



# Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

**YEAR END ACTIVITIES  
AND 2004 GIFT REPORT**

**JUNE 2003 THROUGH MAY 2004**

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The people, programs, and  
events advancing scholarship  
in the field of Holocaust  
and genocide studies

**CLARK**  
**UNIVERSITY**

CHALLENGING CONVENTION. CHANGING OUR WORLD

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**Whoever fails to increase knowledge,  
decreases knowledge**

— *The Ethics of the Fathers*

## Letter from the Director

August 2004

### Dear Friends,

“Forward, forward let us range,/ Let the great world spin for ever down/ the ringing grooves of change.” Thus wrote Lord Tennyson in “Locksley Hall,” and thus we experienced the year 2003-04 at the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

We bade farewell to our beloved colleague Professor Edward Kissi, and to the first incumbent of the Strassler Chair for Holocaust History, Robert Gellately. Now, at the conclusion of an international search, we welcome Thomas Kuehne, our new Strassler Professor. Dr. Kuehne comes to us from the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton and, previously, Bielefeld University in Germany. From his first book, which won him the prestigious Bundestag Prize, through another eight, to his current pathbreaking work that addresses the broad question of how a society becomes a genocidal society, Dr. Kuehne demonstrates (as one reviewer put it) “the difference between excellence and brilliance.”

We aspire to both. In September 2003 we celebrated the awarding of the first doctoral degrees — anywhere, ever — in Holocaust history. All three of the students in our inaugural Ph.D. class are now making their mark in the field — Beth Lilach at Florida Atlantic University; Christine van der Zanden at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.; and Beth Cohen at the Holocaust Museum too, as she takes up a post-doctoral fellowship.



We watch with joy as these freshly minted scholars go on to shape the education of others, and we turn to our ever-growing cadre of doctoral students. I am delighted to report that the Center was awarded a grant by the Claims Conference to support four graduate students in 2003-04. Our students are the first to receive such a grant. Established in 1951, the Claims Conference serves survivors. Its decision to support the Center’s students reflects its confidence in the mission and work of the Center.

Support takes many forms. A brilliant rostrum of internationally renowned scholars enriched us and the community we serve. Barbara Harff (fall 2003), Robert Melson (spring 2004), and Robert Jan van Pelt (spring 2004) joined us as Distinguished Visiting Professors at the Center, and a glittering array of thinkers shared their knowledge and experience with Center students and in public lectures: Peter Balakian; Yehuda Bauer; Melvin Jules Bukiet; Abe Foxman; Samantha Power; Ervin Staub; and Ruth Thomasian.

Yet there is always more to do. The need is great, and our mandate grows. As always, I thank you for your help as we range forward together.

Debórah Dwork  
Rose Professor of Holocaust History  
Director, Strassler Family Center for  
Holocaust and Genocide Studies

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“the difference between excellence and brilliance.”

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— Debórah Dwork

## Dr. Barbara Harff: Strassler Distinguished Visiting Professor



Dr. Barbara Harff

**Professor Harff** visited the Center for the first time when she agreed to participate in our symposium on *Genocide in the Twentieth Century* in October 2001. It was immediately apparent that the mind that shaped her books and articles belonged to a powerful intellectual who swept the room away with her vision of both the problems with which she deals and the solutions she has devised for them.

Harff is Professor of Political Science at the U.S. Naval Academy and serves as senior consultant to the White House-initiated State Failure Task Force. She designed data-based analyses of the preconditions and accelerators of genocide and politicide for use by the Clinton Administration's Center for Early Warning of Humanitarian Crisis. Much of her work explores the relationship between ethnic conflict and political mass murder, and analyzes how to respond to and constrain intra-national aggression. Her books include *Genocide and Human Rights: International Legal and Political Issues* (1984) and, with Ted Gurr, *Ethnic Conflict in World Politics* (1994). She also has explored international comparative dimensions of massive human rights violations in numerous articles and monographs.

With extraordinary generosity and energy, Harff shared her cutting-edge research as well as her wide knowledge and sharp insights with students and faculty alike. In so doing, she helped shape the mandate and the mission of the Center. She gave shape, too, to a cadre of doctoral students, a number of whom seek her guidance as a dissertation advisor, and all of whom are proud to be the beneficiaries of the education and opportunities she offered them. She advocated for all nine of the Center's graduate students to attend the Stockholm

International Forum on the Prevention of Genocide, held 26-28 January 2004 (see page 15).

Harff taught two courses while at Clark; an undergraduate lecture/discussion course, "Genocide in the Twentieth Century: Cases, Causes, and Prevention," and a graduate seminar, "Genocide in the Twentieth Century: Explanation and Prevention." The undergraduates' evaluations praised Harff's clarity and breadth; her ability to explain complicated concepts and her ability, too, to prompt them to think more widely and deeply about a range of new issues. For the graduate students she served as a model. A model professor, and a model citizen. For Dr. Harff is an academic, a top-notch intellectual, who engages with the world in which she lives, using her knowledge and skills and competencies to effect positive change.

"I learned more from Dr. Harff in one semester than I ever imagined could be possible," said graduate student Naama Haviv. "Her expertise in genocide prevention – to say nothing of her generosity in sharing it – was fundamental to my education. I am incredibly excited that I will be able to work with her for the next four years."

Harff returned the sentiment, offering her praise for the Center and its students. "The Center is a congenial and supportive place for scholars, and the graduate students are a delight to work with. They are deeply committed to making a difference," she said.

During her tenure at the Center, Harff also delivered a public lecture on "Genocide in the 21st Century" (see page 9). □

"I owe professor Barbara Harff extreme gratitude. Her approach to genocide prevention was a remarkable example of how a quantitative model allows for and opens the path to qualitative analysis. Her course induced an academic fervour that inspired my interest in genocide prevention."

— graduate student Tiberiu Galis

## Dr. Robert Melson: Robert Weil Distinguished Visiting Professor

**Dr. Robert Melson** returned to the Center by popular demand as the Robert Weil Distinguished Visiting Professor in spring 2004. Previously a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the Center in spring 2003, Melson had spent a week on campus, guest lecturing in undergraduate courses and meeting individually with graduate students. Eager to learn more about his comparative approach to the study of genocide, and eager, too, for his advice and criticism on their doctoral research projects, the students urged Melson to return for a semester.



**Professor  
Robert Melson**

Happily, Melson agreed. He mentored the graduate students and he taught an undergraduate/graduate seminar on “Holocaust and Genocide in Comparative Perspective.” The course examined the Holocaust, the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23, the self-inflicted genocide in Cambodia in 1975, and the genocide in Rwanda in 1994.

Resistance emerged as a special focus of the course: what made resistance possible in some instances but not in others, and why some rescuers risked their lives to save strangers.

“Professor Melson helped us understand the need to revise current theories in genocide studies through a comparative approach,” noted Tiberiu Galis, then a first-year graduate student. “His theory about the relationship between revolution and genocide was very thought-provoking, encouraging intense debate.”

If the students appreciated Melson, he returned the compliment. “The Center has obviously done some-

thing right,” Melson said. “The students are caring, informed, and enthusiastic. They are one of the main reasons I wanted to visit at Clark this semester.”

Resistance and rescue are particular interests for Melson, who survived the Holocaust with his family in Poland. In his most recent book, *False Papers: Deception and Survival in the Holocaust* (2000), Melson explored his family’s history. *False Papers* was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award.

Melson is a professor of political science and former acting director of the Jewish Studies Program at Purdue University. His major area of teaching and research has been ethnic conflict and genocide. His interest in this topic is a result of his family’s experience in Europe, as well as of his field work in Nigeria in 1964-65, a year before the onset of the Nigerian-Biafran civil war. His path-breaking book *Revolution and Genocide: On the Origins of the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust* (1992) won the international PIOOM Award in Human Rights for 1993.

Melson currently serves as the first vice president of the International Association of Genocide Scholars. A staunch advocate of community-building in many arenas, Melson helped to develop that organization into the important forum it is today. And he uses his expertise in the public arena, from testifying before the House Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights concerning the Armenian Genocide to prevailing — with Peter Balakian and Samantha Power — upon *The New York Times* to use the word “genocide” in articles that discuss or refer to the murder of the Armenians by the Turks in 1915-1923. □

“Dr. Melson challenged his students as he raised difficult questions about genocide history and theory. As a team, we confronted these issues and struggled to understand them.”

— graduate student Ilana Offenberger

## Dr. Robert Jan van Pelt: Strassler Distinguished Visiting Professor



Dr. Robert  
Jan van Pelt

**Dr. Robert Jan van Pelt** is no stranger to the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. He and Debórah Dwork have enjoyed a long and fruitful collaboration on many research endeavors, including two books, *Auschwitz* and *Holocaust: A History*. Van Pelt served as the Center's first Distinguished Visiting Professor in 1997, lending his expertise and energy to help launch the then-fledgling initiative. The Center was pleased

to welcome him back as a Strassler Distinguished Visiting Professor in spring 2004.

"I had visited the Center in the interim — for conferences and to present lectures — but returning to teach gave me the opportunity to observe closely how the Center has developed," van Pelt noted. "I was particularly struck by the strong sense of mission which all involved share, and the high morale that flows from it. And I discovered that in seven short years the ambitious dreams of its founders Debórah Dwork and Richard Traina and its supporters, the Rose and Strassler families, had been more than fully realized."

