

Remember

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Fall 2017

Remembrance is Continuing the Resistance

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST/GENOCIDE EDUCATION

FROM THE DESK OF

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Executive Director,
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Holocaust Education*

I would like to share a few thoughts I will express during my conference with leaders of NJEA about the life-changing influence of the educators' trip to the camps. It has become evident through the years that this journey to sites in the once Nazi controlled areas of Europe leaves an indelible mark of the experiences of the victims, making them real, absorbed by the group as a horror that should never be permitted to happen again.

This leads to the realization that they need to weave these experiences into their lesson plans, enabling students to "touch history". For example, Rita Williams, has won numerous awards in her District by promoting the concept "Never Again" to her students by using art. However, teachers do not pursue Holocaust projects to win awards, they do so to make sure their students understand what can happen when rampant prejudice and bigotry run amok through minorities anywhere it rears its ugly head.



In Memoriam

*I*n May 2017, the Commission mourned the sudden and untimely death of Judy Baker, dedicated Executive Assistant to Dr. Paul Winkler for 19 years and helpmate to his successor, Executive Director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Genocide Education, Lawrence M. Glaser, in the first year of his stewardship. Commission members and staff who have worked with her will miss Judy's professionalism and caring personality. We think fondly of our association with her throughout the years. All of us extend our deepest sympathies to her loving family.

Editor's Note:

*L*et me express my admiration for the infinite variety of activities and events whose accounts I am privileged to edit each time a new electronic issue of "Remember" goes to publication – to be shared with colleagues throughout the State of New Jersey. I truly marvel when I see the talent, creativity and dedication of the Center Directors and Staff who spend countless hours making sure that each issue contains new challenging ways to root out prejudice, bias and bigotry – along with the tried and true strategies that keep on working. It is a never-ending labor of love in a world where hate seems to be in plentiful supply.

Holocaust Center News

● College of St. Elizabeth Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education

The first major event of the Center's current academic year was the 26th Annual Week of Holocaust Remembrance. It was launched during the Opening Reception to celebrate the Images for Holocaust Remembrance. Dr. Virginia Fabbri Butera, Professor of Art and Director of the Theresa A. Maloney Art Gallery, gave a guided tour of the exhibit curated especially for the Week of Remembrance. Dr. Butera also chaired an event in honor of Dr. Harriet Sepinwall.

Dr. Chantal Berthet, Professor of Global Studies, led a discussion after the viewing of the film *The 1939 Voyage of the German MSS St. Louis*. Sister Diane Collesano, Professor of Theology, made a presentation on *Conscience and Resistance: Those Who Dared to Say No, Part 1*. Other presentations included *A Sociological Perspective on the Holocaust* by Dr. Louise Murray, Professor of Sociology; *History and Political Science; Fascism*, by Dr. Nicole Yanoso, Professor of History and *Why Do We Have FEMA Camps?* by Dr. David Aussicker, Instructor of Justice Studies.

The 26th Annual Kristallnacht Commemoration took place on November 7, with music by the Ashrey Choir, Northern New Jersey Regional Jewish Teen Choir, directed by Cantor Joel Caplan. Erwin M. Ganz delivered the survivor testimony and Dr. Mary Boys, Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of Practical Theology at Union Theological Seminary delivered the keynote lecture entitled "The Night of Shattered Glass and Christianity's Responsibility to Reconstruct"

On November 8th, the above program was followed by a joint presentation; *The Holocaust, Its Impact and Legacy* by Professors of English Dr. Margaret Roman, Dr. Beatrice Kingston and Dr. Laura Winters. along with Dr. George Sirgiovanni, Professor of History.

In addition, Dr. Maria G. Checton, Professor of Health and Administration, gave a lecture on *Holocaust Survivors, and Health - with Holocaust Survivor Testimony* by Norbert Bikales. Professors of Nursing, Dr. Ellen Ehrlich and Dr. Sarah Arnold, spoke about *Retracing Parents' Journeys Throughout Europe During the Holocaust - Second Generation Survivor Testimony*. Dr. Erin Lothes discussed *Reaching Out to Syrian Refugees - with Guest Speakers, RAMP Volunteers Gerry and Mary Gannon, of the Refugee and Migrant Project*.

Social Problems of Genocide were explored by Bianca Channer, Director of Field Education and Professor of Social Work/Sociology. *Second Generation Survivor Testimony* was given by Dr. Deborah Rabner. On November 9th, *Conscience and Resistance: Those Who Dared to Say No, Part 2* was presented by Sister Diane Collesano, Professor of Theology.

