



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Communications and Public Relations

Press Release

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**AUTHOR TO DISCUSS WORK ON JEWS IN WORLD WAR I GERMAN ARMY
AT KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATION**

(MAHWAH, NJ) - The Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies of Ramapo College and Temple Beth Haverim Shir Shalom will hold a Kristallnacht (Crystal Night) commemoration on Saturday, November 8. The event begins at 7 p.m. and will take place at Beth Haverim Shir Shalom, located at 280 Ramapo Valley Road (Route 202) in Mahwah, N.J. The commemoration will feature a talk by Dr. Peter Appelbaum on his recent book "Loyal Sons: German Jews in the First World War."

In World War I, 100,000 Jews served in the German Army. Approximately 80,000 served on the front lines, 12,500 were killed, died or listed as missing in action. Approximately 35,000 were decorated, 23,000 promoted and more than 2,000 became officers.

Dr. Appelbaum will discuss how their service was perceived by others, shedding new light on the role of anti-Semitism and the impact of the infamous *Judenzahlung* (Jewish census) of October 1916. His first book, "Loyalty Betrayed: Jewish Chaplains in the Germany Army during the First World War," examined the accomplishments and travails of the rabbis who served in the German military during World War I. The book provides a balanced view of the situation of Jews in the German army on the Western, Eastern, and Balkan Fronts and gives insight into the vanished world of Eastern European Judaism.

Peter Appelbaum M.D., Ph. D has authored and co-authored more than 1,000 scientific articles and presentations throughout his career as a clinical microbiologist and antibiotic researcher. His interest in German and other languages as well as modern Jewish history led to his research on the experience of Jews in the German Army during World War I.

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Ranked by U.S. News & World Report as sixth in the Best Regional Universities North category for public institutions, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,008 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers seven graduate programs as well as articulated programs with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.