Van Pelt taught two courses during his semester at Clark. In a seminar on "The Perpetrators," students examined the ideologues, philosophers, lawyers, demographers, and architects who created the intellectual, political, legal, and physical frameworks for the Holocaust, as well as soldiers, policemen, and SS guards. His lecture course on "Germany in the Modern Age" provided students with an introduction to German history from the perspective of the German struggle for identity as a special or normal nation with-

in Europe. He also devoted a lot of time to individual mentoring. "Professor van Pelt continually encouraged students to think 'outside the box' as they attempted to understand the events of the Holocaust," observed graduate student Lotta Stone. "He enriched the atmosphere of the Center through his interaction with graduate and undergraduate students, refusing to accept a simple, standard response to a question, but requiring the consideration of issues through in-depth examination."

Much of van Pelt's recent work deals with the issue of Holocaust denial. He figured prominently in Errol Morris's feature-length documentary *Mr. Death*, and he served as a key expert witness for the defense team of Professor Deborah Lipstadt and Penguin Publishers in the civil suit brought against them by Holocaust denier David Irving in the High Court in London. His expert report helped win the case, and was published as *The Case for Auschwitz: Evidence from the Irving Trial*.

Van Pelt is a professor in the School of Architecture at the University of Waterloo. Acknowledged as the leading expert on Auschwitz, van Pelt has been asked many times to bring his expertise to bear on troubling, unanswered questions about the future of Auschwitz. His co-authored *Strategy for the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau*, prepared with the help of colleagues, graduates and students at the University of Waterloo, and written with Dwork while he was at the Center in 1997, was presented to the president of Poland. The principles of development it established became the basis for what remains, to this day, the only international agreement between Jews and Poles about the future of Auschwitz. □

"Professor van Pelt continually encouraged students to think 'outside the box' as they attempted to understand the events of the Holocaust."

— graduate student Lotta Stone

## Spirit of Survival: Armenians through the Camera's Eye

Powerful images of Armenian daily life greeted visitors to the Strassler Center throughout the fall. "The Spirit of Survival: Armenians Through the Camera's Eye," a photographic exhibit collected and curated by Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives, was on display at Cohen-Lasry House from 15 September through 15 December 2003.

The photographs told stories about the life of ordinary Armenian people before, during, and after the genocide. Armenians from Istanbul to Yerevan to as far away as Los Angeles smiled, worked, celebrated, and posed in vintage and modern photographs ranging in style from studio portrait to snapshot. They came to the Center thanks to Project SAVE Archives, a non-profit organization established by **Ruth Thomasian** in Watertown, Mass. It is Thomasian's life's work to collect, preserve, and make publicly available these invaluable images that reveal so much about Armenian history, culture, and traditions.



A photograph from the Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives

"These photographs pose questions that we never would have considered," Debórah Dwork observed in her speech to welcome Thomasian and Project SAVE Archives, and to open the exhibition. In light of official Turkish denials of the genocide and that government's evident policy to silence discussion about it, asking such questions and creating forums in which those questions can be asked become all the more significant.



**Ruth Thomasian,**  
executive director  
of Project SAVE  
Armenian  
Photograph Archives

Project SAVE Archives isn't just about collecting photographs, as Thomasian made clear in her talk and slide presentation about the exhibit on 16 October 2003 in the Rose Library. Rather, Project SAVE Archives affords Thomasian the opportunity to make personal connections with and between Armenians and to strengthen communal ties. Thomasian visits individuals and families who wish to donate their photographs to Project SAVE Archives and takes the time to listen to their stories. During her presentation, Thomasian recalled the histories and anecdotes that are attached to each picture.

Witnessing her passionate dedication to the project, it was not surprising to see little photo packages in the hands of many Armenian visitors to the exhibition. Ready to give their pictures and tales to Thomasian, these visitors were confident that their past will be well stewarded in her good hands. □

"These photographs pose questions that  
we never would have considered."

— Debórah Dwork, on the Project SAVE  
Exhibit and public lecture by Ruth Thomasian



## Melvin Bukiet: *Nothing Makes You Free*

Melvin Jules Bukiet, author of *Nothing Makes You Free: Writings by Descendants of Jewish Holocaust Survivors*, delivered a public lecture hosted by the Center on 18 September 2003 in Razzo Hall of the Traina Center for the Arts. Members of the Clark and Worcester communities gathered to hear the award-winning essayist and novelist speak about his new edited collection.



Bukiet's poignant and sharply-worded prose expressed the rage that he felt growing up as a "second-generation survivor." "The Holocaust," Bukiet emphasized, "is a constant reference point for children of survivors." He spoke of the difference between growing up as a child of survivors and being any "other kid." He spoke of the pain of knowing that other children did not have parents with "numbers on their arms," a constant reminder of a searing past. "Other kids," Bukiet observed, "weren't considered a retroactive victory over genocide," simply

by virtue of being born, being alive, and having thwarted the Nazi plan to annihilate the Jews. "The most important event of [my] life happened before [I] was born."

Bukiet's powerful and angry narrative sparked heated discussion after his lecture. Audience members explored the rage Bukiet has felt toward the trauma his family has suffered. When asked if his parents felt the same anger as he, Bukiet described his father as "the most life-affirming, exuberant person I know." Discussion also focused on the difficulty of writing about the Holocaust. Bukiet believes that any literary work about the Holocaust must remain true to the monumental tragedy that it was. "Any piece of work about the Holocaust," he commented, "if you leave it and it feels good, it is bad."

The honesty with which Bukiet declared his anger was a new experience for many in the audience. It is not often that such frankness is displayed in an academic setting, and it reminded many of the pain and the passion that the Holocaust can elicit.

"I didn't agree with everything he said," Clark sociology professor (and a child of Holocaust survivors) Shelly Tenenbaum remarked, "but some of it certainly resonated."

In the academic community, it often seems easier to focus on theory and intellectual content when dealing with the anguish of the Holocaust. Bukiet's lecture was a salutary and much appreciated reminder to all that the subjects of scholarly research at the Center — the Holocaust and other genocides — are emotional matters indeed. □



(back row, from left) **Ray Krause, Tiberiu Galis, Lotta Stone, Dr. Barbara Harff, and Ilana Offenberger;** (front row, from left) author **Melvin Jules Bukiet, Rachel Iskov, Debórah Dwork, Robin Barry, Sarah Cushman, Naama Haviv, and Ani Degirmencioglu**

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## Peter Balakian: *The Burning Tigris*

**Peter Balakian**, Donald M. and Constance H. Rebon Professor of Humanities and Professor of English at Colgate University, delivered a public lecture, hosted by the Center on 16 October 2003 in Tilton Hall of Clark's Higgins University Center. Balakian discussed his new book, *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response*, to a hugely enthusiastic audience, many of whom waited on a long line to purchase a book and meet the author after his presentation. It is no surprise that *The Burning Tigris* became a *New York Times* bestseller in the week of its release.



**Professor Peter Balakian** signs copies of his book after his public lecture.



*Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response*, with **Deborah Dwork**, Rose Professor and director of the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies



**Ruth Thomasian** (right), executive director of Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives, with her assistant **Arpie Davis** at the event

Balakian's interest in the Armenian genocide is rooted in his family history, which he explored in his memoir, *Black Dog of Fate*. *Black Dog of Fate*, which won Balakian the PEN/Martha Albrand Prize for Memoir, examined the ways in which his upbringing in the United States during the 1950s and 1960s had been shaped by the Armenian genocide of 1915.

In *The Burning Tigris*, Balakian frames the Armenian genocide within the context of American history and foreign policy. Describing the Armenian genocide as "a template for things to come" in the 20th century, Balakian proposed that no history of America is complete without reference to the U.S. response to the massacres and deportations from Turkey at the turn of the last century. And that response, he told the audience, was initially to intervene and aid. Indeed, American intervention and aid was launched as early as the 1894-96 massacres under Sultan Abdul Hamid II. *The Burning Tigris* reminds us that the United States has not always endorsed the Turkish government's denial of the Armenian genocide. And if the U.S. government acted and protested then, it certainly can do so again today. □

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## Is Genocide Past History or Present Danger?

The Center was pleased to welcome back its longtime friend and supporter **Dr. Yehuda Bauer** for a three-day visit in October 2003. Bauer is director emeritus of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem, professor emeritus of Holocaust studies at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, recipient of the Israel Prize and a member of Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities. He generously gave of his time and expertise during his visit and delivered a public lecture, “Is Genocide Past History or Present Danger?” on 29 October 2003 in Room 320 of the Jefferson Academic Center.

Bauer began his talk by noting the lack of a comprehensive and robust definition of genocide. “I don’t think we have really arrived at a common definition everyone accepts,” Bauer explained. In his view, the Genocide Convention definition should be reexamined with thoughts of including politicicide and genocidal murder.

Turning to the question of long-term measures to prevent genocides in the future, Bauer emphasized the critically important role of education. “The purpose of education is to make people aware to such a degree that, when asked, they will do something about it,” said Bauer, who cited the Center as an educational role model. “Should we not start to do elsewhere what the Center here at Clark is trying to do? In this whole business of teaching — the Center is the first place.” In Bauer’s view, the study of comparative genocide must begin with the Holocaust, for research about the Holocaust has revealed much about social processes and operational practices.

Can genocide be prevented? Bauer asked. Bosnia, Kosovo, and East Timor have proven that it is possible, he said. But, he added, “There cannot be a revolution to prevent genocide. There must be small steps.”

“Yehuda Bauer made a dramatic and compelling argument that genocide violence has been a recurrent but seldom studied feature of the human experience, and young historians should be studying past cases as a means to understand future cases,” said **Dr. Ted Gurr** after hearing Bauer’s lecture. Gurr is Distinguished University Professor Emeritus at the University of Maryland, where he founded the Minorities at Risk Project and the Center for International Development and Conflict Management.



