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We would also like to thank all of our donors who chose to remain anonymous.

In addition to our many partners on the campus of Appalachian State, we would like to express our gratitude to these off-campus organizations and foundations:

Miriam and Abe Brenner Foundation in cooperation with the Greensboro Jewish Federation, NC
Center for Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Studies, UNCC

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany
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Temple of the High Country
Temple of the High Country Sisterhood
Transatlantic Exhibition of Art in the Southeast (TEASE)

Upcoming Events

July 20-25. 18th Martin & Doris Rosen Summer Symposium on Education During and After the Holocaust in Plemmons Student Union. For the full schedule, see <https://holocaust.appstate.edu/teachers/2019-schedule>



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Shedding Light on the Genocide of the Armenians and Its Denial



Prof. L. Ekmekcioğlu (MIT) speaking at Appalachian State

The Center began to mark this year's Genocide Awareness Month with a public lecture by Dr. L. Ekmekcioğlu, the McMillan-Stewart Associate Professor of History at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Entitled "What Can Genocide and its Denial Do to Feminism? The Existential Paradoxes of Armenians in Post-Genocide Turkey," Dr. Ekmekcioğlu's lecture shed light on the struggles of Armenian survivors in the newly-founded Republic of Turkey of the 1920s and the early and current practices of genocide denial in Turkish politics and society. She paid specific attention to the leading role of Armenian women in rebuilding the shattered survivor communities.

Dr. Ekmekcioğlu was born into the small Armenian community in Istanbul. Members on both sides of her family were among the approximately 1.5 million Armenians who succumbed to the Ottoman Empire's genocidal violence during the First World War. Her much-welcomed visit helped the Appalachian State community to continue the debates over genocide denial in general and of the Armenian genocide in particular. These debates erupted back in 2016 after an Appalachian State faculty member

NEW LOCATION OF THE CENTER

The Center has recently moved to its new and largest space to date. Still located in Edwin Duncan Hall (101-102 Suite), it now has sufficient space for its library and the visiting senior fellows in Jewish, Hebrew, Israel or Holocaust Studies during their upcoming stays.

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had denied the genocide's existence in her classroom and rejected any criticism of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the Turkish Republic's first President, whose forces continued the slaughter of Armenians after the end of the war.

Yom HaShoah In the Shadow of Renewed Attacks on Jewish Life in the U.S.

The annual Week of Remembrance began with the Appalachian Chorale's performance of American composer Donald McCullough's Holocaust Cantata: Songs from the Camps at Rosen Concert Hall at the Hayes School of Music (HSoM). Some 350 members of the campus and High Country communities were captivated by this work's 13 movements that alternate between music and readings. Citing letters, and interviews, the readings powerfully spoke to the daily struggles in the camps. The Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies eagerly cooperated with choir director Dr. Linda Larson to bring this important event to campus.

On Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), the Center organized



Yom HaShoah Readings in Belk Library

the public reading of thousands of names of Jews murdered by the Germans and their allies during the Holocaust. Some 50 community members, including Provost Dr. Kruger, Rev. Chris Horne with the Reformed University Fellowship, Multicultural Student Development director Danielle Carter, and the Temple of the High Country's ritual committee chair Elaine Rothenberg, read for eight hours at Belk Library. It was followed by an AEPI-led March to Remember to the Temple of the High Country, where Hillel led a commemoration.

On the minds of almost everyone throughout the week was the shooting at Chabad of Poway synagogue in San Diego on the last day of Pesach, during which a white supremacist and anti-Semite killed a worshipper. Since 2016, anti-Semitic violence perpetrated by an emboldened white supremacy movement in the U.S. has been on the rise, giving new meaning and urgency to commemorations of past genocidal crimes against Jews in Europe, North Africa and beyond.

A Word From Our Director



CJHPS Director Prof. T. Pegelow Kaplan with Prof. W. Gruner (USC, left) and Prof. G. Weinberg (UNC, right) in Akko

The Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies (CJHPS) can look back on another successful year. Since July, we have organized 17 public lectures by scholars and survivors. We brought (or helped to bring) five musical performances with a total of close to 150 performers; two exhibitions, including a two-month long traveling exhibit on two floors at Belk Library; three film screenings; three panel discussions; one commemoration; and eight research colloquia with scholars from Israel, North America, and Europe to campus.

