

The Center in Israel, Israel at ASU

Since 2016, the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies has gradually expanded its work and cooperation with Israeli institutions of higher learning and Holocaust research and education. What started as a partnership with Yad Vashem's International School of Holocaust Studies and the presentation of the International School's Sheryl Ochayon, JD, at the 2016 Summer Symposium in Boone is now growing into ever-expanding programs and ties.

through creativity and innovation."

As part of these co-operations, the Center has brought leading Israeli scholars of the Holocaust and modern European Jewish History to Appalachian State for short-term visits, ranging from Prof. Guy Miron (Open University of Israel, Yad Vashem, and Leo Baeck Institute) to Prof. Dan Michman (Yad Vashem, Bar-Ilan University). The Center will continue this successful initiate that will enable the ASU community to learn from

program is open to scholars from around the globe, we will especially encourage Israeli colleagues to apply.

All the while, the Center is continuing its general programming on Israel. Most recently, it marked Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, which commemorates the 1948 establishment of the modern state of Israel. Co-organized with the local Hillel chapter, a panel discussion entitled "Israel at 70: Achievements, Challenges and Conflicts" allowed faculty experts and students to discuss the current state of affairs. A keynote lecture on "Broken Lives: How Ordinary German Jews and Gentiles Experienced the Twentieth Century" by eminent UNC historian Prof. Konrad H. Jarausch took the audience back to the devastating events that preceded the state's establishment.

These co-operations, meanwhile, are not a one-way street. Beginning in 2019, the Center will also become much more active in Israel. It is already in the process of co-organizing its first academic conference in Israel, partnering with the Holocaust Studies Program of Western Galilee College for an international interdisciplinary confer-

ence on The Future of Holocaust Testimonies to be held in Akko in March. In addition, it will support the first student group research excursion to Israel that is part of Center director Prof. Pegelow Kaplan's Holocaust research seminar in early 2019. This excursion will allow students to do research at leading Israeli archives and institutions from Yad Vashem to the Ghetto Fighters' House – Itzhak Katzenelson Holocaust and Jewish Resistance Heritage Museum and meet with Holocaust survivors in Jerusalem. Finally, the Center, whose affiliated faculty has been invited more and more often to give presentations in Israel, will support ASU professors interested in attending workshops and seminars in Israel to enhance their teaching and research in Jewish, Hebrew, Israel or Holocaust Studies.

In short, the Center is rapidly becoming a regional leader in co-operations with Israeli universities and institutions to the benefit of Appalachian State and the wider community and we invite everyone to our many events and exchanges that are the results of these important co-operations.



Center Director Dr. Thomas Pegelow Kaplan delivered the annual John Najmann Lecture at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem

These growing ties between the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies and Israeli institutions are essential steps in fulfilling the Center's mission to educate the wider public, familiarize ASU students and faculty with the latest works in the fields of Holocaust, Jewish and Israel Studies, and support ASU student and faculty research and teaching in these areas. In fostering these partnerships, the Center also furthers Appalachian State University's goals that embrace faculty and student "engage[ment] in research and scholarship that advance knowledge and address the problems of our region, state, and world

prominent Israeli scholars in the coming years. Prof. Ofer Ashkenazi (Hebrew University) is already scheduled to arrive in November.

Furthermore, the Center is about to launch a more extensive new fellowship program that will bring a senior scholar in the fields of Jewish, Hebrew, Israel, or Holocaust Studies to ASU for the duration of a fall semester. The recipients will teach a much-needed upper-level class in one of these fields, pursue a research project, lecture on campus and in the community, and meet with ASU students and faculty with overlapping research interests. While the



Yom Ha'atzmaut Events at ASU, April 2018

APP TV BROADCASTED CENTER PROGRAM

The Center has also stepped up its cooperation with APP TV, ASU's student-staffed television channel that operates out of Boone. An APP TV crew recorded the October 2017 ASU lecture by world-renowned Israeli Holocaust scholar and son of survivors Professor Dan Michman (Yad Vashem and Bar-Ilan University) and broadcasted it several times in December 2017, reaching an ever wider audience. There are plans for more collaborations in the future.

