

Dr. Rosemary Horowitz z”l: In Memoriam

In early August before the start of the fall term, the Appalachian community and the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies lost its former director Dr. Rosemary Horowitz z”l after a short, severe illness. A member of Appalachian State’s faculty for more than a quarter century, Dr. Horowitz was a highly-committed Holocaust educator and English professor – greatly admired by her students and colleagues alike – an accomplished scholar, patron of the arts, and a fierce opponent of antisemitism and any form of hostility against Israel. Dr. Horowitz dedicated her first major work, her 1995 study of Yisker Bikher, “to the six million”—a dedication that powerfully captured one of the central commitments of her life and career.

Dr. Horowitz was born to Holocaust survivors and spent the first decades of her life mainly in the Northeastern United States. She earned a BA in English and Education from Brooklyn College in the 1970s and subsequently worked as a writer, editor, trainer and board member for several organizations. She returned to school and was bestowed a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in 1995. Her remarkable thesis, which she wrote under the direction of renowned Teaching and Learning Professor David Bloome, examined the “Literacy and Cultural Transmission in the Reading, Writing, and Rewriting of Yisker Bikher.” In the course of her career,

Dr. Horowitz became one of the foremost experts on Yisker Bikher, speaking and publishing widely on the topic. Dr. Horowitz joined

she became the Center’s co-director, a position she held until 2013. Over the years, Dr. Horowitz made immeasurable contributions

countless students, faculty, and community members to the work of the Center. In recognition of this work, she was named the interim Leon Levine Distinguished Professor of Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies in 2012—the first scholar to hold the newly-established position. She served on every Center board and committee until shortly before her passing.

A devoted teacher, Dr. Horowitz was held in the highest esteem by her students at Appalachian. In acknowledgment of her love and patronage of the arts, two former students recently named an innovative new art vending machine at Boone’s popular Espresso News coffee shop “Rosemary.” All the while, Dr. Horowitz’s numerous contributions and activities were never limited to the Appalachian campus. To name but a few, she worked with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and was a long-time supporter of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York City. For several years, Dr. Horowitz also served on the NC Council on the Holocaust in Raleigh, NC. She was one of the pillars of the Jewish Community in Boone, playing a key role on the board and in the Sisterhood of the local Temple of the High Country and working with the Havurah for many years.

All along, she remained a devoted researcher and scholar. In addition to her revised



Prof. Romary Horowitz z”l giving a paper at the Center-co-organized conference on Holocaust testimony in Akko, Israel

the faculty of the English Department at Appalachian State University in 1995. From the beginning, she engaged in and promoted Holocaust studies and education at her chosen academic home. Since its inception in 2002, Dr. Horowitz had played a leading role at Appalachian’s Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies. In 2006,

and helped build the Center. Her critically important work reached from grant writing—securing, among others, the support of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany—to co-leading and expanding the acclaimed annual Martin and Doris Rosen Summer Symposium on Remembering the Holocaust to introducing and committing

Appalachian
STATE UNIVERSITY
BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA

For donations, please contact/send to
Appalachian State University
Foundation
Appalachian State Box 32146
Boone, North Carolina 28608

Advancement Council

Rennie Brantz
Lainey Brooks
Steve Brooks
Molle Grad
Scott and Hall Jaffe
Owen Margolis

Faculty Advisory Board

Sarah Greenwald
Amy Hudnall
Alexandra Sterling-Hellenbrand
Vachel Miller
Chris Pati
Laure Semmes
Barbara Zaitzow

Center Director

Thomas Pegelow Kaplan
thomaspegelowkaplan@appstate.edu

Forthcoming Spring 2022 Center Events

Pandemic conditions permitting, the Center will offer a combination of virtual and in-person programs. ZOOM registration links will be made available via the Center website. The Spring 2022 Highlights include:

March 24-25. Fourteenth Annual Workshop of the Southeast German Studies (SEGS) Consortium with 50 scholars from across the Southeastern U.S. and Tel Aviv, Israel. The workshops panels this year focus on “The Haskalah and European Enlightenment Revisited”; “Teaching

German and German-Jewish Studies in the Twenty-First Century” and “Democracy: Past, Present, Future.” Co-organized by the SEGS Steering and Org Committees with the Center for Judaic, Holocaust and Peace Studies.

