

Famed Holocaust scholar and author Nechama Tec featured speaker at Holocaust Remembrance 2012 at Palm Beach State College March 21.

(Palm Beach Gardens – March 1, 2012) Renowned Holocaust scholar Nechama Tec will be the featured speaker at “Holocaust Remembrance 2012: Resilience & Courage” at the Eissey Campus Theatre March 21 on the Palm Beach Gardens campus.

Tec is professor emerita of sociology at the University of Connecticut, Stamford and received her Ph.D. from Columbia University. She is the author of six books on the Holocaust, one of which was made into the movie “Defiance.” Her upcoming book on the Holocaust, “At the Edge of Nowhere: Christian and Jewish Resistance during World War II,” will be a comparative study of Christian and Jewish resistance to the Nazis. Her 2003 work, “Resilience and Courage: Women, Men and the Holocaust,” won the 2002–2003 National Jewish Book Award and was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. It will serve as the topic for two sessions.



“Compassion and Cooperation: Surviving the Death Camps” begins at 9:30 a.m. and will cover how Jewish women and men who survived the death camps developed distinct coping strategies and established networks of cooperation and compassion operated across gender lines. Tec will hold a book signing session in the theatre lobby at 11 a.m., with books available for purchase.

Tec’s 2 p.m. discussion, “Gender Roles in the Jewish Underground” will delve into her extensive research of the varying roles played by women and men in the Jewish underground resistance to Nazi oppression. Both talks will conclude with Tec participating in a question-and-answer session with the audiences.

“I thought it was very important to look at women because I realized that they experienced the Holocaust and reacted to the Holocaust in different ways from men, said Tec in a 2009 interview.” The German nation was a patriarchal system, like most European countries at that time. So this was true also for the Jewish families, that the man was really in charge. So by the patterns of relationships that they had, the demand

was much greater upon women to be flexible. In a patriarchal system, the whole selfhood for a man comes from his achievements: Can he be a protector of the family? Can he be a supporter of the family? And all this was thrown out. They were humiliated, terribly, on purpose. But the woman's domain—to feed the family—was still there. So therefore a woman, while she lost a lot, it did not destroy her selfhood."

Holocaust Remembrance 2012 events are open to the public, with complimentary tickets based on availability. Seating is limited. Call the Eissey Campus Theatre for ticket information at (561) 207-5900 (11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday – Friday).

For more information, visit www.PalmBeachState.edu/Holocaust.xml. Holocaust Remembrance 2012 is sponsored by the INSIGHT and TooJay's Deli.

Editor's note: Nechama Tec will be available for interviews before the event, as well as between the morning and afternoon sessions the day of the event. Please contact the CRM specialist below for more information.

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