

Annual Report
The Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies
2009-10

Mission Statement

The Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies advances the public liberal arts mission of Keene State College by studying and bearing witness to the Holocaust and genocide in the hope that present and future generations take responsibility for building a world free of antisemitism, intolerance, and hate. To this end, the Cohen Center joins the campus community and its many partners in promoting an active and informed citizenry committed to mutual respect and justice.

Programmatic Goals – 2009-10

Goal One: To provide timely programs that energize awareness and reflection on the Holocaust and its impact in modern life as well as link Holocaust-related matters to the larger question of genocide. In this regard we held four major public events:

- The Annual Holocaust Memorial Lecture with Gerda Weissmann Klein – SRO with mixed audience of ~750 from campus and community.
- The annual community Kristallnacht Remembrance at The Colonial Theatre – a mixed audience of ~600 from campus and community, including leadership roles.
- Genocide Awareness Lecture held March 24 with Greg Stanton, President of Genocide Watch – mixed audience of ~300 from campus and community. Stanton also visited a class in comparative genocide as well as met with the Genocide Awareness Club and attended the dedication of the Cohen Center Reading Room as the Susan J. Herman Reading Room.
- Cohen Center Recognition Dinner (new) Hildebrandt Awards Event – Hildebrandt and the newly established Susan J. Herman Leadership Awards were presented at dinner followed by a public lecture by Michael Berenbaum in the context of a brief Holocaust remembrance ceremony. Approximate audience of 150 from community and campus.

Goal Two: To provide timely and intensive explorations of select topics in Holocaust studies and Genocide awareness for both the campus and the surrounding community. In this regard the Cohen Center held two day-long workshops for teachers and other educators as well as Keene State College faculty and students in the fall; co-sponsored a traveling exhibit of the USHMM in Washington, DC on *The Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals – 1933-45* (hosting visiting school groups, an opening reception, supported by a partner lecture sponsored by the Siddore Lecture Series on *The Gay Threat and the Nazi Imagination* by Geoffrey Giles); sponsored a weekend trip of 42 students to the USHMM in Washington DC April 23-25; and are sponsoring a ten day

Holocaust Studies tour of Central Europe June 7-18, for 21 participants including four students in the HGS academic program of the college.

Goal Three: To enhance the public profile and presence of the Cohen Center and its programmatic efforts. In this regard, the Center moved toward a balanced offering of programs throughout the year along with polishing the physical presence of the Center and developing the friendship base of the various constituencies that support the Center's work and mission. The Center hosted a summer "Gathering of Friends" in July 2009 at the College Camp, rewrote its mission statement following the formal renaming of the center to the Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies in September, continued to refine its biennial newsletter during the academic year, used the naming of the reading room as an opportunity to examine the physical image of the reading room by repainting the room, planning an honor wall, and using the Center's art work to express the Center's mission and its work of facing a genocidally-challenged world with increased understanding and care.

Goal Four: To be a catalytic presence in the community encouraging partnerships on campus and beyond that address the public liberal arts mission of the College through the more focused mission of the Cohen Center. In addition to the Kristallnacht Community Remembrance event with civic (mayor, police and fire chiefs) and other community leaders, the Cohen Center partnered with campus colleagues in sponsoring the visiting exhibit from the USHMM with the campus Diversity Commission, supported the Siddore Lecture of Prof. Geoffrey Giles on Feb. 1, supported a Sunday morning Holocaust Remembrance Service at the Church on the Square (Keene UCC) on May 3, and provided 34 visits to public schools throughout the state of New Hampshire during the 2009-10 academic year.

Goal Five: To provide outreach and support in the wider community that extend the mission and work of the Center to schools and other organizations involved in Holocaust education and the study of genocide. In this regard, our coordinator of educational outreach made on-site visits to approximately 4260 students at 34 different schools across the state, utilizing 13 different power point presentations. Those schools represent all sections of the state of NH. In addition, the Center hosted 3 groups who visited the campus exhibit on homosexual victimization during the Holocaust. The Center also hosted five interfaith post-Holocaust midrash groups during the academic year, including a midrash-in-the-round session in August as recommended by the Center's Advisory Council to introduce the wider community to this aspect of the Center's activities.

