25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OPENS WITH EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES

The IJCU program series in 2014 will include familiar formats and innovative approaches, as we explore core issues that have shaped the new era of Jewish-Christian relations with an eye to the even newer context in which we now encounter them. The successful ongoing programs of First Friday and the Clergy Colloquy, and the flagship schools program with its Youth & Prejudice: Reducing Hatred conferences, will all be in place. There are stories about each of these within this newsletter.

The winter program will also bring two familiar programs on timeless themes. The Pre-Lent Workshop on Wednesday, February 12, will explore the question of Christian worship and celebration in Holy Week in a world that recalls the Shoa, the Holocaust. Dr. Henry Knight of Keene State University in New Hampshire will lead the study, based on the research and thinking that he elaborates in his book, Celebrating Holy Week in a Post-Holocaust World. Holy Week and the biblical narratives that have shaped it dovetail with an anti-Jewish heritage from which the church has turned aside. What then are the options for sustaining a connection with the tradition while avoiding the pitfalls of the past?

KURTZER FEATURED, WOOD AND COHN HONORED IN 2013 WALLENBERG TRIBUTE

The kudos couldn’t come fast enough for an insightful and inspiring lecture and for two women who have shaped inspiring lives around their own insights. Working with the practiced skill of a veteran educator, Yehuda Kurtzer led the Wallenberg Tribute lecture audience through a series of classic Jewish texts as the basis for his talk, “Beyond Brokenness: Negotiating Power from a Tradition of Victimhood.” Kurtzer challenged the audience to face squarely the change in Jewish experience that comes with main-streaming in American society and the power of Israeli sovereignty. Without minimizing the threats that continue to unsettle Israelis and the episodes of antisemitism that still plague American Jews, he delved into the question of power and how it is best exercised, especially when accompanied by trauma that must be exorcised.

Eli Cohn carries few demons in her life to date. As a 2013 Muhlenberg College graduate and first-year student at Jewish Theological Seminary, she

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The workshop will run from 9 am to 2 pm in Seegers Union, rooms 111-112. See the website, www.ijcu.org, under the Programs tab and Pre-Lent Workshop heading for more information and registration options.

On Sunday, March 23, the popular Day of Dialogue returns for its 25th anniversary installment, asking the fundamental question, “What does dialogue mean in the 21st century?” Working with several different models of dialogue and learning with leaders in innovative dialogue programs at other centers, we will explore the new context of dialogue and some of the newer formats that can enhance it. Watch your mail for the brochure and check the Programs tab on the www.ijcu.org website for details and registration options.

As the year unfolds, another half-dozen opportunities to build on the foundations of the Institute’s work will be provided. And save the date of Sunday, September 14, for the grand celebration of our 25th year of service, looking forward to many more informed by the cutting-edge insights we will develop together in our study and encounter.

INTERN SUPPORTS COLLOQUY, INSPIRES NEW COURSE

When the Clergy Colloquy for the 2013-2014 study year chose the Book of Matthew in The Jewish Annotated New Testament (JANT) as its focus, it was likely that there would be a learning curve associated with using classical Jewish sources to comment on the early Christian text. Take the annotation to the phrase in Matthew 8:16: “they brought to [Jesus] many who were possessed by demons; and he cast out the spirits.” The references to demons and spirits include one from the Dead Sea Scrolls, two from the Babylonian Talmud, one from the ancient Jewish historian Josephus, and one from the ancient non-biblical history entitled “Jubilees.” Most people who even recognize those general terms would be hard-pressed to find the sources easily in one place.

Enter a first-year Muhlenberg College student, Emily Goldberg. As an intern at the IJCU, she is compiling the sources to which the annotations refer, making all the texts available to the participants in the colloquy. Emily’s experience at Abraham Joshua Heschel High School in New York City gives her the familiarity with rabbinic texts and their interpretation to locate the relevant material from laconic references such as “1QM 13:11-12” or “b.Ber. 6a.” In the first outing with Emily’s sources in November, the colloquy members were very enthusiastic about the added value that her research provided.

Word of Emily’s efforts also reached Muhlenberg’s director of Jewish Studies, Dr. Hartley Lachter. He too was impressed and enthusiastic. Together with IJCU director Peter Pettit he will teach a new research-based undergraduate seminar in the spring semester that will continue and expand Emily’s work until all the non-biblical sources in the JANT have been assembled. Emily is one of the 16 students who registered for this distinctive opportunity to undertake collaborative research in primary texts.

Dr. Hartley Lachter
**RUTH IN DIALOGUE AT FALL MINICOURSE**

Maria Tjeltveit

The figure of Ruth, as the focus of the book that bears her name, as a woman in dialogue with her mother-in-law and others, and as a symbol of border-crossing and community-building, was the focus of the 2013 IJCU minicourse. The Rev. Maria Tjeltveit led the four-session series on Thursday evenings in October. A chancel operetta on Ruth, composed and conducted by local musician Susan Bingham, was featured in the first session, and the joint leadership of Rev. Tjeltveit and past IJCU board member Rabbi Ron Lennick highlighted the final session.

