



Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

2007-2008

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

YEAR END ACTIVITIES AND 2007 GIFT REPORT
June 2007 through May 2008

A large, leafy tree stands in the center of a courtyard. The tree has a thick trunk and many branches with green leaves. In the background, there is a light-colored building with several windows. The ground is paved, and there are some low walls or railings around the courtyard. The overall scene is bright and somewhat hazy.

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

—The Ethics of the Fathers

Letter from the Director

August 2008

Dear Friends:

Writing in 1940, after Germany had invaded Poland and before the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, economist Mary Barnett Gilson took aim at the mission of the classroom in her book, *What's Past is Prologue*. "Education fails," she said, "in so far as it does not stir in students a sharp awareness of their obligations to society and furnish a few guideposts pointing toward the implementation of these obligations." Gilson would have given the Center top marks. From the establishment of a Clark chapter of STAND (a student anti-genocide coalition) by undergraduates to, in 2007-08, no fewer than five graduate students serving as Directors of Education in Holocaust and genocide-related organizations across the country, Strassler Center students demonstrate a very sharp awareness indeed of their social obligations. And a readiness to transmute their education into action.

Our doctoral candidates' research yields fresh perspectives on ever current problems. Jeff Koerber, hastily returned from Belarus on advice from the American consulate, plumbed local archives to explore ethnic identity and inter-group conflict in one borderlands region. A subject all too relevant today across the globe. And in the midst of much public discussion about immigration and refugee reception, Adara Goldberg's work on Canada's admissions policies after the war clarifies the challenges official agencies and desperate individuals face in our own time.

These are but a few of the knotty problems Center doctoral students research. Our public lecture series engaged equally bold subjects: Caroline Elkins on the history of Britain's internment and merciless treatment of 1.5 million Kikuyu in Kenya and the obfuscation of that history through systematic destruction of documents. Julia Chaitin on confronting barriers to dialogue between Jews and Palestinians. And Jens Meierhenrich on prosecuting concentration camp personnel (and who else in the future?) under international law.

The Center's mandate embraces teaching, research, and public service on all matters pertaining to the Holocaust and other genocides. Every aspect of our work holds to heart Roman historian Livy's dictum. "In history you have a record of the infinite variety of human experience plainly set out for all to see, and in that record you can find for yourself and your country both examples and warnings: fine things to take as models, base things rotten through and through to avoid."

Our aim is to identify solutions, using past as prologue. The need is great. In the past few months alone we have witnessed a new escalation of violence in Darfur, brutal interethnic massacres in Kenya, and the erection of tent camps in South Africa to shelter foreign nationals driven from their homes in xenophobic attacks.

We look to you for support as we move forward together.



Deborah Dwork

Deborah Dwork

Rose Professor of Holocaust History

Director, Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies



Professor Samuel Kassow
of Trinity College

“Samuel Kassow was amazing, not only the story he had to tell, but the way he told it.”

—Thea Ashkenase,
Holocaust survivor

“This presentation was intriguing, for its content, and from a professional point of view. The protection and accessibility of such valuable materials is so important.”

—Retired bookseller
from Worcester

Samuel Kassow: *Who Will Write Our History*

Students, faculty and Worcester community members filled Tilton Hall on 19 September 2007 for the Center’s first public lecture of the 2007-08 academic year. Esteemed Professor Samuel Kassow of Trinity College delivered a riveting talk about his new book, *Who Will Write Our History: Emanuel Ringelblum, the Warsaw Ghetto and the Oyneg Shabes Archive*, the story of the Warsaw Ghetto through the lens of those who documented it.

Claims Conference Fellow Jeffrey Koerber introduced Kassow, explaining that Kassow’s work and teaching inspired his own dissertation research and writing. Kassow took the podium and, after thanking Center staff and faculty and the Lasry family (great friends of the Center who share a connection to Hartford), turned to the significance of Emanuel Ringelblum, his invaluable archive, and the heroic resistance it represents.

Emanuel Ringelblum, a high school teacher before the war, happened to be in Switzerland attending a Zionist Congress at the time of the German invasion of Poland. He insisted on returning to Warsaw, only to find Jewish leadership fleeing the city. He stayed to help organize the community and, ultimately, created the *Oyneg Shabes*

(Sabbath joy) committee to archive and document the ghetto.

“Writing itself was resistance,” Kassow explained. Ringelblum came to understand that the Nazi aim was total destruction of European Jewry and he realized that history would be written by the victors. The documentation of the Warsaw ghetto

allowed Jews to take control of memory—the memory of themselves. They prepared a record of their lives and deaths and, in doing so, showed their faith in a future.

Ringelblum established a collective of unrelated people to create the archive. Communists and rabbis, Zionists and Bundists labored together to assemble documentation of everyday existence in the Warsaw Ghetto. Many worked previously for YIVO (the Jewish Scientific Institute) and simply continued their endeavors throughout the war. In some cases, those working on the archive had never spoken to each other before the war; they came together out of a sense of obligation to their fellow Jews.

The partially recovered archive includes diaries and essays, as well as everyday items such as tram tickets and candy wrappers. Archivists also collected the testimony of ghetto residents and witnesses of mass murder to amass evidence against the German criminals. They sent reports to London about the ghetto and eyewitness accounts from the death camp Treblinka. To no avail. According to Kassow, the archive provides the unique voice of those writing “within the experience.” Of the 60 members of the *Oyneg Shabes* committee, only three survived the Holocaust; thus, the archive captures both lost voices and the perspective of the moment. This aspect of the *Oyneg Shabes* archive differs from memoirs written after the war.

The audience was visibly touched by Kassow’s presentation, their attention held not only by the powerful content but also by his passion for and dedication to helping Ringelblum and the *Oyneg Shabes* succeed in their mission—to share their memories.

□ Elizabeth Anthony



Professor Samuel Kassow (center) with, left to right, Carolynn Sharaf, Marie Raduazzo, Judi Bohn '75, Orna Stern, Professor Kassow, Center Director Debórah Dwork, Strassler Professor Thomas Kühne, Clark Trustee Alan Sharaf '72, Center graduate student and Claims Conference Fellow Jeffrey Koerber

Caroline Elkins: *Imperial Reckoning*

Students, faculty, staff, and community members filled Clark's Tilton Hall on 10 October 2007 to hear historian Caroline Elkins lecture on her Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Imperial Reckoning: The Untold Story of Britain's Gulag in Kenya*. Elkins, the Hugo K. Foster Associate Professor of African Studies at Harvard University, discussed her groundbreaking research on the British detainment of approximately 1.5 million Kikuyusome Kenyans.

Elkins began by providing the historical context of the British colonization of Kenya, also known as the “Hearts and Minds campaign,” for the uprising by Kenya's largest ethnic group, the Kikuyu, who had been forced from their land by British colonizers. The British responded to what came to be called the Mau Mau rebellion with a policy of internment and merciless treatment of the insurgents. Elkins described the prison camps erected by the British as “sites of systematic violence, torture, and murder...a system that formed what I now call Britain's Gulag.”

Embarking on her research 10 years ago, Elkins realized that on the eve of decolonization in 1963 the British Colonial government destroyed much of the archival material documenting the internment camps. She spent years reconstructing this history with shards of evidence gleaned from government files, newspapers, photographs, and hundreds of interviews she conducted with former colonial officers, missionaries, settlers, and survivors of the camps.

Elkins conveyed the violent conditions of the detention camps through the testimonies of a male survivor, a female survivor, and a guard who helped torture Kikuyu detainees. All, including the utterly unrepentant guard, described the harshly cruel measures inflicted on detainees by the British. Pictures of Kikuyu prisoners further illustrated the brutality that occurred in Kenya, in a period just after the horrors of the Nazi death camps were revealed to the world.

Deeply attentive to her lecture, audience members explored a range of interrelated issues during the question period. Asked about motivations, Elkins described the interviews she conducted with perpetrators. Even today they continue to believe they did nothing wrong because, in their minds, the rebels needed to be stopped. Elkins emphasized the negative perception of the Kikuyu that helped to justify the murderous tactics employed. Such perceptions helped the perpetrators justify their use of violence and led British citizens to turn a blind eye to the brutal colonial administration in Kenya. That collective blindness to British policy and practice in Kenya continued until Elkins's meticulous research and scholarship shed new light upon it.

□ *Alexis Herr*

“Professor Elkins's talk was completely and utterly fascinating. She illuminated a topic I knew nothing about and when I left her lecture I felt compelled to learn more.”

—Emily Mashberg '08, majoring in international development and social change



Caroline Elkins, Hugo K. Foster Associate Professor of African Studies at Harvard University



Michael Schudrich,
Chief Rabbi of Poland



Michael Schudrich,
Chief Rabbi of Poland, with
Professor Shelly Tenenbaum,
Coordinator of HGS
Undergraduate Activities

“Sharing anecdotes of real life discovery made this talk especially touching and poignant; bringing the emerging, or reemerging, Polish-Jewish community to light.”

—Elizabeth Anthony,
Center graduate student
and Claims
Conference Fellow



Michael Schudrich
with Center Director
Debórah Dwork

Chief Rabbi of Poland Michael Schudrich: “Jews of Poland: Fact and Fiction”

The Center hosted Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of Poland, who gave a fascinating presentation on “Jews of Poland: Fact and Fiction” in the Rose Library on 17 October 2007. Welcomed by an audience that included members of Clark Hillel and the Worcester community, Schudrich spoke about the challenge of fostering Jewish life in post-communist Eastern Europe and the state of contemporary Jewish life in Poland today.

Schudrich began his work in Eastern Europe as a student leading Jewish groups to meet with remnants of Jewish communities. He spent 1992-1998 in Warsaw as a representative of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, helping to rebuild Jewish communities in Central and Eastern Europe. In June 2000, Schudrich returned to Poland as the Rabbi of Warsaw and Lodz and from December 2004, he served as Chief Rabbi of Poland. Graduate student and Claims Conference Fellow Jody Russell Manning, who is investigating post-war memory in Poland, introduced Schudrich, explaining the importance of his work, his friendship with the Center, and how their paths have crossed. When Schudrich learned that his daughter Ariana Schudrich '09 had been accepted to join the Center's 2007 Prague-Terezín-Auschwitz Program, he offered to guide the group, including Manning, around Kraków's Kazimierz district. Manning and Schudrich also worked together during the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum's International Conference: *Remembrance-Awareness-Responsibility*.

Manning described how Schudrich came to international attention in the summer of 2006. The day before he was to recite Kaddish at a ceremony led by Pope Benedict XVI in Birkenau, Schudrich was attacked by a Neo-Nazi shouting “Poland for the Poles.” Unwilling to be stopped,

Schudrich took part in the ceremony. Commenting upon the assault, he remarked, “The fact that such an incident took place only once in 17 years shows that antisemitism is not dead in Poland—but, at the same time, it is not as virulent as those outside of Poland think it is.”

Sketching the difficult and complex history of 20th-century Poland to frame his context, Schudrich spoke about contemporary Poland and his work ministering to the emerging Jewish communities, particularly in Lodz and Warsaw. The subject of Jews and Poland involves three interrelated matters, he explained: current Jewish life in Poland; Poland's Jewish heritage; and Polish-Jewish relations.

Polish-Jewish relations were “in the freezer” under totalitarian regimes from 1939-1989. Under communism, it was nearly impossible for Jews to maintain a Jewish identity and by 1968 it was clear that they had two choices: leave or hide their identity as Jews. Today the people of Poland are coming to terms with their country's dark past, and some are “discovering” or “recognizing” their Jewish roots. The rabbi shared many stories concerning those newly aware of their heritage. “I don't know if I am Jewish,” a young Polish man told Schudrich. “The only Jewish family member is my mother's mother.” The challenge for Schudrich is to build a meaningful community from these fractured and emerging identities.

The audience explored a range of perplexing questions about Jewish identity and the historical record of Jewish life under Communism. Since 1989, thousands of Poles have uncovered Jewish roots, and today the community comprises mainly newly self-discovered Jews.

□ *Jody Russell Manning*

Thomas Kühne: *Hitler's Community: Belonging and Genocide, 1918-1945*

The Kent Seminar Room in Cohen Lasry House was packed on 24 October 2007 with people who had come to hear Thomas Kühne, Strassler Professor of Holocaust History, present his new book project, *Hitler's Community: Belonging and Genocide, 1918-1945*. Clark's Modern History Colloquium was an ideal setting for such a talk. Kühne anticipated a lively discussion of his thesis, a new and challenging answer to the key question: why was it Germany (and no other country) that planned and executed the Holocaust?

"The longing for community, the practice of togetherness, and the ethos of comradeship became the basis of the mass murder committed by Germans from 1939 on," Kühne began. Challenging other scholars' single-factorial arguments on the significance of antisemitism, or group pressure, or obedience, Kühne focused on the perpetrator society's yearning for "group pleasure" and "belonging," not least national belonging.

Since World War I, Germans were fascinated by an idea of male comradeship as the model of national belonging. This myth weakened the grip of individual responsibility and strengthened a moral system that praised group honor, enforced group pressure, and provided group pleasure—"shame culture," as eminent cultural anthropologist Ruth Benedict has described it with regard to Japanese society in 1948. Undermining traditional western (Christian as well as Jewish) guilt culture, which strengthens individual responsibility, shame culture sets the controlling gaze of the community as the highest moral authority. From 1933 on, the Nazi regime perfected this change by infusing Germans—particularly men, but also women—with a racist ideology and by enjoining Germans to practice shame

culture by violating former social norms. Violating the norm provided the male bond with a self-image of social independence and moral sovereignty, which eventually blurred the boundaries of all norms and thus facilitated genocidal warfare.

Genocidal warfare offered unlimited opportunities to demonstrate the sovereignty of the male bond. It also enabled a new kind of nation-building: the nation became an extended version of what might be called a brotherhood of crime. In addition to the core group of perpetrators in the Einsatzgruppen and camp guards, ordinary soldiers in the Wehrmacht were complicit, even if they had not personally participated in murder. The Holocaust perpetrators, including the so-called bystanders, established a revolutionary society, which organized and "hierarchized" its members according to the degree they carried out a racist ideology, and that praised community-building and the merciless disregard of anybody who did not belong. In due course, the German public was involved in a "destruction [that] served as the basis for togetherness. Mass death stimulated national belonging."

Kühne's presentation evoked a stimulating discussion. Why the Jews as victims? Kühne explained that Nazi Germany's need for enemies was endless. As is well known, the Nazis believed in their own eliminationist antisemitism and chose the Jews as their most important enemy. The discussion then focused on the relation between guilt culture and shame culture. Kühne observed that Germans during the Holocaust were able to switch between these concepts, depending on the demands of varying situations. It was the fluidity and flexibility of moral categories that enabled and facilitated genocide.

"Professor Kühne's presentation was really interesting, and his different perspectives added a new dimension to the issue. I found the process of internalization of hyper-masculine group dynamics especially intriguing."

—Rebecca Dash, Clark graduate student in history



Thomas Kühne,
Strassler Professor of
Holocaust History

Julia Chaitin: “When Does Genocide End?” and “Bridging the Impossible?”



Julia Chaitin with Center Director Debórah Dwork, Strassler Professor Thomas Kühne, and Center graduate students

“I hope that Dr. Chaitin will investigate the psychological ties that second and third generation survivors have to their relatives’ Holocaust experiences as thoroughly in North America as she has done in Israel.”