Collection

With the assistance of College Archivist Rodney Obion and interns in library studies from Simmons College, the Cohen Center reviewed and organized its internal archives for permanent storage in the College's new Archive Center in Mason Library. The storage closet with its records and video collection were reviewed with records relevant to the archives prepared for

their move to the new location and plans developed to move the media stored in the closet area to a designated section of the Center's collection along the south wall. 83 volumes were added to the collection since July 1, 2009, bringing our current holdings to 5692, 350 of which are DVDs and VHS videos (76 DVDs & 274 videos). In March, 2010, Mason Library liaison to the Cohen Center, Joleen Westerdale, conducted a review of our current holdings, providing a breakdown of the collection by categories, noting the need to continue building our holdings in genocide while maintaining our strength in Holocaust scholarship. That report is appended.

Challenges – 2009-10

For the third year in a row the Center was faced with a major staff change. In June 2009, Margaret Barney, Senior Program Administrative Assistant resigned for personal reasons and was replaced by Michele Kuiawa who joined the Center transferring from her position in Student Financial Services. In addition, the Center committed itself to developing a European travel seminar requiring the recruitment and planning of a ten-day international experience with limited staff resources. During this same time frame the academic program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies launched its first semester as a major and conducted an extensive search for the Cohen Chair in Holocaust & Genocide Studies – the first endowed chair in the history of the college. While separate from the Cohen Center, these activities with the academic program drew on resources of the Center as a co-curricular support structure for their work. In addition, approximately \$27,000 was given to the College for the dedication of the Cohen Center Reading Room in honor of Susan J. Herman following her untimely death last spring. This unexpected situation, along with a re-crafted mission statement from the fall, led to reconfiguring the newly named Susan J. Herman Reading Room to reflect the Center's mission and to honor award recipients of the Hildebrandt and Herman Awards, past and present. While the Cohen Center's fund-raising efforts were complicated by the multiple projects undertaken during the year, the unofficial goal of \$50,000 for the annual appeal was reached by early May, several weeks before the end of the fiscal year. We are proud to report that all the challenges were met successfully and in quality fashion.

Revenue Enhancement and Cost Containment in 9-10

Over 85% of the Cohen Center's ~\$40,000 program budget is supported by funds secured through private gifts and donations to the Cohen Center. During the 2009-10 academic year, the program was adequately supported through our fund raising efforts, underwriting the many programmatic efforts of the Center and the physical changes undertaken during the spring.

Outstanding Needs for 10-11/11-12

Two items stand out for the next two years: securing funds to underwrite the 2011 Summer Institute (~\$25,000) and developing a digital campus as a critical feature of the Cohen Center and its network of friends and programs. This latter goal will require dedicated expertise that helps us move from a passive web presence to a more active program of digital outreach.

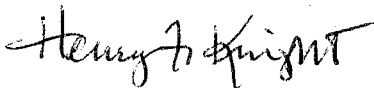
However this goal is achieved – through a volunteer network (Cohen Fellows?), student internships, or part-time staffing, the Center will need the help of a person with requisite skills to give regular and ongoing attention to coordinating this effort.

Assessment, Planning, Advising Past & Future

The CC revised its mission statement during the fall of 2009 involving its Advisory Council and staff in many conversations seeking clarity and focus in linking the Center's mission with that of the College. In addition, the staff has identified a series of goals and assessment indicators that will help the Center to sharpen its work for the coming year. The Advisory Council will continue to meet for planning and advising in the coming year, following the revised set of guidelines it developed during 2009. In addition, the Staff developed revised goals and assessment documents (see attached) that it believes will aid in future planning of the Center's programs.

Revenue Enhancement and Cost Containment Plans for 10-11

The Cohen Center will continue to work with the KSC Development Office in cultivating the financial support of its network of friends with two annual appeals letters supported by student phone contact. In addition, key supporters/friends will be cultivated beginning with the European trip of June 2010, continuing to provide timely friendship events for the Center and its programs. With assistance from the Development Office, the Director of the Cohen Center and Dean of Arts and Humanities will identify and visit with prospective supporters of the Center's program. Grant monies and other funds will be sought to underwrite the 2011 Summer Institute.



