Seton Hall University honored Paul B. Winkler, Ed.D., Executive Director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, with a Doctor of Humane Letters honoris causa at the twentieth annual Evening of Roses event on Sunday, April 21, 2013. SHU President, A. Gabriel Esteban officiated at the hooding ceremony before an appreciative audience of friends, family and well-wishers.

David Bossman, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Sister Rose Thering Fund, and Paul Gibbons, its chairman, welcomed our guests, while Luna Kaufman, immediate past chairman of the Fund, also a former member of the Commission, introduced Dr. Winkler. She spoke of his devotion to social causes and his professional involvement since 1974 in Holocaust genocide education and prejudice reduction.

After the hooding ceremony, Dr. Winkler expressed his gratitude for such an honor and praised the work of the Sister Rose Thering Fund, particularly as it continues to combat anti-Semitism. He noted, too, that as the survivors of the Holocaust dwindle in number, it becomes the duty of everyone to preserve their memory through oral histories and through the children who adopt survivors and retell their experiences. He urged all listeners to become witnesses in the future.

A short retrospective video, “Celebrating Twenty Years of the Sister Rose Thering Fund” had been prepared through our office and the Department of Communication. It traced the history of the organization, highlighted the
many individuals who have participated on the Board of Trustees, the luminaries who have been honored over the years and the assistance the Fund has given to teachers for twenty years. Its message of friendship and commonality was best spoken in the video by Sister Rose as she read from the Book of Ruth – *Your people will be my people.*

As a special “gift” to Dr. Winkler, the Fund invited the Newark Boys Chorus under the direction of *Donald C. Morris*, to perform. The forty boys, from communities ranging from Newark, Irvington, Orange, East Orange, Belleville, Roselle and South Orange, sang a variety of spirituals in their exquisite voices. They sang again in an informal setting at the gala catered reception that followed in the Atrium of Jubilee Hall.

**ANNOUNCING THE HERITAGE ROSE SOCIETY OF PLANNED GIFTS**

**An Honor Roll of Donors**

*THE HERITAGE ROSE SOCIETY* is a new recognition program to honor the generosity of those people who have arranged for planned gifts of $10,000 or more for the benefit of the Sister Rose Thering Fund’s permanent endowment.

These gifts and pledge commitments help to perpetuate the legacy of Sister Rose Thering at Seton Hall University by fostering understanding and cooperation among Jews, Christians and people of other religious traditions; by inspiring others to act with audacity, courage and generosity in addressing social injustice; and by strengthening the Jewish-Christian Studies program.

The following donors have each contributed $10,000 or more to a named endowed scholarship in honor of Luna Kaufman (chairman emerita of the Sister Rose Thering Fund) which is housed within the SRTF’s permanent endowment.

With sincere gratitude we name the first members of the HERITAGE ROSE SOCIETY:  

**David M. Bossman, Ph.D.**  
**Paul and Mary Gibbons**  
**Kenneth and Karan Oleckna**  
**Carol and Alan Silberstein**  
**Robert H. Werbel**
Standing before a nearly full-house of family, friends and colleagues on Sunday, December 2, 2012, Luna Kaufman, Chairman emerita of the Board of Trustees of the Sister Rose Thering Fund, dedicated a trove of personal memorabilia to the University. Her gifts were gratefully accepted by Dr. John Buschman, Dean of the Walsh Libraries at Seton Hall, and will be placed in the Walsh Library Archives.

Surrounded by her close friends and colleagues Dr. David Bossman and Paul Gibbons, executive director and chairman, respectively, of the Board, with her blue and grey striped prison dress hanging bravely next to her, Luna made it clear that she was not a victim of the Holocaust but a true survivor of three labor camps and a victor over her struggles. She went on to tell how Sister Rose Thering had encouraged her to talk about her war-time experiences, particularly to school children, and how grateful she was for that “push” to open up in public and relate not the horrors of her experiences but her gratitude for surviving to become an active and productive member of society.

Luna was warmly greeted by Polish Consul General to New York, Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka, who spoke of Luna’s strong connection to her homeland while presenting her with a grand bouquet of red and white flowers. The Consul told of the forthcoming opening in Warsaw of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, on April 19, 2013, the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising, and invited all to try to attend this event. (Note: Alan Silberstein, Board member of the SRTF, attended the event. See page 13.)

Evan Neiden, Luna’s grandson, read a letter written by Nina Rapoport Wolmark, daughter of sculptor Nathan Rapoport, to all of Luna’s six grandchildren. In it she told of Luna’s friendship with her father and their collaboration on the design of the Flame, a sculpture remembering the six-million that now stands in the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York, as well as other pieces Mr. Rapoport crafted. Evan’s reading was mesmerizing, once again watched over by Luna’s dress, symbolic of a time not to be forgotten and of Luna’s courage and fortitude. At the conclusion of the reading, Luna’s grandchildren each presented her with a red rose.

