

THE DEATH PENALTY: SACCO & VANZETTI'S LEGACY

Wednesday, October 16, 2002
Southern Connecticut State University



IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THESE THING,
I MIGHT HAVE LIVE OUT MY LIFE TALK-
ING AT STREET CORNERS TO SCORN-
ING MEN. I MIGHT HAVE DIE, UN-
MARKED, UNKNOWN A FAILURE. NOW
WE ARE NOT A FAILURE. THIS IS OUR
CAREER AND OUR TRIUMPH. NEVER IN
OUR FULL LIFE COULD WE HOPE TO
DO SUCH WORK FOR TOLERANCE, FOR
JUSTICE, FOR MAN'S UNDERSTANDING
OF MAN AS NOW WE DO BY ACCIDENT.
OUR WORDS - OUR LIVES - OUR PAINS
NOTHING! THE TAKING OF OUR LIVES -
LIVES OF A GOOD SHOEMAKER AND A
POOR FISH PEDDLER - ALL! THAT LAST
MOMENT BELONGS TO US - THAT
AGONY IS OUR TRIUMPH.

PROGRAM

► 4 p.m.

Welcome

• Neil Thomas Proto

An attorney in Washington, D.C., Neil Thomas Proto is chairman of the City of New Haven Committee for the Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Execution of Sacco and Vanzetti. He has written and lectured on the historical and legal setting of the Sacco-Vanzetti case and is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute.

► 4:05-4:15 p.m.

Opening Remarks

Sacco-Vanzetti

and the Immigrant Experience Patricia Klindienst

Patricia Klindienst is an independent scholar working on a book called "In the Spirit of the Land," which tells the stories of immigrant, ethnic and Native Americans whose gardens help preserve and restore their cultural

heritage. She has taught a course on memoir and history at Yale and Wesleyan Universities.

► 4:15-5:00 p.m.

Panel Discussion

Racial and Ethnic Profiling in the Criminal Justice System

• Debra Emmelman, Moderator

Associate Professor of Sociology
Debra Emmelman has conducted research on court-appointed defense attorneys and has published several articles on legal procedures and the poor. Her forthcoming book is "Justice for the Poor."

Panelists

• Scott Christianson

Scott Christianson is an author, scholar, journalist and human rights activist, specializing in prison and the death penalty. His books, "With Liberty For Some: 500 Years of Imprisonment in America," and "Condemned: Inside the Sing Sing Death House," have received worldwide acclaim.



Esther Nita Natale, age 12, holds the Aug. 22, 1927, Hoboken Daily Mirror with the headline, "Brandeis Denies Sacco's Appeal." Sacco and Vanzetti were executed just past midnight that night.

Photo courtesy of Patricia Klindienst

- **Ernest Dorling**

Ernest Dorling spent almost 27 years in law enforcement, both as a police officer and as a federal agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service. He currently teaches criminology and criminal justice at Tunxis Community College in Farmington, Conn. He is also the author of "With Consciousness of Guilt, the Sexual Predator Among Us."

- **Frank Harris III**, Associate Professor and Chair of Journalism

Frank Harris III is an award-winning columnist for the New Haven Register, and his writing has appeared in over 50 newspapers and magazines, including the New York Times, USA Today and the Los Angeles Times. He has published two books, "The Craft of Quoting" and "In My Own Words," and is currently co-writing a book on journalism.

- **Stephen Hawkins**

Stephen Hawkins is the executive director of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (NCADP). He has over 10 years' experience as an advocate against capital punishment and is a former staff attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. He was a law clerk to Hon. A. Leo Higginbotham, Chief Justice Emeritus, U.S. Court of Appeals.

- **Aashish Kumar**, Associate Professor of Communication

Aashish Kumar's areas of expertise are documentary production, immi-

grant and diasporic cultures, globalization studies and trans-national mass media institutions. His documentary on hate crimes against South Asian Americans, produced for the South Asian Americans Leaders of Tomorrow (SAALT), is currently touring in a nationwide exhibit titled "Raising Our Voices."

► **5:00-5:15 p.m. Break**

► **5:15-5:45 p.m.**
Keynote Address

Michael S. Dukakis



Governor of Massachusetts from 1975 to 1979 and from 1983 to 1991, Mr. Dukakis was the Democratic Party nominee for President of

the United States in 1988. In 1977, the 50th anniversary year of the Sacco and Vanzetti executions, Governor Dukakis issued a proclamation in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts clearing the names of Sacco and Vanzetti and their families. He was voted most effective governor in the United States by the National Governor's Association in 1986 and is vice-chairman of the Amtrak Reform Board.

► **5:45-6:00 p.m. Break**

6:00-6:45 p.m.

Panel Discussion

The Question of Innocence

- **Eugene Fappiano**, Moderator
Associate Professor of Sociology

Eugene Fappiano is co-coordinator of the criminal justice minor at SCSU. He created a course in penology at the university and has taught criminology for over 20 years. He also teaches a course entitled "The Italian Experience in America," in which he deals with the Sacco-Vanzetti case.

Panelists:

- **Antoinette Bosco**

A prize-winning journalist, Antoinette Bosco is a syndicated columnist with the national Catholic News Service and the author of nine books. Her latest book, "Choosing Mercy: A Mother of Murder Victims Pleads to End the Death Penalty," received a 2001 Christopher Award and the Pax Christi 2002 Book Award.

