

# Commemorating The Holocaust

**A lecture by Dr. Shay Pilnik, Executive Director  
The Nathan & Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center  
Milwaukee Jewish Federation**

**Monday January 27, 2020 7:00 PM  
At The Polish Center of Wisconsin  
Free and Open to the Public**

The United Nations General Assembly in November 2005 designated January 27th - the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau - as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. On this day we commemorate the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and all the other victims of Nazism. Of the 6,000,000 Jewish victims, 3,000,000 were citizens of Poland. Almost a tenth of the population in 1939.

"The Holocaust of European Jewry, also known in Hebrew as the Shoah, is one of the darkest moments in the history of mankind and an event that continues to influence, define and re-define the way we see and understand the world we all inhabit. As we temporally draw farther and farther from the events of the Holocaust - the genocidal, systematic process through which six million Jews were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators - they seem to continue to loom only larger and larger in our world and remain with us as both a painful memory and a warning for posterity." - Dr. Pilnik

**Join Dr. Shay Pilnik for a conversation on the Holocaust and the key terms associated with what has become over the last two decades an independent academic field of study, and explore with him the major milestones on the road that led, from the young Adolf Hitler's early letters and speeches to the introduction of industrial murder at Auschwitz and other death camps.**



#### **About Dr. Shay Pilnik**

Dr. Shay Pilnik earned his Bachelor's degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, majoring in Comparative Literature and Jewish Thought. He continued his academic training at McGill University in Montreal, where he graduated with an MA in Jewish Studies, specializing in East European Jewish Culture. In the fall of 2005, he began a Ph.D. program at the Jewish Theological Seminary in the field of Modern Jewish Studies. He defended his doctoral dissertation in the spring of 2013, dealing with the commemoration of the Babi Yar Massacre in Soviet Russian and Yiddish literature. From 2008-2014, he was an adjunct instructor at the Universities of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Oshkosh, lecturing on a variety of topics including modern Jewish history, the Holocaust, and the religions of the world.



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