Henry F. Knight, Director
Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies

Mission of The Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

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[To study and bear witness to the Holocaust and genocide in the hope that present and future generations take responsibility for building a world free of antisemitism, intolerance, and hate.]

Objectives of Center	Learning & Programmatic Activities	Outcomes
<p>1. To provide intensive learning experiences for the students of Keene State College & beyond to engage the Holocaust and its impact on the world and our lives in it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual USHMM Trip • Day-long Thematic Workshops: • Travel Seminars • Post-Shoah Midrash • Summer Institute • Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals – 1933-45 USHMM Exhibit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44 students (11 from A & H, 11 from Prof. Studies, 17 from Sci & Soc. Sci, 5 Undeclared and 4 staff members) • Two fall workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germans Confronting a Difficult Past (46 p. incl. 10 fellows, 8 KSC students, 8 Dublin School students, 2 Monadnock students, 1 Conant HS student) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anguished Hope-Holocaust Scholars Confront the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict (34 p. incl. 9 Fellows, 7 KSC students, 6 KSC faculty/staff, 1 KSC emeritus fac.) • 2010 Summer European Trip (21 participants – 4 fac/staff, 4 KSC students, 11 community members)
<p>2. To provide timely learning experiences that enhance the learning of KSC students in the Holocaust & Genocide Studies Academic Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General encouragement • Guest lecturers in classes • Workshops (see above) • Coordination of course work and public events with KSC faculty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 page Equinox (student publication) spread on genocide • Reports from 6 faculty - extra credit given to approx. ¼ of students in their HGS classes • Students in 8 classes submitted reflection papers on CC events for their HGS classes.

<p>3. To develop partnerships at KSC & in the community which embody the public liberal arts mission of the college and the more specific mission of the Cohen Center</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kaddish</i> • Kristallnacht Remembrance • Herman Awards • Hildebrandt Awards • USHMM Trip • USHMM Traveling Photo Exhibit • Jewish Federation for the Righteous • NH Humanities Council • Public School Presentations • Synagogues • Programs with Local Churches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nov 9 K'nacht Program with Colonial Theater, MoCo, KSC Chamber Singers, Keene Chamber Singers, Congregation Ahavas Achim • USHMM Exhibit – Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals co-sponsored with KSC Commission on Diversity & others, • Co-sponsored Siddore Lecture with Geoffrey Giles “The Gay Threat and the Nazi Imagination” • Ecumenical commemoration of Yom Hashoah, May 2nd, 1st Congregational Church & Cong. Ahavas Achim • Consultation with St. James Episcopal Church for Post-Holocaust Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday
<p>4. To cultivate an energizing, communicative presence & process expressive of the work and mission of the Cohen Center</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Campus • Herman Reading Room • Advancement letters • Newsletter • Promotional posters • Marketing (invitations) • Website (In their Own Words) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 2009 Gathering of Friends – 72 people • Cohen Center Website • Reconfigured Reading Room • Newsletter twice a year (sent to Approx. 2,000 recipients)
<p>5. To provide public occasions that raise important questions and concerns related to living responsibly in a post-Holocaust and genocidal world</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holocaust Memorial Lecture • Education outreach • Genocide Awareness Lecture • Midrash in the round • Hildebrandt Awards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerda Weissman Klein, Sept '09 lecture – attendance ≥ 750 • K'nacht Nov '09 – attendance ≥600 • Siddore Lecture with Geoffrey Giles, Feb '10 – attendance ≥150

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yom HaShoah • Siddore Lecture • Gathering of Friends • Kristallnacht 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greg Stanton, March '10 lecture attendance ≥ 250 • CC Recognition Dinner/ Award presentation with Michael Berenbaum, attendance ≥ 50 • Michael Berenbaum public lecture – attendance ≥ 150
<p>6. To provide resources (books, videos, speakers & teachers) that enhance the study of the Holocaust and Genocide</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speakers Bureau • Electronic campus • Telling their stories • Video archive of events • Video collections • HGS Faculty • Print Collection (books and periodicals) • Herman Room • Art & Poster series • Artifacts • Power Point Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate programs with 9 full time and 2 part time faculty at KSC who teach in the HGS acad. program • Reviewed collection and organized archives • Added 83 volumes to the CC collection totaling 5692 volumes • CoEO made 34 presentations to area school with 13 PPT presentations