THE ACKERMANN CHRONICLE

SUNDAY LECTURE SERIES: DEPORTATIONS DURING THE HOLOCAUST

Around the bend, one after another, the cattle cars begin rolling in. The train backs into the station, a conductor leans out, waves his hand, blows a whistle. The locomotive whistles back with a shrieking noise, puffs, the train rolls slowly alongside the ramp. In the tiny barred windows appear pale, wilted, exhausted human faces, terror-stricken women with tangled hair, unshaven men. They gaze at the station in silence. And then, suddenly, there is a stir inside the cars and a pounding against the wooden boards. “Water! Air!” — weary, desperate cries.

Tadeusz Borowski,
This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen

In the context of Holocaust history, we associate the word “deportation” with the mass expulsion of Jews from occupied territories to the death camps following the Wannsee Conference in 1942. However, the Nazis resorted to deportations as an answer to the “Jewish Question” in as early as 1938, following the infamous nationwide assault on German Jews during Kristallnacht, where tens of thousands of Jewish men were rounded up and deported to concentration camps. In the months following their invasion of Poland in 1939, Nazis forced Jews to leave their homes and move into

SPOTLIGHT

May 2 - Holocaust Remembrance Day: In commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day, students, faculty and staff will recite Holocaust related poetry in various languages beginning at 11:30AM in the Edith O’Donnell Arts and Technology Building with an excerpt of the Holocaust Cantata.

May 18 - Book Launch: Join us at 6PM in the SP/N Gallery to celebrate Dr. Ozsváth and Professor Turner’s newest translated book, The Golden Goblet: Selected Poems of Goethe. Visit utdallas.edu/ackerman/events for more details

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(continued on page 2)
overcrowded ghettos. In some form or another, deportation existed throughout the Holocaust as a means to gather and liquidate the Jews from the world.

Deportations during the Holocaust served as the topic for this year’s Sunday Lecture Series, an annual event where the Ackerman Center’s endowed professors present on subjects related to Holocaust scholarship.

Dr. Patterson (top right) kicked off the first Sunday of the series with “Death and Ghetto Death.” Using his research on ghetto diaries, he argued that the Nazis’ systematic destruction of Jews began in the ghettos and not the camps. According to the Jewish faith, specific rites and rituals comfort the soul of the deceased and enable their transition from this world to the next. By preventing Jews from adhering to religious laws governing the treatment of their deceased, they not only robbed them of the fundamental human right to a dignified death but death itself.

In her lecture, “When We Remember: The Murder of the Hungarian Jews, March 19, 1944 – May 1945,” Dr. Ozsváth (bottom right) discussed the implementation of the Final Solution in Hungary.

(continued on page 3)
The measures the Nazis took to eradicate Jews from other occupied nations occurred at a rapidly accelerated pace in Hungary. Within three months, authorities forced an estimated 800,000 Jews to endure anti-Jewish legislation and ghettoization and deported approximately 440,000 to Auschwitz, where they were gassed upon arrival.

Dr. Roemer (below) concluded the series with his presentation, “Deportation and Liberation in the Final Year of the Third Reich,” which outlined last year of the war and emphasized its significance. By highlighting the Wannsee Protocol and the events following the Nazis' fatal defeat at Stalingrad, he argued that regardless of the

(continued on page 4)
Above (left) is an excerpt from the Wannsee Protocol, which not only lists the population of Jews in occupied territories but also those they planned to take over and make Judenrein (cleansed of Jews).

outcome in the Second World War, their primary goal was eliminating the Jews.

This year marked the fifth anniversary of the Sunday Lecture Series. It addressed the largest audience since its inception in 2014, demonstrating the Ackerman Center’s community outreach and dedication to teaching the Holocaust and upholding its legacy for future generations.

If you would like to make a gift to the Ackerman Center, please visit utdallas.edu/ackerman/giving