THE NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education Welcomes Executive Director Lawrence Glaser. Paul’s chosen help mate and friend in difficult times. I know all of us will do our best working with Larry to carry on the torch and maintain our noble mission.

The Commission organized and hosted a reunion of past summer seminar participants to share their experiences with all assembled and foster the dissemination of ideas for classroom use. The group also welcomed Adam Szczucinski, their tour manager from Warsaw and his wife Anna – on a visit to the United States.

In August, Maud Dahme led another memorable trip to the infamous Sites of the Holocaust.

“Think with your mind and also your heart.”

Dear Friends,

As editor of “Remember”, I would like to share my awareness of editing a historic document – one without the palpable presence of the man with whom many of us had worked for several decades. Regardless of the length of time, Dr. Paul Winkler has had an immense impact on our lives. Please permit me to share my story of collaboration and friendship.

As an invited guest at a Commission meeting in the spring of 1983, I settled quietly into a designated seat. Within a few minutes, Paul greeted me as if we had known each other forever. As I watched him in action that day, I saw a man with an infinite ability to make everyone feel at ease; a man whose passion to reduce prejudice, bias and bigotry was as inspirational as it was contagious. When I joined the band of disciples, I realized that his concern for everyone made him the Pied Piper to an ever-growing group of Holocaust Genocide Center workers throughout New Jersey, as well as hundreds of teachers who came under his spell in any given year. They responded by teaching what they had learned, i.e. “to think with their heads, hearts and hands.”

Before my retirement from academia in 1997, Paul supported my outreach efforts to students, teachers and community groups – and encouraged me to write a family memoir. Upon my retirement, he enabled me to continue participating in Commission-related activities.

His mentoring also included nightly telephone calls for an update on my seriously ill husband’s condition, so he could share the news with friends, relieving me of the burden of fielding inquiries at the end of a stressful day. It also involved visiting Jerry in critical care and wheeling him around in rehab. What is even more important, he made it all look so easy!

All of Paul’s tangible qualifications - from socially conscious teen to recipient of Seton Hall’s Honorary Doctorate and his leadership accomplishments - are known far and wide. I would now simply like to join countless others whose lives were enhanced by his wisdom, knowledge, sensitivity and kindness. Many of us are beneficiaries of his guidance. Above all, we will all cherish his friendship forever.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vera Goodkin
Brookdale Community College – Center for Holocaust, Human Rights and Genocide Education (Chhange)

In July 2015, following the events in Charleston, the first Center program dealt with “Unmasking Racism: Moving Forward Together” by hosting a powerful session to confront racism in the community and in the nation, featuring Detective David D’Amico, 26-year veteran of law enforcement. During an open discussion, he invited participants to take a look at current issues and offered options for initiating change.

At the Volunteer Recognition Dinner, dedicated volunteers of the Center were honored for their indispensable service ranging from cataloguing data to acting as docents for the “Facing Racism” student art installation. In addition, the Generations: Descendants of Survivors hosted an informal get-together for survivors.

From July 2015-February 2016, students, educators and community members visited the Center to view “A Journey to Life: Armenia” and the student art installation “Illuminating Images: a Hundred Year Remembrance.” From April-June, students, educators and members of the community were able to view “Facing Racism”, a student art installation.

From July 2015 to June 2016, students from area middle and high schools, as well as Brookdale’s Journalism, Philosophy and Sociology classes, and community groups, visited Chhange to learn about Holocaust and genocide and see survivor artifacts.

Throughout the academic year, the Center has been involved in a number of programs and activities. The Journey to Life Suitcases went out to middle and high schools across the state, from a few days to as long as several months, at times accompanied by Holocaust survivor speakers. The suitcases also visited Monmouth University and Brookdale Community College. The traveling exhibit, Triumph over Adversity, a series of 28 Survivor panels based on the Center’s publication “To Tomorrow’s Children”, went to the JCC of Middlesex County for its Yom HaShoah Remembrance Program.

Chhange’s Holocaust survivors continue visiting high and middle schools, as well as Brookdale Community college and Monmouth University classes, the Ocean County Library and the Manalapan Sons of Israel for their Yom HaShoah commemorations to share their incredible testimony. These master teachers truly provide lessons in living history.

Chhange has continued hosting the one-day Clinical Pastoral Counseling Program at Overlook Hospital. Holocaust survivors, Helena Flaum and Gerard Blumenthal, have provided testimony with a focus on helping international and multidenominational clergy develop a better understanding of trauma and loss.

The Center has been providing The Generations: Descendants of Holocaust Survivors with an opportunity to meet for monthly book and film discussions, trips to museums and other cultural events.

Chhange, in collaboration with Brookdale College’s Student Life and Professional Studies, as well as the International Education and Global Citizens Project, welcomed Pulitzer Prize winner Nicholas Kristof and his wife Sheryl WuDunn. In their new book, “A Faith Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity”, they recounted inspirational stories of people with innovative strategies to improve our world that provided advice on how we could do the same.

In October 2015, The Generations: Descendants of the Survivors featured “Through the Eye of a Needle” Esther Issenthal Krinitz’s story of survival as a young girl during the Holocaust whose embroidered fabric collages created after the war depicted a juxtaposition of tragedy and beauty of nature which helped her cope. One of her daughters, Helene McQuade, introduced the film and answered questions.