On November 10th, *Second Generation Survivor Testimony* was given by Speaker Allen Zaks, introduced by Wendy Hahn, Instructor and Director of Business/Economics. *The Stop the Hate:*

Fifteen Years Later panel was led by undergraduate education students and introduced by Professor of Education, Dr. Deborah Tulloch. The program on *Bias Crime* was led by Catherine M. Broderick, Morris County Supervising Assistant Prosecutor. She was presented by Philip Crosson, Professor of Criminal Justice. On November 14th, Dr. Anne Langan, Professor of Sociology, introduced Erwin Ganz whose Holocaust Survivor Testimony was entitled *The Impact the Holocaust Had on My Life*.

On December 14th, The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education held its screening of the film "The People vs. Fritz Bauer" at the Center for Holocaust Genocide Studies.

On April 15th, the Center held its 8th Annual Collaborative Conference on Holocaust Education – Facts and FAQ's on Holocaust Education Using Survivor Testimony and Artifacts in the Classroom. On April 22nd, the College of Saint Elizabeth hosted the Human Rights in the Middle East program. Human Rights advocate Jacqueline Isaac gave the keynote address as part of the International Conference on Human Rights, Ethics and Spirituality.

April 26th featured the Armenian Genocide Teacher Workshop, as well as the Communal Dinner prior to the Armenian Genocide Commemoration.

● Historical Society of Princeton

The Historical Society organized and hosted two major professional development programs – one during the fall and another during the spring semester of the 2016-2017 academic year. Each concentrated on one major literary work of the Holocaust. The former focused on the *Teaching of Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*, while the latter introduced instructional strategies for the *Teaching of Elie Wiesel's "Night"*. The *Echoes and Reflections* curriculum of the Anti-Defamation League was the source and provider for both professional development workshops..

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey – Bildner Center, The Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center

The Center launched its fall 2016 semester with a program on the subject of John Demjanjuk and the Last Great Holocaust Trial in September. The next major event was the Annual Rutgers Jewish Film Festival, with the Free Screening of "Fanny's Journey" for school groups.

In March 2017, Rutgers University Professor Dr. Jeffrey Shandler, curator of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Suzy Snyder, pedagogical advisor, presented a program on "Holocaust Memory: The Meaning of Objects." In June, the Center offered a one-week course on *The History of the Holocaust* taught by Joanne Sliwa, as well as a *Two-Day Advanced Seminar on Holocaust History* taught by Dr. Alexis Herr, Dr. Rebecca Erberling and Professor Judy Gerson.

Holocaust Center News

● Esther Raab Museum and Goodwin Education Center

In May 2016, the Education Center conducted a teacher workshop with ADL to enhance expertise in using the Echoes and Reflections Curriculum. July featured a Holocaust Garden Dedication to Survivors and a Book Signing with Ernest Kaufman.

In August, the Center initiated Community Conversation on Ethnicity and Identity and the opening program in September was Names Not Numbers. The Adult Discussion Group explored “The World We Live In – Separation of Church and State. There was also a Guest Reader Teaching Session

In October, the Education Center presented a screening of The Remarkable Story of Major Ernest Kaufman – with a Q and A segment, followed by the Annual Raab/Goodwin March of Remembrance – with a performance of Life in a Jar: Irena Sandler, the True Story of a Holocaust Hero.

The Adult Discussion Group focused in on “The World We Live In”. In addition, the Center sponsored the screening of Complicit Movie at Rowan College and Burlington County College, followed by a discussion with the playwright, as well as an Intergenerational Café Europa Luncheon with students from St. Joseph High School.

October programming came to a close by the presentation of two important instructional events: a Teachers Training Workshop on China’s Hidden Horrors: Rape of Nanking, Comfort Women and Biological and Chemical Warfare – Unit 731, as well as A Journey of Remembrance: Retracing My Mother’s Footsteps

In November, the Adult Discussion Group concentrated on “The World We Live In: Visiting Cuba and Its People”. The Center then presented author Josh Aronson and his Orchestra of Exiles during community Observance. The next film screening “Germans and Jews”, was held at Camden County College – followed by a discussion with the filmmaker. A puppet show of A Town That Fought Hate, performed on December 1st at the College, demonstrated what can be done to counteract hate.

