

## ANNA ROSMUS SPEAKS AT SUA

As a young woman, Anna Rosmus had no idea of her Bavarian hometown's dark Nazi past. But in 1980, when she began research for an essay about her town, Passau, during the Third Reich, she met with enormous resistance and even persecution from her fellow citizens. No one, it seemed, wanted her to reveal that many town officials were former Nazis. Or that many Jews, including many children and babies, had been murdered there during World War II. The citizens of picturesque Passau had allowed the Holocaust to come to town and had supported it — but had tried to hide from what they had done. Ms. Rosmus, whose courage has since been immortalized in the Oscar-nominated documentary *The Nasty Girl*, decided to make Passau face its past.

In a lecture March 2 at Soka University of America, Calabasas, Ms. Rosmus shared her experience, which she said taught her many lessons about “the danger of forgiving and the nature of personal responsibility.” The more she delved into Passau's anti-Semitic past, the more she felt she understood the nature of discrimination: It is, she emphasized at SUA, the persecution of anyone considered different.

In a Q-and-A session after her talk, Ms. Rosmus said that while much has changed in Germany, she feels that the discrimination has never really ended — in fact, it has only spread to include other groups in addition to Jews. Ms. Rosmus believes that Nazism is unfortunately still alive and well today, and must still be combated. This is the mission to which she has dedicated her life.

The Rosmus lecture was the latest in the ongoing Human Rights Lecture Series being sponsored by SUA, Calabasas, to promote peace, justice and social reform through education.

— JEFF FARR