

ABOUT SETON HILL UNIVERSITY'S NATIONAL CATHOLIC CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

The National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education (NCCHE) was established on the campus of Seton Hill University in 1987. Seton Hill initiated this national Catholic movement Holocaust studies in response to the urging of Pope John Paul II to recognize the significance of the *Shoah*, the Holocaust, and to "promote the necessary historical and religious studies on this event which concerns the whole of humanity today." The NCCHE has as its primary purpose the broad dissemination of scholarship on the root causes of antisemitism, its relation to the Holocaust, and the implications of both from a Catholic perspective. Toward this end the Center is committed to aiding scholars, especially those at Catholic institutions, to enter into serious discussion on the causes of antisemitism and the Holocaust; shaping appropriate curricular responses at Catholic institutions and other educational sites; sustaining Seton Hill's Catholic Institute for Holocaust Studies in Israel through a cooperative program with Yad Vashem; encouraging scholarship and research through conferences, publications and educator workshops; sponsoring programs for the University and local communities; and enhancing Catholic-Jewish relations. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the NCCHE via phone, 724-830-1033, or email, ncche@setonhill.edu.

ABOUT OUR BENEFACTOR ETHEL LEFRAK

A graduate and former trustee of Barnard College, the late Ethel LeFrak was a trustee or member of the board of directors for many cultural, philanthropic, educational and medical institutions. She was formerly a trustee of the Cardozo Law School, vice president of the Little Orchestra Society, trustee of the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, trustee of the Albert Einstein Medical College, and patron of the Asia Society.

In addition to memberships in the Metropolitan Opera's "Golden Horseshoe" and "Opera Club," Ethel LeFrak was also a patron of the Lincoln Center, a

conservator of the New York Public Library, a member of the Council of the Salk Institute, and a member of the Board of the United Nations International Hospitality Committee – which was instrumental in having Ethel and her husband, the late Dr. Samuel J. LeFrak, honored with the United Nations' "Distinguished Citizens of the World" Award in 1994.



Many institutions recognize the philanthropic generosity of the Samuel J. and Ethel LeFrak Foundation including the Guggenheim Museum of the City of New York, Temple Emmanu-El on New York's Fifth Avenue, Queens College, the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., the Pratt Institute, Barnard College, and the American Museum of Natural History of New York.

Mrs. LeFrak also generously donated a large gift to the Albert Einstein College of Yeshiva University.

With her husband, Dr. Samuel LeFrak, Ethel LeFrak co-authored two books on their family art collection: *Masters of the Modern Tradition* and *A Passion for Art*. The LeFrak collection has been hailed by *Art & Antiques* magazine as being one of America's top 100 collections.

In 1996, Mrs. LeFrak was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, by Seton Hill University. In 1998, Marymount Manhattan College also presented her with a Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

ABOUT THE ETHEL LEFRAK HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CONFERENCE AND STUDENT SCHOLARS OF THE HOLOCAUST FUND

In 2008, New York philanthropist Ethel LeFrak made a generous donation to Seton Hill University's National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education (NCCHE) to endow The Ethel LeFrak Holocaust Education Conference, and create The Ethel LeFrak Student Scholars of the Holocaust Fund.

The triennial Holocaust Education Conference of the National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education – now known as **The Ethel LeFrak Holocaust Education Conference** – seeks to enhance Catholic-Jewish understanding by "educating the educators" in the hope of reaching the whole of humanity. The Conference equips teachers and faculty members, especially those at Catholic institutions, to enter into serious discussions on the causes of antisemitism and the Holocaust, and to write and deliver papers that shape appropriate curricular responses at Catholic institutions and other educational sites. The Ethel LeFrak Holocaust Education Conference Endowment Fund supports the appearance at the conference of national and international speakers, sponsors the art, music or film events that accompany the conference, and underwrites the publication of *The Ethel LeFrak Holocaust Education Conference Proceedings*.

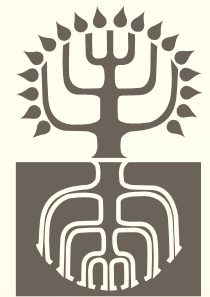
The Ethel LeFrak Student Scholars Fund provides annual scholarships to support Seton Hill University student participation in the graduate-level Catholic Institute at Yad Vashem in Israel, The Ethel LeFrak Holocaust Education Conference and the Genocide and Holocaust Studies Program. In addition, **The Ethel LeFrak Outstanding Student Scholar of the Holocaust Award** in the amount of \$1,000 is presented annually to the Seton Hill University student who writes a paper that best demonstrates a keen and advanced understanding of the lessons of the Holocaust.

COVER PHOTO: "Lubny, German soldiers standing next to Jewish women and children at the assembly point, 16/10/1941." Copyright Hamburg Institute for Social Research, Germany. Used with permission.

