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Forthcoming Events

Yom HaShoah Remembrance Week

Seventh Annual Charles Hildebrandt Holocaust Studies Awards

Featuring **Myrna Goldenberg, Ph.D.** Monday, April 19, 2004, 7:30 p.m. Alumni Recital Hall, Redfern Arts Center Keene State College

Dr. Goldenberg, professor emerita of English, women's studies, and Holocaust studies at

the Paul Peck Humanities Institute of Montgomery College (Rockville, Md.), will speak on "Food as a Weapon of War."

Claudia Stevens: Performance of "An Evening with Madame 'F'"

Wednesday, April 21, 2004, 7:30 p.m. Mabel Brown Room, Young Student Center Keene State College

Claudia Stevens, a pianist who teaches at the College of William and Mary, will perform "An Evening with Madame 'F,'" a one-person musical drama created by Stevens in which she adopts the persona of an elderly concentration-camp survivor, Fania Fanelon, who performed as a musician at Auschwitz.

2004 Summer Institute on the Holocaust

July 11-16, 2004
Keene State College
Sponsored by the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies in partnership with the New Hampshire Humanities Council Residential institute for teachers See page one.

Seventh Annual Holocaust Memorial Lecture

Professor Nechama Tec
"Resilience and Courage: Women, Men, and the Holocaust"
Monday, September 27, 2004, 7:30 p.m. Mabel Brown Room, Young Student Center Keene State College

Kristallnacht Remembrance 2004

Featuring **Martin Rumscheidt**
Tuesday, November 9, 2004, 7 p.m. Charles Larracey Auditorium, Keene Middle School

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies

KEENE STATE COLLEGE • 229 MAIN STREET • KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE • WWW.KEENE.EDU/CCHS

"To Remember...and to Teach"



Yehuda Bauer, a member of the Yad Vashem faculty, with Paul Vincent.

Director's News and Reflections

New Look for the Newsletter

There's something apropos about returning from Israel and finding a new look for the Holocaust Center's newsletter. The change was long overdue; with the addition of Tom White to the Center's staff and a Holocaust Studies minor to the College's academic offerings, the old template was simply not meeting our needs. I trust that you like the change; I certainly do.

Study in Jerusalem

I came home to Keene on January 22, following 18 days of study at the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem. As a member of the Winter Seminar, I had the pleasure of learning under the guidance of such luminaries as David Bankier, Yehuda Bauer, and Robert Wistrich. Among the 25 students in my cohort group were teachers and professors from Australia, Brazil, England, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, and South Africa. Over the course of our days together, this diverse group found occasion to laugh, to argue, to shed tears, and, above all, to confront the sheer horror of what humans are capable of doing to other humans.

Yet, I find myself reflecting on something less tangible than all those hours of instruc-

2004 Summer Institute on the Holocaust

The second biennial Summer Institute on the Holocaust, scheduled for Sunday, July 11, through Friday noon, July 16, 2004, is designed to provide a substantive introduction to the historical background and facts of the Holocaust. Yet, because study of the Holocaust raises difficult questions about the nuances of human behavior – e.g., what led people to be bystanders, collaborators, perpetrators, rescuers, or resisters – we will go beyond history by examining issues through the lens of other disciplines. And because hostility toward Jews was an endemic feature of European society many centuries before the appearance of Nazism, we need greater insight into Hitler's victims. What is a Jew? What is Judaism?

The Cohen Center has been awarded an \$8,000 grant from the N.H. Humanities Council and has received a gift from Michael Kapiloff of Kapiloff Insurance in Keene to help fund this year's Biennial Summer Institute.

The Participants

Participation will be limited to twenty Fellows. The Institute is designed for teachers in history, language and literature, the social sciences, and the arts.

Teachers in other disciplines are welcome, however, to apply for Fellowships. Anyone interested in incorporating the study of the Holocaust into an existing curriculum or in developing new curricula will find this Institute helpful. For more information, contact Tom White at 603-358-2746. An application form can be found at www.keene.edu/cchs.

Testimonials from the 2002 Institute

"One aspect that really came through... was to show the reality of the Jews before the war...with this approach, the students will be able to see the vast contributions and normalcy of the people [not to see them just as victims]."

