

2016 - 2017 Edition

Newsletter

NATIONAL CATHOLIC CENTER
FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

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Center Publishes LeFrak Proceedings

by Dr. James Paharik

The Holocaust and Nostra Aetate: Toward a Greater Understanding (Seton Hill University, 2017, edited by **Carol Rittner, RSM**), is the proceedings of the Ethel LeFrak Holocaust Education Conference which took place at Seton Hill University in the Fall of 2015.

The conference commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the landmark Vatican II document, "Nostra Aetate: A Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions." It featured many leading scholars of Jewish-Christian relations, including:

Mary C. Boys, SNJM; John Pawlikowski, OSM; Kevin Spicer, CSC; John K. Roth; Dennis McManus; Elena Procario-Foley; and Steven Leonard Jacobs.



The volume includes fifteen papers and an afterword by **Gemma Del Duca, SC**, co-founder of Seton Hill's National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education.

The papers in this impressive volume focus on examining the meaning of *Nostra Aetate* in the context of its time, documenting its impact on Jewish-Christian relations, and reflecting on how it might continue to nurture Jewish-Christian understanding in the future. The contributors make it clear that *Nostra Aetate* dramatically

Holocaust By Bullets Forensics Tour: Georgetown University & Seton Hill University

A total of thirty students from Seton Hill and Georgetown participated on an eight-day forensics tour in March to the killing fields of the Holocaust in Poland and Belarus. The forensics trip was part of a three-credit spring semester course.

Fr. Patrick Desbois, a French Catholic priest and noted Holocaust historian, led the excursion in Eastern Europe.

Fr. Dennis McManus of Georgetown, and **Dr. Tim Crain** of Seton Hill, also participated on the tour. Both Fr. Desbois and Fr. McManus presented at the 2015 Ethel LeFrak Holocaust Education Conference at Seton Hill.

The classroom aspect of the course focused on the Holocaust itself, with particular focus on the legacy of Christian anti-Judaism, Germany's defeat in World War I, and the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party.



Fr. Dennis McManus, Georgetown University, Fitzgerald Robertson, Seton Hill University student, and Dr. Tim Crain, Director of Seton Hill University's National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education

Most victims of the Holocaust died in death camps or concentration camps during World War II. The Holocaust forensics tour though focused more on Jews who were murdered and buried in mass graves across Poland and Belarus.

The trip began in Poland, and the first stop was Auschwitz, where an estimated 1.1 million people were murdered, most within hours of their arrival at the camp.



Fr. Patrick Desbois and Dr. Tim Crain

In Belarus, the Georgetown/Seton Hill group interviewed eyewitnesses to the murders, and also discovered three new mass graves outside of Brest, that contained the corpses of over 1,000 Jews. The forensics tour focused a good deal of attention on the cities of

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Dear Friends

of Seton Hill University's National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education,

The past year has been very exciting and productive as the National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education continues to expand. The year was highlighted by Seton Hill University's participation in a joint forensics tour with **Fr. Patrick Desbois** of Georgetown University, to the killing fields of the Holocaust in Poland and Belarus. Patrick Desbois, a French Catholic priest, has dedicated his life to identifying mass graves in Eastern Europe in an attempt



to better understand the murder of millions of Jews during World War II. His research has uncovered thousands of mass graves, containing the corpses of over one million Jews. Many of you would remember Patrick Desbois and his excellent keynote lecture during the 2015 Ethel LeFrak Holocaust Education Conference at Seton Hill University. The March tour to Belarus and Poland was an unforgettable experience for Seton Hill and Georgetown University students.

I had the privilege of presenting at a number of academic conferences over the past year. I delivered lectures at the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities in Washington D.C., the Lessons and Legacies Conference at Claremont McKenna College, and Manhattan College's Abrahamic Religions: Challenges and Cooperation in the Age of Extremism. I participated as part of a panel discussion on the Syrian Refugee Crisis at Ohio State University, and continued Holocaust teacher training in Pennsylvania and at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center outside

of Chicago in Skokie. I also attended Association of Holocaust Organization (AHO) conferences in Cincinnati, New Orleans, and Seattle, as well as an interfaith symposium in Aspen that focused on the common bonds of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Interfaith dialogue has long been a major part of our Center since its inception, and I have been very impressed with the many rabbis, priests, and sisters we work with, as well as many outstanding Jews, Catholics, and Protestants. The National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education began in 1987 with an interfaith Kristallnacht commemoration. We were honored to have four Holocaust survivors this past November. **Ruth Drescher**, Holocaust survivor, delivered the keynote lecture, and she discussed her early life in Nazi Germany. **Yolanda Willis, Shulamit Bastacky, and Solange Lebovitz** also described their experiences during the Holocaust. The interfaith service marked the 30th anniversary of our Center, started by our two co-founders, **Sr. Mary Noël Kernan, S.C.**, and **Sr. Gemma Del Duca, S.C.**

