

Forthcoming Center Events

February 27. Lecture by **Dr. Gerhard L. Weinberg**, the William Rand Kenan, Jr. Professor Emeritus of History at UNC-Chapel Hill, on “Adolf Hitler and the United States: Views, Plans, and Policies and the ‘Jewish Question’” (originally scheduled for September, postponed due to hurricane). The lecture starts at 7:00 pm at Belk Library, Room 114. Weinberg escaped Nazi Germany in 1938, served in the U.S. army in Japan, and became a prominent specialist in diplomatic and Holocaust history. Among others, he found and published Adolf Hitler’s unpublished sequel to *Mein Kampf*.

March. Lecture by **Dr. Thomas Matyók**, Director of the Air Force Negotiation Center and Associate Professor of Conflict Analysis

and Resolution at Air University, Maxwell AFB, Alabama. A renowned scholar who has taught at many universities in the U.S. and abroad, including the University of Konstanz, he will reflect on the state of Peace Studies today.

March 11-13. International interdisciplinary conference on **The Future of Holocaust Testimonies** in Akko, **Israel**. Co-organized by the Center for Judaic, Holocaust and Peace Studies, the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research, University of Southern California, and the Holocaust Studies Program of Western Galilee College.

April 15. Lecture by **Dr. Lerna Ekmekçioğlu**, the McMillan-

Stewart Associate Professor of History at MIT, Boston, on “Armenian Genocide Denial: Past and Present.” Dr. Ekmekçioğlu is a specialist in the histories of the Turkish and Armenian lands in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (co-organized with UNCC).

May 2. The Center marks **Yom HaShoah** (Holocaust Memorial Day) with a commemoration that include a public reading of the names of European Jews murdered by the Germans and their allies during the Holocaust. Weather permitting, this reading will take place from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm in the outside square between Belk Library and App State University’s Bookstore in Plemmons Student Union. The campus and High Country

communities are invited to participate. For more information, contact the Center at 828.262.2311.

July 20-25. 18th **Martin & Doris Rosen Summer Symposium on Education During the Holocaust** at Plemmons Student Union. This year’s symposium includes:

- Kathy Kacer, award-winning Canadian children’s author of Holocaust literature
 - Sheryl Ochayon, International School for Holocaust Studies, Yad Vashem
 - George Brady, Toronto, Ontario, Holocaust survivor, imprisoned in both Theresienstadt (Kinderheim I417) and Auschwitz
- The complete symposium schedule will soon be available on the Center’s website.

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

In Their Own Words: Students in the Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies Minor

In 2009, the Center helped launch a minor in Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies. Housed in the College of Arts and Sciences, this vibrant minor has steadily been growing. In Spring 2018, it reached an enrollment of 18 students. The Center continues to support the minor in many ways. It co-organizes group and individual student research endeavors in Israel, Germany, and Poland and offers on-campus research colloquia with prominent visiting scholars. Here are the voices of some of our current students:



Sarah Perlmutter
(JHP Minor, '19)

"Appalachian State University's Center for Judaic, Holocaust and Peace Studies has helped me to feel safe as a Jewish student on campus. Throughout my time at App, there have been many anti-Semitic incidents and the Center has always quickly responded to these incidents by denouncing the behavior and offering a safe haven for those affected. I am extremely grateful to know that there will always be a safe place for me to go. As a member of the Peace and Genocide Education Club, it has been an honor to work with the Center to help with its programming and vice versa. Through the Center, I have been extremely blessed with opportunities to meet, dine,

and converse with distinguished professors, survivors, and scholars. Opportunities like these are very rare for undergraduate students and the personal connections I have made through visitors of the Center are ones I will never forget! As a minor in Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies I have become more well-rounded as well as more aware of past, current, and future political issues. It is within these JHP classes that I have learned many relevant things which I did not know beforehand. Also, being a JHP minor has helped me connect with my Judaism and has helped me learn how to be a better person and activist. The skills, friends, and memories I have had the opportunity to engage with due to the Center have been a very important part of my undergraduate experience at App and I wouldn't be where I am today without the support of the Center!"

