Fall 2015
Catalog of Events and Resources

Now On View
THERE BUT FOR FORTUNE
By Steve Cavallo

The Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center

Look inside for:
- Events
- Lectures
- Film Screenings
- New materials available to members
- Updates on the Center
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*President of the College*

Rosemary Sullivan Zins  
*Vice President for Institutional Advancement*

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Dr. Dan Leshem  
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Hello Queensborough and Thank You…

for the gracious welcome you have extended to me. Since I arrived in February from the USC Shoah Foundation in Los Angeles, I have been sprinting to get a handle on all of the wonderful programming and resources of the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives. I owe a great debt of gratitude to my predecessors, Dr. Bill Shulman and Dr. Arthur Flug, who left behind a thriving, vibrant collection and community as well as a wealth of programming that enriches the Queensborough Community College campus, the Queens community, and the wider New York region.

It has been thrilling to meet all of the Center’s stakeholders, staff, volunteers, survivors, and invested community members. It is clear that the KHRCA is a shared resource and a shared passion for us all. The Center is well positioned for continued growth with archival holdings of over 1,000 videos; 6,000 books; hundreds of artifacts; dozens of traveling exhibitions and catalogues; beautiful facilities; captivating events; and a thriving Advisory Board.

Before you review this catalogue of our upcoming events for the fall semester, please allow me to highlight some programs we are very excited about:

• once again we are pleased to offer a series of lectures sponsored by our longtime supporters Drs. Bebe and Owen Bernstein;

• our KHRCA Colloquium series (sponsored by the NEH) this year will focus on the role of gender in shaping experiences of mass violence and genocide; and

• our new exhibit on the lives of Jews in Persia/Iran will hang through mid-December, coupled with 3 exciting events that explore the impact of its long and complex past.

Finally, I want to thank all of you who are members of the Center and whose annual contributions allow us to offer all of these programs. If you are not yet a contributor, or need to renew your annual contribution, we have included a “tear out” form on the last page of this catalogue. Please note that from now on only current contributors will receive a hard copy of the catalogue in the mail.

Thank you again for the warm welcome, and I look forward to many years of collaborative effort to further the mission of the KHRCA.

Best,
Dan Leshem, Ph.D.
Director
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Land of the Shahs
Exhibition Opening

Lecturer: Rabbi Isidoro Aizenberg

Sunday, August 30th, 2015 at 1:00 PM
at The Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives

The KHRCA’s newest exhibition focuses extensively on World War II, the golden period under the last Shah, the Islamic Revolution and recent struggles of Jews with antisemitism and Holocaust denial. The exhibit was curated and researched by Rabbi Isidoro Aizenberg and was produced with the involvement of the local Iranian/Persian community and scholars. It contains over 43 historic, archival and modern day images that help to tell this unique story. Join us for the official public opening as Rabbi Aizenberg discusses the long process of research that led to the development of this new exhibition.
The Role of Iranian Jews in Persian Music

Lecturer: Dr. Houman Sarshar

Thursday, October 15th, 2015 at 6:30pm
at The Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives

In celebration of the new KHRCA exhibition, *In the Land of the Shahs: Jewish Lives in Persia/Iran*, join us as we welcome scholar of Iranian Jewry Dr. Houman Sarshar. Dr. Sarshar will discuss his research on the role of Iranian Jews in classical and popular Persian music.

Houman M. Sarshar is a consulting editor of Judeo-Persian studies and contributing author for the *Encyclopedia Iranica*, a member of the University Seminar Series at Columbia University and Director of Publications at the Center for Iranian Jewish Oral History. He is the co-editor of three volumes of *The Contemporary History of Iranian Jews*; and editor of *Esther’s Children: A Portrait of Iranian Jews* and *Jewish Communities of Iran: Entries on Judeo-Persian Communities* published by the *Encyclopedia Iranica*. His most recent work is *The Jews of Iran: The History, Religion, and Culture of a Community in the Islamic World*. Sarshar holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literatures (19th – early 20th Century French, English, and Persian poetry) from Columbia University.
Understanding the International Tracing Service

Lecturer: Diane Afoumado,
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Sunday, December 6th, 2015 at 1:00 pm
at The Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives

The International Tracing Service archive (ITS) was established by the Allied Powers after World War II to help reunite families separated during the war and to trace missing family members. The Allies collected millions of pages of documentation captured during the war. Since then, the archive has continued to grow and is overseen by an 11-nation International Commission comprised of Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) is the United States’ repository for the ITS collection. The Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center at the USHMM will search for documents in the records of the ITS, as well as other collections of the museum. Join us as Dr. Diane Afoumado, Chief of the ITS Research Branch at the USHMM, provides a background on what can be found within this archive and how it can be used for research. Through case studies and sample archival materials, we will get an insight into this amazing resource on the history of the Holocaust.