In a special tribute, Luna presented guest of honor, former Governor Brendan A. Byrne, a plaque from the Sister Rose Thering Fund for his efforts while governor of New Jersey and since, to promote education for all children in the state of New Jersey.

As a surprise to Luna, Paul Gibbons announced that members of the Board of Trustees of the Sister Rose Thering Fund have begun an endowed scholarship, in perpetuity, in her name. It was Luna’s idea to begin the sponsored scholarship program now in its tenth year, so this was indeed a fitting tribute to the Fund’s immediate past chairman. (See page 9)

The program concluded with a rendition of the cantata, “To Remember It All” written by Eddie Halpern, a friend of Luna’s from Poland, who had dedicated the music to her in 1985. Dr. Jason Tramm, Artist in Residence at Seton Hall, led a group of professional singers and musicians in performing this dark but moving piece, narrated by Daniel Neiden, Luna’s son-in-law.

All guests were invited to a reception sponsored by the Kaufman family during which time they could leaf through Luna’s scrapbooks and have her sign copies of her memoirs, Luna’s Life: A Journey of Forgiveness and Triumph.

Prior to the program, a group of family and friends had attended an interfaith prayer service in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception. Rabbi Alan Brill, Rev. Lawrence Frizzell, Father John Morley, Paul Gibbons and Cantor Daniel Neiden took part in the service led by Monsignor Anthony Ziccardi, Executive Vice President of Mission and Ministry.
At the Sister Rose Thering Fund Board Retreat on January 29, 2013, discussion addressed challenges facing the SRTF today. Sister Rose’s leadership style, one board member suggested, could be encapsulated in the word “audacious” in pursuit of social justice. How do we today reach out more audaciously?

The New Jersey Mandate for Genocide and Holocaust Education provides direction: “There is an inescapable link between violence and vandalism and ethnic and racial intolerance.”

In prescribing Holocaust education throughout the K-12 curriculum, the Mandate describes the kind of education that is needed to stem the tide of violence:

*The instruction shall enable pupils to identify and analyze applicable theories concerning human nature and behavior: to understand that genocide is a consequence of prejudice and discrimination: and to understand that issues of moral dilemma and conscience have a profound impact on life. The instruction shall further emphasize the personal responsibility that each citizen bears to fight racism and hatred whenever and wherever it happens.*

Dear Rabbi Orenstein

Rabbi Jehiel Orenstein, rabbi emeritus of Congregation Beth El in South Orange, good friend, mentor and member of the Sister Rose Thering Board of Trustees for many years, passed away on May 5, 2013 after a long and difficult illness. He had been a friend of Sister Rose since they both served on the South Orange/Maplewood Holocaust Commemoration Committee from its inception, and continued their fond relationship until Sister Rose passed away seven years ago. She called him her “rebbe” often seeking his advice and counsel. He participated regularly in programs at the Evening of Roses, lending his quick wit and soft-spoken message to an invocation or benediction. Not many of us knew of his many talents—musician, magician, chess master, tennis player—to name a few, but we did know him as a beautiful, humble person always ready to offer a few well-chosen words of wisdom. He will be sorely missed. – REST IN PEACE, JEHIEL.

In keeping with Sister Rose’s audacious leadership in education, we have designed a new course for teachers in urban schools entitled *Personal Rights and Responsibilities for a Just Society*. This course will address issues in urban schools that undermine personal rights and responsibilities such as bullying and coercive gang practices (based on such factors as race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, social class, or locality).

In keeping with Holocaust and Genocide studies, the course will apply resources that have been effective for raising awareness of causes and effects of destructive social behavior. It will develop a curriculum to engender personal responsibility for building an inclusive social order necessary for a just society. The outcomes of the course will be tailored teaching units for confronting destructive group practices and for building models that promote personal responsibility and leadership.

To help reach out to teachers from urban schools, we invited teachers from local schools to attend a lecture by Dr. Richard Ognibene, former Dean of the SHU College of Education and Human Services, on Jonathan Kozol and Issues for Urban Schools (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7uDLr6Z4lo). Kozol’s insights can serve to focus on the special needs in urban schools. Additional outreach to Newark teachers will continue as a focal project for our fall semester’s courses, which also include Lessons from the Holocaust. Our goal is to bring in twelve new urban teachers from this initiative.

Sister Rose will continue to serve as inspiration and model for the work of the Sister Rose Thering Fund for Education in Jewish-Christian Studies.

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**HANUKKAH AT THE FINES’**

Cantor Perry and Miki Fine hosted a Hanukkah supper and celebration at their South Orange home on December 10. Cantor Perry, newly installed at Temple Beth Shalom in Livingston, and Miki, one of the newer members of the Board of Trustees of the SRTF, graciously invited SRTF board members to taste delicious Israeli foods, light the third Hanukkah candle as a group, and sing holiday songs. The Fines’ warm hospitality lent a festive tone to this special board meeting on a cold winter evening.
In my last column, I described in depth the beginning of the dialogue between Catholics and Jews begun here in the United States sixty years ago when Msgr. Oesterreicher arrived at Seton Hall University. While celebrating the beginning of the dialogue and the founding of the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies, I also wanted to focus on the strength of the dialogue today as it continues in the Institute, the Jewish Christian Studies Program and the activities of the Sister Rose Thering Fund for Education in Jewish-Christian Studies.

