A Word from Our Director

At 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 (JHP). 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 JHP 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 mission. Judaic Studies concentration and the task of educating the ASU community about Judaism. This commitment 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 feedback, hoping that all of you will find your way to the events and programs that the Center continues to organize at Appalachian State University, as well as those we will offer as visitors 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

A different result of these travels is the participation of staff of Yad Vashem’s International Holocaust College of Studying in the 15th Martin and Doris Rosen Summer Symposium that is scheduled to take place at Appalachian State University 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 looters in a battle to “regain the Holy Land” from the “Jews who killed Christ” has demonstrated once again that the Center’s weeklong summer program is as necessary as ever.

Finally, 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 feedback, hoping that all of you will find your way to the events and programs that the Center continues to organize at Appalachian State University, as well as those we will offer as visitors 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
O nce spring break of a group of ten students will make key contributions to the new 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. Awarded by USHMM archives, Dr. Pogrebelsky, Hillel Peterson, Jacob Patti, and Dr. Wlavert are the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies (JHPS) director.

Returning the Holocaust – The Days of Remembrance at ASU and Charlotte’s Shalom Park

The symposium will take place at the Blue Ridge Ballroom (PSU 201 AB) from 7:30 until 9:00 pm on Saturday, April 30, in the Charlotte Center for Holocaust, Genocide & Peace Studies. Program schedule of events are as follows:

- A Special commemorative evening for subsequent Holocaust survivors and their families, friends and loved ones.
- A special musical performance by Roger Grunwald, a New York City-based acclaimed actor and co-wrote the piece with Broadway performers at the Center for Contemporary Jewish Culture in New York City.
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The symposium will be co-sponsored by the University of Minnesota, the Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Peace Studies, the Center for Jewish Studies, and the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies.