

## A Word from Our Director: The Need to Fight Anti-Semitism Globally

We are living in increasingly challenging times. Expressions and practices of racism and anti-Semitism – so aptly described by the late Robert Wistrich as the “longest hatred” – are not only continuing, but are on the rise in the High Country, North Carolina, and throughout the South and the nation. The Alabama-based Southern Poverty Law Center that monitors hate groups such as the KKK, racist skinheads and the neo-Nazi movement has documented more than 400 incidents of hateful harassment in the days following the U.S. Presidential Elections. The Anti-Defamation League has established that anti-Semitic incidents on U.S. university campuses doubled during the presidential campaign season. The recent proliferation of anti-Semitic stickers and swastikas on the Appalachian State University campus and the activities of a white supremacist cell in Western NC and Boone only goes to show that the High Country is very much part of this national development. The appointment of representatives of the so-called “Alt-Right,” a highly misleading label for a hotch-potch movement that includes white supremacists and anti-Semites, to important presidential campaign positions and even the centers of power in Washington, D.C., only legitimizes this (re-)emergence of old and new forms of hatred in mainstream American politics and culture.

There are many ways to face and counter these violent threats. Education has always been a powerful tool and provides immediate support as well as long-term preparation to withstand and undermine prevalent racism and anti-Semitism. The Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies has been involved in this work in the High Country from its inception in 2003 and will continue its efforts, ranging from providing training for secondary school teachers to organizing scholarly outreach and programming throughout the year.

Yet, the work of the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies cannot be limited to the High Country. Groups and movements that spread anti-Semitism and hatred have long operated on a transnational and global level. There are, for example, strong ties between American and German neo-Nazi groups. Thus, the Center, too, has to widen its focus and co-operations. And we have already started to do just that. The July 2016 Martin and Doris Rosen Summer Symposium: “Remembering the Holocaust” at ASU began a new partnership with Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, in Jerusalem. At this gathering, Sheryl Ochayon of Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies explained past and present anti-Semitism to the symposium audience. The Center is also about to begin a series of co-operations with the Center for Research on Anti-Semitism (ZfA) at the Technical University of Berlin, Germany. The ZfA, founded in 1982 and first led by the German-Jewish Holocaust survivor Herbert Strauss, will soon host and support ASU students on a research excursion to Central Europe and work with ASU’s Center on an international



CJHPS Director Dr. T. Pegelow Kaplan discusses the work of the Center with Joachim Gauck, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, at Berlin's Schloss Bellevue.

workshop in Berlin and Boone. ASU Center staff and affiliated faculty members have indeed been reaching out to our counterparts and also political leaders abroad to advance the study of anti-Semitism and racism and counter the ongoing global rise of these perils. In order to do so effectively and to grasp the complexity of racial and anti-Jewish hatred, we have to be globally connected, train our students and teachers to become global citizens, and pass on their insights to the great many North Carolinians and other Americans they are working with.

To continue our work, the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies remains dependent on community support. I would like to thank everyone who has given to and continues to support the work of the Center. I would like to encourage past supporters to join us once again and help us in carrying on and expanding our efforts. For those of you who have never been involved with the Center, please consider supporting us by making a donation. As a Center at a

public university, our events are free and open to everyone and we are looking forward to welcoming our supporters and the public to the many upcoming events and programs that the Center is in the process of organizing in Boone, in the Southeastern U.S., and abroad.

Best wishes,  
Thomas Pegelow Kaplan,  
Leon Levine Distinguished Professor and Director of the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies

## Electronic Newsletter Introduced

Earlier this fall, the Center started an electronic newsletter to keep the on- and off-campus public informed of Center events. During the semester, the newsletter appears several times a month. To receive the newsletter, go to <http://holocaust.appstate.edu>, click on the “Subscribe Now” link on the left, and follow the instructions.

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## ASU Visit by Israeli Holocaust Scholar Guy Miron

In early November, the Center hosted Professor Guy Miron, one of Israel’s most prominent Holocaust scholars of the generation that followed the field’s founding cohort of Dan Michman, Yehuda Bauer and the late Israel Gutman. Guy Miron is Professor of Jewish History and Chair of the Department of History, Philosophy and Jewish Studies

at the Open University of Israel. Prof. Miron gave an insightful lecture on “Modern Jewish historiography – Between ‘Usable Past,’ National Narrative and the Trans-National Challenge” and discussed his work on reconsiderations of the significance of space and time in German-Jewish and Holocaust history at the Center’s Lunch Research Colloquium series. The visit of Professor Miron, who is also the director of the Research Center for the Study of the Holocaust in Germany at the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem, also marks ASU’s ongoing cooperation

with the Jerusalem-based World Center for Holocaust Research, Documentation, Education and Commemoration.

