

Upcoming Events

2016

Walk for Water for South Sudan

10 am Saturday, October 1, 2016
Parking Lot G, MCC's Brighton Campus
www.crowdrise.com/mccwalkforwater

Human Rights Film

No Asylum: The Untold Story of Anne Frank

6 pm Tuesday, October 25, Flynn Campus Center Forum (3-130) and
4 pm Wednesday, October 26, Damon City Campus 4151

25th Annual Kristallnacht Program

Finding Kalman: A Boy in Six Million

Featuring Roz Jacobs and Laurie Weisman

7 pm Thursday, November 10

Warshof Conference Center, R. Thomas Flynn Campus
Center (Monroe A/B)

2017

HGHRP Student Trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

Washington, D.C.; scholarship support available
January 10 – 13, 2017

Human Rights Workshop for Educators

11 am to 2 pm Thursday, January 12
Flynn Campus Center Forum (3-130)

11th annual Voices of Vigilance Program

Featuring Gulwali Passarlay, Afghan Refugee and Author
7 pm Monday, March 13

Warshof Conference Center, Flynn Campus Center
(Monroe A/B)

National Jewish Theatre Foundation's Remembrance Readings in Honor of Yom HaShoah

Noon Monday, April 24

Flynn Campus Center Forum (3-130)

27th annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration

9:30 am to 2 pm Thursday, April 27

Flynn Campus Center

Dates and times are subject to change. Visit www.monroecc.edu/go/holocaust
for updated information regarding these events, upcoming films, and more.



Established in 1991, the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project is MCC's unique organization for telling the stories of the Holocaust and other genocides while transforming individuals to become advocates for human rights. Since its inception, the HGHRP has impacted more than 10,000 students and community members through educational, commemorative and advocacy programs.

Advisory Board

Howard Konar, *Chairperson; President, Konar Properties*

Regina Fabbro, *Endowed Chair, Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies and Associate Professor of English, MCC*

Jodi Oriel, *Director, Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies Project and Associate Director Office of Student Life and Leadership, MCC*

Sharon Scurlock, *Project Assistant*

Barbara Appelbaum, *Director, Center for Holocaust Awareness and Information (CHAI) at the Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester (retired)*

Josephine Braitman, *Community Volunteer*

Simon Braitman, *Co-founder, Simcona Electronics Corporation*

Charles R. Clarke, *Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Past HGHRP Director*

Bette M. Gould-Ross, *Partner, Ross & Gould-Ross and former chair of the CHAI at the Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester*

Diana M. Lauria, *Junior Achievement-Capstone Project*

Barbara P. Lovenheim, Ph.D., *MCC Trustee and Professor Emerita of English*

John Lovenheim, *Community Volunteer and Director, MCC Foundation Board*

The Honorable Anthony J. Sciolino, *Author, 2000 Year Road to the Holocaust Scholar, and Monroe County Family Court Judge (retired)*

Diane L. Shoger, *Executive Director, Monroe Community College Foundation*

Melanie Slaughter Wolk, *Attorney, Trevett Cristo Salzer & Andolina P.C.*

Project Advisory Team at MCC

Lori Annesi, *LeRoy V. Good Library*

Michael Boester, *Geography*

William Drumright, Ph.D., *History*

Kathleen Farrell, *Visual Arts*

Matthew Hachee, *Philosophy*

Patricia Kress, Ph.D., *Psychology*

Michelle Parker, *Psychology*

Rosanna Yule, *Marketing and Community Relations*

Special thanks to MCC Provost and Vice President of Academic Services Andrea C. Wade, Ph.D. and Vice President of Student Services Lloyd A. Holmes, Ph.D. for their leadership and support of the HGHRP. We also thank MCC faculty Robert MuhlNickel, Ph.D., Philosophy; Angelique Stevens, English; and Franzie Weldgen, Visual Arts for encouraging their students to participate in HGHRP programming.



Memorandum

(mem'er'an'dem) a note designating something to be remembered, especially something to be acted upon in the future: a reminder.

FALL 2016

Voices of Vigilance

Global Anti-semitism Rising: What About Iran?