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Forthcoming Center Events

July 21-26. 17th Martin & Doris Rosen Summer Symposium on The Holocaust and Music: Uses and Abuses at Plemmons Student Union and the Broyhill Center of Music, ASU Campus. This year's symposium includes

- Dr. Jimmy Stokes, Jr., and Dr. Joby Bell (Hayes School of Music, ASU), Performance of Petr Eben's "Okna" (for trumpet and organ), July 22
- **Steffie Kaye** (International School for Holocaust Studies, Yad Vashem), "The Ghettos: Struggles for Survival, Music, and Spiritual Resistance," July 24
- **Dr. Anna Shternshis** (Al and Malka Green Associate Professor of Yiddish Studies & Director, Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies,

University of Toronto), "Last Yiddish Heroes: Lost and Found Songs of Soviet Jews During World War Two," July 25

- **Anita Lasker-Wallfisch** (London, England), Testimony by one of the last survivors of the Women's Orchestra at Auschwitz

For full schedule, see <https://holocaust.appstate.edu/symposium/2018-schedule>



Women's Orchestra at Auschwitz (drawing by Mieczysław Kościelniak, 1944)

September 6. 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." Weinberg escaped Nazi Germany in 1938, served in the U.S. army in Japan, and became a prominent specialist in diplomatic and Holocaust history, who, among others, found and published Adolf

Hitler's previously unpublished sequel to Mein Kampf.

October 5. Transatlantic Exhibition of Art in the

Southeast (TEASE) Tour with German and American painters and sculptures (on themes of peace), HOW Space, Howard Street, ASU (with the N.C. Zeitgeist Foundation, Charlotte).

November 5. Lecture by **Prof. Ofer Ashkenazi**, the Chairman of the Richard Koebner Center for German History at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, on "Jewish Photography in Nazi Germany." Headed by Prof. Ashkenazi, a widely-recognized film studies scholar, the Koebner Center is one of the main research centers on German history in Israel and cooperates with major universities in Germany, Europe and around the world.

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

YOM HASHOAH 5778/2018: COMMEMORATING THE HOLOCAUST AT ASU

On Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies along with Appalachian State's Hillel chapter and the Temple of the High Country organized a series of events that culminated in eight hours of readings of the names of European Jews who were murdered by the Germans. The public reading took place between Belk Library and the ASU bookstore. Provost Dr. Darrell Kruger opened the event by recalling the names of dozens of German Jews whom the Hitler regime deported and killed in German-occupied Eastern Europe. Fifty ASU faculty, staff and

students as well as members of the Temple and Boone community followed the Provost and read names during the course of the day. After this event, Hillel led a silent march to the Temple of the High Country. Spearheaded by outgoing Hillel chapter President Marisa Fernandez, Hillel members conducted a moving concluding commemoration in the Temple on West King Street.

The events began the day before with a public lecture by Eliot Nidam-Orvieto, the Head of the Academic Affairs Section of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem. His talk was



Yad Vashem's Eliot Nidam-Orvieto at ASU to mark Yom HaShoah



Yom HaShoah Readings of the Names of Jews Murdered by the Germans, April 2018

entitled "Living with the Other: Religious Congregations in France and the Hiding of Jews During the Holocaust." The presentation also prompted some more intense discussions, since Catholic officials did not always readily return Jewish children, whom they had converted as part of the rescue, to Jewish communities after the end of the genocide. Nidam-Orvieto's visit was part of an unprecedented program in the High Country, because it did not only continue the Center's cooperation with Yad Vashem, but was also co-organized with the United States Holocaust Memorial

Museum's Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center, Washington, D.C., and its Campus Outreach Lecture Program, supported by the Leonard and Sophie Davis Fund.

The commemoration and events were partially overshadowed by an anti-Semitic incident on the ASU campus on the eve of Yom HaShoah that included covering ASU facilities with Nazi and racist symbols. This outpouring of racist hatred only demonstrates the need for more programming and initiatives, which the Center continues to launch.

CENTER CONFRONTS RISING ANTI-SEMITISM AND RACIAL HATRED IN THE HIGH COUNTRY WITH A SERIES OF PROGRAMS

Past newsletters reported on a range of anti-Semitic and racist events in Boone and at Appalachian State. The Center has responded in a number of ways, ranging from public statements to new partnerships with on- and off-campus departments and organizations. As an institution charged with the furthering of public education, the Center, most recently, co-organized a number of events with scholars whose work has shed light on these threatening developments and examined some critical responses.

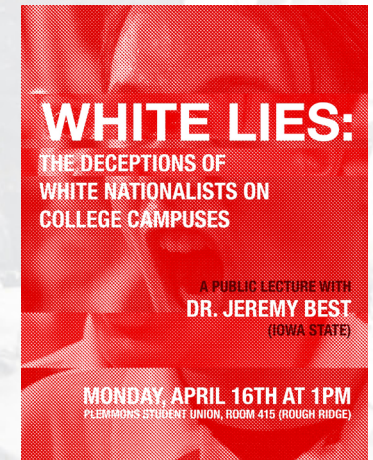
Partnering with ASU's History Department, the Center helped to

bring Dr. Jeremy Best (Iowa State University) to campus, who gave a public presentation on "White Lies: The Deceptions of White Nationalists on College Campuses" in Plemmons Student Union. Best's talk illuminated strategies and approaches that white supremacists, nationalists and neo-Nazis have been using to recruit American college students and to further their racist and anti-Semitic agendas.

