Students in the Classroom

Tell us a little about your book, “The Agony of Greek Jews, 1940-1945,” and what you hope readers will take away from it.

This is the first full-length scholarly book based on an original, in-depth look at the tragic experience of Greek Jews during WWII. Having WWII Greek-Jewish history is central to the story of the Holocaust. It was the center for Sefardic Jewry (who are still known and survive) and since the 11th century (firstly in the Pale of Enclave), and their wartime story has many unique aspects.

Why did a book of this nature need to be published?

The last large study was published just after the war and our knowledge has greatly increased since then based on archival research. In addition there are daily new sources who have updated the period.

What are some key findings that resonated with you while researching for the book?

I'm most struck with the degree to which there are many similarities and yet unique circumstances and outcomes. Also the fact that there is so much about Greece that is not known about the Holocaust, and the resilience of its members. Also the fact that there are so many similarities with the Holocaust, so general on WW2, since Greek Jews and wartime Greece are not part of the narrative curricula in this country. Interest is likely higher in England and Israel where Greeks and Greek-Jews are better studied.

What connection does this piece of history have with today?

In WWII all of the stories of persecution and survival are timely, but Greece has its own story. We need to know the story about the heroism and the resilience of their members. Also the fact that there are so many similarities with the Holocaust, so general on WW2, since Greek Jews and wartime Greece are not part of the narrative curricula in this country. Interest is likely higher in England and Israel where Greeks and Greek-Jews are better studied.

What are you working on next?

I'm working on a doctoral dissertation, “The Book of Josephus Flavius’ “Jewish War.” I have translated that lengthy source now into a coherent historical narrative. The series primarily published survivor memoirs and original reports from the war years. Two additional books are in press. The series primarily published survivor memoirs and original reports from the war years. Two additional books are in press. The series primarily published survivor memoirs and original reports from the war years. Two additional books are in press.

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Jews and Muslims: Co-Existence

Three outstanding scholars came to UC to present the national context of intergroup relations in the Middle East for the department’s annual Lichter Lecture Series.

By Wendy Beckman

The Lichter Lecture Series, organized by the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies and the Judaic Studies Department, is an annual academic event that brings in scholars from around the world to present the national context of intergroup relations in the Middle East.

On Nov. 11, Holocaust survivor Ruth Kropveld presented a lecture on the topic of “The Holocaust: An Overview from a Survivor’s Perspective.” Kropveld, a Dutch survivor, shared her story of survival during World War II and the challenges she faced in the years after the war.

On Nov. 12, John Brolley, the chairman of the Department of Judaic Studies, and Jennifer L. Lichter, a Weinberg professor of history, presented a lecture on the topic of “Yemenite Jews in Modern France.” Brolley, who has conducted extensive research on the history of Yemenite Jews in France, shared his findings on the experiences of these communities.

On Nov. 13, Steven Bowman, the organizer of the series, presented a lecture on the topic of “The Holocaust and the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs: How the U.S. Can Learn from Its Past.” Bowman, who has worked extensively on the history of the Holocaust and its relevance to contemporary issues, shared his research on the role of the U.S. in preventing genocides.

Local Holocaust Survivor Visits UC

On Nov. 12, Holocaust survivor Ruth Kropveld presented a lecture on the topic of “The Holocaust: An Overview from a Survivor’s Perspective.” Kropveld, a Dutch survivor, shared her story of survival during World War II and the challenges she faced in the years after the war.

Kropveld, who is the daughter of a Dutch Jewish family, was born in 1941 in the Netherlands. She and her family were sent to a concentration camp in 1943, but she managed to escape and hide in a number of safe houses before being captured by the Gestapo in 1945.

After being sent to a concentration camp, Kropveld was able to escape and eventually made her way to the United States. She has since become an advocate for Holocaust education and has shared her story with numerous audiences.

Her lecture was titled “The Holocaust: An Overview from a Survivor’s Perspective” and focused on the experiences of survivors during the Holocaust. Kropveld shared her experiences, including the challenges she faced in the years after the war, and emphasized the importance of learning from the past.

She also discussed the importance of remembering the Holocaust and the need to prevent future genocides. Kropveld’s lecture was a powerful reminder of the importance of remembering the past and of the need to learn from history.

Faculty Spotlight: Matthew Kraus

Matthew Kraus, field service assistant professor, recently assumed the role of undergraduate director of Judaic Studies. In addition to the regular responsibilities of an academic position, Kraus works closely with students interested in the major, offering advising and support.

“Matthew Kraus brings a wealth of experience to the department,” said John Brolley, chairman of the Department of Judaic Studies. “He is an excellent mentor and has a strong commitment to student success.”

Kraus, who has worked in various roles at the University of Cincinnati, including as an assistant dean for administration, has a deep knowledge of Judaic Studies and its programs.

In his new role, Kraus will work closely with students interested in the major, offering advising and support. He will also work with the department to develop new opportunities for students, including internships and study abroad programs.

Kraus is currently working on a book on the history of Jewish diaspora communities in the Middle East. He is also working on a project on the role of the U.S. in preventing genocides.

For more information, please contact Matthew Kraus at mmkraus@uc.edu or visit the Department of Judaic Studies website at www.artsci.uc.edu/judaic.