Elizabeth Knowlton
(JHP Minor, '19)

"The minor in Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies was the most important factor in my choice to go to Appalachian State. Having been involved in Holocaust remembrance and education events since middle school, I found a passion for the topic and wanted to dedicate my studies to it. After taking my UCO class in peace and conflict, I found important mentors in the field that led me to want to pursue studies in post-conflict reconstruction. The Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies minor along with the Center have not only taught me in-depth histories of the Holocaust and other genocides, but also how to deal with the communities after such devastation and promote peace and reconciliation within these communities. After graduation, I hope to work with a

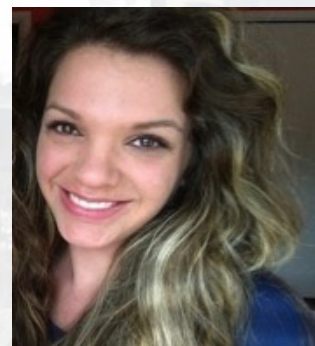


peace organization abroad in efforts to heal communities faced with genocidal traumas. The Center is a place where students can be heard and change in the community is made. There have been many instances on campus where different groups have been targeted with hate speech and the Center has always been a place where these groups can come together, to discuss solutions, and work together to promote peace among friends and colleges. The Center has made so many important contributions to Appalachian State and will continue to do so. By continuing to spread the word about peace and involving more students with different events, programs, and travel, I praise the kind of progress and impact the Center along with the minor will make to campus and the surrounding community."

Annette Waters

(JHP Minor/Hillel, '20)
"Prior to the arrival at Appalachian State University, I had never encountered an organization solely dedicating its resources to genocide research and education. As a History Education major, I understand the importance of educating others on the events in our history, especially those events creating such a deep and resonating impact. The Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies means so much to me because of the lasting effects it creates.

Education, I feel, is the number one tool we can use against any force. The Center has provided fantastic lunch colloquiums to encourage conversation between students and esteemed scholars, incredible speakers who have become masters on subjects such as the Holocaust, other genocides, and peace studies, and trips made available to students yearning to learn more on such important history. As the vice-president of Hillel, an international organization for Jewish students on college campuses, it means so much to me that the Center here is so dedicated on providing resources for Holocaust remembrance. Earlier this semester, a survivor of the Auschwitz concentration camp, Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz, visited Appalachian State University to discuss her experience in the camp and her strategies of survival. The Center has always dedicated an entire day to remembering those lost in the Holocaust by reading names of victims and leading a silent march down King Street on Holocaust Remembrance Day. I cannot write enough about the opportunities that Dr. Thomas Pegelow Kaplan and the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies provide. Dr. Pegelow Kaplan and the Center work so hard on educating App State students and numerous others on such important topics. It means so much to me."



APP TV TO BROADCAST CENTER PROGRAM WITH AUSCHWITZ SURVIVOR

The Center continues its cooperation with APP TV, ASU's student-staffed television channel. In the coming weeks, APP TV will broadcast the program and talk by Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz, who spoke at Appalachian State University in October. For more information, contact the Center at 828.262.2311.

Summer 2018 Events at the Center

Successful Summer Fundraiser Helps with Covering Center Expenses

Carey Fissel,
College of Arts and Sciences

Supporters of the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies came together for an evening of dinner, music, and dancing on Saturday, August 25, 2018. Appalachian State University's Plemmons Student Union was temporarily turned into a diner for a sock hop-themed fundraising event attended by more than one hundred supporters. The event raised over \$24,000 for the Center. It was organized by a dedicated volunteer committee. Committee chairs Susan Ratner, a member of the Center's Community Advisory Board,

Sue Chase, and Joel Levy were supported by Carol Berns, Dava Carson, Lisa Farber, Rhonda Faro, Shelly Gassner, Suzanne Lasky Gerard, Molle Grad, Rosemary Horowitz, Renee Klarberg, Floris Leipzig, Paula Levy, Rebecca Scialpi, Roberta Solar, Sandra Testani, Darlene Wagner, and Janet Weinstein.