The inaugural event in January was a lecture by Princeton University’s Dr. Peter Schäfer, Professor of Jewish Studies and Professor of Religion. In his keynote address the text read in this class has impacted my life.

“Two Powers in Heaven: The Emergence of Binitarian Ideas in pre-Christian Judaism,” Dr. Schäfer, discussed father-son imagery in pre-Christian Jewish literature, contrasting those ideas with the concept of the “trinity.”

“Around the nation and around the world, Seton Hall gives a wonderful example of how advancing Jewish-Christian dialogue needs be done,” said Dr. Schäfer. “I am very honored and proud, and my only regret is that I didn’t visit earlier.”

In March we held the second annual Dr. Marcia Robbins Wilf Lecture. Dr. Michael Berenbaum and Dr. John Pawlikowski discussed Nostra Aetate and its effects on Catholic -Jewish relations.

“We are especially delighted to bring two great minds, two great achievers together today to speak from very distinctive points of view in Judaism and Christianity,” Dr. Bossman Executive Director of the Sister Rose Thering Fund, said.

Dr. Berenbaum said he prides Seton Hall on its dedication to Jewish-Christian studies, citing the university’s efforts as being some of the most important and some of the holiest work that can be done.

“The University has decided to use Nostra Aetate as a framework for the core curriculum, and I don’t know of any other university that has made that kind of commitment,” Dr. Pawlikowski said. “I certainly regard Seton Hall as sacred ground in terms of the history of Catholic-Jewish relations.”

On April 14 the thirty-sixth annual Yom Hashoah Commemoration was held at Seton Hall University sponsored by Building Bridges and the South Orange Maplewood Holocaust Remembrance Committee. Although Sister Rose was one of the founders of the Committee, this is the first time the commemoration was held at Seton Hall.

On April 21 we celebrated our twentieth Evening of Roses. The focus of the event was the bestowal of an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters on Dr. Paul Winkler, Executive Director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Studies by Dr. Gabriel Estaban, President of Seton Hall University. Many commission members as well as our usual supporters attended the event. The Newark Boys Chorus added a joyful noise to the celebration.

On May 5 we recognized the winners of our Essay Contest, their families and teachers. Each of the winners read from their essays recognizing the impact of Sr. Rose's life story on them and describing their own acts of courage in the face of prejudice and bullying. Dr. Paul Winkler’s address to them was a moving tribute to these young students.

So we have had a very busy year so far, with many new people becoming aware of the University's strong commitment to the Catholic-Jewish dialogue. Other events that are part of our Sixty Years of Building Bridges are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN
Paul Gibbons

Professor Gibbons’ Student’s Comments

Paul Gibbons, now in his fifth year as Chairman of the Board of the Sister Rose Thering Fund, is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Religion. He teaches “Contemporary Moral Issues” to students who are members of all classes, freshmen through seniors. His final exam this semester asked his students to “demonstrate how your learning over the past semester has enhanced or sustained what you already knew, has given you new ways to understand and make judgments about moral theology, or has seriously challenged what you thought you knew. Cite authors, texts and page numbers."

One student, Fran Rodriguez, currently a freshman, responded in part:

Last but not least is Sister Rose Thering who was present in every text we read …. I would like to think that Sister Rose’s passion for her goals is one that I can imitate and follow in my own future endeavors, but I simply do not know if I could completely rebel against what people have taught me my whole life and change a whole world’s view on an issue. It takes a truly extraordinary person as Sister Rose was to do something like that making it seem as though her purpose in life and being brought to this world was to fix this view on Jewish people. Before this course and watching this film, I had no idea the impact Sister Rose had on… both religions, but after watching the film I have established a new respect for her and aspire to be like her in my pursuit of my own life dreams and goals. Sister Rose Thering has been gone now for 7 years but her legacy lives on not only in Seton Hall University but all over the world as she will forever be known as the woman that built the bridge. It is evident that every text read in this class has impacted my life.
Focus On Monsignor Anthony Ziccardi

Several years ago Monsignor Robert Sheeran, then President of Seton Hall University, asked Monsignor Anthony Ziccardi to represent the University at the board meetings of the Sister Rose Thering Endowment for Jewish-Christian Studies. In 2006 he had been named Vice President for Mission and Ministry as well as Secretary to the Board of Regents. The purpose of the Office of Mission and Ministry is to supervise ministry efforts, and to promote the mission of the University. To that end the office provides assistance to the many divisions, departments, and programs of the University. At that time the SRTF was reviewing its purpose and mandate. The Board was looking to define more clearly its mission and undertook a self-examination. This resulted in a revision of the bylaws as well as a name change to the Sister Rose Thering Fund for Education in Jewish-Christian Studies. Msgr. Ziccardi was most helpful in our deliberations with his thoughtful review that continues to this day. He has also been an advocate and liaison between our group and the administration. He has been very generous with his participation and guidance in the recent past as well as during the major Retreat undertaken by the entire Board this year to set a vision for the future.