## Forthcoming Center Events in Spring 2017

**February 2.** Lecture by Prof. Edward B. Westermann (Texas A&M University-San Antonio) on Hitler’s Ostkrieg and the Indian Wars: Comparing Genocide and Conquest (with ASU’s Humanities Council).

**March 1.** Lecture by and research colloquium on the work of Edward J. Sexton, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy John Roth (Claremont McKenna College), an eminent and prolific Holocaust Studies scholar and former director of CMC’s Center for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights (with Davidson College).

**April 24.** Public reading of names of European Jews murdered by the Germans during the Holocaust and Yom HaShoah Commemoration (with ASU’s Hillel Chapter and the Temple of the High Country).

## New Student Group to Support the Work of the Center

Elizabeth Knowlton ’19, a minor in Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies, and Annie McGowan ’18, have spearheaded the successful transformation of the Center Fellows to the new and vibrant Peace and Genocide Education Club. The new group recently organized the screening of the award-winning Hungarian Holocaust film Son of Saul and countered the anti-Semitic outburst (see p. 1) by using ASU’s free speech tunnel to paint images and messages in support of ASU’s values of inclusivity and peace.



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



Antisemitic images defacing the ASU campus this fall



## AFFILIATED FACULTY AND JHP MINOR STUDENT RESEARCH

**Alena Billingsley** ‘17 (Minor in Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies) presented a paper entitled “Jewish Resistance in the Holocaust: A Comparison of the Warsaw Ghetto and Treblinka Death Camp Uprisings” at ASU’s 2016 Celebration of Student Research and Creative Endeavors. Alena conducted the research for her work at the archives of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., with the support of the Center and the Rosenblatt Foundation.

**Prof. Amy Hudnall** (JHPS/ Global Studies/History) is continuing her research on the life successes or failings of perpetrators across genocides. Her emerging book manuscript looks at two generations, the actual perpetrators and their

offspring, in an effort to determine the impact their actions had. She is also building a database of perpetrator responses and life data that includes anecdotal material along with measurable data such as marriage and relationship stability, illness, relationships with children, and job success.

**Prof. Chris Patti** (Communications/JHPS) continues his work on a book manuscript on the lessons he has learned from listening to Polish-born Holocaust survivor Sal Wainberg and his wife Sandy. He has also completed episode 300 of the Optimal Living Daily Podcast on suffering that introduces his work with Holocaust survivors to general audiences. The podcast gets about 15,000 daily downloads.

**Prof. Rosemary Horowitz** (English/JHPS) finished the chapter “What is Love? Stories of Family, Friends, Animals, and Nature” for the volume Using Jewish Literature in the Elementary School Classroom. She also published her essay on “(Holocaust) Memorial Books” in the Oxford University Press Bibliographies in Jewish Studies. One highlight of her semester was the invitation to contribute a chapter to an upcoming book dedicated to Elie Wiesel, in which she will analyze the ways in which his novels The Testament and The Hostage may be seen as modern captivity novels.

**Prof. Thomas Pegelow Kaplan** (JHPS/History) worked as an Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation Fellow at the Center for Research on Antisemitism (ZfA) at the Technical University of Berlin, Germany, from May until August. He started a new partnership between the ZfA in Berlin and the Center at ASU that will result in future joined conferences in Berlin and in Boone on topics such as the Armenian genocide and its denial. He gave invited lectures in Postdam, Berlin, and Leipzig, Germany, including

the Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture. Pegelow Kaplan participated in numerous research colloquia and workshops at the ZfA and the new Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg. He completed a chapter and conducted research interviews in Copenhagen, Berlin and Hanover for his forthcoming book on genocide imagery and protest movements. Pegelow Kaplan also gave talks on “Black Genocide” at the University of North Carolina—Charlotte and ASU. He was invited to join the Distinguished Lecture Program of the Association for Jewish Studies.

**Will Rodger** ‘16 (Minor in Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies) submitted an article entitled “With Nagants in Hand: Jewish Resistance Fighters and Antisemitism” to Colorado State University’s Journal of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Excellence. The article was based on Center- and Rosenblatt Foundation-supported research that Will conducted at the archives of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

## MEETING OF NC JEWISH STUDIES SCHOLARS AT ASU

For several years, the North Carolina Jewish Studies Consortium has provided a forum for Jewish Studies faculty members at universities and colleges across the state to meet, discuss their research and teaching, and network. The

consortium has mostly done so by organizing an annual meeting at a school with a prominent Jewish Studies program such as Elon University. On September 25, the Consortium held its annual meeting at ASU for the first time. In the course of the day, Jewish