**Dr. Yehuda Bauer**, director emeritus of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem and professor emeritus of Holocaust studies at Hebrew University of Jerusalem

During his visit to the Center, Bauer also met with graduate students individually to offer suggestions for their research, and collectively to discuss his current study of the *shtetls*, or small villages, of Eastern Europe. Before the Holocaust, approximately 40 percent of Eastern European Jewry lived in *shtetls*, which were the source of Jewish ethnic and religious culture in that part of the world. Bauer believes his research shows how inaccurate *Fiddler on the Roof* nostalgia is as a description of the very difficult life endured by Jews in these communities. □

“Yehuda Bauer, one of the most eloquent voices among researchers of the Holocaust, reminds us that historians need to look at other genocides to learn about man-made disasters yet to come.”

— Barbara Harff, Strassler Distinguished Visiting Professor

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— Yehuda Bauer, director emeritus of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem

## “Genocide in the 21st Century”

**Dr. Barbara Harff**, the Strassler Distinguished Visiting Professor in fall 2003, spoke at the “Especially for Students” lecture series on 18 November 2003. This event was cosponsored by Clark’s Government, Sociology, and History departments. Students and members of the community crowded into the Rose Library, with latecomers settling on the floor. Harff, a professor of political science at the U.S. Naval Academy, has written several seminal articles about genocide and served as the senior consultant for the White House Initiated Failure Task Force. This task force is best known for its work with the Clinton administration’s Center for Early Warning for Human Crisis.

In her introductory remarks, Professor Debórah Dwork praised Harff for her ability to “open doors to vistas we [faculty and students] didn’t even know were there.” These include the areas of risk assessment and early warning for impending geno/politicide.

To “unravel the past,” Harff observed, it is appropriate to “seek every piece of information possible” in order to propose an explanation for genocides. Over an eight-year period, she compiled a massive data set and ultimately produced a statistical model that is able to identify, with 76 percent accuracy, historic cases of genocide on the basis of several key factors.

Harff explained that there are specific reasons why genocide has occurred with some regularity since the Holocaust and that, as a result of scholarly research, those reasons are known to some degree. She cited several of these key factors, which she has linked statistically to the occurrence of genocide, including political upheaval, the presence of a minority ruling

elite, ideological orientation of the ruling elite, exclusionary ideologies, and an inverse factor of international economic connections.

Harff is one of several scholars who believe that this type of data and analysis could be useful in helping the U.S. government make well-informed foreign-policy decisions. She suggested that when high-risk situations are identified, political pressure and sanctions may be used effectively to reverse the trend. Once genocide has begun, however, political maneuvering is no longer effective, and military intervention may be an appropriate last-resort option.

To help identify high-risk situations, Harff has developed two distinct models, one for risk assessment and another for early warning. The risk-assessment model, which was the focus of the Stockholm Forum (see page 15), is based on the factors mentioned above and can indicate where genocides are likely to occur. Early warning is a newer and much more complex model, which is still being developed. Essentially, early warning monitors the same risk factors on a daily basis, in conjunction with 10 “accelerators” which, if present, may indicate a regime’s imminent turn toward genocide. This system is currently being used to track 19 high-risk cases. Harff hopes that at some point, this data can be made available to all those who want it, specifically nongovernmental organizations. She also believes that policy makers should advocate for this system, even if they cannot yet foresee its benefits.

“People can no longer hide behind ‘We did not know,’” Harff concluded. Because now, she has the numbers to prove it. □

To “unravel the past,” Harff observed, it is appropriate to “seek every piece of information possible” in order to propose an explanation for genocides.

## Samantha Power: 'A Problem from Hell'



Samantha Power

Journalist **Samantha Power**, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *'A Problem from Hell': America and the Age of Genocide*, delivered a public lecture on 3 March 2004, focusing on problems she raised in her book. Power spoke to a standing-room-only audience, as Clark students, faculty, and members of the community filled Tilton Hall for the event.

In her book, Power blends a narrative and analysis of American inaction in the face of the major genocides of the 20th century, namely against Armenians, European Jews, Cambodians, Iraqi Kurds, Rwandans, and Bosnians. The book grew out of a paper she wrote, while a student at Harvard Law School, on humanitarian intervention. But it is also informed by a powerful personal experience. At age 23, Power was a war correspondent in Bosnia reporting for the *Boston Globe* and the *Washington Post*. She was sickened by the slaughter in Sarajevo and the massacre of 8,000 Muslim men in Srebrenica, a city that had been designated a "safe haven" by international peacekeepers from the United Nations.

Power's lecture at Clark addressed the issue of international bystanding in the face of genocide. She framed her discussion within what she sees as a major paradox in the current world climate. Since Sept. 11, Power argued, the American government has begun to admit that democratization and human rights are inexorably linked to American security. At a time when it is most important for American leaders to reprioritize their values and tactics, however, American credibility on the subject of human rights is at one of its lowest points in history.

Many structural changes must occur before any real change can be realized, Power observed. To tackle the issue of America's slipping international legitimacy, she offered a few solutions. First, she believes that the United States both acts as, and is perceived to be, a world power that indulges in "gratuitous unilateralism." She argued that American policy makers need to begin to think differently about what actually serves American interests. She argued further that, in order to regain legitimacy, America must admit to mistakes it has made in the past.

"We've missed opportunities to acknowledge and to move forward," she said. Perhaps more importantly, Power maintained that the United States must move toward creating a more consistent foreign policy.

Gripped and challenged by Power's lecture, the audience asked many questions and offered a range of comments. The conversation continued after the event: "What an opportunity," one member of the audience, Lauren Sandersen, remarked, "to have an inside look [and] to hear the insights of someone who's been there [at the site of genocide]."

Power also devoted a portion of her evening at Clark to hold a private seminar for graduate students in the Holocaust and Genocide Studies program, in which she discussed her career path and future projects. □



Samantha Power, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *'A Problem from Hell': America and the Age of Genocide*, signs copies of her book after her public lecture.

"What an opportunity to have an inside look [and] to hear the insights of someone who's been there [at the site of genocide]."

— Lauren Sandersen, audience member at the public lecture by Samantha Power

## “After Genocide or Mass Killing”

**Dr. Ervin Staub**, psychology professor and director of the Ph.D. concentration in the Psychology of Peace and the Prevention of Violence at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, presented a lecture on 31 March 2004 at Cohen Lasry House. The event, open to the public and part of the “Especially for Students” series, was cosponsored with Clark’s Government, History, Sociology, and Psychology departments, and the Peace Studies Program.

Staub studies helping behavior, altruism and the passivity of bystanders. He has published many articles and a number of books on these topics, including *Positive Social Behavior and Morality* (1978). He also analyzes group violence, with a focus on genocide and mass killing and the prevention of these atrocities. His research in this area has led to several books, including *The Roots of Evil: The Origins of Genocide and Other Group Violence* (1989) and *The Psychology of Good and Evil: Why Children, Adults and Groups Help and Harm Others?* (2003).

Professor Staub’s lecture at Clark focused on his ongoing field project in Rwanda, which started in 1989. His work there focuses on finding practical ways to address a very recent history of genocide. As he explained in his presentation, much of his work in this area deals with healing, reconciliation, and the prevention of renewed violence.

Staub described the approach he and his research team developed for furthering healing and reconciliation in the Rwandan context. The approach rests greatly on the power of understanding in three main areas: under-

standing the traumatic impact of violence on people, understanding the avenues to healing, and understanding the origins of the genocide.

The audience was fascinated by Staub’s presentation and his work. For faculty and students engaged in research and activism in genocide prevention, Staub provided a valuable theoretical framework for understanding post-genocidal reconciliatory dynamics and a down-to-earth narrative of the hands-on work of reconciliation and healing in a post-genocidal situation. Then first-year graduate student Tiberiu Galis, a long-time admirer of Staub’s work, was thrilled to gain insights helpful to his own research on post-Holocaust and post-Communist transitional justice problems. If he was delighted, undergraduate Shamika Finlayson

was stunned. “This was truly life changing,” she declared after Staub’s presentation. “I have found my life’s work today.” □



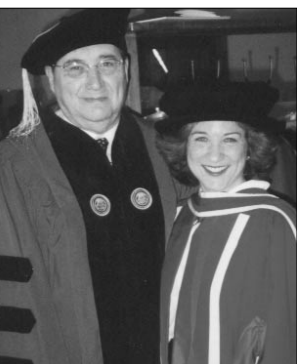
**Dr. Ervin Staub**, psychology professor and director of the Ph.D. concentration in the Psychology of Peace and the Prevention of Violence at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst

“This was truly life changing. I have found my life’s work today.”

— undergraduate student Shamika Finlayson

## “The New Face of an Old Demon”

**Abraham H. Foxman**, national director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), is a critical thinker and a powerful orator. Both shone bright at Clark on 21 April 2004 in a lecture Foxman delivered to an overflow crowd. Speaking about “The New Face of the Old Demon: The Role of Anti-Semitism in Contemporary Events and Politics,” Foxman emphasized his conviction that education and the act of speaking out are the best defenses against antisemitism and bigotry.



Abraham H. Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, with Debórah Dwork at Clark’s 2003 Commencement ceremonies, at which Foxman received an honorary degree

“People are not born bigoted, they are not born with hate, it’s an acquired evil.” According to Foxman, people learn bigotry at home as early as their toddler years. “The good news is that it can be unlearned.”

“The greatest failure of society’s ability to stand up against hate was during the Holocaust,” Foxman added. “Even though we knew what mankind was capable of, we underestimated the tolerance for it.”

The ADL uses education as a long-term tactic to fight prejudice, Foxman said, but the short-term solution is for individuals to speak out against antisemitism, prejudice, or bigotry, wherever and whenever they surface.

“It’s important to get individuals in positions of power and influence — the moral, the political, the spiritual leadership — to speak out, to set a model,” Foxman

says. Prompted by this philosophy — and by his generosity — Foxman spent a day at the Center, meeting with each doctoral student, future leaders in the fight against antisemitism and other forms of racism, and for the prevention of genocide around the globe. Learning about their individual research interests and aims, Foxman rewarded each with pithy criticism and constructive advice.