In November, in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Nuremberg Trials, war crimes expert Lawrence Douglas spoke about the Last Great Nazi War Crimes Trial, the gripping case of 89-year-old John Demjanjuk, ultimately convicted in the death of thousands of Jews in the killing camps of Sobibor, Poland.

The Annual Tribute Dinner honored three generations of Warbler women: survivor Marion, her daughter-in-law Mimi and granddaughters Elisa and Annie. Dr. Paul Winkler, recently deceased, was given the richly deserved Life Achievement Award.

Chhange hosted The Council of Holocaust Educators Conference in December 2015. Keynote speaker Alexandra Zapruder, author of Salvaged Pages: Young Writers’ Diaries, spoke about this stirring collection which was written by twelve-to-22-year-olds during the Holocaust. The educators also heard from Meline Toumani, author of “There Was and There Was Not: a Journey Through Hate and Possibility in Turkey, Armenia and Beyond” and from Matthew Rozell, author of “Things Our Fathers Saw: the Untold Stories of World War II Generation from Hometown, USA.” Participants also had an opportunity to view the Chhange interactive exhibit A Journey to Life: Armenia, featuring personal histories of local Armenian survivors and their families.

2016 began with a Teacher Workshop: Facing Racism for educators in grades 5-12, once again, partnered with Chhange in an innovative art installation. Educators received comprehensive lesson plans and other materials to educate their students and empower them to take a stand against racism. Chhange Executive Director Dale Daniels discussed guidelines for starting discussions in the classroom. Jane Denney, Director, led participants in small group discussions; a speaker panel shared personal experiences with racism, and art educator, Arlene Smelson, introduced a video created for implementation of the hands-on portion of the workshop.

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**Brookdale Community College**

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As in past years, Chhange participated in the Martin Luther King Day Commemoration on January 18, 2016, partnering with the Pilgrim Baptist Church, Monmouth Reform Temple, as well as other religious institutions, community organizations and the Red Bank School District.

In February, Chhange featured an exciting evening on “FBI, Chhange and You: Partnering for Human Rights in Our World” – enabling students to learn the FBI’s role in investigating human rights violations, as well as the skills needed to identify victims and perpetrators. Rwandan Genocide survivor, Eugenie Mukeshimana, discussed post-genocide life and living among perpetrators.

In March, Chhange partnered with Facing History and Ourselves in a workshop on Choices in Little Rock: An Approach to Teach Civil Rights Movement. Presenters and workshop participants explored this pivotal moment in U.S. history when, in 1957, nine black teenagers faced angry mobs violently opposing an attempt to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Attendees learned ways to engage students in issues of the Civil Rights Movement and their current implications, taking into consideration various points of view.

In April, Chhange featured a film, “Divided We Fall,” on the aftermath of 9/11 – exploring violence against the Sikh community as exemplified by the abuse of community college student Valarie Kaur. Her solitary journey became a documentary that fostered dialogue about race and religion in America. Brookdale Professor Diditi Mitra introduced the film and led the subsequent discussion. Chhange also showcased more than 200 installations -works of art produced by students in grades 5 - college level from New Jersey Schools. The Annual Armenian Genocide Remembrance Program joined this line-up of extraordinary programs with “Celluloid Exiles and Matinee Idols: the Armenian Genocide and Diaspora on Film”, the first visually documented genocide, setting the stage for portrayal of future genocides. Eric Nazarian, director and producer explored the history and impact of cinema on public consciousness and the perception of Armenians.

During the May 2016 Yom HaShoah-Holocaust Remembrance Day, Chhange featured Dr. Samuel Kassow in a powerful program entitled “Time Capsule from Hell: the Secret Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto.” Dr. Kassow chronicled the life of Emanuel Ringelblum and the secret organization he created to document Jewish life.

The 34th Annual Colloquium sponsored by Chhange presented “Little Rock Nine: an Eyewitness Account” with keynote speaker Dr. Terrence Roberts sharing his experiences as a 15-year-old on that fateful day. The program was held on the Lincroft Campus, with 2,000 students, grades 5-12 from across New Jersey in attendance. Following Dr. Roberts’ presentation, students could attend 10 breakout sessions dealing with subjects, such as: Holocaust, genocide, human rights and teen issues. The day culminated in student/educator attendees viewing the art installation Facing Racism.

The last event of the spring 2016 semester held at Brookdale Community College and hosted by Pilgrim Baptist Church, along with a coalition of community partners, was the Inaugural Interfaith Prayer Breakfast: Working Together to Impact the Community We Serve.

On June 14th and 15th, groups of 8-10 students from Cedar Drive School in Colts Neck had an opportunity to have lunch with a survivor, listening to testimony, asking questions and pledging to serve as witnesses in the future, particularly in 2045.

**Historical Society of Princeton**

During the academic year 2015-16, the Society presented two significant professional workshops on Holocaust and Genocide Education.

October 2015 featured Elisa von Joeden-Forgey Ph.D., Director of the MAHG (Master of Arts in Holocaust) Studies Program at Stockton University, in a thoughtful presentation on Patterns of Genocide. Teachers compared historical patterns of the Holocaust and other genocides. Topics discussed included ideology, perpetrator and victim groups, social organization of violence, denial strategies and international response.

