



Spring Newsletter 2014

A Word from Our Director

In an essay masked as a letter to Martin Buber, the Jewish philosopher-educator Franz Rosenzweig noted: "Teaching begins where the subject matter ceases to be subject matter and changes into inner power ...", a noteworthy quotation when addressing the work of the Center. Each lecturer and every teacher working within our program – be it our academic minor or the Martin and Doris Rosen Summer Symposium Remembering the Holocaust - trusts that the subject matter we present will actually become an internal transformative authority that will assist in significantly altering the way students view the world and the role they should responsibly exercise.

Metaphorically, the Center's educative function resembles an old-fashioned, three-legged milking stool. If any one of the three legs is longer than another, the task of milking becomes difficult. As the Center moves forward, part of my charge is to ensure that our "academic stool" maintains its equilibrium so that neither instructor nor student will slip off. To that end, I have been investigating ways to extend course offerings in Judaic and Holocaust Studies which I feel are currently under-represented. As this development progresses, I hope that projected alterations will strengthen our program and facilitate its becoming inner power.

Beginning in January, 1945, the Allied forces in Europe uncovered the full horror of the Nazi genocidal mentality and the gruesome realities of the murderous racial ideology of the Third Reich as they liberated extermination and concentration camps. Generals Eisenhower and Patton, Marshal Zhukov, and other allied commanders ordered those scenes be recorded, that full documentation be compiled to serve as a reminder of human depravity. Today, even with the photograph evidence and testimony of survivors and liberators, we can never really grasp the enormity of what those young GIs uncovered. That is why during the spring semester we will offer many opportunities to promote lessons from the past.

In the spring semester, we will sponsor: a film series focusing on the impact of genocides on the Second and Third Generations; a special community- wide Yom Hashoah speaker and service; a lecture-concert series about German-Jewish liturgical music by Ann Frohbieter; the internationally respected peacemaker Carl Wilkens, who will speak as part of Social Justice Week on campus; and, assisting with Hillel's annual *Mountaineer Seder*. Each program will provide the Center with a unique opportunity to educate to our mission and to facilitate the transformation of mere subject matter into inner power.

Ellie Abbel
Suzan Lasky Gerard
Molle Grad
Si Kahn
Bruce Kaplan
Linda Lentin
Floris Leipzig
Murray Leipzig
Nanci Tolbert Nance
Rich Nemerson
Fred Rawicz
Barbi Quatrano
Janet Weinstein

Center Advisory Board

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Save the Dates 2014

March 17

5:00 - 6:30 Room 204 in the Hayes School of Music, Ann Frohbieter will lecture on "Organ and Choral Music of the Jewish Reform Tradition".

March 19

12:00 - 1:00 PM in I. G. Greer Hall, Ann Frohbieter will present a lecture entitled "The Organ and Its Music in German-Jewish Culture".

March 19-28

Social Justice Week

April 27

Yom Hashoah Commemoration Service and Lecture by Dr. Simon Sibelman, Leon Levine Distinguished Professor of Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies.

March 18

Rosen Concert Hall at 8:00 PM, Ann Frohbieter presents an Organ Concert.

March 20

Three Social Justice Week Events co-sponsored by the Center & Center Fellows [See article in newsletter for more details].

April 15

Hillel's *Mountaineer Seder*, 7:00-9:00 PM in the Blue Ridge Ballroom, Plemons Student Union.

July 12-18

Thirteenth Annual Martin and Doris Rosen Summer Symposium Remembering the Holocaust.

Remembering the Holocaust



13th Annual
Martin and Doris Rosen
Summer Symposium

July 12th - 18th, 2014

Appalachian State University
Boone, North Carolina



Allied Soldiers on leave in Paris, France 1942.



Concentration camp victims. Photograph by American Soldier.

Scholarships Alter Students Lives



LEFT TO RIGHT: Wendy Brenner, Michael Brenner (husband and wife), Jordan Towery, Maegen Rogers, Miriam Brenner (sponsor of scholarship program), Rachel Whitman, Troy Colvard, Frank Brenner, Andrea Etheridge, Rennie Brantz

Studying the Holocaust where it took place is one of the most powerful experiences any person can have. For five Appalachian State University students who participated in Dr. Rennie Brantz's 2013 summer study abroad program to France, Germany, and Austria, this truth became reality during four weeks of study in Europe. Thanks to generous travel scholarships provided by the Miriam and Abe Brenner Holocaust Education Scholarship Fund of the Greensboro Jewish Federation, Appalachian students Troy Colvard, Andrea Etheridge, Maegen Rogers, Andrew Towery, and Rachel Whitman were able to participate in a moveable seminar on the Holocaust. On November 19, 2013,

they reported on this unforgettable experience to the Brenner family and to the Greensboro Jewish Federation. Andrea Etheridge, for example, noted that "the Brenner Scholarship allowed me to have experiences... that couldn't happen in a classroom. We came back changed people; I will never forget this experience." Maegen Rogers told Federation leaders that "without the generosity of the Brenner family, I could not have participated in the study abroad trip. It changed my life and renewed my sense of purpose... (to become a Holocaust historian and professor)." And Rachel Whitman, a pre-law history major, recalled her visit to the Nuremberg Trial courtroom as "truly amazing." "That trial gave a piece of hope to

