**Session Descriptions**

**Not Just a Bunch of Thugs! – Barry A. Kosmin**

This lecture will cover a largely unreported fact, that the Nazis controlled the German universities before they controlled the streets of the major cities, the government and the military.  Nazism and its ideology of creating a *Germeinschaft Volk*via “racial science” had an appeal in many  elite professional, scientific, intellectual and cultural circles.

**The Future of Holocaust Memory - Avinoam J. Patt**

Both during and after the Holocaust, the commandment *Zakhor* (remember), became a sacred duty for survivors of the Shoah. Jewish victims and survivors played a central role in creating documentation projects, offering testimony, writing memoirs, and sharing memories of wartime experiences out of an obligation to those who did not survive, in order to bear witness to the crimes perpetrated by the Nazis, and to ensure that future generations would work to prevent such atrocities from ever happening again. But the meaning of that memory has evolved over the past 75 years. With the passing of the last living eyewitness to the Shoah, how and what will we remember in the future?

**My Experience as a USC Shoah Interviewer – Louise Bobrow**

Louise will speak to the group about her experiences as an interviewer.  She will discuss how she became involved with the Shoah Foundation, her training to prepare for interviews, and what it was like to conduct an interview. While all of the interviews had a big impact upon her life, she will highlight a few of them and how they affected her personally as well as her continued relationships with some of the interviewees.  She will speak about the importance of preserving these testimonies for future generations.

**Safekeeping Stories – Jill Sarkozi**

You feel responsible for preserving and sharing the story of your survivor family member, but sit down to put some words on a page and you may feel overwhelmed, frustrated, regretful, or hopeless. Where do you begin? How do you create something that is meaningful with the limited time and energy you have? In this Session, you’ll learn the small but necessary steps that will move your family story project forward and the impact writing a family story has on the well-being of your family now and for the generations to come.

**So, You Want to Write a Book? -** Dr. Robert Mandel

This session will talk about how to get a Holocaust manuscript published. As a publisher, Mandel Vilar Press receives numerous manuscript submissions every week. About 20% of these submissions are Holocaust related. More than 50% of the authors who send their manuscripts to us make simple errors that drastically reduce their chances of getting the attention and interest of the Editor or Publisher. My talk will focus on what to do and not do! Add something about Anna Salton Eisen

**Travels To Our Parents' Hometowns -Lois Berkowitz and Sharone Kornman**

In 2019, Sharone and Lois independently visited their survivor parents’ hometowns in Eastern Europe. They will share their experiences and tips, including how they planned, what they saw when they arrived, what they wish they knew before going, and how they now feel about their trips 3 years later. They hope their presentations will inspire others to consider taking a similar trip!

**Uncovering the Mysteries of Your Artifact -Daphne Geismar**

Daphne will guide participants through a series of techniques to uncover the mystery and meaning in photographs and objects, bringing personal Holocaust stories and histories to life. Geismar will also share the fourteen-year odyssey that resulted in her book, *Invisible Years*, “an artefact of artefacts,” of diaries, letters, interviews, and images that she cut up and sequenced into an intimate, historical and visual story of her family members experiences in the Nazi-ocuppied Netherlands, who, when faced with imminent deportation, refused to comply.