March 24, 4:30 pm EST, Reich College of Education, Room 124. **Lecture** by **Prof. Shmuel Feiner** (Bar Ilan University, Israel). Prof. Feiner, the incumbent of the Samuel Braun Chair for the History of the Jews in Prussia, will discuss the topic of “The Haskalah Project of Secularization: Challenging “The Religious Turn.”” The talk by the prominent Israeli

scholar also serves as keynote lecture of the Fourteenth Workshop of the Southeast German Studies (SEGS) Consortium.

March-April. The noted **traveling exhibit “Shoah: How Was it Humanly Possible?”** from **Yad Vashem**, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, in **Jerusalem** will be on display on the first floor of **Belk Library** and Information Commons. The exhibition examines major historical aspects of the Holocaust, beginning with Jewish life in pre-Holocaust Europe and ending with the liberation of Nazi concentration and extermination camps across the

continent and the remarkable return to life of the survivors.

April 28. The Center marks **Yom HaShoah** (Holocaust Memorial Day) with a public commemoration that includes a reading of the names of European Jews murdered by the Germans and their allies during the Holocaust.



Image Courtesy: Yad Vashem, Jerusalem

Dr. Rosemary Horowitz z”l: In Memoriam

dissertation, Dr. Horowitz’s most noteworthy publications include the edited collection *Memorial Books of Eastern European Jewry: Essays on the History and Meanings of Yizker Volumes* (2011) and *Women Writers of Yiddish Literature* (2015), which Choice “highly recommended.”

The words of Appalachian State Prof. emerita Zohara Boyd, a Holocaust child survivor and another influential former Center

director who worked closely with her, offer a beautifully fitting summary, “Rosemary was a brilliant and dedicated scholar, wonderful friend, person of good humor, kindness, and no pretensions. Appalachian is poorer for her loss, and her friends are bereft.”

The Center continues to celebrate her life, work, and immeasurable contributions in events throughout the academic year, culminating

with a conference in her honor in the summer of 2022. Finally, the Center has launched an initiative to introduce the Annual Rosemary Horowitz Memorial Lecture in Israel, Yiddish, Jewish and Holocaust Studies. We are calling on everyone to make a donation in support of this endowed lecture.

To do so, please send a check to the Appalachian State Foundation; Appalachian State Box 32014; Boone, NC

28608 (Please add Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies: Rosemary Horowitz Lecture) or contact CAS Director of Development Carey Fissel at 828.262.7622 or fisselcm@appstate.edu. This annual lecture is yet another way to secure the lasting impact of our deceased dear friend, colleague and mentor and her remarkable work. Thank you!

Research by the Center Affiliated Faculty and Students in Fall 2021

Prof. Amy Hudnall (History/Global Studies/JHP) co-operated with **Lilyan Wright**, a cultural specialist at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian and **student in the JHP minor** at Appalachian, to organize a group research excursion with two of her students, Maddie Carracino and Mae Early Wilmer, to Cherokee, NC. Both of these students are currently working on their thesis. Mae particularly reexamines the genocide of the Cherokee. They met museum curators, archivists, and cultural specialists to learn more about

storytelling, Cherokee history and the life of the Cherokee after genocide. The group also visited the area’s sacred sites. They, finally, were taken on a special tour of the Museum of the Cherokee Indian and spent a day in its archives, exploring 19th-century primary source materials on the Trail of Tears.

Prof. Thomas Pegelow Kaplan (JHP/History) published “Reinterpreting Jewish Petitioning Practices During the Shoah: Contestation, Transnational Space, Survival” in the Haifa-based Journal of

Holocaust Research 35 (2021) and “Remaking Eichmann: Memories of Mass Murder and the Transatlantic Student Movements of the 1960s” in Rebecca Wittmann, ed.’s *The Trial of Adolf Eichmann* (Toronto, 2021). He was invited to and published “How I Became a Holocaust Studies Scholar: Reflections on Growing up and Being Educated in Cold-War West Germany” in the Newsletter of the NC Council on the Holocaust (September 2021). This fall, Pegelow Kaplan also presented papers at the regional Lessons and Legacies conference at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and at the Yad Vashem Biennial International Conference in Jerusalem. Finally, he participated in the “Archives of Global Transit: Reconsidering Jewish Refugees from Nazi Europe” Workshop of the German Historical Institute in Washington, DC, and chaired the NC German Studies Roundtable on “Fascism

and Anti-Fascism in Global Perspective” at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Prof. Dana Powell (Anthropology/JHP) continued her research leave with a one-year appointment in the College of Indigenous Studies at National Dong Hwa University (NDHU) in Taiwan that resulted from a fellowship from the Taiwanese Ministry of Science and Education. At NDHU, she is co-designing transnational environmental justice research and teaching projects, with Prof. Jolan Hsieh and other Taiwan-based colleagues. Prof. Powell published the co-authored article “The Double Force of Vulnerability: Ethnography and Environmental Justice” in *Environment and Society* 12 (2021). From Taiwan, she also continued her work on the Eastern North Carolina Environmental Justice Co-Lab funded by a grant from the RIEEE at Appalachian (with Rebecca Witter).