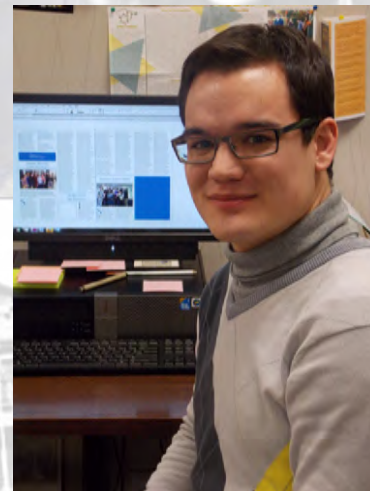
the world because it established that such inhumanity would never be tolerated by the international community again." Each student spoke from the heart about this deeply moving experience. In his comments, Dr. Brantz said that the impact of these scholarships will have lasting effects on not only these five students but on the many, many people they touch as teachers, attorneys, broadcasters, and caring human beings.

As this issue of the newsletter goes to press, we have learned that the Brenner Family has for the second year generously provided the funds to cover scholarships for the Holocaust Study Abroad Program. The Center expresses its sincere gratitude to the Brenner Family for their selfless sponsorship of our mission.

Hello from the Designer

I am Andrew Nelson Redondo, the new student assistant and designer for the Center, where I am in charge of rebranding and designing our marketing and promotional materials, including brochures, campaigns, the university website and publicity and publications for the annual Martin & Doris Rosen Summer Symposium. More importantly, I am endeavoring to create work that will meaningfully translate the central obligation of our mission, namely to communicate the tragic lessons of the Holocaust to a new generation of students and educators.

As for me, I am a double major in Spanish and Graphic Design who hopes to graduate in December 2014. For a year now I have been a designer at the Belk Library, where I have implemented various new resources for the public. I have also worked as a freelance designer for a year and a half,



running my own small design business doing marketing, promotional, and branding campaigns for various start-up businesses around the US. I am excited to have the opportunity to help the Center grow and hope my efforts will be successful in promoting our image and work to the broader community. I look forward to getting to know everyone in the community associated with the Center.

Shalom from Hillel



Shalom, y'all. Emily Boaz from Hillel here! As I write, I am busily preparing for this year's Mountaineer Passover Seder, which has become a staple event for Appalachian State Hillel and is preceded by much excitement and, in my case, color-coded checklists and kosher chickens as far as the eye can see. Comical beginnings aside, the Seder is a wonderful way to connect with people. Led by the App State Hillel students, the event is open to both students and the community. This year, the Seder will be held on Tuesday, April 15th from 7:00-9:00 PM in the Blue Ridge Ballroom. Ticket sales will begin the week prior to the event. The Seder provides a place for Jewish students away from home, as well as an educational opportunity for anyone who is curious about this essential festival on the Jewish calendar. A celebration of the ancient Jews' exodus from slavery in Egypt to serve the Almighty and journey toward an unknown 'Promised Land,' this movement from one chapter of existence to another is a source for joyous commemoration. Instructed to relax, to be exultant because we are alive, free and together with family and friends is indeed something to which both Jews and 'Honorary Jews' can relate. Add good food and song and the Seder becomes a place for everyone. So, sifting through receipts, checklists and repressing my inner Bridezilla tendencies, I am thankful for the opportunity to share this holiday with so many in the community!

Remember Mountaineer Seder on April 15th!



Social Justice Week



International, Young Americans for Freedom, and the Center Fellows.

7:00PM, Calloway Peak Room, Plemmons Student Union: "Untold Stories," a lecture on the Nazi persecution of LGBT communities, given by Center Director Dr. Simon Sibelman, co-sponsored by the Center Fellows and SAGA.

8:00PM, Room 114, Belk Library: Lecture by internationally recognized humanitarian Carl Wilkens, director of the non-profit educational and professional development organization World Outside My Shoes, about his experiences during the Rwandan genocide, co-sponsored by Invisible Children and App State Peace Jam.

All events are free and open to the public, so please mark your calendars now!

This year, Social Justice Week will take place from March 19 through March 28 and the Center and our student group, the Center Fellows, will sponsor a number of sessions. All events will happen on March 20th.

5:00PM, Room 421, Belk Library: The Darkest Dawn, a panel discussion focusing on the rise of neo-fascist groups, co-sponsored by Amnesty

Spring 2014 Film Season

Each semester, the Center sponsors a film series that explores how the cinema treats the topics we teach. Whether documentary or narrative, cinematic images have the power to move us to a new awareness. This spring, we offer films that explore the power of good and evil emanating from the Holocaust, but also from the Armenian and Rwandan genocides. Please join us for these significant screenings.

The Holocaust Film Series is held in the Greenbriar Cinema inside the Plemmons Student Union, Appalachian State University.

All showings start at 2:00pm and are free to the general public.

February 16, 2014
Nicky's Family

March 23, 2014
Hitler's Children

April 13, 2014
Ararat

April 27, 2014
Beyond the Gates