We look forward to two major events in the upcoming year. This fall, the National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education is co-sponsoring a conference with Northern Arizona University entitled, "Strangers or Neighbors? Abrahamic Perspectives on Refugees," October 15-17, 2017, in Flagstaff, Arizona. **Bjorn Krondorfer**, director of the Martin Springer Institute at Northern Arizona University, and I have been planning this conference for a number of years. The Arizona symposium will bring together scholars from Judaism, Christianity, and Islam who will address major challenges associated with the most significant refugee crisis since World War II. Our triennial Ethel LeFrak Conference, which will focus on women, the Holocaust, and genocide, will be held in October of 2018. We anticipate an excellent and informative conference.

The calendar of our Center continues to fill with lectures, films, and countless other events. I have been traveling extensively meeting friends of our Center, National Advisory Board members, educators, and countless others. It has been a most rewarding experience. I thank you for your continual support of the National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education, and I wish you the very best.

Tim Crain, Ph.D.
Director, National Catholic Center
for Holocaust Education

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re-oriented Catholic doctrine toward Jews and Judaism by calling for a rejection of the "teaching of contempt" toward Jews which had characterized aspects of Church teaching before World War II. They also point out that *Nostra Aetate* affirmed the Jewish roots of Christianity as well as the eternal covenant between God and the Jewish people.

To a large extent, *Nostra Aetate* was motivated by awareness of the great damage that centuries of Christian antisemitism did to Jewish-Christian relations. In Germany, the contempt, which many Church leaders had expressed toward Jews, provided the cultural context that permitted Nazi anti-Jewish propaganda to flourish. As Kevin Spicer explains, though there were certainly notable exceptions, many German clerics discussed the "Jewish question" in terms strikingly similar to those used by the Nazis. With the publication of *Nostra Aetate*, the Church emphatically declared once and for all that such views were fundamentally contrary to Catholic doctrine.

Dennis McManus, John K. Roth and John Pawlikowski carefully document the changes in Catholic liturgy and theology that were engendered by *Nostra Aetate*. Examples of the latter are Pope John Paul II's 1997 speech, "The Roots of Anti-Judaism in the Catholic Church," and Pope Benedict XVI's 2011 book *Jesus of Nazareth*. In her contribution, Carol Rittner reviews the pioneering initiatives begun by Catholic women before and after Vatican II to foster a respectful and constructive Jewish-Christian dialogue.

A number of papers ask whether the positive developments in Jewish-Christian relations inspired by *Nostra Aetate* will continue into the future. Events such as wars and rebellions

in the Middle East and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have the potential to undermine the progress of the past half-century. Yet as **Mary Jo Leddy** points out, an important lesson learned both from the Holocaust and more recent tragedies is the necessity of respecting the "authority of those who suffer." Similarly, **Bjorn Krondorfer** argues persuasively for a renewed commitment to "unsettling empathy" as a means of attaining reconciliation in this current climate of religious and political strife. These ethical commitments will serve us well in advancing *Nostra Aetate's* legacy of tolerance and constructive dialogue in the years to come.

An additional highlight of the conference was the presentation by **Father Patrick Desbois**, author of *Holocaust by Bullets*, describing the efforts of his organization, Yahad – In Unum, to document the Nazi mass murders of Jews in Eastern Europe. The proceedings contain an edited transcript of Desbois' address, which recounts in riveting detail what he has learned in the process of identifying the burial sites and interviewing eyewitnesses to the atrocities.

