# Martin-Springer Institute

Global Engagement Through Holocaust Awareness

MSI Review Fall 2015

#### **Letter from the Director**

We had an extraordinary year, one in which we reached more people than ever, about 6,000, with our programs and co-sponsored events. An additional 1,200 people saw our exhibit *Through the Eyes of Youth: Life and Death in the Będzin Ghetto* at Scottsdale Community College during their Genocide Conference in April.

These numbers, however, should give us no reason for false pride. On the contrary, they indicate that our world is in trouble. The programs we offer resonate with our students and the public because our world is in great need of healing. A true day of celebration would be if there were no more demands for programs that raise awareness about traumatic memory and deep injustices: because we would have reached a place where amity is stronger than enmity. We have a long way to go.

We hope that this newsletter informs and motivates you to support MSI's mission and to attend our events. Without your generous support, we cannot offer the quality programs that reach out and engage students, scholars, and community members alike.

Respectfully,

Ejin Kionlass

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



#### **Last Year's Highlights**

- Sept. 30: Będzin Ghetto exhibit opened
- Oct. 5-7: Symposium: *Muslims and Jews: Challenging the Dynamics of Hate*
- Oct. 10: Permanent Berlin Wall exhibit opened at NAU
- **Nov. 7-11:** Student field trip to U.S.-Mexico border
- **Spring:** Art installation *Culpable*
- **Jan. 27:** International Holocaust Remembrance: Dr. Wendy Lower
- **March 7:** MSI Viola Award nomination: *Wounded Landscapes*
- March 31: Survivor testimony by Harold Minuskin
- **April 11-19:** Będzin Ghetto exhibit, Scottsdale Community College
- April 19: Yom HaShoah, Sedona
- May: Launching of Bedzin website
- **June 4-5:** MSI's Annual Holocaust Education Conference

"The Martin-Springer Institute instills in our students



and our community the powerful lessons that reside in our collective history. Last year's Będzin Ghetto exhibit conveyed the violence and loss of the Holocaust through the eyes of survivors, and inspiring resilience of the human spirit."

Dr. Rita Cheng President Northern Arizona University



# Through the Eyes of Youth: Life and Death in the Będzin Ghetto Traveling Exhibit Opened at NAU

After three semesters of research and design with an interdisciplinary team of undergraduate students and faculty mentors, the exhibit on the Jewish ghetto of Będzin, Poland, opened to great acclaim on September 30, 2014. Founders Doris and Ralph

Martin, NAU President Rita Cheng, and 80 guests were present for the opening. Doris and her family, who all survived the Holocaust, lived in Będzin. The exhibit traces the hardships of seven young people as they try to survive the Nazi occupation, ghettoization, and eventual deportation to the camps.

Over 600 people saw the exhibit at NAU, and an additional 1,200 people had a chance to see it at Scottsdale Community College in April. The exhibit's accompanying website is found at **bedzinexhibit.org**.

**This exhibit is available for your community.** Please contact us if you would like to host the exhibit or know venues that may be interested.

### People



#### Thank You, Martin Kalb

Dr. Martin Kalb, lecturer at NAU's Department of History since 2011, accepted the position of Assistant Professor of History at Bridgewater College, Virginia. Martin has worked closely with the Martin-Springer Institute. He was instrumental as a faculty mentor in the creation of the traveling exhibit *Through the Eves* 

of Youth, and of its accompanying webpage (**bedzinexhibit.org**). Together with MSI, he was also part of the team of faculty and students that designed the permanent exhibit of the Berlin Wall, located in NAU's Student Union.

At NAU, Dr. Kalb taught Modern European History, including regular courses on the Holocaust. His scholarly knowledge, his commitment to public history, and his sensitivity toward social justice issues made him a perfect partner and colleague at the MSI. The rapport he had with students was unparalleled: they simply adored him. We will all miss him.

Martin Kalb can be contacted at **mkalb@bridgewater.edu**. Keep an eye out for his first book set to be published in 2016, *Coming of Age: Youth and Juvenile Delinquency in Munich*, 1942-1973.

#### MSI Intern Researches Holocaust Artifacts



"During the spring semester, I had the opportunity to intern with the Martin-Springer Institute through NAU's Internsto-Scholars (I2S) program. As an undergraduate student, I gained experience and skills for my museum studies and archaeology degrees. I also had a chance to learn from and work with Dr. Krondorfer, who guided me through the research process. My task was to research and document about 25 artifacts from the Holocaust and Nazi Germany. The goal was to upload them at "Arizona Memory Project," an online museum. The objects included banknotes from the Jewish ghetto of Lodz and Nazi Germany, a cigarette book that contains the propagandistic pictorial history of the Nazi

Party, the stamp of the commandant of the Gross-Rosen concentration camp, and much more. "

Amanda Ekdahl, NAU Undergraduate Student

To see the exhibit, go to **azmemory.azlibrary.gov**. Search for "Artifacts from the Holocaust and Nazi Germany" under the menu "Collection Directory."