On December 4th, the Center sponsored a trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC for Survivors and Educators. On the 6th, the American Defamation League presented its Words to Actions program. The Generations After the Shoah Brunch took place on December 11th. The December 15th program of the “World We Live In” discussion group focused in on the topic of You Don’t Have to Speak English to Raise Kosher Chickens. The following week’s discussion explored the Jewish – China connection.

On January 10th, 2017, the students of Paul VI. High School were given a trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington. Two days later, their Teachers attended an ADL Training Workshop in the Use of the Echoes and Reflections Curriculum. On January 16th, the Center sponsored a Martin Luther King Day of Service

with Guardian Angels Regional Catholic High School. On the 25th, the Center presented the Outskirts of Hope with author Jo Ivester.

On February 6th, “The World We Live In Discussion Group” explored How To Strengthen Relations with Grandchildren. On February 14 – 15, the Mainstage Center for the Arts presented performances of the Diary of Anne Frank. On the same days, the ADL led a discussion on Confronting Antisemitism.

The play Dear Esther: the True Story of a Holocaust Survivor was performed on March 2nd. Aside from its dramatic elements, the play became an excellent instructional resource for the teaching of the history and lessons of the Holocaust. The March 6th discussion of the “World We Live In” group dealt with The Next Generation of Jewish Community Leaders. Collingswood High School held its Culture Fest 2017 on March 9th, and on the 21st, students from the Kallman Brown Academy saw the screening of Better Together: Names, Not Numbers movie. The following day, students from Sterling High School took the field trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC. On March 23rd, student audiences had the opportunity to learn Holocaust history from a multi-media performance seen through a student perspective.

During the first two weeks in April, in a joint project with Haddonfield Players, students benefited from 12 performances of Number the Stars. Camden Catholic High School students went to the Holocaust Museum on April 28th. Alexandra Zapruder author of Salvaged Pages from teenagers’ diaries held a discussion with students on the 30th.

On April 3rd, the “World We Live In” Discussion Group examined The Joy of Poetry. On the 21st, the Charles W. Lewis Middle School held a Yom Hashoah Memorial Program, followed by a Community Holocaust Commemoration and an Intergenerational Café Europa Luncheon with Cherry Hill High School East students. The next “World We Live In” discussion involved The Anti-Defamation League.

The May programs included The Boy Who Could Be Captain Hook; Dear Esther; Through the Eyes of a Friend; and The Town That Fought Hate. The last discussion of the spring semester examined Bringing History to Life: Holocaust Study Trip

Continuation of ongoing events and programs further developed the Tolerance Guest Reader, Program whose staff members went to 16 different schools to read selected picture books – discussing issues of tolerance and compassion contained in them. The stream of visitors to the Center’s Holocaust Museum continued to grow, with 165 additional student tours of the Museum, along with Students Meet Holocaust Survivors at the Center and in Schools, as well as Presentations at Community Groups.

Holocaust Center News

- **Esther Raab Museum and Goodwin Education Center**

* Events throughout the Year *



Holocaust Center News

● Raritan Valley Community College – The Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

The first event of the Institute's fall 2016 semester was an Interfaith Program and the Kristallnacht screening of "Margit – Not A23029". In White Meadow Temple in Rockaway, New Jersey on November 6th. Two days later, another screening took place at the Rabbinical College of the Jewish Theological Seminary. A Commemoration of Kristallnacht by Survivor Erwin Gans followed at Raritan Valley Community College in Professor Tucker's class.

In early November, the Institute presented two essential programs: its annual High School Learning Through Experience Program for students and an Educator's Seminar on Genocide Prevention Through Education.

In February and March 2017, Margit's film was screened at the George Street Playhouse and at the Interfaith Scholars Conference in Philadelphia. In addition, the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education met simultaneously at the Institute of Raritan Valley Community College.

In April, the Institute sponsored a Workshop Presentation of the film *Second Generation: Ripples from the Holocaust* at the College of Saint Elizabeth. April programs also included Terry Hoben's talk about Rwandan Relief, as well as the Annual Community Yom Hashoah Commemoration – with an address by Twin Brothers and the Annual Yom Hashoah event – including the showing of Margit's film.



The famous picture of children liberated from Auschwitz who were reunited on June 4th, and filmed by NBC nightly news with Lester Holt.



Tova at HS LTE with students & teachers and Bol Aweng Child survivor of Sudan Genocide who was one of lost boys of Sudan.



Teacher Workshop



Margit talking at High School LTE



The Holocaust and Genocide Resource Room at RVCC. There were 30 members of the NJ commission on Holocaust Education plus 15 members of our Institute.