— Dan Roberts ’06, M.A. ’07



Israeli psychologist Julia Chaitin, Sapir Academic College and Ben-Gurion University, Israel

A visit by Israeli psychologist Julia Chaitin of Sapir Academic College in the Negev in Israel grows a collaboration first seeded several years ago by Greenberg Distinguished Visiting Scholar Dan Bar-On. A world-renowned social psychologist, Bar-On lectured about bridging conflict through

storytelling during his 2005 visit. Eager to foster connections with Israeli colleagues and further the investigation of psychology and genocide, the Siff Family Foundation sponsored Professor Chaitin’s visit. Chaitin delivered two important lectures: one to the Center community and the other to a large public audience as part of the University’s Difficult Dialogues series.

When Does Genocide End?

Chaitin presented “When does Genocide end? Long-term Psycho-Social Effects of Genocide on Victims and their Dependents” to a riveted audience of students, faculty, and community members in the Rose Library on 31 October 2007. Strassler Professor Thomas Kühne highlighted Chaitin’s collaborative projects with Bar-On and her research on how generations born in a post-genocide era come to terms with their families’ painful pasts. While survivors may rebuild their lives, their memories of genocidal experiences are often transmitted to the next generation.

Chaitin opened with the illuminating narrative of Alon, a young Israeli grandson of Holocaust survivors. When asked how Holocaust memory was experienced in his household, Alon said, “My mother carries the suffering of the family on her shoulders. She has always believed that life is about suffering, and that you cannot enjoy something without first seeing the negative in it.”

Using Alon as a touchstone, Chaitin

elaborated her research findings on the transgenerational reverberations of Holocaust suffering and memory, as manifested in Israeli society. Chaitin’s thesis is that although violence may cease, genocide has no expiration date. “Trauma,” she argued, “is viewed as a process of lifelong sequence. For members of the second and third generation, prolonged contact with survivors who exhibit signs of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and emotional instability places them at greater risk of developing psychological problems.”

Holocaust memory may affect the family unit, resulting in tension between survivors and their children. While survivors face the daunting task of rebuilding shattered lives, their children unwittingly become carriers of suffering, pain, and fears. For the second generation, the Holocaust remains a burden that was either over-emphasized or not discussed enough in their own childhoods. For the third generation, the Holocaust plays an integral role in shaping Jewish-Israeli identity. “Grandchildren,” notes Chaitin, “often develop closer relationships with their survivor grandparents than their own parents, and consider the Holocaust as a challenge. Israeli youth, particularly those who have participated in educational trips to Poland and the sites of former concentration camps, have a need to maintain Israel as a strong, militaristic nation: There exists an all-encompassing obsession that Jews never become victims again.” Thus, the Holocaust looms large in contemporary Israeli society where it remains firmly in the public consciousness.

Chaitin’s research on the transgenerational effects of genocide will surely have an impact on the treatment of genocide survivors in the future.



Difficult Dialogues Symposium “Bridging the Impossible?” with Julia Chaitin (far right)

Bridging the Impossible?

Chaitin resumed her examination of the psycho-social dynamic of conflict in a panel discussion sponsored by the Strassler Center and the Clark University Difficult Dialogues program. The Difficult Dialogue series fosters discussion of controversial topics. Professor Thomas Kühne organized the program, “Bridging the Impossible? Confronting Barriers to Dialogue between Germans, Jews, and Palestinians,” and introduced Chaitin, who served as the main discussant, to a packed hall at Dana Commons.

Chaitin drew upon the German-Jewish philosopher Martin Buber for her understanding of the dialogic process.

According to Buber, silence and speech are the basis for human communication. In order to become fully attentive to the I-thou relation, in Buber’s terms, one must silence inner arguments and emotions in order to allow a flow of peace and trust. Chaitin noted with appreciation that Buber, who came to Palestine in 1938 from Nazi Germany, worked for a bi-national state and Jewish-Arab understanding.

Chaitin described the reconciliation process between Jewish Israelis, Germans, and Palestinians as complicated, fragile, and fraught. First, she addressed the psychological issues that create difficulties for Jewish Israelis to explore and embrace reflective and open dialogue with their Palestinian neighbors. Reluctance to engage in dialogue is grounded in such matters as collective identity rooted in victimhood, defense mechanisms, a strategy of scapegoating, and family patterns. Chaitin illustrated her theoretical finding with examples from her field work as a discussion facilitator between Jewish Israeli, German, and Palestinian youth.

Obstacles to reconciliation abound, but Chaitin offered strategies to overcome these difficulties. She advocated for a joint dialogue through storytelling that includes self- and joint reflection not only on the inter-personal level but, more importantly, on the inter-group level. According to Chaitin, storytelling can build a bridge of dialogue between Jewish Israelis, Germans, and Palestinians. Sharing personal narratives in a safe setting with sensitive listeners allows conflict to come into the open and enables participants to address issues of victims and victimizers. The process may be long and arduous but holds the tantalizing promise of genuine understanding and reconciliation.

The four members of the distinguished panel of discussants responded to Chaitin’s lecture from their distinct disciplinary perspectives. An extremely lively question and answer session followed. The audience, made up of Clark faculty, students, and community members, discussed reconciliation, possible solutions to the current conflict, and the viability of such solutions.

The success of Chaitin’s visit, building upon discussions opened by Dan Bar-On two years earlier, highlighted the value of an ongoing collaboration with Israeli colleagues. Kühne sustained the now growing link by visiting Chaitin at Sapir College and at Ben-Gurion University in March. He gave a talk at Ben-Gurion University to Chaitin’s graduate student class on Conflict Resolution and sparked discussion on the relation between peace research and genocide studies. Happily, the possibility of a more formal relationship with an Israeli partner institution has emerged from these visits.

□ *Adara Goldberg and Stefan Ionescu*

“Julia Chaitin’s solution represents a step forward on the path toward mutual understanding between Jews and Palestinians, and perhaps toward solving the conflict.”

— Eugen Miculet ’10

“This was an extremely interesting lecture, addressing the psychological aspects of Palestinian-Israeli relations.”

— Oana Chimina ’11

“Dr. Chaitin’s lecture was thought-provoking. Her comments concerning the biological basis for PTSD were especially interesting. I am inspired to learn more about this complicated subject.”

— Emily Dabney, Center graduate student and Richard P. Cohen Fellow

Jens Meierhenrich: Concentration Camps in International Law



Jens Meierhenrich,
Assistant Professor of
Government and Social
Studies at Harvard
University and Associate
Professor at the
Weatherhead Center for
International Affairs

An audience eager to understand complex issues of law and justice gathered at Tilton Hall on 15 November 2007 to hear Professor Jens Meierhenrich from Harvard University. Meierhenrich recently served as the Carlo Schmid Fellow in Trial Chamber 2 of the International Criminal Tribunal of the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). An expert on international law as it relates to apartheid and genocide, he has traveled to such post-conflict regions as South Africa, Rwanda, and Cambodia. He is currently working on an ambitious trilogy investigating the rationality, structure, and culture of genocide, to be published by Princeton University Press.

Meierhenrich began by posing the “thorny legal question” of “collective responsibility” in genocide. He explained how procedures of the ICTY refer back to trials of Nazi concentration camp personnel in the aftermath of the Holocaust. After World War II, a completely new legal concept of collective responsibility, reminiscent of criminal conspiracy in Anglo-American law, was introduced: “criminal organization.” Variations of that contested innovation furnish precedents for current legal proceedings such as “joint criminal enterprise” in the ICTY and “guilt by association” in the International Criminal Court (ICC) for Darfur.

After World War II, the American and British governments prosecuted Nazi war criminals holding more than 250 trials and prosecuting 1,022 defendants for their roles in German concentration camps. The Soviet Union, by contrast, held only one such trial. The first Anglo-American trial emphasized that the defendants were “not charged with killing” but rather with a “common design” to kill. While the ICTY does not explicitly cite this concept, the

Appeals Chamber adopted nearly the same wording of “common criminal design” in the 1999 case *Prosecutor v. Dusko Tadić*.

Meierhenrich stressed that the application of the American law of criminal conspiracy to international law after World War II was initially contested. The U.S. Reviewing Authority and the U.S. Conforming Authority justified the use of the “common design” doctrine. Nevertheless, present-day legal applications of the doctrine of “joint criminal enterprise” remain highly problematic.

Meierhenrich stressed that international law cannot prevent genocide. Pointing out that the Genocide Convention of 1948 addresses individual behavior and culpability, he cautioned that the use of “collective criminality” can deteriorate into “victor’s justice.” The main legal implications concern possible charges against people who are members of certain groups. Guilt by association, coupled with a reversal of the basic legal concept according to which an individual is innocent until proven otherwise may subvert the legal principle of “individual criminal responsibility.” Moreover, the application of “collective criminality” may fuel violence in post-conflict situations such as Rwanda. By contrast, international law should further public discourse on human rights. The emphasis, Meierhenrich continued, should be on collective responsibility, not collective guilt. International tribunals should function as sites of public education rather than impose legal concepts that are questionable.

□ *Stefan Ionescu*



Harvard Professor Jens
Meierhenrich, Professor
Thomas Kühne and Center
graduate students and
Claims Conference Fellows
Elizabeth Anthony and
Alexis Herr

“I appreciated the way Professor Meierhenrich focused attention on the concept of collective responsibility. It made me think about it for the first time in relation to genocide.”

—Anna Bennitt ’02,
a Worcester community
member

Sophie Freud: “From Vienna to America: An Accidental Escape from the Holocaust”

Sophie Freud, distinguished Professor Emeritus of Social Work at Simmons College and granddaughter of the famous Dr. Sigmund Freud, enthralled an audience of students and faculty gathered in the Rose Library on 29 November 2007.

Freud’s lecture, “From Vienna to America: An Accidental Escape from the Holocaust,” was delivered in connection with Center Director and Rose Professor Deborah Dwork’s seminar “Refugees.” The moving account of Freud’s flight from Vienna to America struck a chord with students hoping for personal insight into the refugee experience.

Sophie Freud was born in Vienna in 1922 to Esti and Martin Freud, Sigmund Freud’s eldest son. In May 1938, two months after the Germans invaded Austria, Sophie and her mother fled to Paris. Her father and brother fled in another direction—to England, with other members of the Freud family. She attributes her fortunate escape from Vienna to her grandfather’s decision to emigrate and the important and affluent people who came to his aid. Her famous grandfather was able to procure 17 exit visas, and he granted four of them to her immediate family. “I thus owe it to my grandfather to be among the few lucky ones to have escaped Vienna before the murderous persecution of its Jews,” she explained.

For almost four years after her flight from Vienna, Freud and her mother remained on the run with an insecure future. “Every other hour plans to stay or go changed.” When the Germans occupied France in 1940, they fled again. On bicycles, they headed south toward Bordeaux. Settling temporarily in Nice (in the free zone), they waited in an increasingly dangerous situation for visas to the United States. They decided to flee again, further south to

Casablanca. After an anxious year in the Moroccan capital, they received visas for the United States and boarded a Portuguese ship bound for New York. Freud and her mother settled in Baltimore, Md., in 1942, and began life anew.

Freud’s ongoing refugee struggle is chronicled in her recent publication, *Living in the Shadow of the Freud Family* (April 2007). This account of her family—comprised of private family letters, diaries, and memoirs, as well as archival materials and other published works—weaves together the voices of her mother, father, famous grandfather, and other relatives. The traumatic circumstances of Sophie’s young life take shape in these pages, as well as the life of her mother, Esti Freud, whose memoir, written at the age of 78 is included.

Freud read many passages from her book to help describe her flight from Nazism. While pointing on a map to the countries where she lived during those years, she described her escape as a “remarkable exodus.” When asked if she considered herself a survivor or a refugee, she responded, “I see myself as the Anne Frank who survived rather than got killed.” And, when pressed as to what she owes her survival, she explained, “It’s not good decisions why I am standing here, but pure luck. I think that is very important.”

It was the Center’s luck to host Freud and the great luck of its students to learn more about the refugee experience from the personal narrative of a participant in these historical events.

□ *Ilana Offenberger*

“History is not a series of dates, battles, and kings, but a series of stories.”

—Dr. Sophie Freud



Sophie Freud, Professor Emeritus of Social Work at Simmons College



Sophie Freud with Center faculty and graduate students

Shoghaken Ensemble: Armenia's Folk Music and Dance

"I loved the dancing, and the music was beautiful. All around the performance was great. I can't wait for their next show!"

—Ani Jermakian,
10-year-old member of the
Armenian community

"We were recently in Armenia and the music we heard there cannot compare to this. The variety of styles is wonderful!"

—Ed Garabedian, member
of the Armenian community

"It is simply amazing how the Armenians have preserved this powerful music as a victory over the Genocide."

—Judy Katz,
audience member

Tilton Hall overflowed on 31 January 2008, as the Center proudly showcased the Shoghaken Ensemble, one of Armenia's preeminent traditional music groups. Since its inception in 1991, the eight-member Shoghaken Ensemble has mesmerized audiences throughout its native Armenia, the former Soviet Union, Europe, and North America. Inspired by a profound dedication to preserve Armenia's ancient folk music traditions, the artists integrate culturally unique instruments, traditional costumes, and a wide range of presentation styles into their performances.

The ensemble attracted a crowd of several hundred people, including Worcester's Armenian community, Armenian youth groups, Clark students, and the general public. Children gave up their seats for elders, and gathered on the floor in the front of the hall. The performers captivated the audience with an amazing repertoire of dances, troubadour melodies, and haunting lullabies that express dual aspects of Armenian heritage: the vitality, joyfulness, and spirit of traditional Armenian culture alongside the anguish of the Armenian Genocide, which took the lives of 1.5 million Armenians throughout the Ottoman Empire before, during, and after World War I.

Although the performance was, for many, a first exposure to Armenian heritage, the ensemble wasted no time bringing the crowd to its feet, encouraging them to clap their hands and sing along with the



Center Program Manager Tatyana Macaulay (upper right) with the Shoghaken Ensemble

music. For others, the melodies evoked memories of relatives and reinforced the connection with their Armenian heritage. Committed to the promotion of Armenian culture as both beautiful and tragic, the ensemble ended the night with an unforgettable moment. Brother and sister Aleksan and Hasmik Harutyunyan paid tribute to those murdered in the Genocide by presenting a traditional Armenian song and dance they had learned from survivors in their home community.

The Shoghaken performance affirms a crucial aspect of the Strassler Center mission. Faculty and students study the life and culture of peoples targeted for annihilation. They lay bare the machinery of their destruction, including the systematic eradication of culture. The audience appreciated the performers' artistry, while at the same time exploring the issues of assimilation, acculturation, and integration of minority peoples and the challenges of maintaining ethnic identity.

□ Emily Dabney and Adara Goldberg

Shoghaken Ensemble
performer



Debórah Dwork: *The Terezín Album of Mariánka Zadikow*

The Strassler Center's own director and Rose Professor, Debórah Dwork, captivated students, scholars, survivors, and community members with her engaging lecture at Tilton Hall on 16 April 2008. Drawing from her new book, *The Terezín Album of Mariánka Zadikow*, Dwork wove the personal narrative of Mariánka Zadikow together with the history of Terezín, the transit camp located outside of Prague. Tatyana Macaulay, Center Program Manager, introduced Dwork, thanking Norman and Lenore Asher, whose endowed annual lecture commemorates the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

The Terezín Album of Mariánka Zadikow is not just Mariánka's story, but a testament to Jewish agency in the face of Nazi victimization. Documents like Mariánka's album stand as evidence of Jewish resistance to the Nazi agenda of dehumanization and the regime's machinery of death.