Another feature of the volume is the paper by **George D. Schwab**, a Latvian Jewish survivor of the Holocaust and retired Professor of History. His poignant reflection is excerpted from his forthcoming



Elisa Di Simone of Staten Island, NY, completed requirements for a graduate certificate in Genocide and Holocaust Studies during the spring semester, and she traveled to Seton Hill University to participate in the May 13, 2017 Commencement. Elise teaches religion at St. Joseph Academy High School. From left to right above are: **Wilda Kaylor, CIHS 2000, NCCHE Associate Director, James Paharik, CIHS '05, Professor of Sociology and Genocide and Holocaust Studies Coordinator, Elisa, and Dr. John Spurlock, CIHS '91, Professor of History.**

memoir about World War II and the Holocaust.

Finally, the book is graced with many illustrations by Polish-Jewish artist **Arthur Szyk**. It also includes an overview of Szyk's Holocaust-related work written by **Irvin Ungar**, Curator of the Arthur Szyk Society.

Book Review by Dr. James Paharik, Professor of Sociology and Coordinator of Seton Hill University's Genocide and Holocaust Studies Program.

The price of the book is \$15.00. To obtain a copy, contact the Center via email, ncche@setonhill.edu, or by telephone, 724-830-1033.

Holocaust By Bullets Forensics Tour: Georgetown University & Seton Hill University Continued from page 1

Krakow, Brest, and Minsk.

Although the eight-day trip was not uplifting, many students from the two universities described it as "life-changing." It was a tremendous honor for students from Seton Hill University and Georgetown University to participate on a forensics tour with Fr. Patrick Desbois and his organization Yahad-In Unum. The trip illustrated the dangers of bigotry and intolerance.

Highlights of Fall 2016 - Spring 2017

NCCHE Events

* The National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education presented a full slate of programs over the academic year thanks in part to the assistance of our two dedicated interns, **Jamarius Richardson** (fall) and **Rhett Baldwin** (spring). Also, as in previous years, we partnered with other Seton Hill departments as well as outside organizations to bring speakers and programs to campus. We are grateful to all of our partners for making these programs possible. Here is a brief overview.

Fall 2016



Fr. Robert Keffer, OSB, CIHS '16

* Our first program on September 26, a Coffee Talk co-sponsored with Campus Ministry, featured **Fr. Robert Keffer, O.S.B., CIHS '16**, on "The Art of the Holy Land." Fr. Keffer, Seton Hill University's chaplain, attended the Catholic Institute for Holocaust Studies last summer. As an artist, he reflected on the art he encountered at Yad Vashem as well as around Jerusalem. His photographs and personal insights resulted in a powerful presentation.

* The Center partnered with Classrooms Without Borders to present a guest lecture by **Uwe and Gabi von Seltmann**



Uwe and Gabi von Seltmann (left) and Humans of Tel Aviv (right) Future of the Past—A Family Research Project That Resulted in the Bestselling Book "Gabi I Uwe" on October 20 and an exhibit titled "Humans of Tel Aviv" from November 6-11.



* The Center also participated in the 20th Annual Celebration of Unity sponsored by the Westmoreland Diversity Coalition on October 18. One of dozens of organizations taking part, the Center provided information about our work in Holocaust education and Christian-Jewish relations.

* Seton Hill University's Kristallnacht Remembrance Service on November 10, marked the Center's 30th anniversary and featured Holocaust Survivors **Shulamit Bastacky, Ruth Drescher, Solange Lebovitz and Yolanda Willis**. Afterwards, students and faculty joined the Survivors to learn more about their stories.

Spring 2017



Dr. Alan Rosen, Nick Filotei, Dr. Daniel Martino and Xenia Yelovich

* In remembrance of **Elie Wiesel** (1928-2016), the Center hosted Visiting Scholar **Dr. Alan Rosen** presenting The Eva Fleischner, Ph.D., Endowed Fund Lecture titled "To Capture the Fire: The Life and Work of Elie Wiesel" on February 7. Dr. Rosen was a personal friend and doctoral student of Wiesel.

* The Annual Westmoreland County Yom HaShoah Interfaith Service on April 23 featured Holocaust Survivor **Judah Samet**, who as a young boy survived Bergen-Belsen



Judah Samet—photo reprinted with permission of the Tribune-Review

Concentration Camp. Also participating in the service were special guests **Egidio DiVirgilio**, WWII veteran and Nuremberg trail guard, and **Phyllis Davis**, wife of the late **Bob Davis**, a WWII veteran and D-Day participant.

