

# Remember



No. 38  
Spring 2012

Remembrance is Continuing the Resistance  
**NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION**

## **NEWS FROM THE NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION**

*T*he Commission has been continually involved in bringing together students and Holocaust survivors in many different venues. During the past two years through a generous grant from the Murray and Linda Laulicht Foundation, 15 schools, 8

Centers, over 1,000 students and 100 survivors have been involved. This year, the students will be researching the background of their survivor and developing a presentation which will be shown to students at the school.

The second major activity the Commission has been coordinating is the bringing together of survivors and the

generations of the Shoah. A major event "Gathering" will be held at Mercer County Community College on Sunday, June 10, 2012. There are already many active second and third generation groups in all areas of New Jersey providing excellent programming and support for the survivors and families.

### **The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education**

*In cooperation with*

**New Jersey Generations of the Shoah Organizations  
New Jersey Jewish Family Service Agencies  
New Jersey Association of Jewish Federations  
New Jersey Network of Holocaust/Genocide Centers  
Mercer County Community College**

*cordially invites you to a*

### **State-Wide Gathering of Generations of the Shoah**

Keynoted by:

Michael Berenbaum, Renowned Holocaust Historian/Researcher/Writer/Lecturer/Teacher  
Winner of two (2) different academy awards as Co-Producer & Historical Consultant

Come meet other survivors, their families (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> generations) and hear many ideas and techniques on how to continue to tell your family's "story"

**June 10, 2012**

**Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Mercer County Community College  
Quadrangle/Student Dining Hall  
1200 Old Trenton Road  
West Windsor, NJ 08550-3407

**To register:** E-mail – [holocaust@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:holocaust@doe.state.nj.us)  
(include number of family members to attend)

## Holocaust News

### ● Montclair State University

A standing room only audience of 350 students, staff and members of the community greeted Holocaust survivor and speaker Maurice Siidmarc on November 8, 2011 at the Montclair State University Student Center. Students, in particular, were moved to tears when they heard him tell of the murder of 85 members of his Bendzin, Poland family.

Siidmarc's name is an anagram for the names of his 10 siblings. Maurice Siidmarc was featured speaker at the University's program as it became New Jersey's newest Holocaust Genocide Resource Center after 20 years as a demonstration site under Professor Ron Hollander, director of the University's Jewish-American Studies Program. Montclair's becoming a formal center also coincided with its acquisition of 23 outstanding Holocaust oil paintings by late survivor Israel Bernbaum of Queens, New York, as well as 3,000 books on the Holocaust, both gifted by the Greater Clifton-Passaic Center. The paintings will be hung in the University's Holocaust Center yet to be created and the books integrated into the permanent collection of the Sprague Library at Montclair.

In his third year as Montclair State University's featured speaker, Siidmarc's audience grew from the original 100 to 350, all deeply touched by his story of experiences in five concentration camps, his liberation at 70 lbs. in Bergen-Belsen and stunned by the Auschwitz number on his forearm. They were also inspired by his impassioned ending of the talk by chanting El Moley Rachamim, the prayer for the dead.

Professor Hollander reminded the audience of their "sacred obligation" to repeat Siidmarc's story, thereby preserving the chain of testimony for future generations. In an article in the Montclairion, journalism student Jessica Hanssen quoted Mr. Siidmarc as saying,



*Seated: Professor Ron Hollander, Director of the Montclair University Jewish-American Studies Program; standing, Holocaust survivor Maurice Siidmarc*

"You are the youth. You are the future." The article's conclusion read "We can move forward into the future only if we continue to remember what it is we are moving forward from." The program was recorded by broadcast students, and a copy of the DVD placed in the library for future availability. The event was cosponsored by Hillel at Montclair State University.

### ● Rutgers University Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life

On September 8, 2011, the Center hosted architect Daniel Libeskind and Professor James E. Young in public conversation on "Memory, Monuments and Museums: Remembering 9/11 and the Holocaust". Libeskind, designer of the award-winning project and the master plan for Ground Zero and the

Berlin Jewish Museum and Young, Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, jury member for the World Trade Center Site Memorial competition and an expert on Holocaust memorials, engaged in a lively discussion on the challenges involved in creating memorials that commemorate tragic events, such as September 11 and the Holocaust. Over 400 attended the event that kicked off a new series at the Center on Art in the Public Square.