In March, journalist and founding member of the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center Roya Hakakian was the keynote speaker for the 9th annual Voices of Vigilance program. The event was hosted by the HGHRP in partnership with MCC's Global Education & International Services Department.



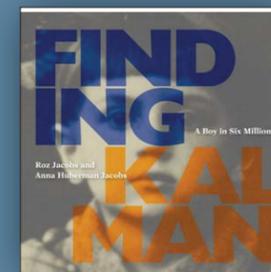
Roya Hakakian (fourth from left) inspires MCC students to value cultural diversity.

The program explored anti-semitism in Iran and how the country continues to be home to one of the most sizable Jewish communities in the Middle East.

Continued on page 2

"When you don't have freedom of the press, you believe what someone tells you." – Roya Hakakian

25th Kristallnacht Commemoration *Finding Kalman: A Boy in Six Million*



Featuring Roz Jacobs and Laurie Weisman

7 pm Thursday, November 10

Warshof Conference Center,
R. Thomas Flynn Campus
Center (Monroe A & B)

Monroe Community College,
1000 East Henrietta Road,
Rochester

Tickets available at www.monroecctickets.com

A Lasting Legacy:

Students Commemorate Yom HaShoah, Honor William B. Konar



In April 2016, the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project (HGHRP) honored the memory of Holocaust survivor William B. Konar (pictured left) at Monroe Community College's 26th

annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration. Konar was a local entrepreneur whose generous philanthropy helped establish the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. and the HGHRP here at home. He passed away on June 18, 2015 at the age of 85.



HGHRP Vice President Gregory Gora opens MCC's 26th annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration.

"Each year, we lose more survivors," wrote HGHRP President Samantha Schantz whose tribute to Konar was read by HGHRP Vice President Gregory Gora at the commemoration's opening ceremony. "We continue to mourn many who are now gone—those who inspired us through their survival of atrocities, their determination to share their stories, and their commitment to educational endeavors like this one. William Konar was one such man," she wrote.

The tribute told the story of how Konar was raised in Poland and was separated from his mother and sister at the hands of the Nazis when he was 12 years old. He survived grueling labor and a march of over 100 miles to concentration camps, including Auschwitz. He was liberated in 1945 and made his way to the U.S. via an orphan relocation program.

Continued on page 2



A week prior to MCC's Yom HaShoah Commemoration, students create an outdoor memorial of colored flags and lights. The flag colors in **The Flags We Bear** memorial symbolize some of the groups (Jews, Roma/Sinti, homosexuals) who were persecuted by the Nazis in the Holocaust. This new tradition was started under the leadership of HGHRP Past President Tony Filer in 2015.

A Lasting Legacy continued

"He did what many of us here can only marvel at: he educated himself, started and grew a family, and became a successful businessman and philanthropist," said Schantz. "It is, in part, because of Bill Konar that MCC's Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project has been able to successfully educate more than 10,000 students and community members since its inception. ... And it's because of Bill Konar that we're able to invite you to add your voice to those around the world who loudly and proudly declare, 'We remember.'"

Yom HaShoah, Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day, honors the memories of the 6 million Jewish people and other victims of the Holocaust. MCC students have commemorated Yom HaShoah since founding student members, led by alumna Nancy Stuber, started the tradition in 1990.

Keeping with tradition, this year's daylong commemoration also included the calling of survivor names and candle lighting in the R. Thomas Flynn Campus Center. Holocaust survivors Lea Malek, Henry Silberstern and Sam Rind returned to campus to share their stories of survival with MCC alumni, students, faculty and staff. Meeting Holocaust survivors is the most powerful, transformative experience the HGHRP offers the college community. ▲



Alumni like HGHRP Past President Chloe Vazzana return to MCC each spring to light candles of remembrance and commemorate Yom HaShoah

Voices of Vigilance continued



Roya Hakakian signs copies of her book Journey from The Land of No for students.

Hakakian grew up in post-revolutionary Iran where her father was one of the first Jews to serve as an officer in the Iranian Military. He also served as the principal of the Hebrew Day School in Tehran. The family was forced to leave Iran following the Islamic Revolution. Roya Hakakian came to the U.S. as a refugee, bringing only one picture from her home.

