

Remember

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Remembrance is Continuing the Resistance

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST/GENOCIDE EDUCATION

STATE KRISTALLNACHT PROGRAM AT KOPPELMAN CENTER - RIDER UNIVERSITY



The photo pictured is a view of the destroyed interior of the Hechingen synagogue in Germany the day after Kristallnacht.

The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education marked the **75th anniversary of Kristallnacht** on November 10 by jointly commemorating the Night of Broken Glass with a community in Germany via Skype. The New Jersey-Lautertal, Germany commemoration brought together Holocaust survivors, children of survivors and New Jersey community members and leaders with non-Jewish German residents of a small town directly impacted by Kristallnacht and the unfolding events of the Holocaust.

Each community – in New Jersey and Lautertal – has annually commemorated Kristallnacht for many years. Tying the communities together this year are relatives of Ryan Stark Lilienthal of Princeton and Simone Oppenheimer of Lawrenceville. The relatives – Theodor Israel (Ryan's great-great-uncle), his wife Minna (Simone's great-aunt) and their boy, Walter Israel, lived in Elmshausen, a village now consolidated into the larger Lautertal municipality. The Israel family was

deported from home in March 1942, and murdered in Poland.

The connection to Lautertal began three years ago, when Ryan discovered a letter from Theodor Israel hidden in his grandfather's stamp collection. The letter, dated November 1941 and addressed to Ryan's grandparents, stated the devastating facts that family was hearing from government and agency sources both in Germany and the United States that "nothing can be done" to get the family safely out of Germany.

In researching the history behind the letter and seeking more information, Ryan found on the internet the Lautertal community website, which included a page about the Jewish community that once lived there. A day after Ryan sent an inquiry to the website's listed contact, he received an e-mail from Frank Maus, a resident of Lautertal, who stated that he has extensively researched Lautertal's former Jewish community. His research focused on two families – one of them was the Israels. Frank added that he has a special emotional connection to the Israel family because his own great-uncle, also named Walter, received hand-me-down clothes from Walter Israel.

During Ryan's October 2012 visit to Lautertal Germany, he learned that, like New Jersey, the community members gather each year for a church service to mark Kristallnacht, which culminates in a candle lighting ceremony near the site of the community's former synagogue. The genesis of this year's Kristallnacht program began at that moment.

The joint Kristallnacht commemoration wove together elements common to prior events in both communities. Philip Kirschner, a child of Holocaust survivors

and the chair of the New Jersey Commission, gave opening comments, and was joined by Mordechai Rozanski, a Holocaust survivor and President of Rider University, which hosted the event on the U.S. side. The Lautertal mayor and community leaders shared welcoming remarks, along with the community's pastor.



A Jewish shop damaged during the "Kristallnacht" in Magdeburg, November 1938.

Highlighting the event were students from both communities. Ninth grade students in Lautertal recounted what happened in their community on Kristallnacht, and underscored the experience of Theodor, Minna and Walter. On the U.S. side, West Windsor-Plainsboro students expressed the emotion of the event through their Concert Choir and String Nonet.

The commemoration culminated when Lautertal community members lit candles to give "light" to this time of "darkness" brought on by the Nazis and to remember the Israel family and victims of the Holocaust. They symbolically sent the light to attendees in New Jersey. Simone Oppenheimer and her daughter, Arianna, returned the light by lighting a family menorah that was rescued from wreckage during Kristallnacht.

Holocaust News

● Holocaust Resource Center of The Richard Stockton College



Betsy Anthony of the USHMM meeting with Holocaust survivors from Atlantic and Cape May Counties

The Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center continues to co-sponsor events with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM). During the summer of 2013, the USHMM presented an educator workshop at Stockton, and over 100 teachers attended. In the fall of 2013, Betsy Anthony from the USHMM International Tracing Service presented three programs. The picture above highlights her meeting with Holocaust survivors from Atlantic and Cape May Counties, NJ. Betsy Anthony also met with a second/third generation group and then she presented a lecture at Stockton College for the undergraduate and graduate students as well as for the faculty.

The Center continues to offer seminars, workshops, and lectures. The photo below was taken at a free open to the public event titled, "Writing as Witness." Funding for this event was provided by the NJ Council for the Humanities. The attendees heard about the Center's memoir writing project dedicated to Holocaust survivors and other eyewitnesses. Immigration to South Jersey was explored at the event.



