

# Remember

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Remembrance is Continuing the Resistance  
NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST/GENOCIDE EDUCATION

## KIDSBRIDGE TOLERANCE MUSEUM

During the 2014 - 2015 school year – and continuing in its new home in Ewing - the Museum has continued its most valuable prejudice reduction education activities – impacting a total of over thirteen thousand students and seventeen thousand members of the community and involving more than one thousand educators and close to five hundred survivors. The Museum specializes in small group discussions about the Holocaust, genocide and bias, as well as bullying prevention, upstanders and diversity appreciation.

Some of Kidsbridge's other activities include an Annual Holocaust/Genocide Youth Competition, with awards for students recognized for their humanitarian projects and winning entries in a writing contest. The Museum also conducts its Annual Walk 2 Stop Bullying while distributing resources for educators and families, as well as about upstander behavior.

Moreover, this year's ongoing projects included interacting with about 1900 visitors in the Holocaust section of the Museum. In addition, there were 125 student tours and student meetings with survivors at the Museum, as well as in schools. Kidsbridge Museum staff and volunteers also made presentations to community groups, such as: the Rotary Club, Scout and church groups – along with library programs. Furthermore, the Museum mounted a successful Holocaust exhibit entitled "The Betrayal of Humanity". The Kidsbridge Holocaust Advisory Board has also formed a partnership with the Jewish Family and Children's Services.



*Teaching students how to be an UPstander, not a bystander, Edie Serafine uses genocide and holocaust lessons to make many contemporary points. Younger students learn through the children's book 'The Terrible Things'. Middle schoolers learn via a Darfur empathy activity. Thanks to the generosity of the Axelrod Foundation, Kidsbridge Tolerance Museum is able to promulgate holocaust/genocide curricula in many school classrooms. [www.kidsbridgemuseum.org](http://www.kidsbridgemuseum.org)*

## Holocaust News

### ● Ramapo College Center for Holocaust Genocide Studies

**B**eginning on February 6, 2015, in a joint effort with the Jewish Family Service of North Jersey, the College launched an initiative to assist survivors suffering from PTSD. It began with an orientation for ten student nurses. The collaboration led to training 4th year nursing students on how to deal with the special needs of Holocaust survivors exhibiting symptoms of late onset PTSD. The students working with experienced social workers learned to recognize, understand and deal with the phenomenon. All around positive feedback supports plans to continue the program each year. While often experienced by Holocaust survivors, PTSD also afflicts victims of other genocides, wars, all types of abuse and other forms of man's inhumanity to man. It is something for which most health professionals and social workers are usually unprepared. Participants in this collaborative program develop skills that may well be transferrable to other situations they may encounter in their professional lives. Long range plans for this project include bringing the nursing students in contact with their colleagues in the College's History program and training high school students to conduct interviews with Holocaust survivors – leading to the production of video oral histories – resulting, in turn, in heightened empathy for the elderly and the ability to transmit newly-developed compassionate critical thinking skills to interacting with those different from themselves.

On February 10th, the Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies hosted a program on the "Scourge of Genocide: A Century of Angst in the Middle East". The discussion between the Rev. Paul Haidostian, distinguished lecturer and writer on Armenian identity, ecumenism and social issues and Khatchig Mouradian, coordinator of the Armenian Genocide Program at the Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights at Rutgers University, explored how mass violence in the Middle East since the Armenian Genocide of 1915 created a culture of anxiety among the region's Christian communities. Tracing this phenomenon to the current existential crisis in Christian communities due to the attempt by ISIS to eliminate Christian presence in the region, the speakers pointed to the dramatic decrease in Christian population from one million before the second Iraq war to 250,000 – caused by intimidations, bombings and kidnappings.

Dr. Haidostian, convinced that education is a key to creating hope for a better future, pointed to some efforts by Haigazian University to build much-needed trust by enrolling Muslims, as well as Christians in its student body.

On March 9th, the Center screened a film about Rwandan women who survived the 1994 genocide. In it, a group of remarkable women defy the devastation caused by the genocide to organize the first all-female drumming troupe and open the

country's first ice cream shop. Made up of women from both sides of the genocide, the group offers a place of support, healing and reconciliation. Thus, they embark upon a journey of independence, peace and possibility. The film, "Sweet Dreams", interweaves heart-wrenching stories with joyous music to present a moving portrait of a country in transition.

The award winning brother-sister team, Rob and Lisa Fruchtmann, have earned recognition for bringing the feature film and documentary experience to many projects. Another one of Rob's documentaries, "Trust Me", follows Christian, Jewish and Islamic boys at an interfaith camp in North Carolina. His 2007 film, "Seeing Proof", is about Cambodia's brutal regime and its lingering effect on Cambodian society. Lisa Fruchtmann's work spans the fields of film and television, carrying the messages of "Right Stuff", "Children of a Lesser God" and the "Woodsmen".

On March 26th, the Center featured Michael Livingston, Professor of Law at the Rutgers School of Law, who examined the legal framework, case-level operation and ominous consequences of Fascist Italy's racial laws. The talk was based on his recent book, "The Fascists and the Jews of Italy". Between 1938 and 1943, before the German occupation, Fascist Italy drafted, implemented and enforced laws that resulted in serious damage to the Italian Jewish community. The research for the book was based on an exhaustive review of Italian legal, administrative and judicial sources, as well as the archives of the Italian Jewish community.

Professor Livingston concluded that the Race Laws were rooted in Italian Fascism and Catholic religious ideology and were as exclusionist, harsh and restrictive as the Nuremberg Laws. Although not inherently genocidal, by weakening the fabric of Jewish life and gathering detailed information on individual Jews, these legal measures paved the way for the Italian stage of the Holocaust after 1943

Professor Livingston's course on Law and the Holocaust, which has been taught in three countries, is one of the few of its kind in American law schools.

On April 20th, the Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide sponsored a screening of "Deadly Deception of Sobibor", a film detailing how Israeli archeologist Yoram Halmi and his Polish colleague Wojtek Mazurek – with the aid of local residents – uncovered irrefutable evidence about the camp, including the revolt and mass escape in 1943. They found the remnants of the gas chamber, as well as traces of a walled corridor, dubbed by the SS as Himmelfahrtstrasse (Street to Heaven) through which they herded the Jews to their demise – along with a yellow Star of David, a small nametag of a murdered child from Amsterdam and artifacts from a well, indicating both the revolt and the cover-up. The film also shows corroborating testimony from a local Polish farmer, who vividly remembers the noxious smells emanating from the camp, and from one of the few Jewish survivors still alive today, who was able to verify the camp's operation and physical plan. A retired U.S. Navy officer who has researched German aerial photographs showing the camp, as well as the attempt to hide its existence by demolishing it after the revolt.

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## Holocaust News

### ● Ramapo College Center for Holocaust Genocide Studies

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Sobibor, Belzec and Treblinka were called Operation Reinhard, code name for camps established strictly for the purpose of the annihilation of Jews residing in German-occupied Polish territory not annexed by the Third Reich. At Sobibor alone, 250,000 Jews from Poland, Holland and Slovakia were killed between April 1942 and October 1943.

On May 7th, in commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, the Center hosted a conversation between Ragip Zarakolu and Nanore Barsounian in a program entitled “The Denial Industry in Turkey”. The discussion explored the deception, distortion and intimidation characterizing Turkish denial of the

Armenian Genocide between 1915 and 1923. Its purpose was also to prevent the opening of floodgates to challenges by other ethnic groups in modern-day Turkey, most notably the Kurds. On the other hand, according to Zarakolu, Turkish intellectuals have developed a tendency to resist intimidation, acknowledge the Armenian Genocide and seek reconciliation with Armenians in and outside of Turkey. Unfortunately, during the Erdogan regime, the road toward acceptance of the truth will be long and twisted.

The Center also sponsored a variety of other events and activities. They included Rasheeda S. Sampson-Jefferson’s account of “One of the Black Angels: My Father and Liberator of Buchenwald”, as well as screening of the following films: “Kinderblock 66”; “The Search for the White Rose” and “Watchers of the Sky” – a story of the life and legacy of Raphael Lemkin who coined the term genocide.

In addition, there was a panel discussion on “Islamicized Women and Orphans and the Re-Emergence of Armenian Identities in Turkey a Century After the Armenian Genocide”. At the Kristallnacht commemoration, Dr. Applebaum was the featured speaker on “Loyal Sons, German Jews of World War I”. At another program, Dr. Rebekah Klein-Pejsova spoke on “World War One Jewish Refugee Crisis in Austria-Hungary”.