The April 2016 program highlighted an engaging workshop by Peter Nelson, Director of the New York Office of Facing History and Ourselves - for middle and high school teachers on developing ideas to help students wrestle with complex moments in human history, like the Holocaust, and to understand the range of human behavior. The workshop provided lessons and activities, helping students connect the dots between the ethical choices they will face in life and the positive outcomes they can create in their community and the world.

**Council of Holocaust Educators (CHE)**

The 14th Annual Conference of the Council of Holocaust Educators took place in December 2015 – dealing with a range of important topics and challenges in prejudice reduction, as well as in new developments in instructional theories and practices.
Holocaust Center News

Drew University – Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study

In October 2015, the Center screened the documentary, No.4 Street of Our Lady, the story of Francisca Hamalajowa, a Polish-Catholic, who saved sixteen of her Jewish neighbors during the Holocaust while posing as a Nazi sympathizer. Fran Malkin, one of the children saved by Francesca, led the discussion following the film.

The second program featured hidden child of the Holocaust, Selma Tennenbaum Rossen. Selma, her sister, parents and grandparents survived by hiding in cellars, attics and bunkers – aided by a group of Righteous Gentiles headed by Helena Skrzeszewska and two friends who hid this group of survivors on their farm.

In November, the Annual Conference - From Nuremberg to the Hague: the Evolution of War Crimes Trials commemorated Kristallnacht in honor of the 70th anniversary of the start of the International Tribunal in Nuremberg. The program featured history professor Dr. David Pendas; professor of Law, Jurisprudence and Social Thought, Dr. Lawrence Douglas; director of the Kean University Human Rights Institute, Elizabeth Turchi, Esq.; The Conference was approved for six continuing education credits for educators.

The initial activity of the spring semester was the Research Colloquium “Victims of the Past: the Nazi Propaganda War Against the Disabled.” Christopher Lipnik presented his doctoral dissertation research exploring how the Nazis tried to influence public opinion of the German people about the status of the disabled.

The Spring Study Seminar in March involved the exploration of Churchill and Hitler: Their Literary Lives and a discussion of how, by 1940, the Second World War had become a duel between two literary artists – both aesthetes of war in profoundly different, but parallel ways and both bestselling authors. The study contends that we can understand their political agendas if we understand their approaches to the arts. Participation in the seminar earned educators two continuing education credits.

Another March program was “Sri Lanka: Reflections on a Journey with the Karuna Center for Peacemaking.” This program was free and open to the public. Joyce Reilly, who is active in the Drew University Holocaust/Genocide Center, as well as in the Karuna Center, and had just returned from a peace making journey to Sri Lanka, shared her experiences.

The Spring 2016 Seminar on The Moral Complexity of French Composers during World War II examined the liberation attitude of the French toward the stance of various composers during the German occupation. In the court of public opinion, Francis Poulenc was praised for his heroic acts of resistance, while Arthur Honegger was found guilty of collaboration. There seemed to be no middle ground. Seventy years later, the judgment of the complexities of being a composer in politically charged times is being studied in greater nuance. Educators were eligible for two continuing education credits.

The Spring Study Seminar on Modern Art in Nazi Germany looked at the trajectory of movements in early 20th century avant-garde art, such as: the Bridge, The Blue Rider and Dada labeled as “degenerate art” by Nazi Germany while studying the works of representative artists, as well as the juxtaposition of the exhibition of “Degenerate Art” and “Great German Art” in 1937. Two continuing credits were awarded to educators in attendance.

The concluding program of the academic year featured a tribute to Fred Eisenberg: Survivor of 10 Concentration Camps was presented as part of the doctoral research of Angela West, Ph.D., student in Drew University’s History and Culture Program.

Rowan University Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

The Center’s initial activity – The Inaugural College of Humanities and Social Sciences Lecture – was delivered in mid-November 2015.

In January 2016, the Center’s programs included Dining for Diversity and the International Holocaust Remembrance Day Commemoration, as well as the start of a Conversation Series and a Holocaust Mandate Orientation for the Rowan University Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

The Center opened its February programming with the first meeting of its book club on the theme of “guilt”by examining Daniel Goldhagen’s “Hitler’s Willing Executioners.” The Conversation Series explored the question “Does Perception Equal Truth?” Its next session contemplated “Talking Trump.”

In the experiential area, the Center welcomed Dr. Jerry Ehrlich who discussed the genocide in Darfur by sharing the story of his lengthy stay in refugee camps, attempting to treat people whose lives have been devastated by brutality and hunger in his “Experiences of an American Pediatrician in Darfur”.

In March, the first of the Center’s Conversational Series examined the subject “How do political outliers flourish?” In a New Jersey State Teachers Workshop, the emphasis was on “Developing Best Practices in Anti-Bias and Holocaust Teaching.” The March 2016 variation on the theme of Conversation Series asked “If it’s Genocide, what should we do?”

April’s Conversation Series encouraged discussion on the subject of “Jews vs. Nazi Beer Pong.” Throughout the spring semester, book club meetings explored Daniel Goldhagen’s “Hitler’s Willing Executioners.” The last program for the academic year 2015-16 was “Conspiracy” movie night followed by a panel discussion.
Holocaust Center News

● Mercer County Holocaust Genocide Resource Center

During the 2015-16 academic year, the Center contributed to student success in the area of intellectual and personal growth through a variety of programs, events and activities. These ranged from actual credit courses, lectures and movie series to poetry, panels and round table discussions. The Center also designed a faculty-guided tour to Poland to broaden students’ perspective on the events of World War II.