Speaking that evening to an audience that had come from every state in New England, Foxman noted that he wished he could distill the DNA that prompted Oskar Schindler or Raoul Wallenberg to rescue Jews from the Holocaust. He wished he could make a vaccine for tolerance from whatever made his own Christian nursemaid rescue him from the Holocaust by raising him as her own child when he was one year old, after his parents were captured by the Nazis. Short of a vaccine against hatred, Foxman declared, the best antidote for prejudice is people who say “not acceptable, “not in our community,” “not in our society.” And education is key to that moral behavior, that respect for others.

Foxman hopes Clark’s Strassler Center and the research of its faculty and graduate students will uncover what led to the Holocaust and why people tolerated such hatred.

“If we can understand that a little better, then we have a better chance of making sure it doesn’t happen again,” said Foxman. □

“Education and the act of speaking out are the best defense against antisemitism and bigotry.”

— Abraham H. Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League



## Linkages

The Center continues to enjoy mutually beneficial and enriching relationships with other institutions that are dedicated to education about the Holocaust and other genocides around the world. These linkages help to disseminate the scholarly expertise of Center faculty. And they provide the Center's students with research, public service, and internship opportunities. The following activities from the past year represent some of these valuable linkages.

### Jewish Foundation for the Righteous

The ties between the JFR and the Strassler Family Center grow stronger each year. At the invitation of Harvey Schulweis, chairman of the JFR, and Paul Goldberger, its president, Debórah Dwork joined the JFR board this past year. Promptly appointed co-chair of the Education Committee, Dwork continued to work with JFR Executive Vice President Stanlee Stahl and Hannah Waldman, chair of the JFR Education Committee, as she has done for the better part of a decade. Dwork's book for the JFR, *Voices and Views: A History of the Holocaust*, an edited and annotated collection of essays, serves as the core text of the JFR's national education program, which teaches the specific subject of moral courage and the rescue of Jews within the context of a general history of the Holocaust.



**Debórah Dwork** teaching "graduates" of JFR's summer institute for master teachers at the JFR's advanced winter seminar

**Dwork with Robert Jan van Pelt and Jesse Davis**, a participant in the JFR summer program for master teachers



Through the JFR program, *Voices and Views* is used by Holocaust memorial centers and resource centers, and in teacher education seminars across the country. Dwork teaches in the JFR's week-long residential program, held in New York every summer, for directors and staff of Holocaust education centers throughout the country and for master teachers who work with these centers. The JFR launched a new advanced seminar for "graduates" of the summer program who wished to deepen their knowledge of specific aspects of the Holocaust. Delighted by the teachers' commitment and interest, Dwork was happy to be one of the professors to hold a session for them.

### Knights of Vartan

The Center has long enjoyed a warm relationship with the Armenian community. Since the establishment of the Kaloosdian-Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies and Modern Armenian History two years ago, and the arrival of Professor Simon Payaslian, the first incumbent of the Chair, these links have become ever stronger. Payaslian and the Center are happy to have the opportunity to reach out, and the Armenian community has responded in kind. One example of these ties was the decision by the Knights of Vartan to hold its commemoration of the 12th anniversary of the Republic of Armenia in Tilton Hall in Clark's Higgins University Center on 22 September 2003. Payaslian,

"Professor Dwork's talk was superb. For one hour, I felt like I was transported back in time!"

— Linda Herman, participant in the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust Summer Institute for Teachers



Debórah Dwork, and genocide studies graduate students attended the event, and Payaslian delivered the keynote address, “National Independence in Armenian Political Thought.”

The Knights of Vartan is a civic organization created to safeguard the national, religious, and cultural heritage



**Debórah Dwork** with the **Rev. Dr. Gary R. Shahinian**, commander of the Knights of Vartan, Arshavir Lodge No. 2, Worcester, Mass.



**Simon Payaslian** delivers the keynote address at the Knights of Vartan commemoration of the 12th anniversary of the Republic of Armenia. The event was held at Clark.

of the Armenian people. Among the group’s many charitable activities and community outreach programs here and abroad was the donation of almost 30 books and videos to the Center’s Rose Library. The gift, which was accepted by Dwork at the commemoration, supports the Center’s expanded educational mission to include genocide studies and is a valuable asset to students and faculty.

### **Museum of Jewish Heritage — A Living Memorial to the Holocaust**

The linkages forged between the MJH and the Center hold strong and, indeed, have grown apace. Dwork was delighted to have been invited by the Museum to present a public lecture on her then-new co-authored book, *Holocaust*, and to participate in the MJH 2003 Summer Institute for Teachers, “Meeting Hate with Humanity: Life During the Holocaust.” Focusing on the impact of World War II and the Holocaust on Jewish lives and communities in Europe, this program draws teachers primarily from the New York City public schools, but also from farther afield and from parochial schools.

At program manager Elizabeth Edelstein’s request, Dwork returned to the museum this past summer to teach teachers about Jewish life during the Holocaust. She returned, too, to participate in the museum’s “Shoah Teaching Alternatives in Jewish Education” program for teachers in Jewish schools. The Center and the museum look forward to many avenues for mutual strengthening: if academic scholarship enriches public education, those programs and exhibitions provide public forums for the subjects on which scholars work. Asked to join the museum’s academic review commit-

**An essential part of the Center’s mission  
is training public school teachers to  
teach about the Holocaust and genocide.**



At the Stockholm Forum: (back row, from left) Dr. Ted Gurr, Lotta Stone, Ray Krause, Dr. Barbara Harff, Tiberiu Galis, Ilana Offenberger; (front row, from left) Robin Barry, Ani Degirmencioglu, Sarah Cushman, Naama Haviv, and Rachel Iskov

tee for an exhibition on Jewish Resistance during the Holocaust, curated by Yitzchak Mais, Dwork accepted with pleasure. The exhibition is scheduled to open in spring 2006.

### Stockholm International Forum on the Prevention of Genocide

Distinguished Visiting Professors to the Center Barbara Harff (fall 2003) and Yehuda Bauer (fall 2000 and fall 2004) prompted Prime Minister of Sweden Göran Persson to host an International Forum on the Prevention of Genocide in Stockholm (26-28 January 2004). They persuaded him, too, to invite all nine current doctoral students at the Center to attend.

The 2004 Forum was the fourth and final in a series sponsored and hosted by the Swedish government on issues it saw as vitally important to the world in the new millennium. Each Forum brought together national delegations from around the world and eminent scholars with expertise related to the specific theme of the conference. The 2004 Forum was no exception, and

provided a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the Center's graduate students to meet with diplomats, representatives of nongovernmental organizations, and scholars concerned with preventing genocide. The Stockholm Forum also provided an international stage for the Center, its work, and its students. The impact of this opportunity immediately expanded beyond the bounds of the Forum.

The Strassler Center doctoral students served as *rapporteurs* (session reporters) at the Stockholm International Forum. In that capacity, at least one student from the Center attended every workshop during the three-day conference. They were also invited to evening receptions, along with official delegates and scholars, at the Stockholm City Hall and the Swedish Parliament. There, they had the opportunity to pose questions, challenge ideas, and introduce themselves to an international community of people concerned about genocide today and in the future. The students wrote the official report for the Forum, which was read in summary to all present at the conclusion of the conference by Ambassador Alyson Bailes, director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. A few weeks later, the report was distributed to delegates at the United Nations.

The opening keynote speech of the conference was given by Kofi Annan, U.N. Secretary General, who expressed sincere wishes that the Forum would move the international community a step or two closer to taking responsibility and action toward eliminating genocide and that prevention would become a priority. Samantha Power (see page 10) gave the Forum's second keynote speech at the Stockholm City Hall.

"The [Center] group proved to be an excellent unit of serious-minded and enthusiastic students and their efforts at the conference were highly appreciated. They all played important roles through their reports and, by this, they contributed to the aim and goals of the conference."

— Eva Fried, programme coordinator for the Stockholm Forum

Other luminaries in the international community participated in the workshop and plenary sessions. Among these were many with connections to the Center: Frank Chalk, Yehuda Bauer, Barbara Harff, Alison Des Forges, and Ted Gurr. Students also made new and, they hope, lasting connections with Shulamit Koenig, Israel Charny, Gareth Evans and others.

The doctoral students found the Forum to be a rewarding and eye-opening experience. For each, it was a first experience with high-level international political delegations. Their role provided an opportunity to see how the international community begins to address issues of critical importance and how it attempts to balance the laws of sovereign states with the standards of international law and behavior. Each student returned with renewed energy and commitment to her/his studies.

The doctoral students thank Sidney and Rosalie Rose for their financial support for the trip, which assured that all nine were able to attend the Stockholm Forum.

### Teacher workshop on Armenian Genocide

An essential part of the Center's mission is training public school teachers to teach about the Holocaust and genocide. Throughout the year, the Center's faculty offer workshops around the country. The teacher workshops are also a way for the Center to contribute to its home community in Worcester. On 12 March 2004, the Center welcomed 27 history and social sciences teachers from the Worcester public schools for an *Assyrian and Armenian Genocide Workshop*.

Professor John Ameer of Clark's Jacob Hiatt Center for Urban Education opened the workshop with his

presentation "The Flickering Light," which focused on the genocide of the Assyrians. Dr. Martin Deranian, Worcester Armenian community historian and author, discussed the Armenian genocide in his lecture "The Wailing Well." The teachers participated in a working lunch with discussion led by then second-year doctoral student Lotta Stone and Ameer and also viewed "The Forgotten Genocide," a video about the Armenian genocide.