Holocaust Center News

● Holocaust Council of Greater MetroWest

The Council prides itself on the number of ongoing events and activities each year. They begin with providing speakers for Kristallnacht and Yom Hashoah programs at synagogues, schools, churches, colleges and universities. There are developed and facilitated presentations at Mitzvot of MetroWest by twinnings, their parents and survivors ordinarily addressing more than 500 people annually. The MetroWest initiative of “Twin with a Survivor” has spread to communities located far and wide. They can be found in New Jersey, Westchester, New York, Jerusalem, California, North Carolina and beyond. The Adopt-A-Survivor Project has long been considered an integral part of many high school students’ educational experience. The Council brings eyewitnesses into schools, universities and colleges, synagogues, churches and civic organizations as part of MetroWest’s Survivors Speak program. These speakers are accompanied/ moderated by a Holocaust Council Historian. Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest accounts are maintained by the Council. E-mail blasts disseminate information about Holocaust-related topics and sends out information on issues of interest via the Holocaust Council mailing lists.

Monthly programs include the MetroWest Reel to Reel film series – with 10 annual screenings and discussions. The monthly Lunch and Learn with a Survivor program draws in eyewitness testimony that has never been heard, as well as stories of deceased Holocaust survivors told by spouses of descendants of survivors. Select speakers of such testimonies often become members of the Speakers Bureau.

Bagels and Books are popular quarterly book and discussion clubs. Two Holocaust Council Volunteer Board Members edit and distribute information to the Council’s website. Throughout the 2016-2017 academic year, Council partners with the Morris Rubell Foundation and area schools, sponsoring six all-expenses paid trips to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Individually scheduled programs were equally productive. The July 2016 Cecile Seiden Educators Workshop: Teacher to Teacher used speakers, literature and hands-on demonstrations to meet New Jersey core curriculum standards, inspire students and improve school climate. In September, the Council sponsored “Songs of the Holocaust”, a unique musical program at Montclair University. Survivors and Second Generation Survivors were trained to best articulate their stories to audiences of different size and composition. At the October Council Commonalities Art Exhibit displayed the work of various artists whose art had been donated to the Council.

In November, the Council partnered with the College of Saint Elizabeth’s Kristallnacht Commemoration and the

Federation Kristallnacht Remembrance Ceremony. The Holocaust Council also sponsored a screening of Rescue in the Philippines and a talk by a member of the Freiders family, along with Unconquered Souls.


Docent training for “Children of the Holocaust” took place in December in conjunction with the exhibit entitled “From Memory to History”. A Memorial Service in Honor of Teddy Halpern featured a viewing of his documentary.

The Conference of the Association of Holocaust Organizations was held in New Orleans in January 2017. It was an excellent opportunity for Director Barbara Wind to brainstorm and network with her fellow educators, scholars and directors. At the opening reception for the “Memory to History” exhibit, Twinning Clinton Robson was the keynote speaker, and the guests also enjoyed music by the Golda Ochs Choir.

The Annual Scholars Conference took place in Philadelphia in March. In April, The Students Meet Survivors Luncheon brought together high school students and teachers, as well as survivors, to see the exhibit, share a meal and socialize. The 38th Annual Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service honored Holocaust Survivor Ed Bindel. Speakers at the Dinner prior to the Yom Hashoah Memorial Service at Kean University were Irwin Cotler and Bernard and Henry Schanzer. The Federation Yom Hashoah Memorial Service was followed by a Lunch to Learn and Discussion by Dr. Irit Felsen about demystifying the evils of the Shoah on Children.

May featured Survivor Ruth Ravina’s Film Shoot. In a program entitled Living Lessons, Middle School students in Montville learned from members of the Council and eight survivors at an all-day seminar. This intensive study session was followed by the Annual Rubell Student Leadership Seminar.

The spring semester’s Survivor Speaks to high school students and teachers took place at the Morris Museum, and the year’s activities culminated in the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.



NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

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Holocaust Center News

● The Museum of Human Rights, Freedom and Tolerance

In June, the museum's initial activity for the 2016 - 2017 academic year was a television program dealing with human rights issues. By the fall, that program generated a Conference on Anti-Semitism in Moscow.- under the auspices of the Russian Jewish Congress. The outcome of the conference resulted in Holocaust Commemoration Day on the Newark Campus of Rutgers University.in February 2017.

In March, the Russian language station produced a talk show on tolerance and Anti-Semitism, followed by a lecture on the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University on the origins of anti-Semitism.

