

Remember

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Summer 2013

Remembrance is Continuing the Resistance

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

20TH ANNUAL EVENING OF ROSES



The Sister Rose Thering Fund for Education in Jewish-Christian Studies recognized New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education Executive Director Dr. Paul B. Winkler with a Seton Hall University Doctorate of Humane Letters, honoris causa, on Sunday, April 21, at the 20th annual Evening of Roses fundraiser.



and greetings to the Honoree by Luna Kaufman, Chairman Emerita, Sister Rose Thering Fund.

There was not a dry eye in the audience as Dr. Paul Winkler credited four women with inspiring him with caring and compassion: his grandmother, his mother, his wife and Sister Rose. We all feel deeply indebted to them for the “end product” of their inspiration. Their efforts gave us an outstanding mentor and advocate whose motto has always been threefold. Paul never forgets to reiterate that while it is good to perceive evil with our minds and feel it with our hearts, recognition and compassion remain less than effective – unless accompanied by action. His exhortation to student audiences is always the same: work with your mind, your heart and your hands. If we could only clone such a champion of loving kindness for all the world to follow!

***Congratulations, Paul,
on a richly
deserved honor!***

This year’s memorable event took place at Seton Hall University on April 21st. It was a beautiful, sunny spring afternoon, simply perfect for honoring a man whose name has become synonymous with his life’s mission of promoting acceptance, inclusiveness and an unwavering sense of justice, as well as a determination to fight prejudice, bias and bigotry whenever and wherever they occur. Due to his untiring efforts, New Jersey has become famous worldwide for its curricula and Centers for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

Sister Rose and Dr. Paul Winkler,

Executive Director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, were soulmates in their quest for a better world achieved through the lessons of the Holocaust and other genocides. There is no doubt in anyone’s mind that Sister Rose was smiling and beaming with pride as she watched A. Gabriel Esteban, Ph.D., President of Seton Hall University, confer the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa on her friend Paul, always her partner in their noble enterprise.

Awarding of the degree followed a warm welcome by David Bossman, Ph.D., Executive Director; a retrospective, “Celebrating Twenty Years of the Sister Rose Fund” by Paul Gibbons, Chairman of the Board, Sister Rose Thering Fund

Holocaust News

● **Kean University Holocaust Resource Center and Diversity Council**

Kean University Holocaust Resource Center has continued to offer its successful tuition waver graduate courses for teachers – beginning in September, with “Teaching the Holocaust” – in its Diversity Council districts of East Brunswick, Livingston, West Orange, Watchung Hills, Red Bank and on the Kean University campus. This course includes a trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for a tour of the museum and time spent with survivor Nesse Godin who shares memories and inspires teachers. This popular course for New Jersey teachers now has a waiting list until 2015 before it can be brought to other school districts.

The Center partnered with Kean’s Human Rights Institute in hosting Holocaust Suite, a Holocaust exhibit of a collection of seven lithographic prints by artist Jacob Landau (1917-2001), borrowed from the Jacob Landau Collection of Monmouth University. The exhibit was on display from September to late December 2012. The Holocaust Resource Center offered a free workshop for educators in conjunction with Holocaust Suite.

October’s “Art as a Witness to History” drew educators from across the state to examine Landau’s representation of the Holocaust with David Hellstrom, President of the Jacob Landau Institute. The educators then worked with Jane Denney, Director of Education at CCHANGE, the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights and Genocide Education at Brookdale Community College to explore the use of Holocaust art in education, including Jacob Landau’s educational philosophy, a deep exploration of the lithographs and appropriate approaches to the art of the Holocaust and other genocides.

In late November, the Center welcomed Irving Roth to Kean University at one of the Diversity Council programs for students. Mr. Roth spoke to over 600 students from the

Elizabeth and Rahway school districts, sharing experiences before the Holocaust, his travel from Slovakia to Hungary and his experiences of surviving two concentration camps and a death march. His universal message about being a good person and an active participant in creating a better world resonated with the entire audience – from educators to students.

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

The Center’s Annual Murray Pantirer Scholar Lecture invited Doris Bergen, the Chancellor Rose and Ray Wolfe Professor of Holocaust Studies at the University of Toronto and faculty member of the History Department, to give the evening lecture entitled “Witnesses to Atrocity: Religious Morality, German Military Chaplains and the Holocaust – exploring the complex role of this group and its complicity in the Holocaust.