Born in Munich in 1923 to Hilda and Arnold Zadikow, Mariánka was 10 years old when Hitler came to power. Soon uprooted, Mariánka accompanied her mother to relatives in Czechoslovakia while her father, an artist, fled to Paris. Like so many Jewish families, the Zadikows desperately sought refuge outside the Nazis' grasp. The family remained separated until 1936, when Hilda secured a job for Arnold and it seemed the Zadikows could make a new life for themselves.

The German invasion of Czechoslovakia marked the beginning of the end of that dream. Barely eking out a living, Hilda and Arnold applied frantically for immigration papers. The Zadikows remained in Prague until 1942, when they were deported to Terezín.

While it was held up to the world as a

"town for the Jews," Terezín served as a transit camp the Nazis used to obfuscate their intent. Jews were transferred into and deported out of Terezín at regular intervals. Yet despite oppressive rules and the hardships associated with life in a ghetto, Jews in Terezín constructed a vibrant cultural community. The internees organized operas, concerts, and lectures in an attempt to bring art and pleasure to a life made agonizing by backbreaking labor and hunger.

One sleepless night in the summer of 1942, Mariánka uncovered a pulsating center of cultural life in an attic room. She joined a singing group and performed in the chorus of operas presented to other inmates. The hero of Mariánka's story is the brilliant choral conductor Rafael Schächter who pursued a dream to perform Verdi's *Requiem*. Deported to Auschwitz, Schächter did not survive.

Deportations in 1944 devastated the camp population. In September of that year, Mariánka was gifted with a stack of pilfered paper. With the help of a coworker, she created her album, in which she asked friends and family to write a word or draw a sketch. In Dwork's audience was the author of one such inscription, Center friend Edgar Krasa.

Dwork narrated Mariánka's history with warmth and passion. A slideshow allowed a glimpse of the album. A comic-style picture of Mariánka going about her daily chores and another with the last written words of a dear friend murdered by the Germans reflect a life lived in a spectrum of registers. Agency and powerlessness existing side by side illustrate how life in Terezín operated on many levels. Later Mariánka would say that music did not save her, but it kept her whole.

□ *Emily Dabney*



Debórah Dwork with Rose Zoltek-Jick at a reception before Dwork's lecture on her new book, *The Terezín Album of Mariánka Zadikow*

"The presentation captured the life we lived at Terezín very much as I remember it."

—Michael Gruenbaum,
Terezín survivor

"Amazing, especially that several survivors were here."

—Charles Keoseian

"Dwork's illumination of cultural life inside of Thereisenstadt is fascinating on one level and inspirational on another. The way in which inmates succeeded in maintaining their morale through art is unbelievable."

—Adara Goldberg, Center graduate student and Ralph and Shirley Rose Fellow

Richard Hovannisian: Must We Still Remember?

“A powerful presentation.”

—Ronald Provost, Worcester
community member

*“Professor Hovannisian’s
lecture was inspirational!”*

—Sarah Cheung ‘11



Richard Hovannisian with
Center graduate students

*“I hope that in the future
I will contribute to
education like Professor
Hovannisian has with
his lecture.”*

—Lilly Denhardt ‘11

*Only the integration of the
Armenian Genocide into
“collective human memo-
ry”—not solely as part of
Armenian history—may
save it from oblivion.*



Richard Hovannisian
teaching in the Rose Library

The eminent scholar Richard Hovannisian served as Visiting Distinguished Scholar at the Strassler Center during an inspiring two-week visit. Active in the classroom, at the lecture podium, with the media, and in conversations with friends and supporters of Armenian studies, Hovannisian’s visit was as busy as it was informative.

An audience of some 200 people welcomed Hovannisian with a standing ovation at Tilton Hall on 22 April 2008 for his talk “Must We Still Remember? The Armenian Genocide As Prototype.” Introducing Hovannisian as a cornerstone of Armenian Studies, Center Director Debórah Dwork explained that the Professor Emeritus of Armenian and Near Eastern History at the University of California, Los Angeles, was the first to hold the Armenian Education Foundation Endowed Chair in Armenian History. Dwork emphasized the significance of his research, representing both the “lure and burden” of being an Armenian.

Hovannisian stressed the need to “face history” in order to facilitate reconciliation between Armenians and Turks. He then turned to the central theme of his lecture: Should the world remember the Armenian Genocide? In view of the extremely violent and bloody catastrophes of the 20th century, he noted that only the integration of the Armenian Genocide into “collective human memory” —not solely as part of Armenian history—may save it from oblivion.

Remembrance depends upon making historical events relevant to a current audience. Oppression—whether in the workplace, family, or society—is a universal human experience. Citizens treated as second class can relate to the injustices that form the small steps leading to geno-

cide and thus identify with the underlying circumstances, if not the extreme horrors.

Hovannisian described features of the Armenian Genocide as a prototype for later mass killings. Massacres of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire at the end of the 19th century emboldened the perpetrators, for no one sought to stop them. Thus encouraged, the Young Turk Party carried out the Armenian Genocide under cover of World War I, employing paramilitary units to fulfill the state’s annihilatory plans. And they deceived their victims to facilitate their deportation to killing sites—a model copied by the Germans 25 years later. The Armenian Genocide also established a precedent for the despoliation of victim property and the transfer of economic wealth. As in other occurrences of mass violence, rationalization and trivialization, for instance by questioning the loyalty of the victim group to the state, were used to mitigate the genocide and initiate denial.

In present-day Turkey, “there is some hope,” for young Turkish scholars have begun to counter the official Turkish narrative. Hovannisian referred to Taner Akçam who will join the Center in the fall as the Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marion Mugar Professor in Armenian Genocide Studies. He, like other Turkish scholars, “challenges the state narrative” and in doing so confronts key founding myths of the modern state.

□ *Raz Segal*

Linkages

The Center enjoys rich relationships with peer organizations around the globe. These ties foster recruitment of outstanding doctoral candidates and provide important professional opportunities for Center faculty, students, and graduates. Committed to growing an international community of Holocaust and Genocide scholars who will develop all realms of the profession, we value our relationships with these organizations and institutions.

American Jewish Committee

The American Jewish Committee (AJC) was founded in 1906 in response to pogroms threatening Jews in Russia. Countering violence against Jews around the globe continues at the core of the AJC mission. Center Director and Rose Professor Debórah Dwork is proud to support that effort as a member of their Anti-Semitism Task Force.

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation

Committed to educating mid-level government officials about genocide, the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) organized the first seven-day genocide prevention program in Auschwitz 60 years after the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in 1948. Center doctoral student and Rose Fellow Tiberiu Galis developed the curriculum for the seminar, named in honor of Raphael Lemkin, the Polish Jewish lawyer who coined the term “genocide.” AIPR, in collaboration with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, will offer the seminar three times a year.

Ben-Gurion University

Professor Dan Bar-On of Ben-Gurion University (BGU) served as Greenberg Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the

Center in fall 2005. A professor of psychology, his visit spurred a new interest in psychology and genocide. A visit by Bar-On’s colleague and former student Julia Chaitin, professor at Sapir College and BGU, laid the ground for a growing collaboration. Strassler Professor Thomas Kühne returned from a winter visit to BGU inspired to grow the scholarly relationship. His goal: an ongoing program between Center students and their Israeli colleagues.

Brandeis University — Near Eastern and Judaic Studies

Center students continue to take advantage of the partnership with Brandeis University. Antony Polonsky, Albert Abramson Professor of Holocaust Studies, was pleased to offer directed readings courses to Claims Conference Fellow Jody Manning and Fromson Fellow Raz Segal. A prodigious scholar on the history of Polish Jewry, Polonsky is an ideal mentor to Center students engaged in research on the Jews of Eastern Europe. Polonsky’s own doctoral student, Monika Rice, offered a course in Jewish Studies at Clark, thanks to a gift from David and Edie Chaifetz.

Danish Institute of International Studies

Professor Thomas Kühne visited and lectured at the Center’s partner in Copenhagen, the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), in May 2007. Thanks to generous support from Howard and Hanne Kulin, the Center looks forward to a return semester-long visit in 2009 by DIIS faculty member, Professor Cecilie Stockholm Banke. In addition, DIIS will serve as

Center doctoral student and Rose Fellow Tiberiu Galis developed the curriculum for the seminar, named in honor of Raphael Lemkin, the Polish Jewish lawyer who coined the term “genocide.”

Strassler Professor Thomas Kühne returned from a winter visit to Ben-Gurion University inspired to grow the scholarly relationship. His goal: an ongoing program between Center students and their Israeli colleagues.

Thomas Kühne (back row, fifth from right) with students at Ben-Gurion University





At a STAND-sponsored event, Clark students voiced their concerns about the Darfur genocide to former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani and other politicians

Professor Shelly Tenenbaum, the Center's Coordinator of Undergraduate Activities, serves on the academic advisory board of the Jewish Women's Archive.

The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR) is at the forefront in Holocaust teacher training, thanks to the leadership of Executive Vice President Stanlee Stahl and her partnership with Professor Debórah Dwork.

co-convenor of the Center's international doctoral student conference to be held in spring 2009.

Facing History and Ourselves

The Center has a long-standing connection to Facing History and Ourselves (FHAO), based in Brookline, Mass., which encourages primary and secondary school teachers and students to study the historical development and lessons of the Holocaust and other genocides. Debórah Dwork continues to strengthen the Center's ties to Facing History through her work as a member of the organization's academic board. Adam Strom, FHAO Director of Research and Development, and Andrew Tarsy, FHAO Chief Institutional Advancement Officer, attended the spring lecture by Professor Richard Hovannisian and expressed particular pleasure at the appointment of Dr. Taner Akçam as the Center's new Kaloosdian/Mugar Professor. Claude Kaitare '05, an alumnus of the HGS undergraduate concentration, also continues to serve as a resource for FHAO, speaking at many schools in the greater Boston area about his experiences during and after the Rwandan genocide.

Genocide Intervention Network

Clark undergraduates maintain a strong collaboration with the Genocide Intervention Network through the Clark chapter of

STAND, a student anti-genocide coalition. STAND is the student arm of the Genocide Intervention Network, a national organization aimed at empowering individuals and communities with the tools to prevent and stop genocide and raise both money and political will for civilian protection initiatives around the world.

Jewish Foundation for the Righteous

The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR) is at the forefront in Holocaust teacher training, thanks to the leadership of Executive Vice President Stanlee Stahl and her partnership with Professor Debórah Dwork. Indeed, as Vice-Chair of the JFR Board of Trustees, Dwork enjoys a significant leadership role. This productive relationship is sure to continue as doctoral student Lotta Stone steps into the directorship of education, overseeing the study programs at which Center faculty teach. Dwork is equally committed to the JFR's mission of support for needy rescuers. She was honored to comment for the *New York Times's* obituary of Irena Sendler, a renowned rescuer of scores of Jewish children from the Warsaw ghetto and a deserving recipient of JFR's praise and aid.

Jewish Women's Archive

Based in Brookline, Mass., the Jewish Women's Archive (JWA) is a dynamic organization that seeks to record and disseminate the history of Jewish American women. Professor Shelly Tenenbaum, the Center's Coordinator of Undergraduate Activities, serves on the academic advisory board of JWA. Knowing its success in collecting and presenting oral history, Tenenbaum reached out to Jayne Guberman, the JWA director of Oral History, for advice about a potential Center project.

Simon Wiesenthal Center

Award-winning director Rick Trank of Moriah Films, a project of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, captured Debórah Dwork on film for his documentary, “Refugees and Bystanders.” Slated to air in Israel in fall 2008, the film will open in the U.S. in spring 2009 following a tour of international film festivals.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Doctoral students researching the Holocaust travel a shiny path from the Center to the archives of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM). Several students have been privileged to hold prestigious USHMM fellowships and all find themselves plumbing the collections as they sharpen their dissertation topics and delve into their research. As a result, first-year student Elizabeth Anthony, formerly Deputy Director of Survivor Affairs at USHMM, entered the Center’s doctoral program with strong ties to her fellow students.

USC Shoah Foundation Institute

The video testimonies of the Shoah Foundation Institute, located on the campus of the University of Southern California, are an important resource for Center doctoral students. Its archive includes nearly 52,000 testimonies from survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust. Digital access to this material is a long-term goal for the Center’s Rose Library. Until then, our students will continue to travel to this significant repository. Claims Conference Fellow Jeffrey Koerber was honored to receive the Foundation’s Corrie ten Boom award which funded his work in its archive relating to his comparative study of Jews from the towns of Vitebsk and Grodno.

Center in the Mail 2007–2008

I’ve been reading the absolutely fascinating report of the work at the Center. What a wealth of really interesting and diverse opportunities you offer the students and I so agree with you that understanding history increases the odds of education over catastrophe—what a wonderful sentence!

Carolyn Rampton, Head of Office,
Liberal Democrats, House of Lords, London

My son Jeff and I were so positively impressed by the Center—Jeff, that a university would have a program, courses, a concentration in Holocaust and genocide studies. I, his father, by the beauty of the program you have created, the space and light, the scholarly and educational sophistication, the building around a major library, the positivity out of darkness, and the spirit of inquiry and activism. I’ve never felt so good about making a monetary contribution, modest as it was!

Dr. Michael Coburn, prospective parent

“I just saw the announcement of the new Psychology of Genocide Fellowship. As always, just ahead of the game. This is a wonderful idea and a wonderful opportunity.

Professor Debra Kaufman, Northeastern University

I have been a supporter of the Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies and a donor for several years and would like to commend you for the education and research work you are doing.

I recently read your yearly Activities and Gift Report (which by the way is very well done) and was amazed and very pleased to see that a student in the Center, Raz Segal, is doing research on the Jews of Huszt (Subcarpathian Russia). My father’s family is from Huszt so I have deep personal interest in this subject. The story mentions that Mr. Segal has published an article (“The Jews of Huszt between the World Wars and during the Holocaust”). . . . I would greatly appreciate a copy of the article or finding out where I could get it. Mr. Segal might also be interested in talking to my father and his brothers and sisters who were from Huszt and survived the Holocaust.

Thanks in advance.

Barry J. Glick

Doctoral students researching the Holocaust travel a shiny path from the Center to the archives of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM).

Generous support from Howard and Hanne Kulin has helped the Center establish a permanent presence in Europe through a partnership with the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS).

Award-winning director Rick Trank of Moriah Films, a project of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, captured Debórah Dwork on film for his documentary, “Refugees and Bystanders.”

continued on page 28

Faculty Notes

Faculty sit at the intellectual core of the Center, mentoring the next generation of teachers and scholars as well as discovering and sharing new knowledge about the Holocaust and genocide with the global community. Their work weaves together the Center's mission of teaching, research, and public service, all in the hope of shaping a less violent world. Changes and additions to key faculty positions contribute to the Center's dynamic environment and help to grow its scholarly reach.



Center Director
Debórah Dwork

“If I weren't so exhilarated by this year's events, I'd be exhausted,” beamed **Debórah Dwork**. Reflecting upon what had been accomplished, Dwork relished the prospect of what lay ahead. With mentoring the largest incoming class of doctoral students behind her, as well as two stunningly successful searches to fill professorships, and her latest book, *Flight from the Reich: Refugee Jews, 1933-1946* done and in press, she sat back and surveyed the landscape.

Well-launched in their studies, all seven on-campus graduate students were poised to fly away to their field research sites: Austria, Canada, France, Israel, Italy, Poland, Romania. Individually and collectively, they had done a magnificent job in their studies and as fully participatory members of the Center. And their progress in their independent research had culminated in a first milestone: a writing workshop run by Edwin Barber, semi-retired from his vice presidency of W.W. Norton publishing company and Dwork's admired (former) editor. He had taught her how to write, she declared. Now they enjoyed a taste of editorial excellence. “I found Mr. Barber's comments today invaluable,” Alexis Herr (G-1) e-mailed Dwork that evening. “I have been reading Norton books for years and I felt honored to have

a Norton editor look at my work.”