Nathaniel Mencow, a Holocaust and genocide studies educator, and Dr. Tatyana Macaulay, the Center's program manager, organized this workshop at the request of the teachers (see page 17). Mencow has been a volunteer for the Center for the last five years, working with Macaulay on teacher workshops and other projects.

### Teaching Through Other Media: Moriah Films

Debórah Dwork does not see herself as a film star. But when Rhonda Barad, eastern director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, asked her to serve as the historian of record for a documentary about Jewish resistance during the Holocaust, she agreed with pleasure. "Unlikely Heroes," produced by the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Moriah Films, presents little-known stories of extraordinary men and women who resisted the Nazi onslaught in many different ways. For Dwork, it was an opportunity to work closely with a peer organization, and to share her scholarly knowledge in another medium. "All credit goes to director Rick Trank," she concluded when the film premiered in fall 2003. "He transmitted the past onto the screen in the present, and he distilled a wealth of information — from many sources — with sensitivity and grace." □

The Center has long enjoyed a warm relationship with the Armenian community. Since the establishment of the Kaloosdian-Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies and Modern Armenian History two years ago, and the arrival of Professor Simon Payaslian, the first incumbent of the Chair, these links have become ever stronger.

## A Valued Member of the Center Community: Nathaniel Mencow

The Strassler Family Center's mission to educate public school teachers and students about the Holocaust and genocide has been greatly enhanced in the last several years by **Nathaniel Mencow**. A life-long student of history, Mencow has been instrumental in enriching Holocaust education in the Worcester Public Schools.

Mencow served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and later embarked on a business career. He earned a bachelor's degree in history at age 70 and currently, in his 80s, is earning a master's degree in history at Worcester State College. This dedication to the study of history is what led Mencow to work with the Center. In his work for the Worcester Public Schools, Mencow was appalled by the superficial nature of high school history books.

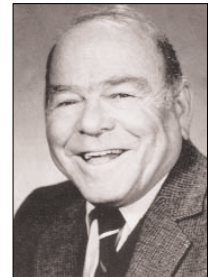
"There was not enough about the Holocaust, and not enough about the Armenian Genocide," Mencow says. "The quality of the textbooks is terrible, and that disturbs me. I believe the same as David McCullough: that this eats into the moral fiber of the country."

Mencow and Dr. Tatyana Macaulay, the Center's program manager for educational programming, have worked together to help address the failings of history textbooks. Mencow now oversees a thriving program that, with Macaulay's help, brings the Center's doctoral candidates into Worcester high school classrooms to give lectures and lead classroom discussions about the Holocaust and genocide.

"Weekly, I get calls from someone in the school department asking for lectures," he says.

This year, Mencow worked with Macaulay, to expand the program to include teacher workshops. Nearly 30 history and social sciences teachers gathered at the Center in March 2004 for the first *Assyrian and Armenian Genocide Workshop* (see page 16). The teachers' response was overwhelmingly positive, and Mencow is now planning a similar workshop about the Irish potato famine at their request.

"I admire Mr. Mencow's knowledge of the Holocaust and his dedication to teach and inspire both local teachers and their students," says Macaulay. "He has been an inspiration to me."



Holocaust and genocide studies advocate and educator **Nathaniel Mencow**

Mencow's interest in genocide dates back to 1928. About 10 years old at the time, he recalls leafing through a history book and reading about the "Armenian massacres."

"It bothered me that 1.5 million people could be killed and nothing was done about it. I've thought about this for for 70 years — and it still disturbs me."

His interest in the Holocaust stems from his Jewish heritage and his service in World War II. These experiences have fueled a lifetime of historical study and education.

Mencow is connected to Clark by his brother William, a Clark student killed in World War II before he finished his studies. With his work at the Center, Mencow honors his brother's war service. □

"I admire Mr. Mencow's knowledge of the Holocaust and his dedication to teach and inspire both local teachers and their students. He has been an inspiration to me."

— Dr. Tatyana Macaulay, programme manager for educational programming at the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

## Faculty Notes

Research, teaching, and public service activities made for another very busy year for the faculty of the Strassler Center.

**Debórah Dwork**, founding director of the Center and Rose Professor of Holocaust History, undertook a full schedule of public speaking and service, while also committed to teaching and research. Dwork was chosen once again for inclusion in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*, which makes its selections based on unprompted nominations (unknown to Dwork) from undergraduate students. She tied up the manuscript of her latest book, *The Terezín Album of Marianka Zadików*, for which she wrote the introduction and annotations, and sent it off to the University of Chicago Press; it is expected to be released in 2005. Perennially enthusiastic about her most recent work, Dwork called this facsimile edition of a *poesie album* — a kind of autograph album — “a jewel of a project.” The album was collected by a young Jewish woman inmate of the Thesienstadt concentration camp, Marianka Zadików. Happily, both Marianka and her album survived.

Dwork considers herself equally fortunate to have had the opportunity to write about rescuer Marion Pritchard, née van Binsbergen, with whom she co-teaches a seminar every fall term. Pritchard holds the Cathy Cohen Lasry ('83) Distinguished Visiting Professorship at the Center. Dwork's chapter “Marion van Binsbergen-Pritchard's Legacy” was published in 2004 in *Making a Difference*, edited by David Scrase. A piece on another subject entirely, “Agents, Contexts, and Responsibilities: The Massacre at Budy,” was published as a chapter in *Catastrophe and Meaning: Rethinking the Holocaust at the End of the 20th Century*, edited by

Moishe Postone and Eric Santner.

Dwork also served as the historian of record, both on and off screen, for the documentary film “Unlikely Heroes,” by Moriah Films.

Dwork enjoys working as team with her co-author Robert Jan van Pelt (see page 4), and both were pleased to explore facets of their current project on refugees at a University of Toronto symposium on *The Holocaust in the Netherlands* in March, where they delivered two papers. She looks forward to her sabbatical in January, when they will write their next book.

Deeply committed to public education, Dwork spoke at many public and teacher education events. Over the past year, she has participated in the JFR Summer Seminar for Teachers; the Museum of Jewish Heritage's Summer Institute for Teachers and its Shoah Teaching Alternatives in Jewish Education for teachers in Jewish schools; the Holocaust Museum Houston Summer Institute for Teachers; and the JFR Advanced Seminar for Teachers. She was delighted to see firsthand the terrific work of the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center in Seattle, and honored to deliver a talk on “Creativity in the Midst of Catastrophe” at that city's Yom Hashoah Community Commemoration.

Dwork's public service activities this past year included her work on many boards. She is a current trustee for the JFR and an advisory board member for such



**Debórah Dwork**  
speaking at the  
Washington State  
Holocaust Education  
Resource Center, Seattle

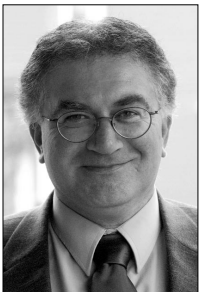
“This is as good as it gets!”

— Debórah Dwork

initiatives and organizations as the “Letters to Sala” Project; the International Research Institute on Jewish Women at Brandeis University; the Hatikvah Holocaust Education Center; and Facing History and Ourselves.

Dwork is especially proud of the Center’s graduate students and how they continue to thrive in their studies. As students Beth Cohen, Beth Lilach, and Christine van der Zanden went on to jobs and fellowships, Sarah Cushman and Rachel Iskov passed their comprehensive exams, were selected for fellowships and, with that support, have embarked upon their dissertation research. The next class is right behind them. “This is as good as it gets!” Dwork declares. “People ask: ‘How are you?’ The answer is obvious: ‘Never better!’”

**Simon Payaslian**, the Kaloosdian-Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies and Modern Armenian History, had another busy and productive year at the



**Simon Payaslian**

Center. His chapter “The Death of Armenian Erzerum/Karin” was published in *Armenian Erzerum/Karin*, edited by Richard G. Hovannisian. Payaslian presented the paper “The Armenian Genocide in Kesaria: The Fateful Years, 1915-1920” at the International Conference on Historic Armenian Provinces and Cities at the University of California, Los Angeles.

He also presented the paper “Hovannes Shiraz, Paruir Sevak, and the Memory of the Armenian Genocide” at the 37th Annual Comparative Literature Symposium at Texas Tech University. The symposium focused on “Memory and History: Cultural Representations of Displacement and Genocide.”

In addition to research, teaching, and advising at Clark, Payaslian is extremely active in the Center’s public service mission. In his first year at the Center, Payaslian worked to build strong and meaningful connections with the local Armenian community, work which continued during his second year. Payaslian organized a public lecture by Professor Richard Hovannisian at the Armenian church in Worcester. He was also the guest speaker for several area organizations. He gave a lecture on “The End of Armenian Life in Marash, Cilicia, 1920” at the Union of Marash Armenians in Watertown; “The Armenian Genocide and International Recognition” at a commemoration event for the Armenian community in Worcester; and “The Memory of the Armenian Genocide” at a commemoration event for the Armenian community in Ridgefield, N.J. He also spoke on “The Armenian Genocide” for the Council of European Studies in the Yale University Summer Program and taught a three-week course on “Armenian History” for the University of Connecticut-Storrs Summer Studies Program. The course was sponsored by the Armenian Relief Society.

Payaslian participated in public debate about genocide and the Armenian Genocide. He appeared on “Horizon: Armenian TV” several times throughout the year, discussing such topics as the significance of Clark’s Kaloosdian/Mugar Chair, the Strassler Center, democracy and the political system in the Republic of Armenia, Armenian-Turkish relations and international recognition of the Armenian Genocide. He also appeared on Boston’s Nitebeat TV and was a guest for the ongoing series “Academically Speaking” on Worcester’s WORC Radio.

“Clark University has been the perfect institution in which to pursue my research and teaching interests while developing close ties with the community.”

