

**THE 2013
GENOCIDE AWARENESS LECTURE**
Wednesday, March 6, 2013, 7 p.m.



**Rape, Religion, and Genocide
by Dr. Carol Rittner, RSM**

*Sponsored by the Cohen Center for Holocaust and
Genocide Studies at Keene State College*

www.keene.edu/cchs

Keene
STATE COLLEGE

Wisdom to make a difference.

KEENE STATE COLLEGE
Cohen Center for Holocaust
and Genocide Studies

229 Main Street, Keene, NH 03435-3201
603-358-2490 FAX 603-358-2948



Keene
STATE COLLEGE

Wisdom to make a difference.

The Genocide Awareness Lecture

Since the post-Holocaust declaration of “Never again!” the world has witnessed a number of genocidal actions that remind us that the work of remembrance is tied to the work of vigilance. And vigilance leads to the active acceptance of human responsibility for others outside our immediate domain. That lesson is directly rooted in the founding purpose of the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies: “To remember...and to teach.”

The Genocide Awareness Lecture is an annual event designed to encourage people of good will and conscience to give vigilant, public attention to our still genocidal world. The lecture features experts who can initiate thoughtful reflection and responsible engagement with the mass violence and perpetration of human atrocity that continue to hold others in our world hostage, fearful for their lives and for the lives of their children.

When we remember what happened in the Holocaust, we realize that one of the reasons genocide was possible was that the Third Reich drew the boundaries of its universe of moral obligation to exclude the Jewish people. Likewise, it excluded the Sinti and Roma peoples, Slavs, and others whom Nazi ideology deemed “unworthy of life.” Our lecture tonight underscores the abiding importance of this root feature of the genocidal mind. When genocide occurs, victims are selected because they are members of a group or population that the dominant group excludes from its universe of moral obligation.

To interrupt genocide, we must disrupt our complacent acceptance of the status quo to focus on the realities of those who live beyond our immediate concern. All human beings count in our moral universe. While this lecture series on genocide awareness does not prescribe any specific program of individual or social action or assume any single framework of meaning, it challenges each of us to draw our boundaries of moral concern inclusively and initiates an ongoing conversation about the value and the place of others in our world.

Henry F. Knight, Director
Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies
Keene State College

Dr. Carol Rittner

Carol Rittner RSM, an American member of the Sisters of Mercy, a Roman Catholic order of nuns founded in Ireland in the 1830s, is currently Distinguished Professor of Holocaust & Genocide Studies and the Dr. Marsha Radicoff Grossman Professor of Holocaust Studies at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey (USA), where she has taught since 1994.



Dr. Rittner is the recipient of Stockton College's Ida E. King Medallion (1996) for outstanding scholarship and international service to the human community. In November 2000, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge awarded her the Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania medal. In June 2008, Dr. Rittner was honored by the Conference for Mercy Higher Education, a consortium of 16 Mercy colleges and universities, with the Mercy Higher Education Award.

Dr. Rittner has worked with Nobel Peace Laureate Elie Wiesel, first at the US Holocaust Memorial Council (USHMC) in Washington, DC, and later when Professor Wiesel invited her to serve as Director of the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity in New York City. As part of this work, she organized several international conferences in the US and in such locations as France, Norway, Israel, and Northern Ireland. Dr. Rittner served as Executive Producer for two documentary films based on the experiences of some of these conferences' participants: *The Courage to Care* was nominated for a 1986 Academy Award in the Short Documentary Film category, and *The Triumph of Memory* won a number of awards, including a Golden Globe.

She is the author or editor of numerous publications including various scholarly and educational journals about the Holocaust and other genocides of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Her most recent publications include *The Holocaust and the Christian World; Will Genocide Ever End?* and *Learn Teach Prevent: Holocaust Education in the 21st Century*. *Rape: Weapon of War and Genocide*, published in September 2012, is a comparative study of sexual violence as a weapon of genocide.