Dr. Bergen also shared a seminar, “Holocaust Survivors and Scholars: Changing and Challenging Relationships”, with a small group of educators and faculty earlier in the day. Dr. Bergen was fascinating and engaging in both programs, and the Center felt honored having her.

● **The Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center at Rutgers University**

The Master Teaches Institute in Holocaust Education

continues to draw a diverse group of middle and high school educators from across New Jersey, training a base of expert teachers in Holocaust Studies who then serve as resource providers in their schools, districts and communities. The program offers advanced training by scholars and leaders in Holocaust Studies, each session featuring a presentation followed by a pedagogical workshop using primary documents related to the semester theme.

The fall 2012 course, The Aftermath of the Holocaust”, explored a variety of complex issues that arose after World War II. Twenty-five public and private school teachers participated in the course. The circumstances and resettlement of “Displaced Persons” were discussed by Cooper Union professor for the Advancement of Science and Art, Atina Grossman; Lawrence Douglas gave a lecture on “War Crimes Trials”; Brigitte Sion, of the Center for International Research in the Humanities and Social Science in Paris, spoke about “Reparations”; Nancy Sinkoff, Chair of the Jewish Studies Department at Rutgers, gave a talk about “The Beginnings of Holocaust Studies” and Jeffrey Shandler, the Institute’s faculty advisor and professor at Rutgers University, presented “American Jews Fighting Prejudice on the Airwaves”.

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|  Remember Remembrance is Continuing the Resistance |
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Holocaust Center News

● Mercer County Holocaust Genocide Resource Center

In September 2012, Dr. Vera Goodkin met with Mercer County Community College students and staff in the Holocaust and Genocide Resource Center to discuss her own personal experiences as a child survivor of the Holocaust. She also assisted trip participants prepare for their trip to Poland, a life-altering experience.

October was an especially busy month for the Center. The month's activities began with the presentation by survivor and freedom fighter Dr. Nuran Nabi who told the untold story of the Bangladesh Genocide to a "full house" of educators and students.

Giving the historical background that led to the genocide, Dr. Nabi detailed the freedom fighter movement, as well as the lack of international government response to the crisis which involved the murder of 3 million Bengalis over the course of 267 days by Pakistani forces acting on military orders. In addition, 200,000 women were raped and 10,000,000 Bengalis were forced to become refugees in India since Pakistani leaders did not agree with the desire of Bengalis for freedom to form an independent state. The crimes were committed in the name of Islam – despite the fact that the majority of Bengalis are Muslims.

The next October activity was the Center's welcoming a group of Mercer County College students to the inaugural session of Upstander training. The curriculum explores people's general good will not to stereotype, disrespect or demean, as well as their fear of saying or doing the wrong thing. This exploration proves that when reluctance to act/speak wins out, the majority simply stands by. This silence hurts the victim, and the situation is allowed to deteriorate. Aptly, the workshop is entitled "Ouch! Your Silence Hurts." Participants recognize that they may often fear the bully themselves, but also come to

the realization that being an upstander is a choice that rests with each individual. However, by choosing not to be upstander, they relinquish authority to the bully. Participants further learn that one technique to diffuse volatile situations is re-directing the focus or responding to negativity with positivity, thereby raising the level of the conversation.

The last October event involved the Center's joining with the Mercer County College Muslim Student Association in welcoming an audience of students, faculty, staff and county residents to the opening of photographer Norman Gershman's exhibit of portraits of the amazing upstanders of Albania who took enormous risks to save Jews. The artist was on hand to share some of his personal experiences with the subjects.



The brave Muslim Albanians who risked their lives to rescue their Jewish neighbors during the Holocaust.

