The 70th Anniversary of Raoul Wallenberg’s Mission to Save the Last Jews of Europe

A Series of Lectures, Films and Special Events Fall 2014: October 6 - December 18

Montclair State University is featuring a series of free public events – lectures, panels, films, an art exhibit and a concert – to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Raoul Wallenberg’s mission to Budapest in 1944. Focusing on three themes — the humanitarian rescue of Jews, the Holocaust in Hungary, and the history and culture of Hungarian Jewry — the events explore the nature of rescue in the face of Nazi determination to make Europe “Judenrein” (free of Jews) and the penalties for assisting Jews. The program also examines the cultural and scientific accomplishments of Hungary’s Jews and the history of anti-Semitism in Hungary.

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October 6 through December 18, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Life Hall Exhibit Space
Waldsee: 1944 Art Exhibit and Raoul Wallenberg Poster Exhibit
Waldsee: 1944 is an ongoing exhibit of artistic renderings of postcards the Germans forced Jewish deportees to send to their families to deceive them regarding their living conditions. The poster exhibit provides a brief biographical account of Raoul Wallenberg’s life and accomplishments.

Monday, October 20, 7:00 p.m.
Temple Ner Tamid, 936 Broad Street, Bloomfield, N.J.
Lecture
I Kiss Your Hands Many Times: Hearts, Souls, and Wars in Hungary
Author and journalist Marianna Szegedy-Maszak (New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Esquire, etc.) recounts her parents’ life and escape from Hungary during the war. The daughter of a Hungarian and Christian diplomat father and a mother from a wealthy Jewish industrial family, their story provides a glimpse of Hungarian Jewish life in this tumultuous period.

Thursday, October 23, 7:00 p.m.
University Hall, Room 1002
Lecture
Raoul Wallenberg: His Life and Rescue Mission
Author and journalist Alex Kershaw (author of The Bradford Boys and The Longest Winter) and the Guardian for the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Dickson Hall, Room 1040
Lecture
Waldsee: 1944 — A Poster Exhibit
The poster exhibit provides a brief biographical account of Raoul Wallenberg’s life and accomplishments.

Monday, October 27, 7:00 p.m.
Cohen Lounge, Dickson Hall
Panel Discussion
The Legacy of the “Martians of Science”: Five Jewish Hungarian Scientists Who Reshaped the 20th Century
A panel consisting of moderator Laurel Leff (Northeastern University), Michael Gordon (Princeton University), Tibor Frank (Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest) and Alex Wellerstein (American Institute of Physics) reflect on the contributions of five Hungarian Jewish scientists who escaped from Nazi Europe and found refuge in the U.S. The “Martians of Science” sought to defend the Allies by developing the atomic bomb, computers, rocket engines, etc.

Wednesday, October 29, 7:00 p.m.
Brail Keshet, 99 S. Fullerton Avenue, Montclair, N.J.
Lecture
Double Exile: The Exodus of Hungarian-Jewish Scholars, Artists, and Professionals through Germany to the U.S. (1919-1945)
Tibor Frank (Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest) discusses the 1919-1945 migration of Hungarian-Jewish scholars, artists, scientists and professionals to Germany and their eventual resettlement in the U.S. after the Nazis seized control of the German government.

Monday, November 3, 7:00 p.m.
Temple Ner Tamid, 936 Broad Street, Bloomfield, N.J.
Lecture
Jews Needed, but Need Not Apply: Jews and Anti-Semitism in the Hungarian Film Industry in the 1930s and 40s
David Frey (United States Military Academy, West Point) discusses the critical role Jews played in the development of the sound film industry in Hungary during the 1930s, and how Hungarian authorities subsequently attempted to remove Jewish Hungarians from employment in the industry.

Tuesday, November 4, 7:00 p.m.
University Hall, Room 1040
Lecture and Film Screening
Who was Hannah Senesh and What Was Her Mission: Screening of “Blessed is the Match: The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh”
Louis Levine, independent museum consultant and lecturer, discusses the making of the film, Blessed is the Match, and his own personal post Hannah Senesh’s captivity failed rescue mission to Hungary in November 1944.