The Master Teachers' Institute on Holocaust Education, a program of the Littman Holocaust Resource Center, started a new cycle in the fall semester 2012. Thirty middle and high school teachers from across New Jersey have participated in the 5-session course. Pre-Holocaust History, taught by Rutgers professors and visiting scholars. The course included the topics of Jewish-Christian Relations Through the Ages; European Political History; Jewish Life in Pre-War Europe; The Ideological Origins of Fascism and Political Rise of Nazism in the Pre-World War II Years. The participants always benefit from a vibrant peer network that continues long after the course ends, along with a support team composed of faculty advisors: Dr. Jeffrey Shandler, Bildner Center; Associate Director Karen Small and educational consultant, Colleen Tambuscio.



*Architect Daniel Libeskind and James E. Young Ph.D., Professor of Jewish Studies, University of Massachusetts*

## Holocaust Center News

### ● Sister Rose Thering Fund for Education in Jewish Christian Studies at Seton Hall

**O**n October 23, 2011, at the Annual Scholarship Awards Presentation and Program, the Sister Rose Thering Fund honored six educators who had received sponsored scholarships from supporters of the Fund. Recipients and donors met and spoke briefly on what the scholarship meant to them by allowing the teachers to take courses in the graduate Program of Jewish Christian Studies. Rabbi Noam Marans, Director of Interreligious and Intergroup Relations for the American Jewish Committee, spoke about his trip with a group of young American Jews and American Leading Catholics to view the controversial Oberammergau “Passion Play” in Bavaria. His topic was “The Oberammergau Passion Play: a Barometer of Catholic-Jewish Relations in the Post-Holocaust Era”

On December 11, 2011, the inaugural Dr. Marcia Robbins-Wilf Lecture featured United States Senator Robert Menendez speaking on “The Legacy of Sister Rose”. His comments on the work of Sister Rose in promoting Jewish-Christian dialogue were responded to by two Seton Hill professors: Naomi Wish Ph.D., Director of the Center for Public Service and David Bossman Ph.D., Executive Director of the Sister Rose Thering Fund. There was considerable interaction with the large audience. Dr. Wilf has created an endowment through which she hopes to bring outstanding lecturers to the community.

News of a unique spring 2011 program not yet shared involves an original production of the children’s opera Brundibar, directed by Daniel Neiden, with musical direction by Dr. Jason Tramm, music director of the New Jersey State Opera, was mounted at SOPAC, once for children from New Jersey schools, once for the general public and

finally, for invited guests at the Polish Consulate in New York City. The production featured children from the Newark Boys Chorus and from Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung. The opera had been performed 55 times by child inmates in Theresienstadt, Hitler’s showplace concentration camp in Czechoslovakia. The story tells how good can conquer evil through the uniting of children and animals to overcome the wicked organ grinder, Brundibar, a lightly-veiled incarnation of Hitler. Ela Weisberger, a child survivor of the camp, who played the role of the Cat in each of the 55 performances, spoke to the audiences at each performance. The three productions reached more than 300 adults and 400 children in Essex County.

### ● Drew University Center for Holocaust Genocide Study

**D**rew University Center for Holocaust Genocide Study cosponsored a lecture by Dr. Leah Wolfson, Senior Program Officer, Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Entitled “Purgatory: Artistic Representation during the Holocaust”. The lecture was cosponsored by the University and the Museum Center for Advanced Studies, as well as by the generosity of combined Jewish philanthropies. It was free and open to the public, as well as to the academic community.

During the Conference on Music and the Holocaust, the Center was involved in exploring the following essential questions: How did the Nazis use music to propagate their anti-semitic agenda in the 30s and 40s? Did the music written and sung by the oppressed build solidarity among the victims? Did it serve to record the history of their plight?

Did it help to maintain their humanity? Can we learn by listening to soundtracks of such a brutal genocide? The conference commemorating the

Kristallnacht addressed these questions by focusing on the popular and missing music of World War II.

Weighing in on these issues on December 7, 2011 were Dr. Pam Potter, Professor of Musicology at the University of Wisconsin and Bret Werb, music collection curator at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Potter’s research includes studies on the interesting influences of German and American music, definition of Nazi music and the musicological propaganda during World War II. As an expert on the musical traditions of the Nazi movement and its victims, in her keynote address, Dr. Potter discussed how music was used and abused by the Nazis to support their Fascist ideology. She also touched upon the ways music served as a means of research among victims. Bret Werb’s presentation drew upon the music archives at the Museum in D.C. to illustrate how the Holocaust’s targets of oppression created their own music, allowing them to maintain their humanity and communicate their feelings behind their wartime experiences. The conference highlighted scholarship about the impact of music, including a live concert by the Motyl Chamber Ensemble which performed songs composed by prisoners in the Terezin concentration camp.



