



Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies

KEENE STATE COLLEGE

KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

WWW.KEENE.EDU/CCHS

Forthcoming Events

March 26, 2009

Film Screening & Discussion

Award-winning filmmaker Abraham Ravett, Putnam Lecture Hall, KSC, 7 p.m., Free & Open to the Public

April 10-16

Defiance Film Screening

Putnam Lecture Hall, KSC, various times

April 17-19 2009

Student Trip to the U.S.

Holocaust Memorial Museum

April 20, 2009

12th Annual Charles

Hildebrandt Holocaust Studies Awards

Redfern Arts Center on Brickyard Pond, KSC, 7 p.m. Free & Open to the Public

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The Shape of Things to Come

Last spring, the Cohen Center staff met for a day-long retreat with its advisory council to ponder the shape of the Center's programmatic footprint in the life of Keene

State College and the various communi-

ties we serve. We considered our major public events, our student-oriented programs, the resources we make available, and our general expressions of educational outreach to teachers and other leaders in the area.

That conversation continues in our staff meetings and in subsequent meetings of our advisory council, as well as with faculty colleagues on the Holocaust Studies Council, which Paul Vincent convenes and coordinates. We invite all of you who receive this newsletter to join in that process with us as well.

One of the obvious conclusions of these discussions is that the programmatic offerings of the Cohen Center, as well as its library of books and other media, are first class. The New England Board of Higher Education recognized our work last year with the New Hampshire state merit award. More importantly, those of us directly engaged in the work of the Center know the extensive network of commitment and support we have established and the role we play in pursuing the active witness to post-Holocaust responsibility initiated by Chuck

Hildebrandt 25 years ago. He drew many others into this sense of purpose, and now we build on that legacy as we anticipate the near future and long-term prospects of our work.

In the fall, we extended the scope

of our activities to partner with KSC's Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery for an exhibition in honor of our 25th anniversary.

In addition, we were supported by the College's Theatre, Dance and Music departments as they presented an evening of music, dance, and theatre, *Inspired by Kaddish*.

With these partnerships occurring in November, that meant

that the Cohen Center was engaged in five major programs on campus during the fall semester: the Memorial Holocaust Lecture, the Genocide Awareness Lecture, Kristallnacht Remembrance, the Thorne-Sagendorph exhibit with a complementary symposium on the work of Samuel Bak, and the campus production of *Inspired By Kaddish*. In addition, the Center, through the efforts of Tom White (Educational Outreach) and Margaret Barney (Sr. Program Support Assistant) provided some outstanding workshops for teachers and our fall Newsletter. We were very active.

Recently the staff took a day to catch our breath and re-enter the conversation about the shape of our work and witness at the Center. We recognized that our program calendar was heavily weighted toward the fall semester, with understandable reasons associated with New England weather patterns. Still, we thought we could



Center Director Hank Knight & Artist and Survivor Samuel Bak

Continued on page 10

"To Remember...and to Teach"

Dr. Henry Knight, Director ♣ Thomas White, Educational Outreach Coordinator ♣ Margaret Barney, Sr. Program Support Assistant

Miriam Morgenstern, (Lowell High School, Lowell, Massachusetts) is teaching a course at her school called "Cambodia: Culture and Conflict." Lowell has the second largest Southeast Asian population in the United States. This is the first time a course about Cambodia has been offered at the high school.

Vicky Pittman, (The Colonial Theatre, Keene, New Hampshire)

coordinated a partnership between The Colonial Theatre and the Martin Luther King/Jonathan Daniels Memorial Committee in Keene to present a screening of **Sweet Honey in the Rock: Raise your Voice**, a documentary following the legendary a capella singing group and their work over the last 30 years. The screening, held on January 22, was followed by a panel discussion on the topic of social justice and civil liberties. The panelists were: **Dr. Joseph Darby**, Associate Professor of Music at Keene State College, **Dr. Steve Chase**, Director of the Environmental Advocacy and Organizing Program at Antioch University New England, **Dr. Dottie R. Morris**, Interim Chief Officer for Diversity and Multiculturalism at Keene State College and **Dr. Donald L. Shumway**, President of Crotched Mountain.

Livia Gardian's (Slovakia) students have written a series of responses to their trip to Auschwitz, titled, "Impressions of Auschwitz". They can be found on the Cohen Center web site, www.keene.edu/cchs.

Pat Moriarty (Minnechaug Regional H.S., Wilbraham, Massachusetts) reports that blogging with German students has been a great success. His students blogged with Rainer Ecker's students of Droyssig, Germany, with the wonderful assistance of another CCHS fellow *Dan Donnellan*.