Courses on World War II and the Holocaust offered at the Center encouraged students to use print and media resources available to further their understanding of history, psychology and literature.

In the fall of 2015, the Center hosted Student Study Abroad meetings and welcomed visitors. The fall movie series included “Ravaged Armenia: the Auction of Souls; Congo: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death; Only a Number” (with an introduction and a Q and A conducted by the film maker, Steven Besserman, second generation survivor); “Legacy and Lessons of the Nuremberg Laws; The Long Way Home; Genocide: Worse Than War; Year Zero: the Silent Death of Cambodia and Ghosts of Rwanda.”

The Center also held its annual commemoration of Kristallnacht and a Survivors’ Luncheon enabling students to interact with survivors by listening to their stories and asking questions about their experiences.

During the spring 2016 semester, the film series featured “The Power of Good: Nicholas Winton and Saving Children during the Holocaust and Partisans: the Unsung Heroes of the Holocaust.”

Holocaust courses continued to be offered in the Center and visitors explored its significant resources. Dr. Jack Tabor presented the poetry of Czeslaw Milos.

Another Survivors’ Luncheon served as an inspiration to students, as did an informative Genocide Roundtable.

The academic year culminated in the commemorative program Yom HaShoah: Holocaust Memorial Day.

Students had spent a productive year hearing eyewitness testimony and learning history, empathy and critical thinking- indispensable tools for living in our increasingly global world – thus becoming better informed learners in a variety of teaching and learning styles, as well as more insightful, thoughtful, successful human beings.

● Bergen Community College – Center for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation

The fall semester 2015 opened in October with the lecture Genocide and Humanitarian Resistance in Ottoman Syria by Khachig Mouradian – as part of the Center’s ongoing Genocide Speaker Series.

November’s first program offering was entitled “Presenting Centennial of the Ottoman Turkish Genocide of Armenians and other Christian Minorities – with film screening, director’s talk, musical and dance performance- as part of the annual commemoration of Armenian Genocide. It was supplemented by the Armenian Genocide Education Project: a Workshop for Bergen County Educators cosponsored by the Rutgers Center, as well as by Facing History and Ourselves.

This was followed by “Inside Out from the Bottom Up: Building Sustainable Peace” – a multimedia presentation. The month’s programming ended with a survivor, Hannah Wechsler’s, talk: entitled A Survivor of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp Shares Her Story” – part of the Genocide Speaker Series.

In December, the Center welcomed Alex Hinton, Executive Director of the Rutgers University Center, for the lecture Teacher, Torturer, Executioner: Comrade Duch’s Trial at the Khmer Rouge Tribunal.

In February 2016, the Center introduced Narrative Matters: Using Story to Make Change. March launched the Forgiveness Project with The F Word: Stories of Forgiveness. March programs ended with a presentation by Katka Reszke, filmmaker, photographer, writer and researcher, on “Return of the Jew and the Meshugene Effect.”

In April, Eric Nazarian presented “Celluloid Exiles and Matinee Idols: The Armenian Genocide and Diaspora” on Film. Then Rwandan survivor Eugenie Mukeshimana shared “The 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsis in Rwanda; A Survivor’s Perspective.”

In addition, “Armenians in Modern Turkey: Post-Genocide Society, Politics and History” was the subject examined in a lecture cosponsored by the Rutgers University Center.

A reading of the play “Women of Ararat: a Staged Reading” was done by Judith Boyajian in collaboration with the Bergen County Players. Finally, author and journalist Sam Quinones featured “Dreamland,” an addiction series skype presentation.

In April, the Center also highlighted the Award Ceremony: “Annual Peace Scholarship Challenge.” Transforming the Human Spirit: “From a Culture of Violence to a Culture of Peace” was presented in May – with an installation of banners.
Kean University – Holocaust Resource Center

The Center continued to enroll teachers in tuition-free graduate courses – “Teaching the Holocaust” and “Teaching Prejudice Reduction” in September.

In October 2015, Diversity Council topics ran the gamut from Teaching 9/11 to examining Disability Awareness in the Classroom.

Artistic impressions of Holocaust Liberation generated a professional development workshop on Teaching the Armenian Genocide in collaboration with Facing History. This also highlighted the need for an Echoes and Reflections Professional Development Workshop.

Student-oriented activities included a high school student leadership training workshop and the Annual Bus Trip to USHMM.

In December the emphasis was on a scholarly lecture series on Justice after the Holocaust – with focused on Demjanjuk.

The spring semester 2016 launched the Educators’ Conference “Hearing Voices - Closing the Opportunity Gap.” February marked the closing of Artistic Impressions of the Holocaust exhibit - while March dealt with discussions and dissemination of LGBTQ curricular materials. The “Hearing all Voices” conference extended to elementary and middle school leadership.

The Human Rights Conference in April explored “Locked up in America; the Business of Incarceration.”

Annual Yom HaShoah Commemorations continued. End-of-year Center activities culminated in May in a workshop on Building an Inclusive classroom and community.

Holocaust Council of Greater MetroWest

Ongoing programs of 2015-16 included several activities. As usual, the Council continued providing speakers for Kristallnacht and Yom HaShoah commemorations at synagogues, schools, churches, colleges and universities and provided eyewitnesses to speak at all of the above venues – moderated by a Council member. MetroWest also developed and facilitated presentations for TWIN-WITH-A-SURVIVOR and fostered the ADOPT-A-SURVIVOR PROGRAM in high schools. In addition, the Council regularly distributed information about Holocaust-related topics.