Studies faculty from schools such as UNC Chapel Hill, Wake Forest University, Duke University, Elon University, NC State University, and UNC-Wilmington discussed the complex relations between Jewish Studies and Holocaust Studies. They were joined by advanced undergraduate students, also from ASU. UNC-Chapel Hill’s Frank Porter Graham Professor Emeritus Christopher R. Browning of Tacoma, Washington State, gave the keynote lecture on the Starachowice Factory Slave Labor Camps. Browning, one of the foremost experts and key pioneers in the field of Holocaust Studies, based his talk on extensive interviews with Jewish survivors of these camps. The meeting is another result of the Center’s intensified cooperation -- spearheaded by

Prof. Pegelow Kaplan, a member of the Consortium's Coordinating Committee -- with the centers and programs at Duke University, UNC-Chapel Hill, and NC State University.



UNC-Chapel Hill’s Frank Porter Graham Professor Emeritus Christopher R. Browning of Tacoma, Washington State

## SUMMER SYMPOSIUM ON WOMEN IN THE HOLOCAUST



Rabbi Judith Shindler - Director of the Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University.

Back in July, the Center organized the 15th Annual Martin and Doris Rosen Summer Symposium: “Remembering the Holocaust” that brought many secondary school teachers, renowned Holocaust educators, and community members to the ASU campus. This symposium was an event of many “firsts.” It introduced a themed focus – this year on women in the Holocaust – that offered a window through which participants could grasp the complexity of the Holocaust and

that the teacher-participants could immediately use in their classrooms. For the first time, the symposium received the support from Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem. In one of the most memorable sessions, Sheryl Ochayon, Yad Vashem's Project Director for the Echoes and Reflections program, demonstrated how teachers could successfully tackle anti-Semitism in their classes and use video testimony of survivors. Furthermore, the 2016 symposium brought the largest number of teachers from Romania, Hungary and the Baltic states to Boone—further testimony of our ongoing globalization. Among the many esteemed speakers were Judy Schindler, the (by now former and first female) senior Rabbi of Temple Beth El in Charlotte, Dr. Racelle Weiman, an award-winning Israeli-born Holocaust educator, Auschwitz survivor Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz, eminent Holocaust scholar Prof. Michael Berenbaum, and, another first, Prof. Pamela Nadell, Patrick

Clendenen Chair in Women’s and Gender History, Director of the Jewish Studies Program at American University and President of the Association of Jewish Studies, the largest academic Jewish Studies organization. The symposium also included a powerful exhibit on “Faces of Resistance: Women in the Holocaust” that explained how Jewish women across the continent resisted the Nazis and their many collaborators. The traveling exhibit, researched and put together by Moreshet, the Mordechai Anielewicz Memorial, in Israel, came to ASU with the help of the NC Council on the Holocaust.

Preparations are already under way for next year’s symposium to be held in early August, which again will be open to the public and free of charge.



Dr. Pamela S. Nadell - Director of the Jewish Studies Program at American University.

Sheryl Ochayon - Project Director for the Echoes and Reflections program at Yad Vashem.



## CHANGES TO THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

The Center welcomes new Community Advisory Board co-leaders Sandy Testani and Carol Berns. We would like to thank Murray Leipzig, the outgoing chairperson, for his service of the past years.

## CENTER MARKED 78TH ANNIVERSARY OF KRISTALLNACHT

In a gathering co-organized with the Temple of the High Country, the Center commemorated Kristallnacht, the November 1938 anti-Jewish pogroms in Nazi Germany. Instigated by Nazi Propaganda Minister Joseph

Goebbels in coordination with Adolf Hitler and carried out by SA and SS units, the nation-wide pogrom marked a key shift in the Nazi regime’s anti-Jewish policies that culminated in a systematic genocide during the subsequent



war. ASU Provost Dr. Darrell Kruger, Temple Co-President Ira Abrams, and Center Director Prof. Pegelow Kaplan spoke at the commemoration at ASU’s Turchin Center for the Visual Arts on November 10. Jake Kalik of ASU’s Hillel chapter recited a commemorative text. The main remarks were given by Klaus Becker, the Federal Republic of Germany’s Honorary Consul to North Carolina. Consul Becker stressed Germany’s responsibility and underlined the critical importance of learning from the past. For the audience in the packed gallery, the anti-Semitic graffiti on storefront windows in Philadelphia on November 9 and other anti-Semitic incidents throughout the country served as powerful reminders that anti-Jewish hatred is not a phenomenon of the past and that a lot of work remains to be done.



(Above) - Klaus Becker, the Federal Republic of Germany’s Honorary Consul to North Carolina  
(Below) - ASU Provost Dr. Darrell Kruger