**Remember**  
Remembrance is Continuing the Resistance

**NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION**

**Chairperson:** Phil Kirschner, ESQ.

**Vice-Chairperson:** Rabbi Norman R. Patz

**Executive Director:** Dr. Paul B. Winkler  
Phone: 609-292-9274  
Fax: 609-292-1211  
E-mail: holocaust@doe.state.nj.us  
Web site: www.state.nj.us/njded/holocaust

**Editor:** Dr. Vera Goodkin  
Staff, New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education

## Holocaust Center News

### ● Raritan Valley Community College Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

**O**n October 24, 2011, the Institute offered a Seminar for Educators. After an introduction by Ms. Richeleen Dashield, Dean of Multicultural Affairs and Dr. Paul Winkler, Executive Director, New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, the program opened with the screening of a documentary, *Rebirth*, followed by a panel discussion featuring Dr. Donna Gaffney, therapist and co-founder of 4 Action Initiative, Families of September 11 Advisory Board; Eva Fontanez, whose niece's husband, Dave Reeve, is a 9/11 survivor and Mr. Terrence Hoben, Raritan Valley graduate and 9/11 first responder.

The 100-minute documentary, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, is the result of a decade-long project by director Jim Whitaker. It offers a living history and personal witness to one of the most profound events in American history. 9/11 and the healing that has come in its wake chronicles the lives of five people from early 2002 through 2009. The narrative expresses resiliency and recovery from grief, loss and trauma. (PHO)

The table discussion included educators, Holocaust survivors, Second Generation and Panelists. A new curricular initiative for students grades K-12 was explored in two separate presentations of the workshop entitled "Learning from the Challenges of Our Times: Global Security, Terrorism and 9/11 in the Classroom". Mr. Hank Fellows, composer and author, was the middle school presenter. The high school presentation was given by Ms. Jill McCracken, curriculum author from Holmdel High School and Ms. Reba Petraitis, curriculum author from the Kent Place School. – Certificates of three Professional development hours were

awarded to each participating educator by the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education at the conclusion of the conference.

Profound experiences of Holocaust survivors' children surfaced in a Raritan Valley Community College documentary, "Second Generation ...Ripples from the Holocaust". For Peppy Margolis, director of cultural outreach at the College, the daughter of two survivors, the perspective of the second generation of survivors needed to be uncovered. Creator and executive producer of the 30-minute documentary she became inspired to piece together the stories of 11 New Jersey residents, active members of the college's Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, who provided interviews, photographs and archival footage about their parents' survival.

Those interviewed, along with Peppy Margolis, included Toby Kansagor, Carl Resnick, Evelyn Rauch, Brian Cige, Evelyn Kay, Helen Rosen, Susan Greenbaum, Howard Blank, and Taya Friedman. While they represent different ages and share varied experiences, the interviewees have one common thread: a deep respect for their parents and commitment to family and community. They are leaders anxious to give back in some form or another. All of them feel it is essential to educate others about the consequences and horrors of the Holocaust, as well as the strength of those who survived. Harry Hillard, adjunct professor of film at the College, edited the film. Under his guidance, college film students provided camera work and technical assistance. They also gained a better understanding of the mission of the Institute. Elizabeth Wilen-Berg of New York City, psychologist and daughter of Holocaust survivors, was a consultant for the film and provided commentary of how the effect of their parents' experiences impacted the second generation. The film premiered at the Museum of Tolerance in New York City and was screened at the International Genocide Scholars Conference in Buenos Aires

### ● The Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Center at the Richard Stockton College

**T**he Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center of the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, in collaboration with the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage, offered a Genocide Awareness Week on November 14 – 18. The opening program was a film event, *The Last Survivor*, about genocide survivors and their struggle to make sense of tragedy. They work to educate and motivate a civic response to mass atrocity crimes, with a focus on awareness, prevention and promoting social activism and civic engagement. A free interactive workshop was presented for educators, grades K-12, in the Holocaust Resource Center. The workshop, "The World Outside My Shoes", and the presenter, Carl Wilkens, shared his stories of how one person can make a difference. Carl refused to leave during the Rwandan Genocide in 1994. He was the only American to have stayed in Rwanda throughout the genocide. From these experiences, he has developed an action plan for educators and students. Carl Wilkens demonstrated classroom projects and activities that address the issues of bullying, and how we view "the other". In addition to the workshop, presentations were given at Egg Harbor High School, as well as Holy Spirit and Hebrew High Schools of Atlantic and Cape May Counties. The students heard an eyewitness account from the perspective of an upstander and had an opportunity to ask questions. In addition, members of Stockton's organization STAND (a genocide awareness club) wrote, produced and directed a play dedicated to the victims of genocide for presentation at Stockton's Campus Theatre.