Monthly, The MetroWest Film Series provides screenings of and discussions about relevant movies. There are monthly programs of LUNCH AND LEARN WITH A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR. Some of these testimonies are delivered by children and spouses of deceased survivors – also members of the Speakers’ Bureau.

Newsletter. The Council also partners with the Rubell Foundation and area schools to facilitate six annual all-expense paid bus trips to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

In October 2015, Director Barbara Wind represented the Council while networking with AHO members, scholars and Scandinavian ambassadors in Vienna.

In November, the Council collaborated with the College of St. Elizabeth in a Kristallnacht Commemoration. The same month also marked the creation and premiere of “Unconquered Souls”, a documentary on the life of Anita Boyko Fox and her family as part of the Council’s Creative Media Collaborative. December featured the documentary “Be An Upstander: the Fred Heyman Story.”

Docent training took place in January 2016 for the “Women of the Holocaust” exhibit in conjunction with the “From Memory to History” exhibit. Barbara Winton was the keynote speaker for the opening reception for the “From Memory to History” exhibit, with the “Women of the Holocaust” exhibit created between January and May.

April featured another two STUDENTS MEET SURVIVORS LUNCHEONS for high school students and teachers, and the SCHOLAR SPEAK program with Tamaki Matsuko on the Japanese Reactions to the Rape of Nanking.

In May, the Council participated in the South Orange/Maplewood 38th Annual Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service – honoring Barbara Wind who addressed the gathering. Abe Foxman and Larry Glaser were speakers at the Dinner for Educators prior to the Yom HaShoah Service at Kean University. The Yom HaShoah Memorial Service at MetroWest was followed by a panel discussion on “Loved But Abandoned.” The Holocaust Council and eight survivors presented “Living Lessons” at an all-day seminar to middle school students in Franklin Township. A survivor spoke to high school students and teachers at the Morris Museum.

In June, Council honored its volunteers, and in July, the academic year’s activities ended with the Cecil Seiden Educators Workshop – with speakers, literature and hands-on demonstrations used to facilitate meeting New Jersey core curriculum standards, inspire students and improve school climate.
Seton Hall University – Sister Rose Thering Fund for Education in Jewish-Christian Studies

The Annual Dr. Marcia Robbins-Wilf Endowed Lecture featured Rabbi Ron Kronish and Professor Mohammed Dajani Daoud speaking about interfaith relations in Israel in October 2015.

In March 2016, the Center honored the Teacher/Scholars in the Sister Rose Graduate Program in Jewish Christian Studies. Each of them spoke about the impact of these courses on their lives. Dr. Concetta Donvito, Director of Montclair State’s Network for Educational Renewal and Murray Laublicht, Esq., and author of the recently published memoir, Yearning to Breathe Free, were the guest speakers. The memoir was based on the correspondence between the author’s parents. Sadly, his father did not survive to be reunited with his family.

The Eighth Annual Sister Rose Thering Essay Competition for New Jersey High School Students took place in April. After viewing Sister Rose’s Passion in their classrooms, students were invited to respond in an essay on how the film had impacted them, and what actions they have taken – similar to Sister Rose’s – to promote interfaith relations. Winners and runners-up from grades 9-12 were honored and read their essays to teachers, family and SRTF Board members.

The theme of the Annual Evening of Roses was Women of Valor, honoring Sister Rose on the 10th anniversary of her passing. Also honored were Mary Vazques and Ellen Cohen, two outstanding trustees who had just recently passed away, and Marilyn Zirl, retiring administrator of the SRTF. Featured speaker Devorah Halberstam spoke of having become an activist against violence since the shooting death of her 16-year-old son in 1994, relating her work as a mother to the prejudice reduction education of Sister Rose.

Cumberland County College – Coalition for Holocaust and Genocide Education

The Coalition started the fall 2015 semester with a workshop on Revisiting the Holocaust and WW II featuring presenters Steven Schimmer and Verne Joyce.

November marked the Vineland High School Teachers Workshops – with Steven Schimmer and Margie Glick presenting.

December programs included “The Town That Fought Hate” performed in elementary schools, along with the workshop “The Nanking Massacre: Life in and out of the Grey Zone” conducted by Harry Furman.


February featured a bus trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Presenter Lois Genovese conducted a workshop on “Women of the Holocaust” in March, and Anthony Iaconelli led the workshop on “The Holocaust and the Vatican.”

The Coalition’s May activities consisted of a Survivors’ Event at St. Augustine Preparatory High School, as well as Harry Furman’s workshop on “Rethinking Our Heroes: from Atticus Finch to Oskar Schindler” and a school play, “Through the Eyes of a Friend.”

Raritan Valley Community College – the Institute of Holocaust Genocide Studies

As usual, the Institute started its fall 2015 semester in October, with hundreds of students benefitting from the Annual Learning through Experience Program. During this most valuable educational field trip, students hear testimony from survivors of the Holocaust and various genocides. Then they get a unique opportunity to question the speakers about specific experiences. At the end of the day, they emerge with a greater understanding of history and deeper empathy for innocent victims of crimes against humanity.

Lori Prager, child survivor of the Holocaust was the featured speaker at the Institute’s Annual Kristallnacht Commemoration.

