The Sixteenth Annual

Evening of Roses

A benefit for
The Sister Rose Thering Endowment
for Jewish-Christian and Holocaust Studies
Seton Hall University

Honoring
MAUD DAHME
PAST PRESIDENT OF NJ STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
and
IRENA SENDLER
(Posthumously)
SAVIOR OF CHILDREN FROM THE WARSAW GHETTO
as
Humanitarians of the Year

Featured Speaker
HONORABLE RICHARD J. CODEY
PRESIDENT OF THE NJ STATE SENATE

Sunday, April 19, 2009
2 p.m.
Jubilee Hall Auditorium
Seton Hall University
South Orange, NJ

The Sister Rose Thering Endowment was established in 1993 to perpetuate and extend the inter-religious education work of Sister Rose Thering in funding graduate scholarship assistance for teachers in Jewish-Christian and Holocaust Studies, developing teaching resource materials and presenting workshops for teachers in public, private and parochial schools.
HUMANITARIANS OF THE YEAR

MAUD DAHME – Past president of the New Jersey State Board of Education, Maud Dahme is a nationally respected leader in the field of education. She has served on and chaired the Interstate Migrant Education Council and the National Association of State Boards of Education. Ms. Dahme's involvement in local and educational affairs is all the more remarkable given that she is a survivor of the Holocaust. Born in Amersfoort, the Netherlands, she spent the entire German occupation of her native country in hiding with her sister. Together with her parents and sister, she emigrated to the United States in 1950.

A passionate advocate of Holocaust education, she has been a member of the New Jersey State Commission on Holocaust Education since its establishment in 1982. It is only recently that she has spoken publicly about her years as a hidden child. However, she now speaks frequently to schoolchildren about her experiences.

It is with great pride that the Sister Rose Thering Endowment and Seton Hall University present Maud Dahme with its Humanitarian of the Year Award for her continued support of Holocaust education, a prime concern of our mentor, Sister Rose Thering.

IRENA SENDLER (Posthumously) - As a young social worker in Poland, Irena Sendler (code name "Jolanta") worked in an underground network composed mostly of women, smuggling children out of the Warsaw ghetto. She encouraged parents to give her their children so she could create false papers for them and take them to safe houses and convents. Her efforts resulted in saving at least 2,500 children. She kept careful records of names, relatives and locations of the children by writing each child's name on a slip of paper, putting it in a jar and burying the jar under a tree near her home. She was eventually captured by the Germans, brutally beaten and nearly killed, but she never revealed names of her cohorts or of the children. It was only in 2000 that the story of Irena came to light. Encouraged by their teacher, Norman Conard, a group of high school students from Uniontown, Kansas began a research project about Irena. They were so impressed with her story that they visited her in Poland and produced a play about her work, "Life in a Jar," that has since been performed all over the United States and in Poland. Irena was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. She passed away at the age of 98 in May 2008. Her story lives on through the children she saved and through "Life in a Jar."

The Sister Rose Thering Endowment and Seton Hall University are proud to honor Irena Sendler and to present a Humanitarian of the Year Award posthumously on her behalf to the Consul General of the Polish Republic, the Honorable Krzysztof W. Kasprzyk.
PROGRAM

Processional  Instrumental Ensemble, Seton Hall University
National anthems  Cantor Perry Fine, Beth El Congregation, South Orange, and Aria Chorus #303
Opening prayer  Rev. Lawrence Frizzell, D. Phil., Chairman, Department of Jewish-Christian Studies
Welcome  David M. Bossman, Ph.D. Executive Director, SRTE
Greetings  Paul Gibbons, Chairman, SRTE Board of Trustees
Honorees  Monsignor Robert Sheeran, President, Seton Hall University
          Maud Dahme, Past President, NJ State Board of Education
          Luna Kaufman, Presenter (Past Chairman SRTE Board of Trustees)
          RESPONSE: Ms. Dahme