## Holocaust Center News

### ● Holocaust Council of MetroWest

**F**all 2011 was a busy season for the Council. In addition to the regular array of programs, such as: Lunch 'n Learn, Real to Reel, Bagels and Books, Survivor Speaks, Twin-with-a-Survivor, Rubell Remembrance Journeys, and the various Kristallnacht commemorations, the Council curated and mounted an exhibit exploring the legacy of anti-Semitic propaganda which the Nazis directed at Muslims in North Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Based on paintings created by David Sokol for his award-winning film, "Mufti", this exhibit ran from September 8 – November 16, 2011 and included lectures by Sokol, as well as by Prof. Jeffrey Herf of the University of Maryland, author of *Nazi Propaganda for the Arab World*.

Second generation survivor Mathilde Benveniste of Salonika recently shared her story with Director Barbara Wind. Fortified with stories of experiences she had heard from her mother, Mathilde spoke with pride and sadness of her people and their history which began in 316 BCE, with Jewish artisans recruited from Egypt to build the city of Thessaloniki. By the early 1900s, its 80,000 Jewish inhabitants comprised more half of the city's population. Following the 1941 Nazi occupation, they were deported to Auschwitz. Only 4 % survived.

Debra Maller, Rahway High School English teacher has been working with Barbara Wind to bring together students and survivors. She also took a bus load of 41 students to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. During the three-hour visit, her students were overwhelmed by human artifacts that spoke volumes in their silence about the horrors inflicted upon the victims. The students were also impressed and moved by hearing about the experiences of one of their accompanying adults as a 9/11 first responder and those of another, a witness



*Rahway High teacher Debra Maller, front row, fifth from right, took a group of students for their first trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington on Dec. 5, accompanied by parents, teachers, and two survivors.*

to the brutalities during the massacres in Haiti. Ms. Maller had completed the Kean University certification course in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Last year, she created her school's course on the Holocaust and Genocides. She has expressed the hope that when students are inspired, they become witnesses themselves.

### ● Center for Civic Leadership and Responsibility at Camden County College

**T**he Center offered two thirteen-week courses during the fall 2011 semester:

Topics of History: Preconditions to Genocide – The Holocaust, Rwanda and Darfur examines how human behavior, specifically human bias, contributes to setting the stage for genocide. Students explored how bias is developed and how it contributes to discrimination and prejudice. Specific genocides explored in detail were the Holocaust, Rwanda and Darfur, along with nations having the potential for genocide action today.

Bias and Human Behavior: The Steps to Genocide involved finding the common thread that binds genocides, through the study of Holocaust, the Rwandan genocide, as well as the present day genocides in Darfur and how human behaviors, specifically bias, contributes to this escalation of human violence.

## Holocaust Center News

### ● Ramapo College Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

On October 6, 2011, Dr. Elissa Bemporad, who was awarded advanced degrees by the University of Bologna, the Jewish Theological Seminary and Stanford University, and is currently the Jerry and William Ungar Assistant Professor of History at Queens College of the City University of New York, discussed the relationship between the accusation of ritual murder against Jews and Anti-Semitism. The title of her talk was “Blood Libel and Soviet Anti-Semitism” and dealt with the blatantly untrue and defamatory accusation leveled at Jews from medieval times, claiming that Judaism demands periodic ritual consumption of Christian blood. Intimately intertwined with anti-Semitism, the old canard keeps resurfacing throughout history.

On November 1, 2011, The Gumpert Teachers’ Workshop dealt with the subject of “Online Testimonies in the Classroom” under the co-sponsorship of the Holocaust Genocide Resource Center, the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education and the Shoah Foundation. More than 1,000 video testimonies of Holocaust survivors are available for use in the iWitness program which enables teachers to use them in teaching the Holocaust and empowers students to participate in their own learning with tools helping them to think critically, investigate, analyze and collaborate with others. Thirty teachers availed themselves of the opportunity to pilot this approach to Holocaust education. Colleen Tambuscio of New Milford High School conducted the workshop in the use of a rich array of multimedia resources and guided the participants through iWitness to help them achieve curricular goals in diverse disciplines, at different grade levels. This approach also enhances students’ digital, visual and media skills, enabling them to develop their own media projects, relating witness stories to their



*Workshop leaders Colleen Tambuscio and Susan Rubinstein*

own experiences and making connections with contemporary texts.

Sandy Rubenstein, a teacher at the Horace Mann School in New York and daughter of two Holocaust survivors, showed her colleagues how she uses 3 hours of visual and oral testimony of recollections of war years. In the classroom, she uses a program she has named “Marked with a Stone” to share excerpts from her father’s book and video clips.

She also emphasized how this approach helps students to reflect on their own moral responsibility to stand up against bigotry. Finally, Sandy discussed the project Incorporating Testimony into the Teaching of Holocaust Literature: Number the Stars by Lois Lowry she had developed under the auspices of the U.S. Shoah Foundation and modeled it for her 4th grade class in the Horace Mann School.