Msgr. Ziccardi had known both Msgr. John Oesterreicher and Sister Rose long before the SRTF was established. He has an extensive background in our area of interest. He graduated summa cum laude from Seton Hall with a B.A. in sociology and a Master of Divinity degree and was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark in 1990. Subsequently, he received a licentiate degree in Sacred Scripture (S.S.L., magna cum laude) from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and a doctoral degree in biblical theology (S.T.D., summa cum laude) from the Pontifical Gregorian University, also in Rome. As an academic, he has served as an assistant professor of biblical studies at Seton Hall’s Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology and as the school’s Associate Dean from 1998-2002. Among the many subjects he has taught at the university are Hebrew and Pentateuch. He is convinced that no true appreciation of Christianity is possible without an understanding of its Jewish roots.

Msgr. Ziccardi’s challenge to the SRTF is to “Get the word out!” about our organization. We must be effective in promoting our mission, its programs, scholarship opportunities for educators, lectures, and speakers. He has been a great cheerleader for our program by his interest, good will, and support. Our Board is most grateful for all he has contributed to our cause.

Contributed by Ann Burgmeyer, member of the SRTF Board of Trustees.
What is a Retreat? In the case of the January 29th full day of meetings, discussions and meals, it was a time for members of the Sister Rose Thering Fund Board of Trustees to gather to plan strategically for the twenty year-old organization’s future while concentrating also on a myriad of important tasks at hand.

Seventy percent of the full board membership participated in this opportunity to meet as a group. The carefully planned and outlined session had been created in conference with the Sister Rose Thering Executive Committee and facilitator R. Barkley Calkins, Director of Seton Hall’s Nonprofit Sector Resource Institute. Barkley discussed with board members what makes a great board, what the Retreat’s goals should be, set some ground rules and laid out plans for the day. The issue of a new vision and mission statement for the SRTF was of paramount concern, as were key challenges and priorities facing the group as it maintains Sister Rose Thering’s legacy but moves forward to meet its new challenges.

During lunch, board members were joined by Michael Zavada, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; David Bohan, Vice President of University Advancement; Charles Carter, Ph.D., Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences; Stephanie Hauge, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations; and later by Monsignor Anthony Ziccardi, Executive Director of Mission and Ministry, who stayed for the remainder of the day. Each spoke emphatically and enthusiastically about their support of the work of the SRTF, and pledged to continue to do so.

During the afternoon session, Barkley divided the attendees into three work groups each given the task of identifying three to five most important strategic priorities for the SRTF as well as goals and action plans. Via notes taken at each session, it was possible to summarize these discussions so a written report could be made available to the Board.

The meeting sessions were followed by supper at the home of board member and host Marilyn Rosenbaum.

At the regular February board meeting, Barkley presented a written report, as promised. Some of the major goals of the Retreat, such as unifying and re-energizing the board, clarifying critical issues and initiating a number of new goals, objectives and action items are being carefully considered and have been partially met. Barkley’s recommendations are being undertaken thoughtfully by the board and a number of sub-committees.

The entire Board of Trustees expressed its gratitude to Barkley Calkins for sharing his time, energy and recommendations, and, above all, for sharing his expertise in dealing with a non-profit such as the Sister Rose Thering Fund.
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

Teachers and SRTF Board members gathered on Sunday, October 21 for the annual Scholarship Awards Presentation Program.

Five teachers, recipients of the Curt C. and Else Silberman Foundation scholarships, each received a certificate and were introduced to Mrs. Evi Meinhardt, board member of the Silberman Foundation, while one teacher received a scholarship in memory of Arnold Segal donated by Mrs. Hattie Segal. (See list on page 9)

This program, now in its tenth year, presents an occasion for recipients and donors to meet one another personally. Scholarship recipients can exchange information about the courses they are taking in Jewish-Christian Studies and acknowledge the support they receive from their sponsor.

The program featured an invited guest speaker, Michael Kogan, Ph.D., who discussed his book, Opening the Covenant: A Jewish Theology of Christianity.

Dr. Kogan, Professor of Religion at Montclair State University, has recently joined the Board of Trustees of the SRTF and so had an opportunity to share his views with teachers in public and private schools as well as with his new colleagues.

Dr. Kogan’s remarks were thoughtful, logical and even at times humorous, as he explained the similarities and differences between Judaism and Christianity. His main point was that the two religions have much in common and should find more opportunities to share their commonalities.

David Bossmann, Ph.D., Executive Director of the SRTF and Professor of Jewish-Christian Studies at SHU, introduced Dr. Kogan and fielded a number of probing questions during the discussion period.

