

Honor Roll of CJHPS Supporters & Donors (June 2019 - November 2019)

Art Cellar Galleries Inc
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Banzhaf
Ms. Irene J. Baros
Mr. Gerald S. Berkell
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Bluestein
Dr. and Mrs. Francis Borkowski
Mr. and Mrs. Martin M. Cohen
Mr. and Mrs. John Cooper
Ms. Carol Dietrich
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Epstein

Mrs. Judie Dash Feinberg
Ms. Susan N. Frank
Mr. Lawrence and Mrs. Barbara Freiman
Mr. Lawrence Friedman
Dr. Louis N. Gottlieb, MD
Mr. and Mrs. Marc Grad
Mrs. Molle Grad
Ms. Susan Anne Grad
Havurah of the High Country
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Hayet
Dr. Rosemary Horowitz
Ms. Renata Jackson
Mr. Scott L. Jaffe and Mrs. Hali J. Jaffe

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kaplan
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kurtz
Ms. Vivian D. Lager
Dr. Jane C. Levine and Mr. Michael J. Levine
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Levine
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Maland
Mrs. Naomi M. Marks
Mr. and Mrs. Michael McKay
Mrs. Nanci Tolbert
Dr. and Mrs. Peter Petschauer
Mr. Sheldon Jay Rackmill and Ms. Elaine J. Rothenberg
Dr. and Mrs. Melvin

Rappaport
Mr. Philip Neal Rosenfeld
Dr. Judith R. Rothchild
Dr. Bonnie and Mrs. Jamie Schaefer
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Schaffel
Ms. Rebecca Scialpi
Mrs. Sandi Finci Solomon
Mrs. Barbara Sugerman
Temple of the High Country
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Wright

Advancement Council Members

The Center welcomes the members of the Advancement Council.
Steve Brooks, chair
Rennie Brantz
Lainey Brooks
Molle Grad
Hali Jaffe
Scott Jaffe
Owen Margolis
Susan Ratner
Rabbi Stephen Roberts

STAY CONNECTED

To sign up for the Center's e-newsletter with frequent updates on programs and activities, go to <https://holocaust.appstate.edu> and click on the "Subscribe" link.



Fall Newsletter 2019

A Letter From the Acting Director



Acting Director Rosemary Horowitz

Chai (חַי) is the Hebrew word that means "life," and according to the tradition that assigns a numeric value to Hebrew letters, the letters chet and yud add up to 18, which represents the concept of a good life. At weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, and other events, Jews often give gifts of money in multiples of 18, symbolically wishing the recipient life or luck. In that spirit, I want to point out that during the summer of 2019, the Center held its 18th Annual Martin and Doris Rosen Summer Symposium on "Remembering the Holocaust." The state-wide, regional, national, and international range of our teacher participants makes the symposium special. In addition to the distance participants travel, the number of teachers and students influenced by our program is also exceptional. For example, a quick calculation reveals that over the years the symposium has provided instruction to approximately

500 public school teachers. From that, the number of students taught by those teachers is probably over 250,000. Moreover, some of those students may have their own classrooms now, so they are reaching another generation of pupils. Recognizing the long-term accomplishments of the symposium, the Center wants to wish a hearty *l'chaim* to all our program participants, to our colleagues at Appalachian, to our community friends, and to all others who have shown an unwavering belief in our mission. We could not do our work without you. Thank you. Warm regards, Rosemary

The 18th Annual Martin and Doris Rosen Summer Symposium

The Center received much praise regarding the 18th Annual Martin and Doris Rosen Summer Symposium on Remembering the Holocaust, which took place on the campus of Appalachian State University this past July. This year's symposium highlighted the role of education. At the start, the teacher participants visited the Temple of the High Country for several lectures, including one by Rabbi Roberts. They also had lunch with members of the local area Jewish community. Over the next four days, the teacher participants learned about a wide range of topics. For example, Liz Elsby from Yad Vashem/Echoes and Reflections spoke about the role of education in the ghettos, Talli Dippold from Queens



Teachers at Holocaust Education Summer Symposium 2019



Two Keynote Speakers: Kathy Kacer (left) and Susan Warsinger, Child Survivor of the Holocaust (right)

University focused on the work of Dr. Janusz Korczak in the Warsaw Ghetto, and Susan Warsinger provided a first-hand account of her school days as a Jewish girl in Nazi Germany. In addition to these talks and the series of teacher-oriented workshops, there was a screening of the 2018 movie *Who Will Write Our History?* There was also an interesting discussion about teaching the Holocaust in Central and Eastern Europe in the twenty-first century with the European teacher-participants. Kathy Kacer

returned to speak about her Holocaust literature for young readers, and once again, Dr. Racelle Weiman served as co-director and worked with the more than thirty teacher participants from the U.S. and Europe. Lee Holder and Lynda Moss, experienced Holocaust educators, assisted her during the week. As always, the program was free and open to the public. Plans are getting underway for the 2020 symposium, so check the Center's website for details.