Dr. Diane F. Afoumado is Chief of the ITS Research Branch at the Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center at the USHMM in Washington, D.C. Formerly Assistant Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Paris X-Nanterre and the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO) in Paris, she worked for the two French Commissions related to compensation to Jewish victims. She also worked as an historian for the Archival Division of the Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine – Mémorial de la Shoah. She is the author of several books and has written more than twenty articles related to the Holocaust.
Eleventh Annual Borough-Wide Commemoration of Kristallnacht: 
*The Moment that Changed Everything*

Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 6:30pm

This year the KHRCA honors the memory of the violent anti-Jewish pogroms that took place on November 9-10th, 1938 in Germany, annexed Austria, and occupied areas of Czechoslovakia through a panel discussion by survivors of various genocides and historical traumas. Join us as we hear from victims of the Holocaust and more recent tragedies. Speakers will reflect on the overarching theme of “The Moment that Changed Everything.”
The Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives and the Samuel Field Y have joined together under a generous grant from the UJA-Federation to expand and enrich the services available to Queens’ Holocaust survivors. The program will be housed at the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center at Queensborough Community College and dedicated to the concerns, resources and priorities of the community’s Holocaust survivors.

Program schedule:
September: 11 & 25
October: 23
November: 6 & 20
December: 4

Time: 10:00AM - 11:30AM

Location: The Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives at Queensborough Community College
222-05 56th Avenue, Bayside, New York 11364

This program is free. If interested in enrolling, please contact the Kupferberg Holocaust Center at 718.281.5770
Queensborough student Dimitris Filippou, NEH FY2015 Faculty Coordinator Dr. Cary Lane, Holocaust Survivor Harry Plaut and Queensborough faculty Dr. Julia Carroll. Harry Plaut passed away on July 19th at the age of 94.

Armenian Genocide Commemoration: Dr. Dan Leshem, KHRCA Director; NYC Council Member Paul Vallone; Dr. Diane B. Call, QCC President; Mark Kupferberg, QCC Fund Board; and NYS Assembly Member David Weprin.
Fr. Nareg Terterian of St. Sarkis Armenian Church leads a moment of silence in honor of those who perished in the 1915 Genocide.

Dialogue to Combat the rise of Antisemitism in partnership with the Queens Jewish Community Council and the UJA Federation of New York.

Lecture on the refugee ship the St. Louis with Dr. Scott Miller of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and KHRCA Volunteer St. Louis survivor Jane Keibel.

NYS Assembly Member Ed Braunstein; Cheryle and Stephen Levine; KHRCA Intern Melissa Reinhardt; Dr. Dan Leshem. Melissa was the Spring 2015 Cheryle and Stephen Levine Holocaust Center Intern.
Film Screening: Price For Freedom
Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 6:30pm
at the Medical Arts Building, Room 136

Based on the book and true story of Dr. Marc Benhuri, an Iranian Jew who, after serving as the dentist for the Shah of Iran, worked to counter oppression post 1979 Islamic Revolution. Benhuri - also known as Dr. Victor Daniels and who immigrated to the United States as an 18-year-old in 1964 – launched the largest automotive factories in Iran in the late 1970s. Just a few years into his $350 million success story, he watched as the Ayatollah Khomeini personally ordered the destruction of his new business. Over 30 factory workers died and another 128 were injured. This was just one example of the murdering rampage initiated throughout Iran by Khomeini. With the Shah exiled, all this prosperity ended under Khomeini’s fanatical dictatorship. Determined to wage a private war against the radical Islamic leadership, Benhuri worked to save family and friends from the extremist regime and to hamper one of their greatest coups – the American Hostage Crisis. He provided President Reagan key advice in securing the release of the American hostages, while serving as the newly-elected President’s interpreter in negotiations with an Iranian ambassador in Switzerland. This film tells the story of one ordinary man’s amazing true story of courage, justice and liberty.

