week of Holocaust Remembrance

On November 2, 2009 at 7:30 P.M., at the College Annuciation Center's Dolan Performance Hall, Holocaust survivor Fred Heyman and George Greene launched the 30th Annual College of Saint Elizabeth Week of Holocaust Remembrance by telling their stories . The two men were young boys when they witnessed the destruction of Kristallnacht, a massive, coordinated assault on Jews which took place on November 9-10, 1938, widely acknowledged as the beginning of the Holocaust.

As a student in Vienna, Greene saw the destruction of the city's synagogues, including his own, and witnessed the shattered remnants of the stained glass windows destroyed by the mob. He and his family have lived in the U.S. since 1939. Just recently, quite remarkably, he has designed and built stained glass windows for his synagogue, Congregation Agudath Israel in Caldwell, New Jersey.

The evening Kristallnacht commemoration included an interfaith service and music by The Elizabeth Singers under the direction of Carol and Roger Pisani.

Interfaith Dialogue

On Wednesday, November 11, 2009, in Dolan Hall at 7:30 P.M., three internationally known theologians, Rabbi Irving Greenberg, Reverend John Pawlikowski and Dr. Henry F. Knight, discussed the challenges and opportunities in Jewish-Christian dialogue. This free program was open to the public.

Rabbi Greenberg has written extensively on post-Shoah theology, on the relationship of Judaism and Christianity – as well as on the ethics of power and religious/cultural issues of pluralism after the Holocaust. As an outgrowth of his work as President of the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership and its Holocaust Resource Center, Rabbi Greenberg was appointed Director of the President's Commission on the Holocaust and became one of the founding figures of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. He holds a doctorate from Harvard University.

Reverend Pawlikowski is the Director of the Catholic-Jewish Studies Program in the Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Center of the University of Chicago's Catholic Theological Union, where he is also Professor of Social Ethics. The above programs were sponsored by the Community Relations Council and the Holocaust Council of United Jewish Communities of MetroWest and the Faith Lutheran Church in New Providence. They are coordinated by Sister Kathleen Flanagan, Director of the Graduate Programs in Theology and Co-Director of the CSE Holocaust Education Center.

Art Exhibit with Holocaust Theme:

Jersey artist, Aileen Bassis, has used books to create art that interprets the story of the Holocaust. She inserted images into old books, layering and painting on pages, piercing them and adding wire of thread, including a map and a text in Yiddish of a pre-World War II folk tale. The results were sculptured objects containing fragmented images that draw the viewer in and offer remnants of the past. The exhibit ran from November 2 to November 15, 2009.

William Paterson College

Through a generous grant from the William Paterson University Alumni Association, the Center is proud to present "Let the Earth Bear Witness: A Holocaust Film Series" on campus this year.

The first film showing, "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas", was a successful and fascinating event. Dozens of students and faculty members from multiple academic disciplines watched the film and engaged in a lively discussion, led by the Center's Director, Dr. Alison Dobrick, about the controversies created by this interesting film and the uses of Holocaust films and literature in educational settings.

The second film, "Defiance", a powerful tale about Jewish partisan fighters was shown on November 18, 2009 and accompanied by a special guest speaker, Ann Monka, who was saved by such fighters in Eastern Europe and appeared in a documentary film made about the topic.

Holocaust Center News

Mercer County Holocaust Genocide Resource Center

Annual Film Festival

The Center's upcoming Annual Film Festival was held at noon, on November 12, 2009 on campus, in room CM 110, with the showing of "Weapons of the Spirit", followed by a question and answer period. Festival films are free and open to the public.

Workshop Focuses on Propaganda

The Center's annual workshop was held on May 14, 2009. This year's theme was entitled "Propaganda".It was attended by well over 120 teachers and administrators from Mercer County and throughout the state. Some of the questions examined were: "What is propaganda? How does it impact genocide? How does it affect people – both positively and negatively? And finally, how does one teach about propaganda in the classroom?" Guest speakers included Dr. Paul Winkler, Executive Director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, Dr, Marvin Goldstein, former Director of Rider University's Julius and Dorothy Koppelman Holocaust Center. Dr. Tim Branson, Acting Executive Director of Hudson County and Tim Consentino, President of iMedia Public Relations.

Welcoming the workshop participants were Prof. Saul Goldwasser, Director of the Mercer County Holocaust Genocide Resource Center, Dr. Patricia Donohue, President of Mercer County Community College and Samuel Stewart, Acting Mercer County Executive Superintendent of Schools. During a break in the proceedings, State Senator Bill Baroni (R.Dist. 14) spoke about how he was affected during his recent visit to Auschwitz and Birkenau.

