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VAD PEACE STUDIES JUDAIC, HOLOCAUST,

## Center Introduces Affiliate **IHP** Faculty Status

Tn its February 2016 meeting, Lthe Center's Faculty Advisory Board voted to introduce affiliate faculty status for all ASU faculty members—adjunct, visiting, tenure-track and tenured faculty alike—who work with the Center, including those who teach one or more courses that count towards the minor in Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies. During a transition period that lasts throughout the 2016-17 academic year, ASU faculty members already teaching or interested in teaching courses in the minor are invited to apply for this status. A course taught during and after the fall 2017 term only counts towards the minor if the instructor has been awarded and maintains active JHP faculty status.

in its ongoing restructuring and strengthening of the JHP minor. It also enables us to secure the quality of instruction and keep a check on anyone who violates the Center's mission as, for example in a case of genocide denial in the classroom. In the process, the Center is also reaching out to recently-hired faculty. One of the latest additions to the ranks of affiliate JHP faculty is Dr. Chris Patti (Department of Communication) whose 2013 dissertation entitled "Compassionate Storytelling With Holocaust Survivors: Cultivating Dialogue at the End of an Era" was nominated for several awards. Dr. Patti was the speaker at the Center's second research colloquium in late March. We are looking forward to

welcoming more ASU instructors to

the ranks of JHP-affiliated faculty.

This introduction of affiliate

faculty status helps the Center

### Center to Move to New Location on ASU Campus

At the end of the 2015-16 academic year, the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies will leave its basement location in Anne Belk Hall and move to the first floor of Edwin Duncan Hall, the former home of the College of Education, on 730 Rivers Street. There is parking right next to the entrance to the building and office, making this new location easily accessible to visitors and program participants. The new space consists of a shared conference room, offices, and a room to house the Center's growing library on the Holocaust, modern genocides, and Judaica. We are looking forward to welcoming Center members, students, faculty, and other members of the ASU community and public at large to our new space.

## 2016 Membership to the Center

Memberships are essential for the Center to continue its mission, efforts, and activities, including the annual Martin and Doris Rosen Summer Holocaust Symposium. Your generosity has ensured we are able to maintain our mission and meet increasing future challenges. We thank those of you who have already renewed your membership for 2016. For those considering renewal or possibly becoming a member, please contact the Center for further information or go to: http://holocaust.appstate. edu/membership. Without your support, the important work the Center does would not be possible.

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



# Spring Newsletter 2016

## A Word from Our Director



t the Center, the transition from the previous to the new directorship has been completed. Thanks to the diligent and impressive work of the Center staff, especially office manager Michelle Hill, everything went smoothly. The support from the ASU administration, ranging from the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences to the Chancellor has remained strong, which continues to be of pivotal importance as we continue to strengthen and expand the work of the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies (CJHPS) in the future.

nd indeed, we have our work cut out for us. An early December morning cab ride to the Boston Airport reminded me of the many tasks ahead. As soon as the taxi driver learned that I was coming from a Judaio Studies conference, he launched into the usual litany of Holocaust denial. "The numbers just did not add up," he kept saying. The ride was too short to change his views—which were not guided by logic, but hatred and anti-Semitism. In the early twenty-first century, the denial of the Nazi genocide of European Jewry remains a reality—also in North America. And genocide denial is not limited to the Holocaust. It is indeed as rampant in the case of the 1915-1916 Armenian genocide that the government of the Ottoman Empire and the Committee of Union and Progress planned and carried out. The current Turkish government directly practices and supports the denial of this genocide that left more than a million Armenian women, men, and children dead. This denial extends to university campuses—also in the United States and even at Appalachian State University, where a tenured faculty member misuses her classroom to engage in denial. Deniers of the Armenian genocide often rely on the same strategies as those who question the reality of the Holocaust. Among others, they attempt to present their "side" as a legitimate position and part of an academic debate, while also questioning the massive evidence and blaming the victims. The Center is working with the ASU administration to counter these practices that conflict with the Center's mission and ASU's mission and goals. As a first step, the Center has supported the Center Fellows, the CJHPS student group, in putting together a student-faculty panel discussion on the Armenian genocide and its denial for ASU's Diversity Celebrations in early April. We will continue our efforts during the fall term and beyond. Denial is the final phase of genocide and silence is not an option. The Center is firmly committed

