

Summer 2012

**MISSION:** The Voice/Vision Archive promotes cultural, racial and religious understanding through unprecedented worldwide access to its collection of Holocaust survivor narratives. Our educational resources, programs and outreach provide quality Holocaust education to the metropolitan Detroit and global communities through engagement with teachers, civic groups and religious organizations.

**VISION:** The Voice/Vision Holocaust Survivor Oral History Archive seeks to strengthen the University of Michigan-Dearborn's position as a welcoming and nurturing institution, which supports diversity among its students, faculty, staff, and scholarship.

To accomplish this goal it is our vision to:

- Enable immediate connections to powerful, oral histories of survivors who experienced the Holocaust
- Reach out to Michigan's K-12 students and educators by offering guided discussions and focused dialogues
- Conduct content-specific workshops and colloquia aimed at metropolitan area educators
- Reach out to the metropolitan community's civic and religious organizations
- Provide an online Holocaust education curriculum
- Support Holocaust research
- Preserve the voices and memories of Holocaust survivors for future generations

# THE VOICE

“We die twice when men forget.”  
—*Simonides of Ceos (c.556 - 468 BC)*

 UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN



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## Bolkosky Retires After 39 Years

It is with great sorrow, but also with great joy, that we announce the retirement of Sidney Bolkosky from the University of Michigan-Dearborn after 39 years of service as a professor of history and 25 years as Director of the Honors Program. During his time as an educator and leader at the university, Sid received numerous awards and honors, including the Distinguished Faculty Award and The William P. Stirton Professorship in the Social Sciences. He is also one of a very select group to have received all three of UM-Dearborn's major faculty awards: the UM-Dearborn Distinguished Teaching Award, the UM-Dearborn Distinguished Faculty Research Award, and the UM-Dearborn Distinguished Service Award. Last but not least, he became the first recipient of UM-Dearborn's newest award, the Distinguished Career Metropolitan Impact Award.



Bolkosky has also been lauded for his service to the metropolitan community, receiving the Distinguished Faculty Award from the Michigan Association of Governing Boards, the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan's Leonard N. Simons Award, and the Bernard Mass Foundation Award for Continuity in Jewish Education in the Humanities.

Sid's quiet reach as a scholar has enriched the field of Holocaust studies and education. His work with Holocaust survivors helped usher in new ways of looking at the Holocaust as both a personal and historical event. Bolkosky's five books and more than seventy articles on European intellectual history and the Holocaust have enriched both fields and influenced numerous scholars.

Although retired from teaching, Sid will continue to serve as Director of the Voice/Vision Archive.

We wish Sid all the best, and honor him for his incredible career as an educator and scholar.

## Archive Works with Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company



The Voice/Vision Archive, along with the Holocaust Memorial Center and the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, co-sponsored three performances of the Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company's "Legacy Project" at the Berman Center for the Performing Arts in West Bloomfield. Dorfman, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, narrated the performances, which were presented in three parts and set to music composed by Ilse Weber while she was imprisoned in the Theresienstadt ghetto. Dorfman choreographed the dances that brought together her family's stories, Jewish history, and the universal struggle for identity among immigrants.

In addition to co-sponsoring the event, the Voice/Vision Archive prepared a short study guide designed to accompany the performances. Titled "Fragile Threads," the guide provides a short description of the Holocaust and focuses on themes that celebrate diversity and tolerance.

For more information on the Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company, including an artist's statement, please visit: <http://cddc.info/>

## Save the Date!

The Voice/Vision Archive is proud to announce its upcoming collaboration with the Holocaust Memorial Center: helping co-sponsor a weeklong celebration of Raoul Wallenberg's birthday. Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat who saved 100,000 Hungarian Jews near the end of the war, would celebrate his 100th birthday on August 4.



Raoul  
Wallenberg

The celebration, which occurs from July 29 to August 5, will feature a discussion by attorney Morris Wolff, whose book, *Whatever Happened to Raoul Wallenberg*, describes his investigation into Wallenberg's disappearance. In addition to Wolff, author Louise Borden will discuss her children's book *His Name Was Raoul Wallenberg*. The celebration also includes music, movies, and the opening of an exhibit dedicated to Wallenberg at the Holocaust Memorial Center.

Wallenberg vanished on January 17, 1945 while on his way to visit Red Army authorities in a nearby town, and his disappearance has been the subject of several investigations since the end of the war. In addition to being recognized by Israel's Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations, Wallenberg is also honored annually by the University of Michigan, which awards the Raoul Wallenberg Medal to those whose humanitarian efforts reflect the sacrifice of Wallenberg.

## Commemoration Focuses on Experience of Women and Genocide

On April 15, 2012, the Annual Holocaust and Armenian Genocide Commemoration was held in the Bernath Auditorium at Wayne State University. The theme of this year's commemoration was "Women in Genocide: A Comparative Assessment." Featured was a panel of three noted scholars on the subject: Helene Sinnreich of Youngstown State University, Henry Theriault of Worcester State College, and Wenona Rymond-Richmond from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

David Weinberg, Director of The Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies at Wayne State University, introduced the panel. Weinberg discussed some of the broader themes related to the topic, such as the status of women in pre-genocidal societies, the plight of women during genocides, and legal actions against perpetrators of genocide.

Helene Sinnreich's presentation examined the unique experience of Jewish women during the Holocaust, and highlighted how geographical location played a key role in determining their fate.