— Simon Payaslian, Kaloosdian-Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies and Modern Armenian History



**Thomas Kuehne** joins Clark and the Center in September 2004 as the Strassler Family Professor in the Study of Holocaust History. He teaches Modern European and German history. Kuehne's academic work and research is concerned with the relation of war, genocide, and society, with long-term traditions of political culture of Central Europe, above all with the problem of locating the Holocaust and Nazi Germany in the social and cultural history of the 20th century.

Kuehne received his academic degrees in Germany. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Tuebingen in 1994 and taught at the Universities of Konstanz, Tuebingen, and Weingarten. With the support of a research fellowship from the German Research Community, he completed his Habilitation thesis at the University of Bielefeld in 2003. Accepting an invitation from the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J., Kuehne came to the United States in 2003.



**Thomas Kuehne**

Kuehne's initial scholarly work focused on the cultural dimensions of the Prussian three-class electoral law in Wilhelmine Germany. His first book, published in Germany in 1994, explores the "electoral culture" of Germany in the last decades before World War I. It was awarded the German Parliament's Prize for Scholarship. Kuehne's recent research revolves around the mythical idea of comradeship and the impact of that notion on the actions and experiences of German soldiers in World War II. As his forthcoming book argues, comradeship served as social cement in the German

military, as well as in the German nation.

Kuehne is especially interested in synthesizing new approaches to the history of mass violence. He has organized several conferences and edited several essay collections to advance relevant scholarly discussions on cultural, gender, military, and political history, and he is engaged in establishing and improving the institutional and moral frameworks of these fields.

His books include *Dreiklassenwahlrecht und Wahlkultur in Preußen 1867-1914: Landtrags wahlen zwischen korporativer Tradition und politischem* (1994), *Handbuch der Wahlen zum Preußischen Abgeordnetenhaus 1867-1918: Wahlergebnisse, Wahlbindnisse und Wahlkandidaten* (1994), as well as many edited or co-edited volumes. "Teaching and researching at the Strassler Center gives me the opportunity to push the historian's — especially the Holocaust historian's — professional agenda to the limits: to understand the varieties of, and restrictions upon, life in the past; the freedom for and boundaries upon action." Coming as he does from a more homogeneous society, Kuehne appreciates the multiculturalism of the United States in general, and the Center in particular, which, he believes, widens the intellectual horizon. "I am amazed by the ability of the Center to attract and support students and scholars from a wide variety of social and cultural backgrounds. This alone — not even considering the Center's other strengths and facilities — provides an excellent base for serious work on the Holocaust and other genocides. I am so pleased to become a part of this community!"

The Center welcomes Kuehne, as he embraces the mission of the Center. □

**"I am amazed by the ability of the Center to attract and support students and scholars from a wide variety of social and cultural backgrounds. This alone provides an excellent base for serious work on the Holocaust and other genocides."**

**— Thomas Kuehne, Strassler Family Professor  
in the Study of Holocaust History**



## Center celebrates first Holocaust history Ph.D. recipients



**Christine van der  
Zanden Ph.D. '03**

The Strassler Center's first Holocaust History Ph.D.s, Beth Cohen and Christine van der Zanden, gathered with family, friends, faculty, and donors on the evening of 11 September 2003 to celebrate this landmark event in the six-year history of the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. They toasted the actualization of a vision and the inauguration of more to come. "Twenty years from now, your names, Cohen and van der Zanden, will be the first two on a long list," President John Bassett predicted in his opening remarks.



**Beth Cohen Ph.D. '03  
with her husband and  
parents**

Cohen, a Center Fellow, wrote her dissertation, titled *Case Closed: Holocaust Survivors and the American Jewish Community, 1946-1954*, about the transition of Jewish survivors into new Americans. Van der Zanden, the Rose Fellow, examined the lives of Jews who found protection during the war in or near the French town of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon in her dissertation, *The Plateau of Hospitality*. Earlier in the day, each defended her dissertation successfully. They had felt nervous. But, Cohen remarked with surprise, "I enjoyed parts of that defense. It was a serious conversation about a subject absolutely dear to me." Each of the graduates took the opportunity to thank her supporters, family, friends, and mentors.

Clark is the first university in the world to offer a Ph.D. program specifically in Holocaust history. Clark is also the first institution of higher learning in the United States to create a full-time, fully endowed professorship in Holocaust history, which was followed by a second such professorship. With the gift that established the Kaloosdian-Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies and Modern Armenian History in October 2001, the Strassler Center's mission expanded to embrace genocide studies. These gifts and the Center's mission are consonant with the university's goal of "Challenging Convention, Changing Our World." "With the graduation of the first class from the Center, we have a real accomplishment that aligns with that vision," provost David Angel declared in his final toast of the evening. "The university has made a difference."

Now it falls to the new graduates to make a difference, Center director Debórah Dwork observed. The dissertation director for both students, she took the floor to remind the company that the graduates' cap and gown, like that of priests or judges, signify moral autonomy. "Our graduates bear a special responsibility. They stand in counterpoint to the German academics of the 1930s who lined up to support Hitler. We look to our graduates to use their moral autonomy as they move forward in the future."

For Dwork, the evening was a celebration of communal success. She honored former Clark president Richard Traina, whose advocacy for the Center was essential to its founding and success. She raised her glass, too, to the donors who financed the groundbreaking work of the Center. Several donors were present to receive her

"Twenty years from now, your names, Cohen and van der Zanden, will be the first two on a long list,"

— President John Bassett, on the  
Center's first class of Ph.D. recipients

"Our graduates bear a special responsibility. They stand in counterpoint to the German academics of the 1930s who lined up to support Hitler. We look to our graduates to use their scholarship and moral autonomy as they move forward in the future."

— Debórah Dwork

thanks: David Strassler, for his family's support of the Center, the Strassler professorship now held by Thomas Kuehne, and a string of Distinguished Visiting Professorships; Sidney and Rosalie Rose and Ralph and the late Shirley Rose for support of the library, the professorship held by Dwork, and a student fellowship; Carolyn Mugar and the late John O'Connor '78 for their support of expanding the Center's mission to include the study of the Armenian genocide with the challenge gift for an endowed professorship now held by Simon Payaslian; Cathy '83 and Marc '81 Lasry for the house that is home to the Center and for the distinguished visiting professorship that supports rescuer Marion Pritchard's teaching at Clark; Joan and Richard Freedman for defraying the costs of art exhibitions to the Center and for the open-air terrace; and Shirley and Bob Siff for supporting the Center when it was but an idea, and continued with a Distinguished Visiting Professorship and the exhibition room.

"If the donors gave us the means, our colleagues here and abroad have taken on the task of broadening our program," she rejoiced. Dwork shone a bright light on the active participation of many in the success marked that day. Scholars from a variety of departments, universities, and countries joined in the celebration. Also in attendance were the nine current Ph.D. students, whose work builds on and is inspired by that of the graduates, and whose presence clearly indicated that the Center's mission carries forward. □

## The Center in the Mail

*"I was pleased to receive my copy of the annual report of the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. It is a most impressive narrative of the singularly important works that the Center is engaged in and a testament to your inspiring work as its Director."*

Irwin Cotler, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

*"Permit me to thank you for participating as rapporteurs in the Stockholm International Forum 2004; Preventing Genocide; Threats and Responsibilities... Of course, for this work to go forward, the conference has to pass along a record of the proceedings, and your excellent work as rapporteurs in the workshops plays an important role in this task."*

Krister Kumlin, secretary-general of the Stockholm International Forum 2004 to the Center's nine graduate students

*"We were very pleased to read about your widespread and rich offerings of lectures and programs, which show so many aspects of the Holocaust and genocide. Furthermore, we are impressed by the high level of interest and the number of listeners your lectures and activities attract. Your institution's and students' work are a good sign that this part of history is far away from being forgotten."*

Krystyna Olesky, vice director of the State Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau, Oswiecim, Poland, to Dr. Tatyana Macaulay, program manager for educational programming

*"Your scholarship has been a hallmark of excellence for me, and your passion for both the subject of Holocaust studies and the art of teaching are an inspiration to many of us in graduate programs across North America."*

Robert Bernheim to Debórah Dwork

continued on page 26

*"I am thankful for every opportunity I've had at Clark and I am grateful to those who have created a program grounded in good scholarship and shaped by innovative goals."*

— Christine van der Zanden Ph.D. '03

## Student News

During the 2003-04 academic year, the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies was the academic home for nine doctoral students, all of whom were successful and productive. Each has advanced her or his own studies and, thus the study of the Holocaust and other genocides.

Spielberg Fellow **Sarah Cushman** and Claims Conference Fellow **Rachel Iskov** passed major milestones in their pursuit of a doctoral degree by achieving competency in a second language, German and Yiddish respectively, and by passing their comprehensive examinations. Now they are prepared to move to the next stage of the program, and both were awarded competitive grants which will enable them to do so. Each was honored to receive a dissertation research fellowship from the Holocaust Educational Foundation. Iskov was selected, too, for a pre-doctoral fellowship at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.; she will be the Charles H. Revson Foundation Fellow at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the Museum for 2004-2005. Cushman was selected as an alternate for a Social Sciences Research Council fellowship. Cushman also successfully defended her dissertation proposal *The Women of Birkenau* in April.

In addition to their studies, Cushman and Iskov continued their rewarding interactions with the academic and lay communities. Both were guest lecturers in a course taught by Beth Cohen Ph.D. '03, "The Holocaust Since 1933." Iskov gave a lecture on "The History of the Lodz Ghetto," and Cushman facilitated an examination of primary documents about a massacre at a sub-camp of Auschwitz. Iskov was invited to serve as a facilitator

for the Mayoral Delegation from Lodz, Poland, to Toronto in September 2003 to plan the 60th anniversary commemoration of the destruction of the Lodz Ghetto. In March 2004, she presented a lecture on "Aryanization in Nazi Germany" to the Rotary Club in Worcester. Cushman was invited to Berlin in October 2003 to participate in a conference at the Frei Universität, "Women in the Concentration Camps."

