

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

School of Law

INSTITUTE ON LAW, RELIGION, & ETHICS

GENOCIDE AND RELIGION:

VICTIMS, PERPETRATORS,
BYSTANDERS, AND RESISTERS

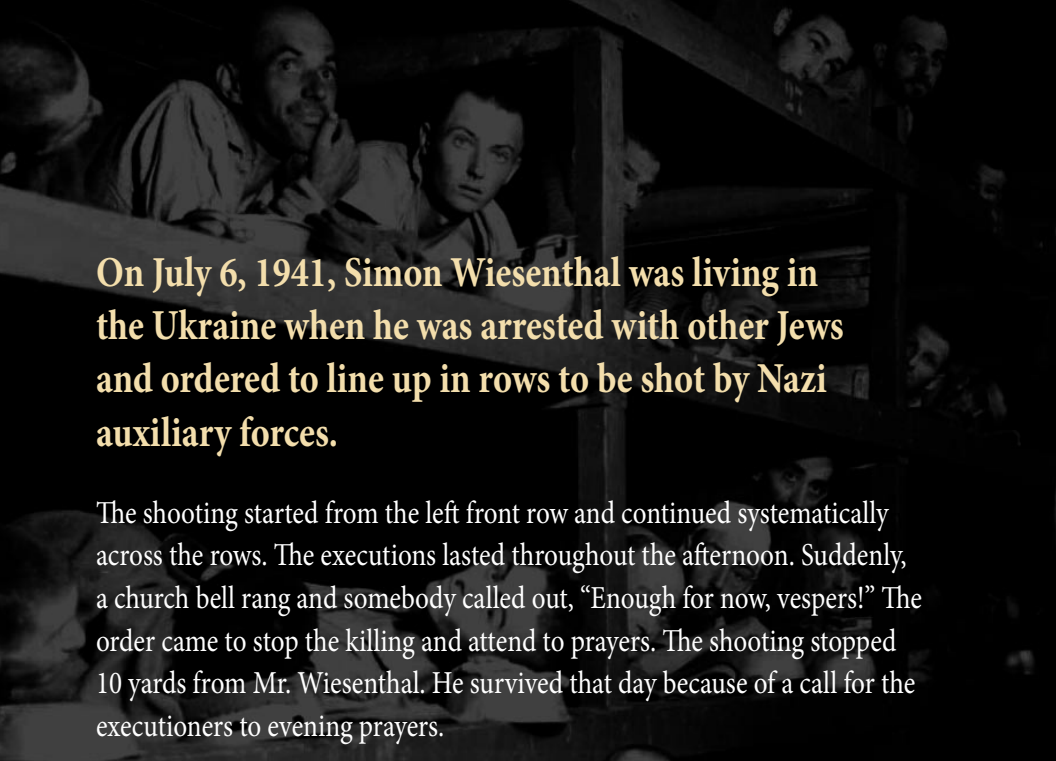


“THE NEW GENERATION HAS
TO HEAR WHAT THE OLDER
GENERATION REFUSES TO TELL IT”

—*Simon Wiesenthal*

February 11-13, 2007

Pepperdine University School of Law and
Simon Wiesenthal Center



On July 6, 1941, Simon Wiesenthal was living in the Ukraine when he was arrested with other Jews and ordered to line up in rows to be shot by Nazi auxiliary forces.

The shooting started from the left front row and continued systematically across the rows. The executions lasted throughout the afternoon. Suddenly, a church bell rang and somebody called out, “Enough for now, vespers!” The order came to stop the killing and attend to prayers. The shooting stopped 10 yards from Mr. Wiesenthal. He survived that day because of a call for the executioners to evening prayers.

A few years later, Simon Wiesenthal was in a concentration camp in Poland. Through a series of unusual circumstances he found himself sitting alone beside a German soldier on his death bed at a makeshift military hospital. The dying soldier wanted absolution and forgiveness for his unspeakable crimes. And he requested it from a Jew speaking on behalf of the Jewish people. Mr. Wiesenthal refused the request and walked away. Decades later he wrote in *The Sunflower* of his struggle with that decision and his uncertainty if he made the right choice. What is the appropriate response for a victim of genocide in the face of such a moral dilemma?

As a Nazi hunter, Wiesenthal’s life work was to pursue justice for the perpetrators of genocide. His life and his work embody issues at the crossroads between genocide and religion—issues such as justice, vengeance, forgiveness, justification, and responsibility.

This unique conference—jointly organized by the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the Pepperdine University School of Law—focuses on the intersection between genocide and religion. It emphasizes the roles played by perpetrators, victims, bystanders, and resisters during the genocides of the 20th and 21st centuries, genocides that began with Armenia and unfortunately continue to this day in Sudan. The conference will examine what role law should play in mediating this intersection between religion and genocide.

We hope you can join us for what we are confident will prove to be a challenging and illuminating conference.