- **John Connelly**

John Connelly is State's Attorney for the Judicial District of Waterbury, Conn. A prosecutor since 1980 and State's Attorney since 1984, he has prosecuted five capital felony cases in which the death penalty has been imposed. He has received several awards, including the 2000 NAACP Humanitarian Award.

- **William Nieves**

William Nieves was freed from death row on October 20, 2000, when a Philadelphia jury acquitted him of the 1992 murder of Eric McAiley. Nieves was convicted of the murder in 1994 but maintained his innocence. In 1997, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court held that Nieves was inadequately represented at his first trial and granted him a new trial.

- **Bruce Shapiro**

Bruce Shapiro is co-author of "Legal Lynching: The Death Penalty and America's Future," with Rev. Jesse Jackson and U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. Contributing editor at The Nation magazine, he has also written about the law and politics for The New York Times Magazine, the Los Angeles Times and other publications. His next book, "Shaking the Foundations: 200 Years of American Investigative Journalism," is forthcoming from Nation Books. He teaches at Yale University.

- **Kathleen Skoczen**

Assistant Professor of
Sociology/Anthropology

Kathleen Skoczen is the founder and faculty advisor of the SCSU Chapter of Amnesty International. She teaches in the anthropology and women's studies departments, including topics of human rights, justice and structural violence.

The Forum Organizing Committee would like to thank the following persons for their support of this event: • President Michael J. Adanti • Neil Thomas Proto • Members of the City of New Haven Committee for the Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Execution of Sacco and Vanzetti • Susan Cirillo

Forum Organizing Committee
Patrick Dilger, Director of Public Affairs
Kica Matos, Executive Director, Junta for Progressive Action
Betsy Beacom, Assistant Director of Public Affairs

Justice on Trial: Ben Shahn's Case for Sacco and Vanzetti



Yale University Art Gallery
15 October – 29 December 2002

Justice on Trial:

Ben Shahn's Case for Sacco and Vanzetti

15 October – 29 December 2002

This exhibition commemorates the 75th anniversary of the execution in 1927 of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, two Italian immigrants and anarchists convicted of robbery and murder during a period of anti-immigrant and anti-radical paranoia. Ben Shahn (1898-1969) created the most sustained treatment of the notorious case in fine art. This show brings together for the first time eleven works on paper with two major paintings from his Sacco-Vanzetti series, along with newsreels, pamphlets, and photographs that informed his art. Shahn's series marked a turning point in the development of social realism in the United States. *The exhibition is supported in part by funds made possible by a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.*

RELATED PROGRAMS

Wednesday 16 October

12:20 PM Art à la Carte, "Ben Shahn, Newspapers, and The Passion of Sacco and Vanzetti," Amy Kurtz Lansing, Marcia Brady Tucker
Curatorial Intern in American paintings and sculpture

Thursday 17 October

5:30 PM, Keynote Lecture, "Mechanical Vision: Photography and Mass Media in Ben Shahn's Sacco and Vanzetti Series," Laura Katzman, associate professor of art, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, and Senior Fulbright Scholar, University of Hamburg, Germany

Thursday 7 November

4:00 PM Art at Four, "A Lawyer's Passion for the Sacco and Vanzetti Case," Kenneth David Burrows, attorney-at-law
5:30 PM Exhibition Tour, "Justice on Trial: Ben Shahn's Case for Sacco and Vanzetti," Robin Jaffee Frank, associate curator of American paintings and sculpture and curator of the exhibition
6:15 PM Film, *Sacco and Vanzetti, 1921*, a film from Court TV's "Landmark American Trials Series" (52 minutes)

Thursday 14 November

4:00 PM Art at Four, "A Conversation: Sacco and Vanzetti and the Italian-American Community," Patricia Klindienst, writer, and Neil Thomas Proto, attorney and adjunct professor, Georgetown University School of Public Policy
5:30 PM Exhibition Tour, "Justice on Trial: Ben Shahn's Case for Sacco and Vanzetti," Amy Kurtz Lansing, Marcia Brady Tucker Curatorial Intern in American paintings and sculpture
6:15 PM Film, *In Search of History: The True Story of Sacco and Vanzetti*, a film from the History Channel/A&E Television Networks (52 minutes)

Wednesday 4 December

4:00 PM Art à la Carte, "Justice on Trial: Ben Shahn's Case for Sacco and Vanzetti," Robin Jaffee Frank, associate curator of American paintings and sculpture and curator of the exhibition

Admission Free, voluntary donation welcomed. Groups must make an advance reservation at 203.432.8479

Gallery Hours Tue-Sat 10 to 5; Sun 1 to 6; closed Mon and major holidays. Open until 8 pm Thursdays. Recorded general and program information 203.432.0600

Museum store 203.432.0601

Website www.yale.edu/artgallery

Directions From I-95 take exit 47 Downtown New Haven, stay on connector to third exit, turn right on York St. at first intersection. The Art Gallery is on right after third traffic light. From I-91 take exit 1 Downtown New Haven and proceed as above.

Parking Available in garage at 150 York St. and metered spaces on nearby streets. An entrance for persons using wheelchairs is at 201 York St., with an unmetered parking space nearby. For more information call 203.432.0606.

REVERSE:

Ben Shahn, *The Passion of Sacco and Vanzetti*, tempera on canvas, 1931-32. Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, Gift of Edith and Milton Lowenthal in memory of Juliana Force, © Estate of Ben Shahn/Licensed by VAGA/New York, NY