Irena Sendler (Posthumously)
          Alan Silberstein – Presenter to the Honorable
          Krzysztof W. Kasprzyk, Consul General of the
          Republic of Poland
          RESPONSE and introduction of special guests: Mr. Kasprzyk

Featured speaker  Honorable Richard J. Codey, President of the
          NJ State Senate and past governor
Special presentation  Dr. Paul Winkler, Executive Director, NJ Commission for
          Holocaust Education, presents the Sister Rose Thering Award
          to Harriet Sepinwall, Ph.D.
Musical recital  Aria Chorus #303, introduced by Walter Pyka, president;
          Alicja Rusewicz-Pagorek, musical director
Benediction  Rabbi Alan Brill, Cooperman/Ross Endowed Professor
          of Jewish-Christian Studies in honor of Sister Rose Thering

Reception following program in Atrium, 4th Floor.
Catered by In Thyme Caterers - Dietary laws observed.

ALL ARE WELCOME
FEATURED SPEAKER
SENATOR RICHARD J. CODEY

The Honorable Richard J. Codey, a resident of West Orange, has served the State of New Jersey in several capacities – State Assemblyman from 1974-81, representing several Essex County communities including South Orange; State Senator from 1982 to the present and Governor from 2004-2006. His most recent stint as Governor in an interim capacity occurred during the recuperation of Governor Jon S. Corzine from his near-fatal car accident. Today he is president of the New Jersey Senate.

Known for his red hair and blunt, forthright manner of speaking, Senator Codey has become a household name in his three decades as a tireless public servant. He has chaired the Senate Health, Institutions and Welfare Committee, and is highly regarded for his work on behalf of the mentally ill and disabled in state institutions and in group homes.

Children have been a prime concern of the senator and have been his guide in bringing several important pieces of legislation to enactment. They include a bill cracking down on internet predators, another providing better health care coverage for children, mandatory HIV testing for all pregnant women and the nation’s first statewide assault weapons ban.

Senator Codey grew up as one of five children in an Irish-Catholic family. His father owned a funeral business in Orange, and when the senior Codey became county coroner, Dick Codey, who was 14 at the time, learned to load hearses. He often speaks about this experience as “helping him to grow up fast.” A graduate of Oratory Prep in Summit and Fairleigh Dickerson University, the Senator is married to Mary Jo (née Rolli) and has two sons, Kevin and Christopher, ages 26 and 22. An avid basketball fan, he is a good friend to SHU and manages a youth basketball team, a hobby he first began when his sons were teenagers.

CONSUL GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
HONORABLE KRZYSTOF W. KASPRZYK

A native of Krakow, Poland, Mr. Kasprzyk graduated from Jagiellonian University with a master’s degree in experimental nuclear physics. He was a researcher and lecturer in this field before changing to journalism as a full-time career in 1976.

He emigrated to the United States in 1987 and worked as editor-in-chief of a Polish American bi-weekly magazine in Chicago. In 1989 he became co-founder, VP and Executive Director of the Polish American Economic Forum and was eventually appointed official representative of Lech Walesa and the National Civic Committee in Poland for the US Mid-West. Shortly thereafter, he returned to Poland and joined the foreign service, leaving again for the US as Consul for Public Affairs in Los Angeles. He opened the first-ever Consulate General of Poland to western Canada and was appointed Consul General. He was also Consul General of Poland in Los Angeles and eventually was appointed in 2005 to this same position in New York.

Mr. Kasprzyk has co-authored eight books, speaks fluent English and Russian and has a working command of French and Italian. He is a gourmet cook, loves baroque and jazz music and enjoys traveling across the United States. He and his wife Duma have two daughters and a one-year old granddaughter.
ARIA CHORUS #303
Polish Singers Alliance of America

The Aria Chorus was organized in 1964. It joined the Polish Singers Alliance of America (PSAA) as the 303rd choir accepted into that society, which is the oldest Polish cultural organization in North America. The mission of the Aria Chorus is to promote Polish culture through song. Except for the summer months of July and August, the chorus gives concerts for seasonal programs of a religious, political and secular nature. The singers travel throughout the Tri-state area: New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. The repertoire includes patriotic, classical, folk and religious music of Polish composers and others.