The Center also hosted Yash Monk, who spoke about his book “Stranger in My Own Country”: Growing up Jewish in Modern Germany”, as well as writer and poet Victoria Redel who discussed her recent book on the relationship between a Holocaust survivor and his daughter.

Finally, the annual Gumpert Teachers Workshop explored the topic of “Educational Philosophy and the Legacy of Janusz Korcsak in Teaching about the Holocaust”.

### ● Goodwin Holocaust Museum and Education Center of Delaware Valley

 Education Center activities were many and varied, as usual. Between July 17 and August 13, 2014. Holocaust survivors addressed various audiences: Lisel Van Dyk spoke to the book club; Charles Middleberg and Helene Bouton spoke to local, national and international teens and coaches participating in Maccabi games.

The Center has been conducting virtual tours of the Goodwin Museum, with subsequent Q and A sessions. It has sponsored a series of Adult Interfaith Discussion Groups, as well as several Confronting Antisemitism Programs in partnership with ADL. Regular training sessions for Museum docents and preparation of guest readers to interact with school children in lower grades have been important priorities. Café Europa

luncheons, where Holocaust survivors were able to share and discuss crucial issues with high school students, have been effective in advancing the mission of creating a lasting legacy. Jennie Smith, daughter of righteous rescuer Irene Opdyke, was the keynote speaker at the Center’s Annual March of Remembrance.

On the instructional front, the Center purchased a class set of books for the Camden Leap Academy students and conducted tours to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum for survivors, students and teachers. A puppet show of “The Town That Fought Hate” performed at the Center showed what can be accomplished by standing up to hate. In a partnership with Temple Sholom, the Center featured Lee Sterling sharing his story of Holocaust rescue by Diplomat Aristide de Sousa Mendes.

The Center also hosted a teacher training program with a Yad Vashem educator and conducted a video-conference on “Genocide in Today’s World” and another entitled “Meet a Survivor and the Grandchild of a Survivor”. A brunch for Children and Grandchildren of Survivors designed to encourage the next generations to become actively involved in the Center’s mission was a great success. A Kristallnacht Community Remembrance maintained the continuity of memory.

# Holocaust Center News

## ● Ocean County College – A Center for Peace, Genocide and Holocaust Studies

**O**n the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the Center featured guest speaker John Pehlivanian on the subject of “The Forgotten Genocide”. The speaker’s family members were among the 1.5 million men, women and children massacred. Consequently, he spoke from years of scholarly research, as well as personal experience. As an attorney, he provided the background for the genocide, along with heart-wrenching survivor testimonies – while focusing on denial of the massacre, even by contemporary Turkish officials. He reinforced his presentation by showing a film about the genocide.

The Center also invited Ocean County resident, Ernie Mathias for a presentation entitled “Last Refuge: the Jews of Shanghai”. Mr. Mathias and his family were part of the 20,000 other European refugees who found shelter in Shanghai and survived the Holocaust. He described not only his family’s inspiring survival, but also the harsh living conditions they endured while nurturing the hope of returning to the world they left behind.

Most of the Center’s 2014-2015 programs revolved around the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. The theme of the 2015 Yom Hashoah Commemoration was “Seventy Years After the Liberation of Auschwitz”. In addition, former Ocean County Community College student Ernie Arias – currently a history and genocide major at Rutgers University - presented an illuminating power point lecture on Dr. Mengele who has become the personification of the use of medical science as a tool for genocide. In his capacity as the Angel of Death, he conducted horrific experiments on twins and on prisoners who had genetic abnormalities.

As a sequel to the above exploration of Mengele’s inhumane activities,

Auschwitz survivor Eva Mozes Kors made a Skype presentation of “Memoirs of a Mengele Twin”.

She is not only a brilliant public speaker, but also the epitome of a forgiveness advocate. In her inspiring “Surviving the Angel of Death: the True Story of a Mengele Twin in Auschwitz”, Eva Kors shows the power of the human spirit to overcome adversity.

The Center also featured Ocean County College Professor of Music and professional pianist Karen Gargone in a “Musical Tribute to Composer Arthur Schoenberg” in a program whose focus was a discussion of his life, as well as an explanation of the evolution - followed by a performance - of the remarkable piano sonata “Survivor from Auschwitz”.

A screening of and a discussion about the documentary film, “The Liberation of Auschwitz”, shot by Soviet cameraman Captain Alexander Vorontsov, was later used as evidence in the prosecution of Nuremberg War Crime Trials. The historical footage tells the story of the six thousand prisoners left to perish as the Russian Army descended upon the notorious concentration camp and offers a first-hand account of the harrowing effect of witnessing the horrifying scene had on Captain Vorontsov and his fellow Russian liberators.

Yom Hashoah on campus included a memorial service, as well as a mail and flag display showing the breakdown of those killed in the Holocaust. In addition, the Ocean County College English Honor Society presented a five member panel engaging in a discussion and analysis of author Primo Levi’s masterpiece, a memoir entitled “Surviving Auschwitz”.

In the program “The Peace Corps After Fifty Years”, Ocean County College English Professor, Rob Furrston, who had spent three years in the Corps – part of it as a teacher, shared his experiences. Through a lecture and pictures, he re-created events and feelings, along with an exploration of how they impacted both his

personal and professional life.

The Center’s concluding activity involved the program entitled “To Light a Candle: Baha’I Persecution and the Crime of Higher Education in Iran”, wherein members of the Baha’I Community of New Jersey discussed the Baha’I community in Iran and their fight against a regime that bars them from studying and teaching at Universities.

## ● Kean University Holocaust Genocide Resource Center

**I**n October 2014, Kean University Holocaust Genocide Resource Center held a Diversity Council General Assembly Meeting and sponsored a trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

In November, the Diversity Council held High School Leadership Training, and in December, the Center’s Scholar Lecture Series featured Dr. Rochelle Sidel discussing “Violence Against Women During the Holocaust”. Another Diversity Council General Assembly took place in January 2015.

In March 2015, the 70th Commemoration of Liberation featured performer Naomi Miller and survivor Cass Lewart.

The 100th Anniversary Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide in April highlighted the performance by the Shushi Dancers and speaker Mrs. Virginia Apelian. The spring semester concluded with another Diversity Council General Assembly and a Diversity Council High School Leadership Conference.

# Holocaust Center News

## ● Raritan Valley Community College – Institute for Holocaust Genocide Studies

The August 2014 New Jersey Summit dealt with the theme of “Exploring the Future of Holocaust Education”.

In October, the Institute conducted two programs. The first one featured an education seminar, “Confronting Genocide: Never Again”, conducted by Choices Curriculum from Brown University. The second was the “Annual High School Learning Through Experience”, showcasing the Dorfman Dance Company and presentations by Rwandan survivor Eugenie Mukeshimana and Holocaust survivor Margit Feldman. An Interfaith Kristallnacht program held at Temple Beth Am in Parsippany sponsored a keynote about Herschel Grynszpan, the distraught young man whose shooting of a Nazi embassy employee sparked the brutal events of Kristallnacht as punishment and retribution.

During the Yad Vashem New York Conference with the New York Association of Social Studies Teachers Program in March 2015, the Institute screened the film “The Second Generation – Ripples from the Holocaust” followed by a Q and A period.

“The Middle School Learning Through Experience” in April featured a keynote by Nick Winton, son of British humanitarian Sir Nicholas Winton, who saved the lives of 659 children from Jewish refugee camps in Prague, Czechoslovakia, by finding families in the United Kingdom willing to care for them and raise them as their own. Other events on evils, such as Cyberbullying were also conducted – as was an Art and Writing Competition. In addition, the Institute hosted a “Make a Difference” reception and program.

To conclude the spring semester’s activities, in collaboration with the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties, the Institute sponsored

screening of the film “Can Healing Occur? Building Bridges with the OTHER” followed by a panel discussion and a Q and A period about the film. A week later, the second screening of the same film for exploration of THE OTHER took place in collaboration with Somerville High School and also involved a panel discussion and Q and A.

## ● Historical Society of Princeton

In the 2014-15 academic year, the Historical Society of Princeton presented two professional development workshops at Updike Farmstead. Teachers from eleven New Jersey counties attended the programs.

In “Integrating Local Resources into Your Curriculum”, presented on October 2, 2014, teachers learned about a variety of Holocaust education resources available for classroom use. Representatives from Mercer County Holocaust centers presented meaningful lessons and discussed assembly programs and other useful strategies for addressing Holocaust and Genocide curriculum requirements.

