

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DEPORTATION OF VIENNESE JEWISH COMMUNITY TO BE DISCUSSED
AT YOM HASHOAH (HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY)
COMMEMORATION**

(MAHWAH, NJ) – The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies of Ramapo College and Temple Beth Haverim Shir Shalom will hold a Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance) commemoration on Saturday, April 30. It will commence at 7 p.m. and take place at Beth Haverim Shir Shalom, 280 Ramapo Valley Road (Route 202), Mahwah, NJ 07430.

The commemoration will feature a talk by Dr. Ilana Offenberger on “Vienna 1942: The Deportation and Destruction of a Jewish Community.” It will chart the process of how an end to emigration from the Reich, steadily increasing impoverishment, restriction, humiliation, and a ban on communication with family and loved ones abroad led to the community final mortal chapter. Dr. Offenberger’s talk will also discuss the transformation of the Jewish Community (the *Israelitische Kultus Gemeinde*) from an institution which promoted the emigration and rescue of 136,000 Viennese Jews to an entity that was forced to organize the deportation to the Third Reich’s ghettos and killing centers of over 55,000 others.

In May 2010, Ilana Offenberger completed her Ph.D. in history on "The Nazification of Vienna and the Response of the Viennese Jews" at the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University. She earned a B.A. in German from Skidmore College. She has been a Crown Family Doctoral Research Fellow, a Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies Fellow, and a Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany Graduate Studies Fellow. She was a fellow of the United State Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies during the 2005-2006 academic year.

The evening also will include a commemorative service conducted by Rabbi Joel Mosbacher program of chorale music performed by the adult choir of Temple Beth Haverim Shir Shalom, under Cantor David Perper.

For more information contact Michael Riff at 201-684- 7409.

Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fourth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey 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, and as courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers four graduate programs and articulated programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry 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.

Undergraduate students choose to concentrate their studies in one of five schools with more than 700 course offerings and 40 academic programs. Ramapo College boasts an average student/faculty ratio of 18:1 and average class size of 23, affording students the opportunity to develop close ties to the College's exceptional faculty.

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