#### Visiting Scholar at MSI

Wala' Maaitah, a Palestinian earning a doctorate in Social Psychology at the university in Jena, Germany, spent six weeks at NAU in the spring of 2015. Growing up in the midst of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, she came to MSI to learn about reconciliation. The Open Society Foundation funded her trip, allowing her to study with MSI's director Björn Krondorfer and to consult with other NAU faculty.

Maaitah, who grew up in East Jerusalem, recognizes that Palestinians and Israelis see each other as enemies and that chang-

ing those perceptions will be a difficult process. "I want to introduce ideas to help us redefine relationships



between Palestinians and Israelis in a positive way," Maaitah said. Her doctoral work introduces emotional and social skills into the curriculum for Palestinian students, using complex case studies, including the Holocaust.

"The scientific study of emotion regulation is relatively new, and has rarely been applied to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict."

"I am glad I had the opportunity to learn more about the Martin-Springer Institute and from each and every person I met at NAU. I acquired the kind of knowledge that lasts for a lifetime. I cannot be more thankful."

Wala' Maaitah



**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.



### Our Year in Review

## Muslims and Jews: Challenging the Dynamics of Hate A Symposium on Antisemitism & Islamophobia

Muslim and Jewish populations each have painful histories of discriminations, hatred, and violence. Together with the

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, the Martin-Springer Institute hosted its first academic symposium at NAU. For two days of roundtable conversations, scholars from around the nation explored the ways in which a larger conversation about these two histories might illuminate not only Jewish-Muslim relationships but also the larger dynamics of hate and violence directed against "others" in our society. The symposium included a public talk by former U.S. State Department representatives Farah Pandith (Special Representative to Muslim Communities) and Hannah Rosenthal (Office to Combat Antisemitism). Teams of scholars also visited local high schools to raise awareness of hatred toward people of other cultures and faiths. The scholarly contributions will be published in the fall 2016 issue of the journal *CrossCurrents*.



Prof. Ethan Katz (U. of Cincinnati) & Prof. Mohamed Mohamed (NAU) in conversation

#### Culpable: A Site-Specific Installation by Shawn Skabelund

The Martin-Springer Institute commissioned *Culpable* to be exhibited at NAU's Riles building. More than 300 people saw Flag-staff artist Shawn Skabelund's evocative work on migration in Spring 2015. Surrounded by silhouetted portraits of migrants, free-floating, shackled hands made of wax represented migrants during the court hearings of Operation Streamline. Unknown to many, Operation Streamline processes dozens of shackled migrants in federal court in a very short time, declaring them with almost no exception "culpable," followed by imprisonment and expulsion across the U.S.-Mexican border.

"The portraits in this installation represent many of the migrants who I met [and] who allowed me to photograph them. Culpable was designed after I visited Operation Streamline at the Tucson Federal Courthouse. As I sat and witnessed this process, where migrants are sent to prison for between 30-180 days, I had an overwhelming feeling of deep sadness and guilt . . . This nation



was built on migration, and its destiny continues to be manifested by a natural human desire and need for familial economic sustainability. Why does our country allow commerce to cross borders while refusing individuals that same right?"

**Artist Statement** 

#### Visitors react to the exhibit:

"As a teacher of adult immigrants, thank you for the work you are doing."

"A punch in the gut...with a touch of sweetness."

"The installation brings me to tears and opens my heart."

### Permanent Exhibit on Berlin Wall Opens at NAU

On October 10, 2014, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the exhibit including a segment of the wall opened at NAU's University Union. Present at the reception were German Consul General Dr. Bernd Fischer (Los Angeles) and Honorary Consul Dr. Helge Jordan (Phoenix). The exhibit is the result of a three-semester work of an interdisciplinary team of undergraduate students and faculty, including the director of MSI, Dr. Martin Kalb (History), and Prof. Melissa Santana (Interior Design). The well-attended event was preceded by a film screening of *Good Bye Lenin* and followed by a lecture by Prof. Jon Olsen (University of Massachusetts Amherst) on "*Germany's Difficulty with Celebrating the Past*."