The Center's next workshop on Monday, May 18, 2010 is in the planning stage.

Ramapo College Center For Holocaust And Genocide Education

On Monday, October 5, 2009, Ann Aghion screened and led a discussion of her film "My Neighbor, My Killer". The presentation was sponsored by the Ramapo Center and Communication Arts Major, with the support of the Office of Student Affairs Platinum Series.

Ann Aghion

This extra-ordinary film charts the impact of the government's open air Gacaca Tribunals in Rwanda as part of an attempt by survivors and perpetrators alike to reconcile after the genocide that tore apart the country through an open process of admission and forgiveness. Announced in 2001 and ending this year, the government put the Gacaca Tribunals in place with citizen judges meant to try their neighbors and rebuild the nation.

"My Neighbor, My Killer" has been critically acclaimed and was the winner of the 2009 Human Rights Watch Nestor Almendros Prize for courage in filmmaking. It is the fourth and last in Ms. Aghion's series of films about the genocide in Rwanda, one of which won an Emmy. Ann Aghion, a film maker who lives in New York and Paris, is a graduate of Barnard College.

Raritan Valley Community College

The Institute held its annual Learning through Experience

Margit Feldman

High School Program on October 29, 2009.

This year's conference featured a presentation by Holocaust survivor Margit Feldman who recounted her experiences in five concentration camps and her liberation from Bergen Belsen. Margit traced her sad journey from the oppressive ghetto where her life as a happy 15-year-old came to an abrupt end, through the horrific loss of her parents in Auschwitz to her liberation and subsequent recuperation in Sweden from illness and abuse. Her new life began in America where she had also discovered her mission: to teach others what she had experienced and witnessed, thus bonding with Anne Frank and all other young people who did not live to tell their own stories.

Next, conference participants were addressed by the Director of the Task Force Against Hate and Terrorism for the New York Simon Wiesenthal Center and representative of Simon Wiesenthal to the United Nations, Mark Weitzman. He is also the founding Director of the New York Tolerance Center, and a recognized expert in cyber hate, who has lectured and worked with groups nationally and internationally.

On Monday, November 9, 2009, from 10:00 – 11:30 A.M. the Institute's Kristallnacht program presented testimony by Auschwitz survivor and author of "My Child Is Back", Ursula Pawel.

Holocaust Center News

Goodwin Holocaust Museum And Education Center

While most schools were on summer vacation, the Goodwin Center worked with students in the Upward Bound Academy: area students attending a six-week college-preparatory program at Camden County College. As part of their studies, they met with Frances Neumann, a Holocaust survivor who shared her personal testimony and her hopes for their promising futures.

Frances Neuman with Upward Bound Students

At the start of the 2009-2010 school year, the Center hosted Barbara Shaiman and her "Champions of Caring" program, an organization dedicated to sensitizing, educating and empowering young people to become leaders in service and advocates for social justice. New Jersey principals, teachers and guidance counselors learned about curricula and projects used with great success in the Philadelphia school system. For more information, see their website at www.championsofcaring.org

The Center is also in the third year of "Lessons in Tolerance", an educational program for students in K-5 that involves sending readers to local schools to read from a variety of books dealing with tolerance, bullying and prejudice. In September, readers went to Zane North Elementary School (pre-K-5) in Collingswood to read to all students.

Guest Reader at Zane North Elementary School

On October 26, the Center continued its annual practice of sending high school students to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. This year's beneficiaries of the kindness of local donors were groups of juniors and seniors from Collingswood High School, accompanied by a Holocaust survivor and two of the Center's Holocaust educators

Students are from Collingswood High School

On Thursday, November 19, 2009 from 3:30-5:00 P.M., at the Center's Teacher and Community Workshop on Holocaust Remuneration Issues, Hannah M. Lessing, Secretary General of the National and General Settlement Funds in Austria, discussed "Strategies and Future Direction" She travels around the world, keeping her promise to the ever-dwindling group of survivors and the legacy of her generation to keep the memory alive by teaching the generations to come.

Hannah M. Lessing, Secretary General - Austria - spoke about Holocaust Restitution at the Goodwin Holocaust Museum

On December 10, 2009, the Center presented the Catskill Puppets in a Production of "The Town That Fought Hate". The performance is geared for grades 3-5 and based on an event in Billings, Montana that made national headlines during the 1993 Holiday Season. As a result of a hate incident, the residents banded together to fight the forces of bigotry. This 50-minute show, followed by a 30-minute question and answer period, is based on Janice Cohn's book "The Christmas Menorah: How a Town Fought Hate", and designed to make young children realize that individuals can do things that will combat hatred and change a community.

