



Pitt

New Hillman Library Exhibit Chronicles Holocaust-era French Jews

Friday, July 26, 2019



David L. Rosenberg (MLS '89), a French historian and retired labor collections archivist at Hillman Library, has a new installation on display at the ground floor entrance of the library, chronicling the experience of French Jews in Amiens during the Holocaust. The exhibit, called "Who is a Jew?" features photographs and text. It ran at Temple Emmanuel of the South Hills in 2018 and more recently at the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh.

Rosenberg said his 20 years working in the Pitt archives helped shape his approach to this "retirement project," as he called it, which "has been very gratifying."

"Personalizing and humanizing the lives of otherwise obscure or un-remembered people was an orientation and a practice I continued to hone while working at Pitt's Archives Service Center," he explained, which included chronicling the photo ID cards of about 10,000 World War II-era steelworkers at U.S. Steel's National Works in McKeesport, as part of the Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania Labor Legacy Project.

After Rosenberg was gifted a book on the history of the French city of Amiens which cited his 1974 dissertation from Yale, his interest in the experience of French Jews was reignited. "I'm very interested in not privileging certain stories over others," he said.

In October of 2017, this work led Amiens city officials to install a plaque at the site of the war-era synagogue, acknowledging what had happened there. Rosenberg was also named knight of the order of arts and letters by the French culture ministry.

The exhibit is open to the public and will be displayed at Hillman Library through August 30.



University of Pittsburgh

University of Pittsburgh
Office of Communications
200 South Craig Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

412-648-0261
pittwire.pitt.edu

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