A portion of the Berlin Wall exhibit at NAU's Student Union

### Our Year in Review



Prof. Edward Westermann

## 10th Annual Holocaust Conference The 2015 Merrill & Rhoda Abeshaus Advanced Holocaust Educators' Institute

Every summer, the MSI offers two days of training for Arizona teachers, attracting educators from as far away as Yuma, Kingman, Williams, Phoenix and Tucson. In 2015, the first day was facilitated by USHMM trained Kirsten Aarestad (Denver, CO); on the second day, Dr. Edward Westermann (Prof. of History, Texas A&M University) presented his research on colonial conquest in Nazi Europe and the American West.

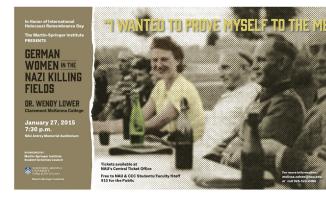
"For the past six years I have attended the Martin-Springer Institute's Holocaust Education Conference at NAU. This outstanding conference teaches educators and members of the community pedagogy one day and the next day a specific topic about the Holocaust. Participants learn about subject knowledge and are introduced to different teaching practices that

can be used in the classroom. Every year I am taking back a wealth of information and resources that better prepare my students to understand atrocities and how to remember people who went through them. Through the leadership, organization and facilitation of Dr. Krondorfer and Melissa Cohen, this conference is second to none. They provide resources, networking opportunities, and different educational speakers as well as occasions to meet Holocaust survivors. I look forward to this conference every year, and my students benefit greatly from it."

Ashley Crose, Social Studies Teacher Saguaro High School, Scottsdale, AZ



Doris Martin in conversation with educators



#### Wendy Lower, Author of Hitler's Furies

Dr. Wendy Lower's talk on "German Women in the Nazi Killing Fields" drew more than 500 students, faculty, and

community members to Ardrey Memorial Auditorium on January 27. Dr. Lower, the John K. Roth Chair of History and Director of the Human Rights Center at Claremont McKenna College, spoke on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the camps and the end of World War II.

Drawing on wartime documents, diaries, private letters, postwar trials, and interviews, her lecture focused on Nazi occupied Eastern Europe, where German women not only silently supported the Nazi ideology, but actively participated in the killings. In a small work session with undergraduates, Dr. Lower also presented the case of one particular female perpetrator, who first fed two Jewish children who had escaped from a train, then led them to a ditch and shot them. Her story left the attending students puzzling over motives and motivations of women perpetrators.

## MSI Hosts an Evening for Local Teachers

An important part of MSI is to create and maintain relationships with Flagstaff area schools. In April, more than two dozen teachers accepted our invitation for dinner at the Institute. We provided free resources and engaged with the attendees on the mission of MSI and how we can best assist in teaching the Holocaust and current issues of social justice.

The following schools were represented:

- BASIS Flagstaff
- Coconino High School
- Flagstaff Arts & Leadership Academy
- Flagstaff High School
- Flagstaff Junior Academy
- Mount Elden Middle School
- Northland Preparatory Academy
- Sinagua Middle School

### Our Year in Review

### Będzin Exhibit at Scottsdale Genocide Conference

Scottsdale Community College (SCC) held its third annual genocide conference in April 2015. It was a resounding success with record-breaking attendance. The MSI exhibit *Through the Eyes of Youth: Life & Death in the Będzin Ghetto* was highly visited after all the morning and afternoon lectures. Professors from various colleges and ASU, along with numerous secondary schools, took their classes to see it. The Będzin Ghetto exhibit was also used by Temple Solel as a major part of a Bar and Bat Mitzvah class. Later in the conference, Dr. Björn Krondorfer gave a guided tour of

the exhibit and a lecture with Janice Friebaum, daughter of a Holocaust survivor, to a packed room. Dr. Alexander Alvarez (also NAU) gave a lecture to a well-attended session on *Border Regions: Climate Change and Genocidal Impulse*. SCC hopes to continue its ongoing relationship with the Martin-Springer Institute, which offers excellent exhibits, speakers, and events. You can access the lectures by Drs. Krondorfer and Alvarez at ustream.tv/search?q=genocide+awareness+week+2015.

John Liffiton, BSc, MA English Faculty & Dir. Genocide Conference Scottsdale Community College



Phoenix audience attending a presentation on Bedzin ghetto exhibit

## Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaShoah, with the Jewish Community of Sedona and the Verde Valley



Students Meaghan Scott, Chloe Lira, Amanda Williamson, and Michael Woody, with Björn Krondorfer at the Yom HaShoah commemoration in Sedona

"It was extremely moving to have MSI/NAU students participate in our program for Holocaust Remembrance Day, which was co-sponsored by The Jewish Community of Sedona and the Verde Valley, Heichal Baoranim Flagstaff's congregation, and the Martin-Springer Institute. The thoroughness and passion of their research on Będzin were apparent in their presentation at our synagogue. As a daughter of Holocaust survivors I was impressed with how young people of different backgrounds empathize with the horror and loss that befell Jews and minorities during the Holocaust. Their respect for survivor Doris Martin was palpable. I look forward to planning the next Remembrance Day."

