



Cohen Center for Holocaust
and Genocide Studies
KEENE STATE COLLEGE

2023

KRISTALLNACHT REMEMBRANCE

NOV.
9

Cohen Hall at the Keene
Public Library | 5:30 p.m.

Tonight's Program

Local congregations across Keene will ring their bells for two minutes to signify the start of this event. Participating churches include: The United Church of Christ in Keene, St. James Episcopal Church, and Keene Unitarian Universalist Church.

BLOWING OF THE SHOFAR

Jacob Friedman '24, *Student, Keene High School*

WHY WE ARE GATHERED

Dr. Kate DeConinck, *Director, Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies*

VOICES FROM THE PAST

Erin Bennett '26, *Student, Keene State College*
and Tom White, *Coordinator of Educational Outreach, Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies*

EL MALEI RACHAMIM

Rabbi Daniel Aronson, *Congregation Ahavas Achim*

“Exalted, compassionate God, grant perfect repose beneath Your sheltering presence, among the holy and pure, whose radiance is like that of the heavens, to the souls of our brothers and sisters who perished in the Shoah—men, women, and children of the House of Israel who were slaughtered, suffocated, and burned to ashes, who gave up their lives in affirmation of Your holy name—and to the souls of Righteous Gentiles and other human beings who perished with them. Let Eden be their resting place. May You, Source of Mercy, protect them in Your loving embrace. May their souls be bound up in the bond of life, God, who is their inheritance. May they rest in peace. And let us say: Amen.”

CANDLE LIGHTING

For Victims of Nazism

Allyson Guertin, *Jewish Federation of New Hampshire*,
and Dr. Dottie Morris, *Associate Vice President for Institutional
Equity and Diversity, Keene State College*

For the Children

Benjamin Greenwald and Chander Archunaraj, *Keene Interact*

For Refugees

Lochan Sharma '27, *Student, Keene State College*
and Chuda Mishra, *Keene International Market*

For Righteous Among the Nations

Kati Preston, *Hidden Child from Hungary*

For Targets of Hate

Frank Knaack, *ACLU of New Hampshire*, and Adam Toepfer, *Keene Pride*

For Our Community

Mohammad Saleh, *Monadnock Diversity Equity and Inclusion Coalition*,
Monadnock Interfaith Project, and *Keene Human Rights Committee*,
and Daniel Smith, *Keene Family YMCA and Monadnock Diversity
Equity and Inclusion Coalition*

The following individuals will offer statements on behalf of their department or organization:

Dr. Kate DeConinck, *Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies*
Chief Donald Farquhar, *City of Keene Fire Department*
Chief Steven Stewart, *City of Keene Police Department*
Ritu Budakoti, *Keene Human Rights Committee*
and Rev. Cindy Bagley, *Monadnock Interfaith Project and the
United Church of Christ in Keene*

Tonight's Program (cont.)

COMMUNITY PLEDGE

Led by Tom White, *Coordinator of Educational Outreach, Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies*

"We remember that night as a moral obligation to the victims and the survivors as well as for ourselves, for the sake of our children, and for our community.

We recognize our responsibility to care for others in our midst who might be overlooked, targeted, or victimized in their circumstances.

We remember so that individuals may refuse to become perpetrators, "bystanders" or collaborators.

We remember in the hope that present and future generations take responsibility for building a world free of antisemitism, bigotry, intolerance, and hate.

Therefore, we remember Kristallnacht to remind ourselves to care for one another, to build peace, and be a community in which compassion, respect and justice thrive."

ANI MA'AMIN

Lainee Ginsberg, *Congregation Ahavas Achim*

Ani Ma'amin means "I believe" and it refers to the belief that one day the "messianic era" will come. It is based on one of the thirteen principles of Jewish faith according to Moses Maimonides, the tune is described as a somber melody, and it was written during the Holocaust (the composer unknown). According to popular legend, Reb Azriel David Fastag was divinely inspired to sing this song on a train headed to Treblinka. A fellow captive jumped out of the train and escaped, eventually teaching the tune to Modzitzer Rebbe, Rabbi Shaul Yedidya Elazar.

