The dove of peace soaring free and the intertwined cross and Star of David exemplified the dual themes of the twenty-second annual Evening of Roses, *Witness to Liberation*, held on Sunday, May 3. Marking the seventieth anniversary of the liberation of the death camps, this fundraising event also was in two parts—a lavish dessert reception and informal program in the Atrium of Jubilee Hall at 1:30 p.m., and an emotional but hope-filled formal program in the Auditorium at 3 p.m.

Planned by Program Co-chairmen, Ann Burgmeyer and Marilyn Rosenbaum, the aim of the programs was to recognize survivors among us in our community, hear and appreciate their stories of survival and lives well-lived after rescue, and to honor two artists with Humanitarian Awards presented by Dr. A. Gabriel Esteban, President of Seton Hall University.

A tribute to the late Sister Rose Thering, O.P., our mentor and role model, was made by her colleague and friend, Sister Carla Mae Streeter, O.P., which linked Catholics and Jews in a unique way. In January, S. Carla Mae had been chosen to receive the prestigious Malachi Award from Temple Israel in St. Louis, Missouri where she taught for twenty-nine years at the Aquinas Institute of Theology. This award, given only a few times since its establishment in 1986, recognizes an individual who epitomizes and acts upon the interrelationship of Christians and Jews through education. As a Dominican Sister who had taken a vow of poverty, Sister Carla Mae had chosen to present the monetary award to the Sister Rose Thering Fund to be used for scholarships in the graduate program of Jewish-Christian Studies. (see page 10)

Deborah Lerner Duane, Chairman of the SRTF Board of Trustees, introduced a group of survivors that included Norbert and Gerda Bikales, Hanna Keselman, Marsha Kreuzman, Gina Lanceter, Michael Zeiger, Luna Kaufman, Mala and Henry Sperling and Sara Katz. Luna Kaufman, chairman emerita of the SRTF, spoke of how her own life, once it was returned to her, has been filled with positive actions and great hope for the future. Wayne Hanlon of Watchung, reminisced about his father, a liberator who had served in the United States Army, while Dr. Maureen Byrnes, of West Caldwell, a member of the Faculty of Nursing at Seton Hall, described her family’s recent and awe-inspiring discovery of her late father’s role in liberating prisoners in Germany, also as a member of the US Armed Forces. She brought with her a hanging on which she had affixed her father’s array of medals earned during his years of service but presented to the family posthumously.

Each special guest received a symbolic token gift of the day’s program.

At 3 p.m. all guests moved to Jubilee Auditorium where they were met by a deeply moving cello solo, the Third Cello Suite by J.S. Bach, performed magnificently against the image of the soaring dove, by Leo Grinhauz, a professional musician and teacher born in Buenos Aires now living in Maplewood. Dr. David Bossman then set the stage for honoring this year’s Humanitarians by showing part of a video interview with Jack Rudin, member of the well-known family of New York real estate developers, highlighting his participation in liberating prisoners. (This video clip was provided by the Rudin family and John Emmerling of Emmerling Communications.)

Dr. Bossman introduced Dr. Esteban who presented a Humanitarian of the Year award, in absentia, to Tom Dugan via his boyhood friend and college mate, Christopher Andrus of Monroe Township. Tom, the son of a liberator, has written and performed in the one-man play, Wiesenthal, about the work of Simon Wiesenthal in hunting down Nazi criminals.

Carolyn Dorfman, a child of Holocaust survivors, founder and artistic director of Carolyn Dorfman Dance, was awarded the Humanitarian of the Year award for her work in bringing to life artistically through dance the world of her parents before and during the war. Carolyn illustrated her moving work through part of A Dance of Hope, performed by her star dancer, Katlyn Waldo, a Texas native.

Both Tom and Carolyn, through their respective art, have demonstrated how the arts can serve as a teaching tool about a period of history almost too difficult to comprehend. Each received an engraved flame of life trophy.
Highlights from the Evening of Roses

YOM HASHOAH MENORAH RE-DEDICATED

The sculpture of six compelling figures representing the six million Jews who died during the Holocaust, was re-dedicated on Sunday, March 22 as part of the Scholarship Awards Presentation Program.

Referred to as the Yom Hashoah Menorah, the sculpture, which stands outside Mooney Hall, had been donated to Seton Hall in 2001 by the Center for Interreligious Understanding located in Secaucus, New Jersey. It has suffered twice during its stay on campus, broken once by human hands and once by the elements. The most recent repair work, performed by Jeremy Lebensohn of Studio dell’Arte, LLC in Brooklyn, New York, was completed in October of this year and automatic lighting was installed in May.

The re-dedication service took place at the conclusion of the annual Scholarship Awards Presentation when guests at that event walked from the Bishop Dougherty Student Center to Mooney Hall where the repaired sculpture waited our arrival. Attending were special guests Dr. Jack Bemporad, executive director of the Center Interreligious Understanding, Bjorg and Stephen Ollendorff, past president of the Center, and Jeremy Lebensohn, metal artisan of Studio Dell’Arte.

“Remembrance and Commitment”

A commemorative Ad Journal was published in conjunction with this year’s Evening of Roses. Copies are available upon request.

Dr. Esteban, Carolyn Dorfman, Luna Kaufman, Alan Silberstein, Mrs. Esteban

Luna Kaufman speaks on behalf of survivors

Cellist Leo Grinhauz

Maureen Byrnes, child of a liberator

Wayne and Maureen compare notes.

Sr. Michelle and Sr. Carla Mae accept a replica of Sister Rose’s pendant.
Honoree Carolyn Dorfman and Chris Andrus for honoree Tom Dugan, surrounded by program co-chairman Marilyn Rosenbaum, Chairman Deborah Lerner Duane, Wayne Hanlon and Dr. and Mrs. Esteban.

