

Jewish Studies Interdisciplinary Program

Newsletter for Community Partners

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Welcome to the premiere issue of the electronic newsletter for the Jewish Studies Program of California State University, Northridge! This newsletter will be a window into all the exciting things happening here: new courses, programs, community collaborations, and the world of our interesting and diverse group of students. We'd love to hear from you - please send us your comments and suggestions at jewish.studies@csun.edu.

Successful "Teaching the Holocaust" Conference, March 24-26

In March, CSUN students attended the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum on the CSUN campus. Alongside more than 120 public and private school teachers, students were able to view a slide-presentation by Professor Claudia Koonz of Duke University, who opened the conference by explaining how Nazi leaders convinced the public that persecution was "the right thing to do." They heard Henry Greenbaum speak about his experiences before, during, and after his imprisonment in Auschwitz, and Dr. William Meinecke guide the audience through a history of the rise of Nazism and the destruction of European Jewry. The conference concluded with the archivist of the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, Barry van Driel, outlining the complex publication history of Anne Frank's diary and the important political symbolism of Anne Frank in places as far-ranging as North Korea.



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Many Gather to Hear about Jewish, Christian, and New Age Religious Healing

How do we explain the use of spiritual healing in America alongside the advances in medicine in the 20th century? And, at the beginning of the 21st century, how do we explain that spiritual and religious healing has gained even more popularity, visibility, and legitimacy?

On Thursday, April 7, a standing-room only crowd of over 170 people gathered at the University Student Union to hear the internationally recognized anthropologist Professor Susan Sered address those very questions. Her lecture and slide show "Religious and Spiritual Healing in the Contemporary United States" was a hugely successful event, and a great way to kick-off the 2005 Public Lecture Series. After the lecture, Professor Sered joined faculty, staff, and community members for a reception.

Upcoming Holocaust Remembrance Day Program

On Wednesday evening, May 4, the Jewish Studies Program will present a film screening of "Chuppah: The Late Wedding of Two Holocaust Survivors." The film tells the story of Helma and Benno Schneider, Holocaust survivors and Los Angeles residents who, on the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding vows, finally celebrated a "proper" Jewish wedding. Sascha Schneider, a prize-winning documentary producer (and Helma and Benno's son), recorded their story and its effect on the next generation.

The evening will begin at 7:15 p.m., with a short ceremony for Holocaust Remembrance Day. The screening will begin promptly at 7:40 p.m., with a Q & A to follow from 9:00 to 9:30 with Helma and Benno Schneider, Sascha and Lauren Schneider (the co-directors), and Ira Schneider.

The screening will take place at the Fallbrook Laemmle Theatre, 6731 Fallbrook Avenue, in West Hills (at the Fallbrook Mall). It is a collaboration between the CSUN Jewish Studies Program, Temple Aliyah and Shomrei Torah Synagogue (both of West Hills), and the Jewish Federation - Valley Alliance. Laemmle Theatres has generously provided the use of the Fallbrook Laemmle Theatre for the event.

The screening is free. Seating is limited - come early.