Photo taken at free event open to the public – entitled "Writing as Witness" (survivor authors holding their memoirs)

Stockton College, through the co-ordination of the Holocaust Resource Center, has begun a dual degree program for high school students. Holy Spirit High School senior students are studying under the direction of Dr. Michael Hayse. At the end of the school year, those students who have completed the introductory Holocaust course will earn four Stockton credits.



Holy Spirit High Schools seniors in a class taught by Prof. Michael Hayse

One of the Center's proudest achievements for last year was the dedication and naming of Raoul Wallenberg Plaza. This is located at a major intersection in Margate, NJ. The photo below was taken at the dedication, left to right: Dr. Paul Winkler, Mayor Becker, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno, Dr. Vera Goodkin, and Tom Kennedy. Dr. Goodkin was saved by Raoul Wallenberg and Tom Kennedy was a runner who delivered "safe passes" for Jews in Budapest (Hungary), given to him by Raoul Wallenberg. Following an inspiring address by Lt. Governor Guadagno, Dr. Goodkin and Tom Kennedy's stories of rescue by the Angel of Budapest were shared with the audience witnessing the ceremony.



From left to right: Dr. Paul Winkler, Mayor Becker, Lt. Kim Guadagno, Dr. Vera Goodkin and Tom Kennedy at the dedication and naming of Raoul Wallenberg Plaza in Margate, N.J.

Holocaust Center News

● Seton Hall University

2013 marked the 20th anniversary of the Sister Rose Thering Foundation for Education in Jewish Christian Studies at the University. The opening event of the year-long “60 Years of Building Bridges”



program was a university-wide celebration of the work of Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher. This first event also featured Dr. Peter Schaefer, speaking on his book, “Jewish Jesus: How Judaism and Christianity Shaped Each Other”.

On January 29th, Sister Rose Foundation Board members took part in a retreat where strategic plans for the future were discussed.

On March 10th, the second annual Dr. Marie Robbins-Wilf distinguished lecture featured Dr. Michael Berenbaum and Dr. John Pawlikowski speaking on “Catholic-Jewish Relations Since Nostra Aetate”.

On April 14th, the Maplewood-South Orange Interfaith Remembrance was held at Seton Hall for the first time in its three-year history. Survivors and rescuers were honored. Larry Pantirer, son of the late Murray Pantirer, a “Schindler Jew”, was the featured speaker.

April 21st, at the 20th Anniversary Evening of Roses, a Doctorate in Humane Letters, honoris causae was awarded to Dr. Paul Winkler for his steadfast support of the Sister Rose Thering Foundation and his friendship with Sister Rose, as well as his being instrumental in having several Foundation Board members join the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, of which he is the founding Executive Director. Dr. Winkler was serenaded by the Newark Boys Chorus under the direction of Donald C. Morris. Dr. Gabriel Esteban, President of Seton Hall University made the presentation of the Doctorate to Dr. Winkler.

May 5th marked the third annual Sister Rose Thering Essay Competition for New Jersey students in grades 9-12. The first and second place winners in each grade received certificates, copies of the film “Sister Rose’s Passion” and a monetary gift. The winners read their entries aloud to an audience of families, teachers and members of the Sister Rose Thering Foundation Board of Trustees.

On September 22nd, the Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher Academic Conference featured a talk by Professor John Connolly of the University of California at Berkeley on his book “From Enemy to Brother: Revolution in Catholic Thinking on the Jews, 1933-55”

On October 2,9,16,23 and November 6, the “60 Years of Building Bridges” program film series showed the following films on consecutive Wednesday evenings to more than 300 attendees: “An Open Door: Jewish Rescue in the Philippines”, “God Sleeps in Rwanda”, “I Am Joseph, Your Brother”, “Sister Rose’s Passion”, “Shanghai Ghetto” and “Test of Freedom: Muslim Americans and the Struggle against Prejudice”. The screening of each film was followed by comments by someone connected with its making and was sponsored by Luna Kaufman, Chairman Emerita of the Sister Rose Thering Foundation Board of Trustees.

On October 22nd, the 20th Annual Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher Lecture featured Reverend Thomas Stransky, discussing “The Genesis of the Vatican Council’s Declaration on the Jewish People: An Insider’s View”.