Dwork also serves as supervisor of seven ABD (all but dissertation) candidates. They too had moved forward decisively, engaged in research and writing, and offered key jobs that provide opportunities to shape the education of thousands of youngsters by teaching their teachers. Jeff Koerber on a Fulbright Fellowship in Belarus; Tiberiu Galis consulting for the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation; Christine Schmidt as Director of Education at the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous; Lotte Stone as Director of Education at the Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education in Cincinnati; and Beth Lilach and Sarah Cushman working together at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County, the former as Director of Education and the latter as Assistant Education Director. And the field research reports and dissertation chapters kept coming all year. As Dwork commented to one student, “I can't imagine being anywhere—train, airport, waiting room—without *someone's* chapter and my blue pen.” She reports delighting in reading successive drafts, observing the crystallization of an argument, and the students' use of a rich array of sources culled from archives across Europe, Israel, and North America. “Thanks to their research bursaries,” she hastens to add. “And their terrific success winning fellowships and awards to travel to site locations.”

The Center leapt forward in the development of its graduate studies culture with the admission of such a robust group in September 2007, and another arriving in September 2008. Notwithstanding the ever stronger applicant pool, a highly selective admit rate of 10 to 15 percent prevails to ensure that students are mentored and

“I can't imagine being anywhere—train, airport, waiting room—without someone's chapter and my blue pen.”

—Center Director
Debórah Dwork

funded. Happily, these doctoral candidates will have the opportunity to study with two more world-class scholars who have joined the Clark faculty. Dwork chaired the search committee charged to fill a newly endowed professorship in modern Jewish history gifted by Michael and Lisa Leffell, and served as a member of the search committee for the Kaloosdian/Mugar Professor in Armenian Genocide Studies and Modern Armenian History. Both searches yielded choice candidates from a rich field of applicants. Dwork looks forward to welcoming Olga Litvak, who describes herself as “a specialist in the history of Russian Jewry with a particular interest in the development of the Eastern European Jewish diaspora” and is described by others as “an intellectual powerhouse.” Litvak’s courses and research will provide a deeper layer of insight and knowledge about a world and culture destroyed by the Holocaust. Dwork already had the pleasure of welcoming Taner Akçam, the incumbent of the Kaloosdian/Mugar professorship, through a spate of news articles about the hire of this renowned Turkish scholar. (Asked if there was a problem hiring a Turkish scholar for a position on the Armenian Genocide, Dwork replied, “The only *problem* is that question.”) Widely admired for his bold and authoritative scholarship using Turkish sources, Taner Akçam’s research and teaching will add a new dimension to the education offered by the Center.

A committed professor herself, Dwork thoroughly enjoyed teaching a new graduate level methods seminar, *Problems, Approach, and Narrative*, as well as an undergraduate/graduate seminar, *Refugees*. The latter dovetailed with her most recent book project, *Flight from the Reich: Refugee Jews, 1933-1946*, contracted to a deadline of 31 January 2008. With a rush

of energy, she and her coauthor finished ahead of schedule. Dwork was jubilant. She is passionate about writing—the only time she ever knows what she’s thinking, she says. And it was in the course of that *thinking* that she and van Pelt realized the history they wished to tell did not end with the close of the war. Indeed, the end of the war opened a new chapter in the diaspora of the Jews, and the last quarter of their book focuses on this time period. Shipping off the manuscript, Dwork transferred her stoked creative energy to authoring an essay on “The Challenges of Holocaust Scholarship: A Personal Statement” to be included in a collection on this subject published by the Institute of European Studies at the Jagiellonian University and the International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust.

If writing clarifies what she thinks, speaking crystallizes her take-home message, Dwork observes. She had plenty of opportunities to hone a plethora of messages this year, maintaining a vigorous lecture and media interview schedule. “I was utterly inspired by the teachers who came from all corners of Poland” to attend a conference on *Rescuers in the Time of Darkness* sponsored by the (Polish) Center for Citizenship Education, the American Embassy in Warsaw, and the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR), for which Dwork gave the keynote address. She was equally delighted to participate in teaching student-teachers in a program run by the Holocaust Museum Houston; to speak to business people about the importance of education about genocide at a Young Presidents Organization event; to join a panel on genocide and denial hosted by Boston University’s Armenian Students Association; and to teach teachers working in the field at the JFR’s Advanced Winter Seminar and with a plenary lecture at a

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Strassler Professor
Thomas Kühne

Kühne continued his work with the Rose Library this year, maintaining a productive collaboration with Diana Bartley, who has donated thousands of books, periodicals, and documents related to the Holocaust and genocide.

conference on *Teaching about Genocide* held at Yale University.

Anticipating the publication of *The Terezín Album of Mariánka Zadikow*, Dwork had accepted numerous speaking engagements. Unfortunately, the printing process was imperfect and the book was not released. But the engagements remained, and Dwork was the happy guest of former students Morgan Blum '02 at the Holocaust Center of Northern California, where she was honored to present the Alfred Manovill Memorial Lecture, and Beth Cohen Ph.D. '03 at California State University, Northridge, in whose class she spoke and where she also gave an address at the community's Yom Hashoah commemoration. Toronto, New York, Houston, and her home community of Clark University rounded out her public lecture circuit. Finally, Dwork served as Scholar-in-Residence at Kean University in New Jersey, Guest Scholar at Palm Beach Community College, and she gave the inaugural Rubenstein Memorial Lecture in Holocaust Studies at Florida Atlantic University.

As in past years, Dwork served on the American Jewish Committee's Anti-Semitism Task Force and on the board of the Jewish Cultural Heritage Foundation. She chaired two board committees for the JFR (of which she is now Vice-Chair) and is a member the academic boards of the International Research Institute on Jewish Women at Brandeis University and of Facing History and Ourselves. And she worked with journalists on a range of issues from denial of the Armenian Genocide to hoax memoirs to remembering the amazing rescuer Irena Sendler. If you happen to watch Belgian National TV (RTBF), look for her in a documentary about an utterly fabricated memoir. And

watch for her on the big screen in a documentary on "Refugees and Bystanders" by Rick Trank of Moriah Films. Opening: spring 2009.

Thomas Kühne, the Strassler Family Professor in the Study of Holocaust History, makes important contributions to the Center each year through his work with graduate and undergraduate students, and through his research and scholarly endeavors.

Kühne serves as the primary adviser for doctoral student Robin Krause and was the master's thesis advisor for Daniel Roberts '07, M.A. '08. Roberts wrote on *The American Experience and Mythology of Liberating Concentration Camps*.

In addition, Kühne plays a vital role in the ongoing development of the Strassler Center as a member of the Center's Steering Committee and, this year, through his active participation in two faculty searches crucial to the Center's future. As chair of the search committee for the Kaloosdian-Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies and Modern Armenian History, Kühne recruited Taner Akçam to fill this important endowed professorship. He also served on the search committee for the new Leffell Professorship in Jewish History, to be held by Olga Litvak. The strength of faculty and program at the Center helped to attract both of these first-choice candidates to Clark.

Kühne continued his work with the Rose Library this year, maintaining a productive collaboration with Diana Bartley, who has donated thousands of books, periodicals, and documents related to the Holocaust and genocide. He works closely with the Center's librarian, B.J. Perkins, to manage and grow the library collection to best

meet the research needs of the faculty and students.

Kühne strives, too, to create innovative learning opportunities for faculty and students. He ran, once again, the “Modern History Colloquium” for students and faculty in the Holocaust and Genocide Studies program and History Department with invited speakers from outside and inside the University. Kühne also is a member of the Steering Committee for Clark’s Difficult Dialogues Program and was instrumental in organizing the public symposium “Bridging the Impossible? Confronting Barriers to Dialogue between Germans/Jews/Palestinians,” co-sponsored by the Center and the Difficult Dialogues Program. (See pages 6-7.)

Recognizing the value of serving as an ambassador for the Center in the academic community, Kühne traveled widely to share knowledge and expertise and to further strengthen the Center’s ties to institutions that foster fruitful intellectual exchange. In May 2007, Kühne visited the Center’s partner in Copenhagen, the Danish Institute for International Studies. While there, he delivered the lecture “Hitler’s Community: Belonging and Genocide, 1918-1945.” He spoke on “The Machinery of Death and the Murderers: The Holocaust” at the Summer Institute for Teachers, run by the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, at Columbia University in New York on 28 June 2007. On 9 July 2007, he delivered a lecture on “Barbarossa—The Eastern Front, 1941-43” at the Yale-Hopkins Summer Seminar, held at the Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale University. At the 31st Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, held 4-7 October 2007 in San Diego, Calif., Kühne presented the paper “Charity into

Crime: Comradeship and the People’s Community, 1918-1945,” served on the panel “Pre-thinking the Volksgemeinschaft: Visions of the National Community in Germany, 1914-1945,” and organized and chaired the panel on “Democratizing Beauty in Early 20th Century Germany.”

In March 2008, he visited Ben-Gurion University to discuss a potential collaboration with the Center and had the opportunity to speak in graduate classes about his new project, the Center, and its programs. In April 2008, Kühne gave a teacher seminar on “World War I on the Eastern Front” with the Humboldt County and Northern California Teaching American History Programs at Humboldt State University in Arcata, Calif.

Kühne’s essay “Comradeship and Shame Culture: Hitler’s Soldiers and the Moral Basis of Genocidal Warfare” will be part of the volume *Ordinary People as Mass Murderers: Perpetrators in Comparative Perspectives*, and his “Political Culture and Democratization” has been published in *Imperial Germany 1871-1918: The Short Oxford History of Germany*. In addition, he had reviews published in *H-German*, *H-Soz-u-Kult*, and *Central European History*.

Kühne was recognized this year for his innovative scholarship and contributions to his field. He was appointed affiliate of the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University and joined the editorial board of the new journal *Culture, Society and Masculinities*. A testament to his ability to translate his scholarship into the classroom, Kühne received the 2008 H-German Prize for Best Syllabus on “Nazi Germany/Holocaust” for his course “The Holocaust Perpetrators.” His seminal book

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Robert Melson,
Cathy Cohen Lasry
Distinguished Professor

Melson fostered his students' critical thinking skills in the comparative study of three cases—the Holocaust, the Armenian Genocide, and Rwanda—in order to gain a deeper understanding of each case and uncover possible explanations for these atrocities.

Kameradschaft: Die Soldaten des nationalsozialistischen Krieges und das 20. Jahrhundert (Comradeship: The Soldiers of the Nazi War and the 20th Century), published in 2006 to much praise, was short listed and ranked third in the contest *Das Historische Buch/Neuere Geschichte 2007* (The Historical Book/Modern History 2007) in Germany.

Kühne is now nearing the home stretch on his current book project, *Hitler's Community: Belonging and Genocide, 1918-1945*.

The Center's academic programs were enriched again this year by the contributions of **Robert Melson**, the Cathy Cohen Lasry Distinguished Professor. Graduate and undergraduate students were fortunate to learn from and be mentored by this internationally respected scholar of the Holocaust and genocide studies.

Melson is a founding member and president of the International Association of Genocide Scholars. His major area of teaching and research has been ethnic conflict and genocide, to which he brings his perspective as a child survivor of the Holocaust. His most recent book, *False Papers: Deception and Survival in the Holocaust* (2000), explores his family's history and how they survived the Holocaust in Poland by using false identification papers. Melson's pathbreaking book *Revolution and Genocide: On the Origins of the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust* (1992) earned the international PIOOM Award in Human Rights for 1993.

This was Melson's second year at the Center, and he enjoyed teaching his joint undergraduate and graduate seminar Holocaust and Genocide in Comparative Perspective. Melson fostered his students' critical thinking skills in the comparative

study of three cases—the Holocaust, the Armenian Genocide, and Rwanda—in order to gain a deeper understanding of each case and uncover possible explanations for these atrocities.

Melson also represented the Center to the wider academic world. He chaired a panel on "Comparative Genocide" at the *International Association of Genocide Scholars Conference* on 9 July 2007 in Sarajevo, Bosnia. Winston Churchill and his role during World War II is the focus of Melson's current research into prediction and prevention of genocide. He gave a presentation on one aspect of this project, "Churchill in Munich: The Paradox of Genocide Prevention" at the *Lessons and Legacies Conference* on 19 December 2007 at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, Israel. In a longer article by the same title, published in *Genocide Studies and Prevention* (2009), Melson elucidates the paradox of prevention in the case of Churchill and World War II. Had Western leaders heeded Churchill and World War II been averted, so too would have been the Holocaust. However, had Churchill's strategy been successful and World War II and the Holocaust avoided, he likely would not have been celebrated for his achievements because the public would not have been aware of the disasters he had prevented. It would only be aware of the costs that Britain and its allies had incurred and the dangers that they had run. Therein lies the paradox of Churchill's preventing the Holocaust, and it may have implications for other genocides. Leaders may fear taking political risks when the success of their policies may never be apparent.

In addition to teaching and pursuing research, Melson published a review of *A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and the Question of Turkish Responsibility* by

Taner Akçam in *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*. In a happy twist of fate unknown to Melson at the time of his review, Akçam is now Clark's incoming Kaloosdian/Mugar Professor of Armenian Genocide Studies and Modern Armenian History.

Shelly Tenenbaum became the first Coordinator for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (HGS) Undergraduate Activities, and thus advanced the Center's mission to provide a rich undergraduate education in this field. A sociology professor with a full portfolio of research and teaching in that field, Tenenbaum is dedicated to the growth and development of the HGS concentration and its students, as well as to the Center and its activities. In her new dignity, she continues to grow the undergraduate concentration, and she has embarked on bold new initiatives for undergraduate students. Tenenbaum coordinated the HGS concentration core courses and capstone seminars, ensuring a balance between courses offered on the Holocaust and other genocides. A dedicated teacher and mentor, she advised 16 HGS concentrators and taught the course *Genocide*, one of three required courses for the concentration. She also represented HGS at the University's Majors Fair and Admitted Student Open House, and met with new faculty to cultivate their interest in contributing to the HGS concentration as well as to the graduate program. She served as faculty advisor for the student organization STAND, a student coalition against genocide, which enjoyed an active year. (See pages 14 and 30.) This national organization, established by the Genocide Intervention Network, has chapters at colleges and universities across the country.

Internships provide HGS students with remarkable opportunities to learn about the challenges and consequences of the

Holocaust and genocide, and Tenenbaum takes special care in helping students find and secure placements. This year, she worked with a student to create a new resource: an internship directory, including information about approximately 40 internships related to the Holocaust and other genocides. Copies of the directory reside at the Center and in Tenenbaum's office, a favorite stop for HGS students, and soon to be available online thanks to her collaboration with Clark's Career Services Office. Tenenbaum also shepherds students through the application process for Clark HGS Summer Internship Stipend Awards, soliciting applications, meeting with interested students, reviewing applications with other faculty members, meeting with the recipients of these competitive awards, and continuing to work with them before, during, and after their internship experience. The time Tenenbaum dedicates to these students helps them make the most of these opportunities.

The Center is also fortunate to have Tenenbaum as a member of its Steering Committee, and to have her guiding hand to help plan lectures in the *Especially for Students* series and displays about Center activities.