Dr. Paul Winkler facilitated panel discussion, with Eva Mandel discussing the Holocaust Resource Center at the Historical Society of Princeton; Edie Serafine represented the Mercer County Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center and the Kidsbridge Tolerance Museum; Steve Besserman gave insights into his documentary, “Only a Number” and Ryan Lilienthal demonstrated how primary resources can be a useful tool in teaching the Holocaust through research into his own family history. Others involved in Holocaust education attending the program included Allan Silverberg who chairs the Jewish War Veterans Fogelson

Young Feinberg Post 697 of Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

On Holocaust Remembrance Day, April 16, 2015, the Historical Society of Princeton hosted an “Echoes and Reflections” teacher training workshop, a curriculum program designed by the American Anti-Defamation League that prepares teachers to explore the complex history of the Holocaust in a way that stimulates engagement, critical thinking and personal understanding among students. The twenty-two teachers in attendance received a full resource guide. They also received guidance for the use of the internet to access first-hand survivor and liberator testimonies to share with their students.

## ● Museum of Human Rights, Freedom and Tolerance

August and September 2014 featured discussions at the Museum, and in November, the Museum designed a Webinar for teachers in Russia. The last week in November was devoted to activities in conjunction with the Assyrian Cultural Association. They began with a formal opening and presentations, followed by an Exhibition on the Assyrian Massacre in Iraq 1933.

In February, 2015 the Museum commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day. Following another discussion session in March, there was an additional Webinar for Russian teachers.

# Holocaust Center News

## ● Mercer County Holocaust Genocide Resource Center

In September 2014, Mercer County College history professor, Dr. Craig Coenen, discussed a Holocaust study trip to Poland for Mercer County College students led by him and his colleague, Dr. Jack Tabor. The most horrific concentration and death camps they visited were Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka and the Warsaw Ghetto. Dr. Coenen's presentation offered a look into what the group witnessed and the differing ways the Holocaust is understood and remembered in Poland, as well as the importance of Holocaust and Genocide education in our lives today.

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Center provided information about the role Latin America has played in making refuge available to European Jews between 1933 and 1945. Christina Chavarria, Program Coordinator at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, has been instrumental in doing the research on Latin American rescue and providing these less familiar stories to student visitors to the Museum.

In October, the Center participated in Mercer County College's Open House, with two workshops for visitors. Co-directors Elizabeth DeGiorgio and Edie Serafine informed visitors about the Center's resources and scheduled events. They provided a tour of the Center and explanation of certain exhibits, as well as an interactive game teaching visitors about the most significant elements of the Holocaust. Free books and materials were also distributed.

The Center and Kappa Pi Delta Education Honor Society co-sponsored a Survivors' Luncheon. Honor students from Professor Coenen's Holocaust Studies course were seated at tables with survivors to hear their life stories and had an opportunity to ask questions. The students were truly engaged in this interaction and acknowledged the fact that the experience was ever so much more real than those gained from a book or documentary. The luncheon was especially important to help students get to know individuals who had suffered but ultimately prevailed – indisputable proof of the resilience of the human spirit. The group of survivors included Cantor David Wisnia, and Louis Shulman (Auschwitz); Dr. Vera Goodkin (child survivor rescued by Raoul Wallenberg) and Dr. Charles Rojer (hidden child).

In November, the Center featured three films on subsequent weeks – related to the Holocaust and Genocides. "Genocide in the First Half of the Century" examined the history of genocide, including the 1921 Tulsa Race Riot, the 1923 Rosewood Massacre, Stalin's Ukraine Famine, the Japanese Rape of Nanking and the Holocaust.

Screening of "World War II – the Holocaust" provided an opportunity to learn about the relations between Jews and Christians in Europe and the gradual rise of a dictatorial government, ultimately using military, civil and professional personnel to isolate and murder the Jewish population. This film was also important in

raising awareness of other genocides.

"A Promise to My Father" followed Holocaust survivor Israel Arbeiter's return to Poland and Germany to look for items buried in 1939 in the basement of his old home. Israel also traveled to Treblinka death camp where his parents and younger brother were buried - and to other camps.

The first of two remaining programs in November was a reading and reception with children's author Rebacca Upjohn. Ms. Upjohn wrote the story "The Secret of the Village Fool" that won Canada's 2014 Silver Birch Express Award. It is an inspiring account of the Zeiger family's rescue in Nazi-occupied Poland by an unlikely hero, Anton Suchinski, during World War II. When the Nazis ordered the evacuation of the Jews from Zborow, Anton Suchinski, a reclusive farmer, offered shelter to the Zeigers and two orphan girls by hiding them in a dug-out space behind his root cellar. The book has received much praise for its introduction of the difficult topic of the Holocaust to children as young as eight years of age. What makes this story so unique is not only the Zeigers' survival, but also their joyous reunion with their rescuer. They were able to celebrate Anton's deeds by giving his life continued special meaning while singing his praises publicly in Poland and in the United States and by enabling him to continue aiding those less fortunate in his home village.

February 2015 marked the continuation of the Holocaust/Genocide related film series. The first of the Movies at Noon series, "The Power of Good: Nicholas Winton", a 2002 documentary, chronicles his rescue of 659 children from German-occupied Czechoslovakia on the eve of World II. The second film, "Romeo Dallaire: Good Man in Hell" followed Canadian General Romeo Dallaire, commander of the UN Mission in Rwanda, as he warned of possible mass murder of the Tutsi minority by Hutus. Unheeded by UN officials, almost all of his troops were withdrawn, and his warning became a reality. In the film, the General shared his experiences and reflected on a genocide he could not stop and could not forget. Above all, he bemoaned the absence of appropriate international response. In the third film, "Only a Number", Steven Besserman, film maker and son of a death camp survivor, told his mother's story in poignantly personal terms. He followed up the screening with a visit to Professor Craig Coenen's Holocaust and Genocide Honors course to discuss the documentary and answer student questions.

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**NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION**

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# Holocaust Center News

## ● Mercer County Holocaust Genocide Resource Center

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In March, Dr. Jack Tabor lectured on “Photography and the Holocaust”. In his presentation, he explored the relationship between the photographic image as cultural artifact and the Holocaust as a historical event. His talk examined the ways photography served the ability to understand and bear witness to the plight of millions who perished at the hands of the Nazis.

During the third Survivor Luncheon held in March, the Center welcomed back Dr. Vera Goodkin and Dr. Charles Rojer, along with newcomers Henri and Ruth Eisenberg. All shared their harrowing stories of struggle and survival.

For the April Yom Hashoah Commemoration, Dr. Myra Weiner put together a program of poems and art work symbolizing the Holocaust. After opening remarks by Dr. Coenen, students recited some of the poems, with corresponding art work projected on the screen – accompanied by a comment on the art. Following the poetry reading, eleven candles were lit in memory of all victims murdered by the Nazis in World War II. Dr. Goodkin offered closing remarks. In commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the Center screened the 1919 American film “Ravished Armenia”, based on the book “Auction of Souls” by Arshaluys Mardiganian who also played the leading role in the film. It depicts the 1915 Armenian Genocide by the Ottoman Empire from the point of view of Armenian survivor Mardiganian who plays herself in the film. The first half of the film shows Armenia before the devastation, followed by the deportation of priests and thousands of families into the desert. One of the concluding scenes showed young Armenian women being flogged for refusing to enter Turkish harems and also depicting Turkish slave markets. April 24, 1915 – when the Ottoman authorities

arrested and ultimately executed 250 Armenian intellectuals – marked the beginning of slaughter. The genocide death toll is estimated at between 800,000 and 1.5 million.

At the end of April, Isaak Dostis, American-born filmmaker, writer and actor now living in his native Ioannina, Greece, discussed his Romaniote heritage and the little known devastation and virtual elimination of Sephardic and Romaniote Greek Jewish populations during the Holocaust.

The year’s culminating activity, a State-Wide Educators Conference, “Utilizing Resources”, featured panelists who presented information on how to design lesson plans for various grade levels. Professor Elizabeth DeGiorgio made a presentation, distributed materials to more than 100 attendees and met with individual teachers to answer their questions. Lynne Azarchi, Executive Director of KIDSBRIDGE museum, originator of the Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Award, also participated in the event. Jared Miller, a 9th grade student dedicated to Holocaust awareness and anti-bullying was the winner for his efforts to spread this awareness throughout his high school, a remarkable feat at such a young age. Another prize, the third Annual Saul Goldwasser Writing Award, was also awarded at the Educators Conference. The winner, Mercer County College student Jennifer Vitella, read her winning entry to the audience.

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

The October 2014 Dr. Marcia Robbins Wilf Lecture featured Dr. Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University who spoke on the “Short Stories of Jesus Heard through

Jewish Ears”. She also addressed an informal group of Board members and invited guests prior to the lecture and conducted a workshop for students and clergy the following day.