■ to its minor's Judaic Studies concentration and the task of educating the ASU community about Judaism. This commitment has started to translate into an increasing outreach to and presence of the Center in Israel. Affiliated and core faculty members, including Dr. Rosemary Horowitz, have been attending several conferences in Israel in recent months and held meetings with colleagues at Bar-Ilan University, the Open University of Israel, Western Galilee College, the Leo Baeck Institute in Jerusalem

and Yad Vashem. I was invited to participate in a conference in honor of Prof. Dan Michman, the retiring head of Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research, using the opportunity to strategize with our Israeli partners about various ways to improve the Center's ties to Israeli institutions of higher learning. In the near future, the Center plans to extend its activities to taking groups of ASU students on Holocaust-related research trips and to co-organize an academic conference in Israel (with ASU students and faculty presenting). ASU-specific travel restrictions to Israel still pose a problem at this point, but we are working with the administration to make it possible for our students and faculty to travel to and study in Israel on a regular basis—a key undertaking in the expansion of the Center and in the strengthening of Judaic Studies at ASU. Finally, we are exploring ways of bringing junior and senior Israeli colleagues in Judaic and Holocaust Studies to ASU as visiting faculty. We regard this as one successful way to offset the losses in curricular offerings that are the result of the ongoing retirements of ASU faculty. The Center will begin with a short-time visit by Professor Guy Miron of the Open University of Israel in November.

nother direct result of these  $oldsymbol{\Lambda}$ travels is the participation of staff of Yad Vashem's International School of Holocaust Studies in the 15th Martin and Doris Rosen Summer Symposium that is scheduled to take place at ASU in late July (more on the symposium in this newsletter). The recent case of a student teacher at a North Carolina middle school who referred to the medieval crusaders as locked in a battle to "regain the Holy Land" from the "Jews who killed Christ" has demonstrated once again that the Center's week-long summer program is as necessary as ever. Tinally, in this season of giving **\( \)** and membership renewals, I

would like to thank everyone who has supported and continues to support the work of the Center. We, literally, could not do our work without you. As always, we have an open ear and welcome feed-back, hoping that all of you will find your way to the events and programs that the Center continues to organize at ASU, elsewhere in the U.S., and abroad.

#### Best wishes,

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



Outreach at Bar-Ilan University: Conference in honor of Prof. Dan Michman (right), the retiring head of Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research

#### Freedom Struggle Program With Si Kahn and Charlie Cobb

White American-Jewish activists made key contributions to the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. As members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), progressive Jewish organizers in the Atlanta office, for example, helped launch the successful 1964 "Genocide in Mississippi"-campaign that decisively contributed to the failure of a proposed sterilization law targeting working-class African-American women. In the late 1960s, increasing African-American support for Palestinian struggles against Israel and the pronounced anti-Zionism voiced by critical freedom struggle leaders from Stokely Carmichael to Huey Newton ended many of these Jewish-African-American collaborations. Racism and anti-



Charles E. Cobb, Jr., one of SNCC's former field secretaries in 1960s Mississippi

Semitism in American society and on U.S. university campuses that these collaborations and activists addressed, however, have not vanished. If anything, they are on the rise today.

The Center's program on SNCC and the freedom struggles then and now brings together 1960s activists and current ASU student leaders. Continuing with the program, which began with the visit of Dottie Zellner (SNCC) in early 2015, a coalition of campus groups and Centers will bring Charles E. Cobb, Jr., one of SNCC's former field secretaries in Mississippi during Freedom Summer in 1964, and Si Kahn, the white Jewish progressive singer-songwriter and SNCC veteran from the struggles in Arkansas, to the ASU campus. Cobb will give an evening talk on his important study "This Nonviolent Stuff'll Get You Killed" in the Blue Ridge Ballroom at the Plemmons Student Union (PSU) at 7:00 pm on Monday, April 25. A panel discussion with Cobb, Kahn, current ASU Hillel President Jaycob Kitain, and BSA president Tessa Jackson will follow at PSU's Greenbriar Theater at 10:30am on Tuesday, April 26. The panelists will discuss the past and present challenges and struggles. Si Kahn will also be featured at an event at the Jones' House on the evening of April 26 to help raise funds for the Centers for Appalachian Studies and for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies.

