

Martin-Springer Institute

Global Engagement Through Holocaust Awareness

MSI Review

Fall 2016

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

In July 2016, I walked across *Stari Most*, the 16th century Ottoman bridge in Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina. As a symbol of unity across religious and ethnic differences, this bridge was deliberately destroyed in 1993 by shells fired from hostile tanks. It took years to reconstruct it to its original beauty, but the wounds between Catholic Croats, Orthodox Serbs, and Muslim Bosnian have not yet healed.

The Balkan wars are just one example of the many conflicts around the world and in our country. More than ever, we need to be vigilant about protecting democracies and human rights, and repairing broken communal relations.

“Building bridges” could serve well as a motto for our Institute: to reach out, to connect, to traverse, to nurture relations, to trade ideas, to move freely. In this newsletter, we highlight some of last year’s events that speak to our commitment to dialogue, reconciliation, and justice.

Our 2015-2016 programming attracted more than 5,500 people locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. We are becoming Arizona’s leading Institute that connects painful legacies of the past with the urgency of taking care of injustices in the present.



Please consider supporting us in any way you can. We depend on your generous contributions of time, talent, and treasure.

Björn Krondorfer,
Director, Martin-Springer Institute
& Endowed Professor of Religious Studies

LAST YEAR’S HIGHLIGHTS

Sept. 21: Sami Awad (Bethlehem): *Beyond Border Disputes in Israel/Palestine*

Oct. 11-13: Symposium: *Colonial Conquest in the Nazi East and American West*

Nov. 5: Prof. Gaby Finder: *Jewish Honor Courts in post-1945 Europe*

Jan 28: Jennifer Teege: *My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me*, International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Jan 2016: Delegation to Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

Mar 31: Jesse Spohnholz: *Are Migrants a Threat to Europe Today?*

Apr 12: Screening: *Hitler’s Jewish Soldiers*, with Israeli filmmaker Larry Price

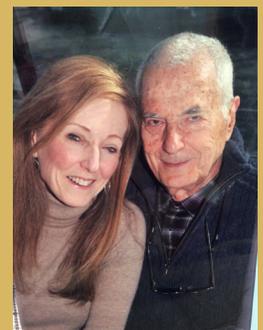
Apr 24-25: *The Mitzvah Project: Hitler Jewish Soldiers*. Performance with Roger Grunwald

May 9: Launching of new website on Bedzin Ghetto: bedzinexhibit.org

June 13-14: MSI’s Annual Merrill and Rhoda Abeshaus Advanced Holocaust Educators’ Institute

“We believe that the Martin-Springer Institute serves an extraordinary mission, reflecting the light of remembrance into a present and future that begs for vision and leadership. The lessons of history are not dusty archives on library shelves; they are stories that are meant to be told, generation to generation, to guide all peoples. It is our honor to support the Southwest tradition of storytelling, linking the Jewish experience to that of so many others, providing a beacon of hope to the world.”

Jeanette Garretty Reinhard (NAU Foundation Board Member) and Eli Reinhard, Friends & Donors of the Martin-Springer Institute



People

ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWS

Director Björn Krondorfer is reconstituting what has been a dormant Martin-Springer Institute Advisory Council (MSI-AC). A vigorous Council will seek to champion and assist the mission of the Institute.

An organizational meeting was held on May 6, 2016 at NAU with the first invited members of the new AC. The session was devoted to evaluating the MSI-AC By-Laws, the purpose and function of the Council, AC membership growth, and the necessity for sustaining and improving the financial strength of MSI. The newly established AC discussed expanding its membership over time to as many as twenty members; and establishing honorary memberships as well. The session also received a supportive assessment of the Institute's history by Michael Vincent, former Dean of the College of Arts & Letters. The meeting concluded with a student-led presentation of the newly designed webpage on the Bedzin Ghetto exhibit (<http://bedzinexhibit.org>).

David Kader,
Emeritus Professor of Law,
Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law,
Arizona State University



PARTNERSHIP WITH ISRAEL: PERSONAL REFLECTIONS



On the initiative of the MSI, I had a chance to visit, along with Björn Krondorfer and Michael Vincent, Ben Gurion University in the Negev to explore future partnership with NAU and Israel.