THE 2015 ETHEL LEFRAK HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CONFERENCE

THE HOLOCAUST AND NOSTRA AETATE: TOWARD A GREATER UNDERSTANDING

OCTOBER 25-27



NATIONAL CATHOLIC CENTER
FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Seton Hill
UNIVERSITY



REGISTRATION FORM • PAGE 2

Special services or meals required? Yes No

If yes, please specify: _____

PAYMENT ACCEPTED BY CREDIT CARD OR CHECK

Please make your check payable to the **National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education**.

To pay by credit card (please print clearly):

Type of card (check one):

Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Name (on card): _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Amount: _____

Signature (required): _____

Mail form along with payment to:

The Ethel LeFrak Holocaust Education Conference
National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education
Seton Hill University
1 Seton Hill Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601-1599

Visit setonhill.edu/ncche for conference updates and changes.

LEARN. TEACH. STUDY THE PAST TO CREATE A BETTER FUTURE.

THE ETHEL LEFRAK HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 25 – 27, 2015 • SETON HILL UNIVERSITY • GREENSBURG, PA.

National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education's Tenth Triennial Holocaust Education Conference

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education at Seton Hill University will host the Ethel LeFrak Holocaust Education Conference, October 25-27, 2015, on Seton Hill's campus in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The theme for the triennial conference is "The Holocaust and *Nostra Aetate*: Toward a Greater Understanding."

The Holocaust is one of the greatest examples of the dangers of intolerance. Unfortunately, humankind has learned tragically little from the mass murder of millions of Jews and countless other unfortunate souls, as ignorance and bigotry continue to plague human relations. For centuries Jewish-Christian relations were particularly strained. Christianity failed to protect Judaism, and also at times, became one of its greatest persecutors. The relationship remained troubled for hundreds of years through the Crusades, the Black Death, amidst allegations of Jewish ritual murder, and the Spanish Inquisition. Many Christians viewed Jews collectively as Christ-killers, and even though Christian anti-Judaism began to decline following the Enlightenment, the foundation of modern antisemitism had been established. The Holocaust was the culmination of thousands of years of intolerance.

In the aftermath of the *Shoah*, Christianity began to rethink its relationship with Judaism. The Second Vatican Council introduced *Nostra Aetate*, or "In Our Time", on October 28, 1965. *Nostra Aetate* rejected the long-standing belief among many Catholics that the Jews were collectively responsible for the death of Jesus. The document was widely seen as a profound step toward the healing of almost two millennia of enmity between the two faiths. Over the course of the past fifty years, tremendous progress has been made regarding the relationship between Christians and Jews. Although much work still needs to be done, there is reason for great optimism.

KEYNOTE AND FEATURED SPEAKERS



The keynote speaker for the LeFrak Conference is **Father Patrick Desbois**, a Catholic priest and author of *The Holocaust by Bullets*. He has devoted his life to researching the Holocaust, fighting antisemitism, and further improving relations between Catholics and Jews. Father Desbois is the founder and president of Yahad-In Unum, a global humanitarian organization dedicated to identifying and commemorating the sites of Jewish and Roma mass executions in Eastern Europe during World War II. He also serves as director of the Episcopal Committee for Catholic-Judeo Relations, under the

auspices of the French Conference of Bishops. He is the grandson of a WWII French prisoner held in the Rawa Ruska camp on the Poland-Ukraine border.

The conference also features: **Steven L. Jacobs**, associate professor & Aaron Arnov Endowed Chair in Judaic Studies, Department of Religious Studies, University of Alabama; **Björn Krondorfer**, director of Martin-Springer Institute & Endowed Professor of Religious Studies, Northern Arizona University; **Mary Jo Leddy**, senior fellow at Massey College, University of Toronto; **Dennis McManus, S.J.**, visiting associate professor, Program for Jewish Civilization in the School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University; **John T. Pawlikowski, O.S.M.**, professor of social ethics and director of the Catholic Jewish Studies Program, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago; **Carol Rittner, R.S.M.**, Distinguished Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the Dr. Marsha R. Grossman Professor of Holocaust Studies, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey; **John K. Roth**, Edward J. Sexton Professor Emeritus of Philosophy,

Claremont McKenna College; **George D. Schwab**, Holocaust survivor and professor emeritus of history, City University of New York; **Kevin P. Spicer, C.S.C.**, James J. Kenneally Distinguished Professor of History, Stonehill College; and, **Irvin Ungar**, curator, The Arthur Szyk Society.

NOSTRA AETATE AWARD



The National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education's *Nostra Aetate* Award acknowledges distinguished work in the field of Jewish-Catholic relations. In particular, the award recognizes scholarship that enhanced interfaith understanding. **Mary C. Boys, S.N.J.M.**, is the recipient of our Seventh Nostra Aetate Award. She is Dean of Academic Affairs and Skinner and McAlpin Professor of Practical Theology, Union Theological Seminary, New York City. She is also an outstanding educator and the author of numerous books including, *Has God Only One Blessing?: Judaism as a Source*

of Christian Self-Understanding, and *Christians and Jews in Dialogue: Learning in the Presence of the Other*.

ART EXHIBITS

Seton Hill University's Harlan Gallery will feature two exhibits in conjunction with the Conference. Both exhibits will run from October 15 through November 12 with a special reception for conference participants.



