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UNH Holocaust Workshop Offers Resources To Teachers April 8

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April 4, 2006

DURHAM, N.H. -- Seacoast middle and high school teachers will gain insight on how to more effectively teach about the Holocaust during a daylong workshop Saturday, April 8, 2006, at the University of New Hampshire. In association with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, UNH's History and Education departments will host "The Holocaust: History, Remembrance, & Legacies," from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Murkland Hall.

The free workshop will include representatives from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, public school teachers Bob Smith and Doug Pelton, and Jeff Diefendorf, UNH professor of history. Joe Onosko, an associate professor in the Education Department, calls the innovative and important workshop "a collaborative effort" between the Education Department, the History Department and the museum.

"Participants will learn about rationales for teaching about the Holocaust and instructional strategies to help them negotiate some of the more disturbing aspects of this history," Onosko said. With about 60 educators registered, some of whom have taught about the Holocaust, the coordinators also hope to provide an open forum for "sharing of experiences, resources and instructional ideas among teachers throughout the day," he said.

Onosko said the goal of the workshop is "is to enhance teacher understanding of this horrific event in history and to learn about some of the excellent resources that are available for use in middle and secondary classroom."

The featured presenter, Lawrence L. Langer, is a professor emeritus of English at Simmons College in Boston. Langer is one of the foremost specialists worldwide in Holocaust literature and testimonies, as well as on the artwork of Holocaust survivor and internationally recognized Holocaust artist Samuel Bak. "He's also a personal friend of Samuel Bak and a scholar of Bak's prolific body of artwork," Onosko said. A selection of Bak's artwork will be on display in the UNH Art Gallery.

The workshop will explore effective strategies for teaching about the Holocaust, including "What to teach?" and how to address sensitive issues associated with the topic. The day concludes with Diefendorf providing an update on new scholarship and recent trends and developments in the field.

For more information on the workshop, contact Onosko 603-862-3495 or at jonosko@comcast.net.