Most Americans neither see nor hear what the situation in Israel really is, nor do we give a great deal of thought to what solutions there might be for the Middle East. The continuing occupation of territories inhabited historically by Palestinians and Bedouins—and the lack of mobility, economic development, support for services, medical care and education—is something from which Americans are largely sheltered. How families deal with discrimination, isolation and lack of access to the rights of Israeli citizenship is something few of us consider. The idea of a two-state solution seems to be the only proposal that is considered, but one with little traction in Israel.

Meeting Sami Awad of the Holy Land Trust (Bethlehem) helped me to realize that there is a new and vital approach to peace: nonviolent commitment to peaceful co-existence of all ethnic and religious groups in the Holy Land. Transformation of minds and spirit is the mantra of the Holy Land Trust: to provide inhabitants and leaders a new vision and way of thinking, and a new model for achieving co-existence in Palestine and Israel—as it used to be centuries ago. Sami's focus on education and acceptance is leading the way towards this new vision; his 2016 visit to and effect on the NAU community was palpable.

Hopefully, his message will affect the world community as well, transcending the limited thinking of a "two state solution." Sami has come up with a better pathway, and it would behoove all of us to strongly support it; it is likely the only way to a lasting peace.

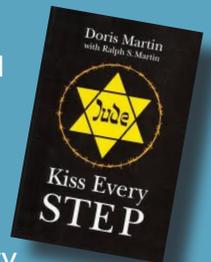
Liz Grobsmith, Former NAU Provost

SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

Remaining a light of inspiration, Ralph and Doris tirelessly continue to support the mission of the Institute they started 16 years ago. Committed to remembering the legacy of the Holocaust, they champion educational programs that attend to the alarming rise of animosity and inequities, both here and abroad.

Ralph and Doris Martin (née Szpringer of Będzin, Poland) founded The Martin-Springer Institute in 2000 to raise awareness of the lessons of the Holocaust through remembrance and education.

Doris survived the Holocaust. She is available for speaking engagements for students and community groups. *Kiss Every Step* is Doris' memoir of her family's survival. Visit amazon.com to purchase a copy of the book.



Ralph and Doris Martin with
Melissa Cohen and
Björn Krondorfer, May 2017

Our Year in Review

ABRAHAMIC RELIGIONS IN THE AGE OF EXTREMISM A Joint Effort by MSI and Manhattan College, New York, February 2016

A two-day symposium, jointly organized by MSI, the "Holocaust, Genocide and Interfaith Education Center" at Manhattan College, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum addressed the roles and responsibilities of the three Abrahamic religions in an age of religious hostilities, intolerance, and radicalism.

In public forums, 17 invited scholars examined Jewish-Muslim-Christian relations in different historical eras and the new challenges that need to be confronted today. The panelists also talked about areas of cooperation between the religions.

"We, at the Center, strive to educate students and community about all kinds of extremism. The goal of the symposium was to provide historical and religious perspectives from early encounters between Jews, Christians, and Muslims to contemporary issues of religious extremism. Our interfaith discussions on prejudice and violence occurring in the Middle East and elsewhere were valuable to students and community members."

Mehnaz M. Afridi, Director



Dr. Afridi, Director,
Holocaust, Genocide, and
Interfaith Education Center

STUDENT FIELD TRIP TO THE BORDER

"The MSI offered crucial financial support for an educational field experience no book can equal. First year students in my course, Just Food, were able to meet with and bear witness to the challenges faced by the otherwise invisible people, mostly immigrants, who labor in the vast agricultural fields in the Yuma borderlands."

