Holocaust Awareness Week

24-27 October 2011

The series is free of charge and open to the public. We would like to thank Ms Sara Elkes for her generous support of the Holocaust Awareness Week and the 19th Annual Elchanan and Miriam Elkes Memorial Lecture, and Christians Aware for their assistance organizing the event.

For more information, contact Dr Alexander Korb
ak368@leicester.ac.uk · 0116 252 2784
Ruth David (Leicester):

A Young Girl’s Flight from the Holocaust

Monday 24 October 2011 at 17:30
Ken Edwards Building Lecture Theatre 3 (KE LT3)

• Opening of the Holocaust Awareness Week by Prof. Douglas Tallack (Head of the College of Arts, Humanities and Law)

• Introduction of the speaker by Prof Aubrey Newman (Honorary Associate Director of Stanley Burton Centre)

In 1938, Ruth David witnessed the horror of Kristallnacht and her family’s eviction from their village in deep rural Germany. Ruth David will speak about how she was sent to England as part of the Kindertransport – one of the few routes to safety and survival for many children who were to lose their parents in the Holocaust.

Discussion led by Dr Olaf Jensen (Director Stanley Burton Centre).

Ruth David at the opening of the ‘Anne-Frank-Days’, Darmstadt 2010
Imre Rochlitz (London):

**Accident of Fate – A Personal Account**

*Tuesday 25 October 2011 at 17:30*
*Ken Edwards Building Lecture Theatre 2 (KE LT2)*

- Presentation of the book *Accident of Fate* by Imre Rochlitz (with Joseph Rochlitz)
- Comment by Alexander Korb (Stanley Burton Centre)
- Showing a scene from the documentary film *The Righteous Enemy: the story of the Italian resistance to the final solution*, followed by a discussion between director Joseph Rochlitz and Stefanie Rauch (Stanley Burton Centre).

Imre Rochlitz fled from Austria to Yugoslavia when the Nazis annexed the country in 1938. But Yugoslavia was no safer place. In 1941, when German and Italian armies overran the country, local fascists took power in Croatia and his struggle to escape death began. Over the years Austrian and German Nazis, and Croatian and Bosnian Fascists and others tried to take his life. During those same years, Croatians and Serbs, fellow Jews, soldiers of the army of Fascist Italy, and even a Nazi general did what they could to help him survive.
The 19th Annual Elchanan and Miriam Elkes Memorial Lecture

Prof. David Cesarani  
(Royal Holloway, University of London)

Challenging the ‘Myth of Silence’:  
The impact of survivor writers and historians on early post war responses to the destruction of European Jewry

Thursday 27 October 2011 at 17:30  
Ken Edwards Building Lecture Theatre 2 (KE LT2)

Introduction of the speaker by Prof. Kevin Schürer, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) at the University of Leicester

In his talk, David Cesarani will challenge the conventional wisdom that after 1945 Holocaust survivors were silent and that, resulting from incomprehension about what the Holocaust actually was, survivors received shabby treatment everywhere. In contrast, he will demonstrate that Holocaust survivors played a critical part in the construction of an early historiography. His talk will show that thanks to a global effort, numerous memoirs were published which drew attention to the fate of Jews in Eastern Europe. The challenge facing historians is not to explain why there was so little awareness of the Jewish tragedy, but why so much effort had such scant practical results over the following decade.

David Cesarani is Research Professor of History at Royal Holloway, University of London, and former director of research at the Wiener Library, the UK’s largest Holocaust research centre/library. Currently he is director of the Holocaust Research Centre at Royal Holloway. He is the author of numerous books which shaped our understanding of the Holocaust, among others: Eichmann: His Life and Crimes (2006). In 2005, David Cesarani was awarded with the ‘Order of the British Empire’ for his services to Holocaust Education.