

Holocaust Reading Room and Study Center

Dedicated in 2007, the Schwab Family Holocaust Reading Room in the Penn State Harrisburg library is a visible centerpiece for the first research and outreach center devoted to Holocaust and Jewish studies in the region. The center sponsors public programming, develops special collections, and promotes educational opportunities in Holocaust and Jewish studies.

The Reading Room, community and University focal point for Holocaust education, is the result of a generous donation from Harrisburg resident Linda Schwab and the late Morris Schwab. It is located on the library's first floor, and also serves as a resource for preservation of local connections to the Holocaust.



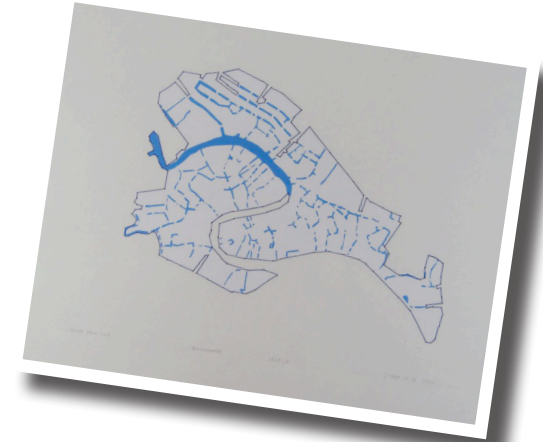
The Reading Room includes materials from Penn State Harrisburg's extensive Holocaust and Genocide Collection of books and other media, now totaling more than 1,000 titles, and provides space for gallery presentations of art and documents of the Holocaust and Jewish experience. The collection is the largest specifically devoted to Holocaust studies in Central Pennsylvania.

The room's video and audio recordings of survivors, liberators, and witnesses in Central Pennsylvania allow visitors to learn about local connections to the Holocaust, while special collections, exhibits, documents, and oral histories provide additional perspectives. The room's collection continues to grow as interviews and documents of Central Pennsylvania survivors, their children, and liberators are added with ongoing special projects and coursework.

Information: harrisburg.psu.edu/chjs

ERUVIM: HERE AND THERE, THEN AND NOW

An eruv is a symbolic Jewish boundary that embraces a neighborhood. Jews who follow rabbinic law refrain from performing certain activities on the Sabbath, the day of rest. One of those rules forbids carrying things from public to private spaces. In practice, this prohibits parents from carrying children or pushing strollers to either a synagogue or a friend's house for lunch.



Of course, a parent can carry their own children in their own house. But what about in their yard? Well, if there is a fence around the yard then the outdoor space is clearly part of the private home. Suppose that their neighbor also has a fence. If there is a gate between the two properties, then both properties can be thought of as within one larger fence and therefore as one blended home. This fenced-in area is an eruv.

The images shown here are maps of eruvin (the Hebrew plural of eruv) that embrace large neighborhoods blending many houses into one communal home on the Sabbath. But instead of building a fence around a neighborhood, something quite impractical, rabbinic law allows a wire to be stretched around the neighborhood. This line becomes a symbolic "fence" that does not in fact stop anyone one from coming and going. In these paintings, the silhouette of each shape is stitched with blue thread to emulate that wire.

This law is followed all over the world and has been for thousands of years. Here and there, then and now.

Catalogue of the Exhibition

1. Sharon Eruv 2007
2. Venice Eruv 2007
3. Tel Aviv Eruv 2012
4. Teaneck Eruv 2007
5. Sydney Eruv 2007
6. Vancouver Eruv 2012
7. Five Towns 2010
8. Staten Island Eruv 2012
9. Philadelphia I 2010
10. Philadelphia Eruv 2010
11. Krakow 1898 2014

About the Artist:



Ben Schachter

Ben Schachter is professor of visual arts at Saint Vincent College. His artwork explores the relationship between Jewish laws, customs and contemporary art. His work has been shown at Yale University, the Jewish Museum, Yeshiva University Museum and throughout the United States. Currently he is working on a book titled “Jewish Art Theory.” He lives in Pittsburgh with his wife and four children.

This exhibition is part of programming organized by the Penn State Harrisburg Center for Holocaust and Jewish Studies under the direction of Dr. Anthony Bak Buccitelli. The Center acknowledges the support of Dr. Mukund Kulkarni, chancellor, Penn State Harrisburg; Dr. Kathryn Robinson, director of the School of Humanities, Penn State Harrisburg; Dr. Gregory Crawford, library director, Penn State Harrisburg; Irwin and Nancy Aronson, Dr. Madlyn Hanes, Neil Leifert, Kurt and Doris Moses, Linda Schwab, Harry Yaverbaum, and Eileen Zagon.

Lead Scholar: Dr. Simon J. Bronner

Curator: Katie Holmes

Administrative Support: Rachel Dean

Graphics: Sharon Siegfried

Website: harrisburg.psu.edu/chjs