

The Walter Sommers Annual Lecture: Judith Gerson on German Jewish Refugees and Holocaust Memory



Thousands of Jewish refugees from Germany fled their homeland during the early years of the Third Reich and resettled in the United States before the end of World War II. This lecture focuses on how these refugees understood the Holocaust and remembered their past. Relying on memoirs, testimonies, diaries, and letters as evidence, Judith grapples with how Jewish refugees from Germany simultaneously remembered and forgot their catastrophic past, even as many recognized their good fortune of becoming Americans.

Professor Judith Gerson is on the faculties of Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and an affiliate faculty in Jewish Studies. During the 2017-2018 academic year, she served as the Ina Levine Senior Invitational Scholar at the Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. She is author of numerous articles on identity and collective memory, the co-editor of *Sociology Confronts the Holocaust*, and the author of the forthcoming *By Thanksgiving We Were Americans: German Jewish Refugees Remember the Holocaust*. Most importantly perhaps, she is the niece of Louise and Walter Sommers, and it is in her uncle's honor that she is speaking at CANDLES.

This event is free and
open to the public.

Books will be available
for purchase at the event.

**Saturday, September 15th
6:30pm - 8:00pm EST**

Join us for a reception with light refreshments after the event.



CANDLES HOLOCAUST MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER

1532 South Third Street
Terre Haute, IN 47802

www.candlesholocaustmuseum.org

812.234.7881