

F I N G E R P R I N T S

by Jud Newborn

9/22/01

I went to "Ground Zero" Friday night. Erstwhile archeologist, I did some all-too-fresh excavation in search of human evidence, and found it. . . in the form of a cancelled check contribution to a church benefit, to the generous amount of \$485. It was covered, like all of lower Manhattan, with the towers' pulverized remains—a white-gray substance not unlike the contents of a vacuum-cleaner bag. Except the dust on the check includes, no doubt, some immeasurable trace of incinerated human beings from 80 countries, their ethnic, religious, sexual and racial differences intermingled. Perhaps there's even a molecule from the person who wrote that check.

My finger made a print in the dust. The dust is in my fingerprint.

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Dr. Jud Newborn wrote--just one day after 9/11--the world's first Op Ed piece pinpointing the ideology and motivation behind the WTC/Pentagon attacks. A year later he gave the first Annual 9/11/02 Commemorative Lecture at the Holocaust Museum Houston, comparing Nazism and Islamic extremism, while underscoring the need to protect democracy at home as well as abroad. He is a New York-based cultural anthropologist, Holocaust scholar and curator specializing in fundamentalist movements, racism and genocide, film, material culture, the construction of inhabited space, the environment and human rights worldwide. Newborn is also a wide-ranging public speaker, author, journalist and media expert. He has appeared on all major national TV and radio networks as well as internationally, from Germany and Israel to Japan, while his commentary has been translated into 82 languages and appeared in publications with circulations of over 20 million.

A former Fulbright Fellow, Newborn received his doctorate with Distinction from the University of Chicago, and served as founding Historian and co-creator of New York's Holocaust Museum (MJH, located across from the Statue of Liberty in lower Manhattan). Prior to this he served as creative writer-in-residence at Clare Hall, Cambridge (England), worked for Oxford University Press, and in 1982 did a stint as an undercover operative for Poland's Solidarity freedom movement 6 months into Communist military rule. Newborn has lectured coast to coast, from L.A.'s Simon Wiesenthal Center to the U.N.'s Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium—where he called out against the mass murder of Bosnian Muslims just days after the fall of Srebrenica. Newborn has written for *The New York Times*, *The Jerusalem Post*, *Newsday*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The Nation*, *Arthur Frommer's Travel* and many other publications. Co-author of *Shattering the German Night: The Story of the White Rose* (Little, Brown; German edition with special introduction by Germany's great voice on conscience, former President Richard von Weizsäcker), Newborn is currently completing a new book that seeks to explain Nazism's most enigmatic dimensions. It is entitled "*Work Makes Free*": *The Hidden Cultural Meanings of the Holocaust*.

Dr. Newborn serves on many institutional Boards, including the B'nai B'rith International UN Advisory Council, and the Champion Trees/NY Old Growth Forest Association. He continues to serve (since 1986) as Special Consultant and lecturer for the world class Cinema Arts Centre in historic Huntington, L.I., N.Y.. Dr. Jud Newborn has served on the front lines his entire life in the fight for human rights, the environment and democracy.