Beyond the Center, Tenenbaum pursues research in her own field of sociology. This year, her article "Biological Discourse and American Jewish Identity," coauthored with Lynn Davidman, was published in the fall 2007 issue of *AJS Perspectives* (journal of the Association for Jewish Studies). She also co-authored with Davidman the article "It's in My Genes: Biological Discourse and Essentialist Views of Identity among Contemporary American Jews," which appeared in the summer 2007 issue of *The Sociological*



Sociology professor Shelly Tenenbaum, Coordinator for Holocaust and Genocide Studies Undergraduate Activities

Shelly Tenenbaum became the first Coordinator for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (HGS) Undergraduate Activities, and thus advanced the Center's mission to provide a rich undergraduate education in this field.

The Center community is fortunate to have internationally renowned psychology Professor Jaan Valsiner committed to growing a partnership between Clark's Hiatt School of Psychology and the Center.



Psychology professor
Jaan Valsiner

Quarterly. In September 2007, she delivered a talk titled “Is it Genocide?” at Temple Ohabei Shalom in Brookline, Mass.

A respected scholar, Tenenbaum is an Editorial Board member of *AJS Perspectives* and continues to serve as an Academic Advisory Council Member for the Jewish Women’s Archive. Her outstanding and innovative work as a scholar and teacher was recognized by the University, which honored Tenenbaum with a Higgins Seminar Award in 2007 to support her and Clark English Professor Betsy Huang in the development of a new course on Asians and Jews in the United States. They plan to teach the course in fall 2008.

The connection between the Holocaust and genocide and psychology remains a conundrum to research and study. Atrocities often unfold after a psychological foundation of hate and deception has been laid, and sometimes are spurred by targeted psychological propaganda. The Center community is fortunate to have internationally renowned psychology Professor **Jaan Valsiner** committed to growing a partnership between Clark’s Hiatt School of Psychology and the Center. In the fall, the Center will welcome the first graduate student in a new doctoral stream, Psychology of Genocide.

Valsiner is a cultural psychologist with a consistently developmental axiomatic base that influences all of his work. He is the founding editor (1995) of the Sage journal *Culture & Psychology* and has published many books, most recently *Comparative Study of Human Cultural Development* (2001), *Culture and Human Development* (2000), and *The Guided Mind* (1998). He has edited, with Kevin Connolly, the *Handbook of Developmental Psychology* (2003)

as well as the *Cambridge Handbook of Socio-Cultural Psychology* (2007), with Alberto Rosa. He is the editor of *Integrative Psychological and Behavioral Sciences* and *From Past to Future: Annals of Innovations in Psychology* (2007). He has been a visiting professor in Brazil, Japan, Australia, Estonia, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.

As a participating faculty member at the Center this year, Valsiner continued to advise the Center’s graduate students through independent reading courses, bringing together cultural and social psychology with key issues of understanding genocides. He also joined Tenenbaum in teaching the undergraduate course Genocide, and was instrumental in setting up the first interdisciplinary collaborative framework for graduate study between HGS and psychology. Center faculty and students look forward to a growing relationship with the Hiatt School of Psychology and are thrilled to have such an enthusiastic and renowned partner in Valsiner.

The Center is grateful to visiting professors **Henry Theriault** and **Dikran Kaligian**, who taught courses about the Armenian Genocide and Armenian history while the search for the Kaloosdian/Mugar Chair of Armenian Genocide Studies and Modern Armenian History was completed. The intellectual rigor, energy, and critical thought these scholars bring to their research and teaching was appreciated by the undergraduate and graduate students, and faculty who had the pleasure of working with them this year.

Graduate Student News

A record number of five new students began their doctoral studies at the Strassler Center this fall. Together with their more senior student colleagues, they form a dynamic group. Committed to scholarship and learning, they have already undertaken a bold new initiative: an international doctoral student conference in spring 2009 for which they will serve as hosts and conveners. Their purpose is to provide a forum for fellow students in America and abroad to present original research papers to peers and scholars. The students began planning this winter, and their invitations to leading scholars to participate as panel chairs were accepted by one and all.

Graduate students stand at the heart of the Center. Through their research, teaching, and scholarship, they advance the Center's mission and reputation in their field and around the world.

Sidney and Rosalie Rose Fellow **Tiberiu Galis** completed his fifth year of doctoral study. At home in Romania, he worked on his dissertation, *Transitional Justice and Transition to a New Regime: Making Sense of Uncertain Times*. Prior to writing, he undertook archival research and data collection in Germany, Hungary, Romania, and Serbia. His dissertation explores the relationship between transitional justice and regime consolidation.

While completing his doctoral work, Galis remains actively engaged in meaningful professional pursuits. Continuing his collaboration as a consultant to the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation in New York, he helped to conceive and organize the first Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide Prevention in Oświęcim (Auschwitz), Poland in May 2008. This international seminar introduced genocide

prevention to 20 mid-level government officials from Argentina, Austria, Bosnia, Burundi, Cambodia, China, Finland, Germany, Latvia and the United States. The participants, recruited by Galis, now constitute a network of civil servants who hope to collaborate internationally on issues of prevention. The seminar received support from the United Nations, the Ford Foundation and the 'Remembrance, Responsibility and Future' Foundation.

Claims Conference Fellow **Jeffrey Koerber** spent his fourth year of graduate study immersed in research for his doctoral dissertation, *View from the Borderlands: Jews in Belorussia and Poland, 1935–1945*, a comparative study of Jewish youth in two borderland towns—Vitebsk in the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and Grodno in the Second Polish Republic. Grounded in the Yiddish language press; personal letters, memoirs, testimonies; and official Jewish organizational documents, his work is a comparative study of the reactions of Jews in these towns to state-sponsored oppression and genocide.

Koerber spent six months in Minsk, Belarus under a Fulbright grant and a Critical Language Enhancement Award from the U.S. Department of State. While there he observed the range of attitudes of the Belarusian citizenry to Soviet-style rule—collaboration, cooperation, passive acquiescence, paranoia, fear, subtle resistance, and outright protest—the last particularly dangerous in a state where citizens are regularly imprisoned on trumped-up charges. Koerber's Fulbright year came to an abrupt end on 2 April, when the U.S. Embassy in Minsk told Koerber and his fellow Fulbright students and professors



Center G1 and G2 students: Jody Manning (left), Raz Segal, Stefan Ionescu, Emily Dabney, Elizabeth Anthony, Adara Goldberg

While completing his doctoral work, Tiberiu remains actively engaged in meaningful professional pursuits.

A seasoned participant at international conferences, Stefan traveled to several throughout the year.



Adara Goldberg (left), Emily Dabney and Jody Manning at the *Daring to Resist: Jewish Defiance in the Holocaust* conference

Prior to his six-month stay in Belarus, Koerber conducted research at archives in New York City (YIVO and American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee) and Washington, D.C. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the National Archives).

A Canadian, Goldberg will mine the archives of her home country to research her dissertation, “We Were Called Greenies:” Holocaust Survivors in Postwar Canada.

to leave the country within five days. Apprehensive that political developments might have an impact on his working conditions, Koerber had accelerated his research schedule. By the time of his departure, he had completed much of his archival work—and none too soon, because during his last week Koerber was denied permission to see many documents important for his research.

Prior to his six-month stay in Belarus, Koerber conducted research at archives in New York City (YIVO and American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee) and Washington, D.C. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the National Archives). With a Corrie ten Boom Research Award from the USC Shoah Foundation Institute, he examined over 130 video testimonies of Holocaust survivors and rescuers that will serve as a foundation for his dissertation. An award from the Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry at Brandeis University underwrote his work in the state archives in Vitebsk and Grodno. Documents from the archives and libraries of Minsk, Vitebsk, and Grodno—written in Yiddish, Russian, Belorussian, Polish, and German—reveal the emerging consciousness of Jewish youth in starkly differing contexts.

The third-floor Tobak Student Offices of Cohen Lasry House, named in memory of Center friend Henry Tobak, buzzed with the Center’s large and lively incoming class. Second-year students **Adara Goldberg** and **Stefan Ionescu** mentored the first-year students. At the same time, they refined their dissertation plans and developed their scholarship while continuing to participate fully in the Center’s busy academic program.

Adara Goldberg continued her studies as the Ralph and Shirley Rose Fellow. She was privileged to earn an additional award, the Louis Manpel Scholarship for Jewish Communal Service, from Na’amat Canada.

A Canadian, Goldberg will mine the archives of her home country to research her dissertation, “*We Were Called Greenies:” Holocaust Survivors in Postwar Canada*. She began archival research at the Ontario Jewish Archives, the Vancouver Jewish Archives and Heritage Society, the National Archives of the Canadian Jewish Congress in Montreal, the Halifax Jewish Archives, and at Pier 21, Canada’s immigration museum.

Honing her public speaking skills, Goldberg presented “We Were Called Greenies’: Holocaust Survivors in Postwar Canada,” at Clark University’s *Graduate Student Conference*. In commemoration of Yom Hashoah, she lectured at two public schools in Holden, Mass. She presented “The Experience of Children during the Holocaust” to middle school students and “Lost Childhood: Jewish Children during the Holocaust” to 110 fifth-graders. Bowing to popular demand, she happily accepted to return to these schools next year.

Stefan Ionescu, a Claims Conference Fellow, studies Holocaust survivor narratives, gentile public opinion about Jews during World War II, and Holocaust history and memory. He recently published an article, “Holocaust and Gulag—Variants of the Concept of Genocide? Between International Law and Contemporary Theories of Collective Violence,” in *Caietele Echinox Journal* (13) 2007. During the winter break, he conducted research in Romanian archives and libraries to develop ideas for his dissertation.

A seasoned participant at international conferences, Ionescu traveled to several throughout the year. In the fall he presented “The Dynamic Concept of Resistance in post-Genocide—Holocaust and Gulag—Remembrance” in Sarajevo (Bosnia Herzegovina) at a conference organized by the Center for Interdisciplinary Memory Research, Kulturwissenschaftlichen Institute Essen. He delivered another paper, “The Dynamic Concept of Resist-

ance in post-Holocaust Remembrance,” at the *39th National Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS)* held in New Orleans, LA. He traveled to Indiana University to participate in the *Romanian Studies Graduate Student Conference* where he discussed, “The Boom of Testimony after Communism” in the spring. And finally, at the Clark University *Graduate Student Conference*, he presented a paper titled, “The Temptation to Instrumentalize the Trials of Genocide Perpetrators: Transitional Justice between International and Domestic Courts.”

Earlier in her career, Claims Conference Fellow **Elizabeth Anthony** worked at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), serving as Deputy Director of Survivor Affairs from 1998 to 2004. Living in Vienna prior to coming to the Center, Anthony worked on post-Holocaust dialogue between Austrians, Germans, and Jews, tracking the inter-generational transmission of memory in the families of survivors and in the non-Jewish families of Germans and Austrians. Co-founder of a Jewish-Austrian dialogue group, Anthony helped design and co-facilitated workshops on confronting Austrian families’ Nazi pasts. As a social worker with HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society), she interviewed refugees fleeing religious persecution.

Anthony’s dissertation focuses on survivors who returned to Vienna in the post-war period. This year she began archival research in Vienna and in New York at YIVO and the Leo Baeck Institute. Elizabeth received a Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, USHMM fellowship to study “Yiddish Reading for Holocaust Research” during the summer.

Richard P. Cohen, M.D. Fellow **Emily Dabney** began her first year of doctoral study following a year in France perfecting her French language skills. She intended

to write a dissertation on the Holocaust in France, but has redirected her attention to French colonial North Africa. Her new topic, *Forced Labor in the Maghreb*, sent her to Worcester State College to begin Arabic language courses.

Dabney’s interest in North African Jewry led her to Washington, D.C. to explore archive files at the USHMM. This research foray was vital in shaping her newly emerging scholarly interests. At Clark’s *Graduate Student Conference* in the spring she presented, “Ham Goes to Rwanda: Racial Myth in the Colonial Period.”

Alexis Herr completed her first year of doctoral study as a Claims Conference Fellow aiming to investigate the Holocaust in Italy. During the spring semester, she studied the history of Italian Fascism and Italy’s Jews during that era with Professor Debórah Dwork in a directed reading class. Primed for further Italian scholarship, she conducted preliminary dissertation research at the USHMM on Fossoli di Carpi, Italy’s largest deportation camp. She continued her archival research in Milan, Italy during the summer and took an intensive German language course.

Herr credits her interest in Holocaust history to the profound influence exerted by Primo Levi’s words. As a student at Claremont McKenna College, where she pursued a dual major in Literature and Italian with a minor in Holocaust, Human Rights, and Genocide Studies, she combined her interests in literature with Holocaust history. During an internship at the USHMM in the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, Herr researched her undergraduate thesis on Field Marshall Albert Kesselring.

Herr presented “Lawrence Langer’s ‘Choiceless Choices’ and Primo Levi’s ‘Grey Zone’: A look at Adam Czerniakow and Chaim Rumkowski” at Clark’s *Graduate Student Conference*.

Anthony received a Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, USHMM fellowship to study “Yiddish Reading for Holocaust Research” during the summer.

Herr credits her interest in Holocaust history to the profound influence exerted by Primo Levi’s words.



Adara Goldberg (left), Alexis Herr and Ilana Offenberger (ABD)

Claims Conference Fellow **Jody Manning** made great progress toward beginning his dissertation, *Living in the Shadows of Auschwitz and Dachau: Memorial, Community, Symbolism, and the Palimpsest of Memory*.

Already a published scholar, Segal submitted the final manuscript of his book, “Their Hearts Hardly Bear the Burden”: *The Destruction of Munkács Jewry in the Holocaust, to Yad Vashem, where it has been accepted for publication.*

Jody Manning with members of the Amnesty International chapter at Tantasqua Regional High School in Sturbridge, Mass.



Claims Conference Fellow **Jody Russell Manning** made great progress toward beginning his dissertation, *Living in the Shadows of Auschwitz and Dachau: Memorial, Community, Symbolism, and the Palimpsest of Memory*. He intends to investigate the relationship between memorial and community and to elucidate the extent to which tourism and the perceptions of outsiders influence such communities. A directed reading on Polish-Jewish relations with Professor Antony Polonsky at Brandeis University paved the way for his archival research on Oświęcim and Dachau at the USHMM and at Yad Vashem.

When a Clark undergraduate, Manning secured a summer internship at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, where he worked for three summers. His dissertation research informed an exhibition of his own photographs, “Layered History: Auschwitz,” presented at Cohen Lasry House. The exhibition illustrates the melancholy of emptiness, the beauty of prisoner artwork, the presence of life, and the harsh reality of existence in a death camp. His photographs illuminate the intricate layers of history at Auschwitz through an examination of the metamorphosis of space.

Like his colleagues, Manning welcomed opportunities to share his research. He presented “The Complexity of Genocide Denial: Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust” and “In Search of Categorization: Homosexuality, Nazism, and the Holocaust” at Clark’s *Graduate Student Conference*. Collaborating with a local Amnesty International chapter, he lectured

to Tantasqua Regional High School in Sturbridge, Mass. about “Genocide: Recognition and Prevention.” In addition, Manning sparked meaningful discussion at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Grafton and Upton, Mass. in response to a presentation on his doctoral research.

At the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum for a fourth summer, Manning conducted research and worked at the International Center for Education. He continued to work with Israeli educators from Yad Vashem during their annual seminar, *Auschwitz in the Collective Consciousness of Poland and the World*.

Fromson Fellow **Raz Segal** finished his first year of doctoral study with the added support of a Fulbright Doctoral Fellowship. Already a published scholar, Segal submitted the final manuscript of his book, “*Their Hearts Hardly Bear the Burden*”: *The Destruction of Munkács Jewry in the Holocaust*, to Yad Vashem, where it has been accepted for publication. Segal presented “Jewish Society in the Ghettos of Subcarpathian Rus’: The Complexities of Facing Genocide” at the *39th Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies* in Toronto, Canada. He will continue research in this area with his dissertation, *Embittered Legacies: Genocide in Subcarpathian Rus’*.