Kim Curtis, M.A. Sustainable Communities, Northern Arizona University

11TH ANNUAL HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CONFERENCE

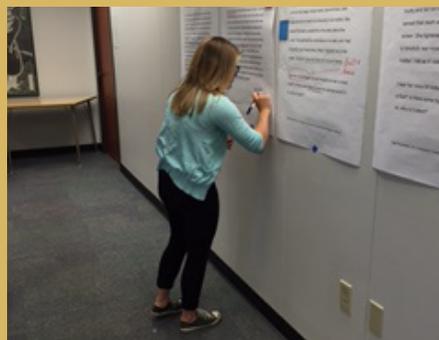


"Thank you so much for the educational workshop on the Holocaust. I am always so impressed with the presentations and the materials. Keep up the wonderful work."
Judy Haddon
Sedona Sky Academy
Rimrock, AZ



"Each year your conference is so engaging. I learn so much that I can take back to my class and as a result I am a stronger, more effective teacher. You also treat teachers very well and it is much appreciated. I attend many different trainings every summer, and your conferences always rank at the top."
Mr. Ashley Crose, M.Ed., NBCT
Saguaro High Social Studies
Scottsdale, AZ

Each summer, MSI offers two days of training for Arizona teachers, attracting educators from as far away as Kayenta, Kingman, Mesa and Tucson. In 2016, the first day was facilitated by educator Corey Harbaugh (MI) who spoke on *Holocaust Education in Design and Practice*; the second day, Carol Rittner (NJ) presented on *Gender, the Holocaust, and Genocide*.



Our Year in Review

MY GRANDFATHER WOULD HAVE SHOT ME: THE LEGACY OF PERPETRATOR DESCENDANTS

MSI broke new ground this year by partnering with *Generations After: Descendants of Holocaust Survivors in Greater Phoenix*



Jennifer Teege speaks with reception guests

(GA), to bring Jennifer Teege and her riveting story to Arizona. In honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day in late January, MSI and GA hosted Teege at NAU and

in Scottsdale at Congregation Beth Israel. Both events utilized a conversation format with Dr. Björn Krondorfer, Janice Friebaum (Chair; GA) and Ms. Teege. Audience numbers were overwhelming and for very good reasons.

Teege took the world by storm in 2015 after publication of her best-selling book, *My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me: A Black Woman Discovers her Family's Nazi Past*. While there are other accounts of descendants of Nazis coming to terms with their family legacies, Teege's story is decidedly unique and compelling. Her biological grandfather, Amon Goeth, was the infamous "butcher of Plaszow," commandant of the Nazi concentration camp located near Kracow, Poland, featured in Steven Spielberg's film, *Schindler's List*.

Teege, born in Germany to Goeth's daughter, Monica, and a Nigerian man, was given up for adoption at a young age. She only learned the identity of her biological grandfather, quite accidentally, in her late 30's. This discovery led to a dramatic journey – both physical and psychological – over several years and in several countries. Those who attended the Teege events in Arizona were fortunate to hear about this gripping journey, and how Teege, as an adopted Black German woman, has moved through inheriting a disturbing legacy.

Janice Friebaum,
Immediate Past Chair
Generations After,
Descendants of Holocaust Survivors in Greater Phoenix

CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

HITLER'S JEWISH SOLDIERS

"Thanks to the generous support from the MSI, Flagstaff's Theatrikos had the pleasure of hosting Roger Grunwald's acclaimed performance of The Mitzvah Project: Hitler's Jewish Soldiers. One audience member, whose grandfather survived the Holocaust, told us: 'I learned so much, was moved so much, and was so gratified to see the Holocaust portrayed from this perspective.' "

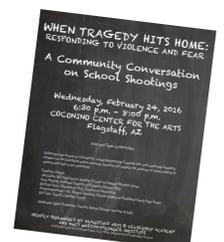


Drew Purcell,
Executive Director,
Theatrikos Theatre Company

WHEN TRAGEDY HITS HOME

"Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy (FALA) teamed up with MSI in presenting their production of *Columbinus*, a play that used the events of the Columbine shootings on April 20, 1999 to focus on teenage issues and how evil develops. Krondorfer led a post-performance talkback and moderated a community conversation that centered on gun violence."

Mike Levin,
Teacher, FALA



Our Year in Review

REDESIGNED BĘDZIN GHETTO WEBSITE LAUNCHED

New Resources, Interactive Maps, Personal Stories

Over the last two years, I have had the pleasure of mentoring NAU Computer Science (CS) students for implementation of the Będzin Ghetto website, bedzinexhibit.org.