Remember
Remembrance is Continuing the Resistance

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Holocaust Center News

Brookdale College

Summer 2009 was a memorable time of awards for the Center. "The Exhibit: a Journey to Life" which premiered in the Monmouth Museum in Lincroft, New Jersey, received the Community Champion Award from the Monmouth County Arts Council. Then the New Jersey Shore Public Relations and Advertising Association honored the exhibit with two Gold Awards: for excellence in writing and for a special community event. The exhibit teaches the lessons of the Holocaust through the life experiences of local Holocaust survivors and fosters awareness and activism to address current human rights abuses. It was at the Museum of Monmouth County in Freehold, New Jersey from November 8, 2009 – January 11, 2010. Some of its components will become curriculum suitcases available to schools in New Jersey in January 2010. Each features a life story of one local survivor told in a scrapbook of photographs, documents and artifacts, including a video of the survivor. The comprehensive curriculum "Echoes and Reflections" and individual lesson plans are also included.

In July 2009, the Center held its two-week Summer Fellowship Institute with teachers able to choose from the following options: a two-day genocide program, a three-day museum studies program, a five-day Holocaust Studies program and a nine-day comprehensive program. Participants included middle and high school teachers, as well as two college faculty members – one from as far away as Ohio.

In August, the Center offered a one-day workshop for the training of chaplains and pastoral counselors: "Theodicy and Clinical Pastoral Education: Exploring Suffering through the Stories of Holocaust Survivors". Participants from internatonal locales and varied religious backgrounds gave extremely positive feedback.

Survivor Manfred Lindenbaum meets with a group of educators from the Summer Fellowship Institute.

On August 19-20, 2009, the Center held its Annual Law Enforcement Program in collaboration with the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. After a morning training session at Brookdale College, 50 officers and prosecutors traveled to the museum for an evening of training with Peter Black, Ph..D., senior historian. The next day included a tour of the museum and another afternoon training session. Dr. Black was formally presented with a full set of survivors' scrapbooks which he vetted for the museum.

Fall programming included a Wednesday morning film series of anti-Nazi films: of the 1940s: "Margin for Error", "Tomorrow the World" and "The Great Dictator". Retired Brookdale Professors and Center Founders Seymour Siegler and Jack Needle hosted the series and conducted the subsequent question and answer part of the programs.

In recognition of International Peace Day, the Center welcomed Desire' Karangwa, faculty member in the Environmental Health Department at Kigali Health Institute in Kigali, Rwanda. During the Tutsi Genocide, Desire traumatically lost his parents and one sister. Since then, he has become parent of his three surviving siblings. An overflow crowd attended his powerful presentation.

The following unique presentations have also taken place under the aegis of the Center: "The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later, an Epilogue" (the Center has been chosen as one of 146 venues worldwide); on October 12, 2009, the 11th anniversary of the death of Matthew Shepard; "The Story Behind the Journey to Life: a Tribute to Local Holocaust Survivors", a compilation of the survivors' pre-war and contemporary photographs, paired with a narrative of their Holocaust experiences and a personal statement and finally, "Women in War Zones" presented by the program "Rape or Death: It is the Same", shot at Panzi Hospital. One of the film makers, Scott Blanding, brought one of the Panzi Hospital surgeons, Roger Likiri, with him for the film presentation. "Women in War Zones" will coordinate a book drive over the winter holidays to gather medical texts for the hospital and books for the women who spend long periods there as they struggle to maintain hope and dignity while they come to grips with their violent and tragic past.

A Kristallnacht Commemoration and the opening of the "Journey to Life" exhibit at the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County in Freehold, New Jersey, took place on Sunday, November 8, 2009. For details, please contact the Center at (732)224-1889. The exhibit will be in place through January 31, 2010. Admission is $ 3.00 for members and $ 5.00 for the general public. There is no fee for Holocaust survivors.

On Monday, November 9, 2009, at 7:30 P.M., Detective David D'Amico, a twenty year law enforcement veteran and the Detective in the Bias Crimes Unit of the Mounmouth County Prosecutor's Office, presented "Bias and Hate Crimes in Our Backyard". He spoke on the effect of current issues relating to bias, prejudice and stereotypes in Monmouth County and the State of New Jersey. The informative and challenging presentations of this dynamic speaker have impressed hundreds of students, as well as members of community groups and given them a new perspective on life in Monmouth County.

The Seventh Annual Council of Holocaust Educators' Conference: "Survivor Testimony: Bringing Voices of the Past and Present into the Classroom" took place on Thursday evening, December 3, 2009 at Brookdale Community College Student Life Center, Lincroft, New Jersey. It featured a keynote address by Professor Jeffrey Shandler, a panel of Holocaust survivors on the impact of giving testimony and various workshop offerings.

On Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at 7 P.M. in the Student Life Center of the College, Benjamin Skinner, author of "A Crime So Monstrous: Face-to-Face with Modern Day Slavery" and the first person to witness the negotiations for the sale of human beings on four continents, raised awareness of modern day slavery by telling the story of those who live in slavery, those who escaped from bondage, those who own and traffic in slaves and the mixed political motives of those who seek to combat the crime.

Richard Stockton College

"Journey of the Railroad Tracks" Brings Stockton Full-Circle in Expansion of Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center and the addition of the Liviu Librescu Classroom.

The Holocaust Resource Center, renamed the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at the Richard Stockton College of NJ, has completed a major expansion and renovation project. Dr. Michael Berenbaum was the historical consultant for the expansion project. The project doubled the center's size and now provides more learning opportunities for educators, students grades kindergarten to 12, and undergraduate and graduate college students. The expanded opportunities include workshops and seminars for teaching character education, prejudice reduction, and the history of the Holocaust and other genocides. There are enhanced areas for study and research as well as display cases with artifacts. The expanded area includes an electronic classroom named in memory of Liviu Librescu, a Roumanian Holocaust survivor and professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, who sacrificed his life to save others during the April 16, 2007, campus massacre. Professor Librescu obstructed the door of his classroom as the shooter attempted to enter. He blocked the gunman, enabling all but one of his students to escape through the windows.

The design of the new entrance for the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center conveys the importance and the historical context for the center. Railroad tracks from Poland form a canopy design to incorporate the railroad tracks into the entrance of the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center. The tracks from Bialystok, Poland, are symbolic of the network of trains in Europe during World War II, the chief mode of transportation taking Holocaust victims from the ghettos to the death camps. The tracks were removed from a rail bed in the region of Bialystok, where nearby the Nazi regime established the third largest Jewish Ghetto. It was a central point in the network of rail lines moving the victims to notorious concentration camps: Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka, Theresienstadt, and Majdanek. Stockton officials and Dr. Michael Berenbaum worked in concert with the Polish government, Museum for the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, customs officials, and shipping companies in Poland and the US to secure the tracks. From Bialystok, the tracks were loaded on a flatbed truck and shipped to the Polish port city of Gydnia. The tracks were then placed in a cargo container and loaded onto a freighter. The freighter journeyed to Hamburg, Germany, and was transferred to the SS Glasgow Express. The Atlantic crossing took about a week, with the rails arriving in New York harbor and eventually at a port at the New York Container Terminal.

"The cargo was treated with respect and dignity every step of the journey," Gail Rosenthal notes. "It was treated as something valuable: a piece of evidence for education about the Holocaust to future generations." Brian Iacone, an Emmy award winning photo journalist, was permitted with Rosenthal to document the railroad track arrival in the NY Harbor. The journey took some surprising turns. They were told there was no way of knowing which container among the thousands loaded on the ship contained the rails. However, word soon came back that the rails were in fact located in a container at the very top of the stacks. It was located almost instantly. Perhaps even more amazingly, the container was surrounded by others emblazoned with the Star of David and logo of the Zim Line, an Israeli shipping company. "We were told the Zim's containers are not often loaded onto the SS Glasgow Express in Hamburg. And here they were completely surrounding our railroad tracks." A huge crane was used to lift the container containing the tracks, but the containers from Israel had somehow adhered to the container with the rails. It took four passes by the crane before the container could be extricated from the containers from Israel. "We were told that was a very unusual occurrence," Rosenthal said. In one final twist of irony, the tracks arrived just before the Jewish High Holidays.

As an historical note, Dr. Michael Berenbaum wrote:

Railroads were indispensable to the Holocaust. At first the Nazis murdered Jews by sending mobile killers to stationary victims, moving into towns, villages, and hamlets and murdering the Jews one by one, town by town, and city by city. When this proved too difficult to sustain, the process was reversed – the victims were made mobile and the killing centers stationary. The entire process was industrialized. Killing centers were established on major railroad lines. Auschwitz had 44 parallel railroad tracks – by comparison New York's Penn Station has but 21 – and it is because of its rail line infrastructure that Auschwitz-Birkenau became Auschwitz-Birkenau.

A 25 minute film, Rails of the Holocaust: A Journey to Stockton College premiered on NBC- TV 40 and it is shown to all visitors at the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center. This documentary film includes the footage of the journey of the railroad tracks from Bialystok to Stockton and interviews with Holocaust survivors and others associated with the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center.

Display case with Dachau concentration camp uniform