Rabbi Alicia Magal, Sedona

"The Yom HaShoah event was a powerful experience: How strong we are as people today to come together and remember the lives that were lost."

Michael Woody, NAU Graphic Design alum, class of 2015



### Works in Progress

#### **Reconciliation Matters**

The Martin-Springer Institute, with a grant from NAU's Center for International Education, launched a research and book project in Spring 2015 on the topic of "Global Reconciliation: Why it Matters and How it Works." Dr. Krondorfer, as principal investigator, invited five international scholars to meet at the Jena Center for Reconciliation Studies (**icrs.uni-jena.de**) at the Friedrich Schiller University, Germany. In addition to Krondorfer (USA), the group included Prof. Martin Leiner (University of Jena, Germany), Dr. Wilhelm Verwoerd (South Africa), Zeina Barakat (PhD candidate, Palestine), Dr. Joram Tarusarira (Zimbabwe), and Dr. Avner Dinur (Israel). The group met in June for four days at the university in Jena to work on the manuscript. It is hoped that the book will be published in 2016.



Working group in Jena, Germany

### To view our online resources, please visit:

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



### **Będzin Exhibit Website Now Live**

In May 2015, after a year-long effort by an interdisciplinary team of NAU undergraduate students and faculty mentors, the website for the traveling exhibit *Through the Eyes of Youth: Death and Life in the Będzin Ghetto* went live for an international audience.



bedzinexhibit.org

The exhibit and the accompanying website tell the story of young people in the Jewish ghetto before, during, and after the Holocaust. The website, which supports and augments the traveling exhibit, contains information on Będzin, Poland, in the context of the Holocaust and World War II. It includes resources for community members, educators, and students.

The team creating and designing the site consisted of students and faculty from the Humanities, History, Graphic Design, Computer Sciences, and Education. The website will continue to expand as new information comes in.

Although best used in conjunction with the actual exhibit, the website can also be searched for information independently. We hope you will take some time to explore and browse the site.

With your financial support, we can improve the website and also send the physical exhibit to communities across the state of Arizona and beyond.

#### Excerpt from the Webpage Ghetto Life and Deportations, 1941-1943

Despite the bleakness of ghetto life, residents carried on with their lives. As the deportations to "unknown" destinations began in 1942, some Jewish people resisted, especially youth. Resistance took on many forms in the ghetto, including obtaining false papers, defying German orders, or taking up arms. Many Jews formed underground social and resistance groups to fight back against the Nazi perpetrators. In the end, little could stop the Nazi plan for the mass killings of Jews.

### **Upcoming 2015-2016**

Beyond Border Disputes: Fear, Trauma, and the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict Sami Awad, Director of Holy Land Trust Monday, September 21, 2015 • 7:30 p.m. NAU Liberal Arts Building, Room 120

Sami Awad, who runs the Palestinian nonprofit organization in Bethlehem since 1998, promotes nonviolent grassroots leadership. He is featured in the documentary *Little Town of Bethlehem*. He is committed to nonlinear thinking and believes in the power of nonviolence.



#### Jewish Collaborator Trials: Revenge, Retribution, and Reconciliation after the Holocaust

Professor Gabriel Finder Director of Jewish Studies, University of Virginia

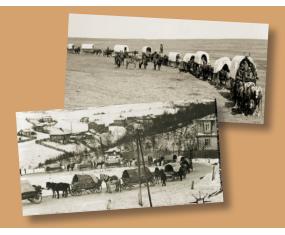
**Thursday, November 5, 2015 • 7:30 p.m.**NAU Liberal Arts Building, Room 120

In the immediate aftermath of WWII and the Holocaust, survivors in Jewish communities tried fellow Jews suspected of collaboration with the Nazis in tribunals, called "honor courts." Jewish collaborators who immigrated to Israel were also tried in the 1950s in Israeli state courts. Prof. Finder will describe honor courts in Europe and the "Kapo trials" in Israel.

### Colonial Conquest in the Nazi East and the American West

A Three-Day Symposium, Hosted at NAU by the Martin-Springer Institute October 11-13, 2015

Regional, national and international scholars explore settler colonialism during the Nazi expansion into Eastern Europe in World War II and the American expansion westward into Native American territory.

