



The Fiere Family Book Donation

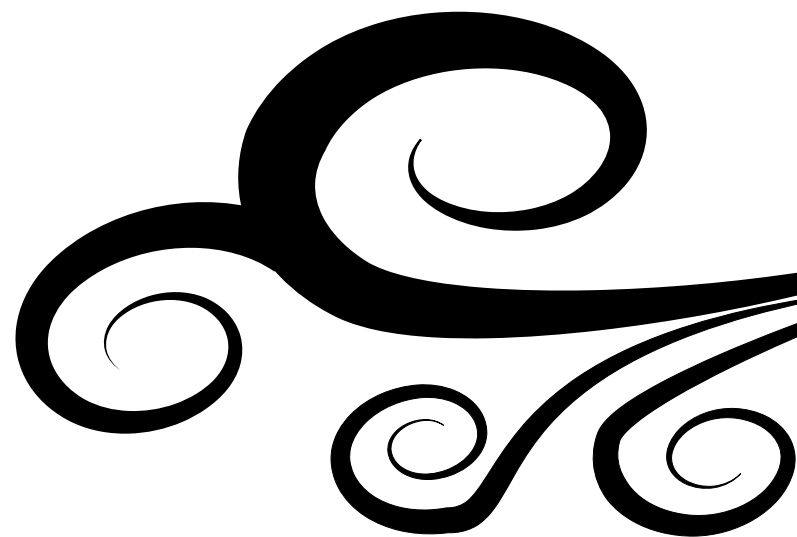
### Remarks at the Fiere Family Book Donation October 14th

A myth persists that Jews did not talk about the Holocaust for years following the event. That is not true at all, and the book that we are receiving today, *The Extermination of the Polish Jews Album of Pictures*, is evidence that Jews were never silent about the fate of Eastern European Jewry. In fact, all along, in the camps, in the ghettos, in the woods, and elsewhere, people were documenting what was happening around them and to them. They believed that even if they did not survive, at least their writings might. And after the war ended, those documentation activities magnified. This picture album should be seen in light of that context. The book is by Philip Friedman and Gershon Taffet and was published in Lodz by the Central Committee of Jews in Poland in 1945. The Central Committee of Jews in Poland was an entity set up in October 1944 to represent the Jews to the Polish authorities. The committee existed from 1944 to 1950 and coordinated aid and social services for Holocaust survivors around the country. Philip Friedman, who was a professor of history, served as the director of the Central Jewish Historical Committee, which was created by the Central Committee of Jews in

Poland. The goal of the Central Jewish Historical Commission was to gather documents, testimonies, photographs, and other evidence about the life and death of Polish Jews under the German occupation that was to be used in the prosecution of war criminals and eventually as sources for a history of Polish Jews during the war. *The Extermination of the Polish Jews Album of Pictures* chronicles the atrocities of the ghettos and death camps and contains over 200 photographs captioned in English, Yiddish, Hebrew, Russian, Polish, and French. The introduction, written by Gershon Taffet, notes that "This album is meant to be an illustration of the of history, the pictures documenting the atrocities came from those who perpetrated the atrocities."

Copies of the book are rare and valuable. For example, Baumann Rare Books sold a volume for \$2,200. Antiquarian Booksellers and Amazon are listing the work for \$950. We, ourselves, can't really affix a price to the book because of its historical significance and what it represents to the Fijeres. We are honored to accept this gift from the family and will display it in the Ed Grad Reading Lounge of the Belk library in memory of all those who were killed during the Hitler era.

Rosemary Horowitz



### Minor in Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies

The Center encourages students at Appalachian to include a minor in Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies in their program of study. Recommended courses offered fall semester 2012 include Dr. Alan Houser's classes in "The Old Testament" and "Biblical Hebrew." Dr. Rennie Brantz is offering two fully enrolled courses on the Holocaust, one in the History Department (His. 3154: "The Nazi Holocaust") and one in the First Year Seminar program (ECO-1200: "Jews and the Holocaust"). Adjunct professor Amy Hudnall is teaching a course on peace studies (GLS/IDS 2350 "Introduction to Peace Studies"). These and other courses listed on a check sheet may be used to meet the requirements for this minor. We currently have 15 students pursuing the minor.