During the March 2015 Scholarship Awards Presentation and Program, Matt Survis, sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania and son of board member Gary Survis, spoke about a curriculum he developed to teach the Holocaust to teenagers in inner city schools. In addition, ten educators in the Sister Rose Thering Fund program in Jewish-Christian Studies and their sponsors were awarded citations. All guests participated in a rededication ceremony of the Yad Vashem Menorah that had been broken and repaired. It had been a gift of the Center for Interreligious Understanding in Teaneck, New Jersey.

April featured a reception for ten winners of the Sister Rose Thering Essay Competition, their teachers and families. They were honored with certificates and monetary gifts. The winners read their own essays which had been published in a booklet given to all attendees.

The concluding program in April was the screening of “Greeks and Jews during World War II.” by Isaak and Diana Dostis. Following the screening, the two outstanding performing artists and Holocaust educators shared stories with an emphasis on moral courage to foster the hope for a better future.

The Twenty-Second Evening of Roses in May, “Witness to Liberation”, honored twenty survivors, four children of liberators and two Humanitarians of the Year. Carolyn Dorfman, choreographer and child of survivors, was honored for her work in the arts, particularly her Dance of Hope, a portion of which was presented by one of her star performers. Tom Dugan, actor and playwright, was honored for his work in the one-man show “Wiesenthal”. Showing of videos from “Wiesenthal” was a special feature of the program – as was an interview with Jack Rudin, a World War II liberator of Nazi death camps.

# Holocaust Center News

## ● College of Saint Elizabeth Holocaust Education Resource Center

In the early October 2014 program, Jeanie Opdyk Smith, daughter of Polish rescuer Irena Gut Opdyk, made a video-assisted presentation on the subject of “Rescuers: During the Holocaust: One Person Can Make a Difference”. This was followed by a Q and A period for teachers and students, grades 6-12, and the community.

The next program, “Strategies for Responding to Conflict: Using Critical Thinking and Online Primary Sources To Expand Students’ Skills in Analyzing Possible Responses to Genocide and Other Forms of Aggression”, helped expand student thinking by using the Resistance Matrix. This professional development workshop enabled teachers to use online resources of the Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation to teach critical thinking skills and broadened their perspective on the Holocaust.

During the Week of Remembrance in October and November 2914, several in-class faculty sessions served as a prelude and accompaniment to the commemorative activities. They were also all open to the community.

As a start, in the English Department, Edyth Holzman presented sessions on “Writing Memoirs”, “Yesterday’s Nightmares – Tomorrow’s Dreams: Anne Frank and Me”. Another English Department offering was the screening of “Ida”, Pawel Pawlikowski’s Holocaust film – followed by a discussion. The Department then introduced the mother-daughter team, Gina Lanceter and Dina Cohen in their survivor-second generation testimonies.

The College’s November Kristallnacht Commemoration featured interfaith remembrance prayer and music led by Carol and Roger Pisani, with survivor testimonies by Gerda and Norbert Bikales. The program was followed by a dessert reception in honor of the survivors.

As a logical sequel to the presentations, the Center hosted a conversation among faith-based spiritual leaders, followed by Q and A. This “Dialogue After the Holocaust: What? Why? How?” was conducted by the following panel: Pastor Murdoch Manherson, Rev. Jeff Markay, Father Anthony Randazzo and Rabbi Alan Silverstein.

The second in-class faculty session in the Healthcare area featured a film screening and discussion of the documentary “The Last Survivor: Four Tragedies, Four Journeys, One Purpose”. The film follows the lives of survivors of the Holocaust, as well as those of the genocides in Rwanda, Darfur and the Congo.

The third in-class faculty session in the Global Studies Program screened and discussed the Argentinian film, “German Doctor” – focusing on Josef Mengele who performed the infamous experiments in Auschwitz, while the Biology Program had a film screening and subsequent discussion of “Nazi Medicine: in the Shadow of the Reich”.

The fourth in-class session was a Multimedia presentation in the Religious Studies Program entitled “Persons and Discussions of Conscience: Case Studies of Persons Who Dared to Care and Act.”

In the fifth session, the Nursing Program faculty conducted a class on the Second Generation, with guest speaker Allen Zacks, the son of survivors, discussing “My Parents’ Experiences During the Holocaust”

The sixth session took place in the Religious Studies Department and explored the subject of “Remembering and Listening as Moral Activities – Spiritual and Ethical Aspects of the Virtues for Reflecting on the Holocaust”. The seventh in-class session presented the Music of the Holocaust under the auspices of the Music Program and featured Dr. Tamara Freeman, violinist, violist and ethnomusicologist of the Holocaust.

The eighth in-class session, presented by the Sociology Program, involved testimony from Eugene Mukeshimana, survivor of the Rwandan Genocide. Founder of the Genocide Survivors Support Network, Mukeshimana also conducted the Q/A.

In the ninth in-class session, the Psychology Department presented Ann Monka, who was rescued by the Bielski brothers, in her Holocaust survivor testimony. The Psychology Program also introduced the Holocaust testimony of Erwin Ganz, survivor of Kristallnacht.

During the tenth in-class session, the Justice Studies Program featured student presentations of “Trends in Bias Crimes”.

The April 2015 Annual Professional Development Conference, explored

“Rescuers During the Holocaust: Acts of Courage in Challenging Times”, along with new strategies and resources to meet the New Jersey mandate on Holocaust Education. Suzanne Vromen, child survivor and Professor Emerita of Sociology at Bard College gave the keynote. Breakout sessions included: “Using Archival Documents in Holocaust Education” with Christopher Zaar; “How Is the Holocaust Taught Around the World? Global Perspective on Holocaust Education” with Dr. Marlene Yahalom; “Rescuers During the Holocaust: Jews and Non-Jews” with Professor Suzanne Vromen and “Implementing the State Mandate: the Impact of Administrative Support for Holocaust Education” with Dr. Richard Bozza and Dr. Joseph Ciccone.

The College commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide with a diverse series of programs. Following an official welcome by President Helen Streubert, the afternoon and evening programs were introduced by Dr. Harriet Sepinwall. Garabed Haytaian, former Speaker of the New Jersey State Assembly, made opening remarks about the passage of the 1994 New Jersey State Mandate on Holocaust and Genocide Education. Poetry by Dr. Deborah Gerrish and music by Tim Daniels of the Music Division was followed by screening of the documentary “Aghet” on the Armenian Genocide. The new film “Testimonies of Armenian Genocide Survivors” was also shown, followed by Keynote Speaker Dr. Herand Markarian’s “The Impact of the Armenian Genocide 100 Years Later”. The program was concluded with more poetry by Dr. Gerrish and music by Tim Daniels, as well as by Anoush Vardazaryan.

The May Teacher Workshop on Echoes and Reflections, presented by National Trainer Deborah Batista, was designed as Holocaust Education Professional Development for Middle and High School Teachers and Supervisors. The theme of the workshop was the use of primary sources and visual history testimony from witnesses to help teach about the Holocaust and address professional standards. All participants received free teaching materials; teachers also received professional development certificates.

# Holocaust Center News

## ● Stockton University – Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center

In July 2014, the Center started the academic year with the presentation “Where Do We Go from Here? Planning for the Future in Holocaust Education”, followed by a Holocaust Survivor luncheon featuring “Discovering Diman, Israel, in Photography” and a session with survivors on “Planning for the Future”.

August activities opened with an Intergenerational Brunch for Holocaust Survivors and their Families”. Next came the “Echoes and Reflections Seminar for Educators”. Holocaust survivor Betty Grebenchikoff spoke about “Writing As Witness” at the Egg Harbor Township Library and about her Odyssey “From Berlin to Shaghai” at the Holocaust Survivor Luncheon.

From July to September, there were diverse programs and activities introducing the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center. This introductory tour was repeated in different setting throughout the rest of the year.

Dr. Robert Skloot lectured on “Wandering with a Firm Purpose: Raphael Lemkin’s Crusade to Stop Genocide”, and Faraz Sanei from the Human Rights Watch spoke about “Challenges to Human Rights: Advocacy in the 21st Century”. Betty Grebenchikoff made a presentation on “My Life in Germany, Shanghai and Beyond” and Lillian Hussong gave a lecture on “LGBT Uganda and the Threat of Genocide”

In October, the Holocaust Survivor Luncheon, “Meet and Greet”, featured survivors and Egg Harbor Township High School students. “Exit Berlin: How One Woman Saved Her Family from Nazi Germany” was presented by author Charlotte Bronelli. Holocaust survivors accompanied Stockton students on a Study Tour to the Museum of Jewish Heritage, and there was a Study Tour Reunion and presentation for Stockton students who visited Poland, Lithuania and Germany. A Stockton Freshman Seminar Presentation dealt with “Diversity Issue When Dealing with the Holocaust”, and a presentation for Stockton student teachers explored “Integrating the New Jersey Holocaust and Genocide Study Mandate When Teaching Social Studies”.