## Annual Rosen Summer Symposium on "Remembering the Holocaust" to Take Place at ASU in July

Preparations for the 15th Annual Martin and Doris Rosen Summer Symposium on "Remembering the Holocaust: An Educator's Symposium" have been under way since the fall. The symposium faculty will include many accomplished and internationally-renowned Holocaust scholars and educators—some of whom, including Professor Michael Berenbaum, will be more than familiar to the ASU and western NC communities; some will be coming to campus for the first time. In an effort to globalize the symposium, the

Center is now cooperating with our colleagues at Yad Vashem, especially its International School for Holocaust Studies. Shani Lourie, the head of the Schools' Pedagogy Section, will come to Boone this summer to work with the teachers in attendance. In addition, the Israeli-born Holocaust educator, film producer and minority rights activist, Dr. Racelle Weiman, the former director of Global Education and Professional Training of Temple University's Dialogue Institute, will focus on the rescue of Jews by Indonesian Muslims.

## Center-organized Research Trip to Washington DC

Dr. Pegelow Kaplan organized the

Holocaust class around the trip, which

was made possible by a generous do-

nation by Nancy and Chuck Rosen-

blatt and the Rosenblatt Foundation.

Kaplan was able to ensure that all the

Margaret Phillips, a junior major-

ing in International and Comparative

Politics with a minor in Judaic, Holo-

caust, and Peace Studies, summarized

her participation by stressing that "it is

rare to get such a wonderful opportu-

nity to gain real world experience that

is applicable regardless of your major

and be able to do so free of charge.

break proved informative, moving,

Though it was hard work, my spring

and accessible to students of all back-

grounds. Throughout my time at the

archives, it never ceased to amaze me

In Spring 2017, the Center will of-

fer a class that evolves around archival

chwitz-Birkenau Memorial in Poland.

research at and a visit to the Aus-

how many resources - both primary

and secondary were available to us."

students enrolled in the course were

With this donation Dr. Pegelow

able to attend cost free.

ver spring break a group of ten students traveled to the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies and the archives of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington D.C. in order to conduct archival research. Assisted by USHMM archivists, ASU professor Amy Hudnall, and the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies (CJHPS) director Dr. Thomas Pegelow Kaplan, the students in History 3530 carried out primary source research ranging from issues of Jewish resistance against the Nazi state to the role of Muslim Albanians and their efforts to rescue European Jews during the Holocaust.

As part of the research visit, the Appalachian students gave short research presentations at the USHMM and received feedback from Dr. Patricia Heberer Rice, the acting head of the Division of the Senior Historian at the Museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. Dr. Heberer Rice, one of the leading scholars on the Nazi Euthanasia murders, also gave a talk on her latest research.



HIS 3530 students presenting their projects at the USHMM

the symposia will revolve around a specific theme. The 2016 theme is "Women and Gender in the Holocaust." We are fortunate to have Rabbi Judith Schindler, the senior rabbi at Temple Beth El in Charlotte, who has been working extensively on women in Judaism, on the symposium faculty. Finally, Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz, a survivor of Auschwitz-Birkenau who came to campus last fall (and drew an audience so large that it could not be accommodated

Beginning this year, each of

in one of ASU's large lecture halls), will return to speak to the teachers.

Lastly, we are working to increase the number of teachers from abroad.

This year, we are excited to welcome larger contingents of teachers from Hungary, Latvia, and Greece.

The symposium will take place in Plemmons Student Union from July 23 until July 28. As in previous years, all events are free and almost all are open to the public. A detailed schedule is posted on the Center's website.

## Remembering the Holocaust – The Days of Remembrance at ASU and Charlotte's Shalom Park

For this year's Yom HaShoah commemorations, ASU's Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies is working with a multitude of partners throughout North Carolina to organize a number of events to which the public, our members, and the ASU community are invited. The commemorations will begin with a play by a second-generation Holocaust survivor and an educational program on Germans of Jewish ancestry in the Holocaust on the ASU campus and at Shalom Park in Charlotte. The ASU events will take place at the Blue Ridge Ballroom (PSU 201 AB) from 7:30 until 9:00 pm on Saturday, April 30; the ones in Charlotte at the Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park, home of most of the city's Jewish communities, from 4:00 until 5:30 pm on Sunday, May 1 Both events are free and open to the public. No tickets are required.

These programs will evolve around the Mitzvah Project, a one-person play performed by Roger Grunwald, a New York City-based acclaimed actor and child of survivor who co-wrote the piece with Broadway veteran and director Annie Mc-Greevey. The play tells the tragic story of Christoph Rosenberg, a German half-Jew who became a decorated officer in Hitler's army. Grunwald has



Provost Darrell Kruger will represent the ASU administration at the Yom HaShoah commemoration

performed the play to high acclaim in synagogues and on university campuses throughout the United States and will be heading to the U.K. this year. The 30-minute play is followed by a panel discussion with the artist, Dr. John Cox (UNCC), and Center director Dr. Thomas Pegelow Kaplan (ASU) on the persecution and struggles of Germans of Jewish ancestry in Nazi Germany.

