

# Shoah Week looks at prevention Holocaust memorials, forums to be held

By Marina Swain  
Emerald Contributor

Although the end of World War II was officially declared almost 35 years ago, the terrors of Nazi concentration camps have largely been swept under the carpet of history, said Jewish Student Union director Jonah Bookstein.

"We can never hear too much about the Holocaust. We can never learn too much about the suffering," Bookstein said in explaining the importance of Shoah Week.

Shoah Week, which began Sunday and continues through Friday, includes a variety of speakers and events to remember a dark hour in human history. Shoah is the Yiddish word for Holocaust, Bookstein said.

Approximately six million Jews were killed in concentration camps during Adolf Hitler's regime as leader of Germany. Other groups, such as homosexuals and gypsies, were also subjected to the gruesome pogroms.

This year's Shoah Week will emphasize the threat of nuclear genocide as a global concern. "Unless we fully understand the capacity of the systems, history can repeat itself," Bookstein said.

Keynote speaker for the week is Rabbi Arthur Waskow, director of the Shalom Center, which serves as a national organizing center for Jewish perspectives on preventing nuclear holocaust.

"He really bridges the connection between nuclear holocaust and the holocaust of European Jewry, and how much we have to learn from that," Bookstein said.

Rabbi Leah Novick will add a feminist perspective to the week. Novick is described as a New Age "Maggidah," a traveling teacher, storyteller and liturgist. Her presentations are inspired by the special role of women in making contributions to Jewish culture and spirituality.

The week will include a number of films highlighting the Jewish resistance, their hasty emigration to escape Nazi persecution and the heroism of a significant group of resistors in Denmark.

David Freedman, JSU assistant director, will give an informal service in the EMU courtyard in remembrance of Holocaust victims today at 1 p.m. "They went through hell and it really means a lot to recognize that," Freedman said.

"There's so much tragedy involved you don't want to hear

it after a while," he said. "When you look at that, you're looking at yourself. How could we have let this happen?"

Stan Pierson, a University history professor, plans to give a lecture on the holocaust for his European history class. "It's terribly important that historians talk about it and remember," Pierson said.

"I personally have a strong commitment to deal with it each year. It still sort of stretches our moral category to the breaking point."

Events include:

- Monday
  - 1 p.m. Memorial service for Holocaust victims in the EMU courtyard.
  - 2:30 p.m. Arthur Waskow's workshop on "Responses to the Holocaust from a modern Jewish perspective" in the EMU Walnut Room.
  - 7:30 p.m. Lecture by Waskow: "Ancient Torah, Future Earth," Room 100 Willamette Hall.
- Tuesday
  - 1:30 p.m. Waskow's workshop on "Confronting the Nuclear Holocaust," EMU Board Room.
  - 3:45 p.m. Movie: *The Exiles* in the EMU Board Room.
  - 7:00 p.m. Talk by Waskow:

Turn to Shoah, Page 4

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