Tibi Galis of the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation gave a presentation on “Finding Your Call to Action”.

In November, Dr. Robert Skloot gave the Annual Kristallnacht Lecture on “Seeing the Future in the Past – Kristallnacht and Genocide”, and the Holocaust Survivor Luncheon featured “A Salute to Jewish War Veterans”. Two medically-oriented programs included “Ethics and Professionalism for the Medical Profession – Using the Holocaust to Teach Lessons for Today” and for Stockton nursing students, “The Role of Nurses and Doctors During the Nazi Regime”. The 2016 Study Tour had an Information Session Related to “The Holocaust – Netherlands, Belgium and France”. There was also a panel discussion on “Our Experience Traveling on a Faculty-Led Program to Sights in Europe Related to the Holocaust”. Rabbi DelBourgo conducted a “Let Us Give Thanks” service for Holocaust survivors. November activities concluded with a lecture about “The Future of Museum Education in the 21st Century” by Rachel Lithgow.

December began with a performance of “If the Whole Body Dies: Raphael Lemkin and the Treaty against Genocide”. The Hanukkah celebration for survivors included a program with Cantor Larissa Auerbach and a luncheon, “Songs of Hanukkah with Holocaust Survivors”.

Stepping into January 2015, the Center presented “Post-War Jewish Refugee Children and Child Advocates Janusz Korczak and Anna Freud”, as well as an exclusive movie event and discussion on “The Imitation Game” and “Women in the Holocaust”. In February, the Center welcomed Dr. Michael Berenbaum for a lecture on “The Unique Place and History of Auschwitz in the Final Solution”.

March Purim celebrations for Holocaust survivors included a luncheon with Rabbis Kremer and Rapoport. Students at Ross School benefited from “Read Across America: Being Good and Kind to Each Other”. A tragic example of the polar opposite of kindness was illustrated by Dr. Carol Rittner’s lecture on “Srebrenica: One More Horror to Remember”.

The Center also hosted the screening of the Garden State Film Festival and the launching of Leo Ullman’s book, “Hidden in

Holland: an Iconic Victim and a Fortunate Survivor”.

Stockton students had the opportunity of meeting Holocaust survivors: Rosalie and Sidney Simon, and the Holy Spirit High School had the privilege to meet survivors at the Survivor Luncheon. Professor Nili Keren presented a lecture on “Films and the Holocaust”. “Lessons for Today from the Diary of Anne Frank” was featured at the Northfield Community School.

April featured a Yom Hashoah Remembrance Program, as well as a Tree Planting Ceremony and Presentation in Honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide – and the 32nd Annual Holocaust Awareness Program, “A Comb and a Prayer Book”, at Atlantic County Community College – Cape May Campus. At the Holocaust Survivors Luncheon, Rabbi Robert Feinstein spoke about “Abraham Lincoln and the Jews.”, and Dr. Nili Keren lectured on “Contributions of Holocaust Survivors to Israel and the United States”. The “Meet the Survivor” Program at the Galloway Township School featured Ruth Kessler. Holocaust survivors also enjoyed an introduction to the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage by Jane Stark.

May activities began with “A Salute and Celebration” dedicated to Holocaust survivor Rabbi Murray Kohn. The students of Holy Spirit High School had the privilege of listening to Dr. Michael Berenbaum’s lecture on “The Importance of Holocaust Studies”. The 32nd Annual Holocaust Awareness Program Play, “A Comb and a Prayer Book”, was presented at the Stockton Experimental Theatre; at Egg Harbor Township High School; at Vineland High School South; at Northfield Community School and at Roland Park School in Baltimore, Maryland. The theme of the Holocaust Survivor Luncheon was “Welcome Back – with Rabbi Krauss”. Warren Fellowship Participants collaborated on the program “Implementing the New Jersey Holocaust and Genocide Studies Mandate for K-12”.

In June, Holocaust survivors participated in session on “Planning for the Future”. Gail Rosenthal presented a program entitled “Remembering Our Mothers and Fathers” for Holocaust survivors.

## Holocaust Center News

### ● **Bergen Community College – Center for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation**

During the academic year 2014-2015, the Center presented a whole variety of programs in an effort to combat prejudice, bias and bigotry. They included “A Panel Discussion and Dialogue” between members of law enforcement and the community, as well as a Community Forum and Panel Discussion on “Survival, Race and the Police”. “Transgender Awareness Day” featured a panel discussion, dialogue and webinar. “Occupy Spirituality: A Radical Vision for a New Generation” was an author’s presentation and film screening about homeless youth in the United States.

“The Golden Rule: A Campus Dialogue on What It Means in All Faiths” was a program sponsored by the Muslim Student Association as part of Black History Month. An Afternoon with Sichan Siv, former United States Ambassador to the United Nations and author of the memoir “Golden Bones”, featured the “United Nations Ambassador Series: From the Killing Fields to the White House”. Christopher Browning, author of “Ordinary Men” and consultant to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the United States Justice Department, conducted a “Skype Conversation about the Holocaust”. The Center, along with Rutgers Center for the Study of Genocide and Facing History and Ourselves, co-sponsored The “Armenian Genocide Education Project: A Workshop for Bergen County Educators”. Eugene Mukeshimana, founder and director of the Genocide Survivors Support Network, presented “1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda: a Survivor’s Personal Experience”.

A TEDx Video Salon on “Race to Nowhere” focused on the challenges students face in the highly charged education system today. The program of

academic presentations, an art installation, a Gallery Bergen Exhibition and dance performance highlighted “Bring Back Our Girls: a Conference on the Plight of Women and Girls in War Zones”.

“Fractured History, Reconstructing Identity: an Exhibition of Contemporary Armenian Art”, a poster exhibit, was designed to commemorate the centennial of the Armenian Genocide – as was the lecture “Forced Islamization and the Armenian Genocide” by Clark University Distinguished Professor Taner Akcam. In addition, the Center co-sponsored the symposium “Bearing Witness: Commemorating the Centenary of the Armenian Genocide”. Also commemorating the Centenary was a film screening and director’s talk about William Saroyan – along with a talk and reading by Peter Balakian, noted scholar of the Armenian Genocide. Holocaust survivors Paul Goldhertz and Isaac York spoke at the program “Remembrance Talks with Nazi Concentration Camp Survivors”.

“Hibakusha: Survivors of the Atomic Bomb Bear Witness”, commemorated the 70th anniversary of the dropping of the bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Prize winners Sugata Mitra and Nicholas Ferroni participated in “Build a School in the Cloud: a TEDx Film Salon, Dialogue and Discussion with TED.”

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

During September 2014, the Center featured a research colloquium entitled “Tainted Blood: Nazi Scientific Propaganda”, exploring how the Nazis used supposed “scientific findings” to support their racial theories and policies.

The November annual conference, “Hollywood and Nazi Germany, 1933-1945: Stories Told/Stories Untold”

explored how Hollywood films produced between 1933 and 1945 only partially depicted the evolving repressive and genocidal regime. The larger question raised was how accurately more recent Hollywood covered genocide. Speakers were Professors Joshua Kovaloski, Larry Greene, Thomas Doherty and Susan Carruthers. Teacher attendees were eligible for education credits.

The February 2015 Spring Study Seminar, “Liberation 1945” and “After Liberation: the First Five Years, 1945-1950” explored the experience of liberation – for survivors, liberators and bystanders. The second Spring Study Seminar, “After Liberation: the First Five Years, 1945-1950; the Displaced Persons Camp Experience” took place in March and examined the camps that were established in the parts of Western Europe occupied by American and British Armed Forces, as did the third one which looked at life after liberation in Eastern European countries behind the Iron Curtain. Educators were eligible for two continuing education credits each for attending.

The April event commemorating Yom Hashoah featured the screening of the documentary “Escape from Auschwitz” – with special guest speakers Auschwitz prisoner Hedy Brach and Eva Vogel whose father’s underground group helped orchestrate the escape of Rudolph Vrba and Alfred Wetzler from Auschwitz.

In April, the Planting of Forget-Me-Not Seedlings symbolized the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. During the program “100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide: a Commemoration”, Susan Vartanian Barba, daughter of a survivor, shared her father’s testimonial of witnessing the death of his father, brother and other family members when he was a child during the genocide. Neery Melkonian, an independent art writer, researcher and curator, shared a visual history of the genocide over the last 100 years, showing how visual records of the genocide have changed over the decades, along with public opinion. Zual, an “a cappella” trio, performed Armenia’s village folk melodies celebrating the joys and trials of old Armenian village life.