The November 17th Kristallnacht Concert at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark featured the Seton Hall University Chorus and the Full Chorus, as well as professional musicians and singers led by Jason Tramm. Monsignor Anthony Ziccardi read the opening and closing prayers. Chairmen Emeriti of the Sister Rose Thering Foundation, Daniel Neiden and Paul Gibbons chanted the Kaddish. This program drew an audience of 400 to the beautiful concert in the cathedral for the commemoration of the “Night of the Broken Glass” on its 75th anniversary.

● Drew University Center for Holocaust Genocide Study

2013 was an especially busy and rewarding year for the Center.

February 7, March 7 and March 14 marked the Center’s annual student seminar on Nazi Propaganda, the Weimar Republic, the Third Reich and the World War II. Facilitated by Larry Greene Ph.D., Professor of History at Seton Hall University, the seminar welcomed guest lecturer Dr. Mark Molesky, also Professor of History at Seton Hall University. Up to 6 Continuing Education credits were available to educators in attendance.

On April 10, at the annual Yom Hashoah Commemoration, the Center screened “The Boys of Terezin”, with special guests and boys of Terezin Sidney Taussig and Leo Lowy.

On November 7th, the Center commemorated the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht by showing the film “The Night of Broken Glass”, with special guest and witness to Kristallnacht, Erwin Ganz.

The annual conference held on November 15th focused on Understanding the Long, Rippling Effect of Nazi Propaganda to the Arab World. Attendees received conference packets.



NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

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Holocaust Center News

● Historical Society of Princeton Holocaust Genocide Resource Center



Educator Workshop Attendees

The Society has recently expressed a keen interest in collaborating with the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education by becoming its newest Center. The first of such collaborative endeavors occurred on October 3, 2013 when the Historical Society hosted the first meeting of the Commission for the 2013-14 school year.



Panel Members Dr. Vera Goodkin and Dr. Steven Felton, with moderator Dr. Paul Winkler in the middle.

The Commission meeting was followed by a workshop on the use of survivor testimony and memoirs in the classroom. It featured a panel of survivors – several of them published authors – moderated by Dr. Paul Winkler. 30 educators participated in the program. The panel members presented a spectrum of experiences during the Holocaust, western civilization's darkest hour, ranging from hidden and rescued children, (Maud Dahme, Dr. Vera Goodkin and Dr. Charles Rojer), as well as Cantor David Wisnia, survivor of Auschwitz and Dr. Steven Felton, born in a displaced persons camp. He was the only one of the panelists who did not deal with

personal Holocaust experiences since he was too young to have had memories of his own. Rather, he shared the process of transcribing his mother's recollections for publication in an effort to give voice to her suffering and pay tribute to her acts of courage. In conclusion, the panelists shared their views of the creative process and its use in the classroom.

● Mercer County Holocaust Genocide Resource Center

On January 31, 2013, the Center began the year's activities with a well-attended Open House featuring Rider University professor Shawn Kildea's screening of the film "Children of Terror", a documentary about the friendship between Jewish and Catholic survivors. Visitors also had an opportunity to examine the Center's resources,

On February 13th, Jasha Levi, survivor and author of "From Sarajevo in 1921 to New York in 1956" discussed the memoir of his journey before, during and after the Holocaust over continents, through war and peace, hatred and brotherhood, success, hardship, uprootings and re-establishment of roots. The opportunity to meet and hear this remarkable author give an eyewitness account of the most historically significant events of the 20th century has become all the more meaningful and poignant in retrospect since Mr. Levi has just recently passed away.

On March 6th, Josh Besserman, New Jersey guidance counselor, led a workshop on the importance of the use of survivor documentaries in the classroom – focusing on his grandmother's filmed memoir, "Only a Number". Josh also authored a study guide to accompany the film.

On April 9th, commemorating Yom Hashoah, Holocaust survivor, and Professor Emerita of Mercer County College, Dr. Vera Goodkin shared her experiences as a young girl growing up in Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia. Saved by the heroic acts of Swedish humanitarian Raoul Wallenberg, Dr. Goodkin shared the incredibly uplifting aspects of her rescuer's

courageous deeds.

On May 1st, the Center presented its annual Professional Development Workshop, with a focus on memorializing victims of genocide while fulfilling New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. Educators were taught how to reinvigorate their classrooms with exciting ideas and fresh lesson plans.