Furthermore, the Center collaborated with ASU's Humanities Council and co-organized events featuring Dr. Mark Bray (Dartmouth College). Bray, a historian of human

rights, terrorism, and political radicalism in modern Europe, gave a presentation on "Antifa: The History and Theory of Antifascism" at Belk Library. Bray's work, especially his *The Anti-Fascist Handbook*, was also the focus of one of the Center's recent research colloquia. Both events were very well attended and ASU students debated ways to counter white supremacists with the speaker long after the official end of the programs. The Center will continue similar programming in the fall, partnering with ASU's Office of Multicultural Student Development, the Black Faculty and

Staff Association, and California-based fine art photographer and college instructor Susanna Lucia Lamaina.



CENTER SPEAKER SERIES FEATURES CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH IN HOLOCAUST STUDIES

Throughout the 2017-18 academic year, the Center has continued its series of presentations by internationally renowned scholars on the latest research in Holocaust Studies. The series is designed to train ASU students, help ASU faculty with their research and teaching, and illuminate complex problems in

Holocaust Studies for the broader communities in Boone and the High Country. After the visit of Prof. Dr. Dan Michman, the head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem and incumbent of the Abe and Edita Spiegel Family Chair of Holocaust Research at Bar-Ilan University, Israel, last fall, the

Center welcomed Professor Thomas Kühne to ASU in February. Kühne, an award-winning scholar of German, Holocaust, Military, and Gender Studies, is the director of the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and holds the Strassler Chair in the Study of Holocaust History at Clark University, Massachusetts. His talk "The Murderers Are Among Us":

Images of and Inquiries into Holocaust Perpetrators since the Third Reich" caught the attention of many on the ASU campus. The Center's first (crowded) research colloquium of the year focused on his work on the role of the German people's community in the perpetration of the Shoah. Since Kühne serves as the director of Graduate Studies at his university, he also offered advise to ASU students in the JHP minor, who are getting ready to apply for graduate school.

In March, Dr. Wolf Gruner, the Shapell-Guerin Chair in Jewish Studies at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, and Founding Director of the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research, continued the series. His talk "Defiance and Protest: Forgotten Individual Jewish Reactions to the

Persecution in Nazi Germany" demonstrated to a surprised audience that so many more German Jews did not go to their death "like lamb to the slaughter," but resisted in a myriad of ways. The visit that was co-organized with the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research continued with a workshop for members of the ASU community on how to utilize the USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive to enhance teaching, learning, and research endeavors. Since last summer, Appalachian State has joined the less than 100 institutions worldwide to have full access to this largest oral history collection with Holocaust survivors. In 2018-19, the Center will offer another workshop that will also introduce this unmatched collection to secondary school teachers in the High Country.

STAY CONNECTED

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RESEARCH BY THE CENTER-AFFILIATED FACULTY

In May, **Prof. Davis Hankins** (Religion/JHP) published "Much Madness Is Divinest Sense": The Economic Consequences Of Yahweh's Parasocial Identity" in the journal *The Bible & Critical Theory*. He also co-wrote the introduction and annotations to "Ecclesiastes," which recently appeared in the fifth edition of the New Oxford Annotated Bible.

Prof. Rosemary Horowitz (English/JHP) was invited to participate in an April 2019 conference in New York City, commemorating the centennial of the program in Felsh-tin, Ukraine. She will speak about the town's yizkor book, one of the first modern volumes published.

Prof. Thomas Pegelow Kaplan (JHP/History)'s book proposal tentatively entitled Taking the Transnational Turn in the Face of Nazi Persecution: German Jewish Periodicals and Communication beyond German Borders, 1933-1943 was accepted for publication by Yad Vashem's Center for the Study and Research of the Holocaust in Germany. It is on track to be published in Hebrew in late 2019. Pegelow Kaplan also completed a research fellowship at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research in January. He conducted research for a co-edited volume on Petitions Resisting Persecution: Negotiating Self-Determination and Survival of European Jews at archives across

Israel and interviewed German Jewish survivors who had escaped to the Philippines at their present places of residence in Jerusalem and Hod Hasharon.

In January, **Prof. Dana E. Powell** (Anthropology/JHP) published a book entitled *Landscapes of Power: Politics of Energy in the Navajo Nation* with Duke University Press. Engaging key debates in settler colonial and Genocide Studies as well as Native American Studies, the book examines the rise and fall of the controversial Desert Rock Power Plant initiative in New Mexico to trace the political conflicts surrounding native sovereignty and contemporary energy development on

Navajo Nation land.



Reading Ben Gurion's diaries with Yad Vashem's Prof. D. Michman, Midreshet Ben-Gurion, Negev



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