# Holocaust Center News

## ● Rutgers University Newark Center for Study of Genocide and Human Rights

The September 2014 lectures featured “Pathways of Perpetration: Local and Global Intersection Visiting Scholars Roundtable” with Professor Mouradian, and Drs. Schettino and Zaretsky, as well as “Translating the Prison Diary of an Afghan Child Bride in Iran”. Dr. Roger Sedarat, Professor of Creative Writing, Department of English, Queens College, New York City, led the reading and discussion.

The Human Rights and Development Lecture Series, “Our Common Future: American’s Evolving Role in the World”, with Anek Shah, Head of Finance – United Nations Sustainable Development, involved a formal presentation and discussion.

Subsequent lectures in October ran the gamut, beginning with the “Pathways of Perpetration: Local and Global Intersection” presentation by Ms. Claudia Diaz, United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and followed by Chairman of the Board – Student World Assembly, Dr. Reza Fakhari’s lecture on and discussion about “Human Rights and Development”.

The United States – Mideast Dialogue Speaker Series featured Fordham University Professor Yasser Moulayes on “Inspiration and Tradition: Music and Islam”, along with a lecture and performance by Lubana Al Quintar and Youseff Shamoun.

The Green Alliance Film Series conducted screenings and discussion; the Young Norway, Young America Event featured Norway/USA young leaders’ dialogue and presentations; lecture by and discussion with Pratap Chatterjee; University of Toronto. Ford Fellow Dr. Lee Ann Fuji’s lecture “Putting on a Show: The Logic of Violence Display in Bosnia, Rwanda and the United States” and film screening, lecture and discussion by Director Sam Kadi.

In November, the film series featured “Honor the Earth: Triple Crown of Pipeline Rides Bomb Trains”; Dr. Steve Bronner’s lecture on “The Bigot”; Chitra Ayar’s lecture and discussion; launching of the Peace Studies Initiative (translated from Japanese); Rutgers University Round Table on “Memory, Silence and Forgetting in Latin

America” with Dr. Humberto Schettino, Dr. Isias Rojas-Perez and Dr. Natasha Zaretsky.

In December, Dr. Ramji Nogales lectured on and discussed “The Khmer Rouge Tribunal as a Transitional Justice Mechanism”; Anand Gopal, journalist and author, lectured on and discussed the screening of “Thinking Beyond Empire”.

January 2015 featured the International Holocaust Remembrance Day Lecture by Dr. Igor Kotler of the Museum of Human Rights, Freedom and Tolerance, along with testimony by Holocaust survivors Norbert Bikales and Frances Malkin.

In February, the Center hosted a panel on “Global Gender Violence: How Men and Women Experience Violence Differently” moderated by Makiko Oku of the Gender Program, with Suhali Khan (UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence); Natalie Jesionka (Human Rights Program) and Ellen Feig (Professor of Composition, Bergen Community College).

The War Stories Film Series in March featured the screening of “The Battle of Britain” and subsequent discussions. There was also an Educational Initiative Workshop on “Sex Worker Human Rights/Health and Safety”. The next War Stories screening and exploration involved “White Light, Black Rain”, as well as “The Quiet American”.

Dr. Giorgio Shani of Japan gave and presentation and led the discussion on “Human Security at 20: Civilizing Process or Civilizing Mission”. Another Peace Studies Initiative dealt with “Rethinking Peace Studies: Memory” and an additional screening and discussion of “Hearts and Minds”.

April programs began with the screening and discussion of “Cambodian Son”, as well as “Brothers and Others”. The 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide was commemorated in a symposium and a lecture/book presentation on “Remembering the Literary Lions of Armenia”. The War Stories Film Screening and discussion series featured “The Dream of Sparrows” and “Watchers of the Sky”.

The 2014-2015 events and programs ended with an April symposium on “Conceptualizing the Global:

Recontextualizing the Local, Regional and International” and a May “Hibakusha Stories” lecture and discussion.

## ● Rutgers University – The Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center

All semester 2014 course offerings included Professor Paul Hanebrink’s “Reconsidering Key Events and Themes of the Holocaust: the Holocaust in Hungary and Other Debates”, as well as “Soviet Encounter with the Nazi Camps”. Professor Hanebrink also led a trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Special Exhibit “Neighbors” and conducted a free screening of “No Place on Earth”. He further examined “Wannsee Conference: Crucial Step Toward the Final Solution, or Just Another Meeting?” with Juergen Malthaus, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and “Rescue and Moral Responsibility – the Case of Yisrael Kesztner” with Director Galen Ross and visiting scholar Aviva Halamish.

The Spring 2015 course offerings concentrated on “Justice Beyond the Holocaust and Rwanda”, emphasizing the following: “Preparing the Way: Raphael Lemkin and the Armenian Genocide” with Khachig Muradian and “Never Again: the Ongoing Struggle for Justice, Truth and Memory in the Wake of Genocide in Argentina” with Natasha Zaretsky. “The Genocide Convention about the Responsibility to Protect Justice for the 21st Century” with Shari Rosenberg was offered at Yeshiva University. “A World without Jews” and the “Nazi Imagination from Persecution to Genocide” with Alon Confino, University of Virginia and Ben Gurion University. Next came “The Holocaust and International Law” and “Restitution after Genocide”. The course series culminated in “Educators’ Presentations on School Projects” and were followed by “Summer Course: History of the Holocaust.”

## Holocaust Center News

### ● Holocaust Council at Greater MetroWest

The Council's on-going activities included providing Kristallnacht and Yom Hashoah speakers for schools, churches and synagogues; facilitating presentations by "twinners" their parents and survivors. "Twinning" with a survivor is a MetroWest initiative that has spread throughout New Jersey and beyond.

With the aid of the Council, high school students also "adopt" a survivor as part of their curriculum. In addition, MetroWest brings survivors and eyewitnesses to schools, universities, colleges, synagogues, churches and civic organizations. Speakers are accompanied/moderated by a Holocaust Council historian.

The Council also maintains Holocaust Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest accounts and send informational Email Blasts about Holocaust-related topics and issues to Council mailing lists. The Council's "Real to Reel" Film Series presents approximately ten screenings and discussion annually.

In the Council's monthly "Lunch and Learn with a Holocaust Survivor" setting, stories of Holocaust survivors who have not spoken, as well as those of deceased eyewitnesses, are told by their spouses or descendants to rescue and preserve eyewitness testimony. Select speakers then become part of the Speakers' Bureau. The "Bagels and Books" book club meets about four times a year, and the GSI Newsletter appears quarterly.

Each year, the Council partners with the Morris Rubell Foundation and area schools to facilitate six all-expense paid trips to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as part of the Rubell Holocaust Remembrance Journeys. In its "Scholar Speaks" series, the Council has provided two programs during 2014-2015 academic year. In October, Dr. Dan McMillan, scholar and author of "How Could This Happen", offered an explanation for the Holocaust. Another October Council activity was the Opening Reception for "From History to Memory", an art exhibit and movie trailer on the life of Anita Boyko

Fox. In August 2014, MetroWest participated in the World Federation Survivors.

In November, the Council offered the following programs: the address by Bob Max at the George Segal Gallery at Montclair State University; a Kristallnacht Remembrance Ceremony; the Bergman seminar on how to preserve Jewish heritage for the next generation, co-sponsorship of the College of Saint Elizabeth "Commemorating Kristallnacht – Interfaith Service of Remembrance", with an address by Barbara Wind, and speeches by two Holocaust survivors from Greater MetroWest and a Global Jewish Journey Lecture by Rabbi Andreas Nachama on "German Jewry in the 21st Century".

January 2015 marked the AHO Conference in Washington, DC. and Fred Heyman's Surprise Twinning Birthday Event where a dozen past twinners recall Fred Heyman's lesson and legacy.

In January and February 2015, the Council held docent training for the "Armenian Genocide" in conjunction with the "From Memory to History" exhibit and created the "Armenian Genocide" exhibit plus training manual. It also mounted the "Unsung Heroes" and "From Memory to History" exhibits. In February, the Council hosted an address by scholar Dr. Rachel Korazim.

During the March New Jersey Jewish Film Festival, MetroWest sponsored the viewing of "Run, Boy, Run". In April, the Council co-sponsored a Dinner for Educators followed by the Yom Hashoah Memorial Service at Kean University. As part of two separate Students Meet Survivors programs, high school students and teachers were brought to the Jewish Federation to see the "From Memory to History" exhibit, have lunch and speak to survivors. The Diller Teens Student Survivor Luncheon featured Jewish community service teens involved in community service with the Jewish Federation. Additional April activities included the 37th Annual Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service in South Orange/Maplewood; Newark's Annual Holocaust Remembrance and the Yom Hashoah Memorial Service at Jewish Federation in Whippany.

