

Week-long Holocaust Colloquium comes to Northfield school

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GILL - An award-winning exhibit of 300 World War II documents from concentration camp inmates, Jewish ghetto residents and prisoners of war will be the centerpiece of a week-long Holocaust Colloquium at Northfield Mount Hermon School, from Sept. 29 to Oct. 5.

Other highlights will include a talk with German political activist Anna Rosmus, a dialogue between a Holocaust survivor and a Schutzstaffel (SS) officer's son, and multiple showings of three Holocaust-related films, including "A Film Unfinished," which recently premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

Opening on Sept. 29, and serving as the heart of the colloquium, is "The Nazi Scourge: Postal Evidence of the Holocaust and the Devastation of Europe," an award-winning exhibit of more than 300 World War II-era documents. The exhibit, which will be publicly displayed for the first time in Massachusetts before it's next showing in Greece.

Visitors will be able to touch and read documents as they peruse the collection, including a postcard from a guard at Dachau, a summons to an interrogation marked with a swastika, a fragment of Hebrew scripture, and a letter from one of the first men transported to Auschwitz.

Daniel Spungen, a member of the Illinois-based Florence and Laurence Spungen Family Foundation, which owns the exhibit, will deliver a 20-minute presentation to introduce the documents. The Spungen exhibit is open to the NMH community, select school groups and invited guests.

An all-school meeting on Sept. 29, will feature "A Holocaust Dialogue," the story of Dr. Zohara Boyd, a Holocaust survivor, and Dr. Peter Petschauer, the son of an SS officer. Boyd and Petschauer will speak about their pasts and their collaborative efforts. The event is open to NMH students, faculty, staff and invited guests.

On Oct. 3, Anna Rosmus will deliver a Wantman Family State-of-the-World Lecture. As a child in Passau, Germany, Rosmus was told that residents in her town had resisted the Nazis. Four years of historical research led Rosmus to the truth: Town leaders had actively collaborated with the Nazi party. While Rosmus was condemned by Passau residents, her book about the subject won the prestigious Geschwister-Scholl Award. Rosmus' story was later turned into the 1990 film "The Nasty Girl" The Oct. 3 State of the World lecture is free and open to the public.

From Sept. 30 to Oct. 3, NMH will hold multiple screenings of three movies that explore facets of the Holocaust: "The Counterfeiters," "The Nasty Girl," and "A Film Unfinished."

The films are free and open to the public. For details of the afternoon- evening showings call 498-3233.

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