In April, the Museum conducted a Holocaust Commemoration Day program at Manalapan High School as a culminating event of the spring semester.

● Montclair State University Center for Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Education

The fall semester of the 2016-2017 academic year began with a unique experiment. Some of the students with an interest in the Center's activities were awarded an entire fall semester's Human Rights Education Internship. They were expected to select a human rights topic meaningful to them. Their commitment included researching their subject area, as well as preparing and delivering a lesson plan appropriate for a local public school

At the October program, Echoes and Reflections, the workshop attendees were hosted by a professional educator from the Anti-Defamation League, eminently qualified to present, discuss, demonstrate and illustrate the Echoes curriculum and its great instructional benefits in the field of prejudice reduction.

In November, the Center featured the screening of a documentary film, *The One That Got Away*, along with a the discussion panel about the struggle of a young African American student in Montclair, New Jersey who "fell between the cracks" in the public school system, became a criminal and ultimately, was arrested and convicted of murder.

An additional screening and panel discussion involved the film *Hate* – exploring anti-Semitism. The filmmaker and scholars in the field served as panelists.

At the end of November, the focus of the Montclair State University Environmental Conference was *Water Is Life: Dakota Access, Indigenous Rights and Environmental Justice Today*. Local Native Americans and environmental activists participated as presenters.

Due to its success in the fall, the Human Rights Education Internship was repeated in the Spring Semester 2017 in the same format. In March, the Center hosted the Engaged Teaching Fellows on Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice. The April Conference on Public Education in the Age of Trump was held at Montclair State University and co-hosted by the Center – with presenters from its midst. Another Anti-Defamation League Workshop on the Echoes and Reflections Curriculum that was held in March dealt with teaching Elie Wiesel's "Night".

In July, Spring semester activities culminated in an all-day Genocide Education and Prevention Conference held at Montclair State University. Participants included students, human rights education interns, and teachers. The program included scholarly lectures and a tour of the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

● Ramapo College of New Jersey – Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

The Center opened its 2016-2017 academic year with a program on *Remapping Survival: Jewish Refugees and Lost Memories in the Soviet Union*, with Professor Alina Grossmann of Cooper Union.

Alan Chernoff, former CNN Correspondent, discussed *The Tailors of Tomaszow* and Professor Peter Balakian of Colgate University, recipient of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry was the next presenter. A film screening of *When Elephants Sing* brought the presentations to a close.

The Annual Gumpert Teachers Workshop addressed the issues of 'Resettlement of Survivors of Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity and Mass Atrocity: Past and Present. History Professor Lerna Ekmecioglu, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, spoke about the subject of *The Limits of Belonging in Post-Genocide Turkey*

A subsequent series of seminars addressed hitherto infrequently discussed problems. Professor Stefania Lucamante of Catholic University of America spoke about *Bringing Testimony, Transforming a Canon: Fiction and Reality in Italian Women Writers of the Holocaust*. Joan Arny Halperin and Monique Rubens Krohn of the Sousa Mendes Foundation chronicled the life of Aristedes de Sousa Mendes: *A Holocaust Hero and the Lives He Saved*.

Joshua Cohen, New Jersey Director of the Anti-Defamation League fascinated his audience with the miraculous possibility having the unlikely title of *Imagine A World Without Hate*. Philippe Sands of the University College of London was the presenter of *East West Street: Personal Origins of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity*. The program culminated in an introduction of and recital by Olivia Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*, as well as a reading of *An Epiphany in Lilacs*. Iris Dorbian. offered demonstration of *The Exploitation of Women in Genocide: How to Bring a Delicate Subject into the Classroom*.

Holocaust Center News

● Center for Holocaust, Human Rights and Genocide Education at Brookdale Community College (Chhange)

At the end of July, the Center opened its 2016 – 2017 academic year by hosting An Afternoon with our Survivors – Chhange and the Generations: Descendants of Holocaust Survivors, an informal, friendly get-together providing an ideal possibility for bonding

One week later, the Volunteer Recognition Dinner honored the dedicated individuals who perform a variety of indispensable tasks from labeling and stuffing envelopes, to data entry research, library maintenance, cataloguing and preserving hundreds of artifacts and serving as docents for annual student art installations. The months of July and August were devoted to student and community group visits to Chhange, as well as the viewing of survivor artifacts and touring student installations to learn about the Holocaust and genocides. These visits continued throughout the entire year.