Chairman Paul Gibbons welcomed the group and expressed his gratitude for student participation in this annual program. He also expressed his deep gratitude to the Silberman Foundation and Evi Meinhardt, its representative, for their generous support of our programs, as well as to Hattie Segal and Carol and Alan Silberstein who have been supporters for several years.

I greatly believe that participating in the Sister Rose Thering program at Seton Hall University will be beneficial both to my students in the classroom and to the school community as a whole. . . I feel that improving my own education in Jewish-Christian Studies will help to bring a better understanding of relations and past-prejudices between Jews and Christians to my classroom. . . In addition to the courses I teach [in World History, United States History II and Social and Cultural History] I serve on the Millburn High School Holocaust/Genocide Memorial Committee. . . which incorporates speakers that are survivors from various genocides, including the Holocaust, Rwanda and Bosnia. . . I believe that studying Jewish-Christian Studies will help to bring a new and deeper perspective to my school’s committee.

Lori Gibson
Social Studies Teacher
Millburn High School

The courses offered at Seton Hall. . .furthered my education in the people and context in which Jesus lived, and expanded my knowledge of other religious beliefs; since I am in charge of teaching introductory religion to freshmen/sophomores. . at Bergen Catholic High School, this understanding is invaluable. I have experienced first-hand the difference a knowledgeable educator makes in a religion course. It can spark a continual interest for connections between Judaism and Christianity, as well as other faiths. The students want answers and thorough explanations. I am here to provide them with these, so that they may grow into broadminded individuals and spiritually sensitive people. Parents approach me with grateful comments, for providing their children with answers they could not find at home. I am a resource, and in taking Jewish Roots of Christianity, the Thering [Fund] will allow me to be the best educator I can be.

Jasmine Urzo
Teacher of Religion
Bergen Catholic High School

I am certain that additional exposure to the Jewish perspective will enhance my understanding of the issues confronting those who work for greater ecumenical cooperation and tolerance. I am further certain that I will be better able to return to my school and to move our curriculum and approach in directions designed to highlight this perspective.

Joseph Moran
Principal
All Saints Academy, Bayonne
Sponsored Scholarships

Our Sponsored Scholarship Program encourages individuals to donate a specific amount (currently $3,300) to cover tuition for a three-credit course for a teacher currently employed in a New Jersey school. The following teachers received these sponsorships this academic year and met and acknowledged their sponsor.

Fall 2012

Jordyn Barry – pre-school and religious school teacher, Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel, South Orange, Silberman Foundation Scholar

Matthew Butler – Religion Teacher, Christian Brothers Academy, Linwood, Silberman Foundation Scholar

Michele Dahl – Religion Coordinator and teacher, Oak Knoll School, Morristown, Silberman Foundation Scholar

Sarah Davis – Director of Programs and Development, Network of Enlightened Women, NYC, Hattie Segal Scholar in memory of Arnold Segal

Christian Mathews – Social Studies Teacher, Marist High School, Bayonne, Silberman Foundation Scholar

Kibwe Miller – per diem substitute, Newark School System, Silberman Foundation Scholar

Josefa Naveiras – per diem substitute, Newark School System, Silberman Foundation Scholar

Kathryn Cruz O’Connell – pre-school teacher, All Sorrows Church, South Orange, Silberman Foundation Scholar

Spring 2013

Jordyn Barry – pre-school and religious school teacher, Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel, South Orange, Hattie Segal Scholar in memory of Arnold Segal

Matthew Butler – Religion Teacher, Christian Brothers Academy, Linwood, Silberman Foundation Scholar

Isabel Gachko – World Religion teacher, St. Mary Academy, Watchung, Silberman Foundation Scholar

Christian Mathews – Social Studies Teacher, Marist High School, Bayonne, Silberman Foundation Scholar

Joseph Moran – Principal, All Saints Catholic Academy, Bayonne, Silberman Foundation Scholar

Lori Gibson – Social Studies teacher, Millburn High School, Luna Kaufman Scholar

Jasmine Urzo – Teacher of Religion, Bergen Catholic High School, Silberman Foundation Scholar

Fall 2013

Elvio Esteban, ordained Deacon, Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, SHU, dedicated scholarship for fall study by young Christian scholars at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

Does this program interest you?

You can use this pledge card (or a facsimile) or the attached pledge envelope to become a donor of a teacher in our program, or you can email us at marilyn.zirl@shu.edu, or call 973-761-9006. We will answer your questions or concerns.

Thank you.
After nearly a year and a half of planning for this year-long program, the opening event of *Sixty Years of Building Bridges* took place on Wednesday, January 30, 2013. The inaugural lecture, marking the 60th anniversary of Jewish-Christian Studies and the work of Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher at Seton Hall, was given by Peter Schäfer, D.Phil., Ronald O. Pearlman Professor of Religion and Director of the Program in Judaic Studies at Princeton University. The program was introduced by co-chair of the Steering Committee, Charles Carter, Ph.D., Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Schäfer’s topic was based on the title of his 2012 book, *The Jewish Jesus: How Judaism and Christianity Shaped Each Other*. Dr. Carter facilitated the question period.