– Jen Chapdelaine, Keene High School

"The Institute greatly impacted the way that I hope to teach the Holocaust and provided very workable models, extremely valuable information, and the opportunity to discuss thoughts, ideas, and questions."

– Jim Johnston, Portsmouth High School

"I thought the workshops and accommodations were awesome and I feel it allowed me to grow intellectually, spiritually, and personally."

– Laura Dwyer, Alton Central School

tion. Gazing northwest, through the large picture window of the Yad Vashem classroom, stirs a thrill of recognition: "Here I am, 59 years after Hitler's ignominious suicide in his Berlin bunker, studying an advanced course on the Holocaust on the magnificent hills outside Jerusalem." What better testimony to the ultimate failure of Hitler's "Final Solution" than to have Gentiles studying the Holocaust in the modern state of Israel. This does not lessen my anxiety over the considerable problems

faced by Israel in the current world. Yet, to be cognizant of Jewish history is to know that the Jews have faced and survived periods of crisis and emergency throughout their long history – and none was worse than the Holocaust. With its educational offerings and rich archival holdings, Yad Vashem stands as a tribute to those who suffered and sacrificed during the Shoah, including the Righteous Gentiles, and as a beacon of hope for the future.

– C. Paul Vincent

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KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

229 MAIN STREET

KEENE STATE COLLEGE

Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies



Holocaust Studies Minor

Courses in the Holocaust Studies minor are proving very popular. This is testament to the excellent faculty engaged in the program and the effectiveness of the Cohen Center in both encouraging serious study and providing the necessary resources for scholarship. There are 132 students enrolled this spring in Holocaust Studies courses. Prof. Sander Lee, who teaches an upper-level offering entitled "Philosophy & the Holocaust" (Philosophy 313), wants readers to know that his course will be available in the Fall 2004 semester.

News from Educational Outreach

The "return of antisemitism in our Old Europe" is undeniable. "Not to recognize it, not to call it by its name, is an unconscious way of accepting it....The path that leads to Auschwitz is always before us and it starts with little weaknesses....[We need] constant vigilance and frank solidarity with the Jewish communities." Cardinal Etchegary, Vatican City, December 23, 2003.

The New Antisemitism

I write not as a Jew but as a Christian – we must remember that the overwhelming majority of Holocaust perpetrators were baptized Christians. We are witnessing an increase in acts of antisemitism across the globe. According to the Anti-Defamation League, after many years of steady decline, the number of Americans holding strongly antisemitic beliefs went up 5 percent this past year. Globally, attacks on Jews and synagogues have increased in number and viciousness. Many are beginning to stand up and take notice, as evidenced by a statement from the Vatican at Christmas; others, however, sit in moral confusion, arguing that the perpetrators are people with legitimate grievances who should be allowed to express themselves. It is time to clarify the danger of apathy.

Genocide is always preceded by propaganda that dehumanizes the victims. As instructors, we take special care in teaching the early warning signals of genocide; do we, however, pay them sufficient heed? Today, signs at so-called "peace rallies" scream: "Death to Jews"; posters in college residence halls read "Jews = Nazis"; the mainstream Arab media depict Jews as apes, pigs, rats, snakes and demons; and the Palestinian Authority's official newspaper declares that the Holocaust is a myth, exploited by Jews to get sympathy. (Paul Vincent, who recently returned from Jerusalem, told me of his interaction with a Palestinian in Jerusalem's Muslim Quarter. "You're

studying the Holocaust?" the man asked. "You don't believe all that stuff, do you?") The warning signs are upon us. How should we react?

The evidence indicates that antisemitism has mutated yet again, with the idea spreading that persecuting and murdering Jews is a virtuous calling. The horrors of the Holocaust and the absolute defeat of Nazi Germany gave a bad name to racial antisemitism, but it was only a temporary reprieve. Now, under the guise of "human rights," Holocaust denial and anti-Zionism have combined to create a new, socially acceptable form of virulent antisemitism: Jews are a people intent on colonialism and world domination through the vehicle of the state of Israel. Beliefs that were unsustainable after Auschwitz are finding new approval due to the propagation of the idea that the Holocaust was a myth. Israel is a pariah state, the "Jew" among the nations. Of course, this mutation is rooted in the conspiracy theories of medieval Europe that found, and continue to find, voice in the infamous forgery *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.