Following Sinnreich's presentation, Henry Theriault, focusing on the Armenian Genocide, noted that young Armenian women were singled out for rape rather than annihilation. This was a deliberate policy of the perpetrators, who wished to change the religious make up of the area through the destruction of family life and forced marriages between Armenians and Turks.

The final panelist, Wenona Rymond-Richmond, outlined how rape has become a state-sponsored form of genocide in Darfur by the Sudanese government. Much like the Turks during the Armenian genocide, the Janjaweed militia in Darfur seeks not only a religious transformation, but a racial one as well.

This year's commemoration tied in well with the Holocaust Memorial Center's special exhibition "Women of Ravensbrueck: Portraits of Courage" that ended in June. Our archive contains a number of interviews with outstanding women survivors, including an interview with Agi Rubin, a survivor of Ravensbrueck. Rubin's interview can be found here:

<http://holocaust.umd.umich.edu/rubin/>



From left to right: Wenona Rymond-Richmond, Helene Sinnreich, and Henry Theriault discuss Women and Genocide

## Forbidden Art Exhibit

We are proud to announce our collaboration with the Polish Mission of Orchard Lake on their opening of "Forbidden Art: An Exhibition of Photographs of Camp Art from the Collections of the Auschwitz Memorial" on Friday, August 17, 2012. The exhibit is the first ever North American display of art created in Auschwitz and features 20 panels showcasing photographs of original art created by camp inmates from 1940 to 1945.

The Forbidden Art exhibition is a hallmark of the Auschwitz Birkenau State Museum's new directive to memorialize the past through education. Created with the intent to raise awareness of the Holocaust to American audiences, the museum selected the best pieces of camp art from their collection of over 6,000 artifacts. A detailed story accompanies each piece, inviting viewers to experience a special degree of intimacy with the objects' imprisoned creators.

The exhibit runs for two weeks at the Polish Mission before moving on to Wayne State University. From there it travels to Chicago and Washington, D.C. Don't miss your opportunity to see this important exhibition!

For more information about the Polish Mission and the exhibition, please visit:

<http://www.polishmission.com/>



## Collaborations With Area Groups Continue

It was a busy year for the Voice/Vision Archive as we collaborated with a number of groups on events around the Detroit metropolitan area. Among the events we co-sponsored were:

- The Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Metropolitan Detroit's Annual Book Fair: We co-hosted a day of programming called "We Remember: Kristallnacht Commemoration" on November 9. This annual community-wide cultural and literary event attracts a large and varied audience of more than 20,000 people of all ages, and is the oldest and largest Jewish book fair in the nation. This is the second year we have partnered with the JCC to sponsor programming.
- In December, we teamed up with the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills to screen the movie "Nicky's Family," the story of Sir Nicholas Winton and his efforts to save Czech-Jewish children in 1939. The screening was "standing room only" with over 300 people in attendance! For more information about Sir Nicholas Winton, including links to interviews with some of the children he saved, please visit: <http://holocaust.umd.umich.edu/winton.html>.
- Voice/Vision sponsored films and discussions at the annual spring JCC film festivals in both West Bloomfield and Ann Arbor.
- We also were proud to sponsor several events during the JCC Stephen Gottlieb Music Festival, including an evening with legendary musician and producer Don Was.



The archive also continued its work with the Jewish Ensemble Theatre and its annual production of the "Diary of Anne Frank," providing question and answer sessions to over 1500 students and members of the public after the company's performances of the play.

"The partnerships we have developed with the local JCCs, the J.E.T. Theatre, and the Holocaust Memorial Center have become integral pieces of our civic and educational outreach efforts. These collaborations speak to a new spirit of cooperation between us that bodes

well for the future of quality Holocaust education in Southeastern Michigan," said Jamie Wraight, curator of the Voice/Vision Archive

We hope we saw you at one of these events — we wouldn't be able to collaborate without your continued support and assistance!



## Wraight Attends Hess Seminar at Holocaust Memorial Museum

Voice/Vision Archive curator Jamie Wraight was one of 20 scholars from throughout North America chosen to attend the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's ninth annual 2012 Jack and Anita Hess Faculty Seminar in Washington, D.C.

This year's seminar, "Holocaust Geographies: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Teaching about the Holocaust," explored how the Holocaust created, changed, and destroyed places with particular meanings to those who inhabited them.

"I came back renewed and refreshed; it broadened my horizon for my own research," said Wraight, who appreciated the interaction with fellow faculty members. "We had a lot of great philosophical discussions about the Holocaust and how important it is to approach it from a spatial standpoint. The seminar also helped put much of my work with the archive into a spatial perspective as well. I plan to use what I learned to enhance the accessibility and searchability of our collection."



## Yad Vashem Exhibit Scheduled for Winter 2013 Save the Date!

During January and February 2013, the University of Michigan-Dearborn will host the traveling exhibition "The Architecture of Murder: The Auschwitz-Birkenau Blueprints."

On loan from Yad Vashem in Israel, the exhibit features blueprints, photographs, and documents that focus on the physical construction of the camps, including the design and construction of the gas chambers and crematoria in Birkenau.

The exhibit runs from Sunday, January 27 until February 28, 2013 in the Mardigian Library. For hours please visit: <http://library.umd.umich.edu>

The exhibition is sponsored by the Voice/Vision Archive and the Mardigian Library.



**Mapping the Holocaust is an effective way to show connections between places, events, and people.**