A Journey through Life Curriculum Suitcases considered essential in-school programming for middle and high schools throughout the state, as well as Kean University, were scheduled for distribution. At the faculty's discretion, the suitcases may remain in a particular location from several days to several months, often accompanied by a Holocaust survivor speaker. Simultaneously – all year – these Master Teachers visit middle and high schools across the state, as well as all Brookdale Community College campuses and community venues, providing students and members of the community of all ages with an opportunity to hear the incredible testimony of their experiences - thereby "touching history".

Once again, each semester, Chhange hosted a one-day seminar in the Clinical Pastoral Counseling Program at Overlook Hospital in Summit, New Jersey. Holocaust survivors Helena Flaum, Gerard Blumenthal and Manny Lindenbaum provided testimony, with the focus on helping the international and multid denominational clergy develop a deeper understanding of trauma and loss.

The Generations: Descendants of Holocaust Survivors group meets bi-monthly for book/film discussions, as well as for trips to museums, theaters and concerts and for participation in the Yiddish Club. Building Bridges is the Center's latest initiative to build a culture of mutual respect and understanding in a safe environment, i.e. a welcoming school community. This program, integrated with teacher lesson plans and aligned with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards, was enriched by Chhange's educational programming and on-site exhibits. It also included interactive workshops as well as assemblies, class discussions, Holocaust survivor speakers and attendance at the Annual Colloquium, Anne Frank Exhibit and Student Art Installations.

In October – November, Chhange partnered with Brookdale Community College on programs that featured poets and speakers; films and discussions, as well as student panels – all centered around the book *When the Emperor Was Divine*, by Julie Otsuka. Topics included *Recovery from Hate* with speaker N. Chiyo

Monuchi; *Internment Camps* with survivor and artist Jimmy Mirikitari and *Rising Above Hate* – a student panel and discussion. In October, the 2016 Tribute Journal and Testimonial Dinner honored Adrienne McOmber, Esq. for her staunch support of Chhange over the last 35 years and Nelly Segal, Ph.D. for her distinguished service to Chhange. Meridian Heath – Department of Diversity and Inclusion was the recipient of the Corporate Leadership Award.

In November, Yitzchak Mais, author of *Daring to Resist: Jewish Defiance in the Holocaust*, shared the history of courageous and often miraculous actions of Jews fighting the tyranny of the Nazis. Regina, the documentary film and discussion with Rabbi Sally Preisand, told the story of Regina, the woman who became the world's first formally ordained female rabbi. Rabbi Preisand led the discussion held after the film. The annual Generations: Descendants of the Holocaust Brunch featured Dr. Tamara Freeman, an ethnomusicologist, who played stirring renditions of songs of spiritual defiance on her 1935 viola – a relic of the Shoah.

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsis in Rwanda, *The 100 Days of Silence* – Traveling Exhibit at Seabrook, gave the residents of a senior living facility an opportunity to view the figures created by students in grades 6 – 12 and listen to and participate in a panel discussion led by Dale Daniels, Executive Director of the Center and Director of Education, Jane Denney.

At the December Conference of the Council of Jewish Educators, the topic featured was *Refugees and Their Flight for Life*, with keynote speaker Deborah Dwork, Ph.D., Rebecca Erbelding, Ph.D. and Christine Chavarra. Using her book, *Flight from the Reich: Jewish Refugees, 1933 – 1946*, Dr. Dwork discussed refugees of the Holocaust and drew comparisons with the current refugee crisis. Dr. Erbelding, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archivist shared stories of the War Refugee Board that represented the official U. S. response to issues of providing relief and rescue to the Nazi victims during World War II. Christine Chavarra, Project Coordinator for the Levine Institute for Holocaust Education, discussed the many similar features of today's refugee crisis which influenced immigration and emigration patterns during the Holocaust – providing practical applications for the classroom.

In a Teacher Workshop – *Through Their Eyes* held, held in January of 2017 – educator/dramatic artist, Susan Stein, explored the writings of adolescents who lived through the Holocaust and those living as refugees today. Artist/educator Arlene Smelson offered techniques to elicit student response and artistic expression. Attendees had the opportunity to work with materials to create a prototype for their classrooms. In memory of Center co-founder, Dr. Seymour Siegler, the International Holocaust Remembrance Day Commemoration featured *The Sunflower* by Simon Wiesenthal.

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Holocaust Center News

● **Brookdale Community College (Chhange)** *(continued from p. 9)*

Panelists included survivors and second and third generation descendants.