Under the musical direction of Alicja Rusewicz-Pagorek, the Aria Chorus continues to do well at competitions at PSAA conventions, at both the international and district levels, placing first in the mixed choirs category at the PSAA International Convention in Albany, NY, May 2007 and first place and best choir overall in the Regional Convention of the District VII of PSAA in Brooklyn, NY in June of 2008.

The Sister Rose Thering Endowment has invited the Aria Chorus to be our guests at this special Evening of Roses honoring Irena Sendler and her Polish origins and the Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Honorable Krzysztof W. Kasprzyk.

Musical Selections

Psalm 29: Nieście chwałę mocarze Panu mocniejszemu - Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty, give unto the Lord glory and strength
Rota – An Oath
Rozszumięta się wierzy płaczące – Weeping Willows Start to Sigh
Dona, Dona – Das Keib
Zęby Polska była Polska – Let Poland be Poland
Psalm z tańcowaniem – A Psalm in Dance
God Bless America

Seton Hall University Instrumental Quintet

This group of five clarinetists is part of the newly formed Seton hall University Orchestra led by Murray Colosimo. The group consists of Rachel Baxter, junior; Megan Gooch, junior; Megan Hills, freshman; Caitlin Jenne, senior and Lauren Strawn, sophomore. The piece they will play during the Processional is “Minueto, Op. 15” by Ernst Schmidt.
Hymn Państwowy Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej

Mazurek Dąbrowskiego
Słowa: Józef Wybicki, 1797 r.

Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła,
Kiedy my żyjemy.
Co nam obca przemoc wzięła,
Szablą odbierzymy.

Marsz, marsz Dąbrowski,
Z ziemi włoskiej do Polski.
Za twoim przewodem
Złączym się z narodem.

State Hymn of the Republic of Poland

Mazurek Dąbrowskiego
Words: Józef Wybicki, 1797 r.

Poland has not yet succumbed.
As long as we remain,
What the foe by force has seized,
Sword in hand we’ll gain.

March! March, Dąbrowski!
March from Italy to Poland!
Under your command
We shall reach our land.

Hatikvah
Israel’s National Anthem

As long as the Jewish spirit is yearning
deep in the heart,
With eyes turned toward the East,
looking toward Zion,
Then our hope—the two-thousand-year
old hope—will not be lost:
To be a free people in our land,
The land of Zion and Jerusalem.

Kolode Balevav
P’nimah:

Nefesh Yehudi homiyah
Ulfa’atey mizzrah kadimah
Ayin l’zion tsofiyyah.
Ode lo avdah tikvatenu
Hatikvah bat shmot alpayim:
L’hiyot am chofshi b’artzenu -
Eretz Tzion v’Yerushalayim.

The Star Spangled Banner
by Francis Scott Key

Oh, say can you see by the
dawn’s early light

And the rocket’s red glare, the
bombs bursting in air,

What so proudly we hailed at the
twilight’s last gleaming?

Gave proof through the night that
our flag was still there.

Whose broad stripes and bright stars
thru the perilous fight,

Oh, say does that star-spangled
banner yet wave

O’er the ramparts we watched
were so gallantly streaming?

O’er the land of the free and the
home of the brave?
# THE SISTER ROSE THERING ENDOWMENT

The Endowment was created and named in honor of Sister Rose Thering, O. P., Ph.D., in recognition and appreciation of her exemplary dedication throughout her life to improving Jewish-Christian relations through education, especially at the elementary and secondary school levels. The goals of the Endowment’s programs are to reduce prejudice born of ignorance and misperception, to promote means for conveying the richness of the Jewish and Christian traditions accurately and without bias, and to foster cooperation among Jews and Christians in areas of common social welfare.