ROGER ALFORD

Associate Professor

Pepperdine University School of Law

GENOCIDE AND RELIGION:

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 Simon Wiesenthal Center, Los Angeles

5:30 p.m. **Registration**

6:00 p.m. Reception at private tour of the Museum of Tolerance

7:00 p.m. **Keynote speech**

Rabbi Marvin Hier • (introduction) dean and founder, Simon Wiesenthal Center and the Museum of Tolerance

Israel Charny • professor, Hebrew University, Israel; president, International Association of Genocide Scholars; editor-in-chief, *Encyclopedia of Genocide*; author of *Fascism and Democracy in the Human Mind* and *Fighting Suicide Bombing*

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12 Pepperdine University, Malibu

8:30 a.m. **Registration and continental breakfast**

9:00 a.m. **Welcome**

Roger Alford • associate professor, Pepperdine University; former senior legal advisor, Claims Resolution Tribunal, Zurich Switzerland; coeditor of *Holocaust Restitution: Perspectives on the Litigation and Its Legacy*

Kenneth W. Starr • dean, Pepperdine University School of Law; former United States Solicitor General; former judge, United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit; independent counsel, Office of the Independent Counsel

9:15 a.m. **Opening Lecture: Historical Overview of Genocide**

Jeffrey Zalar • (introduction), assistant professor of history and humanities, Pepperdine University

John Roth • Edward J. Sexton Professor of Philosophy Emeritus and founding director, Center for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights, Claremont McKenna College; author of *Approaches to Auschwitz, Will Genocide Ever End?*, and *Genocide and Human Rights*

10:00 a.m. **Break**

10:15 a.m. **Genocide and Religion: The Victims**

Michael Berenbaum • professor of theology and director, Sigi Ziering Institute, University of Judaism; former project director, United States Holocaust Museum; author of *The World Must Know* and *Anatomy of the Auschwitz Death Camp*

Richard Hovannisian • professor of Armenian and Near Eastern history, UCLA; Guggenheim Fellow; member, Armenian National Academy of Sciences; author of numerous books relating to the Armenian genocide

12:00 noon **Luncheon Keynote**

Sandra Bunn-Livingstone • Office of International Religious Freedom; Bureau of Human Rights, Democracy, and Labor, U.S. Department of State; former international law lecturer and fellow, Cambridge University, 1999-2006; author of *Juricultural Pluralism vis-à-vis Treaty Law: State Practice and Attitudes*

1:45 p.m. **Genocide and Religion: The Perpetrators**

Hon. Bruce Einhorn • U.S. immigration law judge, former attorney, Justice Department Office of Special Investigations

Ambassador Pierre Prosper • former United States ambassador-at-large for war crimes; former war crimes prosecutor, United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

Michael Bazylar • distinguished visiting professor of law, Pepperdine University School of Law; professor of law, Whittier Law School; research fellow, Yad Vashem Holocaust Center; author of *Holocaust Justice* and coeditor *Holocaust Restitution: Perspectives on the Litigation and Its Legacy*

3:15 p.m. **Break**

3:30 p.m. **Genocide and Religion: The Bystanders**

Kristen Renwick Monroe • professor of political science and philosophy and director, the UCI Interdisciplinary Center for the Scientific Study of Ethics and Morality; author of *The Heart of Altruism* and *The Hand of Compassion: Portraits of Moral Choice During the Holocaust*

Ronald Rychlak • professor of law and associate dean for academic affairs, University of Mississippi, author of *Hitler, the War, and the Pope*

4:45 p.m. **Special Memorial and Tribute Service for Victims and Resisters of Genocide**

Hedva Amrani Danoff, singer; Mark Kashper, concert master, LA Jewish Symphony and associate principal of the Los Angeles Philharmonic; Dr. Noreen Green, artistic director, Los Angeles Jewish Symphony

7:00 p.m. **Dinner**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 Pepperdine University, Malibu

8:30 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. **Welcome**

Robert Cochran • Louis D. Brandeis Professor of Law, Pepperdine University; director, Institute on Law, Religion, and Ethics, Pepperdine School of Law

Christopher Soper • professor of political science, Pepperdine University; director, Pepperdine University Center for Faith and Learning

9:15 a.m. **Genocide and Religion: The Resisters**

Jerry Fowler • William Podlich Distinguished Visitor and Visiting Scholar, Center for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights, Claremont McKenna College; on leave from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

Rabbi Harold Schulweis • Temple Valley Beth Shalom; founding chair, Jewish Foundation for the Righteous; founder, Jewish World Watch

Carl Wilkens • pastor, Milo Adventist Academy; former director, Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Rwanda; lone American who remained in Rwanda during 1994 genocide

11:45 a.m. **Genocide and Religion: Collective Resistance**

Barbara Mulvaney • senior trial attorney, Military 1 Team, Office of the Prosecutor, United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

Dan Caldwell • Distinguished Professor of Political Science, Pepperdine University; Member, Council on Foreign Relations study trip to Kosovo in 2003.

12:45 p.m. **Break**

1:00 p.m. **Closing Luncheon Keynote: Where Do We Go From Here?**

The Baroness Cox of Queensbury • former deputy speaker, British House of Lords (1985–2005); chief executive officer, Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust; recipient, William Wilberforce Award; author *This Immoral Trade: Slavery in the 21st Century*

2:30 p.m. **Movie Screening: I Have Never Forgotten You: The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal** (narrated by Nicole Kidman).