In February – April, Chhange partnered with the Scotch Plains Public Library, to present a series of films, a play, museum exhibits and book discussions for the ways they portray togetherness and marginalization. The books included Maus I and II and Black Dog of Fate. The Panel for Survival, Remembrance and Rebuilding included genocide survivors of the Genocide Against the Tutsis. A Journey to Life: Armenia exhibit opened in the library in April.

The Chhange traveling exhibit, Facing Racism, was at the Jersey Shore Medical Center for Black History Month. A March panel, Muslim Women in Our Community, followed by a discussion on how Muslim Women who live and work in the area improve the community – challenged the stereotypes of what it means to be a woman of Muslim heritage. In April, the opening of the Anne Frank Exhibit featured A History for Today and a Student Installation: Through Their Eyes . Community members, student artists and parents served as docents. Middle and high school students, as well as community members, had an opportunity to view the docent-led exhibit on A History for Today, seeing quotes from Anne’s book accompanying every exhibit panel , recapturing events and moments of daily life through her eyes. Sadly, the student installation Through Their Eyes contradicted the saying “Never Again” since current refugee children are experiencing the worst crisis since World War II. The student artists have studied and come to terms with it – sharing their thoughts, feelings and beliefs through their art.

The Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day – The Children featured Holocaust survivor of Westerbork transit Camp and Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, Rabbi Joseph Polack, who wrote and spoke about the consequences of remembering and not remembering. Servicemen/women from Naval Weapons Station Earle served as escorts for the survivors during the Ceremony of Remembrance – to the string accompaniment of Peggy Gaber and Amy Garland. The Marlboro High School Chorus provided a stirring musical performance, with John Caruso singing Ani Ma’Amin accompanied by Gene Boyle on keyboard.

The Annual Armenian Genocide Remembrance - Forced into Genocide: Memoirs of an Armenian Soldier in the Ottoman Turkish Army featured Adrienne Alexian who provided a reading and discussed her father’s memoir.

The 35th Annual Colloquium – Refugees and Their Flight for Life - featured scholar Deborah Dwork, Ph.D. and Syrian refugee Sana Mustafa, the keynote speaker . Following the keynote address, the 1,400+ students had the opportunity to participate in 30 breakout workshops on topics, such as: the Holocaust; Genocides; Human Rights Issues and LGBTQ teen

issues. Several schools also visited the student art installation, Through Their Eyes.

The concluding two days of Chhange’s academic year, gave 7th grade students from Cedar Grove School in Colts Neck the unique opportunity to have lunch with Holocaust survivors, listen to their testimony and take a pledge to serve as witnesses in the future, especially in 2045, the 100th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration and death camps. The memories they took away from these emotional exchanges will stay with these young people for the rest of their lives, giving them a different perspective on the need to stand up for human rights.

● **Cumberland County College – Coalition for Holocaust and Genocide Education**

The Coalition’s opening activity in October 2016 was a Presentation by Chair and Seminar Leader Harry Furman, Esq. on the subject of “So What Is Fascism – Past and Present?” The presenter was intent on imparting specific knowledge of the definition of fascism so sorely lacking these days.

Next came another powerful Seminar in January 2017: “The Eugenics Movement”, by presenters Dr. Mary Johnson of Facing History and Ourselves and Steven Marcus of Stockton College.

A bus trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in February was followed by a Seminar on The Art History of the Holocaust, presented by Steven Marcus of Stockton College. The March Seminar dealt with Post-War Trials: Justice or Retribution? with presenter Anthony Iaconelli, St. Augustine Preparatory High School in Richland, New Jersey. A Survivor and Student Event was hosted by St. Augustine’s at the end of April. In addition , in April, Harry Furman, Esq. conducted a Seminar on the Weight of Memory- Children and Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors and Perpetrators and the Labyrinth of a Dark History.

In May, Author Noah Lederman, spoke on “A World Erased: A Grandson’s Search for his Family’s Holocaust Secrets”. The spring 2017 culminated in a Seminar on War and Sexual Violence: Weapon, Strategy or Unfortunate By-Product of War? by presenter Lois Genovese.