More than 350 teachers throughout New Jersey have benefited from the Endowment during the past 16 years, and have had an impact on more than 150,000 students in their classes. The Evening of Roses is our only fund-raising event focusing on educating teachers about Jewish-Christian relations, the Holocaust, tolerance and prejudice reduction.

The Board of Trustees of the Sister Rose Thering Endowment gratefully acknowledges the following donors who have provided sponsored scholarships to teachers during 2008-2009.

## FALL 2008

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<td>Lisa Abrusia, teacher, St. Antoninus Parish, Newark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hattie Segal, in memory of Arnold Segal and in honor of Pearl and Seymour Lehrhoff</td>
<td>Daniel Beyer, teacher, Roberge Elementary School, River Vale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellin and Fred Cohen</td>
<td>Alanna Carter, graduate student, Seton Hall University</td>
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<td>William S. Furman</td>
<td>Mary D’Alessio, English teacher, Millburn Middle School</td>
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<td>Daniel Farabaugh, Social Studies teacher, Westfield High School</td>
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<td>Racine Dominicans of the Siena Center, by Sr. Michelle Oelley</td>
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<td>Sharon Zackerman, Social Studies teacher, Pope John XXIII School, Sparta</td>
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<td>Professor Elie Wiesel (Honorary)</td>
<td>Anne Herring, Special Education teacher, Lafayette School, Elizabeth</td>
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The following sponsored scholarships will be granted in the fall of 2009:

- Curt and Else Silberman Foundation
- Racine Dominicans
- Hattie Segal, in memory of Arnold Segal
- Jane and Bernard Wallerstein
- Gloria Steiner Memorial Scholarships
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HONOR ROLL 2009

We acknowledge with gratitude donations received as of April 10, 2009 and apologize for any omissions or errors.

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Monsignor Robert Sheehan, President of Seton Hall University
Honorable Krzysztof W. Kasprzyk, Consul General of the Republic of Poland and guests from Poland
Honorable Richard J. Codey, our featured speaker
Madal Duhine, Honoree
Walter Pyka, president of the Aria Chorus #303
Dr. Dena Levine and Professor Murray Colissomo for arranging for the appearance of the clarinet ensemble
James Ousotseg of In Thyme Caterers for a delicious dessert reception
Seton Hall University’s Events Planners, Jennifer O’Shea and Megan Codey
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SETON HALL UNIVERSITY
Smuggling Jewish children out of the Warsaw ghetto was by necessity quiet work. It was invisible work. And it was largely women's work. For Irena Sendler, a Catholic Pole in her 30s, and for the dozens of women in her underground network, gender was as crucial as code names, secret hand signals, safe houses and smuggling routes in a conspiracy that would save at least 2,500 young lives.

A woman in the underground could carry a swaddled baby from one safe house to another and look like any other mother with a child. She could board a train with a 5-year-old girl bearing forged identity papers, bound for a convent that hid hundreds of Jewish children, and claim they were heading to visit relatives in the countryside.

It was 1941, and the Nazis had forced more than 400,000 Jews behind the 10-foot-high walls of the Warsaw ghetto. Jews were dying by the thousands from starvation, from typhus, from Gestapo bullets. At first, Sendler, a social worker in Warsaw, smuggled in lard, meat and money beneath her clothes, using an ID from the city's Health Department. But she soon realized it was meager aid. The only real lifeline for Jews was the one that led out.

For some, heroism is an instinct. Sendler, who stood shy of 5 feet, had bright blue eyes and the smooth, round cheeks of a schoolgirl, saved Jewish children, she later said, because "my heart told me to." In the early 1900s, her father, her greatest influence, was the only doctor in their town who provided medical aid to patients with typhus, she explained, to Mary Skinner, the producer of a coming documentary on Sendler. Before he died from the disease when Irena was 7 years old, he told her that if she saw someone drowning, she should not stop to ask questions. You just jump in, he said.