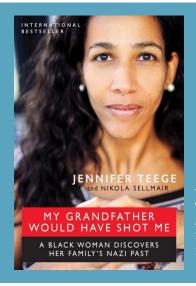


#### Public Panel:

Living Space and Manifest Destiny: Colonial Conquest in the American West and Nazi East

> Sunday, October 11, 2015 7:30 p.m. NAU Cline Library

> > This event is free and open to the public.



# My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me: A Black Woman Discovers her Family's Past

A Conversation with Jennifer Teege in Honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day

January 28, 2016 • 7:30pm

NAU Prochnow Auditorium

Jennifer Teege, a Nigerian-German woman, discovered accidentally as an adult that she is the granddaughter of Amon Goeth. Goeth, the commandant of the Plaszow concentration camp, was featured in Spielberg's film *Schindler's List*.

Abrahamic Religions:
Challenges and Cooperation
in the Age of Extremism
February 29 - March 1, 2016
Manhattan College, Riverdale, NY

Organized by the Martin-Springer Institute and the "Holocaust, Genocide, and Interfaith Education Center" at Manhattan College, this symposium follows the successful program on "Muslims and Jews: Challenging the Dynamics of Hate" at NAU in the fall of 2014. The 2016 symposium addresses different facets of Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations in history and contemporary society.



#### **Thank You to Our Donors**

#### **Long-Term Gifts and Endowments:**

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

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Arie & Sara Galles
David & Patricia Kader
Stuart Kreindler
Björn Krondorfer
Rosemary Lamberson
Sandra Lubarsky
Nina Perlmutter
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U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

#### Please Help Make Our Programs Happen

For a tax deductible donation, make checks out to

NAU Foundation Account 5138

For gifts of stocks, or to include us in your estate planning, please contact
Elizabeth Rock,
elizabeth.rock@nau.edu

For more information, contact:

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Program Coordinator Melissa Cohen 928-523-2464 melissa.cohen@nau.edu



#### **Martin-Springer Institute**

Martin-Springer Institute P O Box 5624 Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5624



#### Regional Events

- Sep 2, 2013: Director's Lecture on German Family History & the Holocaust, Arizona Jewish Historical Society, Phoenix
- Nov 13-14: Staff Attendance of USHMM Regional Education Summit, Tempe
- Mar 3, 2014: Director's Lecture Perpetrator Mentality, Scottsdale Holocaust Education Conference
- Apr 8: Director's Lecture Holocaust and Perpetrators, Genocide Awareness Week, Scottsdale CC
- Apr 9: Director's Lecture German Family History & Holocaust, Institute for Humanities Research, ASU, Phoenix
- Apr 10: Panelist on Ethnic Discourse in Colonial Rwanda, ASU, Phoenix
- Apr 17: Director's Lecture on Reflection on My German Father, Burton Barr Central Library, Phoenix
- May 5: Director's Lecture Reconciliation: Power of the Arts, Beatitude Campus, Phoenix

#### National Outreach by MSI Director

- June 26-27, 2013: Facilitation of National Teacher Workshop, Memorial Library Leadership Institute, New York
   City
- Feb 21, 2014: Lecture on Unsettling Empathy, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma
- May 19-20: Interfaith Summit, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC

#### International Outreach by MSI Director

- July 6, 2013: Lecture on Trauma, Psychoanalytical Institute, Düsseldorf, Germany
- July 7: Workshop on Generational Trauma, Study Group on Intergenerational Consequences of the Holocaust (PAKH), Köln, Germany
- July 25-27: Presentation on Post-1945 Narratives of German Theologians, University of British Columbia,
   Vancouver, Canada
- Oct 3-6: Between Trauma and Politics (Part I): Trilateral Israeli-German-Palestinian Dialogue, Freiburg, Germany
- Dec 9-13: Research Project on Generational Trauma, with Prof. Gobodo-Madikizela (South Africa) and PAKH, Germany
- Jan 30-Feb 2, 2014: Between Trauma and Politics (Part II): Trilateral Israeli-German-Palestinian Dialogue, Freiburg, Germany
- Feb 4-5: Workshop on Reconciliation, Center for Reconciliation, Friedrich-Schiller University Jena, Germany
- Feb 24-27: International Symposium: Aftermath of Mass Trauma and Violence, University of the Free State, South Africa
- Jun 27-Jul 1: 10th Wroxton Weinstein International Holocaust Symposium, Wroxton, England



For updates, photos, and announcements, visit us at facebook.com/MSIatNAU