THE 2018 EINSPRUCH LECTURE SERIES

The 2018 Burton C. Einspruch Lecture Series welcomed one of our largest audiences to date. Each year, the Ackerman Center hosts this prestigious two-day event, featuring lectures from eminent scholars and prominent figures in the field of Holocaust Studies. This year, we welcomed Dr. Peter Hayes, a renowned Holocaust scholar and author.

In his opening lecture, “Why? Explaining the Holocaust,” Dr. Hayes discussed his teaching experience and how it inspired him to write his book by the same title, citing the most common “why” questions students asked, such as, “Why the Jews?” and “Why the Germans?” Through answering these questions, he provided a brief overview of the Holocaust and the conditions that contributed to and enabled the genocide. Following his lecture, the Ackerman Center facilitated a meet and greet reception and book signing, where (continued on page 2)
attendees could meet Dr. Hayes, ask questions, provide feedback and purchase personalized copies of his book.

Dr. Hayes’s second lecture, “German Corporate Complicity in the Holocaust,” examined the results of his research into the unethical conduct of large corporations in Germany that profited from the exploitation and murder of Jews during the Holocaust. He discovered that two of the most popular and well-known corporations in Germany, Degussa and IG Farben, had exploited Jewish slave labor and profited from seizing Jewish-owned businesses. Through IG Farben, the Nazis had secured lucrative government contracts for the production of Zyklon B crystals, which were primarily used in the gas chambers at Auschwitz.

Dr. Hayes is the Theodore Zev Weiss Holocaust Educational Foundation Professor Emeritus of Holocaust Studies at Northwestern University. He currently serves as Chair of the Academic Committee of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.