In May, the Council invited a survivor

to speak to students and teachers at the Morris Museum. In addition MetroWest Council and six survivors presented "Living Lessons" at an all day seminar for middle school students in Montville, N.J. and conducted the Annual Rubell Student Leadership Seminar. Council was also represented at the AHO conference in Las Vegas.

The academic year ended with the Forget-Me-Not Interfaith Ceremony between the Council, Diller teens and the Armenian community. The Memorial Service and planting of flowers was designed to honor the genocide or two faiths. June activities culminated in the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

### ● The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education

Commission member and Hidden Child Survivor of the Holocaust, Maud Dahme, conducted a Summer Seminar to the infamous sites of the Holocaust from July 14-29, 2015.

Dr. Paul B. Winkler, Executive Director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding work as New Jersey's leader in Holocaust/Genocide Education at the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights and Genocide Education (Chhange) at Brookdale Community College's annual Testimonial Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 19 at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge.



*Dale Daniels and Dr. Paul Winkler stand together at the annual Chhange Testimonial Dinner in Old Bridge on Nov. 19.*

## Holocaust Center News

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

ngoing Center activities from September 2014 to June 2015 included the Journey to Life Curriculum, Visits to the Center and Survivor Visits to Schools and the Clinical Pastoral Program.

As part of in-school programming, Journey to Life Curriculum Suitcases went out to middle and high schools, colleges, as well as local organizations across the state – often for several days to a month – at times accompanied by a Holocaust survivor speaker.

During Student and Community Member Visits to the Center, students from area middle and high schools, Monmouth University and Brookdale Intercultural Communications, Art Appreciation, Journalism, Philosophy and Sociology classes visit the Center over the course of the school year to learn about Holocaust and genocide, see survivor artifacts, hear survivor testimony and view the Armenian Genocide exhibit and art installation. Holocaust survivors continue to visit schools, sharing testimony and – as Master Teachers - provide students the unique opportunity for “touching history”. Chhange continues to host the Clinical Pastoral Program from Overlook Hospital in Summit, New Jersey. During the one-day seminar each semester, Holocaust survivors provide testimony – with the focus on helping the international and multidominational clergy develop a deeper understanding of trauma and loss.

In September 2014, the Center held a very successful Third Annual Challenge for Chhange on the Brookdale campus. In October, Mark Weitzman, Director of Government Affairs and Director of the Task Force against Hate and Terrorism for the Wiesenthal Center, spoke about “Antisemitism: the Current Hatred”, discussing the current situation and ways in which each of us can respond.

The October-November three-part

film series examined the incredible courage of those who chose NOT to follow orders, but rather save others from the onslaught of the Nazi regime. Following each film, co-founders Dr. Seymour Siegler and Professor Jack Needle conducted a Q and A session.

In November, the Second Generations Brunch: “Descendants of Holocaust Survivors – Honoring and Preserving Survivor Legacy” featured the recollections of Jeanne Zucker about the trip she had taken with her sister and father to his hometown in Poland in 2008 to search for the family that had hidden him during the Holocaust.

The Center was, once again, recipient of the prestigious Big Read Grant from NEA. As a result, in October-December, middle and high schools, individuals, Brookdale College, book clubs, libraries, the Latin American community and Women’s Agencies against domestic abuse and violence could get together for a variety of exciting programs based on “Time of Butterflies: and “When We Were Free” by Julia Alvarez. The activities included discussions, speaker panels, films, art lectures and a specially designed art exhibit. The author addressed middle school students, as well as the general public – generating enthusiastic response to these extraordinary events.

In December, Chhange featured the remarkable “100 Days of Silence” exhibit displayed on Capitol Hill in the Rayburn Congressional Office Building Main Lobby, with visitors from the House Foreign Relations Committee and the sub-African Committees. The 13th Annual Conference of Holocaust Educators explored “Making Choices: Ordinary People in Extraordinary Times”. Keynote speaker, Curator of Special Exhibitions, USHMM, Susan Bacharach’s address dealt with “Some Were Neighbors: Collaboration and Complicity”.

Dr. Tim Schonfeld, Pediatrician-in-Chief, St. Christopher’s Hospital, spoke

on “Memorialization and Commemoration in Schools: Challenges and Practices Today” and Tim Kaiser, Director of Education Programs and Administration at USHMM, explored “Classroom Connections”.

In January 2015, the Center presented an Educator Workshop, “Illuminating Images: A Hundred Year Remembrance” which provided teachers of grades 6 – 12 an opportunity to partner with Chhange in an exciting artistic initiative that parallels the Common Core Standards. In commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, an inventive art installation was designed that allowed educators, students and community members across the state to join together to experience history through this collective effort. Interdisciplinary teams participating provided cross-cultural collaboration for the special benefit of 360 middle and high school students participating in this powerful, emotional exhibit.

On Martin Luther King Day, the Center once again participated in an outstanding Red Bank commemorative event in collaboration with the Pilgrim Baptist Church, the Red Bank schools and community organizations. February marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day. In February, on the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz, Ann Weiss, author of “The Last Album: Eyes from the Ashes of Auschwitz-Birkenau” shared her journey of discovering history behind more than 2,000 photos confiscated from Jewish deportees in 1943 and locked in an archive in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

In March, Chhange featured the testimony of Auschwitz survivor Leslie Schwartz, deportee from Hungary and the only member of his immediate family to survive. He spoke out for the first time after 65 years of silence.

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# Holocaust Center News

## ● Brookdale Community College

*(continued from p. 13)*

In March and April, co-founder of the Spring Film Series, Professor Jack Needle, hosted the screening of three films, followed by Q and A. April was devoted to the Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, including a Historic Exhibit, “A Journey to Life – Armenia” and an Art Exhibit, “Illuminating Images”, as well as “A Hundred Year Remembrance” and a Book Release, “Hundred Year Legacy of Courage: Celebrating the Lives of Armenian Genocide Survivors in Our Community”. It was a spectacular day, with 250 members of the Armenian community, along with Armenian Scholar Khatchig Mouradian and Congressmen Chris Smith and Frank Pallone in attendance. The Annual Armenian Genocide Remembrance Program, “Narrating Genocide”, featured a panel discussion by Scholar Khatchig Mouradian and special guest, author Chris Bohjalian - led by Dr. Deborah Dwork.

In April, Chhange also co-hosted Yom Hashoah Remembrance Day, featuring Holocaust scholar Dr. Robert Jan van Pelt who addressed the subject “The Liberation of the Camps: a Symbolic End of the Holocaust?” Sailors from the Naval Weapons Station Earle” served as survivor escorts for the candle lighting ceremony to the accompaniment of the strings of Peggy Gaber-Casey and Amy Garland. The Marlton High School Chorus and String Ensemble provided an outstanding musical program.

In May, at the 33rd Colloquium “Survivors Empowering Voices for Tomorrow”, the keynote address “From Living Memories to History: the Impact of the History”, was delivered by world-renowned scholar Dr. Michael Berenbaum. In a moving and emotional ceremony, 50 Holocaust survivors received the Life Achievement Award. Eighth grade students from the Cedar

Drive School in Colts Neck escorted the survivors to the arena to the tune of the Partisan Song. Following the keynote address, students had the opportunity to attend one of the 25 breakout workshops on the Holocaust, genocide, human rights and teen issues. After the workshops, many students viewed the exhibits “A Journey to Life” and “Illuminating Images”.

In June, seventh graders from Cedar Drive School in Colts Neck had the unique experience of “Lunch with a Survivor”. On each of two days, every group of 8-10 students sat with a survivor and had an opportunity to hear first-hand testimony, ask questions and take a pledge to serve as witnesses in the future, especially on the 100th anniversary of the liberation of the death camps in 2045.

For “Response to Charleston, a Candlelight March and Prayer Vigil”, Chhange joined the Pilgrim Baptist Church and the Red Bank community in a commitment to end violence and show solidarity to the families of the innocent victims of the massacre.

In July, the Center and the Generations: Descendants of Holocaust Survivors hosted an informal get-together and light supper for survivors. The last event of the 2014-2015 academic year was the annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner to honor the backbone of Chhange.

## ● William Paterson University – Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

*I*n March 2015, the Center featured the child of Holocaust survivors, an adjunct professor at the University, sharing her parents’ stories and speaking about her own life experiences

In April, the Center hosted “Facing History and Ourselves” to present digital

curriculum training for teachers.