One need look no further for reinforcement than primetime Arab television. The 30-part Egyptian-produced series "A Knight without a Horse," based on the antisemitic *Protocols*, was aired during the weeks of Ramadan (October-November) in 2002; the 21-part Syrian-produced series "Diaspora" was shown in the evening, then repeated the following day, during Ramadan 2003. "Diaspora," a virulently antisemitic program purporting to portray a history of Zionism, was carried by the Lebanese-based satellite station Al-Manar, which is owned by the terrorist group Hezbollah and is available throughout the Middle East. The series depicts Jews as bloodthirsty, conniving conspirators, plotting to infiltrate world governments in order to achieve world domination. It includes a graphic dramatization of the age-old antisemitic "blood libel" charge that Jews murder non-Jewish children for blood to use in making Passover bread. Both programs are little less than incitements to murder. Is it any wonder that mass murdering homicidal bombers are so easily recruited?

Hope for peace among peoples rests in our hands. We can repair the world if we do not allow ourselves to become victims of fear. Please, don't ignore this dehumanizing propaganda! While studying recently at Yad Vashem, Paul sat through a presentation by Menachim Milson entitled "Antisemitism in the Arab World." Milson introduced his audience to the website of the Middle East Media Research Institute (www.memri.org), where



Paul Vincent (left) and Tom White welcome Sibylle Niemoeller von Sell to the Cohen Center.

students witnessed segments of the programming being shown on Arab television. *Nota bene*: There are graphic and disturbing scenes from primetime Arab television at this site.

– Tom White

Outreach Presentations since the Fall 2003 Semester

8/28/03: Portsmouth High School: A History of Antisemitism

9/15/03: Keene High School: A History of Judaism and Anti-Judaism

9/17/03: Keene High School: Introduction to the Holocaust

9/19/03: Keene High School: A History of Judaism and anti-Judaism

10/3/03: Cohen Center: Keene State College Operating Staff – The Mission of the Cohen Center

10/8/03: Cohen Center: Introduction to Guidance Counselors

10/10/03: Cohen Center: Educator Workshop

10/13/03: Cohen Center: Students from Einbeck, Germany – The Mission of the Cohen Center

10/17/03: Conant High School: A History of Antisemitism

10/20/03: Keene Public Library: American Association of University Women – Jewish Life in Nazi Germany

10/27/03: Keene High School: Introduction to the Holocaust

10/29/03: Keene State College: Introduction to the Holocaust

10/31/03: Cohen Center: Wheelock Elementary School – Number the Stars

11/4/03: Portsmouth High School: A History of Antisemitism

11/5/03: Manchester N.H.: N.H. Council for Social Studies

11/7/03: WKNE Radio: Kristallnacht Remembrance

11/21/03: Cohen Center: Educator Workshop
12/1-2/03: Keene High School: Law and the Holocaust

12/4/03: Pemi-Baker Academy, Plymouth, N.H.: Introduction to the Holocaust

12/15/03: Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Central Florida

1/7/04: Cohen Center: Leadership Teacher

1/15/04: Keene High School: Antisemitism

1/23/04: Cohen Center: Wheelock School – Number the Stars

1/26/04: Keene Public Library: Keene City Officials – The Mission of the Cohen Center

2/11/04: Keene High School; Judaism and Anti-Judaism

2/13/04: Cohen Center: Educator Workshop

Poster Exhibit

A special thank you to Shelley Craiglow, Dan Gillard, Robert Lupien, and the fifth-grade classes from Wheelock Elementary School for providing poster projects on *Number the Stars* to display at the Cohen Center. *Number the Stars* is a book about Danish rescue and is one of the many books in the Grubman Children's Collection at the Center.

Gift Giving

There is a variety of ways to make a gift to the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies and a variety of programs in need of contributions. In addition to earning a tax deduction, your charitable gift can yield many rewards. There is the satisfaction of supporting an important cause, the excitement of seeing your gift lead to positive change, and – in many cases – the opportunity for tangible financial benefits to you and/or another beneficiary. Your donations to the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies directly support the Center and its educational activities, both in the classroom at Keene State College and in the Center's educational outreach endeavors throughout New Hampshire and southern Vermont.

For more information on giving, contact Judy Kalich, Keene State College director of advancement, at 603-358-2371 or advancement@keene.edu.

Book Review

Nechama Tec, *Resilience and Courage: Women, Men, and the Holocaust* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003).