On November 14 and December 9, 2011, the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies screened the following films in cooperation with the Human Rights and Genocide Minor at the College: Women in War Zones and Grandma’s Tattoo.

Women in War Zones tells the story of Helen and Bijoux, two women being

treated for attacks they suffered at the hands of the notorious Internanhamwe militia who after having perpetrated the Darfur genocide in 1994, preyed on the refugees fleeing into the Democratic Republic of the Congo. One thousand of these women and children had been raped and mutilated. The two women have become sisters who support each other during their treatment in Panzi Hospital, the last hope of the Congo’s victims of sex violence as they come to grips with their tragic past, trying to recapture hope and dignity. Assistant director Marie Targouchi-O’Brien introduced the film and took questions after the screening. This film project spawned a movement that seeks to implement humanitarian programs in war zones.

Grandma’s Tattoo is Suzanne Khardalian’s personal film about Armenian women kept in slavery. It is a mystery story in which the ghosts of these women haunt us. In the process, Ms. Khardalian discloses the painful family secret she had found out. Her grandmother had spent several years in sexual slavery and, like most of her peers, she was tattooed just like cattle to assert ownership. After World War I., about 90,000 of these enslaved young women and children were rescued by missionaries and humanitarian organizations.

## Holocaust Center News

### ● **The College of St. Elizabeth Holocaust Education Resource Center**

**F**or the second consecutive year, in July 2011, the Holocaust Resource Center co-sponsored the Bearing Witness – Advanced Holocaust Seminar for Catholic Educators for a select group that came to the College to attend seminars as part of the Bearing Witness – Advanced program before departing for further study in Israel. While at the College, the group studied with Father Dennis McManus, Consultant for Catholic-Jewish Affairs at the United State Conference of Catholic Bishops; Rabbi Elliot Dorff, Rector and Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the American Jewish University in Los Angeles; Kenneth Jacobson, Deputy National Director of the ADL and Elizabeth Edelstein, Director of Education at the Museum of Jewish Heritage. The seminars focused on teaching Catholic educators how to teach about Jews, Judaism and the Holocaust. This program is sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League in regional centers throughout the United States. At the College of Saint Elizabeth, it is cosponsored by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Museum of Jewish Heritage.

In November 2011, the College hosted a workshop on the theme of Learning from the Nation's Experts: New Resources for Holocaust/Genocide Education, co-sponsored by the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education and the College of Saint Elizabeth Holocaust Education Resource Center. Through the use of new resources, the teachers learned how to meet the New Jersey mandate for Holocaust and genocide education. Roman Kent, chairman of the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors shared testimony about his experiences before, during and after the Holocaust. President of the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous and a Polish

Holocaust survivor, he is the recipient of the Polish Government Medal of Honor, Interfaith Committee of Remembrance Humanitarian Award and the Elie Wiesel Holocaust Remembrance Award. Workshop presenters were Christina Chararria, program coordinator; National Institute for Holocaust Education, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum; Stanlee Stahl, executive director, Jewish Foundation for the Righteous; Dr. Paul Radensky, museum educator, Museum of Jewish Heritage, A Living Memorial to the Holocaust; Ariel Fried, program coordinator, Echoes and Reflections: A Multimedia Curriculum (ADL, Yad Vashem, Shoah Foundation); Sister Joseph Spring, SCC, Assumption College for Sisters, Bearing Witness (for Catholic educators); David Schwartz, program associate, Facing History of Ourselves; Ann Shore, president, and Lore Baer, director, speakers' bureau, Hidden Child Foundation, and Barbara Wind, director, Holocaust Council of MetroWest.

At the Fourth Annual Film Studies Festival, the College of Saint Elizabeth featured the award-winning film, *The Last Klezmer*. The program opened with a master class in Klezmer music and a lecture by Yale Strom, the film's award-winning director, a master Klezmer musician, and an artist-in-residence at San Diego State University. *The Last Klezmer* told the story of Leopold Kozlowski, the last Klezmer musician alive today to have grown up in the Jewish culture before the Holocaust. Kozlowski is still teaching, performing and composing Klezmer music in Poland. At the end of the film, Strom answered questions from the audience.

The College of Saint Elizabeth featured Anti-Defamation League Director and Holocaust survivor Abraham Foxman who shared his Holocaust experiences at the annual Kristallnacht Commemoration, an event co-sponsored by the College and the Holocaust Council of MetroWest. The commemoration was part of the second annual College of Saint Elizabeth Week of Holocaust Remembrance which included in-class faculty sessions open to the public, including Holocaust survivor testimony, four film screenings and discussions on topics related to the Holocaust and genocide.