Segal obtained valuable materials from several sources as he began his dissertation research. University of Toronto Professor Paul Robert Magocsi—the foremost expert on Ruthenians in Subcarpathian Rus’—generously shared material from his private library and archive. Meir Frankel, headmaster of the girls’ school of the Munkács community in Brooklyn, also shared his vast private collection of primary documents—both personal and communal—concerning Jewish life in Subcarpathian Rus’. Segal continued his archival research at YIVO, the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and Yad Vashem.

A keen participant in the rich life of the Center as an undergraduate, **Daniel Roberts '07** took advantage of Clark's fifth year program to earn an M.A. in history in May 2008. He wrote his thesis, *"Why We Fight": The American Experience and the Mythology of 'Liberating' Concentration Camps*, under the direction of Professor Thomas Kühne. In this study, Roberts undertakes an unflinching assessment of the American military occupation of Nazi concentration camps. He finds that GIs knew little about the Nazis' genocidal campaign and thus did not appreciate the need for humanitarian relief over combat operations. American veterans, politicians, journalists, and scholars later amplified the part played by GIs in alleviating the suffering in order to whitewash military sins and to elevate the status of veterans in America.

Roberts will continue his studies at the University of Southern Maine in Portland, working toward certification in public education.

New Graduate Students

The Center is pleased to welcome four incoming students for fall 2008. Three of the students will enter the program in history. The fourth, holding the Robert Weil Fellowship, will inaugurate a new stream of doctoral study: the psychology of genocide. The Center and Clark's renowned Psychology Department join forces in an initiative that introduces an innovative way to study genocide that will prove fruitful to strategies for prevention and intervention.

Cristina Andriani will hold the Robert Weil Fellowship. A Ph.D. student in the Conflict Analysis and Resolution Program at Nova Southeastern University in Florida, the Swiss-raised Andriani sought the unique opportunity to study the psychology of genocide offered by the Strassler Center and the Psychology Department. Andriani is a licensed Mental Health Counselor, specializing in trauma and specifically Post-Traumatic Stress

Disorder, Dissociative Disorders, and Dissociative Identity Disorder. Having received an M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy from Syracuse University, she seeks to understand how systems work—intrapersonal, interpersonal, or intergroup system dynamics. She plans to study displaced aggression in Israelis who are descendants of Holocaust survivors.

Michael Geheran spent a decade in the corporate world, most recently as a project manager at Bose Corporation. A German-born new American, he studied history and German at Norwich University and at the Eberhard-Karl Universität in Tübingen, Germany. After three years of active military service and while working, he completed an M.A. in history at Harvard University's extension school. His thesis explored German anti-Hitler resistance, specifically the conspiracy in the Wehrmacht officer corps to overthrow the Nazi regime in 1944. Geheran analyzed the motives of the few officers to oppose the Third Reich, while most remained faithful until the end. At the Center, he will turn to the social and political developments in the German military establishment from 1871 to the present, with an emphasis on the army's professional military culture and conduct of war during the Third Reich.

Natalya Lazar comes to the Center from Chernivtsi, Ukraine. She will hold the Hevrony Family Trust Fellowship, gifted by Mr. Nathan Hevrony in memory of his father's history. Lazar leaves her position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University where she taught courses on interethnic relations and minority rights protection in Central and Eastern European countries. Her many research interests include ethno-politics, Holocaust commemoration policy and memory, and identity politics. During 2007, Lazar held a fellowship at the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of



Jody Manning (left), Emily Dabney, Daniel Roberts '07, M.A. '08

A keen participant in the rich life of the Center as an undergraduate, Daniel Roberts '07 took advantage of Clark's fifth year program to earn an M.A. in history in May 2008. He wrote his thesis, "Why We Fight": The American Experience and the Mythology of 'Liberating' Concentration Camps, under the direction of Professor Thomas Kühne.

Amsterdam studying the character of interethnic relations during the Holocaust, particularly in Ukraine, and undertaking a major research project on the Jews of Bukovina during the Holocaust.

Joanna Sliwa, born in Poland, earned her B.A. in Political Science and Jewish Studies and her M.A. in Holocaust and Genocide Studies from Kean University. A seasoned participant in several complementary programs, Sliwa has a robust resumé. As a Dorot Summer Research Assistant Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, she used her Polish and German language skills to research, write, and edit encyclopedia entries on the ghettos of Nazi-occupied Poland. She participated in the Lipper Internship Program at the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. A fellow of the Auschwitz Jewish Center, she spent the summer studying Polish-Jewish relations and the Holocaust. Drawing upon the findings of her master's thesis, *Children in the Krakow Ghetto*, Sliwa intends to focus on the Holocaust in Poland, paying special attention to the fate of Jewish children, ghetto life, and rescue efforts. To that end she conducted research and provided translations for the forthcoming PBS documentary film about the recently deceased Polish rescuer Irena Sendler, titled *In the Name of Their Mothers: The Story of Irena Sendler*.

□ [Mary Jane Rein](#)

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Center in the Mail 2007–2008

I read the beautiful report you send out, and am totally impressed by all the many things the Center and the students are doing.

[Professor Atina Grossman, Cooper Union](#)

There were two areas of your “Year-End Activities Report” that struck home. One was Beth Cohen’s book “Case Closed.” Her description of the reception that refugees received from their relatives and the American Jewish community was exactly what happened to my cousin, Nina Morecki.... It was almost as if Beth interviewed Nina.

[Bob Messing '59](#)

I attended Professor Hovannisian’s presentation last night and write to congratulate you on a wonderful program....

I have heard so much about the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and was so happy to have finally gotten up to one of your programs....Congratulations on all of your good works in the past and best wishes for the future....

[Harry N. Mazadoorian, Distinguished Senior Fellow, Center on Dispute Resolution, Quinnipiac University School of Law](#)

I’ve heard nothing but raves about your wonderful presentation! Thank you so much for offering your scholarship and your thoughtful presence to our worship experience.

[Eliza Blanchard, Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Grafton and Upton, Mass., to Center graduate student Jody Manning](#)

As a participant of the JFR Summer Institute, I want to thank you for your presentation the final day. I found your ideas thought-provoking and refreshing amidst the flurry of scholars who claim to know the root and cause of the Holocaust. If one cannot admit the profound depth and complexity of the Holocaust, it defeats the purpose of studying it.

Thank you, and I anxiously await your book.

[Rob Hamel, Gorham N.H., to Thomas Kühne](#)

continued on page 32

Disk Project: Daniel Roberts '07, M.A. '08

More than 20 years ago, Professor Debórah Dwork recorded the histories of hundreds of Holocaust child survivors on audio tape. Now the tapes themselves must be preserved. Thanks to a generous grant from the Shillman Charitable Trust, I served as Professor Dwork's research assistant, updating these tapes along with matching transcripts on floppy disks to a contemporary CD format. Technology had moved apace, and CDs and computer files now provide more dependable longevity, easier access, and greater storage capacity. These advances offer valuable tools for historians but demand costly efforts to ensure continued usability.

My initial plan to engage professionals who specialize in audio and data transfer proved too costly and the risk of outsourcing original materials too great. Collaborating with historical archives in order to subsidize the project was rejected, too, due to confidentiality issues. Professor Dwork and I met a professional project manager who, for a substantial fee, proposed supervising two students who would do all of the audio transfers via computer. I believed I could go forward without a middleman and, with Professor Dwork's unwavering faith in my ability, I pursued my own course in transferring the audio tapes and data files.

With the help of Clark University's Information Technology personnel, particularly Academic Technology Coordinator Anthony Helm, I learned to reformat recordings and transcripts using multiple computers, new computer applications, and audio cassette recorders. My system: Original tapes are entered into a database; the tapes are played via a recording device routed to a computer; a program records what is played and creates a MP3 (computer audio file). This program allowed me to edit out

unrecorded sections at the beginning and end of each tape and make audio adjustments. The result is a better quality audio recording and more efficient access to pertinent sections of the oral histories.

The floppy disk transfers, while less time consuming, were more complicated. Many of the disks storing the typed transcripts no longer function with contemporary computers. Initially, a professional data recovery company seemed the only option. Again, however, with guidance from Clark Information Technology Services, I moved along without outside intervention. Using a program downloaded from the Internet, I converted the files from their dead programming language on obsolete floppy disks into Word format on data CDs.

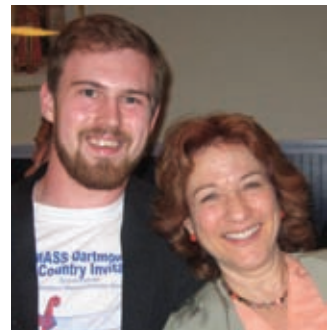
This project taught me much about recording oral histories. Professor Dwork devoted thousands of hours to the initial interviews, at locations throughout Europe and America. Audio recordings preserve much of the emotion recalling lived history evokes, while the human presence is often lost in the formality of written language and the constraints of print. As a result of this project I have discovered the value of audio recording and even used oral history in my own work interviewing an American veteran of World War II. Using my hard won knowledge of the process, I recorded the interview directly into the computer. The experience demonstrated for me that technology can increase both the humanity and efficiency of the historian's craft.

Voices of the Holocaust disappear daily. Although the historical record includes memoirs, documents, and pictures, the voices of survivors convey an intimate, human dimension. This project maintains those voices for generations to come.

□ Daniel Roberts '07, M.A. '08

"As a result of this project I have discovered the value of audio recording and even used oral history in my own work interviewing an American veteran of World War II... The experience demonstrated for me that technology can increase both the humanity and efficiency of the historian's craft."

—Daniel Roberts '07,
M.A. '08



Daniel Roberts '07, M.A. '08
and Center Director
Debórah Dwork



Rebecca Dash '09, Naomi Sully '08, Voices from Darfur speaker Abu Assal, Georgiana Mora '08, and Voices from Darfur speaker Marwa Abdalla



A STAND letter-writing campaign

Undergraduate Student News

Students in the undergraduate concentration in Holocaust and Genocide Studies (HGS) pursue a rich course of study across a variety of disciplines. Internships and co-curricular activities allow HGS students to put their learning and research into practice and provide them with opportunities to contribute to the Center's mission of shaping a more peaceable future.

HGS Internships

The Holocaust and Genocide Studies (HGS) program offers summer internship stipends every other year provided by the Arthur and Rochelle Belfer Fund, the Debra I. and Jeffrey A. Geller Student Research Fund, and the Ina R. and Haskell R. Gordon Fund. Following a competitive review process of the largest applicant group to date, the following three students received HGS internship stipends.

- **Jesse Mattleman '11** is the first HGS student to travel to Latin America through a funded internship. She assisted Primeros Pasos (a nongovernmental organization based in Guetzaltenango in the highlands of Guatemala) in its mission to empower the Mayan people through access to health-care and a community education program.

- **Lindsay Danforth '09** worked at the Hatikvah Holocaust Center in Springfield, Mass., studying coping mechanisms used by Holocaust survivors today. Last summer, Danforth participated in the Prague/Terezín study abroad program (see page 31).

- **Margaret Kettles '11** taught English and diversity acceptance skills to Bosnian, Serb, and Croat children at an orphanage in Mostar, Bosnia. In some cases, these workshops presented the first positive contact Bosnian children had with adults of an ethnicity other than their own. Kettles also worked for Training Workshops International, which plans long-term stays for American and Bosnian interpreters in orphanages.

Other Internships

- **Sarah Richard '11** served as the English-speaking tour guide at the Lidice Museum and Memorial in the Czech Republic and as escort for English speaking diplomats at the museum's June 10 memorial events.

- **Kristin Spooner '08** interned at the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR). Spooner worked with the JFR's Summer Institute for Teachers at Columbia University, among other activities.

Clark students STAND against genocide

STAND, a student coalition against genocide, is the student arm of the national Genocide Intervention Network. Clark's chapter of STAND, advised by HGS Coordinator of Undergraduate Activities and Sociology Professor Shelly Tenenbaum, held events aimed at educating the Clark and Worcester communities about the genocide in Darfur and other areas of violence in the world, such as Burma and the Democratic Republic of Congo. STAND hosted a "Voices from Darfur" event at which two genocide survivors described their experiences to an audience of about 200 Clark and Worcester community members. In December, they held a "Day for Darfur" fundraiser that encouraged students to donate the cost of a Clark meal to help protect Darfuri women from attacks when they leave the refugee camps in search of firewood. In the spring semester, STAND focused on educating the Clark community about divestment. We are pleased to report that Clark University does not have direct investments in companies identified by the Sudan Divestment Task Force as directly funding the Darfur Genocide.

□ *Judith Jaeger*

Studying the Holocaust Outside the Classroom: Prague/Terezín/Auschwitz Program 2007

The popular undergraduate Prague/Terezín history course wound its way across Europe for the fourth time in May 2007. Led by the Center's Program Manager Dr. Tatyana Macaulay, participants in "The Czech Jews: From Prague to Terezín to Auschwitz" traced the tragic progress of the destruction of one country's Jewry from the Nazi transit camp/ghetto Theresienstadt (Terezín) to the Auschwitz I and Birkenau complex.

The program opened for 19 Clark undergraduate students with a five-day lecture series. Unforgettable were two compelling presentations: former participant Daniel Roberts '07, M.A. '08 discussed the history of the Sudeten Germans in pre-war Czechoslovakia and the impact of the detrimental Munich Pact; and Terezín survivors Hana and Edgar Krása of Newton, Mass., spoke movingly about their camp experiences and post-war reintegration.

The second segment took place in Prague. Eva Kuželová, of the Jewish Museum, led tours of the Jewish Quarter's synagogues and its Judaica treasures. Students attended Mozart's opera *Clemenza di Tito* in the stunning Theater of the Estates and a concert in the baroque St. Nicholas Church in Prague, both events made possible by a gift from Greg Tomeo '06. Roberts guided the group through Lidice, a Czech village destroyed by Nazis in ferocious reprisal for the assassination of a Nazi official. Later, the group followed in the footsteps of Czech Jewish deportees with Anna Hájková, a student of the Holocaust in the Czech Lands. During the third segment, in Terezín, Hájková conducted seminars on the establishment of the ghetto, its Jewish self-administration, and tensions among various prisoner groups. Terezín Memorial educators, Nad'a Seifertová and Petra Pěničková, led hands-on workshops.

Ashley Borell '07 and Center graduate student Jody Manning were invaluable program assistants.

The students met with the Director of the Terezín ghetto, Dr. Vojtěch Blodig, for an informal lecture and discussion. Two days of student research culminated in a stimulating afternoon of presentations. Arianna Schudrich '09 interviewed Terezín's first cook, survivor Edgar Krása, and baked cookies based on a Terezín recipe. She explained how food was cooked and distributed in the ghetto. Abby Weiner '09, presented a penetrating analysis of an as yet unpublished diary by a child inmate, Pavel Weiner.

Leaving Terezín, the group traveled to Auschwitz where Manning, a frequent intern at the Auschwitz Museum, lectured on the history of the nearby city of Oświęcim, and the impact of living in the shadow of a former death camp on its inhabitants. Guided tours of both camps by a scholar of Auschwitz, Robert Nowak, were enhanced by special lectures by Teresa Wontor-Cichy on lesser-known prisoner groups: Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet POWs, and the Roma and Sinti. The group

Center Program Manager Dr. Tatyana Macaulay (seated front row, left) with students in the May 2007 Prague/Terezín/Auschwitz Program



also had the rare opportunity to tour the museum's restoration and preservation departments. All academic programming in Auschwitz was generously supported by Lillian Freedman of Newton, Mass., in memory of her late husband, Harry Freedman, whose many relatives perished in the Holocaust.

