

Latin American Jewry Series

Exploring the Jewish Experience in the Americas



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the **Judaic Studies Program**
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Present the lecture

LIVES IN THE BALANCE: FDR, General Trujillo and the Dominican Republic Settlement Association, 1940-1941

Allen Wells, PhD
Bowdoin College

Thursday, November 12, 2009
FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus
Green Library, Room 220
12:30 pm

The U.S. government was initially supportive of the Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo's offer to accept 100,000 Central European Jews in July 1938. As the first thirty-seven settlers arrived on the north coast of the island in May 1940, the Dominican and U.S. governments began to back away from their ringing endorsements of the proposed farming settlement at Sosúa on the island's north coast. The succession of lightning-quick German victories throughout Western Europe during the last six weeks of spring 1940 fed State Department fears of Nazi infiltration into the Americas. Washington's refusal to take any Jewish refugees from German-occupied territory and its insistence on vetting each and every would-be colonist placed the settlement in jeopardy from the outset and ensured that the initial offer of 100,000 refugees would never become a reality.

Event is free and open to the public
For more information, call LACC at 305-348-2894



Allen Wells is the Roger Howell Jr. Professor of History at Bowdoin College. He is the author of *Yucatán's Gilded Age: Haciendas, Henequen, and International Harvester, 1860–1915*; and *Tropical Zion: General Trujillo, FDR, and the Jews of Sosúa*; a co-author of *Summer of Discontent, Seasons of Upheaval: Elite Politics and Rural Rebellion in Yucatán, 1876–1915*; and a co-editor of *The Second Conquest of Latin America: Coffee, Henequen, and Oil during the Export Boom, 1850–1930*.