On September 20th, the Center featured a panel discussion on the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. MCCC faculty and staff presented diverse views and perspectives while examining the Emancipation Proclamation from its historical significance to its social and racial impact – present and future – as well as a host of problems remaining.

On October 15th, the Center's program explored the area of Human Trafficking and Violation of Human Freedom". Guest speakers from the Attorney General's Task Force on Human Trafficking explained that - as the upcoming Super Bowl is expected to bring a large influx of people into New Jersey - the state becomes more vulnerable to human trafficking. New Jersey is a prime location between the New York metropolitan area and the tri-states regions of Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington. A panel of experts concluded that New Jersey, the most highly populated state in the country, also has the third highest proportion of foreign-born residents at nearly 20% .

On October 29th, on Bullying Awareness Day, the Center collaborated with several Mercer County College student clubs in demonstrating ways to combat bullying. Attendees were given posters, as well as information to be used in the prevention of bullying. The event was keynoted by a presentation made by Lynne Azarchi, Director of the Kidsbridge Museum at The College of New Jersey.

On November 12th, the Center marked the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht . To highlight the significance of this event, the program of remembrance included survivor testimony and a discussion with Dr. Paul Winkler, Executive Director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, as well as a musical interlude.

Holocaust Center News

● Ramapo College Center for Holocaust Genocide Studies

On March 20, 2013, the Center sponsored a lecture by Dr. David Frey, Professor of History and Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Dr. Frey addressed his mostly student audience by speaking on the topic of “Without Jews, How Could We Produce Christian Culture?” as well as “Nationalism and Anti-semitism in Wartime Hungary?”



Dr. David Frey



Gilel Storch's Grandson

On April 15th, the Center, in conjunction with the Communications and Arts Department, presented “Voyage to Amasia”, a feature documentary about a film maker’s voyage to Armenia, following Eric Hashikian’s family’s exile from Amasia during the Armenian genocide.

April 18th, in a talk entitled “Jews Saving Jews during World War II”, Gilel Storch’s grandson related the story of his grandfather’s narrow escape from Nazi-occupied Latvia to Sweden where he worked tirelessly to rescue his fellow Jews from the Holocaust.

On May 21st, at the Annual Emil Gumpert Teachers Workshop, Michael Bobelian focused on “American Silence in the Age of Genocide”.



Michael Bobelian

On September 24th, Dr. George Bourmontian, Senior Professor of History at Iona College addressed a student and community audience on the subject of “Russo-Turkish Relations

and the Armenian Community of the Ottoman Empire”.

On September 30th, Dr. Karen Auerbach of Monash University in Australia gave a public lecture about “The Jews’ Return to Warsaw After World War II.”

On October 15th, Dr. Thomas Doherty of the Department of American Studies discussed “Hollywood’s Relationship to Nazism and Fascism” in a public lecture.

On October 23rd, at the invitation of the Center and the Italian Club, Dr. Susan Zucotti, author of “How a French Priest and His Friends saved thousands of Jews during the Holocaust” discussed the details of her book.

The Center also collaborated with Temple Beth Haverim Shel Shalom in a 75th anniversary commemoration of Kristallnacht with Rabbi Joel Mosbacher and Cantor David Pepper officiating.

On November 14th, the Emil Gumpert Teachers Workshop focused on “75 Years After Kristallnacht: New Perspectives and Strategies”.

On November 19th, Ahmed Adam, Visiting Scholar from the Program on Peace Building for Human Rights at Columbia University presented “Genocide in Darfur and the Nuba Mountains – an Update.”



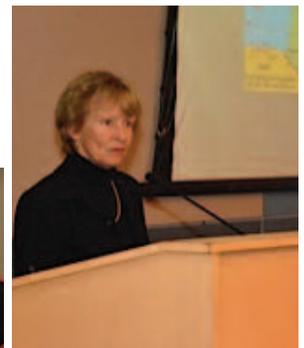
Dr. George Bourmontian



Dr. Karen Auerbach



Dr. Thomas Doherty



Dr. Susan Zucotti



Workshop Participants

Holocaust Center News

● The Holocaust Resource Center of Kean University

The Holocaust Resource Center of Kean University continued to offer its successful tuition waiver graduate courses in 2013. The Center offered “Teaching Prejudice Reduction for Educators in the spring, and “Teaching the Holocaust” in the fall. The fall courses were offered in the Diversity Council districts Bloomfield, Cranford, East Windsor, South Orange/Maplewood and at Kean University. The Spring course included a panel presentation at Kean of LGBT educators, students, and allies to discuss their experiences in NJ public schools. The fall course included a trip to the USHMM with a tour to the museum and time spent with survivor Nesse Godin, who shared her memories and inspired the teachers. Fran Schwartz, member of the Second Generation Committee of the Holocaust Resource Foundation, shared her mother’s Holocaust experiences and added to our teacher’s understanding. The graduate courses, offered to teachers in New Jersey, continue to be extremely popular. There is a waiting list through 2016 to bring the courses to other school districts.