* On March 28, the Center along with Seton Hill's Humanities Division sponsored a JoAnne Boyle World Affairs Forum featuring Fulbright Visiting Scholar **Gabriela Abramac, CIHS '03**, discussing the "European Refugee Crisis." Abramac from Croatia provided an overview of the reasons for migration and the main routes into Europe. She then focused on the Balkan Route with which she is most familiar. Just two years ago, she collected toiletries and food items which she distributed to refugees in no man's land between Croatia and Slovenia.



Dr. Tim Crain welcomes Dr. Gabriela Abramac

* Film Pittsburgh and the Center sponsored a JFilm Festival screening of "There Are Jews Here" on April 26. This independent documentary film focused on four synagogues across the U.S. struggling with membership and other issues. Congregation Beth Israel of nearby Latrobe, PA, was one of these. The film sensitively documented Beth Israel's eventual closing. **Rachel Colker**, managing director of Film Pittsburgh, interviewed **Mickey Radman** and **Brian Balk** on stage following the film. Several former members of the *Shul*—some traveling from out of state to attend the showing—also joined in the discussion.



Rachel Colker, Mickey Radman and Brian Balk



Dr. Roni Kay O'Dell and Dr. Abramac



Dr. Abramac answers individual questions.

* Each year the Center marks the United Nations International Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 27, which commemorates the liberation of Auschwitz, with an information session. This year Intern **Rhett Baldwin** prepared an exhibit of books, maps and video clips to provide passersby with information about the event. He also organized an activity, which garnered the participation of students, faculty and staff.



Intern Rhett Baldwin discusses the Center's archival photos and artworks.



* On February 22, the Center hosted an afternoon Open House in order to educate the campus community about the Center's work. **Dr. Tim Crain** and **Wilda Kaylor** greeted guests and discussed the Center's history and work, while Intern **Rhett Baldwin** guided tours of the facility. The event also featured refreshments and door prizes. There was an excellent turnout by the campus community.

Spotlight

on Catholic Institute for Holocaust Studies Graduates

Dr. Lisa Festa, CIHS '06, and **Dr. Kathy Froriep** presented "Hidden Artists of the Holocaust" at the Histories Seen and Unseen Conference in Atlanta on April 1. Lisa, who traveled to Scotland and England to



Dr. Lisa Festa and Dr. Kathy Froriep



Dr. Lisa Festa discusses art of the Holocaust.

research the history of Jews there, wrote: "Much to my surprise, on my first day in Glasgow, I 'discovered' another Holocaust artist, [the late] Marianne Grant, who was from Prague, but lived in Glasgow after the war. She wrote a book before her

death called *I Knew I Was Painting For My Life*, which had a few of her works illustrated in it. She was in Terezin, typical of Jews from Prague, but then worked for Mengele at Auschwitz."

Dr. William Shea, CIHS '06, former Director of the Center for Religion, Ethics and Culture at the College of the Holy Cross, is currently Adjunct Professor of Religious Studies there. Though retired, he also continues to write. Anaphora Literary Press published his latest book, *Judas Was a Bishop: An Old Man in His Reforming Catholic Church*, in 2015.



Holly Price, CIHS '10, moved to Los Angeles where she works for a Jewish memorial park and mortuary as the community outreach manager. Aware that many Holocaust survivors are buried there, she reached out to the UCLA fine arts department to find an artist to design a Holocaust memorial, which she hopes can be placed there.

Retired Catholic teacher **Susan Miller, CIHS '11**, donated 3 full bins of Holocaust teaching materials to West Virginia University. She said the materials were for distribution to teachers throughout West Virginia. Susan took part in the Catholic Educators Group's Trip to Poland in 2005 with the March of the Living.

Though retired from teaching, **Mary Mills, CIHS '99**, was enticed by the principal of the Gloucester Catholic High School, from which she graduated, to teach a Spanish 4 class during the 2015-16 academic year. She said, "He was so grateful that I was awarded a plaque and given a heavy

blanket with the school's logo on it." In addition to extensive travels, Mary is translating poems by the inmates of Theresienstadt. Pacific Coast Philology published the first third of these poems under the title *Voices of Theresienstadt* in 2008. She continues translating the remainder of the poems, which she located in the archives of the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Sister Mary Annette Dworshak, SNJM, CIHS '05, is Religion teacher and Peace and Justice Coordinator at Holy Names Academy in Seattle, WA. This year's Peace and Justice Day, an annual all-school event that she has coordinated for years, included two Holocaust presentations: one by the son of a Kindertransport survivor and the other by the granddaughter of a woman who hid Jews in France. Last summer she traveled to Vietnam where she taught conversational English.