"The Holocaust is relevant to Iranians," said Hakakian, award-winning author of *Journey from the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran* (Three Rivers Press, 2004). "Iran

played a major role in World War II, but much of this history is yet to be known." As an example, Hakakian noted the Tehran Conference, a meeting between U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin that occurred in Tehran in late 1943. Hakakian told her MCC audience that prior to the Islamic Revolution in 1979 there were 100,000 Jewish persons living in Iran. Today, only 10,000 remain.

"Loss of cultural diversity was one of the most tragic effects of the revolution,"

said Hakakian who explained how the Ayatollah's regime worked to replace the Persian language with Arabic. "When Iran was a melting pot, it was far more culturally rich. The more the voices of diversity die out, the less culturally vibrant and creative the culture becomes."

Recognizing how Iranians are not aware of how the Holocaust impacted Iran, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum invited Hakakian to consult with them on ways to make Holocaust education accessible to Middle Easterners. ▲

He Survived Auschwitz



Amanda Bolorin

By Amanda Bolorin

One day when I was at work, a gentleman with whom I became friends, walked up to the counter. He is the most kindhearted man I know. For the first time I notice the tattoo on his arm. I was too nervous to ask so I pointed slowly. He said, "Yes, I was 14 years old when I was in Auschwitz." Then he said I could read about it. I was just hoping for him to share so much more but he didn't, which made me slightly disappointed. I didn't want to learn on my own; I wanted to hear from him. To me it was amazing that after all this time I became friends with a Holocaust survivor. This is what made me decide to learn more.

I choose to take the Literature of the Holocaust course at MCC where I met Professor Regina Fabbro. She has helped changed my whole perspective on the Holocaust. Yes, I knew about the topic, but I wasn't aware of nearly half of the events that had taken place during this time period or leading up to it.

She opened our minds and thoughts. During the time spent in her class I have learned about the longest hatred, bystanders, and perpetrators. I also learned about the HGHRP. Without taking her class I would have missed out on the great opportunity in participating in such a great project. I was able to attend the play *Etty*, helped with the Walk for Water for South Sudan and now we are working on Brighten a Child's Future. I highly recommend others take her class. As for myself, I will continue to try to never become a bystander and try to make a difference. ▲

MCC Students Take a Stand for Human Rights



Jodi Oriel



Regina Fabbro

The following article is based on an essay written by Regina Fabbro and Jodi Oriel that was published in the March 19, 2016 Democrat and Chronicle

In 2013, a European Union poll found that 74 percent of French Jews are fearful of antisemitic attacks and actively attempt to hide their Jewish identities. In 2014, a 40 percent rise in global antisemitic violence over the previous year was reported by Tel Aviv University's Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary Jewry. The Anti-Defamation League estimates that 200 million in the Middle East and North Africa harbor antisemitic beliefs. The world, it seems, is awash in anti-Judaic prejudice.

As if to mirror this upsurge in what historian Robert Wistrich referred to as the "longest hatred," xenophobic rhetoric is now commonplace. Presidential candidates have openly called for the exclusion of some Syrian refugees based solely on their religion. Xenophobia (characterized by a strong and often irrational dislike of foreigners) is not new—but its modern revival is alarming and its consequences could be profound.

Though such historical examples abound, racism is a slumbering beast that is continually reawakened through new waves of fear, hatred, and ignorance. Its effects are disastrous and the past pushes us to remain mindful and watchful. Monroe Community College's Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project, now in its 26th year, embraces and responds to this challenge through its annual Kristallnacht and Voices of Vigilance programs and Yom HaShoah Commemoration, which highlight lessons learned from past atrocities in order to address contemporary human rights violations. Our events offer rare opportunities to hear from internationally renowned Holocaust and human rights scholars, local Holocaust survivors and survivors of genocide. Most events are free and open to the public. We invite the community to join MCC students in taking a stand for human rights. ▲



MCC students visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial as part of their annual trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The annual trip is made possible by HGHRP Advisory Board members Josephine and Simon Braitman.

Giving Voice to the Victims of the Armenian Genocide

By Regina Fabbro

In 2015, MCC's Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project's annual Voices of Vigilance program marked the very first commemoration of the Armenian genocide at MCC. Our keynote speaker was Pulitzer prize-winning author and poet Peter Balakian, Ph.D., Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor of the Humanities in the Department of English at Colgate University. Balakian led MCC's commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, which is widely considered to be the first of the 20th-century.