We convened another week-long symposium with teachers from across the U.S., Eastern and Central Europe and launched our first academic conference in Israel. Five students in the JHP minor garnered our new competitive travel and research grants for Israel (see page 3). The Center also put together three outreach lecture programs at public schools in the High Country. We have been in the local and international news (Times of Israel). The CJHPS partnered with dozens of departments, centers, and institutions on campus, in NC, in the U.S. and abroad, including Yad Vashem and the USC Shoah Foundation. The Center's much enlarged space in Edwin Duncan Hall enables us to proceed with new projects. It is home to the new library with computer terminals that provide users access to the survivor testimonies of the USC Shoah Foundation.

The Center has also started to organize its next academic conference that will bring 40 scholars from Alabama to Washington, D.C., and Berlin, Germany, to Boone in early 2020.

Challenges remain. The Center continues to work against an ever-rising tide of white supremacist, racist and anti-Semitic activities in the High Country. We have joined efforts to bring new programs by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). All of our events at home and abroad are only made possible by our donors who have generously contributed smaller and larger amounts to sustain the Center. We are immensely grateful for this support. A huge thank-you also to the former members of the Community Advisory Board. We are eager to work with the new College of Arts and Sciences-convened Advancement Council to secure the future needs of the Center.

Center-Co-Organized Conference on the Future of Holocaust Testimonies in Akko, Israel



The Center Back in Israel

In March 2019, the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies held its first academic conference in Israel. The Center cooperated with the Los Angeles-based USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research, the Foundation's 2014-founded academic arm that is playing an important role in advancing interdisciplinary scholarship on the Holocaust and other genocides, and the Holocaust Studies Program at Western Galilee College, Israel. From March 11 until March 13, close to 50 scholars from Mexico City to Warsaw, Poland, and from Edinburgh, Scotland, to Jerusalem gave lectures, participated in panels, and discussed in open fora the "Future of Holocaust Testimonies." The conference took place on the campus of Western Galilee College (WGC) in Akko, a historic port city first settled in the



Ghetto Fighters House Museum: Site of some of the conference's proceedings

As we are approaching an era with no living Holocaust survivors in our midst, the conference could hardly have been any more timely. The USC Shoah Foundation's Kia Hays presented "Dimensions in Testimony," a Foundation-led initiative to record and display testimony of Holocaust survivors such as Anita Lasker-Wallfisch (who had spoken at the Summer Symposium at Appalachian State back in 2018). Seeking to "continue the dialogue between . . . survivors and learners" for decades to come, the initiative's goal is to develop "interactive 3-D exhibits, in which learners can have simulated, educational conversations with survivors." Not every participant, however, was convinced by the new technology and questions remained.

Polish Scholars and Diplomats revisited the Nazi Genocide of Jews in Poland at the Akko Conference

The conference discussions turned even more controversial when the invited Polish ambassador to Israel, Marek Magierowski, demanded that it was "not only the role of historians, but also and perhaps especially the role of politicians and diplomats to explain" the Holocaust. Magierowski raised some eyebrows when he admonished historians "not to lie," but to adhere to the "facts." In their conference presentations, participating Polish historians such as Dr. Agnieszka Zajączkowska-Drożd, the head of the Center for Holocaust Studies at Jagiellonian University, launched fresh



Prof. Rosemary Horowitz lecturing on "Researching Historical Fiction using Digital Storytelling" at the Akko Conference

criticism of the controversial memory laws spearheaded by the PiS-led Polish government that criminalized scholars' explorations of the participation of Polish Gentiles in the Nazi genocide of Polish Jewry. Dr. Karolina Panz of the Polish Academy of Sciences painstakingly analyzed the testimonies and roles of Polish Gentiles in the German occupiers' "Aktion Reinhardt" killings in Nowy Targ County. It was indeed a conference of many insights and memorable presentations such as UVA Professor Gaby Finder's on-stage interview of Shimon Redlich, a professor emeritus of Ben Gurion University, who survived the Holocaust as a boy in Nazi-occupied Poland due to the rescue efforts of Gentile families. To reach a wider audience, the Center has made some of the proceedings available on its website (<https://holocaust.appstate.edu/conferences/future-holocaust-testimonies-19>).