April also marked a period of teaching and learning about the Armenian Genocide through a “Pop-Up-Museum”. Resources, videos and artifacts, as well as individual class visits were used as instructional tools for commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

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

*I*n October 2014, the year’s activities began with presenter Jeannie Smith’s “Telling the Story: Irena Gut Opdyke” and a workshop for educators led by Harry Furman. In December, he also conducted a workshop that dealt with “Misusing the Term Holocaust and Genocide: From Lemkin to the Age of Twitter and Social Media”.

In February 2015, another of Harry Furman-led workshops was “Looking Back: the Power of Photographic Image and Creation of Memory in the Opening of the Concentration Camps”. In the same month, the Center arranged a trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

In March, Harry Furman presented “Laughing on the Way to Hell: a Study of the Holocaust and the Boundaries of Humor”. In May, the Center sponsored the production of “Dear Esther”, the story of survivor Esther Raab.

# Holocaust Center News

## ● Rider University – The Julius and Dorothy Koppelman Holocaust Resource Center

In the 2014-2015 academic year, the Koppelman Center has continued its Holocaust education programs and its financial support of teachers through the Joan Keats Teachers Grants.

The December 2014 Teachers Workshop for K-8, led by Associate Directors of the Center, Dr. Marvin Goldstein and Dr. Elizabeth Schreiber, focused on the rescue of Jews during the Holocaust. The discussion involved the personality traits of rescuers and situations which contributed to rescue. Illustrations included exceptional individuals who became rescuers, as well as the unique French village of Le Chambon and the country of Denmark.

In March 2015, the High School Teachers Workshop continued the rescuer theme by considering Jewish and non-Jewish rescuers during the Holocaust; the context of each rescue; the danger and numbers involved and the motivations of the Gentile rescuers. Presentations were given by Center Director Dr. Harvey Kornberg, who spoke about “Gentile Rescue of Jews during the Holocaust” and Dr. Elizabeth Schreiber who concluded with a short story, “The Shelter”, by Ida Fink and challenged the teachers to deal with the questions it raised.

Through the Teachers Grant Program of the Joan Keats Institute for Social Justice, Drs. Kornberg and Goldstein were able to award five grants of \$350 each to elementary, middle and high school teachers for specific projects and/or teaching materials for use in their classes.

The Fifteenth Annual Dorothy Koppelman Memorial Holocaust Lecture was held at Rider University. Featured entertainer Naomi Miller presented a program entitled “From Klezmer to Broadway”, filled with musical selections in Yiddish and other languages.

Associate Director, Dr. Elizabeth Schreiber, planned and coordinated the Sixth Annual Philip J. Albert Memorial

Kristallnacht Commemoration held at Rider University on November 9th, featuring the award-winning film “Hannah Arendt”. The film depicts the famous philosopher and political theorist’s controversial reporting of the 1962 trial of Adolph Eichmann in Jerusalem. In her book, “Eichmann in Jerusalem”, Arendt, who coined the expression “the banality of evil”, perpetuated the controversy to this day. After the film screening, the audience engaged in much discussion.

The Koppelman Center collaborated in the Annual Yom Hashoah Program held at Adath Israel Synagogue in Lawrenceville in April. The program included Readings by Rabbi Benjamin Adler and members of the congregation, as well as the showing of the film “Ripples of the Holocaust” which explored experiences of the second generation of Holocaust survivors. The program concluded with musical selections by Sharim V’Sharot Jewish Choir of New Jersey conducted by Dr. Elayne Robinson Grossman.

The Center’s website has been playing an important role as a resource for teachers, students and the community - by making them aware of its holdings and enabling them to borrow them for instructional purposes.

## ● The Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage

In July 2014, the Museum fostered Holocaust Awareness for Girl Scout Mini-Camps, at the Ocean View Assisted Center and the Gloucester County Widows and Widowers Support Group. It also held the Gross Bressen Exhibit Reception.

In August, a Holocaust Awareness program was held at Temple Sinai Synagogue in Cinnaminson. In addition, the Museum hosted an educator visit from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

In September, another Holocaust Awareness program was presented for the American Association of Women and the New Jersey Campground Association. Rosh Hashana Services were also held.

In October, a Holocaust Awareness program was presented at the Good Company Organization, and in January 2015, it was held at the Ocean View Assisted Living facility. There was also a Martin Luther King Service and Prejudice Reduction program.

In February, the Museum featured the Cape May County Culture Exhibit on the relationship between the African American and Jewish community of Woodbine over 100 years, and in March, Auschwitz survivor Rosalie Simon presented a Holocaust Education program for 7th grade students at the Dennis Township Middle School.

In addition, Holocaust Awareness session was held at Torah Yisroel in Lakewood.

In April, the Sam Azeez Museum presented Holocaust Awareness programs for the Parks and Recreation in Toms River, the Jewish Board of Education in Atlantic City and the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County. In May, such a program was held at Congregation Ner Tamid in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Also, the Museum featured Kinder Transport Survivor Ruth Kessler in a Holocaust Education Program at the Cape May City Elementary School.

In June, Holocaust survivor Cayla Kowenski made a presentation on “Post-War Displaced Persons Camps in Italy” as part of a Holocaust education program at the Alder Avenue Middle School. Kinder Transport survivor from Vienna, Austria, Ruth Kessler also spoke, as did Shanghai Ghetto Holocaust survivor Betty Grebenshikoff and Auschwitz survivor Rosalie Simon. Shanghai Ghetto Survivor Betty Grebenshikoff’s address was again featured at the Cape May County Special Services High School in June 2015. The Sam Azeez Museum also hosted a reception and held a Holocaust Awareness Program on Admirals’ Day, recognizing two retired rear admirals – one Italian and one Jewish – both with significant history in the Woodbine Community

In July, the Museum sponsored a Summer Education Seminar on Holocaust Awareness and Behavior conducted by Facing History and Ourselves. A concluding event of the academic year was a meeting of the Vineland Educators Literary Club by Judge William and Mrs. Ferrester.

## Holocaust Center News



100 students and faculty attended from Rowan College at Burlington County. The trip was led by Center for Social Justice Director, and Associate Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Dr. Jonathan Alexander. This is Dr. Alexander's 36th trip to the Museum with RCBC; similar trips are held each fall and spring and are open to all interested members of the community. For information about upcoming trips, please contact Dr. Alexander at [jalexander@bcc.edu](mailto:jalexander@bcc.edu)

### ● Rowan College at Burlington County – Center for Social Justice and Holocaust Studies

In the Fall Semester of 2014, the Center offered the following courses: Poetry of the Holocaust and History of Genocide.

In November and December, there were screenings of the genocide-related films, “Hotel Rwanda” and “Sand and Sorrow.”

Trips to the United States Holocaust Museum took place between October 2014 and February 2015.

The Spring 2015 course offering was “Holocaust in Literature and Film” and students heard testimony from Holocaust survivor and author Fred Spiegel.

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

In October 2014, the Center hosted a training workshop on campus for West Essex County teachers, including a meeting with a Holocaust survivor.

The fall conference, “Global Perspectives on Holocaust Education” co-hosted by the College of Education and Human Services, the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education and the American Society for Yad Vashem - for which teachers and student teachers received professional development hours,

featured three very successful panels that included academics, genocide survivors and teachers.

November 2014 marked the screening of the film “Monument Men”, featuring one of the real “monument men” who served in World War II., for a discussion following the film.

The spring conference in March 2015, co-hosted by the College of Education and Human Services, the N.J. Commission on Holocaust Education, the Center of Pedagogy, African American Studies and Agenda for Education in a Democracy, dealt with the topic “Toward Justice: How Teachers Can Shape a More Equitable America”. Three panels consisting of academics, genocide survivors and teachers focused on exploring the topic in depth. Teachers and student teachers received professional development hours.

## Holocaust Center News



*GHMEC Guest Readers at Thomas Paine Elementary School in Cherry Hill*



*Holocaust Survivor Helene Bouton in Goodwin Museum sharing her history*



*Guest Speaker Jeannie Smith at Bridgeton High School*



*Catholic Diocese Partnership*



*Kristallnacht Program with Steven Pressman*



*Holocaust Survivor Fred Kurz at Dwight D Eisenhower Middle School in Berlin NJ*

## Holocaust Center News



*Annual GHMEC Trip for Survivors and Teachers to USHMM*



*Holocaust Survivor Charles Middleberg at Cramer School in Camden NJ*



*Tova Friedman and class from Bound Brook High School*



*Center Directors meeting at the DOE in August 2015*



*History of the Holocaust mini-course at Rutgers Bildner Center, June 2015*