Hitler himself remarked, "I have issued the command—and I'll have anybody who utters but one word of criticism executed by a firing squad—that our war aim does not consist in reaching certain lines, but in the physical destruction of the enemy. Accordingly, I have placed my death-head formations in readiness—for the present only in the East—with orders

to them to send to death mercilessly and without compassion, men, women, and children of Polish derivation and language. Only thus shall we gain the living space (Lebensraum) which we need. Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

We are proud to say that we here at MCC do—we speak of the annihilation of the Armenians in an attempt to never forget these victims, the brutal tragedy forced upon them, and the beginning of what has come to be known as the age of genocide. ▲

Search for Peace in Every Situation

By Jane Anderson-Ross

We must have peace at all cost!
 Rules are not dictates!
 The Buddhists had it right.
 Compassion must be bred and practiced!
 We must search for peace in every situation!
 Otherwise we can be uncivilized and worse!
 Everyone who suffers, has the capacity to cause harm.
 Ending suffering begins with cultivating compassion for yourself and others!
 If you no longer want these horrors then begin NOW!
 When we embrace each other's pain we remember that they are us.

Dr. Carl Jung stated,

'We are the most similar at the deepest level of our pain.'

Keep the memories alive! Don't wash away the bad times; remember them as the teachers that they are. If you can find one level of pain in each person you will have a starting ground, a seed, to cultivate compassion, even for your perceived worse enemy!



Inspired to Lead, Explore Human Rights

What he learned in the *Literature of the Holocaust* course and his interest in World War II attracted MCC student Tony Filer (pictured left) to the HGHRP. "I was fascinated by how people found peace within themselves while escaping the evil and atrocities they faced," he said.

Encouragement from fellow HGHRP members inspired Filer to become HGHRP president in 2014. He accepted the challenge to engage students in Holocaust education even though the Holocaust is often perceived as ancient history. "The Holocaust seemed to have happened many years ago," said Filer. "Its lessons can be applied to things happening today like ISIS and terrorist attacks. We explore how modern examples of human rights violations are similar and different to the Holocaust."

Hearing anti-racism activist Tim Wise speak at MCC on the 50th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday" in Selma, Alabama inspired Filer to study human rights. "Hearing him speak was incredible. As we commemorate these events, we need to learn about all sides of the story. No matter how open minded you think you are, there is still room to learn and improve."

While setting up the photographic essay for the annual Yom HaShoah commemoration, Filer decided to pursue the HGHRP president role and steer MCC students towards applying the lessons of the Holocaust to current world events. "We can't understand what the survivors of the Holocaust and other genocides went through. Their stories need to be told in quiet spaces." ▲

"The Holocaust may have happened a long time ago, but it still correlates today.

Everyone says 'never again.' The HGHRP past provides a way to take a stand." – HGHRP Past President Tony Filer

Student Advocates for Human Rights

Thank You for your leadership and support of the HGHRP!

2015-2016

- Samantha Schantz, *President*
- Gregory Gora, *Vice President*
- Kathryn Grella, *Vice President*
- Amber Jones, *Vice President*
- Nefisa Ahmed
- Jenna Amo
- Lily Barber
- Patti Bodyk
- Esra Erman
- Princess Fame
- Eleanor Garino
- Daniella Insalaco
- Ronnie Jones
- Sasha Kinsler
- Alexandra Lebaron
- Eimile Rennoldson
- Leah Secor
- Eleni Skrombolas
- Max Szalapski
- Max Wolff
- Brandon Wyant

2014-2015

- Tony Filer, *President*
- Alesya Benson, *Vice President*
- Allyson Bonne, *Vice President*
- Victoria Gingello, *Vice President*
- Alexandra Mills, *Vice President*
- Elizabeth Orbanek, *Vice President*
- Michaela Scott, *Vice President*
- Sally Seefried, *Vice President*
- Thea Arias
- Korina Mae Bergado
- Amie Bieck
- Margaret Brown
- Marie Chisholm
- Reina Collins
- Jacob Deats
- Taina Diaz
- Jonathan Dridson
- Angela Dunbar
- Casey Fenton
- Victoria Gingello
- Audrey Grube