**PETTIT RECEIVES LOCAL DIALOGUE AWARD**

JCU Director Peter A. Pettit received the 2013 Dialogue Award at the August 1 Friendship and Dialogue dinner of the Lehigh Dialogue Center. The two organizations have collaborated recently in the IJCU Day of Dialogue program and in bringing the LDC’s Turkish Coffee Night to the Muhlenberg College campus.

**PARTNERSHIPS BRING SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Amy-Jill Levine was the Irene Marold lecturer at Bahnson Center of Moravian Seminary on Thursday, October 3, on the topic, “Misunderstanding Judaism Means Misunderstanding Jesus.” The next morning, Dr. Levine led a breakfast seminar at Muhlenberg College on “Preaching Matthew.” The Muhlenberg breakfasters included many from the Clergy Colloquy who are this year studying the book of Matthew in the Jewish Annotated New Testament, which Dr. Levine co-edited. First-year student Emily Goldberg, who is interning at the IJCU in support of the JANT study, enjoyed the chance to benefit from talking with Dr. Levine on her return trip to the Philadelphia airport.

On Tuesday, October 8, Rabbi Ron Kronish and Kadi Iyad Zahalka of Jerusalem spoke at Lehigh University on “The Other Peace Process: Interreligious Dialogue in the Service of Peace.” Postponed from a year ago when Superstorm Sandy stranded them in New York on their way to the Lehigh Valley, the event was worth the wait. Rabbi Kronish was the 2001 Wallenberg Tribute lecturer at Muhlenberg and continues to lead both the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel and the Jerusalem Center for Jewish-Christian Relations. Kadi Zahalka chairs the Sharia court in Jerusalem.
Marcie Lightwood: Schools Program Coordinator

Marcie Lightwood, a human relations trainer with extensive experience in Lehigh Valley community organizations, joined the IJCU staff in August as Schools Program Coordinator, following the resignation of Jeanette Eichenwald in December 2012 and the very capable interim service of Jenna Azar during the spring of 2013. Marcie has been the coordinator of the Interfaith Peace Resource Center in Bethlehem and facilitated the Racial Justice Circles at the Bethlehem YWCA. She has led more than 2300 workshops and continues to do so locally and statewide through the PA Family Support Alliance. In 2006 she was named “Social Worker of the Year” by the National Association of Social Workers, Lehigh Valley chapter.

Those who have worked with Marcie comment on “respect for others and genuine desire to make a positive difference in the world,” as well as her “compassion, organization, creativity, and focus.” These have been evident in her first several months at Muhlenberg. A meet-‘n’-greet just before the semester started gave many of our volunteers and Muhlenberg coworkers a chance to meet Marcie.

Those who worked on the fall Youth & Prejudice conference as facilitators, students, and family story presenters were quickly impressed with her congeniality, perseverance, and resilience. The motto that kept her moving through the myriad last-minute changes and challenges: “This year it will happen; next year it will be great!” Greatness already tinged her first outing, as was evident in the extensive story published in The Morning Call on Monday, November 25.

WALLENBERG TRIBUTE

Continued from page 1

received the Jeanette Eichenwald Interfaith Award and spoke of her commitment to Jewish leadership in a multi-religious society. With experience as a leader in the IJCU’s Youth & Prejudice program and the Star-Crossed Students club for interfaith encounter, Elli is already a veteran of inter-religious encounter. She carries that experience into her studies for the rabbinate – or will it be academia? – with promise to strengthen the Jewish community in its engagement with Christians and those of other religions.

Drawing on the strengths of her life partners, Ilene Wood has become one of the Lehigh Valley’s most visible and charismatic philanthropists. In receiving the 2013 Wallenberg honors, she credited her first husband, Irwin Hochberg, with bringing her to the area and showing her the significance of philanthropic leadership. To her second husband, Bob Wood, she attributed her development as a hands-on philanthropist, one who literally gets in touch with those who benefit from her commitment to the community. She works across every kind of dividing line in designing events, in lending a hand, and in her personal relationships. She embodies her commitment to understanding through encounter for which the IJCU strives year by year.

The 2014 Wallenberg Tribute will be incorporated with the Institute’s 25th anniversary celebration on Sunday, September 14, 2014. Plan now to join us for the festivities!

Ilene Wood, 2013 Wallenberg honoree
**YOUTH & PREJUDICE: REDUCING HATRED CONFERENCE A NEW EXPERIENCE OF A PROVEN GEM**

When I arrived at the IJCU in August as the new Schools Program Coordinator, the obvious major assignment was the November 19th and 20th Youth and Prejudice: Reducing Hatred Conference – Lessons from the Holocaust. Fortunately, I found a program in place with a twenty-one-year history, enthusiastic participants, a well-thought-out formula, and excellent support from the College, Just Born, Inc., and the Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley.

