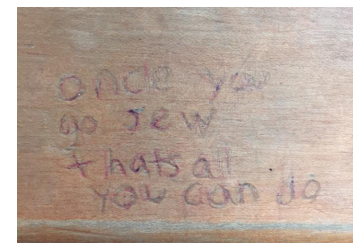


A Task As Pressing As Ever: Confronting Anti-Semitism and Racism at ASU and in the High Country

At the beginning of the fall semester, ASU students returning to campus were greeted by a large banner with racist messaging prominently displayed by white supremacists on the skywalk over Rivers Street. Again timed with the High Holidays, anti-Semitic stickers appeared in front of campus buildings. Carvings on wooden campus benches called on “Jews” to “leave.”



Anti-Semitic writing found on campus in September 2017

Most recently, students at PSU observed a young white man in SS uniform walking down the corridor and handing out racist leaflets. In light of the neo-Nazi violence in Charlottesville and so many anti-Semitic and racist acts in the United States, none of this is surprising. It should also not be forgotten that many hate groups design these acts to provoke, get attention, and recruit—also among ASU community members seen as sympathetic to their causes.

As racist incidents continue to rise and hate groups target Jewish members of the campus and broader communities along with men and women of color, immigrants, and LGBTQ people, it is pivotal to take a stance, speak out, and step up the work of the Center, especially in the field of education. Working together with many partners on

and off campus, the Center has been as active as ever. Center Faculty Advisory Board member Professor Barbara Zaitzow organized a panel with faculty experts and campus and Boone police in September.

The Center also joined forces with the ASU Humanities Council to bring Prof. Timothy Snyder to campus who talked about the current threats to American democracy and reflected on the interpretations in his book *On Tyranny*. Continuing these co-operations, the Center and its partners will soon shed light on the array of responses to these challenges, bringing, among others, a human rights historian to analyze the Antifa movement. The Center is also working with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., to bring new resources to the task of countering the many threats.

To grasp the rise of racial hatred more fully, the Center also focused on the global dimensions of this hatred.



Provost Dr. D. Krueger welcomes the audience and speakers at the start of the "Jewish Life in Germany Today" program

A Center-organized traveling exhibition on “Jewish Life in German Today” was on display at a central location in Plemmons Student Union until early October and provided the many people who perused the panels with insights about the struggles and adjustment of Jews living in the country of the hangman. The accompanying program included a talk by German diplomat Klaus Becker, who maintained that German democracy was not threatened by the recent parliamentary elections and return of a far-right party to the *Bundestag*, the first time since 1961. In addition, Prof. Till van Rahden (Université de Montréal) explained in an insightful



"Jewish Life in Germany Today" Exhibition on display at Plemmons Student Union

lecture why post-war Germany became an important center for the study of Jewish history.

A panel discussion with Julia Schmidt, a former member of the Jewish community in Bonn, set a different tone. Having recently left after years of ever rising anti-Semitism, she concluded that Jews could no longer feel safe in the Berlin Republic and should leave for Israel.

The ASU administration, represented by Provost Dr. D. Krueger, once more supported the work of the Center, which will only step up its activities in the coming months and years.

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the center for
JUDAIC, HOLOCAUST,
AND PEACE STUDIES

Forthcoming Center Events

February 12. Lecture on “‘The Murderers Are Among Us’: Images of and Inquiries into Holocaust Perpetrators since the Third Reich” by Prof. **Thomas Kühne**, the Strassler Chair in the Study of Holocaust History and the Director of the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University.

March 15. Lecture by Prof. **Mehnaz Afridi**, the Director of the Holocaust,

Genocide & Interfaith Education Center and an Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Manhattan College, New York City. Prof. Afridi is the author of *Shoah Through Muslim Eyes* and focuses on Muslim-Jewish relations.

March 19-20. Lunch workshop on the Visual History Archive of the USC Shoah Foundation and evening lecture by Prof. **Wolf Gruner**, the incumbent of the Sha-

pell-Guerin Chair in Jewish Studies and Professor of History at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. Gruner is also the Founding Director of the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research.

March 28. Lecture by Prof. **Mark Bray** on “Antifa: The History and Theory of Antifascism.” Bray, who recently completed his PhD in European history at Rutgers University, is a

lecturer at Dartmouth College. He is also the author of *The Anti-Fascist Handbook and Translating Anarchy*.

April 12. Together with ASU’s Hillel chapter and the Temple of the High Country, the Center leads the reading of names of European Jews killed by the Germans during the Holocaust to mark this year’s **Yom HaShoah**. The readings are followed by a commemoration at the Temple of the High Country.