● College of Saint Elizabeth Holocaust Education Resource Center

The Center proudly presents Samantha Insetta, a history major at the College. In the fall of 2012, her senior year, Samantha became the recipient of a prestigious award, the semester-long Lipper Internship, that will allow her to work at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City, exploring the increasingly critical importance of teaching the lessons of the Holocaust to future generations. One of only 18



Samantha Insetta, '13, Works with the Museum of Jewish Heritage to Transform the World

students nationwide, she will develop special skills for teaching public, middle and high school students about Jewish history and the Holocaust through a series of classroom visits and museum tours. Her five predecessors from the College of Saint Elizabeth have already built a great reputation for the College at the Museum. Samantha credits the course, History of the Holocaust, taught by Dr. Harriet Sepinwall, for giving her a great background that prepared her for the internship. When her application was accepted, Ms. Insetta went to New York City for eight days of rigorous preparation – meeting with staff members and Holocaust survivors to learn about history, artifacts, anti-Semitism and even a training session on Judaism. Two hours each night, the intern studied readings and ultimately learned how to give tours and teach lessons. Ms. Insetta is excited about having the opportunity to work with the Museum of Jewish Heritage in an effort to transform the world. After her teaching session on anti-Semitism, followed by the history of the Holocaust, her seventh grade language arts students from Clinton Middle School went on a tour at the Museum of Jewish Heritage. She then returned to the school for a wrap-up lesson as a review of what the students learned, as well as the importance of standing up to social injustice. "The students learned what they can do to prevent something like this from happening. They now know that even one person matters," was Samantha's conclusion. Ms. Insetta plans to study for her master's degree in library science. As a guardian of the survivors' stories, she also feels a great responsibility to be an advocate for the internship program, to motivate her peers to do their part.

Holocaust Center News



Four Atlantic County Holocaust survivors (front row) display their memoirs with Stockton and Atlantic Cape Community College faculty/staff (back row) at the Atlantic County library's memoir workshop presentation in Mays Landing.

● **The Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center of The Richard Stockton College**

The Center received a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, for the "South Jersey Holocaust Survivor Memoir Education Project". Over 40 memoirs have been written at the Center with local South Jersey Holocaust survivors from Atlantic and Cumberland Counties. The Center sets as a goal that students read memoirs written by local survivors who can then speak in their classes. The combination of memoir and live witness impacts students powerfully. These memoirs were highlighted at three events: an educator workshop, at two library/community events, one for Atlantic County and one at Cumberland County. Memoirs were distributed to the libraries; classroom sets of memoirs, and teacher guides, were distributed at the educator workshop.

By introducing these South Jersey Holocaust survivor memoirs to educators, librarians, as well as the community, and providing them memoirs, the Center anticipates that these materials will be circulated in local schools and libraries.

Students and communities will not only learn more about the Holocaust and the survivors' specific experiences during the Holocaust, but also about the immigration histories of these South Jersey survivors. The memoirs focus on issues of injustice, the reason these survivors immigrated to the United States.

● **Chhange: Center for Holocaust, Human Rights and Genocide Education at Brookdale Community College**

The Center is now in its beautiful new home in the Banquier Library Building on the Brookdale Campus at Lincroft. A public opening was held on November 18, 2012, with a very first temporary exhibit Recovering Memory: the Art of Claire Boren. Claire is an accomplished local artist and Holocaust survivor, hidden during the war in the forests of Poland. Her repressed memories of the period began to emerge through her art. Her abstract work in mixed media allowed her to extend her interior world into the exterior one of art. The ribbon cutting ceremony on December 14th was attended by survivors, College President Dr. Maureen Murphy and members of the Center's Board of Directors.

Chhange is honored to have been one of 76 organizations nationwide selected for the Big Read grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The purpose of this grant is to engage reluctant and lapsed readers in a community read and activities. Individuals, classes, book clubs, libraries and arts agencies got together to read and discuss *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines, while also enjoying related films, speakers and arts events. The book deals with the themes of social justice, education and human dignity.

In-school programming has continued throughout the fall semester. Once again, *A Journey to Life* suitcases were in great demand in schools across the state.

In December 2012, Chhange hosted the 11th Annual Council of Holocaust Educators Conference, Museums and Schools: an Alliance for Learning, an excellent opportunity for educators to learn how to enrich their students' classroom experiences with easily accessible museum connections. Keynote speakers were Stephen Feinberg of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Noah Rauch of the National 9/11 Museum. 75 attendees benefited from a virtual trip to our new facility, and a team of educators provided insight into using 9/11 classroom resources.

The Center's archives continue to grow thanks to the commitment of survivors in the community and beyond. Recently added new artifacts and documents are about to become primary classroom source materials – with the use of videoconferencing capabilities of the new facility.