And so she did — each time she helped another child escape the ghetto. By 1943, Sendler was running a network of dozens of women and a smaller number of men for the children's division of Zegota, the underground organization financed by the Polish government in exile.

Imagine, for a moment, you were one of the Jewish mothers whom Irena Sendler visited. You would have known her by her code name, Jolanta. And she would have explained that while she could not save everyone, she could try to get your son or daughter to the other side, to the so-called Aryan side, where the child might live in a convent, or the home of a sympathizer, or an orphanage. She would write down the child's name, along with a new Polish Christian name and an address, with the hope that the
family would be reunited one day. Otherwise, she could promise nothing; she did not know if she would make it past the ghetto’s guards.

Wrenching discussions followed. Parents worried they would be the next ones sent to the Treblinka “work camp.” They worried, too, about their children surviving one more day in the ghetto. And yet. Do you trust your child’s life to a stranger?

Sendler recalled haunting exchanges. A mother said yes, but the father said no. A grandmother sobbed and clung to a child, refusing to let the baby go. Indecision became a decision: more than once, Sendler returned to the apartment of a waver and parent to discover the entire family had been deported.

Other parents — desperate, starving, fearing the worst — said yes. A mother handed over her 6-month-old baby, Elzbieta, with a memento of their short life together: a silver teaspoon with the baby’s name on one side, her birth date on the other. A salvaged item for a salvaged child, Elzbieta Piechowska would later recall. Like many babies, Elzbieta was drugged — Sendler’s co-conspirators often used the barbiturate Luminal — before being placed in a tiny wooden box and driven out of the ghetto in a truck loaded with bricks.

Once outside the walls, the hardest work began. Collaborators known as couriers, some of them teenage girls, took school-age children as well as babies to temporary housing. The children acquired new names and awaited fake baptismal certificates. Rachela became Marysia. A child with the last name Grinberg became Kowalska. Children were drilled in Polish songs, poems, Catholic prayers. Some children who looked too Semitic had their faces bandaged when they were moved from one safe house to another. Black hair was dyed blond. Boys were dressed as girls (the Gestapo might check to see if a boy was circumcised).

In 1943, the Gestapo arrested Sendler. The

She spent the rest of the war working for Zegota, under assumed names, and continued to help children and families as a social worker after the war. But it wasn’t until the mid-1960s that organizations, including the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, began giving awards and financial assistance to Sendler. Then, in 1990 a group of Kansas high-school girls wrote a play about Sendler called “Life in a Jar,” which they eventually performed all over United States and in Poland, where the girls visited Sendler.

The media leapt on the story of the friendship between rural American students and an elderly, unsung Polish heroine. Several newspapers portrayed Sendler as a kind of superhero, single-handedly saving some 2,500 children. It was untrue. Sendler insisted. Smuggling and then protecting children required a long chain of bravery that included couriers, nuns, priests, Polish families. But it was the first act of bravery that made the most heart-wrenching impression on Sendler. A moment of courage when Jewish mothers and fathers kissed their babies one last time in order to give them a chance to live.
PROFILES: RIGHTeous AMONG THE NATIONS

Tadeusz Stankiewicz

Born in 1930 in Pulawy, his family had many contacts with Jews before the war. Once the war started the Stankiewicz family lived in a forester’s lodge near Opole Lubelskie where the father, Józef, worked as a forester. He was already hiding some Jews when he arranged with Jewish authorities to have Jewish workers leave the ghetto to work for him. About 30 Jews left to work in the forest but many more came illegally. Once the ghetto closed 200 people stayed in the forest. In 1943 the Germans were alerted by a Pole about the Jews hiding in the forest bunkers. Most of them were then killed, but six survivors were hidden in the forest lodge by the Stankiewicz family. Tadeusz, his parents and sister (posthumously) were awarded the medal “Righteous Among the Nations” in 2006.