Rev. Lawrence Frizzell, D. Phil., Director of the Jewish-Christian Studies Program at Seton Hall, had introduced the speaker, while President A. Gabriel Esteban welcomed guests to Jubilee Hall Auditorium. Paul Gibbons, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Sister Rose Thering Fund, read a letter to Dr. Esteban from Susannah Kokkonen, Director of Christian Friends of Yad Vashem, congratulating Seton Hall on its unique program while commenting on the fact that Yad Vashem was also established sixty years ago. (See article page 6)

A video presentation of the life of Monsignor Oesterreicher, prepared by Seton Hall’s TV Production Class III, was shown. Rabbi Alan Brill, Ph.D., holder of the Cooperman/Ross Endowed Chair in honor of Sister Rose, spoke briefly of his recently published volume, *Judaism and World Religions; Encountering Christianity, Islam and Eastern Traditions*. Both Rabbi Brill’s and Dr. Schäfer’s books were available for signing at the conclusion of the program.

Dr. Jason Tramm, D.M.A., Seton Hall’s choral director, led the choir in a musical interlude, while Rabbi Asher Finkel, Ph.D., professor of Jewish-Christian Studies, gave the closing prayer and blessing.

Descriptions of the programs planned for the year 2013 are found below.

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**Tentative List Of Documentary Films For Building Bridges Film Festival**

Dates to be announced.

**I Am Joseph Your Brother** – Film about the 2000 visit of Pope John Paul II to Israel. Commentator – Fr. Michael McGarrick formerly of the Tantour Institute in Israel.

**Return to Italy** (working title) – in production – Italian Jews saved by the cyclist Gino Bartali, a story little known outside of Italy, return to visit the people and places where they were detained under the German occupation. Commentator – Oren Jacoby, producer-director who also produced and directed *Sister Rose’s Passion*.

**Shanghai Ghetto** – German Jews who escaped to China and were saved by the Chinese. Film is narrated by actor Martin Landau. Commentator to be determined.

**An Open Door: Jewish Rescue in the Philippines** – Commentator – Director, Noel Izon.

**God Sleeps in Rwanda:** A powerful documentary focused on the women of Rwanda after the Genocide. – Commentator – Emmanuel Ryranga.

**The Test of Freedom: Muslim Americans and the Struggle against Prejudice** – Commentators – Director Khaliff A. Watkins and possibly Professor Anisa Mehta.

All events are open to the public and are free of charge.
TRIBUTES 2012-2013

In Memory

Deborah Lerner Duane .......................... In memory of sister of Rev. John Morley
In memory of brother-in-law of Rev. John Morley
Susan and Howard Feinstein .................. In memory of Elizabeth Becker, mother of Dr. Paula Alexander
In memory of Dr. Harry Romanowitz
In memory of Steven Goldman
In memory of mother of Mrs. Ruth Loew Schildiner
In memory of Rose Cafiero, sister of Mrs. A. Grupico
Josefa Naveiras ................................ In memory of Elisa Naveiras
Dolores Princz .................................. In memory of Hugo Princz
Marilyn Rosenbaum ......................... In memory of Elizabeth Becker, mother of Dr. Paula Alexander
Alan Silberstein ............................... In memory of Elizabeth Becker, mother of Dr. Paula Alexander
SFTF Board of Trustees .................. In memory of Rabbi Jehiel Orenstein
In memory of sister of Rev. John Morley
In memory of mother of Karen Lunger
In memory of Dr. Joseph DiPierro
In memory of Eli Zborowski, Founder of the International Foundation for Yad Vashem
In memory of Paola Guasconi, mother of Joseph Guasconi
In memory of Elizabeth Becker, mother of Dr. Paula Alexander
In memory of David Gewirtzman
In memory of father of Brenda Knight and Pat Pitt
In memory of Joann, mother of Mary Paternoster
Sterling Stuckey ................................ In memory of Kaye Bentley
Marilyn Zirl ..................................... In memory of sister of Rev. John Morley
In memory of Ed Appel
In memory of Robert Fisher son of Herbert Fisher
In memory of Arthur Fisher
In memory of mother of Michael Breitman
In memory of Ernestine Turkel’s brother
In memory of Rose Weiss, mother of Ilene Musikant and Jeffrey Weiss
In memory of Zita Friedland
In memory of Arnold Bauer’s sister Beverly