Conference Co-Organizer Prof. Boaz Cohen presents the Guardian of Holocaust Memory Award to Auschwitz Survivor Moshe Porat



Conference Keynote Speaker Prof. G. Weinberg and Commentator Prof. D. Michman (Yad Vashem)

Dr. Gerhard Weinberg Delivered Conference's Keynote Lecture

In his keynote lecture entitled "The Holocaust, 75 Years After It Ended," Dr. Gerhard Weinberg, the William Rand Kenan, Jr., Emeritus Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, discussed the state of the field of Holocaust Studies, past accomplishments, and future challenges. Weinberg defended his "intentionalist" interpretations of the genesis of the Final Solution. He argued that Hitler maintained full control of the regime's evolving genocidal policies, while pursuing his long-standing plans to exterminate not only the Jews of Europe, but around the world. Weinberg also called on younger colleagues to return to the archives instead of focusing on new theories and methodologies. At the same time, he sounded the alarm bells about the conditions of archival holdings. The Nazi documents in the National Archives in Maryland were especially in urgent need of refilming, since the micro-films had reached the end of their life span. Prof. Dan Michman, the Head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research, Yad Vashem, served as chair and commentator.

Professor Weinberg is an internationally acclaimed military, diplomatic and Holocaust historian. Among his many influential books and articles, *A World at Arms: A Global History of World War II*, revised ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005) and *Hitler's Second Book:*

The Unpublished Sequel to Mein Kampf (New York: Enigma Books, 2003) clearly stand out. Weinberg found the book manuscript written by Nazi leader Adolf Hitler after *Mein Kampf* in the massive files confiscated by U.S. troops at the end of the war in Europe. Born in Hanover, Germany, during the waning years of the Weimar Republic, Weinberg escaped Nazi Germany to England in 1938. His father, a judge who, because of his Jewishness, was removed from his position by the new Nazi rulers after their "seizure of power," narrowly escaped imprisonment in a concentration camp. The family managed to reunite in England and succeeded in obtaining visas for the United States. Weinberg started his remarkable academic career at the University of Chicago in the mid-1950s.

Before coming to Akko, Weinberg spoke at Appalachian State University, easily filling Belk Library's largest lecture hall. More than 150 students, faculty and community members were captivated by his analysis of Hitler's plans for the occupation of the U.S. and raised countless questions. Weinberg also discussed his influential work during a well-attended research colloquium at the Center's new conference room.

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.

JHP Minors Attended Conference and Conducted Research at Israeli Institutions

Five Appalachian State students with a minor in Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace (JHP) Studies had the opportunity to attend the conference in Israel. They were the first recipients of the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies' new competitive student travel grants for Israel. The students participated in the proceedings, discussed research questions with the international scholars in attendance, and made valuable connections for their work. With the support of the Center, Sarah Brody, '20, Elizabeth Knowlton, '19,

knowledge and skills that will last me a lifetime. The process of conducting my research taught me not only how to be a productive researcher in a new environment, but also how to make important connections. . . The conference in Akko also was the opportunity of a lifetime for me and I feel that it will have a great effect on my future career."

After their return, the young scholars were invited to present their findings at the Greensboro Jewish Federation at an event co-organized with the Center. Some also discussed



Appalachian State Student Grant Recipients and Center Director Dr. Pegelow Kaplan in Akko

Sarah Perlmutter, '19, Halley Roth, '20, and Annette Waters, '20, also conducted research at Yad Vashem, the Central Zionist Archives, the Ghetto Fighters' House Museum and Archives, and Hebrew University. In addition, some interviewed peace activists from organizations such as "Women Wage Peace" and "Women in Black" and observed their peaceful protests in Jerusalem. "During my time in Israel," Halley Roth recently emphasized, "I gained

their work at the new Center space in Boone. The research topics ranged from the preservation of Holocaust memory at Yad Vashem and Beit Lohamei Haghetatot to sexual violence and rape of Jewish survivors by Soviet liberators. At the end of the Greensboro talks, scheduled on the eve of Yom HaShoah, Auschwitz survivor Zev Harel only found words of praise for the student presenters from Appalachian State.

Thank you!

The Center would like to thank Bonnie and Jamie Schaefer for their generous donation in support of the conference in Akko. We would also like to express our gratitude to Edward and Helen Decker, the Rosenblatt Family Foundation, and the Miriam and Abe Brenner Foundation in cooperation with the Greensboro Jewish Federation for their support of the Center's new competitive student travel grants that allowed five students with a minor in Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies (JHP) to attend the conference in Akko and do research on a project in JHP at some of the country's leading centers, archives, and libraries.



Please renew your membership, consider becoming a member, or make a donation in support of the Center's work. To do so, please contact CAS Development Director Carey Fissel at (828) 262-7622.

