



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

Office of Media and Public Relations

Press Release

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Son of Survivors to Give Presentation on Conducting Research about Family Members' Experiences in the Holocaust

MAHWAH, N.J. – Jerry Zaks, a retired information technology professional from Bergen County and son of Holocaust survivors, will give a presentation on researching the history of one's family in the Holocaust titled, "Recovering the Past: Researching the Fate of One's Family in the Shoah." He also will discuss his endeavor with Michael Riff, director of the Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Ramapo College.

The program will be delivered virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, January 26 at 7 p.m. It will be presented under the auspices of the Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and is free and open to the public. Registration to attend via Zoom is at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/recovering-the-past-researching-the-fate-of-ones-family-in-the-shoah-tickets-135901082797>.

After retiring in 2016 from a successful career in IT and computer programming, Zaks began a quest of researching and documenting the history of his parents' experiences and hardships growing up in Poland in the 1920's and 30's. Starting with a 2-hour audio interview he conducted with his parents back in 1980, he has utilized the computer and internet skills learned during his career to assemble his parents' story into a detailed presentation.

His 60 pages of interview transcription as well as an additional 50 pages of background research and documentation are available on the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum website.

Zaks will show how anyone can join his effort to keep alive the memory of the Shoah by researching the history of their parents, or other family members, in the Holocaust and preparing a presentation that could be delivered in schools and in front of community groups.

For information 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 and is committed to academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding. The College is ranked #1 among New Jersey public institutions by College Choice, has been named one of the 50 Most Beautiful College Campuses in America by *Condé Nast Traveler*, and is recognized as a top college by *U.S. News & World Report*, *Kiplinger's*, Princeton Review and *Money* magazine, among others. Ramapo College is also distinguished as a Career Development College of Distinction by *CollegesofDistinction.com*, boasts the best campus housing in New Jersey on *Niche.com*, and is designated a "Military Friendly College" in *Victoria Media's Guide to Military Friendly Schools*.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, data science, 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 master's degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Creative Music Technology, Data Science, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education, as well as a post-master's Doctor of Nursing Practice.