Cushman and Iskov are now engaged fully with research and writing. Cushman is spending several months in archives in Germany and Poland to collect information for her dissertation on the women's camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Iskov is in New York and Poland, mining archival collections for material for her project on family life in the Lodz and Warsaw Ghettos.

Fromson Fellow **Robin Barry** and Claims Conference Fellows **Ray Krause**, **Iana Offenberger** and **Lotta Stone** have completed their course work. Now beginning their third year of the program, they turn their attention to comprehensive field exams and to preliminary research to shape their dissertation proposals. Barry has achieved several milestones this year. She has proven competence in German language skills and has published her first piece, a film review titled "Kedma" in the *Boston Jewish Film Festival Viewer's Guide*. Committed to undergraduate teaching – she hopes to be a professor one day – she was pleased to serve as a teaching assistant for Distinguished Visiting Professor Barbara Harff's (see page 2) course on "Comparative Genocide" and Professor Joanna Michlic's on "The History of Racial Thought." She particularly enjoyed working with Distinguished Visiting Professors Dr. Robert Jan van Pelt (see page 4)

"I had the privilege of working with Professor Robert Jan van Pelt on an individual basis, in preparation for my comprehensive examination. I found his expert advice invaluable, and I truly appreciate the experience."

— graduate student Rachel Iskov

and Dr. Robert Melson (see page 3). During the summer, Barry attended the Zoryan Institute's Genocide and Human Rights University Program and conducted archival research in Berlin and London pursuant to her proposed comparative study of the Herero genocide and the Holocaust.



**Center Students:** Ilana Offenberger (left), Robin Barry, Ray Krause, Sarah Cushman, Lotta Stone, Rachel Iskov, Tiberiu Galis, Naama Haviv, and Ani Degirmencioglu

Barry and **Ray Krause** rounded out their academic year by co-presenting a paper titled, "Metropolis: Antisemitic Elements in a Weimar Germany Film" at the Graduate Student Conference at Clark University.

Krause attended the Stockholm Forum on Genocide Prevention with his fellow graduate students. This summer, he continued researching his dissertation topic by doing an exhaustive analysis of the anti-Judaic imagery and rhetoric in Nazi war-time newsreels. This analysis is crucial to Krause's work to ascertain which agencies or individuals were responsible for the trans-

formation of the newsreels into a force used to mobilize a culture of genocide acceptance in Nazi Germany.

Claims Conference Fellow **Ilana Offenberger's** experience as a second-year graduate student built solidly upon her first. She, too, served as a teaching assistant for Joanna Michlic's "The History of Racial Thought" course and she enjoyed and learned from the opportunity to hold study groups, correct papers, and to obtain "hands on" teaching experience. She passed the proficiency exam in German and has begun serious study of Spanish, which will facilitate her research on Jews fleeing from Vienna to South America. This is one strand of her dissertation on the Jews of Vienna. She presented a paper on another aspect of this problem, "The Anschluss and the Forgotten Truth," at the Clark University Graduate Student Multidisciplinary Conference in March. Offenberger spent the summer in Vienna in the Austrian State Archives, the archives of the Finance Ministry, and the archives of the Viennese Jewish community. She focused on the expropriation, looting, and "aryanization" of Jewish property, looking both at Nazi action and Jewish responses. Passionate about her research which takes her abroad, Offenberger is also deeply appreciative of the Center community at home. She enthused about the group of first-year students who joined the Center in September 2003: "It is great that we have the ability to recruit international students. It contributes enormously to the program to have diversity and differing perspectives."

**Lotta Stone**, a Claims Conference Fellow, ranged far and wide both physically and academically in her second year at the Center. She was a teaching assistant for two classes at Clark, "History of South Africa" with

"Understanding past genocides is a start toward the prevention of future tragedies, but it is not enough. Through the sharing of her expertise with students, Dr. Harff helped inspire young scholars' work for the development of future genocide prevention programs."

— graduate student Lotta Stone

Professor Beverly Grier and “The History of Racial Thought” with Professor Joanna Michlic, and earned warm praise from both. She also contributed her extensive experience as a public school teacher to a workshop for teachers in the Worcester Public Schools on *Teaching the Armenian Genocide*. At Brown University, Stone served as the Registrar for the *Forum on European Expansion and Global Interaction*. Stone was thrilled to travel farther afield to deliver a paper of her own. She presented her research on “Romani Women and the Holocaust” at a conference on *War, Culture, and Humanity* at the University of Manchester in England. The summer months found Stone at the University of Indiana studying Yiddish (thanks to a fellowship awarded by the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the University of Indiana) and in Cape Town, South Africa, to begin archival research on her dissertation on Jewish refugees to that country during the 1930s and ’40s.

Center Fellow **Ani Degirmencioglu**, Rose Fellow **Tiberiu Galis**, and Tapper Fellow **Naama Haviv** all had successful, yet challenging first-year experiences at the Center, at Clark, and in Worcester. In addition to the adjustments typical to becoming a graduate student, Degirmencioglu and Galis had to adjust to a new culture and, in the case of the former, a new language.

Despite the cultural and linguistic challenges, **Ani Degirmencioglu** found the academic environment rewarding, especially regarding the Armenian Genocide, her area of interest. “The farther away I am from Turkey, the more I learn about my people [Armenians],” she observed. Over the summer, she

spent two months each in Vienna and Istanbul conducting research. In Istanbul, she focused her work on the Armenians of that city in both Armenian and Turkish archives. In addition, she took a language course on Ottoman, the language of the Turkish archives of the Ottoman period, and spent several weeks traveling to the Musa Dagh in eastern Turkey, an area of intense resistance during the Armenian Genocide.

**Tiberiu Galis**, recipient of the Rose Fellowship, pursued his keen interest in the fields of Holocaust history and comparative genocide studies and attended many conferences: the University of Sussex *Nationalist Myths and Modern Media* conference held in London, the *National Human Rights Institutions: What Makes Them Effective* conference sponsored by Notre Dame University Law School, Queen’s University Belfast, and University of Essex, London, and the meeting of the Western Political Science Association in Portland, Ore. Galis presented a paper on “Truth and Reconciliation? Truth Commission Theory” at the *War, Culture, and Humanity from Ancient to Modern Times* conference in Manchester, England. This paper was selected for publication in the conference papers collection. Galis greatly enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the Stockholm International Forum with his fellow graduate students. And he was most pleased to be asked to serve as an associated researcher to the activities of the British Parliament’s All Party Group on the Great Lakes and Genocide Prevention. In sum, Galis experienced his first year at the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies as an extremely rewarding opportunity to develop his research interest in the relation between transitional justice and transitions to democracy.

“This first year was incredibly enriching. Having the chance really to focus on the study of genocide in a comparative sense has given me enthusiasm for and direction in the field.”

— graduate student Naama Haviv

Tapper Fellow **Naama Haviv**'s first year was, she declared, incredibly enriching. "Having this opportunity to focus on the study of genocide in a comparative sense has given me enthusiasm for and direction in the field," she says. Fundamental to Haviv's education this year has been the incredible knowledge and expertise of the Strassler Center's Distinguished Visiting Professors, Dr. Barbara Harff and Dr. Robert Melson. Haviv presented the research that she completed for Harff, "On the Brink: The Potential for Renewed Genocide in Rwanda and Burundi," in the spring semester at Clark's Graduate Student Multidisciplinary Conference. Rewarding as this was, it paled in comparison to her participation in the International Stockholm Forum on the Prevention of Genocide, which she described as "an absolutely historic event." There, she met scholars at the top of the genocide studies field and began to solidify her research aims. She now plans to pursue research in the field of genocide prevention, focusing regionally on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. This summer, Haviv spent a month at the Middle East Media Research Institute in Jerusalem, working for and doing research with its president, Yigal Carmon.

### Entering Students

The Strassler Family Center is pleased to welcome two new graduate students into the program.

**Jeffrey Koerber** comes to Clark with years of experience as an architect specializing in the preservation and documentation of historic buildings and an interest in applying that experience to research and teaching about the Holocaust. Koerber earned bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He enjoys a number of

professional memberships and has been honored with several professional awards. He has also contributed an array of surveys, reports, and publications, and has presented papers at conferences across North America. **JulieAnne Mercier** earned a bachelor's degree magna cum laude from Regis College with a major in history, a minor in international relations, and a passion for history and relating it to current events. As a student and in the year following, Mercier honed her skills as a researcher working in archives and assisting newly arrived immigrants with legal issues at a Boston law firm. She, too, has won a number of awards and scholarships and has earned membership in several honor societies. □

### The Center in the Mail

*continued from page 22*

*"Our little Holocaust Council has had limited state resources to do our job, but people like [graduate student] Lotta Stone have done some great things for Holocaust education, especially in the low country around Charleston and Summerville. In the 1990s, Lotta attended one of the Council's graduate workshops in the teaching of the Holocaust. Even that early, she was a great asset to her colleagues, as well as her students."*

**Dr. Selden K. Smith**, chair of the South Carolina Council on the Holocaust

*"Allowing the use of the Center and providing the teaching tools for the participants showed your desire to make the history of genocide known to the educators of the Worcester Public Schools."*

**Nathaniel Mencow**, Holocaust and genocide studies advocate, Worcester, Mass.

*continued on page 31*



## Growth and Development

This past September (2003), precisely five years after we admitted our first doctoral candidates to our five-year program, Clark granted the first Ph.D. degrees specifically in Holocaust history to be awarded anywhere in the world. This tremendous achievement is a testament to our many donors whose generous contributions support student research and scholarship. This success also depends upon ongoing support for key elements of the Strassler Family Center, including: endowed professorships, public programs, the Rose library, the physical infrastructure of Cohen-Lasry House, and all aspects of our annual operation.