Holocaust Center News

● Mercer County Holocaust Genocide Resource Center

The fall semester of the 2016-2017 academic year focused in on a series of films exploring, discussing and illustrating the diverse aspects of the Holocaust, as well as various genocides. Each screening was followed by a lively Q and A period. In September, the Center began with screening *Ravished Armenia: The Auction of Souls*, the atrocity not yet acknowledged by its perpetrators and *The Power of Good: Nicholas Winton* emphasizing the power of love and compassion, showing clearly how much the courage and ingenuity of one person matters. In the case of Nicky Winton, that courage translated into saving the lives of 629 children. Only a Number, a film by local filmmaker Steven Besserman, son of two Holocaust survivors, retraced the steps of his parents' Odyssey and its miraculously happy ending.

In October, Dr. Jack Tabor and Dr. Craig Coenen shared their experiences of taking a group of students and community members on a tour, "Mercer in Poland: Studying the Holocaust" and its life-changing effects on all concerned. The next film, *A Day in Auschwitz*, traced a survivor's journey to revisit the horrors experienced there.

Dr. Eric Foner, Pulitzer Prize winning historian from Columbia University discussed his award-winning book: "Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad".

In November, in conjunction with the Commemoration of Kristallnacht, the Center paid tribute to Professor Elie Wiesel, Nobel Prize winner, for his literary masterpiece, *Night*, the incredible memoir of suffering he endured and witnessed as a teenager in Auschwitz. Students read excerpts from *Night*, as well as from the memoirs of three local survivors. Candles were lit, one for each million victims murdered by the Nazis. The program Remembering Kristallnacht included a discussion of and reflections upon that Nazi pogrom of 1938. The November programming culminated in a Holocaust Survivors Luncheon, with students having a rare opportunity to share lunch, sit with survivors, listen to their testimony and ask questions to reach a better understanding of what they had just heard.

February 2017 featured *A Film Unfinished*, raw footage from the Warsaw Ghetto. In March, Mercer County College History Professor Dr. Craig Coenen delivered a lecture on "Katyn, Warsaw Uprising, Auschwitz and Gettysburg: the Role of Museums in a Post-Conflict Society". Professor of English at Mercer, Laura Knight, followed up with "Who Tells the Story: the Holocaust and the Next Generation".

April featured another Holocaust Survivor Luncheon and the Annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration and Remembrance Day Program. A panel discussion on "The Media and Fascism: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" was led and moderated by Dr. Jack Tabor.

The Annual Educators Conference in May featured speakers on the timely issues of Human Trafficking; Fake News; Religious

Tolerance, Racism and LGBTQ. Its name was permanently changed to the Annual Dr. Paul Winkler Educators Conference. Several past and present colleagues expressed their admiration for the selfless and creative way Dr. Winkler had dedicated his life and career to being an outstanding educator, champion of justice and humanitarian. A presentation of two commemorative plaques was made: one to Dr. Winkler's family and another to hang in a place of honor in the Mercer County Holocaust Genocide Resource Center.

● Seton Hall University – Sister Rose Thering Fund for Education in Jewish-Christian Studies

In November, The Fund's opening activity was the Robin Wilf Lecture "Can We Get Along? The Step Beyond Dialogue". The panel discussion with three speakers – Joseph Montville, Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz and Anisa Mehdi – represented the Abrahamic faiths. In December, Colloquia and Roundtable Discussions formed a sequel to the theme of "Can We Get Along?" Dr. Bossman gathered a group of Jewish Christian Studies students, as well as invited faculty, Sister Rose Thering Board and Community members for discussion and exploration of the theme. The program was facilitated and videotaped by students for the Virtual Media Library.

On Teacher Study Day in May, educators explored the subject of Refugees: World War II. and Now.

At the April 2017, Celebration of Education Reception, high school essay competition winners, (four for each level), Sister Rose Thering Fund Scholarship recipients and sponsors for the 2016-2017 academic year were recognized. Speakers included Dean of Seton Hall University School of Arts and Sciences, Peter Shoemaker, and Luna Kaufman, Holocaust Survivor. All winners received certificates.

The spring colloquia and roundtable discussion examined the theme of "Getting Beyond the Impasse". The working group included students, invited faculty, as well as Board and community members. Once again, the students acted as facilitators and videotaped the proceedings for use in the Virtual Media Library.

The culminating event of the 2017 spring semester was the 24th Annual Evening of Roses Gala Honoring Father Lawrence Frizzell, Hattie Segal, Luna Kaufman and Pearl Randall Lehrhoff. The program included a guest appearance by Amy-Jill Levine and a musical performance by Cantor Perry Fine. Student testimonials were offered on behalf of Father Frizzell. The following day featured a luncheon discussion with Amy –Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University discussing her new children's book, "Who Counts : 100 Sheep, 10 Coins, 2 Sheep?"