



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Marketing and Communications
Press Release
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Panel Discussion Presents the Experience of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Émigrés in Coming to America

MAHWAH, N.J. –The Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies of Ramapo College of New Jersey in collaboration with the Jewish Historical Society of North Jersey will present a panel discussion, “Coming to America: Victims of the Shoah and Emigres from the Former Soviet Union and Middle East.” It will take place on Sunday, April 22 at 10 a.m. at Temple Beth Sholom in Fair Lawn, New Jersey (40-25 Fair Lawn Avenue) and feature the personal experiences of Sally Whitmore, Bella Miller, Bella Lisny and Rachel Harari.

The discussion will be moderated by Dr. Michael Riff, director of the Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Admission is free and open to the community. Refreshments will be served and kashrut observed. Please RSVP to 201-300-6590 or JHSNNJ@gmail.com

Northern New Jersey, along with many communities across the nation has experienced successive waves of Jewish immigration at least since the middle of the 19th century. While a number of Sephardic Jews settled in the state before the revolution, the first major spurt of settlement occurred with the influx of German and other Central European Jews in the 1840s. Joining them from 1880s onward were increasing numbers of Jews from Eastern Europe escaping the persecution in their native countries and seeking a better life.

Beginning with Jews from Germany, the advent of Nazism and fascism in Europe during the 1930s led to the next wave that continued after World War II with the resettlement of survivors of the Holocaust in the late 1940s and 1950s. Following the Israeli War of Independence and the persecution of the Jews in the Middle East, their brethren from places such as Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, and North Africa soon joined them. The most recent wave of Jews has come from the former Soviet Union. It began with the

relaxation of emigration restrictions under communist rule and continued after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1993.

The focus the program is the post-war period in which new resettlement and suburbanization coincided to make for new conditions on all sides for adaptation and integration.

For information on this event or to request disability-related accommodations for this event, please contact holgen@ramapo.edu or call 201-684-7409.

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Ramapo College of New Jersey is the state's premier public liberal arts college. Ranked among the top colleges in the region by College Choice and recognized by, among others, U.S. News & World Report, Princeton Review, Colleges of Distinction and, also designated by Victory Media as a "Military Friendly College," Ramapo College is committed to academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding.

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 business, education, nursing and social work. In addition, the College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels, and offers graduate programs leading to degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education.