Elena Procaro-Foley, CIHS '14, was invited to participate in the consultation on the document "The Gifts and Calling of God are Irrevocable" convened by the Holy See's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews and the Woolf Center at Cambridge University in May 2016 at Westminster College of Cambridge University.



Fr. Manfred Deselaers, CIHS '98, and **Sister Mary O'Sullivan, CIHS '10**, of the Centre for Dialogue and Prayer in Oswiecim/Auschwitz, announced that the Center had created a special website to prepare World Youth Day 2016 participants in advance of visiting the Memorial Place of the Former German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. The materials, available in 17 languages, provided participants with historical facts as well as guidance for prayer and reflection.



Dr. Susan Nowak, SSJ, CIHS '97, Professor and Chair of Religious Studies at Nazareth College, is a Holocaust scholar who facilitates Holocaust Education trips for students to Poland and Germany. She also accompanied **Fr. Patrick Desbois** and his Yahad-In Unum research team to Moldova in August 2013, where the team interviewed witnesses to

the mass murder of Jews and Roma by the Nazis during WWII. Her teaching and publications focus on women's experiences, post-Holocaust interfaith dialogue, and the role of the Church during and after the Shoah. In addition, she serves on Holocaust and interfaith committees in the Rochester area.

Fr. Alfred Patterson, OSB, CIHS '99, was appointed Pastor of St. Mary's Church, St. Marys, PA in 2014. He had served the parish previously as Parochial Vicar and Hospital Chaplain. Fr. Alfred is a member of the Benedictine community of Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, PA. He is actively engaged in ecumenical ministerium events.

Dr. Miriam Zimmerman, CIHS '98, Professor Emerita, Notre Dame de Namur University, Belmont, CA, continues teaching her always fully enrolled course, "The Holocaust," each fall. She is also a board member of The Helen and Joe Farkas Center for the Study of the Holocaust in Catholic Schools at Mercy High School in San Francisco.

Dr. Shannon Phillips-Shyrock, CIHS '15, was recently appointed Assistant Director of the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh (PA). At Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where she

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served as Holocaust Remembrance Events Organizing Committee Chair, she initiated an April 3rd presentation by **Judah Samet** followed by a reception with Samet, **Moshe Baran**, **Shulamit Bastacky**, **Solange Lebovitz**, **Harry Schneider** and his wife **Patty**, Holocaust Survivors residing in Pittsburgh. She worked with **Dr. Paul Arpaia**, History Department, and **Dr. Thomas Slater**, English Department, for an April 4th screening and discussion of “Europa, Europa.”

The Mobile Area Jewish Federation honored **Dr. Don Berry, CIHS '06**, **Sister Anne Brady, CIHS '01**, and **Jerry Darring, CIHS '00**, with the *Shalom Award* on March 13, 2017. **Rickie Voit**, who serves on the boards of the Gulf Coast Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education, Mobile Area Jewish Federation and the Christian-Jewish Dialogue, wrote: “Their remarks left the full synagogue inspired and deeply moved. These wonderful individuals have graciously played such an important role in each of these organizations.”



Catholic Institute for Holocaust Studies 2016

Bro. Russel Murray, OFM, Ph.D., Catholic Institute for Holocaust Studies Coordinator, and **Sister Gemma Del Duca, SC, Ph.D.**, Co-Director Emerita of the National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education, were pleased to show participants **Patrick Markham** and **Fr. Robert Keffer, OSB**, around Jerusalem last summer. Patrick teaches theology at Allentown Central Catholic High School (PA) and Fr. Robert, a Benedictine priest and artist, serves as Seton Hill University's Sacramental Minister.



Congregation Imanu-El Israel, Local Community Honor Rabbi Perman with Retirement Tribute, Party

Marilyn Davis unveils an engraved “stone” on the Tree of Life Mural honoring **Rabbi Sara Rae Perman** in recognition of her 31 years of service to Greensburg, PA's Congregation Emanu El Israel and local community. Perman, who retired in June, was feted with a “Bye Bye Rabbi” party, prayer service and tree planting. She is Chair of the National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education's Advisory Board Steering Committee.



Anne

The woman turns to us,

her hands pressed tightly together.

“Welcome to the world of the Nazis.”

With those words, the elevator opens. Its passengers spill silently out of the car into dim, disorienting light.