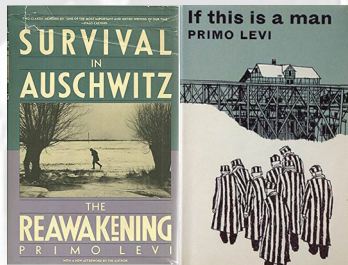


Picture of Primo Levi Obtained from Google Images

In Honor of Primo Levi

Along with Elie Wiesel, Primo Levi is one of the most important writers of Holocaust literature. In honor of his birth in 1919, I want to introduce him to those who are unfamiliar with his life and work, as well as to acknowledge his place in literary history to all readers. Born in Turin, Italy, Levi was a chemist, partisan, Holocaust survivor, and writer. He was raised in a middle-class assimilated Jewish family. Although he was a bar mitzvah, his upbringing was mostly secular. Despite the Italian racial laws of 1933, he completed a university degree in chemistry with the help of a sympathetic professor, but after graduation, Levi did have difficulty finding a permanent job as a result of the antisemitism in his country. In 1943, he joined an Italian resistance movement and was arrested by the Fascist militia in December 1943. On February 1944, he was transported to Monowitz, one of the three main camps in the Auschwitz complex. As a consequence of staying relatively healthy, having a useful skill, befriending helpful prisoners, and possessing linguistic facility, along with a

great deal of luck, Levi survived his incarceration. He was released from Auschwitz on January 1945 by the Red Army and returned to Turin, Italy in October 1945. He lived and worked there until his death in 1987. During that period, he authored several books, novels, collections of short stories, essays, and poems. To learn more about him, pick up one of his works and judge for yourself.



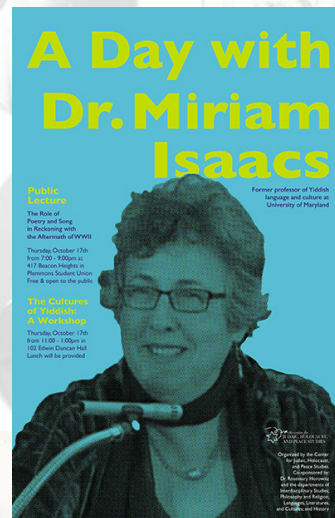
Reading List of Primo Levi's work

If This is a Man, also known as, *Survival in Auschwitz*. The work is a memoir of Levi's time in the camp from February 1944 until January 1945. The volume was published in Italian in 1947 and 1958. An English translation was published in 1959. *The Reawakening*, also known as, *The Truce*. A memoir of Levi's journey starting with his release from Auschwitz in January 1945 by the Red Army to his arrival home in Turin, Italy in October of 1945. The book was

published in 1963 in Italian and in English in 1965. *The Periodic Table*. Levi links his experiences during the Fascist regime and afterwards to various chemical elements. An Italian edition was published in 1975; an English edition was issued in 1984. *If Not Now, When?* Based on a true story, this work is about a group of Jewish partisans who take revenge against the Nazis. An Italian edition was issued in 1982, an English one in 1985.

Learning About Yiddish with Miriam Isaacs

On Thursday, October 17 and Friday, October 18, 2019, the Center hosted the scholar Dr. Miriam Isaacs, a retired affiliate visiting associate professor of Yiddish language and culture at the University of Maryland College Park and an independent scholar in the fields of Yiddish language and culture, heritage languages, and translation. On Thursday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Dr. Isaacs lead a workshop on language and culture. She discussed the history of Yiddish, taking the participants on a journey through its richness. She spoke about linguistics, education, music, food, and a host of related matters. The evening program that was free and open to the public, held from 7 p.m.-9 p.m., Dr. Isaacs started with a focus on the writings of Rokhl Korn, a Yiddish poet whose work Isaacs has translated into English. Following that, she discussed the songs of Holocaust survivors collected by Ben Stonehill, who, in 1948, recorded more than 1,000 songs, mostly sung in Yiddish. On Friday, Dr. Isaacs spoke to



Poster from Miriam Isaacs Event

students in Dr. Hellenbrand's German language class.

Dr. Isaacs's work is a reminder that before the Holocaust, there were 11-13 million speakers of Yiddish among 17 million Jews worldwide and that the vast majority of the approximately 6 million Jews who died in the Holocaust were Yiddish speakers. Afterwards, assimilation and immigration further decreased the use of Yiddish. At present, though, the number of speakers is increasing in Hasidic communities. Overall, Dr. Isaacs connects us to the world of Ashkenazi Jewry, part of our legacy.