This event is sponsored by the Claire Friedlander Family Foundation.
The Forgotten Genocide
Wednesday, October 7th, 2015 at 12:10pm

The first full-length feature film on the Armenian Genocide of 1915, this documentary details the genocide by Turks through eyewitness accounts and interviews with survivors, combined with rare archival film footage. Armenian born J. Michael Hagopian, a political science and economics professor at the University of California at Los Angeles, was unsatisfied with the quality of educational films available. Hagopian left his teaching post to produce and direct on topics ranging from Black history to Nigerian culture. Born in Kharpert-Mezreh, Hagopian's search for his roots and the history of his people have won him critical acclaim, including two nominations for Emmys for the writing and production of The Forgotten Genocide. Hagopian's work encompasses nearly 400 survivor interviews and 20 years of research. In 1979, Hagopian founded the Armenian Film Foundation, a California non-profit organization, to document the Armenian culture and instill pride in Armenian youth worldwide. His other films include: Jerusalem - Center of Many Worlds and the first full-color film on the Nile River, which took first place at the Cleveland Film Festival in 1950. His next, Asian Earth, won the Golden Reel Award at the American Film Festival and first place at the Cleveland and Boston film festivals. The film is narrated by television and motion picture star Mike Connors. Released in 1975, 28 minutes.

Komediant
Thursday, November 12th, 2015 at 12:10pm

The glory days of the Yiddish stage are brought to life in this funny saga of a legendary theatrical family, the Bursteins. Arriving in New York in 1924, Pesach’ke Burstein, the dancing-singing comedian, quickly became a leading figure in the Golden Era of Yiddish theater. On stage, he met and fell in love with rising star Lillian Lux who would become his wife. Embarking together on triumphant overseas tours as a couple, soon the Bursteins became the parents of twins, Mike and Susan, who before long were given stage names and accompanied their parents regularly on stage as the family performed around the globe. In time, however, the pressures of theatrical life would take its toll on the family. Smoothly incorporating rare archival footage and interviews with Yiddish stage veterans (including Fyvush Finkel), this tightly edited, briskly paced documentary is as richly bittersweet – filled with laughter and tears, schmaltz and grit – as the Yiddish theater itself. Released in 2000, 85 minutes.
Gender and the Future of Genocide Studies
Lecturer: Dr. Elisa von Joeden-Forgey, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey
Wednesday, September 30th, 2015  12:10-2:00 PM

In the first event of the series, Dr. Elisa von Joeden-Forgey will offer an introduction to gender research in the field of genocide studies. Arguing that gendered violence is a key element of the crime of genocide, she will engage comparative historical methods to demonstrate how attention to gender can aid in the prediction and reconciliation of mass violence and genocide. Dr. von Joeden-Forgey is Assistant Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Stockton University. Her current research on gender and genocide has appeared in the Journal of Genocide Studies and Prevention; the Oxford Handbook on Genocide; New Directions in Genocide Research; Genocide: A Bibliographic Review; and Hidden Genocide: Power, Knowledge and Memory.

Human Rights and Genocidal Rape
Lecturers: Professor Cynthia Soohoo, International Women’s Human Rights Clinic at CUNY Law School
Dr. Natalie Nenadic, University of Kentucky
Wednesday, October 28th, 2015  12:10-2:00 PM

In this event, Professor Cynthia Soohoo and Dr. Natalie Nenadic will discuss how mass rape came to be established as a war crime, crime against humanity and crime of genocide. Professor Soohoo is the Director of the International Women’s Human Rights Clinic at CUNY Law School, which played a central role in the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda defining mass rape as a crime of genocide for the first time in international law. She is an expert in women’s human rights and human rights advocacy. Dr. Nenadic, an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Kentucky, is completing a book titled, The Imperative of “Thinking” After Auschwitz: The Genealogy of the Concept of Genocidal Rape, which documents the practical philosophical method that yielded the concept of “genocidal rape.”
Multiple Girlhoods: Growing up in Bosnia Before and During the Civil War

Lecturer: Ms. Jasmina Dervisevic-Cesic, Author and Bosnian Genocide Survivor
Dr. Amy Traver, Queensborough Community College

Wednesday, November 18th, 2015  12:10-2:00 PM
at the Medical Arts Building, Room 136

In this event, Ms. Jasmina Dervisevic-Cesic and Dr. Amy Traver will discuss how war can produce multiple girlhoods in a single life. Ms. Dervisevic-Cesic will read from and discuss her memoir, *The River Runs Salt, Runs Sweet*, which documents her experience growing up in Bosnia before and during the civil war. Dr. Traver, an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Queensborough Community College, will draw on her girls’ studies research, as well as her previous position as Co-Chair of the Girls’ Studies Caucus of the National Women’s Studies Association, to offer commentary and context.