Madeleine Carracino, Mae Early Wilmer, and JHP Minor and Museum of the Cherokee Indian Cultural Specialist Lilyan Wright.

Center Holds First In-Person Event Since March 2020 with Renowned VT-Based Theater Company Bread & Puppet

Taking advantage of low infection rates in late fall, the Center co-organized a short-term residence of the legendary non-profit political theater group Bread & Puppet co-founded in 1960s New York City by German-American artist Peter Schumann. The visit culminated in the performance of a brand-new production in the tradition of the iconic Bread & Puppet Circuses that began at Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont in 1970. Traditional circus tropes were recast, with the help of the company’s distinctive folk iconography, to draw attention to the urgent issues of the day that ranged from the current pandemic to the conflict in the Middle East. Paper mâché

beasts of all sizes and Bread & Puppet’s Fight-Against-The-End-Of-The-World Brass Band contributed riotous inspiration to a colorful spectacle of protest and celebration that had to be moved indoors to the I.G. Greer Auditorium due to icy autumn rain. Audience members discussed the topics raised over Bread & Puppet’s famous sourdough rye bread -- baked at the Temple of the High Country -- with aioli long after the performance had ended.

Indeed, the atmosphere was as appreciative and festive as for the Cantastoria workshops that the troupe ran for community members at the Schaefer Center. “Cantastoria” is a street theater form championed by the VT

puppeteers that involves the narration of pictures using song, movement, text and puppetry. Forms of Cantastoria have flourished in various guises all over Europe and Asia for the last 1,500 years. Bread & Puppet has enlisted them as an effective tool for activist street performance and successfully

encouraged faculty, students and community members to experiment with its many possibilities in Boone. The Center is grateful for the support from so many partners from the Hayes School of Music to the Department of Theater & Dance and from the Reich College of Education to the Department of Art.

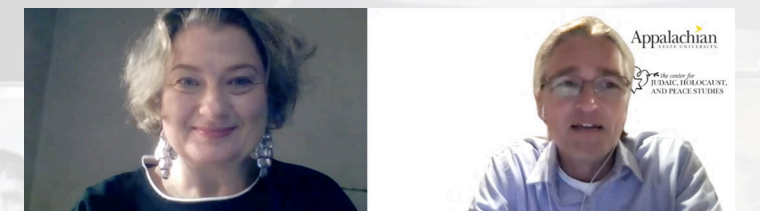


Virtual International Programming from Australia to Poland and Florida Continues

At the same time, the Center Programming Committee resumed the virtual programming during the fall semester that the Center had launched at the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020. This term’s guests, ranging from a return of Prof. Noah Shenker (Australia) to Prof. emerita Carolyn Ellis (Florida), all worked in important fields from compassionate research with Holocaust survivors to the struggles of Polish Jewry before and during the Shoah that Prof. Rosemary Horowitz z”l was immersed and published in. The Center, therefore, dedicated the

programs to our late previous Center director.

The program with our guests also supported curricular activities in the minor in Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies as well as Communication. The students of Prof. Chris Patti, a Center affiliate, benefited immensely from their exchanges with Prof. Ellis. Speaking live from Poland, Prof. Natalia Aleksion, who currently serves as a senior fellow at the Polish Institute of Advanced Studies in Warsaw, was at the center of a memorable and well-attended research colloquium. The event allowed



Prof. Natalia Aleksion and Prof. Thomas Pegelow Kaplan during the October program live from Warsaw

participants to get acquainted with the broad range of our guest’s studies, ranging from the significance of gender analysis in the study of Polish Jewry to the role and functions of medicine during the Holocaust. The latter also foreshadowed the upcoming course on the topic with Prof. Miriam Offer (Western Galilee College,

WGC) that allows Appalachian students to explore the difficult topic with their Israeli counterparts at WGC. Dr. Aleksion, meanwhile, accepted the Harry Rich Professorship of Holocaust Studies at the University of Florida-Gainesville and we are looking forward to welcoming her back to Appalachian soon.



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