Wednesday, November 5, 6:15pm
Cohen Lounge, Dickson Hall
Lecture
Anti-Semitism in Prewar Hungary
Peter Pastor (Montclair State University) discusses the developments leading to the Hungarian government’s collaboration with the Nazis in 1944, permitting the transport of Hungary’s Jews to concentration camps like Auschwitz.

Wednesday, November 12, 7:00 p.m.
Brail Keshet 99 S. Fullerton Ave., Montclair, N.J.
Lecture
National Identity, Anti-Semitism, and Perceptions of the Holocaust in Contemporary Hungary
Gyorgy Csapo (Eotvos Lorand University) analyzes the role of group identification in contemporary Hungary in contributing to Anti-Semitism and intolerance toward other minorities like the Roma, and how these biases influence the way Hungarians view the Holocaust.

Thursday, November 13, 7:00 p.m.
Cohen Lounge, Dickson Hall
Lecture
Diplomatic Rescuers of Budapest: Carl Lutz, Friedrich Born, Giorgio Perlasca, and Monsignor Angelo Rotta
Montclair State University provides the little-known rescue efforts of four diplomats who worked individually and together to protect the last remaining Jewish community in Hungary (and central Europe) from the Nazis and their Hungarian collaborators.

Monday, November 10, 7:00 p.m.
Cohen Lounge, Dickson Hall
Panel Discussion
The Fate of Hungarian Jewry, 1939-1944
Moderator Peter Pastor, (Montclair State University), Gyorgy Csapo (Eotvos Lorand University) and Julia Bock (Long Island University) consider the developments leading to the Hungarian government’s collaboration with the Nazis in 1944, permitting the transport of Hungary’s Jews to concentration camps like Auschwitz.

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Monday, November 17, 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m., Lecture Sprague Library Room 110
7:00 p.m., Reception Life Hall Exhibition Space
Waldsee: 1944 — A Contemporary Art Exhibit on the Holocaust in Hungary
Laura Kugler (Hebrew Union College-JIR Museum) discusses the artwork and history behind the Waldsee: 1944 exhibit which consists of artist renderings of the fictitious postcards the Nazis forced the Jewish deportees to send to their families to mislead them about their conditions.

Wednesday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.
Congregation Bnai Keshet 99 S. Fullarton Ave., Montclair, N.J.
Lecture and Film Screening
The Last Days by Steven Spielberg
Ivan Sanders (Columbia University) explains how the story of five Holocaust survivors in the film, most of whom had some connection with Raoul Wallenberg, effectively captures the rapidly unfolding tragedy of the Jews of Hungary.

Thursday, November 20, 4:00 p.m.
Cohen Lounge, Dickson Hall
Lecture
In Sunshine and in Shadow, We Remember Them
Vera Goodkin (New Jersey Commission of Holocaust Education) relates her experiences as a Holocaust survivor, which were published in her memoir, about her family’s rescue by Raoul Wallenberg in Hungary after they fled Czechoslovakia in 1944.

Monday, December 1, 7:00 pm
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Montclair
67 Church St., Montclair, N.J.
Concert
Klezmer Music from the Former Hungarian Empire
Yale Strom and his Hot Pstromi band perform traditional klezmer pieces from various regions of the Austro-Hungarian empire. This “Hungarian Jewish” music was especially popular in eastern Hungary, the Carpathian Mountains and Transylvania before World War II, and experienced a revival many years after the war.

Tuesday, December 2, 7:00 p.m.
University Hall, Room 104A
Lecture and Film Screening
How the Rom (Gypsies) rescued Hungarian Klezmer Music: Screening of A Man from Munkacs: Gypsy Klezmer
Yale Strom (San Diego State University) introduces his film, A Man from Munkacs, and describes how the Rom (Gypsies) performed the klezmer music of their Hungarian Jewish neighbors at Jewish celebrations and preserved the music for Jews to reclaim after the Holocaust.

For further information please call 973-655-4185 or visit the Global Education website at montclair.edu/global-education.

Directions:
Montclair State University is located on Valley Road and Normal Avenue in Montclair, New Jersey. The main entrance is on Normal Avenue. For detailed directions visit montclair.edu/welcome/directions.