Józef Wałaszczyk

This man’s fascinating story involved negotiating freedom for 21 Jewish hostages for a kilogram of gold which he collected from friends in Warsaw, where he lived. One of the hostages was his Jewish friend Irena Front whom he saved from death many times. He hid her and her friends in his apartment until the end of the war, and also helped a group of 20 Jews get hired to work in his cousin’s factory. He later helped this group of workers get out of Warsaw to safety on the Aryan side. Irena Front and her friends survived the Warsaw Uprising in Józef’s apartment.

Anna Stupnicka – Bando

Anna is a retired neurologist who was awarded the medal “Righteous Among Nations” along with her mother, Janina Stupnicka. When Anna was 12 she would accompany her mother, a housing administrator who carried residence registry books, to the ghetto where Anna would carry food in her satchel. One day her mother told her they were bringing a Jewish girl out of the ghetto. This turned out to be 11-year old Liliana, who became her “cousin” and remained with the family for four years, until the liberation. Another relative of the Stupnickas also hid Jews in their apartment. Anna, her mother, and Liliana together survived the uprising, the camp in Pruszków, and a three-day exportation in stockcars.

Ireneusz Rajchowski

He was 14 when his mother, Maria, brought home a man named Witold Góra with whom she worked at a factory in the ghetto. This man stayed with them for several months. The entire Rajchowski family, including several aunts, devoted themselves selflessly to helping Jews. A teenage girl was brought out of the ghetto in 1942 by Ireneusz’s mother, and after the outbreak of the uprising, no one came to claim her. So Ireneusz himself took her by boat to another village where she hid in the woods. Before the war ended the entire Rajchowski family was sent to a German labor camp. Afterwards, Witold Góra found the family in Gdansk. In 1986 he gave his account of the help he received from the Rajchowskis to the Yad Vashem and Jewish Historical Institutes.

Alicja Schnepf (nee Szczepaniak)

Natalia Szczepaniak lived with her two daughters, Alicja and Barbara, in a tiny one-room apartment in a section of Warsaw. She helped to shelter people, and on deciding to do this knew she would have to lock the doors to her apartment, something she had never done. In 1943 two Jews were brought to stay with her. Eventually seven Jews were hidden in the apartment, sometimes hiding in an old closet, sometimes hiding under the bed. Alicja remembers being liberated by the Russian army, running out to the street weeping from happiness at their deliverance from daily fear of death.
PROFILES: SURVIVORS OF THE
HOLOCAUST

Krystyna Budnicka

Born in Warsaw in 1932, she was the eighth child of a Jewish Orthodox family, the Kuczers, who lived within the ghetto limits. By the end of the war Krystyna was the sole survivor of her large family. Two of Krystyna’s brothers were deported to Treblinka in 1942. During the Ghetto Uprising in 1943, three other brothers fought the Germans while the rest of the family hid in an underground bunker. When the Germans discovered the hiding place after the uprising ended, two more brothers were killed while the rest of the family escaped to the sewers. They waited for help which never came, and Krystyna’s parents, sister and youngest brother also died. In 1944 Krystyna found shelter in an orphanage run by Polish nuns, where she remained after the war and attended high school. She graduated from the Catholic University of Lublin in 1956 and was a teacher to special needs children until her retirement. She became a member of the Children of the Holocaust Association in 1991.

Barbara Góra

Born as Irena Hochberg in 1932 to an assimilated Jewish family in Warsaw, the Hochbergs were forced to relocate to the ghetto in 1941. They avoided deportation to Treblinka by hiding in the attic of the father’s factory. A Pole who worked at the father’s fur coat factory smuggled the 10-year old Irena out of the ghetto and hid her with his family for some time. She was then shuttled between four different families, at which point her father arranged and paid for her to hide with another one of his employees. Because Irena looked “Aryan” she was able to travel and trade in contraband to support herself and her hosts. In 1944 she was reunited with her family, and due to their physical location they were spared being part of the Uprising. After the war she went to high school, and then graduated from Moscow Agricultural University in 1956.She worked in various positions connected to her education and retired in 1987.