

This week and next at Colby College in Waterville. What an inspiring array of offerings and educational opportunities. All are invited.

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America, Nuova Terra Promessa: Italian Jews in the New Promised Land

 [Pontecorboli](#)

Gianna Pontecorboli

Tuesday, March 31 / 7:00 pm / Lovejoy 215

After the racial laws severely limiting the rights of the Jewish minority were first passed by Mussolinis government in 1938, a small group of Italian Jews made their way to the United States in search of safety. The group included university professors, doctors, lawyers, scientists, journalists, artists and housewives. Many came from well-off families and were forced to completely re-establish themselves when they arrived in the New World. When she came to the US in the 1970s, the Italian journalist Gianna Pontecorboli, spurred by the memories of her own American uncle, began to look into this group of immigrants and to interview all the survivors she could find. Ms. Pontecorboli will discuss her research by presenting several video clips of interviews, followed by a short presentation of the important conclusions of her book, *America: Nuova Terra Promessa* (America: the New Promised Land), and a question and answer session.

The French and the Jews during the Holocaust: Persecution, Resistance, and Rescue

 [Wieviorka-Olivier](#)

Olivier Wieviorka (cole normale suprieure de Cachan, Paris)

Thursday, April 2 / 7:00 pm / Ostrove Auditorium, Diamond Building

The Berger Family Holocaust Lecture

Although French Jewry was persecuted both by the German occupiers and the collaborating Vichy government, 75% of French Jewry were saved by the French despite the great indifference of the Resistance movement and of the Free French. This lecture will deal with this paradoxical situation. After briefly recalling the anti-Semitic policy followed by the Vichy state, the lecture will deal above all with the attitudes of the French resistance movements and of the French population, showing both the prevalence of the anti-Semitic legacy of the interwar period and the shock created by the great rounds-up of Jews in 1942.

And, next week...

Stolen Borders: Jewish Illegal Immigration to the United States in the Era of Immigration Quotas

 [Garland](#)

Libby Garland, Kingsborough Community College, The City University of New York

Wednesday, April 8 / 4:00 pm / Pugh Center, Cotter Union

In 1921 and 1924, the United States passed laws to sharply reduce the influx of immigrants into the country. In this talk, Libby Garland will share some of the dramatic tales she has uncovered of Jewish immigrants who came to the United States despite the new laws. Some paid smugglers to sneak them over the border; others entered at major seaports with fake documents purchased abroad. Garland will explore the meanings such illegal immigration had for Jews and others at the time, as well as share some thoughts about how this history provides important perspective on present-day debates around immigration.

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