The group's visit to the Auschwitz Jewish Center, facilitated by Center friends Fred Schwartz and Gregg Mashberg, focused on Oświęcim's pre-war Jewish community. In Krakow, Chief Rabbi Michael Schudrich led a tour of Krakow's Jewish Quarter, Kazimierz, and spoke about the renewal of Jewish life in Poland.

The course reconvened in October 2007 for a festive reunion. A former Terezín child prisoner, Michael Gruenbaum of Brookline, Mass., organized a panel of Terezín survivors. The panel complemented research conducted by Naomi Sully '08 in Prague on the post-war reintegration of Jews who returned and remained in Czechoslovakia. Harry Osers of Caracas, Venezuela, Jan Strebinger of Sao Paolo, Brazil, and Michael Kraus of Brookline, Mass., described their paths to their adoptive countries, struggles with language, and successful studies and careers. Harry is a well-known professor of civil engineering. Jan established a paint factory. Michael became a respected Boston architect. All three men lost family in the Holocaust and successfully rebuilt their lives.

Students described the program as life changing, but intense. When some clamored for more free time, Kristin Spooner '08 rose to her feet and said, "I paid for this program out of my own pocket, and I got my money's worth. Thank you, Dr. Macaulay!"

"I paid for this program out of my own pocket, and I got my money's worth. Thank you, Dr. Macaulay!"

—Kristin Spooner '08

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Center in the Mail 2007–2008

It was my great pleasure to listen to your wonderful words. I am teacher of Polish language and literature in high school. I teach seniors about [the] Holocaust, too....Thanks to expression of language of literature I try to awaken in students' minds the interest of the world which existed in Poland, and which [is] irretrievably [lost]. [As] you have told, we teachers have to build the bridge between today [and the past].

María Magdalena Dziejma of Białystok, Poland, to Debórah Dwork

I have to thank you, again, for accepting me into the program in 1998. I received such a stellar and unique education that I could not have obtained anywhere else. You really gave me/us a comprehensive program—courses, conferences, contacts—I would not be here (obviously) without the program—and not only am I enjoying my job (which may be a problem because I am dealing with the Holocaust and it doesn't seem quite right), but I do believe that I am making a difference (albeit small).

Beth Lilach (ABD)
Director of Education, Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County

Preparing a program on "Acknowledging the Armenian Genocide" I have organized for Monday, I came across your letter to the editor of the Globe. You wrote, "Once again, for those of you who missed this history lesson: The genocide of the Armenian people by the Turks under cover of World War I is a settled matter among historians and genocide scholars. The jury has long been in on this question." Very well said! With your permission I will pass it along to the panel I have put together. I learned from you that everything can be a teaching opportunity—especially current events.

Morgan Blum '02
Head Educator, Holocaust Center of Northern California to Debórah Dwork

...Dan [Roberts '07, M.A. '08] was an excellent intern and I can only hope that we soon benefit from the presence of a similarly talented intern.

M. Cervenc, Director of the Lidice Memorial in the Czech Republic

continued on page 39

To Change the World, To Make a Difference

Life After the Center

As Holocaust museums and memorials proliferate, Center alumni are poised to assume leadership positions. Indeed they are doing just that as they continue to embrace opportunities for further research and public service. As the sole program to provide doctoral education in Holocaust history and genocide studies, the Center is proud to serve as a training ground for future curators, education directors, and historians who will advance the field and enhance the education of teachers, students, and the public. Their activities, reported below, attest to the value of the Center's enterprise of rigorous doctoral education.

Graduate Alumni News

Beth Cohen Ph.D. '03 is the interim coordinator of Jewish Studies at California State University, Northridge. In the past year she has also served as Ross Visiting Scholar, Chapman University; lecturer, UCLA; and consultant for the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous. Following the 2007 publication of *Case Closed: Holocaust Survivors in Post-War America*, she has been in demand as a speaker at events around the United States and abroad. Embarking upon a new project, Cohen received the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute Senior Scholar Award to support her research on the role of American Jewish women in assisting child survivors after the Holocaust. Her article "Holocaust Survivors in America" appeared in the spring issue of *New York Archives* magazine.

Sara Cushman (ABD) is the Assistant Education Director at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County (HMTC) where she works alongside another Center ABD candidate, Beth Lilach. Cushman oversees educational programs and supervises personnel and

volunteers. She expects to complete her dissertation, *The Women of Birkenau*, a social history of the women's camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau, in the fall. Her exploration of this material serves as a basis for some of her public outreach. She presented "Women during the Holocaust" and "The Concentration Camp System" at a summer institute organized by the HMTC and Hofstra University. Her professional development will continue at the fall *Lessons and Legacies Conference* where she will co-chair a workshop on teaching about women in the Holocaust. "The Myth of Never Again" is the theme of a workshop series Cushman conducts on genocide throughout the 20th century.

As Assistant Director for Jewish World Watch (JWW), **Naama Haviv M.A. '06 (and ABD)** has established herself as a leading activist in the effort to halt genocide. With a focus on Darfur and Chad, Los-Angeles based JWW is engaged in humanitarian relief, education, and advocacy. Haviv developed an initiative called ACT (Activist Certification and Training) to officially recognize young people trained as activists. Her education in comparative genocide studies at the Center prepared her well for her policy work and risk assessment of conflicts around the world. She drew on this expertise further as she contributed to the curriculum developed for mid-level government officials participating in the Genocide Prevention seminar at the Raphael Lemkin Center at the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation. (See entry on Tiberiu Galis, pg 23.)

Recognized for her ability to inspire and train others, Naama was invited to join the 2008 New Leaders Project, a program of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation aimed at increasing the civic participation of young Jewish professionals.

Embarking upon a new project, Beth Cohen Ph.D. '03 received the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute Senior Scholar Award to support her research on the role of American Jewish women in assisting child survivors after the Holocaust.

Sara Cushman (ABD) is the Assistant Education Director at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County (HMTC) where she works alongside another Center ABD candidate, Beth Lilach.

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Rachel Iskov (ABD) served as co-chair of Holocaust Education Week at the Holocaust Centre of Toronto and was invited to present her doctoral research.

Beth Lilach (ABD) is Director of Education at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County and is chiefly responsible for the historical content of the Center's new museum.

The USHMM invited Ilana Offenberger (ABD) to speak about her research at the Boston Public Library.

Rachel Iskov (ABD) continues to write her dissertation, *Jewish Family Life in Lodz Ghetto* while remaining active in public service in Toronto. She served as co-chair of Holocaust Education Week at the Holocaust Centre of Toronto and was invited to present her doctoral research. Further opportunities to share her dissertation findings include the forthcoming publication, "Jewish Refugees from the Surrounding Communities in the Warsaw and Lodz Ghettos," in *Memory, History, and Responsibility: Reassessments of the Holocaust, Implications for the Future*, Conference Proceedings Volume for *Lessons and Legacies of the Holocaust*, IX. She also presented "Childbearing and Abortion in the Lodz Ghetto" at the *Association for Jewish Studies 39th Annual Conference*. As a teaching assistant at Ryerson University, Iskov continues to develop her professional portfolio.

Robin Krause (ABD), working toward completion of her dissertation, *German Opposition to Genocide: The Case of the Herero, 1904-1907*, revised "Genocide in German Southwest Afrika: An Overview of the Discussion it Generated" for publication. Delivered at a Sheffield University conference in 2006, Robin's paper will be included in the forthcoming publication of the conference proceedings. In addition, Krause has turned her attention to Nazi newsreels, viewing reels acquired from International Historical Films in order to assess the relationship between anti-Jewish content and the progress of the Final Solution.

Beth Lilach (ABD) is Director of Education at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County and is chiefly responsible for the historical content of the Center's new museum. She is a valuable resource for her community, speaking at numerous public events, serving on county committees, and collaborating with local institutions such as Hofstra University, Nassau Community College,

and Touro Law Center. As director of the Holocaust Summer Institute for Educators at Hofstra University she presented "Learning about Nazi Antisemitism to Solve Today's Bullying and Prejudice." At the Association of Holocaust Organizations Summer Conference, *In the Aftermath of the Holocaust*, she presented "New Voices in Holocaust Education: Problems and Challenges." Lilach also continues to write her dissertation, *Aftermath of Liberation: Jewish Life in Displaced Persons Camps, Germany 1945-1957*.

Ilana F. Offenberger (ABD) is making excellent progress on her dissertation *The Nazification of Vienna and the Response of the Viennese Jews*. Living in the Boston area, Offenberger continues to be active in the Center's academic community. She was honored to introduce Dr. Sophie Freud, granddaughter of the famous Dr. Sigmund Freud, to a Center audience. (See page 9.) The USHMM also invited her to speak about her research at the Boston Public Library. She introduced Leslie Swift, from the USHMM film and video archives department, who screened rare archival footage filmed by an American family caught in Vienna directly after the Nazi takeover in March 1938. The Baker Family Footage Collection provides unique insight into daily life in Vienna during and after the Nazi takeover—precisely the issues Offenberger addresses in her dissertation.

Lotta Stone (ABD) spent the past year as Director of Education at the Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education in Cincinnati while continuing to work toward completing her dissertation *Seeking Asylum: German Jewish Refugees in South Africa, 1933-1948*. She presented the paper "Flight to South Africa: A Tale of Two Ships" at the *Holocaust Studies Conference* at Middle Tennessee State University in the fall. She recently moved to New York to take up the position of Director of Education for the Jewish

Foundation for the Righteous (JFR).

Stone replaces **Christine Schmidt Ph.D. '03** in this important position and thus had the opportunity to collaborate closely with Center faculty teaching in the JFR's 2008 Summer Institute. Schmidt is fully engaged in revision of her pathbreaking dissertation, *The Plateau of Hospitality: Jewish Refugee Life on the Plateau Vivarais-Lignon*, in book form. Her review of *Escape from Hell: The True Story of Auschwitz Protocol* by Alfred Wetzler will appear on H-German in the fall.

Undergraduate Alumni News

The Strassler Center undergraduate program boasts a rich roster of courses that attracts a huge number of Clark students. Some choose to take on the challenge of the Holocaust and Genocide Studies (HGS) undergraduate concentration, in addition to their major. HGS alumni are well prepared to use their education and training to pursue meaningful professional opportunities or advanced academic degrees. Here are a few examples:

Morgan Blum '02 is the Head Educator at the Holocaust Center of Northern California. Her professional experiences served as the foundation for a paper she presented in Sarajevo, Bosnia at the International Association for Genocide Scholars, "The Future of Genocide Education at the High School Level." At the July 2007 conference, hosted by the University of Sarajevo's Institute for the Research of Crimes Against Humanity and International Law, she had the happy occasion to connect with Center doctoral



Morgan Blum '02
with Center
graduate student
Tiberiu Galis

student Tiberiu Galis. Her Center relationships continued to flourish this winter as she hosted her former advisor Center Director Debórah Dwork in San Francisco for a well received talk on *The Terezín Album of Mariánka Zadikow*, for which Dwork authored the historical introduction and entry annotations.

Sara Brown '05 will attend the Raphael Recanati International School of the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel this fall. She plans to pursue a master's degree in Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution Studies. Her experiences in Africa, both as the recipient of an undergraduate internship and as a volunteer following graduation, are valuable in her current work with Catholic Charities of Dallas. She helps resettle refugees, many of whom have fled conflict and persecution in Africa, in the Dallas metropolitan area.

Joshua Franklin '06, M.A. '07 completed his first year of rabbinical training at Hebrew Union College's Jerusalem campus. Drawing upon his master's thesis, he published "German-Jewish Refugees in the American Armed Forces during the Second World War" in the summer 2007 issue of *Stambaum*. Following an academic fellowship at the Manhattan College Holocaust Resource Center during the summer, he will resume rabbinical studies at the Cincinnati campus of Hebrew Union College.

Sara Levy '01 completed her second year of the University of Minnesota's doctoral program in curriculum and instruction; she is focusing on HGS education and how teachers approach this subject. Writing to her former adviser Debórah Dwork in March, she explained that she had just "got back from Macedonia. I have a research assistantship this year with one of my advisors who leads the evaluation of a project called 'Deliberating in a Democracy,' which implements democratic learning techniques in classrooms here in

Sara Brown '05 will attend the Raphael Recanati International School of the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel this fall.

At the July 2007 conference, hosted by the University of Sarajevo's Institute for the Research of Crimes Against Humanity and International Law, Morgan Blum '02 had the happy occasion to connect with Center doctoral student Tiberiu Galis.

Lotta Stone (ABD) spent the past year as Director of Education at the Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education in Cincinnati while continuing to work toward completing her dissertation Seeking Asylum: German Jewish Refugees in South Africa, 1933-1948.

Christine Schmidt Ph.D. '03 is fully engaged in revision of her pathbreaking dissertation, The Plateau of Hospitality: Jewish Refugee Life on the Plateau Vivarais-Lignon, in book form.

Following an academic fellowship at the Manhattan College Holocaust Resource Center during the summer, Joshua Franklin ('06, M.A. '07) will resume rabbinical studies at the Cincinnati campus of Hebrew Union College.

the US and in new democracies in Europe. While I was there I did interviews and observations at three schools.” An unexpected delay in Prague on her return journey prompted Sara to remember: “Somewhere, I have a picture of four Czech police standing in front of the main synagogue there, which says something, though I’m not yet sure what. One of my Macedonian colleagues shared her experience of the Macedonian Holocaust Remembrance event, which is held every year on the anniversary of the deportation of the Macedonian Jews—and I had not even told her of my background and interests.”

□ *Mary Jane Rein*

“One of my Macedonian colleagues shared her experience of the Macedonian Holocaust Remembrance event, which is held every year on the anniversary of the deportation of the Macedonian Jews—and I had not even told her of my background and interests.”

—Sara Levy '01

Holocaust and Genocide Studies Program Faculty

The Center is fortunate to have the following faculty from six academic departments teach in its interdisciplinary undergraduate concentration in Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

Taner Akçam, History Department, Kaloosdian/Mugar Associate Professor of Armenian Genocide Studies and Modern Armenian History

Paul Burke, Foreign Languages and Literatures Department, Professor of Classics

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

Jody Emel, Professor of Geography, Graduate School of Geography

Everett Fox, Foreign Languages and Literatures Department, Allen M. Glick Professor of Judaic and Biblical Studies, Director of the Jewish Studies Program

Beverly Grier, Government and International Relations Department, Associate Professor of Government

Thomas Kühne, History Department, Strassler Professor of Holocaust History

Olga Litvak, History Department, Leffell Associate Professor in Modern Jewish History

Robert Melson, History Department, Cathy Cohen Lasry Distinguished Professor

Srinivasan Sitaraman, Government and International Relations Department, Assistant Professor of Government

Valerie Sperling, Government and International Relations Department, Associate Professor of Government

Shelly Tenenbaum, Sociology Department, Professor of Sociology, Coordinator of Undergraduate Activities in Holocaust and Genocide Studies Concentration

Jaan Valsiner, Psychology Department, Professor of Psychology

Kristen Williams, Government and International Relations Department, Associate Professor of Government

Growth and Development

The vision and mandate of the Strassler Center resonate strongly with a diverse group of donors. Many are constituents of the University who recognize that the Center's mission is consistent with the University's goal: to challenge convention and change the world. These "Clarkies" appreciate the renown the Center brings to the University in areas of known excellence, such as graduate education. And they value the strength the Center adds to Clark's psychology, geography, and international relations programs. Such Clarkies include trustee David Chaifetz '65 whose wife Edie marked his 65th birthday with a surprise party and directed dozens of their friends to celebrate the occasion with gifts to the Center in his honor.