Each day of the conference began with the play, *Face Forward*, written and directed by Brendon Votipka, ’09, telling several interwoven stories of German teenagers during the early years of the Holocaust. Muhlenberg students and community volunteers ably led a workshop following the play using terms like “bystander,” “perpetrator,” “victim” – and a new term, “upstander” – to get high school students to think about how prejudice and mistreatment still happen right in the high schools they attend.

Most moving for me was the participation of the 14 people who presented life stories of Holocaust survival, either their own or the story of a relative. They told stories of upstanders who helped them escape from the horrors of Europe in the late 1930’s through the early 1940’s. These survivor family stories present living examples of both the worst and the best actions human societies have visited upon their diverse members.

About two hundred students from six area high schools attended, and some of their comments tell us that the conference certainly accomplished what it promised. One student, when asked what the take-away message was from the Holocaust survivor, wrote, “That modern people have a sense of sheltered luxury and that more need to understand the struggle of others, past and present.”

As the young participants learn to understand not only the lessons of the Holocaust but the ongoing reality of prejudice and bigotry and the dehumanization that accompanies them, they will be better equipped reduce hatred and create a more compassionate future.

- Marcie Lightwood

Y&P Survivors (l. to r.) Mickey Freeman, Erica Robbins, Eydie Glickstein, Abe Ross, and Rabbi Allen Juda
**NEW PATHS RELEASES FIRST COURSE**

*Images of Israel* was released on June 11 at Muhlenberg, as the first component of the *New Paths: Christians Engaging Israel* project in collaboration with the Shalom Hartman Institute of Jerusalem. Among the reactions from those who have studied the course in its development are these:

> I need every part of this study because it is requiring me to rethink my positions.  
> I leave this experience with a sense of hope and a desire to be part of this new path.  
> This is a discussion that could and should engage all thoughtful persons.

And a veteran peace activist in Middle East affairs said of the introductory workshop,

> “Yesterday was one of the most excellent 4 hour workshops I have ever attended...practical and hopeful...”

The course is organized around six “Images of Israel” – Holiness, Covenant, Rejection, Conflict, Hope, and Encounter. Its theme is a turn from crisis to shared values as the basis for Christians engaging Israel. The method is shaped by engagement, with texts, images, ideas, fellow learners, and leaders, and with the full complexity of modern Israel. It can be led by pastors, priests, and educators who use the Leader Guide and extensive video resources to journey into a new engagement with Israel together with the participants.

See [http://www.ijcu.org](http://www.ijcu.org) for more pictures, and [http://newpaths.org.il](http://newpaths.org.il) for more information on the project (including an online order form for the full $60 kit). Since the launch, the course has been introduced in New Hampshire, Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Denver, as well as at denominational events in the Lutheran, Baptist, Episcopal, and Orthodox churches and at the annual conference of the International Council of Christians and Jews. Nearly two dozen introductory events are planned for 2014. The course was taught in full locally at Ziegels Lutheran Church, Breinigsville, and St. John’s Lutheran Church, Easton, during the fall, as well as at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago and other venues.
FIRST FRIDAY
Luncheon Discussion, Muhlenberg College
Seegers Union, Rooms 111-112, 12:00-1:00p

JANUARY 10, 2014 (SECOND FRIDAY)
~ LOCATION: MOYER HALL, MILLER FORUM ~
PAPAL TRANSITIONS
Ken Briggs, Journalist, Free-lance Religion Writer

FEBRUARY 7, 2014
HEALING AND LITURGY... THE POWER OF PRAYER THRU MUSIC
Cantor Kevin Wartell, Temple Beth El, Allentown
Host, Kol haEmek, WMUH

MARCH 7, 2014
NON-PROFIT STRUGGLE & SUCCESS IN THE NEW CENTURY
Dr. Roland Kushner, Assoc. Professor of Business,
Muhlenberg College

APRIL 4, 2014
PENDING FINAL DETAILS

MAY 9, 2014
WHAT BINDS US: POEMS OF LOVE AND FAMILY
Mr. Edwin Romond, Award-winning poet

First Friday is free and open to the public. Bring your lunch or buy it
at Seegers Union. Soft drinks can be purchased in the room. Be sure
to leave ample time to locate on-street parking.

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Founding Director Franklin Sherman opened the doors of the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding in the fall semester of 1989. Those doors had been created by Prof. Darrell Jodock and a team of College and community partners who shared a vision. Together they entered into a new model of relationships among Jews and Christians that has endured and grown.

As we enter 2014, there is much to celebrate in the heritage of the IJCU. We can look back on 25 years of achievement in each arena of our work – on campus, among clergy and congregations, and in the wider community. We also know that the environment in which we move today as Christians and Jews is different from what it was 25 years ago.

Looking forward to celebrating our milestone year on September 14 (mark the date!), we also are planning to examine some of the basics of the Jewish-Christian relationship in its new context throughout the year. Dialogue, Jewish and Christian theology, reconciliation, Israel, worship, the burdens of history, spirituality, the Shoah, and religious pluralism will all find their place in our 25th anniversary program series. Come celebrate the gains, and find strength for the future!