Some years ago, I made a one day research trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, DC; I had wanted to visit the museum specifically, and the city generally, since 1993. That year, my mother pressed Anne Frank's diary into my nine-year-old hands with the same sweet urgency with which Anne records Edith Frank pressing a prayer book into her own.

Since that year, I have been caught up in Anne's world. She, a self-described chatterbox and frolicsome little goat tugging at its tether, functions for me, and, I suspect, for many young girls, as an adored older sister—even as I surpassed her in age a decade and a half ago. Anne remains averse to studying algebra. She is, however, interested in mythology, royal families, and brooding in notebooks grandly referred to as diaries. Anne remains equally interested in strolling about her respective neighborhood in a short summer dress with the ideal boy. She is secretly and not-so-secretly boy-mad and at inopportune times considered a terrible flirt and reader of romances. These last characterizations are noted for posterity in the contemplative appeal of the diary's final paragraphs.

To this day, when coming across a world history encyclopedia or volume on display, I flip to the index, and look up “Frank, Anne—Holocaust—Concentration Camps” in that order. I absorb the pictures and accompanying text

quietly, studiously. Each picture passes before my eyes and the text imprints itself on my brain—and then I close the work and continue on.

In the museum, I stop in one of its corners. Only then, having spent the better part of an hour unconsciously searching for her among the exhibits, do I stumble upon Anne.

In an introductory photograph, Anne is tucked into this corner, near an exit, writing. She sits at a desk, head up and pen in hand. I see her in the museum's snapshots, and the past becomes present. I see five-year-old Anne outside her father Otto's office, importantly checking her wristwatch. A small cap covers the dark locks, which she would later grow out, and of which she would be so proud, as girlhood friend Lies remembers. In one photograph, I see Anne, elder sister Margot, and Edith cluster together for a snapshot by Papa Frank prior to a day of shopping. In one more photograph, I see Anne, older, bent down on the neighborhood square, revealing knobby knees. Squinting, she greets the camera with quick and ready smile. She crouches close to Lies, who stands to shyly reach and brush hair from her face. In a final museum photograph, I see Anne on her family's flat roof, paused, hat on lap, in spring sunshine.

Some time later, a train starts, wanders, and stops to deposit persons under that same spring sun. Dazed, disoriented, lolling tongues lusting for water, its passengers spill out of boxcars. Somewhere, prisoners in lines and in tears make their way en masse into a camp.

Soon enough, Anne will think of packing. At that moment, in the sun, she may well be

By Vanessa Waltz

This essay was first published in *PRISM: An Interdisciplinary Journal for Holocaust Educators* (K. Shawn, Ed.), Spring 2016, Vol. 8, pp. 68-69. New York: Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration, Yeshiva University.

Vanessa Waltz has served on the judging committee for the New England Holocaust Memorial's student essay contest in Boston. She earned an MA in English from Middlebury College in Vermont and completed her studies at Lincoln College, Oxford in 2010.

In Memoriam . . .

May their memory be a blessing to all who knew and loved them, particularly their families.

Jacqueline Berke, 94, Professor Emerita of English and Co-founder of the Holocaust Center at Drew University (NJ), died on June 13, 2017. Jackie was a long-time member of the NCCHE Advisory Board and friend of the Center.

Richard Gair, Professor of Holocaust Studies and Reading at Valencia Community College (FL), passed away on October 5, 2016. "Uncle Richie," as he was known among Yad Vashem Summer Institute graduates, attended our Center's Ethel LeFrak Holocaust Education Conferences. He held the Abe and Tess Wise Endowed Chair in the Study of the Shoah at Valencia and also served on the Florida State Task Force on Holocaust Education.

Cardinal William H. Keeler, 86, former Bishop of Harrisburg, PA from 1983 to 1989 and Archbishop of Baltimore from 1989 to 2007, died on March 23, 2017. Born in San Antonio, TX and raised in Pennsylvania, he was ordained in 1955. He attended the Second Vatican Council as secretary to Bishop George Leech of Harrisburg. In 1992, he was elected president of The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. St. John Paul II elevated him to cardinal in 1994. In Christian-Jewish circles he was well known for his interreligious and ecumenical work, most notably promoting Christian-Jewish relations and countering anti-Judaism and antisemitism.