- Ashli Gundlach
- Lyndee Hurd
- Amber Jones
- Sarah Leblanc
- Nicole Marenus
- Jo Markle
- Stacy Martinez
- Ahmedin Mohamed
- Jenny Murillo
- Alexandria Mills
- Jessica Nobrega
- Marissa O'Leary
- Maggie Rosen
- Steven Sambroski
- Samantha Schantz
- Michaela Scott
- Setsu Sharp
- Robert Shoemaker
- Amrita Singh
- Eliany Socas
- Meghan Stekl
- Hailey Trapani
- Joshua Wilcox
- Gabrielle Wilk



"We are not removed from the Holocaust, no matter how many generations and time pass."

– Rabbi David Abrahams, Congregation Etz Chaim, guest speaker at MCC's Yom HaShoah Commemoration

MCC Students Inspire Middle School Students Become Advocates for Human Rights



In March 2016, nearly 3,000 students from local middle schools—joined by thousands more via live stream from across the United States, England and Hungary—participated in “A Conversation with Salva Dut and Linda Sue Park.” The two sessions hosted by HGHRP completely filled the Warshof Conference Center, R. Thomas Flynn Campus Center. It marked the second time the HGHRP offered middle school students and the college community an opportunity to learn about the impact of safe drinking water on the future of South Sudan. Guests heard directly from Water



A well in South Sudan was named for both MCC and Avon Middle School in January 2016.

for South Sudan founder and MCC alumnus Salva Dut and award-winning author Linda Sue Park.

Parks’ *New York Times* bestseller *A Long Walk to Water*, published in 2010 by Clarion Books, is based on the true story of Dut, one of some 3,000 Sudanese “Walking Boys” airlifted to the U.S. beginning in the mid-1990s. Meeting Dut in person brought the book to life for the students and confirmed his status as their hero.

“Salva is trying to bring water; he’s trying to bring girls to school. He’s trying to bring peace,” said Park in her introduction of Dut. “This former refugee is doing things governments have been trying to do for years.”

Since 2006, the HGHRP has raised more than \$60,000 for Water for South Sudan. The fundraising effort provides opportunities for students and community members to take action in support of human rights. The current cost to build a well is \$15,000.

Dut encouraged the students to realize how small the globe is today and how lucky they are to be born in the U.S. “We are drilling wells because of technology and education. I am helping my people because of the education I received here at MCC,” he said.

Following the presentations, some of the middle school students took tours of the Brighton Campus and learned more about what MCC offers them as future college students. ▲



Samantha Schantz

Samantha Schantz Reflects on the Benefits of HGHRP Leadership

Ask Samantha Schantz about her experience serving as HGHRP president in 2015-2016 and you’ll hear about people who want to make a difference at MCC and throughout the world.

“Some view the HGHRP only as a club,” said Schantz who graduated with a liberal arts degree in June 2016. “I believe what we’ve done made a difference. Getting involved was a great decision and added a lot to my educational career.”

Schantz credited MCC Philosophy Professor Robert Muhlnickel, Ph.D. for suggesting she consider joining the HGHRP. “I was surprised how supportive everyone was,” she said. “From the first meeting, the HGHRP was a group of caring people. Some students come to MCC just to get through the day. HGHRP members don’t view college that way at all.

“Getting involved helps you grow up,” said Schantz. ▲



Each semester, student leaders make their unique mark on HGHRP history by the programs they host and the ways they take action to promote human rights.

Small Groups Have a Huge Impact



By Justin Torres

Joining the HGHRP has changed my life tremendously. While participating in the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project, I learned that we have a lot of problems in our world that are being overlooked by a lot of people. Groups such as this one are able to have a huge impact on national and international problems.

When I first joined the HGHRP, I thought that it was going to be mainly about the events that went on during the Holocaust. The HGHRP offers much more than that. Throughout my experience I was able to meet a Holocaust survivor, participate in the Walk for Water for South Sudan, and also help educate people about the HGHRP at discussion tables on campus. It was very rewarding to help raise money for charities such as Water for South Sudan and Brighten a Child’s Future. I believe we had wonderful student presidents who had great ideas. They inspired many students, as well as myself, into making a change in the world.