In Honor

Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Bucholtz ................. In honor of Rabbi Jehiel Orenstein
Fred and Ellin Cohen .......................... In honor of Deborah Lerner Duane’s graduation
Deborah Lerner and Dan Duane .............. To Carol and Alan Silberstein in honor of the birth of their granddaughter Lena Rose
In honor Marilyn Zirl’s grandson’s Bar Mitzvah
Linda Faver .................................... In honor of Rabbi Asher Finkel’s retirement
Adina and Geoff Feinstein .................... In honor of Susan Feinstein, on Mother’s Day
Susan and Howard Feinstein ................. For recovery of Melanie Ahron
In honor of the marriage of Deborah Lerner Duane and Daniel Duane’s daughter
Paul Gibbons .................................. For recovery of Ken Oleckna
Miriam Peled .................................. In honor of Rabbi Asher Finkel’s retirement
SRTF Board of Trustees .................. For recovery of Ken Oleckna
In honor of Murray Laulicht being named a Lawyer of the Year
In honor of the engagement of Sally Erlbaum, daughter of Judy and Steven Erlbaum, to Mark Friedman
In honor of Rabbi Asher Finkel’s retirement
Marilyn Zirl .................................... For recovery of Ken Oleckna
In honor of the marriage of Deborah Lerner Duane and Daniel Duane’s daughter
THIRD ANNUAL SISTER ROSE THERING ESSAY CONTEST

On May 5, the Board of Trustees of the Sister Rose Thering Fund welcomed to Seton Hall seven New Jersey high school students, winners of the Essay Competition based on *Sister Rose’s Passion*, her award-winning documentary. Each year we have asked teachers to incorporate the film into their curriculum, discuss it in class and ask their students to write an essay answering the question, “How does the film relate to an experience in your life?”

Essay Winners for 2013

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<th>School</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
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<td>McNair Academic High School</td>
<td>Holly Smith</td>
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<td>Bridgitt Leon</td>
<td>Vineland High School</td>
<td>Terry Kunreich</td>
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Our Essay Contest Committee, chaired by Karan Oleckna and Susan Feinstein, read and evaluated each essay and were able to select in all eight winners from grades 9 through 12, with a few ties. (One student was not able to attend the recognition program.) The committee members – Ann Burgmeyer, Deborah Lerner Duane, Louis Izzi, Marilyn Rosenbaum, Mary Vazquez, Paul Gibbons, Paula Alexander and Pearl Randall Lehrhoff – marvel at the students’ perceptivity, understanding of Sister Rose’s passion and their ability to express themselves with clarity and logic far beyond their years. Each year the committee remarks how well teenagers manage to “get” what Sister Rose aimed to do and realize how they, too, can change the world, albeit in a smaller but no less significant way.

Each student, accompanied by parents and teachers, read their essay to appreciative applause, received a certificate, a monetary award and several gifts from the SRTF. All guests sat together at a festive lunch hosted by Dr. Marcia Robbins Wilf, and discussed their involvement in their classes, their teacher’s wisdom and their admiration for Sister Rose.

As our good friend, Dr. Paul Winkler, Executive Director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, invited speaker, commented, these students didn't get to be the “upstanders” that they are by a quirk of fate, but rather because they were taught by and learned well from their parents. He commended all involved in this program – teachers, students, parents and the SRTF – for a truly inspiring afternoon.

Jesse Walleon receives awards from Deborah Lerner Duane and Susan Feinstein.

Bridgitt Leon and her family
What our Essayists had to say . . .

Sister Rose is a striking example of how anybody . . . can do something extraordinary. . . . [I worked with] the “Relief Bus”, an organization that helps the homeless . . . by serving food and drinks and telling them where to find work, shelter and rehabilitation centers. Working with the Relief Bus I learn to be more like Sister Rose.

Mariam Saied, Ninth Grade, McNair Academic High School, Jersey City

It will shock many people that America is not as perfect as they think. However, although we’re not perfect nor will the world ever be, there are those few people that strive to make us better people, who are sensitive and understanding, but also strong and united. . . . Sister Rose, one of the leading advocates for racial and religious equality, led the charge in changing how this forever imperfect world thinks. Sister Rose inspired me to follow my dreams of racial and religious equality, even though there will always be those that will challenge me.

Jesse Walleon, Tenth Grade, Bayonne High School

Sister Rose’s Passion. . . shows the impact a single individual can have on society. The film relates to an event I experienced when I was younger. In elementary school, I stood up to a school bully. After I stood up to him, he never bothered anyone ever again. (The bully had made fun of my mother.) The next day. . . a bunch of students approached me and thanked me for standing up to (the bully.) They told me that they had wanted to do what I did but they did not have the courage. . . . Just like Sister Rose, I stood up for my beliefs and what I thought was right.

Rita Potenti, Eleventh Grade, Bayonne High School

It is because of Sister Rose and her lifetime of dedication that I am able to maintain religious tolerance as the norm. [She] gave me the 20/20 vision I needed to appreciate a past moment of religious intolerance [in my life.]

Alessandra Testa, Twelfth Grade, Rancocas Valley Regional High School

And from

Antoinette De Luca, English teacher, Bayonne High School . . .