During November and December 2008, the students discussed issues ranging from perceptions of the Holocaust in both nations to global issues including the war in Iraq.

Peter Majoy, (Nashua H.S. South, Nashua, New Hampshire)

continues his research into the phenomenon of local, small town antisemitism and other poisonous attempts at hate spread toward other groups. This fall, his sophomore students participated in a sub-unit on the Holocaust which featured the reading of Elie Wiesel's *Night* as its centerpiece, along with Holocaust survivor poetry. Included in the unit were viewings of Weisel's walk through Auschwitz with Oprah Winfrey, the film, *Paper Clips*, and *Anne Frank: The Whole Story*. The unit culminated with a visit from Tom White. Students were to write a letter to Elie Wiesel after reading *Night* and viewing his return trip to Auschwitz with Oprah. Peter writes, "The results were letters that contained some of the most moving material I have ever read students compose." Peter also referenced *Kaddish* during this unit, utilizing the curriculum provided by Jane Shapiro, adding, "This semester, I plan to give a special place in the unit for *Kaddish* material/activities."

Katarina Mlynarcikova, (Slovakia), is currently working on a classroom project to honor Nicholas Winton (*The Power of Good*). Her students hope to contribute essays, power point presentations and video projects to the ongoing effort to bring awareness to Winton's work. We were able to put Katarina in touch with Peter A. Rafaeli, Hon.Consul General of the Czech Republic/Hon.gen.konzul CR Philadelphia; Vice President of American Friends of the Czech Republic; Director-Friends of Slovakia who is offering to assist developing the project further.



From the Center Out

Springtime is upon us! Although we were forced to be flexible with our original winter schedule of events, I am pleased by the ongoing work of the ever-growing circles of friends who continue to spread the mission of the Cohen Center. In this edition, you will read about some exciting programs initiated by CCHS Fellows who have helped many to continually engage the ongoing challenges that the Shoah present. Our efforts have tapped into local and international resources and have followed this year's workshop theme

of "Interrupting Prejudice: Disrupting Hatred." As our circles grow out from the Center we are witnessing an ever increasing reach to our work. New ideas have been generated that show great potential as we tap into talents both here on campus and in the greater community. With the new Holocaust and Genocide Studies Major, our talented group of teachers, growing collaborations and new supporters, there is much to celebrate!

~Tom White

Keene State College Announces Major in Holocaust & Genocides Studies

Keene State College is pleased to announce a new baccalaureate degree in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The interdisciplinary undergraduate Holocaust and Genocide Studies major is currently accepting students for the 2009-10 academic year.

The Holocaust and Genocide Studies curriculum combines historical study with an interdisciplinary exploration of both the Holocaust and other genocidal events. The major incorporates film, literature, philosophy, psychology, sociology, religious studies, women's studies, and other offerings. With an understanding of such issues as prejudice, discrimination, and racism, students master the skills needed to analyze contemporary political situations, think

critically about ethical responsibility, and respond to injustice.

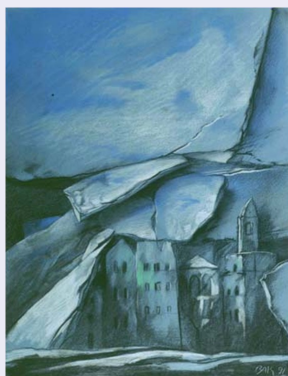
"These skills are at the heart of a liberal arts education," said Cohen Center Director Dr. Henry Knight. "In a world still tormented by mass murder, studying the Holocaust offers an analytical framework that can help us to understand ongoing global genocide."

Program graduates will be prepared to support social studies and history curriculum development, and to pursue careers in social and governmental service. The major also prepares students for graduate studies in history as well as Holocaust and genocide studies, and for other post-graduate work, such as law.

New Bak Works



Samek-9, 1999, Brown Crayon



Blue Sky, 1991
Mixed Media on Paper

Images courtesy of Pucker Gallery, Boston, MA
www.puckergallery.com

The Cohen Center is the proud owner of two new Sam Bak original works of art. Visitors will want to examine the two new additions to the Center: *Blue Sky*, 1991 and *Samek-9*, 1999. *Blue Sky* was purchased as part of our agreement with the Pucker Gallery in hosting the Bak exhibit at the Thorne-Sagendorph this past fall. *Samek-9* is a gift of the Pucker Gallery in honor of our visiting scholars from the Bak symposium, Gary Phillips and Danna Nolan Fewell. Signed copies of their book, *Representing the Irreparable: The Shoah, the Bible, and the Art of Samuel Bak* are available at the Cohen Center. Please contact Margaret Barney (mbarney@keene.edu or 603-358-2490) if you wish to purchase a copy of this remarkable book.