I saw my CS students embrace the importance and impact of the subject matter. Working closely with our client, the Martin-Springer Institute, they researched solutions both in technology and web design. Collaborating with Björn Krondorfer and Melissa Cohen, they developed new web content based on historical data. For example, they designed graphic maps that depict the routes for those who were lucky enough to escape the ghetto and camps. Current web technology was employed to cleanly navigate between time lines, biographical sketches, images, maps, and essential terms related to the Holocaust and the Polish-Jewish community.

The CS students were glad to help with this project. Personally, this has been one of the most rewarding things I have been part of during my 40-year industry and teaching career.



Steven M. Jacobs, Lecturer
NAU School of Informatics, Computing, and Cyber Systems (SICCS)



Computer Science students Luke Sanchez, Herbie Duah, John Louden, and Michael Ortega with Krondorfer at NAU's Undergraduate Symposium

"The Martin-Springer Institute has an exciting year on tap for us, and that means something when one considers the wealth and breadth of programming we have seen from them over the years. The new project on Jewish Lives in Flagstaff during WW II has particularly caught my attention, and I look forward to what the talented group of interdisciplinary student researchers will find as they begin their quest into the past."



Dr. Jean Boreen, Interim Dean,
College of Arts and Letters,
Northern Arizona University

Academic Symposium 2015 MSI and DAAD

Colonial Conquest in the Nazi East and American West: Value and Limits of Comparative Approaches An Academic Symposium

October 11-13
2015

Martin-Springer Institute
Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff, AZ



With additional
funding from
NAU
Office of the President
ASU
Jewish Studies Program
Barrett, the Honors College
DAAD

The symposium is open to NAU students/faculty/staff.
If you interested in attending, please contact bjorn.krondorfer@nau.edu.



For more information, please contact bjorn.krondorfer@nau.edu

DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

To view MSI resources,
please visit:



- facebook.com/MSIatNAU
- azmemory.azlibrary.gov
- bedzinexhibit.org
- librarything.com/catalog/martin-springer
- nau.edu/msi

Works in Progress

FLAGSTAFF JEWISH LIVES DURING AND AFTER WORLD WAR II AND THE HOLOCAUST New Student Research Project

Very little is known about the lives of Jewish people in Flagstaff's history in general, and nothing for the time of World War II and the Holocaust. Yet, these history-changing events in Europe impacted this region, events such as drafting young men (including Navajo) into the army, establishing German/Austrian POW camps in nearby Bellemont, and the creation of Japanese internment camps. Jewish people, like everyone else, listened to the news; Jewish men may have gone overseas as soldiers; Jewish families may have had relatives in Europe at the time. Whether they were religious, secular, or intermarried, Jews contributed to the diverse fabric of Arizona's community.

Flagstaff Jewish Lives seeks to fill this lacuna by researching this history through local documents, interviews, archives, and personal collections.

As a Public Humanities project, we will make our research available to the public through a traveling exhibit.



Family photos,
courtesy of Maury Herman



"Since Fall 2013, Flagstaff resident Maury Herman has collaborated with NAU's History program to catalog and digitize his family's extensive collection of documents and artifacts. The Herman Family Collection preserves the little-known history of daily life in Flagstaff and Northern Arizona. His collection will be the springboard of the Flagstaff Jewish Lives Project, exploring the uncharted experiences of Flagstaff's Jewish citizens through the tumultuous years before, during, and after the Holocaust."

Gerald Lamb, Project Co-Mentor & NAU alum



"As someone who studies history, I believe that every person's story is important and worth telling. It is this emphasis on finding the extraordinary within the ordinary that drew me to the Flagstaff Jewish Lives project. Although geographically far-removed from the events of WW II and the Holocaust, these events still influenced the Jewish population in Flagstaff. I see this project as a unique opportunity to tell the untold story of Jewish life in Flagstaff and as a way to show how the local is shaped by the global."