Fritz Ottenheimer, Pittsburgh, PA, died on July 20, 2017. Born in Konstanz, Germany in 1925, he immigrated with his family to the U.S. after experiencing Kristallnacht. Following high school, he returned to Europe near the end of WWII as a U.S. Army soldier. For many years, Fritz spoke about his experiences as a Jew in Nazi Germany during Seton Hill University's annual Kristallnacht Remembrance Interfaith Service. He also met with students and staff to discuss his story, which he chronicled in his memoir, *Escape and Return: Memories of Nazi Germany*.

Donald Robinson, 91, died June 25, 2017 in Boca Raton, FL. He was a Pittsburgh, PA community leader and philanthropist as well as a talented photographer. Donald was a close friend to the Center, and we are privileged to work each day surrounded by a collection of his exquisite photographs.

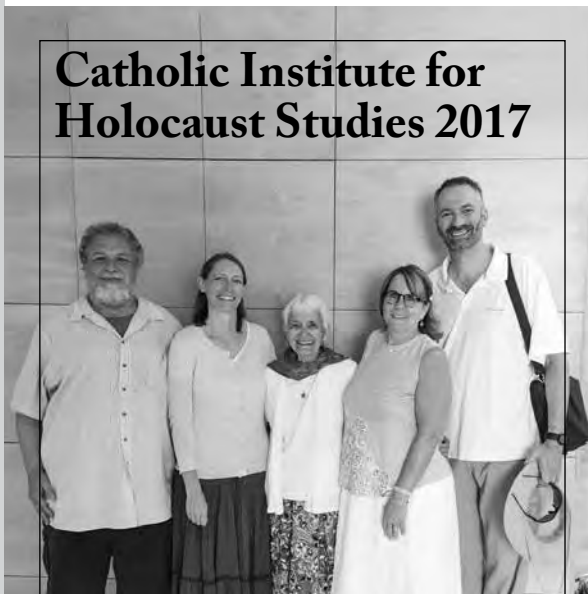
Sr. Mary Arlene Squitieri, S.C., CIHS '89, died on August 20, 2016. She taught primary students in the Dioceses of Greensburg and Pittsburgh, served as Principal of Saint Paul School, in Carbon, PA (1968-1981), and was a Parish Minister to the elderly at Saint Regis Parish (1993 to 2015). Sr. Mary Arlene participated in the Center's very first Catholic Institute for Holocaust Studies in Israel.

Anne Continued from page 9

thinking of curlers; a comb; her little cat; admirers. But she's not sorry. Memories mean more to her than dresses. Paused in that final museum photograph, Anne grins, bashfully.

On my bookshelf sits the *Anthology of Holocaust Literature*, a farewell gift from the museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. Its bright orange cover nestles against Anne's diary on the one side and *The Scarlet Letter*, with its exhortation to "be true!" on the other.

I recall absorbing Anne's pictures and accompanying text at the museum. Each picture passed before my eyes and the text imprinted itself on my brain—and then I exited the exhibit and continued on.



*This summer's Catholic Institute for Holocaust Studies group convened in Jerusalem, Israel from June 30 to July 20, 2017. Our Seton Hill University group included: **Michael Mirobito**, professor and department chair, *Communications Arts, Marywood University*; **Roni Kay O'Dell**, assistant professor, *Political Science, Seton Hill University*; **Sister Gemma Del Duca, SC**, co-director emerita, *National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education*; **Amy McLaughlin Hatch**, teacher, *Social Studies, Southeastern High School (MA) and Genocide and Holocaust Studies Certificate Student, Seton Hill University*; and **Bro. Russel Murray, OFM**, *CIHS program coordinator*.*

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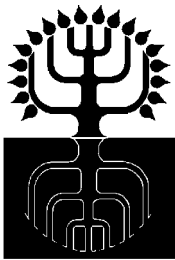
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Upcoming Event

Tuesday, September 12, 7 p.m.,

Cecilian Hall, Seton Hill's Hilltop Campus

The Mitzvah Project, starring **Roger Grunwald**
and co-authored and directed by **Annie**

McGreevey, is a combination one-person play and lecture. The play tells the tragic story of a German half-Jew who was an officer in the Wehrmacht; the lecture explores the historical circumstances that produced over 150,000 German men of Jewish decent who served in Hitler's military. Free and open to the public.

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Kristallnacht Remembrance Interfaith Service,
6-7 p.m., St. Joseph Chapel. Visitor parking in E Lot.
Take shuttle bus to Administration Building.

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