

'Teaching about the Holocaust and Genocide,' Published by Stockton University

Book of Essays by Scholars Honors Late President Vera King Farris

For Immediate Release; with photos of book cover and Farris

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Galloway, N.J. - Stockton University today announced a new publication, "Teaching about the Holocaust and Genocide," a book of essays written by former Ida E. King Distinguished Visiting Professors in Holocaust Studies which honors the memory of the late Vera King Farris, Stockton's third president.

"Dr. Farris established one of the nation's first Holocaust Resource Centers and the first master's program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Stockton," said Stockton President Harvey Kesselman. "Her moral leadership, passion for learning and her vision had a profound impact in transforming Stockton and the entire region."

In the book's foreword, Rabbi Aaron Krauss of Temple Beth El in Margate, N.J., explained: "A native of Atlantic City, N.J., Vera was raised by her hard-working mother, Ida E. King," who "understood the importance of education and encouraged her daughter all along the way." When her mother passed away, Farris honored her memory by establishing the Ida E. King Chair of Holocaust Studies.

The book was edited by Carol Rittner, Distinguished Professor of Holocaust & Genocide Studies Emerita, and Dr. Marsha Raticoff Grossman Professor of Holocaust Studies Emerita. Rittner, an internationally known author and expert on the Holocaust and other genocides who has lectured at the United Nations and around the world, was an Ida E. King Scholar in 1994-95.

"Teaching and learning about the Holocaust and other genocides is difficult for teachers and students alike," Rittner says in the book's preface. "Why? Because it requires us constantly to look at the dark side of history, to bear witness for those whose voices have been silenced and whose lives have been laid waste by human blindness, hate, and violence."
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“For those of us who teach and learn about the Holocaust and other genocides, nothing is more important than the realization that genocide is not inevitable,” Rittner continues.

“Not only do students need to learn what the Holocaust and other genocides have to teach, so do we who research and teach this dark side of history,” she says. “If together, we teachers and students can learn what genocide has to teach, I think we will keep teaching and learning – no matter the odds – the importance of trying to heal wounded human relationships and to mend the world. At least, that is my hope.”

The book is divided into four parts, each written by an international scholar who has served as an Ida E. King Visiting Scholar:

- Part I: “Why Do We Teach,” contains essays by Mordecai Paldiel, Yehuda Bauer and Henry R. Huttenbach.
- Part II: “What Do We Teach,” is written by Joyce Apsey, Paul R. Bartrop, Hubert G. Locke, Paul Mojzes, Patrick Henry and Carol Rittner.
- Part III: “How Do We Teach,” contains essays by Elizabeth Baer, Robert Skloot, Dalia Ofer and Lawrence Baron.
- Part IV: “Who Do We Teach,” is by Michael Berenbaum, Myrna Goldenberg and Nili Keren.

The introduction by G. Jan Colijn, retired dean of the School of General Studies, explains how by starting the Holocaust and Genocide Studies program, Farris “brought the institution to the attention of others, ranging from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., to Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.”

“The Jewish Community and the civic community-at-large in Southern New Jersey owe Dr. Farris a debt of gratitude for her educational leadership and excellent relationship with many different ethnic and racial communities,” Rabbi Krauss says in the book’s foreword.

The book is dedicated to Gail Hirsch Rosenthal, director, Maryann McLoughlin, assistant supervisor, and the executive committee of The Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton, “in appreciation for your commitment to teaching about the Holocaust and Genocide.”

For more information, visit Stockton University’s Holocaust and Genocides Studies [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) programs and The [Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center](#).

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