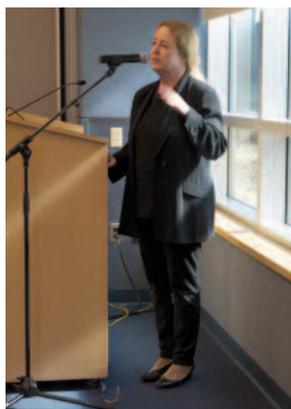
Once again, co-founders of Chhange, Dr. Seymour Siegler and Professor Jack Needle hosted the Wednesday morning film series during the fall semester, highlighting the theme of Rescuers while paying tribute to Raoul Wallenberg, Chiune Sugihara and the Bielski Partisans by screening the films *Good Evening, Mr. Wallenberg* and *Defiance*. Each film was followed by a discussion led by Dr. Siegler or Professor Needle.

During the fall, Professor Needle also hosted his Lecture and Discussion Series featuring *From General to Private; Racial Attitudes in the United States Army in World War II; Hitler and the United States: War Aims and The Pink Triangle: Homosexuals in the Nazi era.*

Holocaust Center News

● Ramapo College Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

On October 4, 2012, filmmaker Director Rebecca Cohen led a Skype discussion of film between individual accountability, collective reconciliation and the limits of international justice. While the people of Sierra Leone were relieved in 2002, when the 10-year war was ended, memories of murder, systematic rape and dismemberment could not be set aside.



*Dr. Irena Grudzinska-Gross answering questions after a presentation about **Golden Harvest**, her book on the plundering of Jewish property during the Holocaust.*

On October 16th, Dr. Irena Grudzinska-Grosz, Princeton University Professor of East European Literature, spoke about “Plunder from the Jews during the Holocaust”. The seizure of Jewish assets during World War II generated widespread attention only when Swiss banks were challenged to produce lists of dormant accounts and when national museums were forced to return stolen paintings. However, the people who helped themselves to Jewish property were mainly ordinary people. This was especially true in Poland which had pre-war Europe’s largest Jewish population. Uncovering the truth has not been an easy process since the Poles saw only themselves as victims of Nazi oppression. Only recent disclosures of Poles having carried out pogroms and betrayed Jews in hiding have opened up the possibility of a better assessment of the role of Poles in the Holocaust.

On October 18th, Israeli Director Duki Dror screened and led a discussion of his film, Mendelsohn’s Incessant Visions, a new complicated documentary telling the story of German-Jewish architect Erich Mendelsohn from his rise as a superstar in Berlin and his triumphant designs in the Middle East and America, to bitter disappointment everywhere. One of his iconic designs included the Einstein Tower in Potsdam.

On October 24th, Dr. Victoria Sanford, Director of the Center for Human Rights and Peace Studies and Professor of Anthropology at Lehmann College and the Graduate Center at CUNY, spoke about the Guatemalan Genocide – Communal Responsibility and Possibilities for Justice. Between the late 1970s and 1980s, Guatemala was torn by mass terror and extreme violence. The Guatemalan Truth Commission documented 626 village massacres and 200,000 dead or disappeared in the Guatemalan genocide of the 1980s.

Dr. Sanford explored the three phases of Guatemalan genocide and pointed to command responsibility on the part of current and former members of the army. She also discussed ongoing genocide cases in national and international courts, especially against the former dictator, Efraim Rios Montt. Dr. Sanford is an expert on

post-conflict violence, drug-trafficking and crime, with specific focus on forensic investigation and judicial reform.



Dr. Paul Winkler, executive director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, setting the stage for the November 15, 2012 Gumpert Teachers Workshop on “In Their Own Words: Diaries as a Window into the World of Children of the Holocaust.”

On November 17th, the Center, in cooperation with the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, sponsored the Gumpert Teachers’ Workshop “In Their Own Words: Diaries as a Window into the World of Children in the Holocaust”. Center Director Dr. Michael Riff and Commission Executive Director Dr. Paul Winkler emphasized in their introductory remarks that discussing the experiences of children and teenagers in the Holocaust can help educators confront issues beyond genocide – including bullying and human rights - with their students.

Alexandra Zapruder, Gumpert Teachers’ Workshop keynote speaker on “Diaries as a Window into the World of Children in the Holocaust”.

