

## **Stockton Manahawkin Instructional Site to Host Lecture: 'Children's Play in Holocaust' on Oct. 23**

One of a Series of Free Lectures on Holocaust and Genocide This Fall

### ***For Immediate Release; with photo of Hitzel***

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**Galloway, NJ** – Nick Hitzel, a student at Stockton University, will give a presentation on **Friday, Oct. 23** that explores the psychological, functional and spiritual roles of children's play and games during the Holocaust by examining their roles as forms of therapy, as tools to learn survival skills, and as forms of resistance.

"Children's Play During the Holocaust" will focus on the Warsaw Ghetto, but also visits other ghettos, camps, and children in hiding. The free, public event begins at noon at the university's Manahawkin Instructional Site, 712 East Bay Ave. Attendees are asked to RSVP to 609-626-3883.

Hitzel, a Computer Science Major with a Minor in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, visited sites in Poland, Lithuania and Germany last year on a study tour with Stockton students, faculty and local Holocaust survivors and their families. He said visiting an orphanage founded in Warsaw before the war was an eye-opener. The orphanage is still operating and includes a memorial site.

Hitzel came to Holocaust and Genocide Studies after he took a Holocaust course and realized that much of what he was learning would help in his career goal: developing video games that tell life stories.

He said he has focused a lot on children of the Holocaust and the games they played. These were "a big source of therapy for them under stress," he said, and also introduced them to some tools of survival, by making looking for food into a game, for instance.

The presentation is part of a lecture series on the Holocaust and genocide presented by Stockton students and alumni at the Manahawkin Instructional Site.

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The next lecture will be: "We are the Branches of Jerusalem: Anti-Semitic Film Under the Third Reich," on **Wednesday, Nov. 4**, at 5:30 p.m., presented by Sarah Stout. She is a recent graduate of the Master's of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies (MAHG) program and currently works at The Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton.

This presentation will focus on anti-Semitic feature films released as propaganda during the Third Reich. Experts in Nazi film and propaganda agree that under the control of Joseph Goebbels and the Nazi party, film studios only released four anti-Semitic feature films while nearly 1,000 other propaganda films were released between 1933-1945. Stout will explore this component of Nazi propaganda tactics, as well as view some portions of the films in question.

Later this fall, the site will host two other lectures in the series:

"Breeding the Future Reich - The Nazi Lebensborn," will be presented by Adrienne Parvin on **Thursday, Nov. 19**, at noon. Parvin, a recent graduate of Stockton, is currently enrolled in the university's Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies program.

Beginning in 1935, the Nazi Lebensborn program was created to encourage healthy, "racially fit" men and women to have as many children as possible, in the hopes that these "genetically superior" children would be the future of Adolf Hitler's Thousand-Year Empire. The program was extremely controversial in many ways, particularly in that it encouraged unwed women to have children and also involved the kidnapping of thousands of foreign children who were "Aryanized" and adopted into German homes.

"Upstanders Throughout History" will be presented by Courtney Clemens on **Friday, Dec. 4**, at noon. Clemens is an undergraduate student at Stockton, with a Liberal Arts Major and a Minor in Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

This program will offer a look at the many examples of ordinary people going above and beyond to help others. While offering an insight into many different people who helped save the lives of others, this program will also give those in attendance the chance to see how they can make a difference in their communities.

For more information on activities and classes at the Manahawkin Instructional Site, visit: [Stockton.edu/Manahawkin](http://Stockton.edu/Manahawkin) or call 609-626-3883.

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