For more information on events, please visit our website at: holocaust.appstate.edu/events



A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Due to the impressive support by so many off- and on-campus supporters, the Center for Judaic, Holocaust and Peace Studies has evolved tremendously in the fifteen years of its existence. One critically important component in this development is the need to cooperate with the leading institutions in Holocaust education and research as well as Jewish Studies. The Center is now an associate institutional member of the Association of Jewish Studies, the largest academic Jewish Studies organization worldwide. Center affiliates regularly give talks at AJS conferences. As important, the Center has stepped up its

work with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, D.C, and Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, in Jerusalem. My recent appointment to the USHMM’s Steering Committee of the National Leadership Summit of Center Directors is one way of doing so. Yad Vashem has become an important partner for the Summer Symposium, but also in our research efforts. To learn from the leaders in the field will serve the Center well in attracting more faculty members to work with us in Boone, also from Israel. And there are more ways to learn. On my almost daily walks to the

Yad Vashem Archives, I can’t help but being struck by the many young IDF soldiers visting the memorial with assault rifles by their side. In fact, there is no shortage of guns in Israel’s largest city. There has been a rise in people dying from gunshot wounds, especially in Israel’s predominantly Arab towns, but, overall, the number of victims of gun violence here pales in comparison to the U.S. with its, sadly, almost regular mass shootings. There is a lot to learn in- and outside Israeli research institutions, also about gun control. To provide more ASU faculty and students with opportunities to do so is a solid next step. And then the light rail stops at Mount Herzl and it is time to get off and start another research day at Yad Vashem.

Greetings from Jerusalem,

Thomas Pegelow Kaplan,
Director of the Center for
Judaic, Holocaust and Peace
Studies

FIRST WORKSHOP
ON USE OF USC
SHOAH FOUNDATION
ARCHIVES HELD

In collaboration with the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research and The Center for Academic Excellence, the Center offered the first in a series of special workshops to provide the campus community with information on how to utilize the USC Shoah Foundation’s Visual History Archive to enhance their teaching, learning, and research endeavors. Facilitated by Dr. Jared McBride (UCLA/USC Shoah Foundation), workshop participants learned how to search the more than 54,000 video testimonies of survivors and other eyewitnesses of the Holocaust and other twentieth-century genocides that is now fully accessible at ASU. In 2018, the Center plans to offer more workshops for members of the ASU community as well as teachers in the High Country.

EMINENT ISRAELI HOLOCAUST SCHOLAR AND YAD VASHEM
INSTITUTE DIRECTOR VISITING ASU'S CENTER

In late October, the Center hosted the highest-ranking official from Yad Vashem ever to visit ASU. Professor Dan Michman, the head of Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research and the incumbent of the John Najmann Chair of Holocaust Studies, gave a talk on the state of the field since the 1990s in a packed lecture hall. During his almost week-long visit, he also held a research colloquium on his work, including his path-breaking study of Jewish ghettos in Nazi-controlled Europe. Michman spent several days meeting with faculty, students and Center supporters and also attended a Hillel-led service at the Temple of the High Country.

Professor Michman has been at the forefront of Holocaust research in Israel, North America, and Europe for decades. In addition to his work at Yad Vashem, Michman holds the chair of the Arnold and Leona Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research and is the incumbent of the Abe and Edita Spiegel Family Chair of Holocaust Research at Bar-Ilan University in Israel. He has written 14 books, including *Pour une Historiographie de la Shoah: Conceptualisations, terminologie, définitions, problèmes fondamentaux* (2001), *The Emergence of Jewish Ghettos during the Holocaust* (2011), and *“Angst vor den Ostjuden.” Die Entstehung der Ghettos während des Holocaust* (2011). In



Prof. Dan Michman (Yad Vashem) lecturing at ASU

In addition, Michman has edited 15 volumes with five more under contract. Born to Holocaust survivors in Holland in 1947, Michman and his family came to Israel in 1957, when his father, Joseph Melkman/Michman was appointed to head Yad Vashem as its general director.

His visit continues and expands the Center’s cooperation with the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in the Israeli capital. Professor Michman’s lecture was filmed by AppTV and will be broadcasted in North Carolina later this year.