Fellowship support is crucial to ensuring excellence; it guarantees that those who are most intellectually qualified have the means to undertake doctoral study. Donors who support graduate student fellowships and research include the Crown Family Foundation, the Righteous Persons Foundation, Howard Fromson, David and Marlene Persky, Ralph and

Shirley\* Rose, Sid and Rosalie Rose, Al Tapper, and an anonymous donor. A new source of generous financial support for student fellowships comes from the Rabbi Israel Miller Fund for Shoah Education, Research and Documentation, a grant program of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany.

The excellence of our faculty and students and the quality of the facilities that support their work foster the Center's growing international and national renown.

The growth — and the impact — of Clark University's Holocaust and Genocide Studies Program will be determined by our success in maintaining the interest and support of all of our contributors. We extend our heartfelt thanks to each of the donors listed below.

*The following list includes outright gifts, pledges and pledge payments made between June 1, 2003 and May 31, 2004.*

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*"It is the vitality and energy of this community of young scholars that sits before you today and that is fostered, I believe, by the comfort and beauty of our workspace, that really makes this a 'family' and a 'center' for Holocaust and genocide studies."*

— graduate student Sarah Cushman



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**Cohen-Lasry House**, permanent home of the Strassler  
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**Roman and Hannah Kent****Claims Conference Grant Supports Shoah Research**

This year, the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies was awarded a \$72,000 grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference). The award, from the Rabbi Israel Miller Fund for Shoah Research, Documentation and Education, covered fellowship and research bursary costs for four graduate students for the 2003-04 academic year.

The following students received support from the grant: Rachel Iskov for her research on *The Jewish Family in the Warsaw and Lodz Ghettos*; Ray Krause for his work on *Nazi Newsreels: Propaganda and Ideology*; Ilana Offenberger for her research on *The Jews of Vienna, 1933-1950*; and Lotta Stone for her research on *Jewish Refugees to South Africa, 1933-1950*.

Clark students are the first to receive such an award from the Claims Conference, which was established in 1951 to negotiate on behalf of, and in the name of, victims of the Holocaust for restitution of property and compensation for material loss. While its primary goal is to serve survivors, the Conference recently decided that educational initiatives fit its mandate. Its grant to the Strassler Center is its first to fund individual doctoral fellowships.

"The Claims Conference is proud to support the unique program at Clark which allows for the training of exceptional students in the history of the Holocaust and ensures there are scholars to continue the work of educating others," said Roman Kent, chairman of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and treasurer of the Claims Conference.

"The Conference's decision to support our students reflects its full confidence in the mission and work of our Center," said Center Director Debórah Dwork. "Every penny the Conference disburses to the Center comes from the sale of heirless Jewish properties in the east of Germany. It now falls to us to be worthy of that inheritance, and to serve as heirs to their history." ■

"The Claims Conference is proud to support the unique program at Clark which allows for the training of exceptional students in the history of the Holocaust and ensures there are scholars to continue the work of educating others."

— Roman Kent, chairman of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and treasurer of the Claims Conference.

## The Strassler Family Center honors the Tobak family

The Strassler Family Center hosted a luncheon on 18 September 2003 in honor and appreciation of the Tobak family, who dedicated the Tree of Life Courtyard and the graduate student offices at the Center in memory of Henry Tobak, a survivor of the Holocaust from Radom, Poland. The faculty and students at the Center were delighted to welcome Mr. Tobak's wife, Erika; his children, Suzanne and Mark; and his granddaughter, Laura, to Cohen-Lasry House.

Suzanne Tobak learned about the Center through her friendship with the Strassler family. When her father died, she requested that donations in his memory be made to the Center in support of its mission. The culmination of these gifts was unveiled during the luncheon. The dedication plaque reads:

*"The Tree of Life Courtyard and the Graduate Student Offices are dedicated to the memory of Henry Tobak (né Chaim Tabaksblatt), a survivor of the Holocaust who embraced life. Nourished by the earth of the library, this*

*tree will grow to the top reaches of the house, where future generations of Holocaust scholars now study. Henry Tobak, generous of spirit, well understood the significance of the story of the carob tree:*

*"A young girl walking down a road saw an old man planting a carob tree. 'How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?' she asked. 'Seventy years,' he answered. 'Do you think you will live another 70 years to eat the fruit of this tree?' she countered. 'No,' the gardener said, 'But in my life, I found many carob trees planted by generations that preceded me. Now it is my turn to do the same for those to come.'*

*The family and friends of Henry Tobak  
September 2003*

During the luncheon, Suzanne and Mark Tobak spoke about their appreciation for the Center and its students, and about their father. Suzanne explained that her father was "just one of those very special people," a charismatic man who embraced life. Mark was deeply touched by the kindness and generosity of spirit at the Strassler Family Center. "You serve to preserve the memory, to enlarge understanding, and to further scholarship," he affirmed.

Spielberg Fellow Sarah Cushman spoke on behalf of the graduate students at the Center to express "our gratitude for your support of our space and our work." She described the importance of the Center as a place for reading, writing, and research, in the students' development as scholars.

"This Center truly was — and continues to be — the place from which I go out as a scholar into the larger campus community and the world," Cushman said. "It is the vitality and energy of this community of young scholars that sits before you today and that is fostered, I believe, by the comfort and beauty of our workspace, that really makes this a 'family' and a 'center' for Holocaust and genocide studies." ■



**David Strassler (left), Lorna Strassler, Patricia Spargo, Laura Tobak, Suzanne Tobak, Erika Tobak, Debórah Dwork, Mark Tobak, and Abbie Strassler**

**"You serve to preserve the memory, to enlarge understanding, and to further scholarship."**

**— Mark Tobak**

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## The Center in the Mail

*continued from page 26*

*“You are a truly inspirational professor. Thank you so much for all your time and energies in terms of not only my courses, but also my letters of recommendation.”*

Rosaria DeMember '04 about Professor Simon Payaslian

*“You do wonderful things. Exciting and excellent programming.”*

Dan Rich, St. Louis Holocaust Center

*“It was an honor to spend time with so many who have committed themselves to work that is worthy of their time and talents, work that is valuable and good.”*

Brendan Murphy, participant in the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous Summer Seminar for Teachers

*“I found the lecture by Professor Debórah Dwork most informative. She was highly motivated, and I was fascinated by the information she shared with us.”*

Deborah Longo, participant in the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust Summer Institute for Teachers

*“I was honored to be named a Claims Conference fellow. Their generous support — as well as that of all our donors — makes it possible for me, and all the Ph.D. students, to get an exceptional education. The contributions of the donors ensures that the Strassler Family Center is able to consistently offer a superior level of academic training.”*

— graduate student Rachel Iskov

## Save These Dates

*Please join us for this exciting array of public programs! Call 508-793-8897 for further information, or visit the Clark calendar at [www.clarku.edu/calendar](http://www.clarku.edu/calendar) or the Center's Web site at [www.clarku.edu/departments/holocaust](http://www.clarku.edu/departments/holocaust) for a complete listing of events.*

### FALL 2004

SEPTEMBER 9, 2004  
7:30 P.M., TILTON HALL

#### **"Radical Islam"**

Dr. Yehuda Bauer,  
Robert Weil Distinguished Visiting Professor of  
Holocaust History;  
Academic Advisor at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem

SEPTEMBER 28, 2004  
7:30 P.M., TILTON HALL

#### **Up From Zero: Politics, Architecture, and the Rebuilding of New York**

##### **• A NEW BOOK!**

Paul Goldberger,  
Dean, Parson's School of Design;  
Columnist, *New Yorker Magazine*

OCTOBER 2004  
ALL DETAILS TBA

#### **"Anti-Terrorism Initiatives and Human Rights Protection"**

The Honorable Gijsbert de Vries,  
European Union Coordinator on Counter-Terrorism

### SPRING 2005

LATE FEBRUARY THROUGH MAY 2005  
COHEN LASRY HOUSE

#### **"Forging a New Life: Revival of Jewish Communities in Post-Communist Europe"**

##### **• A PHOTOGRAPH EXHIBIT!**

This exhibit will be shown concurrently with the  
College of the Holy Cross exhibit "Draw, what you see!"

Opening events will be held at Clark and the  
College of the Holy Cross.

*Please call the Center for dates and times.*

APRIL 6, 2005  
7:30 P.M., TILTON HALL

#### **"Beauty, Race, and Democracy in the 20th Century"**

Thomas Kuehne,  
the new Strassler Professor of Holocaust History

*This lecture is supported by the Asher Family Fund*

*It takes a community to grow a Center. I am delighted to have this opportunity to express my gratitude to the many members of the far-flung and immediate community who have given generously of their time and expertise to ensure the success of the Center: its programs and its students. Distinguished Visiting Professors and Scholars Yehuda Bauer, Barbara Harff, Ted Gurr, Lawrence Langer, Robert Melson, Marion Pritchard, Robert Jan van Pelt, and Michael Berenbaum mentored and trained our students. Professors Piotr Wrobel, Michael Marrus, Henry Feingold, and Douglas Leighton served as external examiners and on dissertation committees. The Clark community has been no less generous. Shelly Tenenbaum, Dorothy Kaufman, Eric Gordy, Doug Little, Wim Klooster, Beverly Grier, and Walter Schatzberg mentor, advise, and work closely with Holocaust and Genocide Studies graduate students. My thanks are poor recompense for their intellectual commitment and enthusiasm. Each person strengthened and enriched the students individually and the program as a whole.*

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