CCHS Resources for Teachers

For a list of free presentations for the classroom, visit www.keene.edu/cchs/presentations.cfm.

Missing: Black Trench Coat & Keys

It was a chilly, misty New England evening in early May. As I hung my black trench coat amongst the many other wet and glistening coats on the racks at the Redfern Center, I hesitated. I hate having bulky things in my pockets. Do I take my keys into the Kaddish performance or leave them in my trench coat pocket? You know the answer: I left them. After the exhilarating performance and some considerable socializing, a single black trench coat remained hanging on the rack. As I slipped on my coat and headed for my car, I felt for my keys. Gone! I went back and searched the floor around the racks. Vanished! Only when I took off the coat and noticed it was a size 40 short (I wear 40 regular) did I realize someone mistakenly took my coat.

So no, this is not the opening paragraph of a long lost Dashiell Hammet novel. But if you or someone you know found a strange set of keys in your trench coat pocket, I would welcome a call. I'll swap coats and take the keys, no questions asked.

Call Daniel Henderson 320-0906.

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Kristallnacht Remembrance 2008



Pierre Sauvage (R) speaks with Father Samir Habibi

With the support of the Singer Family Foundation, the New Hampshire Humanities Council, The Class of 1939 Fund, Pepsi, and the KSC International Speakers Grant, I was fortunate to fulfill a long-imagined dream of tying the wartime rescue work of the village of Le Chambon to the mission of the Cohen Center. With the legacy of Jonathan Daniels, native son of Keene and civil rights martyr, Keene has come to see itself as a place nurturing a sense of social justice and civic responsibility. Pierre Sauvage, a Jewish child born during the Holocaust in Le Chambon, a village in southern France, came to Keene in November, as both the keynote speaker for the Remembrance and to lead a teacher development workshop, "The Challenge of Le Chambon," the following day.

An estimated 350-400 people attended the Remembrance at the Colonial Theater in downtown Keene, including numerous community organizations and officials who also contributed to the event. Pierre's presentation greatly moved the audience and touched upon the very issues the Remembrance focuses on: eternal vigilance and the importance of taking a stand against bigotry and hatred.

Continued on page 9



(L-R) Bill Heyman, Vicki Pittman, CCHS Fellow, Pierre Sauvage & Alec Doyle

Hope and Remembering: Honoring and Healing



Deb Barry, CCHS Fellow

It was last spring when I first spoke to Tom White about extending the outreach of The Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies to the seacoast where I live. I had known Tom for several years and was well aware of the valuable work he and the CCHS do. We met for lunch and did some brainstorming about what would be most effective for this area, settling on a film and discussion series to begin early in the fall of 2008. I had recently left the classroom to begin working with a new non-profit organization I was forming, Awareness UNlimited, through which I hope to reach out to schools, corporations, and other communities to facilitate and produce awareness and diversity programming. This collaboration with the CCHS seemed a perfect fit. Portsmouth Community Radio also joined us as a sponsor of the series, providing us the opportunity to reach out to communities in the area through on-air promotion and a special series of programs centered on each of the five films and presenters included in the *Hope and Remembering: Honoring and Healing* series. None of us foresaw how remarkable this series would turn out to be.

Between the time we began to work on the idea of the film series and the first screening in September 2008, I spent one of the most inspiring, rewarding, and intense weeks of my life at the CCHS Summer Institute for Educators and became a Fellow of the Center. After this amazing week of hearing from and talking with many, many unforgettable people — knowledgeable professors, engaging speakers, courageous survivors and rescuers, and the outstanding educators who were co-participants (some of whom became special friends) — producing the film series took on new meaning for me. I left the Summer Institute with an indefinable connection to the time of the Holocaust and a strong desire to continue to explore its meaning not only in a historical context but also from the human perspective of our time and times to come.

The films and presenters selected for our series were quite varied but shared the themes of hope at the time of the Holocaust and the future; remembering the time, the people, the lives; honoring not only the dead but also those who survived and some who helped others survive; and healing from very personal to very universal perspectives.

...a middle-aged man whose family comes from Austria and Hungary sitting in the audience emotionally sharing with us his long-time search for information about his family's roles in the Holocaust, suspecting his grandfather had been a perpetrator. Tears in many eyes....smiles on many faces. Questions about family, faith, evil and goodness.