MOST RECENT SUMMER SYMPOSIUM ON THE HOLOCAUST TACKLED
PAST AND PRESENT REFUGEE CRISES

In early August, the Center organized its 16th Annual Martin and Doris Rosen Summer Symposium on “Remembering the Holocaust” in Boone, bringing together dozens of Holocaust educators from across the U.S., Europe, and Israel. The 2017 symposium examined the Holocaust as an event in global history and explored the complex connections between the Jewish

refugee crisis of the 1930s and early 1940s with the present refugee crises around the world. The week-long symposium brought internationally and nationally acclaimed scholars, authors and educators to ASU, including Professor Michael Berenbaum (American Jewish University), Dr. Rebecca Erbelding (USHMM), and Sheryl Ochayon (Yad Vashem).

Ralph J. Preiss and Eugenie Mukeshimana gave insightful and moving accounts as survivors of twentieth century genocides and refugee crises, demonstrating overlaps as well as differences. Preiss, a retired engineer who lives in Poughkeepsie, NY, was among the small groups of Jewish refugees who managed to escape Nazi-controlled Europe and reach the Philippines, where he barely survived the Japanese occupation. Ms. Eugenie Mukeshimana, the executive director of the Genocide Survivors Support Network, a New Jersey-based charitable organization that helps survivors, spoke about hiding from Hutu genocidaires during the Rwandan genocide. She also shared her experiences as a refugee in the U.S. The symposium benefitted

from the skills of Dr. Racelle Weiman and the generous support by the Claims Conference. Video recordings of several of the symposium’s lectures are accessible on the Center’s website.



Holocaust survivor Ralph Preiss in conversation with audience members after his symposium presentation



Symposium co-director Dr. R. Weiman, Rwandan genocide survivor Eugenie Mukeshimana, Salisbury mayor Karen Alexander and Center director T. Pegelow Kaplan during the symposium

AFFILIATED FACULTY AND STUDENT RESEARCH

Prof. Davis Hankins (Religion/JHP) wrote the chapter on the biblical book of Job in the forthcoming *Blackwell Companion to Wisdom Literature*. He also co-authored the notes on the biblical book of Ecclesiastes with Brennan Breed for the forthcoming fifth edition of the *New Oxford Annotated Bible* from Oxford University Press. Furthermore, Prof. Hankins had an article accepted in the journal *The Bible and Critical Theory* entitled “‘Much Madness is divinest Sense’: The Economic Consequences of Yahweh’s Parasocial Identity.” In November, he gave an on-campus talk for the annual Philosophy & Religion Department Colloquium entitled “Science, Religion, and Economy: Hellenistic Innovation and the Conditions for Early Jewish and Christian Imaginations.” For his academic work, the College of Arts and Sciences recently awarded him with the William C. Strickland Outstanding Junior Faculty Award.

Prof. Rosemary Horowitz (English/JHP) gave a talk entitled "A Critical Look at Second and Third Generation Holocaust Testimony in the Public School Classroom" at the Emerging Questions in Holocaust Testimonies Research Conference, held at the University of Virginia in connection with The Future of Holocaust Testimonies Series at Western Galilee College, Akko, Israel, in early November. In December, she will present the paper "Re-Imagining Genesis 12: 1 in Simkha Bunim Shayevitch’s “Lekh-lekho” at the Association for Jewish Studies annual conference in Washington, DC. Her latest research project is an examination of the social functions of art in yizker books, for which she is getting ready to apply for a YIVO fellowship.

Autumn Miner '18 (JHP minor) was invited to submit an article on her research on cultural resistance by French forced laborers at the Volkswagen factory in the City of the KdF Car during the early 1940s to the *Archivzeitung*, the academic journal of the Institute for Contemporary History Wolfsburg, Germany. She conducted this research as part of the Center-supported student group research to Germany and Poland in March 2017.

Prof. Thomas Pegelow Kaplan (JHP/History) currently holds a research fellowship at Yad Vashem’s International Institute for Holocaust Research. Earlier this fall, he presented a paper as part of the “Nazism in America? Fascist Discourses and Discourses of Fascism in the United States, 1920-Present” panel at the annual meeting of the German

Studies Association in Atlanta. Pegelow Kaplan also gave invited lectures at Howard University (event organized with the United States Holocaust Museum and the German Historical Institute), Davidson College, and the University of Virginia. Moreover, he received the honor of being asked to give the annual John Najmann lecture at Yad Vashem and to present his research at the Richard Koebner Minerva Center for German History at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Furthermore, he published “History and Theory: Writing Central European Histories after the Linguistic Turn” in a new volume on *Modern Germany in Transatlantic Perspective* and had an edited volume on *Petitions Resisting Persecution: Negotiating Self-Determination and Survival of European Jews* (with Wolf Gruner) accepted for publication by a New York City-based press.