In November, internationally known Holocaust educator Gemma Del Duca led an interfaith dialogue entitled Teaching Catholics about the Holocaust. Sister Gemma is the founder and co-director of Seton Hall University's National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education, Greensburg PA. She has lived in Israel since 1975 and has led seminars at Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem for more than 20 years as an educator at the International School of Holocaust Education. Her association with Yad Vashem began in 1987 when she approached the administrators with her idea to host seminars for Catholic educators in response to John Paul II's call to recognize the significance of the Holocaust. Hundreds of Catholic educators and clergy primarily from the United States have taken part in these seminars. According to Ephraim Kaye who works with international educators at Yad Vashem, Sister Gemma's presence as lecturer and coordinator was the program's most important component. As a result, in 2007, Yad Vashem honored Sister Gemma with the Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education. She is the first non-Jewish, non-Israeli recipient.

### ● **Julius and Dorothy Koppelman Holocaust Genocide Resource Center at Rider University**

**T**he Center had two major activities in the fall of 2011. The annual Kristallnacht commemoration in November, featuring the film "Miracle at Miroux", engaged the audience in a discussion of Gentile rescue of Jews during the Holocaust.

The annual fall workshop for teachers of grades K-8 explored the topic of bullying and explored strategies to combat it.

## Holocaust Center News

### ● The Goodwin Holocaust Museum and Education Center

The Center has been extremely busy in the past few months, sponsoring programs for students and teachers, all designed to teach the history and lessons of the Holocaust. The Center partnered with Facing History and Ourselves and the ADL to offer two training workshops helping teachers to enrich the curriculum already used in their own classroom.

In November, Facing History presented at a workshop at the Center entitled Teaching for Safe and Inclusive Classroom: Examining Bullying and Ostracism in Schools. This program helped teachers confront their own questions about the recently passed New Jersey legislation focused on school bullying.

In December, the Center offered the annual Sid Neuman Memorial Bus Trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. This trip for teachers and survivors, funded by an endowment left by a local Holocaust survivor who wanted to ensure that the “blood money” he received through German reparations would be used to educate teachers about the Holocaust. In addition to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the group also visited the World War II and the Martin Luther King Memorials on that educational and inspirational day for all. Some of the teachers on the trip also attended the Goodwin Holocaust Museum and Education Center later in the month when the ADL did a remarkable presentation on the use of the Echoes and Reflections Curriculum they helped develop with the Shoah Foundation. The Center’s Education Department began working with Timber Creek High School in Erial and Haddon Township High School as part of the Linda and Murray Laulich Foundation and the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education Adopt-a-Survivor Program. Students joined survivors for lunch and met the same survivors in their schools to interview them and begin sharing their stories with their peers at each school. All the students have been delighted about the opportunity to participate in this project and look forward to learning their survivors’ testimonies.



*New Jersey Senator Jim Beach, Cherry Hill Mayor Bernie Platt, GHMEC Education Director Helen Kirschbaum, Paine Principal Helen Weinman, GHMEC Tolerance Guest Reader Chair Helen Hansen, Executive Director David Snyder*



*Holocaust survivor Ryfka Finkelstein talking to students*



*Survivors Ryfka Finkelstein and Helene Bouton with students from Timber Creek and Haddon Township High Schools in the Laulich Adopt-a-Survivor program*

## ● Brookdale Center for Holocaust, Human Rights and Genocide Education

The Brookdale Center's name has been rearranged to the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights and Genocide Education, with the acronym Chhange.

The first of two initiatives under the new name/acronym, Generations: Descendants of Holocaust Survivors, got underway in July 2011, with the goal of preserving the legacy of local survivors and becoming partners with Chhange in sharing family history. The first program of this initiative was a Brunch, perhaps the most successful event ever. There were 209 largely 2nd and 3rd generation attendees, many accompanied by survivor relatives. They were treated to a moving presentation by Rubenstein who uses her father's video and testimony to teach about the Holocaust. Activities planned for weeks following the brunch were a Yiddish and a Book Club and a trip to the new National Museum of Jewish History in Philadelphia. Other activities in the offing are training Generations members to speak in schools and as docents in new exhibits, social gatherings and Center-led trips to survivors' hometowns and Holocaust sites.

The second initiative is Be a Buddy – Not a Bully, a program for kindergartners and first graders, created by Laraine Gaunt. Preventative, it demonstrates respect for individuals and encourages inclusiveness. A literature-based program of varied duration, it can be woven into the existing curriculum. It consists of 15 lessons to be presented by parents or teachers. Two-hour training programs offered to schools for teachers and parents are included.