Justin Torres

Being in the group has also taught me that everyone is equal and that they should be treated the same. Learning about the Holocaust can be used to teach kids to be above bullying. In the future, I hope that I can educate people about the problems that are happening in our generation and inspire them to make an impact in their community as well as outside and globally. ▲

A Short Reflection on Why and the Things Not Seen



By Edward Byrne

From silence, each new life plucks a string, reverberating out into the world. Now I, as a student of the Holocaust and member of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project, feel silence emanating from the past.

Reflecting on the absence, on the cold, dark nothingness of lives that never were, has catalyzed my involvement with the HGHRP. Remembering that which is gone, what will never be—stumbling over “memory” of distant time, distant space—I find myself reciting those words of Salva Dut: “You never know what child will save the world someday.” What, then, I may do with the opportunity now to interrupt the course of absence must be the activities of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project.

The Walk for Water brought me some degree of joy—a sense of accomplishment at the success of bringing life itself to the South Sudan. However, participating in Brighten a Child’s Future—this effort that both honors a continuing commitment to the area and may one day

reserve even one voice from obscurity—was a moment of solemn importance.

Critical analysis of the Holocaust, a course of study, has brought me here, but here I stay for reasons I cannot critically explain. Something more than logos tethers me now to the fate of Aliek. For me, that was the lesson of the HGHRP. Committing time and effort to bringing education to the South Sudanese children spurred me into a new way of thinking. I feel, now, the broader community. Even the Walk for Water means something more than it did before. The hooks are in. ▲



Eyes Opened to the World Learn and Make a Difference



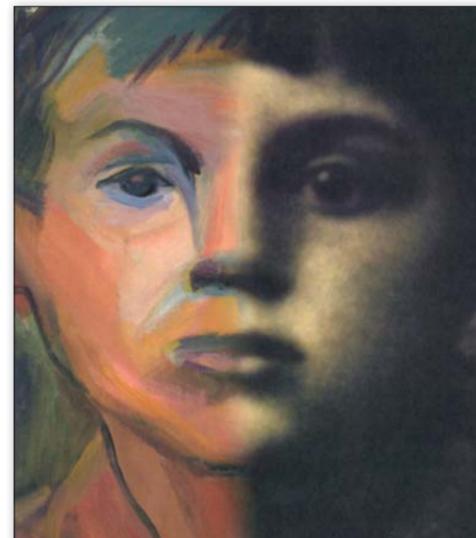
Adrian Santiago

By Adrian Santiago
Being a member of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project has opened my eyes to the many countries around the world that still have problems with poverty, education systems and people who struggle to make their lives better along with the community around them. Joining the

HGHRP has brought out in me many different emotions and opinions on how we could help people around the world.

I participated in the Walk for Water for South Sudan which raised money for the drilling of more wells so the citizens in South Sudan could have and drink clean water. I felt very good about being part of the 5K walk because I knew all the money raised was going towards a good cause. Brighten a Child's Future is another fundraiser I participated in to benefit the children in South Sudan. We raise money to send over book bags full of school supplies since many towns do not have the resources to set up schools and teach young children. If you are a person who likes to help out around the community or around the world, the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project is a good group to join. It is run by wonderful individuals and the presidents are great people who care about others around them. ▲

Coming to MCC this fall:



Finding Kalman: A Boy In Six Million

Anna Huberman Jacobs survived life in the Warsaw ghetto in 1945 and escaped imprisonment in a Nazi labor camp. Having lost all of her family in the Holocaust, Anna held on to her only possession: a picture of her brother, Kalman. "Left with just memories and the single photo, Anna began her new life."

Years later, Anna's daughter Roz has painted Kalman's image in hopes of reuniting him with her mother, resulting in multimedia artwork: The Memory Project.

Join the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project as we remember Kristallnacht on Thursday evening, November 10. On that evening, Roz Jacobs and Laurie Weisman will share an unforgettable story of love and loss that will touch your heart.

Tickets are free and available at www.monroecctickets.com.

By Alexandra Mills

This past fall, I participated in the HGHRP and took the class *Literature of the Holocaust*. Both of these changed my life. They made me think about more than what was going on directly around me. I volunteered and helped out at local events before this, but this class showed me how much more there was I could do to help.

I learned about genocides that I am ashamed to say I had never heard of before. For example, I learned about the Armenian Genocide where two million Armenians were expelled from Turkey and many did not survive what came after, such as mass shootings, death, illnesses and starvation. It showed me how truly ignorant I was of some things and I am glad to say that I now know at least a little. I know that there is so much more that I need to know.

I believe that people should take this class so that we can make a difference. We of course cannot just learn and not apply it. We need to take what we learn and actually make a difference. That is what I like about the HGHRP: its goal is to try and take steps to change things. One thing they do is host an annual Walk for Water for South Sudan. This program helps raise money to build wells in South Sudan where they do not have clean drinking water. They have also made efforts to get local schools involved so they can help out. This group is a great way to learn about problems around the world and try to help.

I cannot say enough about how much this group means to me and its importance. It showed me that bad things may happen but we can make steps toward improving things around the world, even if you are one person or you are a small group of college students. ▲



Hobart and William Smith Colleges' Professor Michael Dobkowski, Ph.D. presents about the changing face of anti-Jewish rhetoric.

Human Rights Workshop Faculty Explore the Rise of Anti-Semitism, Xenophobia

Each year, the HGHRP hosts a workshop for MCC employees to increase the inclusion of Holocaust, genocide, and human rights studies topics in the classroom and in the overall educational experience MCC offers to students.

In January 2016, more than 50 faculty and staff attended the workshop that explored the rise of anti-semitism and xenophobia. According to Anti-Defamation League, anti-semitism is "belief or behavior hostile toward Jews just because they are Jewish." Xenophobia is defined by Merriam-Webster "as a fear and hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything that is strange or foreign."

Organized by Endowed Chair of Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies Regina Fabbro and Associate Professor Angelique Stevens (English), the workshop featured scholarly presentations and provided a variety of educational materials. Michael Dobkowski, Ph.D., of Hobart and William Smith Colleges' Religious Studies Department, an expert on the history and current climate of antisemitism, presented on the changing face of anti-Jewish rhetoric and action worldwide. MCC Associate Professor Jethro Gaede, Ph.D. (Anthropology) spoke on xenophobia in the United States, how to recognize it in current propaganda, and what needs to happen to respond to it. Professor Stevens discussed protest literature and the power of the witness. Stevens' presentation foreshadowed the 2016 Voices of Vigilance keynote presentation planned for March featuring Roya Hakakian. Hakakian is an Iranian-born author who spoke at MCC about the rise of anti-semitism in Iran. ▲

"Anti-Semitism remains a persistent prejudice. The murder of Jewish shoppers at the Parisian Hyper Casher supermarket on January 9, 2015, after the killing of twelve people at the offices of the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo on January 7, was particularly disturbing, not because it was the first such event but because it has become part of a troubling pattern."

– Michael Dobkowski, Ph.D., "Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism: Shared Prejudice or Singular Social Pathologies, CrossCurrents, Association for Religion and Intellectual Life" (2015)



"People see the Holocaust and Islam as two separate things, but these stories of faith and catastrophe are not opposites. They are companions." – Mehnaz Afridi, Ph.D.

Mehnaz Afridi, Ph.D. (pictured third from right) was the keynote speaker for the HGHRP's 24th annual Kristallnacht program in November 2015. Dr. Afridi is assistant professor of religious studies and director of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Interfaith Education Center at Manhattan College. She is committed to interfaith works, contemporary Islam and Holocaust Education. She presented on Jewish-Muslim reconciliation and the stories of the Holocaust.

The HGHRP Changed How I View the World



Tony Filer and Mariel Rivera

By Mariel Rivera

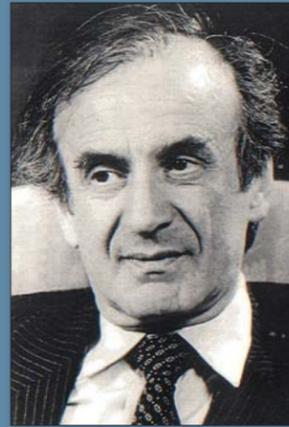
Serving as president of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project in 2014 was a true honor. This amazing organization gave me the tools to change the world. Through this organization I found an outlet for my true passion towards human rights. I heard and met amazing individuals, including Holocaust survivors and human rights activists, who have changed how I view the world.

