



Judaic Studies Program

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Ukraine: The Holocaust by Bullets

An Interview with Father Patrick Desbois

Thursday, February 28, 2008 | 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Kovens Conference Center | FIU Biscayne Bay Campus
3000 NE 151st Street, North Miami, Florida | 305-919-5000

During World War II, an estimated 1.5 million Jewish men, women, and children were brutally murdered in Ukraine. Their killers—Germans, Axis collaborators, and local Ukrainians—carried this out not in the gas chambers of Poland, but by bullets in tiny villages across Ukraine. This program addresses the fate of Jews buried in mass graves across Ukraine through the lens of Father Patrick Desbois, interviewer of surviving eyewitnesses and participants in mass shootings in that country. His team from Yahad–In Unum has investigated 700 of an estimated 2,000 mass graves, and his work has been extensively assisted by the archival materials at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

This program has been organized by the **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies**. The Museum thanks Deanie and Jay Stein and the Morris Family foundation for their support of this program. This presentation of the program is co-sponsored by The Holocaust Memorial–Miami Beach and the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation.



FATHER PATRICK DESBOIS is the president of Yahad–In Unum, which was co-founded by the Archbishop of Paris and the head of the World Jewish Congress to promote Jewish-Catholic dialogue, joint social relief programs, and common moral values throughout Europe. In addition to serving since 2003 as an adviser to the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, he is also a member of the board of the French Judeo-Christian Friendship Society. The Museum is holding its annual Tribute Dinner, April 30, in honor of Father Desbois for his extraordinary work on preserving Holocaust memory.



PAUL A. SHAPIRO, Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, interviews Father Desbois in this program. A member of the Congressionally mandated Interagency Working Group on Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records, he also serves on the Academic Advisory Committee of the Center for Jewish History in New York. Most recently he was instrumental in the Museum's successful effort to open the archive of the International Tracing Service in Bad Arolsen, Germany, the world's largest and last major inaccessible collection of Holocaust-related records.