The Center's new space on campus will have state-of-the-art exhibit space, a smart classroom, a climate-controlled archive and library, as well as a volunteer work area. The archive, ever-growing through survivor donations, is already under the supervision of a professional archivist.

On October 3, 2011, the Center hosted an evening with Leila Levinson, author of "Gated Grief: The Daughter of a GI Camp Liberator Discovers Trauma". In her book, Leila explores the link between the liberators' trauma and its impact on their families, with the focus on healing.

The Wednesday Morning Film Series:

Women of Valor was held on October 26 and November 9, hosted by co-founder of the Center, Dr. Seymour Siegler, who also led the post-screening discussion. Sophie Scholl, Sister Rose and Rosa Parks were the women honored by the Center for their moral courage and personal resilience in the face of injustice. Recognition of their heroism leads us to remember their legacy and be inspired by their strength and commitment to equality and human rights.

The Wednesday morning lecture series with co-founder Professor Jack Needle was held on September 21, October 5 and October 12 on the subjects of "The Eichmann Trial 20 Years Later"; "The Greatest Theft in History" – the unprecedented plundering of the European continent by Hitler and his minions and "The Failure of Denazification and Its Eventual Success". A question and answer period followed each lecture.

At the Annual Kristallnacht Commemoration, Chhange held a special screening of the award-winning film "Only a Number" by Dr. Steven H. Besserman. In it, he presents the experiences of his parents, the story of their suffering at the hands of the Nazis, and their falling in love in a concentration camp. In the ghettos, concentration and labor camps, Besserman found remnants of the past and the present. His powerful film was extremely well-received as Steve described the experiences that had led him to make such a moving tribute to his parents. An audience of 100 engaged him in a lively discussion.

On November 19, 2011, Chhange welcomed Daniel Wordsworth, President of Said Abuda, Program Manager of the Somali Advisory Council presently taking action on famine in Somalia. His focus was an update on the famine, as well as on the ongoing humanitarian crisis stemming from the unwillingness of the world to respond. There is an incipient attempt to shift the Somali narrative from piracy and starvation to a message of community, hope and humanity by activating Somali neighbors. "I Am a Star Creating a Brighter Future for Somalia" is meeting with great success.

The Catherine Wolf Student Leadership Conference on November 29, 2011 welcomed 90 middle school students from 9 schools. The program helped identifying prejudice in themselves and their peers and providing them with skills to address it. This was the last time Isaac Dostis and Diana Sunshine would present at the conference. Training of new staff was held prior to, during and after the conference. Participant feedback was extremely positive.

On December 3, 2011, Chhange hosted

social studies teachers at the Council of Holocaust Educators Conference where they heard Alexandra Zapruder present on her book, "Salvaged Pages": and her film "We Are Still Here". The book is composed of excerpts from adolescent diaries written during the Holocaust, an excellent teaching tool. The film was made from the book premiered on MTV. Diarist Peter Feigl skyped with attendees. Participants also heard survivor testimony from Maud Dahme, a hidden child during the Holocaust and survived through the efforts of several rescuers.

## ● Kean University Holocaust Resource Center and Human Rights Institute

The successful tuition-waiver graduate course, one of the exciting fall 2011 programs that began in September with "Teaching the Holocaust", was offered in the Diversity Council in Parsippany Troy Hills, Paschach Valley, Westfield and Old Bridge, as well as on the Kean University campus. The course includes a trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum for a tour and for some time spent with survivor Nesse Godin to share memories and provide inspiration. Since these graduate courses offered to New Jersey teachers continue to be extremely popular, waiting lists extend to 2014 for bringing them out to other schools in the districts.

Also in September 2011, the Center led support for the collaborative premiere of Kean University Premiere Stage's production of Hannah by John Wooten, the story of the freedom fighter Hannah Senesh who parachuted behind enemy lines during World War II. to help Jews escape from Nazi-occupied Germany.

In late November 2011, the Center welcomed Nesse Godin to Kean University for one of the Diversity Council programs for students. She spoke to over 600 students from the Elizabeth, DePaul Catholic and Rahway school districts. Partnering with the College of Education who the Human Rights Institute, the Center also coordinated the

*(continued on p. 10)*

## ● Kean University

*(continued from p. 9)*

offer of the popular undergraduate course “Holocaust, Genocide and Modern Humanity” in high schools. The Center is currently piloting the program at Monmouth and Watchung Regional High Schools and Memorial High School in West New York. The course offers students an opportunity to explore the topic at the college level while receiving both high school and college credit.