. . . this is the third year I have shown the video to my classes. My students not only appreciate the work of Sister Rose, but they also feel the need to overcome intolerance by helping others. This is a tribute to Sister Rose for even today, she continues to affect the lives of so many people.

PREVIEW OPENING OF THE MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF POLISH JEWS

Commemorating the 1000-year Jewish presence in Poland, the Museum of the History of Polish Jewry opened for previews on April 19. SRTF Board Treasurer and Fundraising Chairman, Alan Silberstein, attended this long-awaited event as an invited guest of the North American Council organized to raise funds for the museum, chaired by his cousin and SRTF supporter Sigmund Rolat.

The visually arresting building with its centerpiece of a reconstructed 17th century wooden synagogue roof, speaks of a lost civilization. . . . the Poland that was once home to the world’s largest diaspora community. The museum is built on the site of the Warsaw Ghetto and is situated directly across from the famous Rapoport memorial dedicated to the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

The events in April coincided with the 70th anniversary of the Uprising, which were commemorated by a military honor guard, memorial prayers, and the awarding of a presidential medal to Simha Rotem, one of the few surviving ghetto fighters.

Alan Silberstein remarked, “I was very moved to see Christians and Jews coming together to acknowledge the courage of the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto, and to build a better understanding of the history they share.”
Dr. Marcia Robbins Wilf Lecture

The second annual Dr. Marcia Robbins Wilf Lecture on March 10, 2013 had an important place in the year-long program of Sixty Years of Building Bridges, the commemoration of Monsignor Oesterreicher’s life and establishment of Jewish-Christian dialogue at Seton Hall University. It was his outstanding role in the passage of Nostra Aetate and his work, aided by Sister Rose Thering, in creating our graduate program in Jewish-Christian Studies, that forms the basis for this unique celebration. It was, therefore, appropriate that the two speakers chosen for this lecture, Michael Berenbaum, Ph.D., from Los Angeles, and John T. Pawlikowski, Ph.D., from Chicago, addressed the topic, “Catholic-Jewish Relations since Nostra Aetate.”

Each speaker, introduced by Dr. Wilf, spoke to the topic from the point of view of his specialty, Dr. Berernbaum’s understanding of the history of Jews and Christians during and after the Holocaust, and Dr. Pawlikowski’s deep appreciation of the ethical challenges facing the entire human community today and in the future. Both scholars view the passage of Nostra Aetate as an extremely significant milestone in improving relations between the two religions but one that is part of a continuum that will surely involve other faiths as well.

David Bossman, Ph.D., facilitated fielding questions from the large audience. Each speaker was asked to enlarge upon several themes touched upon, and each did so with grace and clarity.

The program was followed by a reception held in the Atrium of Jubilee Hall. The following day, Dr. Pawlikowski, who had remained in South Orange, was joined at lunch by a group of faculty members from the Department of Religion, and later by students in the department’s classes.

Contributed by Eve Morawski
Department of Jewish-Christian Studies Course Offerings

FALL 2013 August 26 – December 9

JCST 6001 Christian-Jewish Encounter
Lawrence Frizzell, D. Phil.
Thursday, 5-7:30 p.m.

JCST 6006 Readings in Hebrew Bible II
Lawrence Frizzell, D. Phil.
TBA

JCST 6014 Lessons from the Holocaust
David Bossman, Ph.D.
Tuesday, 5-7:30 p.m.

JCST 7044 Rabbinic Thought
Ms. Agnes Veto,
Wednesday, time TBA

JCST 7045 Jerusalem’s Fall: Jewish and Christian Interpretations
Lawrence Frizzell, D. Phil.
Tuesday, 5-7:30 p.m.

JCST 7576 Personal Rights and Responsibilities for a Just Society
David Bossman Ph.D.
Wednesday, 5-7:30 p.m.

Rabbi Asher Finkel, Ph.D., Retires

With an academic background stretching from Tuebeingen University in Germany to Yeshiva University in New York, to Seton Hall University in South Orange, Rabbi Asher Finkel's route to Jewish-Christian studies has been a long and varied one. Recipient of many distinguished awards, lecturer here and abroad, but most of all, teacher of early Christianity and Hebrew Bible in the Program of Jewish-Christian Studies, Rabbi Finkel announced his retirement in April 2013, after thirty-eight years of service to the university. In addition to his graduate studies in Torah, Rabbinic Judaism, the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Gospels and early Christianity, Rabbi Finkel has left a mark on a faithful group of adults who have attended his weekly “Lehrhaus” (House of Learning) to study and discuss his and their favorite topics.

As Rabbi Finkel retires, eventually to settle in his beloved Israel, we wish him Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen and Shalom.

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*Tributes

To honor someone on their birthday, anniversary or special occasion or to commemorate the passing of a loved one, we will send a tribute card in your name. The minimum donation is $10. We also have blank tribute cards available, 12 for $25.00 or single cards for $2.50 each. Contact us by letter, phone or email marilyn.zirl@shu.edu.

*Chairmen emeriti
**Deceased
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