

Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series

School of International and Public Affairs | College of Arts & Sciences

The Wonder of Their Voices The 1946 Holocaust Interviews of David Boder

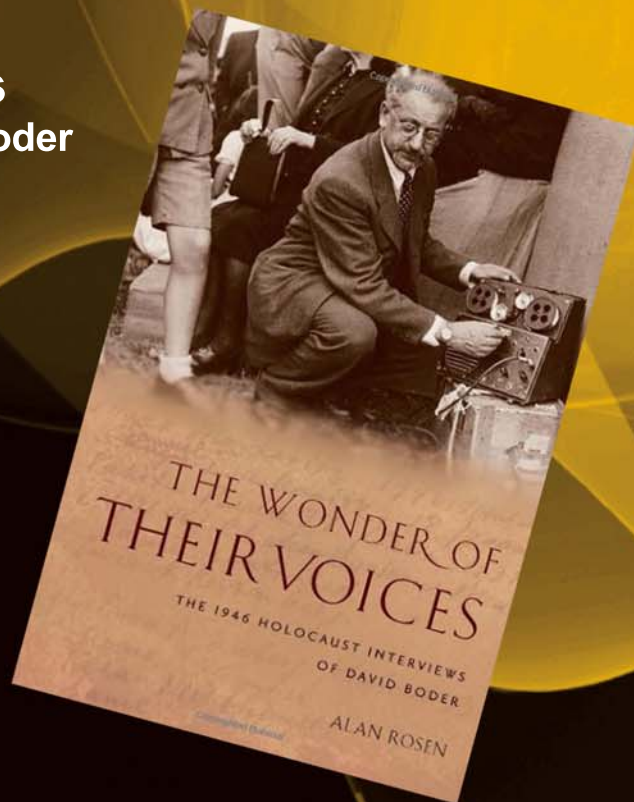
with **Alan Rosen**

Wednesday, February 23, 2011 | 11 AM

FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus
MARC International Pavilion
11200 SW 8th Street, Miami

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FIU Judaic Studies Program
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Over the last several decades, video testimony with aging Holocaust survivors has brought these witnesses into the limelight. Yet the success of these projects has made it seem that little survivor testimony took place in earlier years. In truth, thousands of survivors began to recount their experience at the earliest opportunity. Alan Rosen's recent book *The Wonder of Their Voices* provides the first full-length case study of early postwar Holocaust testimony.

Dr. Rosen's work focuses on psychologist David Boder's 1946 displaced persons interview project. In July 1946, Boder traveled to Europe to interview victims of the Holocaust who were in the Displaced Persons camps and what he called "shelter houses." During his nine weeks in Europe, Boder carried out approximately 130 interviews in nine languages and recorded them on a wire recorder.

Alan Rosen sets Boder's project in the context of the postwar response to displaced persons, sketches the dramatic background of his previous life and work, chronicles in detail the evolving process of interviewing both Jewish and non-Jewish DPs, and examines from several angles the implications for the history of Holocaust testimony.

Alan Rosen earned his Ph.D. in literature and religion at Boston University where he studied under the supervision of renowned Holocaust survivor, Nobel Peace Prize winner, and Founding Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council Elie Wiesel. He has taught Holocaust literature at colleges and universities in Israel and the United States, as well as at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies (Jerusalem, Israel).