A film about the life of Margit Feldman, survivor of several death camps, a founder of the Institute and one of the original members of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education was screened at the December meeting of the Commission.

In March 2016, Yad Vashem and the Social Studies Teachers of New York City hosted the Conference of New York Educators – with Ripples, a Second Generation Documentary, the centerpiece of conference activities.

In April, elementary and middle school teachers participated in two workshops at the College of Saint Elizabeth. The documentary Margit – NOT A23029 was also screened in Bound Brook High School in April.

In May, the Institute hosted a Make a Difference Dinner and Reception to celebrate its 35th anniversary. The celebration was enhanced by the premier screening of the documentary Margit – NOT A23029 at Raritan Valley Community College. Margit’s documentary was also previewed at the Annual Yom HaShoah Commemorations for Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties. The final screening of Margit’s documentary ended the Institute’s activities for the academic year 2015-16.
**Holocaust Center News**

**Esther Raab Holocaust Museum and Goodwin Education Center**

In early August 2015, the Center launched its year’s activities with an Adult Interfaith Discussion Group on Holocaust History Today. In late August, each of two students was paired with a survivor, “twinning” during their Bar Mitzvah ceremony – as a symbolic act of reclaiming the survivors’ loss of their own Bar Mitzvah.

The traveling exhibit on loan from the Mission Museum in Ohio, “Imagining a Better World: The Nelly Toll Story” art work she created as a hidden child during the Holocaust was on display from September to November. In September, the Center partnered with The College of New Jersey for student-survivor interviews. In September and October, the Center featured two Adult Interfaith Discussion Groups: Israel Today and Volunteering, respectively.

October involved Training Programs for Guest Readers for schools. Also, students from Cherry Hill High School East and West had an opportunity to interact with Holocaust survivors at the Café Europa Luncheon, and the Village Players performed the Diary of Anne Frank. The producer of Kinderblock 66: Return to Buchenwald screened and discussed the film.

The November Adult Interfaith Discussion Group dealt with Continuing the Stories of Holocaust Survivors. Pastor Heidi B. Neumark was the keynote speaker at the Community Remembrance of Kristallnacht. Finally, during an evening discussion, Lisa Lipkin, second generation speaker, explored the subject “How to Tell Your Story.”

In December, the puppet show “The Town That Fought Hate” was performed at the Center demonstrating the power of standing up to hate. The Center also sponsored a trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for teachers and survivors, and another for students from Paul VI High School, Haddon Township. The Adult Inter-Faith Discussion Group tackled “Dealing with the Holidays…Blues or Not.” In addition, the Center hosted a brunch for survivors and their grandchildren to get them actively engaged in the mission of fighting bigotry.

The Adult Inter-Faith Discussion group dealt with Stress Management in January 2016. The other end of the age spectrum was encouraged to create butterflies to be sent to the Butterfly Project at the Holocaust Museum in Texas. The Center also arranged for screening of liberator testimony. Two video conferences were held with Passaic Valley High School on contemporary issues. So was a multi-media performance – entitled Through the Eyes of a Friend - teaching the history of the Holocaust through a student’s perspective.

In February, the Adult Inter-Faith Discussion Group examined Islamophobia. The Center co-conducted an educator workshop for teaching the ADL Curriculum, Echoes and Reflections.

In March, there was a performance of the play Dear Esther, the true story of a Holocaust survivor that teaches live history and lessons of the Holocaust. March and April were replete with significant programs and activities, such as: several multi-media performances of Through the Eyes of a Friend; another trip to the Holocaust Museum in D.C.; an Anti-Defamation League program confronting Anti-Semitism; screening “Once in a Lifetime” followed by a discussion; one week of performances of “Only a Number” (joint project with Haddonfield Plays and Players); five performances of “Number the Stars” (joint project with the same theatrical group); Genocide Awareness at Juniata College; screening of “Conspiracy” and an Adult Inter-Faith Discussion Group update on “Separation of Church and State.”

May included a Dix-McGuire Joint Base Remembrance Week, as well as New Jersey State and local Holocaust commemorations and an Inter-Faith Clergy Association Holocaust Remembrance Program. Then there was a Café Europa luncheon with students from Gloucester and Bridgeton High Schools.

June brought another staging of The Town That Fought Hate, as well as the movie screening of “Complicit” – followed by a discussion with the playwright.

Ongoing activities, such as: sending out Tolerance Program Guest Readers to ten schools to read selected works and discuss issues of tolerance and compassion related to them; public display of Holocaust: the Betrayal of Humanity, as well as student tours and community visits to the Esther Raab Holocaust Museum and Goodwin Education Museum.

**Museum of Human Rights, Freedom and Tolerance**

The Museum’s activities began in July 2015 with the Moscow Conference on the Holocaust.

Russian TV broadcast a discussion on tolerance in August.

In January 2016, the Shalom Center sponsored a lecture on tolerance and intolerance in the Republic of Georgia.

In February, Holocaust Memorial Day was observed with a lecture on the Holocaust.

In April Millersville University featured a paper on anti-Semitism in Russia. The Museum concluded its activities for academic year 2015-16 with a discussion of tolerance on Russian TV.
In October 2015, the Center sponsored a live performance of The Diary of Anne Frank in honor of the 70th Anniversary of the liberation of the death camps and the end of World War II. November marked the 25th Annual Kristallnacht Commemoration, Week of Holocaust Remembrance. A keynote speech by Distinguished Speaker Michael Berenbaum was supported by survivor testimony from Fred Heyman. The event honored the survivor community.