Elizabeth Sorg, NAU History Department, Graduate Student

A few space are left for NAU students from all disciplines to join this project for Independent Academic credit.
For more information contact bjorn.krondorfer@nau.edu

Upcoming 2016-2017

GERMANY MEETS THE U.S. AT NAU

September 28-October 26, 2016

Weekdays, 8:00-5:00

Exhibit:

Jewish Lives in Germany Today
Riles Building, Third Floor

October 3, 2016

4:30-5:30 p.m.

Opening reception for
Jewish Lives in Germany Today
Riles Building, Third Floor

5:30-6:30 p.m.

A Talk by Miriam Widman
Between Angst and Acceptance:
Jewish Life in Germany Today
Riles Building, Third Floor

October 12, 2016

4:30-5:30 p.m.

Reception at the
Berlin Wall Exhibit, Student Union

7:30 p.m.

A Talk by Jacobia Dahm,
*Syrian Refugees along
the Migrant Trail*
Liberal Arts Building, Room 136

CO-SPONSORED BY THE
GERMAN EMBASSY

WAR, TORTURE, AND CONSEQUENCE

A Conversation with

Eric Fair

in Honor of International Holocaust
Remembrance Day

Monday, January 30, 2017

7:30 p.m., NAU's Prochnow Auditorium



By the time Eric Fair leaves Iraq after his first deployment in 2004, he had participated in and witnessed a variety of aggressive interrogation techniques, including sleep deprivation, stress positions, diet manipulation, exposure, and isolation. Fair was working in Iraq as an interrogator with a private contractor. Years later—his health and marriage crumbled and haunted by the role he played in what we now know as “enhanced interrogation”—Fair, an army veteran, started to speak out. Spare and haunting, his book *Consequence: A Memoir* is a brave, unrelenting confession, questioning the very depths of who he, and we as a country, have become.

Fair won a Pushcart Prize for his 2012 essay “Consequence,” published first in *Ploughshares* and then in *Harper's Magazine*. His op-eds on interrogation have also been published in the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*.

BORDERS, IDENTITIES, SOCIAL REPAIR: MAJORITY CULTURES & INDIGENOUS LIVES IN ARIZONA AND ISRAEL

July 15 - August 2, 2017

Students who want to learn about the Bedouin and Native American cultures in a mixed cohort can join a cultural encounter program in the summer of 2017.

Students from NAU will meet students from Ben Gurion University in the Negev (BGU) to examine how the histories of Israel and the American Southwest have shaped the experiences of different communities. How are our social identities impacted by geographic and social boundaries? How do different communities inhabit, allocate, and manage their environments? Focusing on the experiences of Bedouin cultures in Israel's South and Native American experiences in America's Southwest, students will travel and study together in Israel and Arizona, where they will learn about differences and similarities in their national histories. Students will share what they learn in the program with their academic peers and home communities.



The program is jointly organized by NAU's Martin-Springer Institute and BGU's Martin-Springer Center for Conflict Studies. Student scholarships are available.

Thank You to Our Donors

LONG-TERM GIFTS AND ENDOWMENTS:

Ralph & Doris Martin
Rhoda & Merrill Abeshaus
Donna Weistrop & Dave Shaffer
Robb & Linda Gordon

INDIVIDUALS:

Bob & Michelle Casselman
Jeanette Garretty & Eli Reinhard
Dorlee & Tom Henderson
David & Patricia Kader
Björn Krondorfer
Rosemary & Mark Lamberson
Eric Mendelson
Jean Myers
Nina Perlmutter
Elizabeth Rock
Dona Weistrop & David Shaffer

INSTITUTIONS AND UNITS:

DAAD (German Academic
Exchange Service)
U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
Heichal Baoranim, Flagstaff
Temple Sinai, Las Vegas
Generations After, Phoenix
NAU Ctr. for International Education
NAU College of Arts and Letters
NAU Dept. of Anthropology
NAU Dept. of Ethnic Studies
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NAU Dept. of Global Languages
and Cultures
NAU Dept. of Political Sciences
NAU Office of Undergraduate
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NAU Student Activities Council
NAU Sustainable Communities

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Elizabeth Rock,
elizabeth.rock@nau.edu**

For more information, contact:

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