The subtitle of Nechama Tec's fifth book about the Holocaust signals her focus: This is a book about women, and it explicitly compares their experiences before and during the Holocaust to those of men. Tec judiciously avoids value judgments, noting

the impossibility of knowing whether women or men suffered more, or even whether more women than men were killed in the Holocaust. Yet she rejects arguments against considering gender in Holocaust studies and asserts that, while the destination of both women and men was the same, their path to destruction was different.

Tec approaches the Holocaust chronologically, moving from "In the Beginning" to chapters on the ghettos, then camps (5,800 in Poland alone), and through the Resistance to her conclusion. While other authors have debated whether women's roles in the underground (as couriers, forgers of documents, spies, and guides) can be credited as Resistance, Tec simply defines Resistance as any activity aimed at eliminating or reducing oppression, a range that leaves plenty of room for women's contributions. In the same way, she does not directly confront those historians who ask why the Jews had so little success in defending themselves but instead points out that by the time anyone in Poland saw the utility of resisting the Germans (particularly after their defeat at Stalingrad in 1943) most of the Jews had already been murdered or imprisoned. Furthermore, three-fourths of Poland's Jews were town- or city-dwellers ill-equipped to fight with the forest partisans, where the need for physical strength and manual skills inverted the social pyramid, creating a new aristocracy of men who had previously been at the bottom of the social ladder.

Although Tec is a professor of sociology (at the University of Connecticut), she uses little statistical research, basing her writing instead on interviews with over 300 Holocaust survivors, both men and women. A drawback of this method is that we hear their stories piecemeal; one segment may appear in an early chapter, "Life in the Ghetto," another in "Hiding and Passing in the Christian World," and a third in "Resistance." The advantage, however, is that it enables Tec to compare narratives of several experiences of hiding and passing before drawing conclusions. This technique makes her book an excellent background text for students reading individual Holocaust memoirs, since it fills in gaps and provides general information about topics such as the chances of surviving as a Jew outside the camps. The book's scholarly apparatus also increases its usefulness; in addition to an extensive bibliography, Tec includes an index, which lists, in addition to specific topics, names of people who were interviewed, so that entire life stories can be reassembled from the segments appearing in individual chapters.

Her conclusions make Tec's book valuable for all Holocaust scholars. She determines that since Jewish men were more socially integrated and more strongly identified with

their professions, the unemployment and loss of the ability to protect and provide for their families made it harder for them to cope and adjust to existence in the ghettos and camps. Women, by contrast, found that their skills, particularly in handling food and improving cleanliness and personal appearance, rose in value, enabling some of them to steel themselves against the depression and suicide that endangered men. She cites Virginia Woolf's opposition to patriarchal principles and asserts, with Woolf, that some principles – domination, competition, social differentiation, and jealousy – create a predisposition to war. A greater respect for such traditional female skills as cooperation, nurturing, and mutual support might direct nations along the path of peace. Tec finds these "feminine" principles exemplified in the Bielski triad, a group of 1,200 Jewish partisans living and fighting in the forests of Belarus.

Tec's fundamental contrast of masculine and feminine values and their impact on war and peace echoes Ruth Kluger's remark in *Still Alive; A Holocaust Girlhood Remembered*, where Kluger asks: "How are we ever going to understand what happens when a civilization comes apart at the seams, as it did in Germany, if we fail to see the most glaring distinctions, such as the gender gap?" Tec has produced a book that feminists can respect and which all scholars will find insightful, fair-minded, and readable.

– Helen Frink

Dr. Frink is a professor of modern languages at Keene State College, specializing in German. She teaches "Women and the Holocaust" as an elective in the Holocaust Studies program.

New Titles in the Cohen Center

Readers continue to give generously to develop the increasingly rich resources of the Holocaust Center. Although we're including a larger number of titles than usual in this edition of the newsletter, what follows still represents a fraction of the titles added to the collection since the fall 2003 issue of the newsletter. We would like to note, nonetheless, a special gift recently received from Dr. James Grubman for the purchase of children's books. Thank you all so much for your generosity.

– C. Paul Vincent

Aly, Götz, and Susanne Heim. *Architects of Annihilation: Auschwitz and the Logic of Destruction*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002.

Balakian, Peter. *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response*. New York: HarperCollins, 2003.