About the 2023 Kristallnacht Series

Each year, the Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies partners with other local organizations to organize an event to mark the anniversary of Kristallnacht.

On November 9-10, 1938, Nazi leaders fueled a series of pogroms targeting the Jewish population in Germany and other recently incorporated territories. This event is commonly known as the “Night of Broken Glass” because of the shattered glass that littered the streets after the vandalism and destruction of synagogues and Jewish-owned businesses and homes. During these pogroms, at least 91 Jews were killed, 7,000 Jewish businesses were destroyed, 900 synagogues were set on fire, and 30,000 Jewish men were deported to concentration camps. Jewish women were also the targets of sexual assault, rape, and other forms of violence.

As many historians have noted, Kristallnacht represented an important turning point in National Socialist antisemitic policies and the path to genocide. Many German civilians were passive bystanders as the violence unfolded around them, which signaled to the Nazi regime that they could proceed with more radical measures.



Germans pass by the broken shop window of a Jewish owned business destroyed during Kristallnacht in 1938.

About the 2023 Kristallnacht Series (cont.)

This year, we are holding a “Kristallnacht Series” to promote deeper community conversation and thinking about the significance of this historical event and its contemporary relevance. The focus of tonight’s Kristallnacht Remembrance is remembrance (remembering the events of 1938 and those who were affected) and community values (recommitting ourselves to being a community that stands against violence and hatred).

We also invite you to join us on Tuesday, November 14 for our 2023 Kristallnacht Lecture. This talk will feature Suzanne Hampel OAM, Co-President of the Melbourne Holocaust Museum. Hampel will deliver a lecture titled “Australia’s Response to the Holocaust” that will trace how Australians responded to Kristallnacht and other key events during and after the Holocaust. You can learn more and register by visiting: **giving.keene.edu/2023_kristallnacht_lecture**

Hampel will also deliver a special lecture, co-sponsored by the Cohen Center and Congregation Ahavas Achim, on Wednesday, November 15 entitled “The Long Campaign for Indigenous Rights in Australia”. Details and information about how to register can be found at: **registration.keenesynagogue.org/Nov152023SpecialEvent**

Finally, our friends at the Keene Public Library are hosting a special Kristallnacht display in their main lobby through Thursday, November 16. We hope you’ll continue learning about Kristallnacht by perusing this display of books and resources.

Inspired by the **Foundation Stones project** in the U.K., we are

Please consider decorating a stone and taking a moment to speak

With Gratitude

Many individuals have contributed their talents and time to the behind-the-scenes planning of this event. The Cohen Center team—Dr. Kate DeConinck, Tom White, and Michele Kuiawa—wish to express special gratitude to the following partners:

ACLU of New Hampshire,
*especially Gilles Bissonnette,
Ed Taylor, Devon Chaffee, Jason
Green, and Frank Knaack*

The Cohen Center for Holocaust
& Genocide Studies 40th
Anniversary Committee:
*Jessica Bigaj, Jan Cohen,
Stephanie Flaherty, Sylvia
McBeth, Susan Newcomer,
Dr. Celia Rabinowitz, Marilyn
Shriver, and Daniella Yitzchak*

The Colonial Theatre,
especially Vicky Pittman

Congregation Ahavas Achim,
*especially Rabbi Daniel Aronson,
Daniella Yitzchak, and Laine
Ginsberg*

Dr. Dana Smith and Keene
State students

Keene Interact,
especially Ranae O'Neil

Keene Public Library,
*especially Marti Fiske and
Colleen Swider*

KSC Marketing &
Communications Office,
*especially Katie Arsenault
and Paul Miller*

Monadnock Interfaith Project,
*especially Tom Julius, Angela
Pape, and Rev. Cindy Bagley*

And, a huge thanks to all of the community members, local leaders, and students who participated in this event itself by offering readings, prayer and song, and other statements as representatives of their groups/organizations!



Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies
229 Main Street, Keene, NH 03435

The Cohen Center is still accepting sponsorships for its
40th anniversary programs! To learn more, please visit
giving.keene.edu/cchgs-40th