Rennie Brantz



Hillel Students picking apples for Rosh HaShana

### All About Hillel

Hillel has been extremely active this Fall. For the holiday, Rosh HaShana, the students in Hillel went apple picking. (image below ) For Sukkot, the Hillel club built a Sukkah and held its annual "Israeli Dancing in the Sukkah" as well as many other activities. Since the Temple of the High Country was built, there have been many more Jewish students participating in Hillel.

Near the end of the semester, Hillel will be participating in Find Yosef a Holiday and The Tunnel of Opression.

Brynne Elozory '14  
Student assistant for the Center and Hillel member

### Faculty Achievements

Rennie Brantz will have the chapter "New Historical Accounts of the Holocaust in France and Italy" in *The Holocaust and World War II: In History and In Memory*, to be published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing Company.

He attended the Lessons and Legacies Conference at Northwestern University in November 1-4.

Rosemary Horowitz will have a chapter "Authenticating Polish-Jewish Relations during the Holocaust in the Historical Fiction of Uri Orlev" in *The Holocaust and World War II: In History and In Memory*, to be published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing Company.

She will present a paper entitled "The Function of Art in the Tshenstokhoveryd Yizker Book" at the Association for Jewish Studies Conference in Chicago on December 16-18.

### Community Advisory Board September 2012- August 2013

- Ellie Aibel
- Ruth Etkin
- Stan Etkin
- Molle Grad
- Si Kahn
- Floris Leipzig
- Murray Leipzig
- Linda Lentin
- Richard Nemerson
- Barbi Quantrano
- Eva Rawicz
- Fred Rawicz

# Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## Fall Newsletter 2012



Female Hillel students baking challah with the Sisterhood



Hillel Sukkot



Students studying abroad with Rennie at the Arc de Triomphe

The Center for Judaic,  
Holocaust, and Peace Studies  
Appalachian State University  
ASU Box 32146  
Boone, NC 28608

### Save the Date! (2013)

- March 27th: Mountaineer Passover Seder
- July 14th-18th: Holocaust Symposium
- August 10th: Tribute Concert
- September 1st: Mountain Chai Dinner
- September 22nd: Peace Festival

For more information on events please visit our website at:  
[holocaust.appstate.edu/events](http://holocaust.appstate.edu/events)

(828)262-2311  
[holocaust@appstate.edu](mailto:holocaust@appstate.edu)  
[holocaust.appstate.edu](http://holocaust.appstate.edu)  
Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies  
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### A Word from Our Director

I am happy to report that we are busy in all three areas of the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies. In July, we showed Aviva Kempner's film, *Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg*. This is the story of television pioneer Gertrude Berg, who was the creator, principal writer, and star of *The Goldbergs*, a popular radio show that ran for 17 years. The show became television's very first character-driven domestic sitcom in 1949. The TV series combined comedy and social commentary with Jewish characters. Berg received the first Best Actress Emmy in history and paved the way for women in the entertainment industry.

Later that month, we held the 11th annual Martin and Doris Rosen Summer Symposium on "Remembering the Holocaust." The teachers in attendance had forty hours of instruction with internationally known scholars, such as Michael Berenbaum and Ann Millin. Building on our international focus, we welcomed two teachers from

Slovakia. Our award winning Holocaust educator from North Carolina, Lee Holder, was the resident teacher again. We were especially honored to have Morris Glass as a guest speaker. Only eleven years old when the Nazis invaded Poland, he talked about how his childhood originally filled with school, sports, and movies was spent in the ghettos and camps.

In September, we celebrated the International Day of Peace with the local Mountain Peacekeepers. Along with other town-wide activities, we screened the film *The Day After Peace*, which documents the efforts of Jeremy Gilley to establish a world-wide ceasefire one day a year. As a result of his efforts, the United Nations General Assembly set aside September 21st as that day. A lively discussion followed the film. We welcomed Ralph and Vivian Jacobson back to campus for two days in October. He gave a lecture on his childhood in Germany and on the following day, she

spoke about Marc Chagall in Israel. We also accepted a special donation of a rare Holocaust book and have placed the volume in the display case of the Ed Grad Reading Lounge.

The search for the Leon Levine Distinguished Professor of Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies is underway. Advertising has begun and a committee of five faculty members has been formed. From time to time, I will let you know about the search.

All in all, we have lots going on here at the Center. We look forward to the upcoming year and hope to have another exciting array of lectures, films, concerts, and other activities for our community.

Warm regards,  
Rosemary Horowitz  
Interim Leon Levine Distinguished  
Professor of Judaic, Holocaust, and  
Peace Studies