

THE Zekelman HOLOCAUST CENTER

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The Zekelman Holocaust Center to Host Virtual Program ‘Love, Lies and Justice on the Trail of a Nazi Fugitive’ on Oct. 30

Award-winning author Philippe Sands will delve into the life and mysterious death of Baron Otto von Wächter – a devoted Nazi and man on the run

Farmington Hills, Mich., Oct. 10 2022 – [The Zekelman Holocaust Center](#) (The HC) is hosting a virtual program on Sun., Oct. 30 at 2:30 p.m. about the life and death of Baron Otto von Wächter, based on Philippe Sands’ successful BBC radio podcast, *The Ratline*. Pieced together through two decades of family correspondence, the tale of Wächter’s life and years evading justice as a devoted Nazi and man on the run will be told during a live virtual discussion with Sands.

Philippe Sands is a human rights lawyer and Baillie Gifford Prize-winning author of *The Ratline: Love, Lies and Justice on the Trail of a Nazi Fugitive*. A practicing barrister at Matrix Chambers, Sands appears frequently as counsel before the International Court of Justice and other international courts and tribunals, and sits as an international arbitrator. A CNN and BBC World Service contributor, he is also Professor of Laws and Director of the Centre on International Courts and Tribunals at University College London.

“Philippe Sands and his colleagues were able to uncover a great deal of information regarding the mysterious life and death of devoted Nazi Baron Otto von Wächter as he evaded justice for years,” said Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, CEO, The Zekelman Holocaust Center. “His insights and research should provide for a very informative and spirited virtual discussion.”

Sands and his contemporaries uncovered key details about Wächter’s life and family history by studying an archive of letters, diaries and other materials that were produced over the course of the tumultuous years between 1929 and 1949. A tale of Nazi lives, mass murder, love, Cold War espionage, a mysterious death in the Vatican and the Nazi escape route to Argentina, *The Ratline* delves into the life and mysterious death of Otto von Wächter.

The community partners for the event are the Michigan State University History Department and the Michael and Elaine Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel at MSU. Program Supporters include the PNC Foundation, Robin & Leo Eisenberg, Susan & David Feber, Barbara & Edward Klarman, Stewart Shear, Sara Guyer & Scott Straus, Shelley & Joel Tauber, and Stacey & Marc Wittenberg.

Registration for the virtual program is available at [HolocaustCenter.org/October](https://holocaustcenter.org/October)

About The Zekelman Holocaust Center

The Zekelman Holocaust Center (The HC) is a 55,000-square foot museum and library archive in Farmington Hills that teaches about the senseless murder of millions and why each of us must respect and stand up for the rights of others if we are to prevent future genocide and hate crimes.

The lessons of history are used to create a call to action, teaching visitors through the examples of those who risked their lives to save others, and asking our guests to react to contemporary challenges such as racism and prejudice.

Exhibits include artifacts such as an authentic WWII-era boxcar, video testimonies, films, paintings, and a sapling from the tree located outside Anne Frank's hiding place window that is described in her diary.

A national leader in innovative genocide education, The Zekelman Holocaust Center serves over 100,000 Michiganders each year and is an important resource for teachers, academics and the media.

Hours: Sunday through Thursday 9:30 am to 5:00 pm and Friday 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. The last admission is one hour before closing. Wheelchair accessible. Free parking. For additional information, visit www.holocaustcenter.org or call 248-553-2400.

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