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## **Holocaust Documents to be Displayed at Northfield Mount Hermon**

MOUNT HERMON, MA— An award-winning exhibit of 300 World War II documents will be the centerpiece of a week-long Holocaust Colloquium at Northfield Mount Hermon, Sept. 29-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* (2010), which recently premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

Opening on Wednesday, 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 its next showing in Greece, includes documents from concentration camp inmates, Jewish ghetto residents, and prisoners of war. 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 Wednesday, 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 Sunday, 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* (2007), *The Nasty Girl* (1990), and *A Film*

*Unfinished* (2010). For a schedule of screenings and movie summaries, please see below. The films are free and open to the public.

More about:

### **Holocaust Colloquium at NMH Speakers:**

**Anna Rosmus** is a political activist and the award-winning author of books such as *Against the Stream: Growing Up Where Hitler Used to Live*. Rosmus' journey began as a teenager, when she decided to write an essay on her town's history. Passau, a small town in Germany, had long been touted as a center of Nazi resistance. Rosmus spent four years uncovering historical records to reveal that town leaders actually had been staunch Nazi supporters. Her book, *Resistance and Persecution in Passau from 1933 to 1939* documented Passau's hidden past and won Germany's prestigious Geschwister-Scholl Award. Rosmus also won the German Galinski Prize, the American Society of Journalists and Authors Conscience-in-Media Award, the Sarnat Prize from the Anti-Defamation League, the coveted Tucholsky death mask and the Holocaust Survivors & Friends' Holocaust Memorial Award.

**Danny Spungen** is a board member and spokesman for the Spungen Family Foundation. In 2007, Spungen acquired an initial collection of 250 letters, postcards, leaflets, and other materials. The collection is formally known as the "The Nazi Scourge: Postal Evidence of the Holocaust and the Devastation of Europe." Spungen has since devoted himself to exhibiting the collection at schools, universities, and Rotary clubs, among other institutions.

**The Florence and Laurence Spungen Family Foundation** was established in 2006 to support charitable and educational causes. Many of the historic artifacts in the exhibit can be viewed online at the foundation's website: [www.SpungenFoundation.org](http://www.SpungenFoundation.org).

**Dr. Zohara Boyd and Dr. Peter Petschauer** met as academic colleagues at Appalachian State University, where Boyd is co-director of the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies and Petschauer is a professor of history. Boyd grew up in Poland during the Nazi occupation. Her Jewish parents obtained baptismal certificates and other documents from a Polish Catholic family to escape the Jewish ghetto. Petschauer was born and raised in Germany, the son of an SS officer who obeyed the rules of the Nazis. Petschauer and Boyd have used their friendship to create a dialogue that explores their own personal histories and the lessons they have learned.

### **Holocaust Colloquium at NMH Films:**

*A Film Unfinished* (2010) recently premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and was featured in the *New York Times* upon its limited release in Manhattan. The new

documentary features raw footage, with no soundtrack, that was shot in 1942 for an apparently incomplete Nazi propaganda film. The film reels, rediscovered in 1954, eventually made their way into historical records of the Holocaust. Director Yael Hersonski's new film shows the footage of what was known as "Das Ghetto" in its entirety, including Jews staged to appear as if they were attending dinners and the theater, and outtakes by the camera crew that show the same people as unwilling actors. The film also features commentary by members of the German film crew and by Holocaust survivors.

*The Counterfeiters* (2007) winner of the 2007 Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film, is based on the events surrounding a secret Nazi scheme to forge Bank of England Currency. Operation Bernhard, as it was known, used Jewish concentration camp inmates in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Critics have argued that the movie is only loosely based on historical events. The movie's synopsis reads as follows "The Counterfeiters tells the true story of Salomon Sorowitsch (Karl Markovics), a swindler who made a name for himself as Berlin's "King of the Counterfeiters." However, his life of women and easy money is cut short when he's arrested and placed in a Nazi concentration camp. With the German army on the verge of bankruptcy, Sorowitch makes a sobering deal with his captors: in exchange for a comfortable bed, good food, and fair treatment, Sorowitch, along with other hand-picked specialists, must counterfeit bank notes to fund the Nazi war effort." The Counterfeiters was directed by Stefan Ruzowitzky.

*The Nasty Girl* (1990) is the story of Sonya, a German high school student, who discovers that her town has been hiding a terrible secret. A school research project leads Sonya to evidence that town leaders, long hailed as Resistance fighters, were actually Nazi collaborators. The film is a fictionalized account of the story of Anna Rosmus, who spent four years uncovering historical records about her hometown of Passau, Germany. In Passau, Rosmus' research provoked severe opposition and violent threats. Rosmus has dedicated her life to uncovering anti-Semitism and to combating German neo-Nazis.

### **Holocaust Colloquium at NMH Schedule:**

The general public is invited to all films and the State of the World Lecture. Invited guests and groups are welcome at the later afternoon and evening Spungen Holocaust Postal Exhibit sessions. For further information, please call 413-498-3233.

#### **Wednesday, Sept. 29**

**All-School Meeting**, "A Holocaust Dialogue," with Zohara Boyd and Dr. Peter Petschauer

**Spungen Holocaust Postal Exhibit** opens in the afternoon in Grandin Auditorium in Blake Hall.

Exhibit Session, 3:30 pm

Exhibit Session, 7:15 pm



**Thursday Sept. 30**

**Spungen Holocaust Postal Exhibit**, Grandin Auditorium, Blake Hall

Exhibit Session, 4 pm

Exhibit Session, 7 pm

**Film:** *The Counterfeiters* (2007) 98 min., 7 pm, Beveridge Auditorium

**Friday Oct. 1**

**Spungen Holocaust Postal Exhibit**, Grandin Auditorium, Blake Hall

Exhibit Session, 4 pm

Exhibit Session, 7 pm

**Film:** *A Film Unfinished* (2010) 90 min., 7:30 pm, Rhodes Arts Center theater

**Film:** *The Counterfeiters* (2007) 98 min., 9 pm, Rhodes Arts Center theater

**Saturday, Oct. 2**

**Spungen Holocaust Postal Exhibit**, Grandin Auditorium, Blake Hall

Exhibit Session, 1 pm

Exhibit Session, 3 pm

Exhibit Session, 5 pm

**Film:** *A Film Unfinished* (2010) 90 min., 8 pm, Rhodes Arts Center theater

**Film:** *The Nasty Girl* (1990) 94 min., 9:30 pm, Rhodes Arts Center theater

**Sunday, Oct. 3**

**Spungen Holocaust Postal Exhibit**, Grandin Auditorium, Blake Hall

Exhibit Session, 1 pm

Exhibit Session, 3 pm

**Film:** *A Film Unfinished* (2010) 90 min., 3 pm, Rhodes Arts Center theater

**Film:** *The Nasty Girl* (1990) 94 min., 4:30 pm, Rhodes Arts Center theater

**Wantman Family State of the World Lecture with Anna Rosmus**, 7–8:15 pm,  
Memorial Chapel

**Monday, Oct. 4**

**Spungen Holocaust Postal Exhibit**, Grandin Auditorium, Blake Hall

Exhibit Session, 4 pm

Exhibit Session, 7 pm

**Tuesday, Oct. 5**

**Spungen Holocaust Postal Exhibit**, Grandin Auditorium, Blake Hall

Exhibit Session, 4 pm

Exhibit Session, 7 pm (last session)