On May 5, Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day), the Center, Temple of the High Country and ASU Hillel will organize a public reading of the names of European Jews murdered by the Germans during the Holocaust in front of Belk Library on the ASU campus. This reading is scheduled to start at 10:00 am and will last until 6:00 pm, when it concludes with a ceremony that encompasses the lighting of candles, saying of the mourner's Kaddish and singing of the Hatikvah. All members of the ASU and Boone communities along with Center members and supporters at large are encouraged to sign up for one of the ten-minute reading slots ahead of time and participate. The sign-up sheet is available on the Center's website. We hope that many ASU and community members will participate, linger and contemplate for as long as they like, and return to the 6:00 pm ceremony led by Temple President Skip Rackmill and ASU Hillel President Jaycob Kitain. Provost Darrell Kruger will represent the ASU administration at the event.

The Center is thankful to its many partners, ranging from ASU Hillel, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of Theatre and Dance, the Office of International Education and Development, and the Temple of High Country to the Butterfly Project, the Center for Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Studies at UNC Charlotte, Charlotte's Hadassah chapter, Davidson College, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, the Levine ICC, the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library. the NC Council on the Holocaust, Queens University, Temple Beth El, and Temple Israel.



hris Patti (Communication/ JHPS) is working on a book manuscript based on fully articulating the lessons he learned from listening to Polish-born Holocaust survivor Sal Wainberg and his wife Sandy. He is also in the process of completing a co-authored article with retired psychologist and French-born Holocaust survivor Manuel Goldberg—on the paradox of compassion and rage in our conversations—and an article on the ethics of ethnographic affinity, using his interviews with Polishborn Holocaust survivor Sonia

Wasserberger as a case study.

Last fall, Dr. Patti also gave a paper entitled "Practicing mindful listening: Interpersonal lessons for conducting Holocaust survivor oral histories" at the Annual Convention of the Oral History Association in Tampa, FL, and another paper on the topic of "Compassion at the kitchen sink: Negotiating tensions of dialogic ethnography in theory and praxis" at the National Communication Association Convention in Las Vegas. osemary Horowitz (English/ KJHPS) has finished an essay entitled "Holocaust Memorial Books" that is now under review for the Oxford University Press Bibliographies Series. She also presented a paper, "Teaching Jewish Children's Literature" at the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Conference in Minneapolis in November 2015. In March 2016, she attended the Future of Holocaust Testimonies IV Conference at Western Galilee College, in Akko, Israel, and presented the paper "Yizker Books From Text to Hypertext to Text Again." Finally, Dr. Horowitz started work on a volume entitled, "Asking Eternal Questions: Using Jewish Children's Literature in the Elementary School Classroom." The edited book will

be a collaboration with Ohio State University professors David Bloome and Laurie Katz, and Evie Freeman as well as the University of Texas at San Antonio's Roxanne Henkin.

San Antonio's Roxanne Henkin. Thomas Pegelow Kaplan (JHPS/History) has completed a chapter entitled "Information Policies and Linguistic Violence' for Wiley's Companion to Nazi Germany edited by Shelley Baranowski, Armin Nolzen, and Claus-Christian W. Szejnmann. He was also awarded a fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation and will spend the German summer semester as a research fellow at the Center for Research on Anti-Semitism at the Technical University Berlin. Founded by German-Jewish rémigré historian Herbert A. Strauss in 1982, this Center remains Germany's only academic institution that is almost exclusively devoted to the study of anti-Semitism. Furthermore, Dr. Pegelow Kaplan co-organized a panel for the 47th Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies in Boston in December 2015, where he also presented a paper entitled "Reconsidering the Spatial Terms of Jewish Historiography: Trans-European and Global Jewish Petitioning During the Shoah." In addition, he gave several public talks on a variety of topics at ASU. among others at the Philosophy Club and the History Department's Research Colloquium. For his larger book projects, Dr. Pegelow Kaplan conducted archival research and interviews in Chicago, New York City, and Yad Vashem. He was also invited to give talks at the Center for Contemporary History in Potsdam, the Humboldt University in Berlin, and the Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture at Leipzig University, Germany in June and July 2016.