Author and scholar Alexandra Zapruder delivered an interactive keynote lecture about how to use the diaries from her edited volume *Salvaged Pages: Young Writers’ Diaries of the Holocaust*. She stressed how well students relate to the writings of people their own age. In addition to learning and writing about the Holocaust, they also begin to cope more effectively with adolescent behavioral issues, as well as stress and trauma in their own lives. Alexandra Zapruder also wrote and coproduced a documentary film for young audiences.



Colleen Tambuscio, New Milford High School faculty member, relating her students’ experience of commemorating the rescue of a Jewish family during the Holocaust in Moravian village of Trstice, (Czech Republic), at the Gumpert Teachers Workshop on November 15, 2012.

Colleen Tambuscio, Social Science and Special Education teacher at New Milford High School, also presented at the workshop, sharing her experiences while taking students on a tour of Holocaust sites in Europe.

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● **Ramapo** *(continued from p. 5)*

She stressed the transformative nature of such trips on student understanding of the Holocaust. She referred specifically to her students' visit to the Czech town of Trstice and their involvement and engagement in the dedication of a memorial to honor the villagers who courageously hid a Jewish family from deportation during World War II.

The program culminated with a panel discussion among three local survivors whose lives were saved by hiding. Lola Kaufman's mother was killed by the Gestapo before she went into hiding. Her only memento, a dress embroidered by her mother, is now in the permanent collection of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Retired filmmaker Paul Galan's story of survival included hiding out with the partisans in Slovakia, imprisonment in a labor camp and several narrow escapes. He was miraculously reunited with his parents and sister. No less of an ordeal was faced by Eric Meyer who fled to France following Kristallnacht and then joined the partisans, participating in a successful action against an SS division en route to engage allied troops landing in Normandy. At the end of the war, he found himself an orphan, with his father dying in the Sobibor uprising. With the help of relatives, he and his brother settled in the United States. All three "hidden children" were forced to grow up much too quickly. Participating teachers had found this workshop extremely successful in enhancing their skills in teaching the Holocaust.

● **Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study**

The Center's fall program was a 3-part Study Seminar Series on Nazi Propaganda led by Dr. Larry A. Greene, a member of the Center's Board of Associates and Professor of the History of World War II: Holocaust Propaganda and American Expatriates in Europe, at Seton Hall University. He believes that the

cauldron of World War II and the tragedy of the Holocaust can only be understood in terms of propaganda, Germany's most effective weapon. The 40 educators registered earned up to six professional development hours.

● **Raritan Valley Community College Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies**

The Institute hosted the Premiere of Adam Mazo's Documentary Film, *Coexist* on November 29th. The film tells the stories of trauma survivors searching for ways to coexist with the murderers of their loved ones. As killing continues in Rwanda today, and the government forces citizens to consider reconciliation, we need to examine the various paths survivors choose when forced to face enemies and former enemies every day.

In a world where innocent people are regularly attacked or killed because of who they are, Adam Mazo challenges us to ask: how can Rwandan experiences inform efforts to build peaceful coexistence, eliminate hate crimes and prevent all types of violence?

Dr. Mishy Lesser, *Coexist* Learning Director, presented a professional development workshop challenging educators to explore their own beliefs and feelings about violence, forgiveness, reconciliation and the importance of dialogue. Participants in the workshops received a DVD of the *Coexist* film and an online link to a downloadable Teacher's Guide.

On November 30th, Dauda Collier, a student in the Raritan Valley Community College, addressed high school students as part of the College's Learning Through Experience Program. He recalled his experiences as a 16-year-old Kamajor in war-torn Sierra Leone, fighting as part of the Civil Defense Forces. It was the first time Collier has ever spoken publicly

about his experiences. Now 32, Collier immigrated to the U.S. in 2009.



Dauda Collier

400 students from Catholic high schools throughout New Jersey participated in this annual Learning Through Experience Program sponsored by the College's Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

● **Burlington County College Holocaust Genocide Resource Center**

In the fall of 2012, the College again offered a three-credit "History of Genocide" course. This course presents a timeline of intolerance through historical analysis of genocide. Students discuss how prejudice and discrimination lead to human rights violations and challenges to social justice. Projects and topics center on the issues of conscience, ethics and moral responsibility – included in, but not limited to, genocides.

Students, staff and administration participated in a bi-annual trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in September.

Civility Week occurred in November. Presentation topics included stereotyping, media, politics, technology, domestic violence, as well as mental health social and legal issues.