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Holocaust by Bullets: Yahad-In Unum, 10 Years of Investigation presents the results of hundreds of days of fieldwork that enabled Yahad-In Unum to collect evidence of the shooting of Jews by Nazi units, particularly the Einsatzgruppen, in Belarus, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Russia, Poland and the Ukraine. Father Patrick Desbois, who began the research in 2004, said,

"My work is primarily an act of justice toward the dead, with the aim of creating awareness of the barbarity and wrong of what occurred, but also of preventing future genocides."



COPYRIGHT THE ARTHUR SZYK SOCIETY. USED WITH PERMISSION.

Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk (pronounced shik) introduces viewers to the life and art of Arthur Szyk (1894-1951). A Polish Jew who escaped Europe, he emigrated to the U.S. in 1940. The American press called Szyk a "citizen-soldier of the free world": Hitler put a price on his head. Of the many themes that characterize Szyk's prolific

creations, this exhibit focuses on three themes: World War II, America, and Jewish Response. Szyk once said, "Art is not my aim, it is my means."

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE (as of 6/30/15) • Visit ncche.setonhill.edu for updates or changes.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2015

11:00 - Noon Mass
 Noon - 1:00 p.m. Registration
 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. Opening Remarks /The Ethel LeFrak Outstanding Student of the Holocaust Award Presentation
 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Carol Rittner, "Teaching, Preaching and Witnessing"
 3:15 - 4:45 -p.m. Dennis McManus, "The Unfinished Work of Nostra Aetate: Five Areas of Further Implementation"
 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Fr. Patrick Desbois, "The Holocaust by Bullets"

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Registration
 9:10 - 10:10 a.m. Bjorn Krondorfer, "Reconciliation: A Commitment to Unsettling Empathy"
 10:20 - 11:20a.m. Kevin P. Spicer, "When Theology and Racism Mix: Catholicism, Antisemitism, and National Socialism"
 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Steven L. Jacobs, "Whither Christian-Jewish (and Muslim) Relations in This 21st Century? A Judaic Perspective"

1:50 - 2:50 p.m. John T. Pawlikowski, "Fifty Years of Catholic-Jewish Relations: The Continuing Challenge"
 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Irvin Ungar, "Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk"
 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Exhibits/Reception: "Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk" and "Holocaust by Bullets: Yahad-In Unum, 10 Years of Investigation"
 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Nostra Aetate Award Presentation to Mary C. Boys, "There We Hope"

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Registration
 9:00 - 9:25 a.m. Puppet Play: "Songs from a Lost Civilization"
 9:35 - 10:50 a.m. Mary Jo Leddy, "The Authority of those who Suffer: The Conversion to Justice after Vatican II"
 11:10 a.m. -12:25 p.m. George Schwab, "The New Normal: A Street Boy"
 1:30 - 2:45 p.m. John Roth
 2:45 -3:45 p.m. Panel Discussion: "The Holocaust, Nostra Aetate, and the Future"
 3:45 - 4:00 p.m. Closing Remarks

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The conference is designed for Holocaust educators teaching at the college/university and middle/high school levels.

HOTEL AND TRAVEL INFORMATION

Michael Philopena, Vacation Station Travel, michael@vacation-station.net or 724-832-7117, has been designated to assist conference participants with travel and hotel reservations.

Hotel – *Participants should contact Vacation Station Travel to make room reservations.* Rooms have been reserved at the Ramada Hotel & Conference Center at a rate of \$102.00 per room per night single or double occupancy and \$112.00 per room per night triple or quad occupancy plus a 6% state tax and 3% county hotel occupancy tax. Breakfast is included. The registration cut-off date is Thursday, October 1, 2015. After that date the rate cannot be guaranteed by the hotel and is subject to availability.

Air Travel – *Vacation Station Travel is available to assist with flight and ground transportation arrangements.* Pittsburgh International Airport, located about 1 hour and 15 minutes from Greensburg, is the nearest major airport. Arnold Palmer Regional Airport, located approximately 20 minutes from campus, offers flights via Spirit Airlines.

ONLINE COURSE: THE HOLOCAUST & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Seton Hill University is offering a special online course, *HU505 Special Topics: The Holocaust & Social Justice*, as part of its online Genocide and Holocaust Studies program. Course participants will attend the conference and study the works of the keynote and featured speakers. The course runs from August 24 - December 11, 2015. For further information contact Dr. James Paharik by email: jpaharik@setonhill.edu or by telephone: 724-830-1073.

THE ETHEL LEFRAK HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Register online at alumni.setonhill.edu/lefrakconference

Name: _____

Position: _____

Institution: _____

Business Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Yad Vashem Graduates please provide year and season (summer, winter) of your seminar: _____

Days Attending	Fees	Payment
Sunday – Tuesday	\$120	_____
Sunday only (dinner incl.)	\$50	_____
Monday only (lunch & dinner incl.)	\$50	_____
Tuesday only (lunch incl.)	\$50	_____
	Total Amount Due	_____

Continued on reverse