Dr. Carol Rittner and her dialogue partner, Rabbi David Joseph Nesson conducted an Interfaith Dialogue - After the Holocaust: The Significance of Nostra Aerate, Prof. David Tataw, Health Care Management Program, presented a documentary on the life of survivors of the Holocaust, as well as the Genocides in Rwanda, Darfur and the Congo.

Gina Lanceter (survivor) and Dina Cohen (second generation) gave testimony about their experiences. In a parallel art program, artist Betty Wilk explored the topic Memorializing the Past. Additional in-class sessions examined Second Generation Testimony; an analysis of bias incidents in New Jersey and biomedical ethics. In addition, there was a film on art confiscated during the Holocaust.

A special in-class session involved discussions of the management of traumatic stress and painful disclosures: sharing experiences with others and trying to answer the question “What lessons can we learn from survivors? ” Other in-class sessions dealt with discussion of the 1994 bombing of the Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires; bringing justice to victims of genocide and other crimes against humanity.

The spring semester 2016 focused in on professional development workshops for educational programs, such as: Echoes and Reflections and outstanding films from the New Jersey Film Festival, with films, such as: “Karski and the Lords of Humanity.”

Additional items on the agenda included a journey to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and a Teacher Conference: Looking to the Future of Holocaust Education, with keynote speaker Mordecai Paldiel, along with more survivor testimony and an analysis of “Clergy Rescue of Jews.”

Culminating activities of the spring semester involved incremental learning, From the Armenian Genocide to the Holocaust – through film and scholarship, as well as a Holocaust Study Mission with Dr. Harriet Sepinwall.
Stockton University – Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center

In July 2015, the Center started its activities with “Luncheon Update Atlantic City with Kaleem Shabaaz,” followed by the Summer Educator Seminar, “Holocaust and Human Behavior.”

In August, the Center offered a Dual High School Credit Seminar update succeeded in integrating the New Jersey Holocaust and Genocide Studies Mandate, and “Memories through Music” brightened the brunch for Holocaust survivors.

In September, the Sara Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage hosted a Lunch and Learn Program with Holocaust Survivors. The Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center offered an introduction for Stockton undergraduate students exploring “The History of the Third Reich” and another for Stockton undergraduate interns. The month’s activities culminated in the program “Mitzvah Zecher Avot – Remembering the Families of Holocaust Survivors.”

October marked a colloquium by Anne Schneider, “A Personal Journey, Reflections of an Auschwitz Museum Educator.” Dr. Baron’s simultaneous lecture was entitled “Hollywood’s First Wave of Holocaust Films from Frank Sinatra to Anne Frank.” The alumni reunion of Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide students featured the subject “Working in the Field of Holocaust and Genocide Studies.” The Jewish War Veterans presented a “Salute to Stockton, Studying Holocaust and Genocide Studies.”

They were also two workshops: “Echoes and Reflections for educators and a more in-depth version for more advanced scholars. A lecture at the Stockton Manahawkin site featured “Child’s Play in the Warsaw Ghetto.”

At the Holocaust survivors luncheon, Dr. Gregg presented “Getting to Know Stockton University Students.” The lectures for nursing and pre-med students, “Ethics and Professionalism” and “The Role of Doctors and Nurses during the Holocaust,” respectively, were presented by Gail Rosenthal. Dr. Alex Hinton gave the lecture on “Justice in Transition, Comrade Duch’s Trial at Khmer Rouge.”

November programs beginning with “We Are the Branches of Jerusalem – Anti-Semitic Film under the Third Reich” was presented and moderated by Sarah Albertson. Next came “Final Sale: the End of Jewish Owned Businesses in Nazi Berlin, 1930-1945” a presentation and lecture by Dr. Christoph Kreutzmueller. Dr. Kreutzmueller also lectured to Stockton students on the exhibit “Introduction of the Exhibit, Final Sale: the End of Jewish Owned Businesses in Nazi Berlin.” A lecture on “Promoting Diversity” was delivered by Gail Rosenthal. The Holocaust survivor luncheon featured a tour of the exhibit “Final Sale: the End of Jewish Owned Businesses in Nazi Berlin.”


Dr. Lawrence Baron made a presentation entitled “The Armenian Genocide and the Jewish Connection: Multinational Memory Films.” Dr. Baron also presented “Jewish and Non-Jewish Love Stories in Film – Including World War II Themes.” Stockton’s Political Change and Heritage Civilization, as well as the Jewish Culture class also joined docent-guided tours of the exhibit “Final Sale: the End of Jewish Owned Businesses in Nazi Berlin.” Adrienne Parvin presented the lecture “Breeding the Future Reich – The Nazi Lebensborn Project.”

Egg Harbor Township High School and Northfield Community Middle School groups also followed a docent-led tour of the exhibit on the end of Jewish owned businesses in Nazi Germany. In addition, Stockton classes in Freshman Seminar – Villains, Women in the Bible and Basic Judaism had an opportunity to avail themselves of such docent-guided tours, as did St. Joseph Middle School, Smithville Middle School, Arthur Rann School, Bayhead Middle School and Lavallette Middle School.