Photo from Miriam Isaacs Event



Photo from AEPI Event

Student Activities

On Sunday, October 27, the Appalachian chapter of AEPI organized a day-long event against hate. Along with other activities, there were two main speakers: TM Garret, a former neo-nazi, and Hussein Akoubaki, a political prisoner from Egypt. Other sponsors of the event included Hillel; the Academic Engagement Network; StandWithUs; the Simon Wiesenthal Center; the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies; Appalachian's Office of Diversity; the English department; the History department; the Languages, Literatures, and Cultures department; and the Sociology department.

On Monday, November 4, the Religious Studies Club invited Dr. Barry Trachtenberg, director of Wake Forest University's Jewish Studies Program, to campus to present a lecture. He spoke about his experiences teaching the history of Zionism.

On Tuesday, November 19, the Appalachian chapter of

Students Supporting Israel, hosted a speaker from IsraAID, an Israel-based humanitarian agency that responds to emergencies world-wide. On Wednesday, November 20, Ilan Sinelnikov, the founder and president of Students Supporting Israel, spoke about the impact of international politics on Israeli athletes.

The Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies celebrates the accomplishments of all Appalachian faculty and students.

Faculty Activities

At the 2019 Association for Jewish Studies Conference to be held in San Diego, California on December 15th to 17th, Dr. Rosemary Horowitz will present a talk entitled "Primo Levi as Linguist." Also, her chapter "Gendered Behavior in Uri Orlev's and Kathy Kacer's Literature about the Holocaust for Children" has been accepted for publication.

Dr. Alexandra Sterling-Hellenbrand, professor of German and Global Studies in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at

Appalachian State University, has been selected to serve as the Fulbright Visiting Professor of Cultural Studies at the University of Graz in Graz, Austria, during spring 2020.

Upcoming Events 2020

March 26
Dr. Agnes Mueller, professor of German and Comparative Literature, distinguished professor of the Humanities; director, Program in Global Studies at the University of South Carolina will, lecture on "Holocaust Migration: Israel in Contemporary German Fiction," location TBA.

March 26 - 27
Southeast German Studies Workshop on "New Approaches in German-Jewish Studies," "Refugee and Migration Studies," and "Public Representations of German and/or German-Jewish History and Culture" will be held on March 26 - 27, 2020 at Belk Library. The event is organized in partnership with the Center for Research on Antisemitism, Technical University of Berlin, Germany. Director, Dr. Stefanie Schüler-Springorum will deliver the keynote on the topic of "Gender, Sex, and Violence: Race Defilement in Nazi Germany." For the full schedule, see <https://holocaust.appstate.edu/conferences/southeast-german-studies-workshop-20/> program.

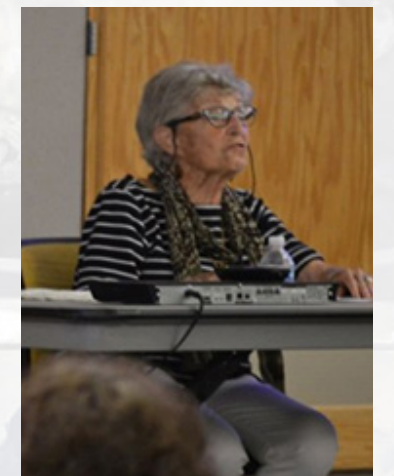
In Memoriam

The Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies mourns the passing of Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz z"l, a professor emerita of German literature at UNC Charlotte and frequent participant and speaker at Center events. She was a forceful advocate against the rise of anti-Semitism and white supremacy in North America and beyond. To commemorate her life and struggles, the Center is cooperating with AppTV to broadcast the recording of her last public event at Appalachian State in October 2018. May her memory be a blessing.

March 17 - April 17
Traveling exhibit entitled "The Shoah: How Was It Humanly Possible?" (Compiled by Yad Vashem, The World Holocaust Remembrance Center, Jerusalem) on display at Belk Library and Information Commons and 4th floors, March 17th - April 17th, 2020.

April
Holocaust survivor Zev Harel will speak about his suffering at the hands of the Germans, Belk Library and Information Commons, April 2020 (also part of the Yad Vashem exhibit program).

April 21
Yom HaShoah Readings on the Appalachian campus, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., April 21, 2020, in between Belk Library and PSU (Rain location: Entrance Rotunda of Belk Library), followed by a ceremony at the Temple of the High Country.



Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz z"l (1922-2019)



To make a donation in support of the Center's work, please contact the CSA Director of Development Carey Fissel at (828) 262-7622 or fisselcm@appstate.edu.