Educators with Nesse Godkin

Last Spring, over 20 educators attended a program with Dr. Stuart Liebman, Professor of Media Studies at Queens College, and Founding

Coordinator of the Film Studies Certificate Program at the CUNY Graduate Center. This all day workshop on the history and film of the Holocaust provided a great context for educators to use in their classrooms. The program analyzed films such as Death Mills, The Pawnbroker, and Life is Beautiful. Participants were fascinated by the portrayal of the Holocaust on screen and the imagery, messages, and reflections of society these past and recent films depicted.



From left to right: Rosemarie Wilkinson, Dr. Steven Liebman and Karen Stark

Our annual Yom Hashoah program, coordinated by the Jewish Federation and Holocaust Council of Greater MetroWest was held in April. This year’s commemoration featured a staged reading of an excerpt of the play Windows by local playwright Melissa Schaffer and told the moving story of a local NJ Holocaust survivor.

This fall, the Holocaust Resource Center partnered with Kean’s Human Rights Institute as they hosted their second Holocaust exhibit, Besa: Muslims Who Saved Jews During the Holocaust. The exhibit was on display from September to late December. The exhibit was well attended both within and outside the University community.

The annual Murray Pantirer scholar lecture invited Richard Weisberg, the Walter Floerhsheimer Professor of Constitutional Law at Benjamin L. Cardozo Law School, Yeshiva University, to give the evening lecture. The lecture was titled: Inflexible Heroes: Stalwart Resistance to Hitler’s Policies in WWII

Germany, France, and British Channel Islands. Professor Weisberg also shared an afternoon seminar addressing his 20 years of experience in litigation for Holocaust survivors. This program was co-sponsored by the American Society for Yad Vashem’s Education Department and Young Leader’s Association.



From left to right: Stacy Schiller, Dr. Suzanne Vromen (Holocaust Survivor) and Marlene YaHalom

In early December the Center welcomed Suzanne Vromen to Kean University as one of the Diversity Council programs for students. Dr. Vromen spoke to over 600 students from school districts such as Elizabeth, Rahway and East Brunswick to share her research and interviews with hidden children in Belgium, as well as her family’s escape from Europe to the Belgian Congo. This program was also co-sponsored by the American Society for Yad Vashem’s Education Department and Young Leader’s Association.

The Center also continues its partnership with the College of Education and the Human Rights Institute in coordinating the offering of the popular undergraduate course “Holocaust, Genocide, and Modern Humanity” in high schools. The Center have expanded its program and have added offerings in Randolph and Passaic Valley to those at Monmouth Regional High School, Watchung Hills Regional High School, and Memorial High School in West New York. The course offers students the opportunity to explore the topic at the collegiate level while receiving both high school and college credit.

Holocaust Center News

● College of Saint Elizabeth Holocaust Education Resource Center

Yom Hashoah Programs

The Center had planned very special Holocaust remembrance and genocide awareness and education programs for April and May 2013. 1,500 university students and faculty, teachers and students from public, Catholic and Jewish schools, as well as members of the community, attended sessions that offered testimonies of survivors of the Holocaust and Rwandan genocide, with film screenings, lectures and discussions about both.

On April 8th, Yom Hashoah Commemoration Survivor testimony was offered by Sarah Wiener, introduced by her daughter, Dr. Deborah Rabner. Mark Weitzman, Director of Government Affairs and of the Task Force against Hate and Terrorism for the Simon Wiesenthal Center, offered remarks on the significance of 20 years of Holocaust remembrance programs presented by the College of Saint Elizabeth. Cantor Joel Kaplan of Congregation Agudath Israel of Caldwell and the Rev. Joseph Thomas, More Catholic Parish of Morristown, New Jersey led the memorial prayers. A reception honoring survivors followed.