Another partner for the Center is the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous. The Center hosted the Foundation exhibit “Whoever Saves a Single Life....Rescuers of Jews during the Holocaust”. According to the Foundation, the exhibit showcases some of those rare – but exceedingly important – instances where people fought to safeguard their Jewish fellow citizens during the Holocaust. In a time of death and destruction, rescuers did not stand by. Instead, they provided safe haven and a glimmer of hope.” The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous is grateful to the Conference on the Jewish Material Claims against Germany for its generous support of this exhibit. The exhibit was not only housed in the Thomas Library on the Kean campus, but also with Monmouth and Watchung Regional High Schools where students created tours and programs around it.

In December, the Center welcomed Alexandra Zapruder, author of “Salvaged Pages: Young Writers’ Diaries of the Holocaust”. Ms. Zapruder met with students of Andrew Buchanan from Randolph High School to explore ways of using survivor testimonies in their writing. The event was filmed by the NJEA Classroom Close-Up program to air in February, March and April 2012 on NJTV. Later Ms. Zapruder met with 20 educators for a workshop to explore the historic relevance of Holocaust diaries to the classroom.



*Alexandra Zapruder*

The Center’s annual Murray Pantirer scholar lecture series took a different approach this year. It began with a workshop prior to the screening of the film “No. 4 Street of Our Lady”, an account of a non-Jewish neighbor’s rescue of 16 Jews. The film resonated with the community as two of the survivors featured in it, Chaim Maltz and Fran Malkin, had settled in the area. Mr.



*Front row: Alexandra Zapruder, (in black); next to Stacey Schiller of the Kean University Holocaust Center, followed by Holocaust survivor Clara Kramer and teacher Ashley Kanya. In rear, at right: Dr. Andrew Buchanan*

Maltz’s daughter Judy, the filmmaker, joined the two survivors for a panel discussion after the film. David Schwartz of Facing History and Ourselves met with 30 educators to explore the theme of rescue in the Holocaust and ways to approach it in the classroom

## ● Mercer County Center

The Center has had an exciting fall 2011 semester, beginning with the appointment of two new co-directors, Susan Goldberg and Elizabeth De Giorgio. Goldberg, a member of the Advisory Board since 2010, earned her master’s degree in Radio, TV and Film from the University of Texas. A freelance writer and filmmaker, she is currently employed by the Lawrence Township schools. De Giorgio, Professor of Education and Psychology at Mercer County Community College, earned master’s degrees in Education and Educational Psychology, as well as Educational Administration from Fordham University. Together, Goldberg and De Giorgio bring a passion for education to the Center. Their goal is to increase programs and visits by college faculty, Mercer county educators and the community-at-large.



*Mercer County: Co-directors Elizabeth De Giorgio and Susan Goldberg*

Early in the semester, Professor De Giorgio coordinated a special session of Dr. Paul Winkler’s lecture on the effective use of children’s books to teach about bigotry, bias

and bullying in grades K-4. to MCCC education majors. The event was exceedingly well-received – so well - in effect, that Professor De Giorgio scheduled another session for the next semester’s class. This lecture has consistently evoked a positive response from Mercer County educators.

Center Director Emeritus Saul Goldwasser hosted retired Woodbridge Township Police Lieutenant Herbert Williams who spoke about his experiences in training the South Sudanese Police Service in the Republic of South Sudan. The lecture was geared to MCCC faculty and staff, with a special invitation to members of the Trenton Police Academy. Everyone found the program a most effective learning experience. Professor Goldwasser has also been meeting with the Princeton Jewish Center, to coordinate the reunion of six Torah scrolls from Susice, the Czech Republic at the Center in April 2012.

November was an especially productive time. The Center hosted Dr. Mary Johnson, Senior Historian of Facing History and Ourselves, for a vibrant lecture on the use of Elie Wiesel’s “Night” in high school classrooms. The audience included Mercer County professors, New Jersey educators and Holocaust survivors.

Celebrating “Excellence and Vitality in Teaching and Learning” later in the month, the College’s Board of Trustees invited the community to its annual Open House. Visitors learned about the vast array of resources available in the Holocaust Genocide Resource Center as they communicated with some of the members of the Advisory Commission and viewed the photos, books and artifacts on display. Brochures were distributed, and visitors were invited to participate in the upcoming events of the 2012 spring semester. Commission members enjoyed networking with college students, as well as with faculty, prospective students, parents and members of the community.

Dr. Vera Goodkin, Professor Emerita of MCCC, Associate of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, its liaison to the Center and child survivor of the Holocaust rescued by Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, addressed MCCC education majors at the December meeting of the Future Teachers’ Club. She shared some of her experiences during those horrible years. Above all, she emphasized the importance of vigilance against the evils of prejudice and hatred wherever and whenever they occur.