



## NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## UNO professor offers program on genocide

Moshe Gershovich, professor of history at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, has joined the Nebraska Humanities Council Speakers Bureau. He offers the one-hour program “Confronting Genocide: What Can We Learn from the Past?”

According to Gershovich, the concept of “genocide” was framed after the end of World War II as a direct consequence of the Nazi Holocaust and other mass atrocities of the time. Nearly seven decades later, the pledge that “never again” should such horrific events occur seems hollow as new cases of genocide continue to occur. In the face of mass murder in places like Bosnia, Rwanda, and Darfur, Gershovich discusses such questions as how Americans in the Midwest should react. What can we do? Is it possible to devise an “early warning system” that may preempt and prevent future genocide? How will such an endeavor affect our foreign policy?

Gershovich’s offering is especially timely with Opera Omaha’s upcoming performance of “Brundibar,” on Nov. 7 at 6:30 p.m. at The Rose Theater. “Brundibar” is a musical fable first performed by the Jewish inmates of the Terezín concentration camp during World War II. For its original creators, cast, and audience, the opera rang out with a defiant and hidden meaning that a united community can triumph over evil. In cooperation with the Institute for Holocaust Education and grant assistance from the NHC, in addition to its Nov. 7 performance, the “Brundibar” story will also reach Omaha middle school students through special weekday performances.

The performance of “Brundibar” coincides with Omaha’s hosting of the annual National Humanities Conference, held for the first time in Nebraska, Nov. 6-8.

Gershovich also offers two other programs through NHC’s speakers bureau:

**“Land of the Extreme West: Deciphering Morocco.”** The North African kingdom of Morocco was the first to recognize the young American republic shortly after its declaration of independence. The two countries have been close allies since then, yet most Americans know very little of Morocco. Moroccan history goes back a millennium and the dynasty that rules Morocco dates back to the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century, yet the country regained its independence less than 60 years ago. This presentation introduces key aspects of the rich history and culture of Morocco and explores its current challenges and place in the world.

**“Israel and Palestine: Making Sense of a Never Ending Conflict.”** No other international conflict in modern history has gained as much attention as the dispute over Israel and Palestine. This conflict lies at the heart of the broader crisis in the Middle East, a region of utmost importance to the United States and the world. This presentation offers key concepts and interpretive insights to make sense of the headlines and contextualize media sound bites. It considers the nature of the special ties between Israel and the United States and explores ideas to restore peace and coexistence in the Holy Land.

NHC speakers bureau programs are available to any Nebraska nonprofit organization for a processing fee of \$50 (\$35 for schools with at least half their students in the free and reduced lunch program.) For more information about speakers bureau programming or to book a speaker visit [www.nebraskahumanities.org](http://www.nebraskahumanities.org) and click on Speakers & Resources or call NHC at (402) 474-2131. For information about “Brundibar” tickets visit [www.operaomaha.org](http://www.operaomaha.org).

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