The films and presenters I was so privileged to work with included: *Angels of Austria: the Church That Reached Out to Holocaust Survivors* with Judith C. Faust, filmmaker; *Secret Courage: The Walter Suskind Story* with filmmakers Tim and Karen Morse; *Telling Their Stories: NH Holocaust Survivors Speak Out* with Tom White, CCHS; *Bonhoeffer* with theologian and scholar Dr. Martin Rumscheidt

Special thanks go to the congregation at Temple Israel in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, for allowing us to hold our events there each month. Their lovely facility and warm staff (Al, the technical guru, was fabulous) provided a welcoming space for our audiences and presenters. I enjoyed seeing many familiar faces in the audience each month as well as many new faces as the number of participants grew over the months.

There are too many stories and images to share here about working on this project, but I do want to include a few to help create a better sense of the remarkable nature of this film/discussion series: An audience of twelve at the first

screening intensely and passionately engaged in an intimate discussion about who has the right to forgive. A 97 year old woman in the audience talking about being a girl in Germany and clearly remembering hearing Hitler's name for the first time, not knowing who he was, and her grandmother telling her, "...very bad for us Jewish people." A middle-aged man whose family comes from Austria and Hungary sitting in the audience emotionally sharing with us his long-time search for information about his family's roles in the Holocaust, suspecting his grandfather had been a perpetrator. Tears in many eyes....smiles on many faces. Questions about family, faith, evil and goodness. Martin Rumscheidt teary-eyed and choked up because he was so moved by being able to share his thoughts at the temple. Tim Morse talking about his perception that, "There's a dearth of role models in this country...We need good examples of good and ethical behavior in really difficult times...When do you stand up? When do you take action? When do you do the right thing?" It was a congregation of people from many faiths connecting with one another and the world.

I have no doubt that everyone involved with each of our films and discussions took away something unique and something shared. For me, there is a renewed and strengthened desire to continue my own explorations, and bring others along with me. It has, indeed, been a time of hope, remembering, honoring, and healing.

~Deb Barry, CCHS Fellow, Portsmouth, NH

Deb Barry is a Fellow of the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies and Executive Director of Awareness UNlimited. Contact her at: deb@awareness-unlimited or via www.awareness-unlimited.com



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1. Hank Knight, Prof. Donald Bloxham & KSC student, Lauren Dance; 2. Hank Knight, Sam Bak, Danna Nolan Fewell & Gary Phillips; 3. Donald Bloxham; 4. Rob Hamel, CCHS Fellow, student Sarah Tremblay & survivor Tom Weisshaus; 5. Audience at Portsmouth Film Festival; 6. Sam Bak with Self Portrait, 1995; 7. Rep. Molly Kelly & Jan Cohen; 8. Rick Durck, Portsmouth Community Radio, Deb Barry, CCHS Fellow & Martin Rumscheidt; 9. Paul Vincent, Pierre Sauvage & Hank Knight

Partisans Persecuted in Lithuania



Marjorie Margolis,
CCHS Fellow

Dr. Rachel Margolis, a retired biology professor of the University of Vilna, a former partisan, and the only member of our European family who survived the Holocaust.

I visited Rachel in the summer of 2006 and returned with the mission of bringing her story to American readers. Rachel's memoir is already published in Russian, Polish, and German, and its English translation has just been completed. Unexpectedly, the publication of Rachel's book has taken me on a journey that has turned out to be the seminal project of my life. It has linked me to the world of Vilna, where my family once flourished and then was massacred, and it now links me to a country where a new atmosphere of anti-Semitism is stewing.

In 2007, the Lithuanian judicial system launched a campaign to discredit Jewish Holocaust partisans as "war criminals" by culling their memoirs to find "evidence" of war crimes done to Lithuanian civilians by Soviet partisans. Their harassment at first was aimed at Yitzhak Arad (the former director of Yad Vashem) and then spread to its persecution of three other elderly survivors, including my cousin. These partisans were of Jewish, Russian, and

In 2004, my cousins hired a Lithuanian researcher to explore the Margolis family records, and we learned for the first time of our grandfather's three Lithuanian brothers and their families, as well as an ex-wife in Norway, who were all shot by Einsatzgruppen, the SS mobile killing squads. However, this researcher also introduced us to her hero and our cousin,

Lithuanian heritage, but Lithuania is only charging the Jews as war criminals. In September 2007, charges against Arad were dropped but no word was issued about my cousin Rachel Margolis nor the other Lithuanian partisan, Fania Brantsovsky, who is the librarian at the Yiddish Institute in Vilnius. They are living their final days under a cloud of suspicion rather than lauded for their heroism (as Rachel had been in a formal ceremony hosted by the Lithuanian Prime Minister in 2005).