After beginning the class and joining the project, it became very apparent that members would be a part of an unbelievable experience remembering the victims and survivors of the Holocaust while continuing to raise awareness about current human rights issues. Through being involved with projects such as Water for South Sudan, a non-profit organization, I have impacted individuals whom I may never meet. By joining the HGHRP, I achieved an understanding of the human rights violations occurring throughout the world while gaining knowledge about how I can make a difference. Sometimes it may be hard to face to realities others encounter on a daily basis, but it makes advocating for these victims vital and necessary.

Our goal is to educate, commemorate, and advocate throughout the Rochester and global communities. While some individuals may claim that the Holocaust has no affect on our daily lives, they are mistaken. The Holocaust should always be remembered for the fact that it marked a turning point in our history, a point in which the world began to focus on the issues of human rights and genocide.

Becoming a part of HGHRP has been one of the most influential experiences of my life. This organization will forever inspire me and will always have a place in my life. It only takes one individual to change the world. ▲

MCC Remembers Elie Wiesel (1928-2016)



“When human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant, whenever men

persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must—at that moment—become the center of the universe.” – Elie Wiesel

The Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project is grateful to have welcomed Holocaust survivor, Nobel Peace Prize winner and author Elie Wiesel to MCC and the Rochester in 1988. Wiesel was the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony of the “Anne Frank In the World: 1929-1945” international touring exhibit that was hosted by the college.



MCC courses, including Literature of the Holocaust, Social Psychology of the Holocaust, Geography of Genocide and soon History and Cultural Analysis of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights, are SUNY General Education compliant and offer transferable credits towards earning a bachelor’s degree. ▲

The Charles R. Clarke Collection for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies



The dedication of the Clarke Collection, gave HGHRP Advisory Team Members another opportunity to celebrate Charles “Charlie” Clarke’s leadership and scholarship. Pictured l to r: William Drumright, Ph.D., Lori Annesi, Jodi Oriel, Charlie Clarke, Regina Fabbro, Robert Muhlneckel, Ph.D., Michelle Parker and Michael Boester.

The Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Center (HGHC) is home to the Charles R. Clarke Collection for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies on the fourth floor of MCC’s LeRoy V. Good Library. The collection honors the legacy of Professor Emeritus of Psychology Charles Clarke who significantly grew the collection during his time as HGHRP director. Clarke was appointed to the HGHRP Advisory Board in 2014.

The collection addresses how we undermine others’ human rights and how we can circumvent these atrocities in the future through education and peace initiatives. The collection now contains over 1,000 holdings, including books and videos. Recent additions to the collection include:

Books

- *The Failures of Ethics: Confronting the Holocaust, Genocide and Other Mass Atrocities* by John K. Roth (2015)
- *Hi Hitler!: How the Nazi Past is Being Normalized in Contemporary Culture* by Gabriel D. Rosenfield (2015)
- *Narrative Reflections: How Witnessing their Stories Changes Our Lives* edited by Lucy S. Raizman and Bea Hollander-Goldfein (2014)
- *The Underground Girls of Kabul: In Search of a Hidden Resistance in Afghanistan* by Jenny Nordberg (2015)
- *Deciphering the New Antisemitism* edited by Alvin H. Rosenfeld (2015)
- *Hollywood and the Holocaust* by Henry Gonshak (2015)

DVDs:

- *Anne Frank’s Holocaust*
- *I Have Never Forgotten You: The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal*
- *The Liberation of KZ Dachau*
- *The Children Who Cheated the Nazis*
- *Judeophobia in France: Then and Now*
- *Darfur Destroyed*



The Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Center

LeRoy V. Good Library, MCC Brighton Campus Room 2-440

The HGHC can be accessed during regular library hours by visiting the Circulation Desk and asking for the key. For more information, please call Lori Annesi, special collections librarian, at 585.292.2338 or visit www.monroec.edu/go/hghrc. ▲