The Center is equally honored to count many friends beyond the Clark network as donors. With their gifts, these individuals

and foundation leaders support the Center's goal to address the complex issues of genocidal violence. Like Bob and Shirley Siff, several are rooted in the Worcester community, and they remain constant and generous. Others, such as Robin Heller Moss, a trustee of the New York-based Buster Foundation, have no connection to Worcester. In her case, her great regard for Dr. Richard P. Cohen '71, led her to fund a graduate fellowship in his honor. Gifts from colleagues at peer organizations are a warm vote of confidence. We are grateful to Stanlee Stahl, executive vice president of the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, for her continued support, both moral and financial.

It is our pleasure to salute everyone who made gifts in the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

□ *Mary Jane Rein*

The following list includes outright gifts, pledges, and pledge payments made between June 1, 2007 and May 31, 2008.

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A Valued Member of the Community: Margie Glazer

Margie Glazer has long been interested in the Holocaust. She taught the subject for 16 years at Congregation B'nai Shalom in Westborough, Mass. And when the Strassler Center opened nearly a decade ago, Glazer became a regular attendee of Center lectures and exhibits. With her retirement from her teaching career, Glazer knew she wanted to spend her new-found free time at the Strassler Center.

Since summer 2007, Glazer has served as a volunteer in the Center's Rose Library, which houses a growing collection of books, periodicals, and documents related to the Holocaust and genocide. Among her tasks, Glazer proofread two manuscripts, one of them a diary kept by a boy during his three years at Terezín, the Nazis' "model" camp. She also worked with Center librarian B.J. Perkins to process hundreds of books donated by Diana Bartley this year, adding to a collection that has grown to several thousand volumes over the past decade.

"I just feel it's an honor to be able to hold these books in my hands," Glazer says. In one day, she recalls processing a collection of daily reports from Nazi commander Jürgen Stroop about the destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto; a document that recorded the names of people who were killed at Auschwitz; and Henry Ford's antisemitic editorials published in the newspapers he owned in Dearborn, Michigan.

Glazer did not lose relatives to the Holocaust or genocide, yet she recognizes these tragedies as a loss for all of humanity. As a retired educator, she is drawn to the subject, the Center and its books. Through her gift of time, she is helping to advance the Center's mission to bring about a brighter future through education about the past.

■ *Judith Jaeger*

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Center in the Mail 2007–2008

I just want to tell you how impressed I was with your talk last night and the thorough research you must have done to gain such comprehensive knowledge about Terezín—truly amazing! And thank you for taking the time to talk to me about what got you interested in the subject of the Holocaust in the first place and how you got interested in writing about Mariánka's album.

Michael Gruenbaum, child survivor of Terezín, to Debórah Dwork

Your presentation was so interesting, and I know that our school community will benefit from the knowledge gained from your lecture. This upcoming spring, after I complete my AP U.S. History course, we are assigned a long research paper. I am hoping that I will be able to explore and learn more about genocide awareness as part of my project. If so, I would love to stay in contact with you for any additional information. That would be so helpful. Thank you again for everything. You were great!

Laura Montross, student and member of the local Amnesty International Chapter in Fiskdale, Mass., to Center graduate student Jody Manning

...I have had numerous conversations and e-mails about the weekend seminar. The teachers were extremely enthusiastic about your presentations and felt they gained a great deal that they could add to their classrooms. This was, of course, our hope in designing the seminar—so many, many thanks for making that happen...

Gayle Olson-Raymer, Humboldt State University, to Thomas Kühne

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Investing in history to shape a brighter future

An entrepreneur, Al Tapper has invested in many businesses. His ability to recognize the value and potential of a good idea has been key to his success in venture capital. He brings the same intelligent approach to philanthropy. The Strassler Family Center has been a source of wholehearted interest since Clark Trustee Mel Rosenblatt first introduced him to Debórah Dwork shortly after she arrived at the University. Since that meeting, Dwork and Tapper have enjoyed a lively friendship nurtured by an ongoing exchange of ideas and a mutual commitment to education about the Holocaust and other genocides.

“Al is passionate about history,” says Dwork, “and he is committed to finding a way forward. He gets it—that investing in doctoral education will save lives because our students will effect change by educating the public and influencing public policy.” Indeed, Dwork hopes that Center students will eventually “run the State Department.” Tapper clearly appreciates the enthusiasm and vision evinced by Dwork, the founding director of the Center. And he has shown it with an endowed doctoral student fellowship, a grant to defray Dwork’s research costs for her latest book, *The Terezín Album of Mariánka Zadikow*, and continuing generous support of the Center’s operating budget.

Unrestricted funding such as he provides is a solid measure of Tapper’s great confidence in the Center and Dwork’s leader-



Al Tapper,
entrepreneur
and friend
of the Center

ship. His support fosters growth at a critical moment in the Center’s development—something Tapper can appreciate as a successful businessman. Having made his first gift in 1997, he has seen a substantial return on his investment as the first doctoral students have received their degrees and entered the field as professionals. But he also understands that growth requires continued capital and his business acumen points to the need for building on the success achieved in the Center’s first decade.

A profile of Tapper must honor his love for music and theater. An accomplished musician and writer, he has written several musicals for the New York stage. The humor and lightheartedness displayed in that work are far removed from the deep concern he feels for those in need, from Hurricane Katrina victims to Darfuri refugees. But the passion that inspires him clearly underlies his many interests.

■ *Mary Jane Rein*

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Center in the Mail 2007–2008

Just to put my impressions of your talk on paper... your description of Mariánka and your knowledge of Terezín made it worth for all those present in the audience to attend.

Edgar Krasa, for Hana too
 Survivors of Terezín. Edgar wrote an entry in Mariánka Zadikow's Terezín Album on 24 November 1944.

The accolades keep coming. It was a pleasure having you on campus and I look forward to the release of your new book.

Gerry Melnick, Director of the Kean University Holocaust Resource Center, to Debórah Dwork

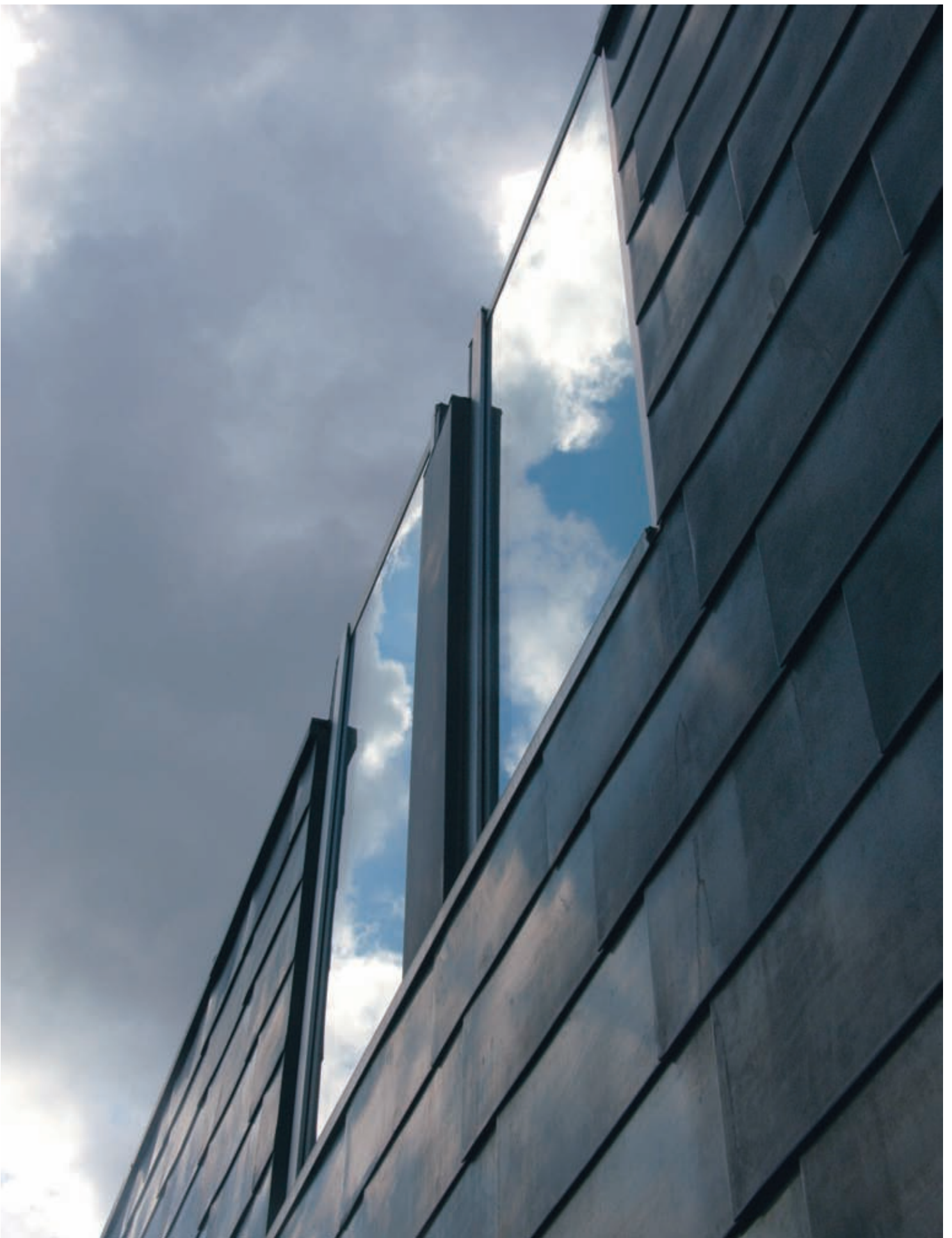
I am the editor of the Armenian Weekly. I just wanted to thank you for your letter to the Boston Globe. The Armenian community appreciates your support in this struggle which is key for genocide recognition.

Khatchig Mouradian to Debórah Dwork

Thank you for sending me the Year End Activities Report. I am delighted to see that the Center keeps going from strength to strength. As always it was a pleasure to read not only about life at the Center, but also about how so many make a difference "after the Center."

Gijs de Vries, former European Union anti-terrorism coordinator

Johnny Freund	Laurence Orbach
Ruth H. and Owen H. Gailar	Ina and Jack Polak
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Leonard Mushin	



Rose Library addition to Cohen Lasry House, home of the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Architect: Julian Bonder.

SAVE THESE DATES

Please join us for our exciting array of upcoming public programs!
Call 508-793-8897 for further information, or visit the Center's online calendar of events, www.clarku.edu/departments/holocaust/events/index.cfm, for a complete listing.

FALL 2008

SEPTEMBER 10 • 7:30 P.M., TILTON HALL

"In Search of an Arab Schindler"

Robert Satloff

Executive Director
The Washington Institute of Near East Policy

SEPTEMBER 17 • 4 P.M., ROSE LIBRARY

"Jewish 'Headships' (*Judenräte* and *Judenvereinigungen*): The Emergence and Application of an Administrative Concept in Nazi Anti-Jewish Policies"

Dan Michman

Professor of Modern Jewish History
Chair, Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research,
Bar-Ilan University;
Chief Historian
Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, Israel

OCTOBER 22 • 4 P.M., ROSE LIBRARY

"Integrating the Holocaust into a European History of Violence"

Donald Bloxam

Professor of Modern History
The University of Edinburgh, Scotland

OCTOBER 23 • 7:30 P.M., TILTON HALL

"Death and the Maydl: Jewish Femininity and the Denial of Beauty in the Art of Marc Chagall"

Olga Litvak

The Michael and Lisa Leffell Chair in
Modern Jewish History, Clark University

NOVEMBER 12 • 4 P.M., ROSE LIBRARY

A New Book:

The Holocaust on German-Occupied Soviet Territory and the Response by Soviet Jewish Intellectuals

Joshua Rubenstein

Northeast Regional Director
Amnesty International;
Associate, Davis Center for Eurasia and
Russian Studies, Harvard University

SPRING 2009

MARCH 19 • 7:30 P.M., TILTON HALL

"Facing History: A Threat to National Security? The Relationship Between Turkish and United States National Security Concepts and the Armenian Genocide"

Taner Akçam

Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian
and Stephen and Marian Mugar Chair
in Armenian Genocide Studies and
Modern Armenian History
Strassler Center, Clark University

APRIL 23 • 7:30 P.M., TILTON HALL

"Holocaust and Genocide— Two Concepts or Part of Each Other?"

Yehuda Bauer

Professor Emeritus of Holocaust History,
Hebrew University, Jerusalem;
Academic Advisor, Yad Vashem;
Member of the Israeli Academy of Science
Israel;
Former Distinguished Visiting Professor
Strassler Center, Clark University

One of the pleasures of reviewing each year's activities is the appreciation it engenders again and anew for the community near and far upon which the Center's success rests. I am delighted to have this opportunity to thank Center staff for their collegiality and helpfulness to each other and warm welcome to all who visit. Administrative assistant Margaret Hillard sets a superior standard of calm dispatch and kindness; bookkeeper Ghi Vaughn's budgets and accounting documents are utterly reliable and crystal clear to the penny; program manager Tatyana Macaulay runs top-notch events, shepherds the graduate students through each stage of the doctoral program, and runs a world-class Prague/Terezín study abroad program; librarian Betty Jean Perkins brings professional order to an amazing book collection; executive director Mary Jane Rein, fulltime as of 1 April 2008, is wrapping her arms around the whole of the Center operations with dedication and purpose.

It goes without saying — but I say nevertheless — that I know how fortunate I am, and the Center is, with my colleagues Thomas Kühne and Bob Melson. Bob has decided to retire from teaching, but the graduate students have not let him go and he will continue to serve as an advisor and mentor. I thank, too, my colleagues in other departments who generously mentor our doctoral students. This past year, Clark professors Beverly Grier, Nina Kushner, Walter Schatzberg, and Jaan Valsiner served as key advisors to Center students. They were joined by colleagues at other universities: Frank Bialystok; Kate Brown; Evan Bukey; Eric Gordy; Barbara Harff; Richard Menkis; Antony Polonsky; Milton Shain; Robert Jan van Pelt; Eric Weitz; and Piotr Wrobel. And the generous souls to whom our students turn for informal help or advice: Yehuda Bauer; Michael Berenbaum; Atina Grossman; Peter Hayes; Larry Langer. Giving the gift of time and expertise, each enriched the intellectual universe of the student, and thus enriched the entire community.

Professor Shelly Tenenbaum has taken on the new position of Coordinator of HGS Undergraduate Activities, and I am deeply appreciative of her bold new initiatives and creative ideas. I am grateful, too, to Associate Provost Nancy Budwig for her engagement with and support of the Center and its mission.

As always, I thank Sandy Giannantonio for her elegant design; creative services manager Kay Hartnett for her great eye; and photographers Rob Carlin, Karen Kaufman, and Tammy Woodard for finding their subjects' "right side."

*Warmest thanks to Judith Jaeger, Director of University Communications at Clark until June 2008, the editor-in-chief of this Report, and the miracle worker who effected an ever smoother production system as the document grew ever more complex. A role model for every aspiring writer, Judith served as a fulltime director by day and, author by night, she published one novel, *The Secret Thief*, and wrote another during the years we worked together. All of us at the Center will miss her keenly.*

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