During the week of April 8th, known as the Week of Holocaust Observance, in-class sessions on the Holocaust offered to students were also open to the community.

On April 9th, Stella Rabner, Holocaust survivor of Poland and Russia offered testimony.. She was introduced by her son, the Honorable Stuart Rabner. Dr. Mary Choyko, professor and chair of the sociology department at the College of Saint Elizabeth, presented the program.

Another program on April 9th featured Dr. Harriet Sepinwall, professor of Holocaust Studies and co-director of the Holocaust Education Resource Center, speaking about the variety of experiences of children during



Stella Rabner (holding flowers), who gave her testimony, with her sons Hon. Stuart Rabner, and Howard Rabner as well as daughter-in-law Hilary Rabner.

the Holocaust. Dr. Sepinwall also showed the film Children of the Holocaust to students and members of the community.

On April 11th, the College's Film Studies Festival presented Rosenstrasse, a film depicting the protest carried out by non-Jewish spouses in Berlin that won the release of Jewish husbands and fathers. Survivor Fred Heyman shared his personal moments of being at the protest with his mother.

Also on April 11th, Erwin Ganz testified as a survivor from Germany, speaking about his life before 1938 and about the events of Kristallnacht. This session was presented to the students of Dr. Mary Hebert, professor of psychology and Frantz Vintschger, professor of English, as well as to members of the community.

Another testimony on April 11th came from Lona Hess, survivor from Lithuania who spoke about her survival in Riga. It was presented to the students of Dr. Ellen Ehrlich, professor of nursing at the College of Saint Elizabeth and to the community.

Other Programs:

On April 18th, Consolée Nishinwe, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide, was the speaker for the Genocide Awareness Month Program - addressing students in grades 6-12. The program included the screening of the film The Last Survivor that focused on four survivors: one from the Holocaust and the others from the genocides in Darfur, Rwanda and the Congo.

On April 22nd, the College partnered with the New Jersey Film Festival in presenting Kinderblock 66, a film that tells the story of Jewish children in the Buchenwald concentration camp. Speakers included one survivor of Kinderblock 66 and the producers of the film.

Teacher Training:

On May 29th, the Center and the American Society for Yad Vashem collaborated on sponsoring a full-day workshop for teachers - "After the Holocaust: the Courage to Survive". The morning session was available to the community, with an opportunity to hear testimony by Stephanie Seltzer, child survivor from Poland and President of the World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust, as well as to listen to Dr. Paul Winkler, Executive Director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education speak on the state of Holocaust education.

The afternoon session for teachers featured five workshops. Christopher Zaar, Education Specialist, National Archives, demonstrated the use of National Archive Documents in Holocaust Education; "Caring Makes a Difference: Goals, Strategies and Resources for Elementary Teachers in Meeting the New Jersey Mandate" was presented by Peppy Margolis, Director of Cultural Outreach and the Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Raritan Valley Community College; "The Internet Holocaust Documentation and Denial: the Web and Beyond", presented by Dr. Marlene Yahalón, Director of Education, American Society for Yad Vashem; "The Liberator Project: Using Testimony of Liberators and Survivors in Holocaust Education", presented by Dr. David Machlis, Vice Chairman, International March of the Living and Professor of Economics, Adelphi University; "Adopt-a-Survivor", presented by Irving Roth, Holocaust survivor from Slovakia, founder of the program and Director, Holocaust Resource Center, Temple Judea of Manhasset; followed by a presentation by Frederick Carrier, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (retired), Liberator of the Buchenwald Concentration Camp and Caroline Senatore, Intern, Liberators Project.

Holocaust Center News

● Raritan Valley Community College Institute for Holocaust Genocide Studies

On March 5th, at the Yad Vashem Workshop Presentation, the emphasis was on Highlights of a Conversation with Survivors: Voices from the Holocaust. A documentary film “Can Healing Occur: Building Bridges” tried to answer the following questions: “Can we learn to live together burdened by preconceptions and long-held fears? Can we accept each other or do we continue to see one another as “the other”? Is it possible to blame a child for the sins of his/her ancestors?”