December began with the presentation on “Remembering Holiday Celebrations” by Dr. Beverly Vaughn. The guided docent tours of the exhibit continued for the Reeds Road Middle School, and the Roland Rogers School, as well as the Fernwood Avenue and Mill Pond Middle Schools, along with Vineland High School South and the Downe Township School.

Courtney Clemens gave a lecture on “Upstanders Throughout the History of the Holocaust,” followed by lecture presentations by Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies graduating students on “Using Literature to Introduce the Holocaust and Studying Genocides from the Past.” The subject of the Holocaust Survivor Luncheon was “Hanukkah Celebration with Nursery School Children.”

Another group of Stockton classes, The Holocaust and Basic Judaism, took part in taking the docent-guided tours of the exhibit “Final Sale: the End of the Jewish Owned Businesses in Nazi Berlin.” So did the Attales Middle School, and Wallace Middle School.

The Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center Executive Committee and their guests joined the docent tours of the exhibit.

In January 2016, Dr. Hayse and Gail Rosenthal gave a lecture presentation on “How to Remember the Shoah in a Righteous Country.” Gail Rosenthal also gave an auditorium presentation program for Lacey Township Middle School. Dr. Fiedler presented a lecture on “Remembering Holiday Observances.” The Holocaust Survivor Luncheon presentation by Gail Rosenthal dealt with “Rescue and Resistance in Denmark during World War II.”

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“International Day of Commemoration of the Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust” was the topic of the study tour to the United Nations. Donald Berkman gave a presentation, “Meet a Survivor and Hear His Life Story” at St. Augustine High School.

In February, Dr. Kwiatkowska lectured on “Forgotten Holocaust? Memorializing the Genocide of European Roma and Sinti.”

Gail Rosenthal gave a lecture presentation on “The Introduction of the History and Architecture of the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center.” She also made a presentation on the Center for the Veterans of Four Seasons.

The next Holocaust survivor luncheon involved a lunch-and-learn session, followed by a lecture presentation by Mary Maudsley on “The Holocaust in the Courtroom – Famous, Infamous and Unknown Trials.” Michael Hayse and Gail Rosenthal presented on “The Story of a Righteous Country, Denmark” “Porajamos – the Fate of the European Roma under the Third Reich” was the subject of Andrea Heymann’s lecture presentation. Theresa McMackin spoke about “Emanuel Ringelblum and the Uniqueness of the Warsaw Ghetto.” Elisa Forgey screened a film and lectured on “The Act of Killing.”

Gail Rosenthal made a presentation for EDOC Stockton students on “Implementing the New Jersey Holocaust and Genocide Studies Mandate.”

In March, Lacey Township Middle School students had the opportunity to attend the program “Meet a Holocaust Survivor and Hear His Story: Leo Ullman.” He also visited Galloway Township Middle School.

The Center sponsored a unique program on “Muslim Awareness.” Stockton faculty led a program on “Sites Related to the Holocaust in Poland and Germany.” Rebecca Sabo presented on “Holocaust Denial Today.”

The next Holocaust survivor luncheon, “Celebrating the Present and Recalling the Past Historic Transports” was the subject of a presentation and lecture by Alison Hesser. The Second Annual Armenian Genocide Remembrance Event featured Henry Theriault.

“How to Remember? The Holocaust in a Righteous County” was the subject of a presentation by Gail Rosenthal and Michael Hayse in April. Juan Ibarra presented on “Business Victims of the Holocaust” and Nicole Schielzlo lectured about the “Environmental Effects of the Holocaust.” Rebecca Sabo presented on “Denial and the David Irving Trial.”


The Garden State Film Festival featured lectures and film presentations on “Drawing Against Oblivion and Study Tour Sites in Poland, Lithuania and Germany.”

The keynote speaker at the 32nd Annual Holocaust Awareness Program “Meet a Holocaust Survivor” and author of “Measure of a Man” was Martin Greenfield.

The Center held a Holocaust survivor luncheon featuring Rabbi Rapoport and students from Holy Spirit High School. Gail Rosenthal gave an introduction to the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center for Lacey Township High School students.

In May, the theme of Yom Hashoah was “Unto Each Person There Is a Name” MAHG capstone presentations were “Preservation of the Jewish Self,” “The Resistance Spectrum and the Holocaust,” “Visualizing the Presence of Absence,” “Commemorating the Warsaw Ghetto in Post-War Poland, Drawing Against Oblivion,” “Portraits of the Children of the Holocaust,” “Program for Survivors of Torture” and “Cambodian Genocide Curriculum.”

Michael Hayse and Gail Rosenthal presented “Remembering the Book Number the Stars” and “Highlight of Travel to a Righteous Country – Denmark” at St. Joseph Regional School.

Barbara Roth spoke about “Second Generation after the Holocaust” at the Holocaust survivor luncheon. Leo Ullman was featured at the “Meet a Holocaust Survivor Program” at Bay Head School.

In June, Rabbi Kremer gave a lecture and presentation on “Biblical Texts in Song – Greatest Hits of All Time.” Gail Rosenthal gave an introduction of the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center to the Women’s League for Conservative Judaism Leadership Cabinet.

Rosalie Simon gave the students at Fernwood Middle School an opportunity to meet a survivor. The last Holocaust survivor luncheon of the 2015-2016 academic year featured “Let’s Sing!” with Cantor Ralph Goren. During the entire year, the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton University welcomed visitors and guided tours.
Holocaust Center News