Like all Centers in the UNC system, the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies does not receive funds from the state to pay for its programming costs and operating expenses, which total over \$100,000 in 2018-19. This latest fundraiser was a critical step to secure the Center's ongoing work at a time of growing anti-Semitism and racial hatred in North Carolina and across the United States.



Provost Darrell Kruger and Committee Co-Chair Susan Ratner at the event (Photo Courtesy of Kenneth Kirksey).

2018 Summer Symposium on Music and the Holocaust

The Center has received a lot of positive feedback on the 17th Annual Martin and Doris Rosen Summer Symposium on Remembering the Holocaust that took place at Appalachian State this past July. This year's symposium highlighted the uses and abuses of music during the Shoah. Scholars and educators such as Steffie Kaye from Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies and Prof. Anna Shternshis, the director of the University of Toronto's Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies shed light on the complex topic. Three survivors gave testimony, including Anita Lasker-Wallfisch (London, England),

one of the last survivors of the Women's Orchestra at Auschwitz. Finally, Hayes School of Music faculty and students were joined by faculty from Milligan College and Wake Forest University in four performances of Holocaust-era and post-Holocaust music across campus and town, including sonatas played by the Women's Orchestra at Auschwitz (directed by alumna Dr. Kellie Brown) and songs written by everyday Jews in the Soviet Union during the Second World War (performed by vocalist Sydra Yarnell from a family of an Auschwitz survivor. See picture). Dr. Racelle Weiman returned to serve as co-director and worked with the more than thirty teacher-participants from across the U.S. and Eastern and Central Europe.



Vocalist Sydra Yarnell performing during the 2018 Summer Symposium

Research by the Center Affiliated Faculty

Prof. Rosemary Horowitz (English/JHP) is currently conducting a research project that explores the uses and meanings of art in yizkor books. Her work focuses on *Felshin: zamlbukh tsum ondenk fun di Felshiner kedoyshim* (1937). The results will be presented at the Felshin Society Centennial Memorial Program in April 2019.

Prof. Thomas Pegelow Kaplan (JHP/History) published a chapter entitled "Information Policies and Linguistic Violence" in Shelley Baranowski et al., eds.' *A Companion to Nazi Germany* (with Wiley). He

also secured a book contract with the Germany-based Ferdinand Schöningh Verlag for a co-edited volume (with Mark Hornburg and the USHMM's Jürgen Matthäus) on *Beyond "Ordinary Men": Christopher R. Browning and Holocaust Historiography*. Prof. Pegelow Kaplan organized a panel on "Holocaust Studies After the Visual Turn" for this year's HEF Lessons and Legacies conference that featured the work of Israeli and European scholars, including his own. With Nathan Stotzfus, he also co-organized a panel at the German Studies Association meeting in Pittsburgh.

In November, **Prof. Chris Patti** (Communication/JHP) participated in the "Genocide: Past and Present" symposium jointly organized by faculty and students at UNC-Asheville. Guided by his approach of "compassionate listening," Patti engaged in a public conversation with Rubin Feldstein, a Polish-Jewish Holocaust survivor.

In November, **Prof. Davis Hankins** (REL/JHP) published an edited book of essays entitled *Tenacious Solidarity: Biblical Provocations on Race, Religion, Climate, and the Economy*. He also presented

a paper at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Denver, CO, which analyzed evidence from the material record for economic changes in ancient Israel.

Prof. Dana Powell (ANT/JHP) published a chapter entitled "Racing the Reservation: Rethinking Resistance and Development in the Navajo Nation" in Michaeline A. Chrichlow, et al., eds.' *Race and Rurality in the Global Economy* (with SUNY Press). She also gave a paper at the Extractive Industries, Governance and Indigenous Rights conference in Ottawa, Canada.



Please renew your membership, consider becoming a member, or make a donation in support of the

Auschwitz Survivor Spoke in Response to Ongoing Anti-Semitism in the High Country



Susan Cernyak-Spatz, a 96-year old survivor of Theresienstadt, Auschwitz and Ravensbrück, at App State, October 2018

More than five hundred members of the campus and local communities came to Plemmons Student Union in October to hear Professor emerita Susan Cernyak-Spatz, a 96-year old survivor of Theresienstadt, Auschwitz and Ravensbrück. Even before she began her remarks, the police on site to provide security in light of continued

neo-Nazi hate speech and related incidents in Boone, closed access to the overcrowded venue. The visit by Cernyak-Spatz was organized by the Peace and Genocide Education Club, a student organization mostly of JHP minors at Appalachian State, and the Center. The program became ever more urgent after yet another hate speech attack by

American White Supremacists and neo-Nazis on campus earlier this fall that also included a painted Nazi flag. The murder of eleven Jewish community members at a synagogue in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood shortly after Cernyak-Spatz's visit demonstrated that these hate speech attacks need to be taken very seriously and swiftly confronted. The audience watched a Center-compiled selection of Dr. Cernyak-Spatz's testimony from the 1990s until 2015, including excerpts from an oral history interview of the Visual History Archive at the USC Shoah Foundation that is, along with some 55,000 survivor records, fully accessible at Appalachian State and the Center. Afterwards the aging survivor answered audience questions for more than an hour. AppTV will broadcast the entire event at the end of the year. The speaker sharply decried anti-

Semitism and racism in Boone and the High Country and urged her listeners to be vigilant and speak up to prevent future outbreaks of mass violence and murder. The events in Pittsburgh indicate that a lot remains to be done in this country.

German-American Art Exhibit



The Center cooperated with the Transatlantic Exhibition of Art in the Southeast that brought American and German artists to App State's HOW Space. Supported by the North Carolina Zeitgeist Foundation, German Embassy, and Goethe Institute, the exhibit evolved around the theme of Wunderbar together and peace.

Hebrew University's Dr. Ofer Ashkenazi Hosted by the Center



Dr. Ofer Ashkenazi from The Hebrew University in Jerusalem at App State

This fall term, the Center continued its program to bring Israeli scholars to the United States to introduce American (and Boone) audiences to the important research conducted at leading universities and research centers in Israel and foster American-Israeli exchanges and co-operations. In early November, Dr. Ofer Ashkenazi, the Director of the Richard Koebner Minerva Center for German History and an Associate Professor

in the History Department of The Hebrew University in Jerusalem, was the Center's most recent guest. The Richard Koebner Minerva Center for German History is one of Israel's foremost institutions in German Studies that cooperates with major universities in Germany, Europe and around the world and trains Israeli and foreign graduate students. A specialist in Central European cultural and intellectual history,

modern visual culture, and Jewish urban experiences in twentieth-century Europe, Dr. Ashkenazi is the author of *Weimar Film and Modern Jewish Identity* (Palgrave-McMillan, 2012) and *A Walk Into the Night: Reason and Subjectivity in the Films of the Weimar Republic* (Am Oved, Hebrew, 2010). He has also penned numerous articles on various topics, ranging from the immigration of German-Jewish athletes to Palestine to comic representations of Nazism and the multivalent politics of Albert Einstein. His third book on *Anti-Heimat Cinema: The Jewish Invention of the German Landscape* will soon be published. At Appalachian State, Dr. Ashkenazi gave a lecture on "The Invention of the German

Landscape by Jewish Filmmakers, 1918-1968" that directly drew on his most recent work. Prior to his arrival in Boone, Dr. Ashkenazi also participated in a conference panel at the Holocaust Educational Foundation's 2018 conference in St. Louis that Center director Prof. Thomas Pegelow Kaplan organized. At a Center lunch research colloquium on App State's campus, Dr. Ashkenazi, lastly, discussed other parts of his insightful work with faculty and students, who, in turn, benefited from the exchanges and made connections that will aid some of the students in the JHP minor during their forthcoming research in Jerusalem in March 2019.

STAY CONNECTED

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

