



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Marketing and Communications
Press Release
September 29, 17

Contact: Angela Daidone
201-684-7477
adaidon1@ramapo.edu

Noted Historian to Examine Sojourn of Holocaust Refugees in Wartime Lisbon

MAHWAH, N.J. – Dr. Marion Kaplan, Skirball Professor of Modern Jewish History at New York University, will give a talk on “Lisbon, the Port of Last Resort, and the Jewish Refugee Crisis of World War II,” at Ramapo College of New Jersey. The program will be held on Friday, October 20 at 1:45 p.m. in The Robert A. Scott Student Center (Alumni Lounges, SC-156) under the auspices of the Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The program is free and open to the public.

Professor Kaplan will focus on Jewish refugees in Portugal during World War II and will examine a triangle of actors: the Jewish refugees themselves; the Portuguese national and local governments, civil servants, and citizens; and Jewish and transnational philanthropies. Using diplomatic, political, and legal history, and the history of daily life, Kaplan’s presentation will analyze the conditions, individuals and laws that allowed Portugal to open (and sometimes close) its doors to tens of thousands of Jewish refugees fleeing war-torn Europe and Nazi persecution. It will highlight how refugees coped once they arrived, both practically and psychologically. The refugees’ sojourn in Lisbon captures a poignant moment: how did they adjust to the travails and sentiments of fleeing and waiting? Their frightening odysseys from impending doom to fragile safety, their fearful wait in an oddly peaceful purgatory, and their grateful surprise at the reactions of Portuguese citizens linked up with their private agonies.

Marion Kaplan is professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies and Skirball Professor of Modern Jewish History at New York University. She has received the National Jewish Book Award for three of her books: *The Making of the Jewish Middle Class: Women, Family and Identity in Imperial Germany* (Oxford University Press, 1991); *Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Life in Nazi Germany* (Oxford University Press, 1998); and *Gender and Jewish History*, co-edited with Deborah Dash Moore (Indiana, 2011). She has published extensively on Jewish everyday life in Germany, Jewish feminism, women in Germany, and Jewish refugees in the Dominican Republic during World War II.

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

###

Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top in the Best Regional Public Universities North category, 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 6,000 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 eight 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.