Gendered Experiences in, and Memories of, the Nazi Holocaust

Lecturers: Dr. Azadeh Aalai, Queensborough Community College
Dr. Rochelle Saidel, Remember the Women Institute
Dr. Marianne Hirsch, Columbia University

Wednesday, December 2nd, 2015  12:10-2:00 PM

In this event, Drs. Azadeh Aalai, Rochelle Saidel and Marianne Hirsch will discuss victims’ gendered experiences in and memories of the Nazi Holocaust. Dr. Aalai, an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Queensborough Community College, will draw on her research on warfare & genocide, as well as her seminar work at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, to reveal gendered variations in Holocaust experiences. Dr. Saidel, the founder and executive director of the Remember the Women Institute, will offer insights from her co-edited volume, *Sexual Violence against Jewish Women during the Holocaust*. Dr. Hirsch, the William Peterfield Trent Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University and Professor in the Institute for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality, will complete the panel with thoughts on the gendered transmission of memories of violence across generations.
Exploring the lives of Holocaust survivors living in Europe during World War II

Students selected to participate in this project meet weekly at the Holocaust Center to examine and discuss the impact World War II had on those residents living in Europe's Jewish communities. This will be done through readings, videos, group discussions, and presentations by local residents who had lived in Europe at that time. Student interns will be trained to use this knowledge to conduct an intensive interview of local survivors and present their stories to the other interns as well as interested members of the Queensborough Community College community.

Asian social justice: exploring the lives of those who experienced World War II in Asia

Students selected to participate in this project meet weekly at the Holocaust Center to examine and discuss the impact of World War II on those residents living in occupied Asia. This is done through readings, videos, group discussions and presentations by local residents living in such countries as Korea and China at that time. Student interns will be trained to use this knowledge to conduct interviews with Comfort Women survivors via Skype and present their stories to the other interns as well as interested members of Queensborough Community College.

Identifying and dealing with hate crimes in our communities

Students selected to participate in this project meet weekly at the Kupferberg Holocaust Center to explore legislation dealing with hate crimes and meet with representatives of city and state agencies who deal with victims of hate crimes to assist them in seeking justice. Agencies such as the New York City Police Department Hate Crimes Unit, the Queens District Attorney’s Office, the LGBT Anti-Violence project, United Sikhs and other such groups participate in the project. Student interns will be trained as to the various legal steps taken by these agencies in determining if a hate crime has been committed and, if so, how to follow the prosecution of such a crime. Each intern will be required to visit two of the participating agencies for “hands-on” experience. Students who have successfully completed this project in the past have gone on to internships with the Queens District Attorney’s Office as well as New York State Senators’ offices.
With the emergence of the Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives as an educational institution not only educating the students of Queensborough Community College but also the surrounding communities of Queens, many business and civic leaders have come to the fore to assume a leadership role in supporting the expansion of our efforts. One such outstanding individual is Michael Resnick, President of Sinai Chapels. 

Sinai Chapels and the Resnick family began serving New York’s Jewish Community at their time of need some 80 years ago. Michael Resnick has devoted his time and resources to meet the challenge of Holocaust education and in doing so has guaranteed a growing number of students and Kupferberg Holocaust Center members a continuity of programming. Having initially underwritten the Kupferberg Holocaust Center Yiddish Cinema program, Michael now leads a growing number of local business leaders who support our Arts Initiative, music project, lecture program and renowned Holocaust Freedom Seder. 

As we witness the emergence of a generation of children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, we are both assured and invigorated that individuals such as Michael Resnick are coming forward to answer our challenge, *When the last survivor is gone, will you help us tell of the Holocaust?*
QPAC SCHEDULE

Susan Agin, Executive and Artistic Director
Queensborough Performing Arts Center (QPAC)
Box Office (718) 631-6311, M-F, 10am-4pm
For a full list of events, please log onto: www.visitqpac.org
$5 off every ticket for Kupferberg Holocaust Center members.
(limit - discount available for up to 2 tickets)

Sunday, September 27, 2015, 3pm
STEPHEN SCHWARTZ AND FRIENDS!
$45, $39

Sunday, October 4, 2015, 3pm
JOY BEHAR: ME, MY MOUTH AND I!
$45, $39

Sunday, October 11, 2015, 3pm
UNDER THE STREETLAMP
$42, $35

Sunday, October 18, 2015, 3pm
THE NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY OF SIBERIA
$42, $39

Sunday, October 25, 2015, 3pm
COMPANÍA FLAMENCA: JOSÉ PORCEL
$35 all seats

Sunday, November 15, 2015, 3pm
THE DOO WOP PROJECT
$40 all seats

Sunday, November 22, 2015, 3pm
GILBERT AND SULLIVAN’S: HMS PINAFORE
$42, $39, $35
PLEASE GIVE TO THE HARRIET AND KENNETH KUPFERBERG HOLOCAUST RESOURCE CENTER AND ARCHIVES

Contributions to the KHRCA at any of the listed levels will be recognized as follows:

☐ **Student/Senior Member:** $25  
  Receive KHRCA Event Catalog • KHRCA Library Access

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☐ **Founding Member:** $1,000  
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