A case in point was the dilemma of Tova, one of the youngest Holocaust survivors and Taliah, her daughter, who had hired a German nanny, a young woman who had never met a Jew in her hometown and had her own independent perspective. Tova could not fathom a German woman bringing up her Jewish grandchild. This caused an obvious conflict between mother and daughter. After sharing their stories at the Raritan Valley

Community College Center for Holocaust Studies, they met Reinhold, the son of an S.S. officer and heard his story. While growing up in New Jersey, and trying to question his father about his wartime activities, Reinhold was beaten and threatened with being disowned if he ever let the dark family secret escape his lips. Now on the staff of the College, Reinhold apologized for his father’s sins. This encounter raised a most important question: “Is reconciliation necessary for healing?”

On May 22, 23 and 26, at the annual Learning Through Experience Program, the theme was “Can We Co-Exist When Prejudice Exists?” The keynote speaker, Jacqueline Marekatate, survivor of the 1994 genocide in Darfur, focused on the award-winning feature-length documentary, *The Last Survivor*, that presents the stories of genocide survivors and their struggle to make sense of the tragedy by working to educate a new generation and spark a civic response to mass atrocity crimes. Shot on location in five

countries on four continents on the universality of the horrors of all genocides. The film follows the lives of four survivors of four different genocides: the Holocaust, Rwanda, Darfur and the Congo. The “Last Survivor” presents a unique opportunity to learn from the mistakes of the past in order to have a social impact on how we collectively respond to similar issues, combating the misinformation that genocide happens “over there”. Rather it asks the audience to consider genocide an evil that has occurred on every single continent and affects us all as human beings. Above all, the film is a reflection on picking up the pieces after experiencing tragedy.

The theme of the annual Art and Writing Competition centered around the question of whether we can coexist as long as prejudice exists. The competition provides an opportunity for creative expression through prose, poetry and art work. Entries are reviewed by a selection committee from numerous school districts. Each year, the prizes awarded during the Annual Learning by Experience Program include books written by members of a distinguished panel of survivors.

Resolution Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Horrors of the Holocaust in Hungary during World War II

Two thirds of Hungarian Jewry were destroyed by the Nazis, and by the brutality of their henchmen, as well as through the deliberate cruelty they suffered at the hands of Hungarian authorities on forced marches and labor brigades. They were murdered in countryside ghettos, city streets and open fields. Ultimately, they perished as a result of horrible conditions in the concentration camps, during mass executions and in the gas chambers of Auschwitz. While the process of dehumanization began as early as 1941, it culminated in deportation and mass murder of the country’s Jewish population in 1944. Furthermore,

Whereas the Hungarian Central Authority for the Control of Foreigners began deportation of “stateless Jews of unspecified origin” to areas already occupied by the Nazis in 1941 and

Whereas 18,000 innocent victims were deported in this manner in a matter of just a few weeks, and 15,000 were machine-gunned into mass graves they were forced to dig and

Whereas 42,000 unarmed members of the forced labor units were ordered to the battlefields to assist the Nazi war effort and

Whereas beginning on March 19, 1944, all sense of security evaporated when Adolf Eichmann’s Reich Security Office, with the enthusiastic cooperation of Hungarian authorities acting with the greatest of zeal, began to “de-jewify” the country and

Whereas Eichmann’s cohorts and their willing Hungarian executioners speedily organized the collection and deportation of

780,000 Hungarian Jews scattered across an area of 170 kilometers and

Whereas this frantic pace of facilitating the Final Solution from the beginning of April to late May of 1944 surprised even its greatest enthusiasts and

Whereas the hastily ghettoized Hungarian Jewish population experienced deportation under the most brutal conditions, in cattle wagons of freight trains, with 437,000 transported to Auschwitz Birkenau between May 15th and July 9th, 1944 and

Whereas the speed with which the Hungarian authorities carried out their mission of segregating, robbing and deporting their Jewish compatriots – actions that resulted in the unprecedented total casting off a significant segment of the country’s population out of society and

Whereas the last blow to the only remaining group of Hungarian Jews in the capital of Budapest was delivered in a space of ten weeks, starting on October 15th, 1944 with the ascent of commander Szalasi of the Hungarian Arrow Cross and

Whereas 50,000 Jews from Budapest were deported under his leadership in November and December of 1944. Therefore,

Be it resolved that Governor Chris Christie of the State of New Jersey and members of the New Jersey State Legislature honor the victims of the Holocaust in Hungary by declaring 2014, the 70th anniversary of the destruction of Hungarian Jewry, a year in which the State of New Jersey commemorates the loss of life and suffering of innocent men, women and children of the Jewish community in Hungary.