Since the end of January 2008, there have been several editorials in Vilna's newspaper calling for the arrest of "Jewish terrorists" and on March 11th there was a police-escorted Nazi march in Vilna with crowds chanting, "Kill that little Jew." (Translated copy of these Lithuanian editorials as well

as video-streamed news are available.) On May 5, two armed men in dark suits came to the address where Rachel is registered in Vilnius as a resident each summer, asking to interview her. Fortunately, Rachel was in Israel. She has been advised not to return to Lithuania. On Tish B'av, three Jewish Community Centers were vandalized with anti-Semitic graffiti, one of them containing blood. There are fewer than 4,000 Jews left in Lithuania and they fear for their safety.

On August 1, 2008, three members of the Congress of the United States, Paul Hodes, Robert Wexler (chairman of the subcommittee on Europe) and Howard Berman (Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs), issued an appeal to the prime minister of Lithuania concerning the persecution of Holocaust survivors who joined the anti-Nazi partisan resistance to survive. The letter is fully accessible at <http://www.genshoah.org/CongressForLJCo80108.pdf>

To date, there has been no response to this letter.



Rachel Margolis (L) & Marjorie Margolis(R)

Kristallnacht...[con't from pg. 6]

My thanks go out to Cheshire TV, Keene's local cable channel which aired Sauvage's film *Weapons of the Spirit*, the Keene Sentinel which created a brief video about this year's Remembrance (viewable on-line at <http://www.keenesentinel.com/mediabin/videos/videopages/Kristallnacht.html>) and the staff of the Colonial Theatre, especially CCHS Fellow Vicky Pittman, my co-chair of this year's Remembrance. Thanks also go to CCHS Fellow Michele Thomas, whose students from Wilton-Lyndeborough High School created a striking display about the history of Kristallnacht for the event.

Finally, I am indebted to the work of Congressman Paul Hodes and his colleagues Henry Waxman and Robert Wexler who passed a Congressional resolution recognizing the 70th anniversary of the Kristallnacht pogrom. (see: www.keene.edu/cchs/kristallnacht.cfm) His efforts on behalf of CCHS and JFR Fellow Marjorie Margolis in support of Rachel Margolis from Lithuania embody the Center's founding charge, "To Remember...and to Teach."

~Tom White



Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies

"To Remember...and to Teach"

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Shape... [con't from pg. 1]

find better balance by fine-tuning our current offerings and enriching our work with some new ones.

Consequently, we are projecting a programmatic year with two major events in the fall and two in the spring semester, followed by a significant, yet focused, summer opportunity. Accompanying our major events, we continue to plan new workshops for teachers and other educators; we will offer occasional events designed to highlight the work of KSC faculty, Cohen Center Fellows, and area survivors; and will continue to offer dialogue opportunities for persons interested in sustained engagement with timely topics. More specifically, we plan to move the Genocide Awareness Lecture to March enabling us to emphasize the Holocaust Memorial Lecture in September and the Kristallnacht Remembrance in November. We intend to hold the next Genocide Awareness Lecture in March 2010, during the week following spring break, complemented by an annual recognition dinner for the Center, to be held on the same evening we host the Hildebrandt Awards, in mid-April. When appropriate, as it will be this year, we will continue to honor Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) on this occasion. To set aside this activity with dignity, we anticipate a ritualized transition from one setting to the other – for example, a silent procession from the dinner to the location of a more formal program. The annual student trip to Washington in the spring is always much-anticipated, and will remain an integral part of the Center's offerings to KSC students.

Along with other occasional events that arise, our goal is to offer energizing programming for our communities in a balanced way throughout the year. In addition, we will be exploring ways our electronic presence can grow richer and our collections more actively utilized by our various constituents. And this is only the Center's side of things.

During the last year, Paul Vincent, Coordinator of our academic program in Holocaust Studies, has led a focused effort to grow our current minor in Holocaust Studies to a major in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The key decision-makers in the University System of New Hampshire have enthusiastically taken each of the steps in that process. We are excited, therefore, to announce that our new undergraduate major was formally approved by the Board last month. When that decision is added to the College's commitment to hire a new position in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, it becomes even clearer how much the College and community of Keene have embraced our mandate *To Remember...and to Teach*. This coming year the College will welcome a visiting scholar in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and the following year, after undertaking a major search, we will welcome the College's first endowed chair holder to our faculty as the Cohen Chair in Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

As you can see, we have many reasons to be excited about the shape of our work and the good things that are coming our way. Thank you for being a vital member of our expanding circle of friends.

~Hank Knight