Dr. Esteban presents award to honoree, Carolyn Dorfman.

Dr. Esteban presents Tom Dugan’s award to his friend, Chris Andrus.

Wayne Hanlon, child of a liberator

SRTF scholar Anisa Mehdi

Katlyn Waldo and Carolyn Dorfman

Group of survivors and SRTF representatives
A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David M. Bossman, Ph.D.

Delivered at the Evening of Roses, May 3, 2015

It is difficult to imagine today what liberation meant for those in the Nazi work and death camps seventy years ago. The liberators were shocked. The survivors were malnourished, most emaciated but no doubt overjoyed to greet their liberators. I was not there so I can't speak for either the liberated or the liberators, for the rescuers or the rescued. But, we take time on this seventieth anniversary of the defeat of the Nazis to honor them all for their traumas and for their resilience.

Rescuers included those who sheltered Jews during the Third Reich, often at the risk of their lives and those of their family. The liberators were not just those who stormed the camp gate. They were those who fought to defeat the Nazis and thereby end their Final Solution to eradicate Jews and others whom the Nazis targeted for death or enslavement.

Renee Kessler, a graduate of our Master’s program in Jewish-Christian Studies, published the diary of her father, a Jewish attorney from Lwow, Poland. The diary gives an eyewitness account of the Holocaust through the events recorded in his diary between the years 1942 and 1944, depicting his experiences in the Lvov Ghetto, the Janowski Concentration Camp, and in an underground bunker where he and twenty-three other Jews were hidden by a courageous farming family.

Luna Kaufman, former chairman of the Sister Rose Thering Fund, survived four years in various work camps. Her father and sister and many relatives did not survive, but she and her mother did. They found refuge after the war in Israel, then came to the United States. She wrote an autobiography entitled, Luna’s Life: A Journey of Triumph and Forgiveness, which is available through the Sister Rose Thering office.

This semester, in my graduate course Lessons from the Holocaust, we studied the themes of trauma and resilience. At the end of the semester, on April 28th, we held a round table discussion to discuss how the Jewish people endured trauma through history and by some deeply rooted resilience were able to rebound from catastrophic circumstances and not only survive but become high achievers following their traumas.

Today we celebrate liberation and survival. But we also seek to understand what it was that enabled a people targeted for extinction to survive and then to rebound. We also seek to understand and appreciate those who put their own lives on the line to help those endangered by a mighty military power. Seventy years later, we remember not just the catastrophe but even more important the lessons that the Holocaust teaches us: to prevent prejudice from crippling our society, to foster cooperation with those different from ourselves, to educate our children and young people in practice of rebounding from traumas in order to become productive members of society.

David M. Bossman, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Dr. Bossman’s Round Table Colloquium

For the past few years, Dr. David Bossman, Professor of Jewish-Christian Studies, has organized a Round Table Discussion, a colloquium, on the courses he taught during the previous semester. On December 9, thirty of his students, guests, laypeople and clergy from various churches in our area and as far away as Harlem and Queens joined together to discuss ways to build leadership for the future. The students from Jewish and Christian Foundations for Social Service and Values for a Pluralistic Society opened the discussion of what they deemed the most pressing issues facing teachers today. They were joined by Seton Hall faculty members Dr. Timothy Fortin and Dr. Ki Joo (KC) Choi, Dr. Neely Hackett, Superintendent of Schools in Irvington and her colleague Cherolle Toller, Esq.

Among societal woes listed for discussion were changes in the nuclear family, racism (not only whites against blacks, but also blacks against blacks), police brutality and unequal treatment by the criminal justice system, economic instability and ongoing wars. All agreed that educating leaders to combat these issues must start with an understanding of their historic background and a willingness to hold honest and open conversations on all levels of education. Leaders need to forge ways to bring about change which must start at the earliest levels of education where children must be taught to love one another and must have opportunities to express themselves freely and openly.

Dr. Hackett described a planned day of self-questioning in Irvington schools on “What have you done to change social values?” when her students will be asked to write a letter dated ten years from now explaining what they had done of a positive nature. The theme of the day would be an emphasis on human dignity. Dr. Fortin spoke of his work with youth in the Essex County jail system, particularly his efforts at helping those incarcerated develop a sense of personal dignity so they can leave the system more able to move forward with their lives.

On April 28, a second Round Table Discussion took place on the theme of trauma and resilience.

Dr. Bossman sees these programs as an appropriate way to end a semester while leaving an open door for further thought and discussion by his students and the members of the community.
A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Deborah Lerner Duane

More than 25 years ago, when I was on the public relations staff of a major financial services institution, I had a conversation with the company’s chairman and CEO that has always stayed with me. We were talking about our need to make the world a better place, and the importance of giving back.

As chairman of an international corporation, this man served on several boards, a number of them nonprofits. His time was valuable, his contacts important and his ability to effect change was both welcome and necessary. At the time, I had two small children – our younger son was yet to be born – and a demanding full-time position, with little time for volunteer activity. I had stepped down from the board of a local charitable group, and admitted that all I could do now was participate in the organization’s annual appeal. The CEO reminded me that staying involved at any level was important. “At some point you’ll re-engage,” he said. “We do what we can, when we can.”

We all have aspirations to improve our own lives and the lives of those around us. We do our best to “do what we can, when we can.” As I continue in my tenure as chairman of the Sister Rose Thering Fund for Education in Jewish-Christian Studies, I’m privileged to work with a group of women and men who often do more than they can. They are tireless and tenacious in their efforts.

As trustees, we are committed to advancing the legacy of Sister Rose Thering by fostering understanding and cooperation among Jews, Christians and people of other religious traditions through advocacy and education. Each trustee approaches this mission in the best way she or he can. Together we create opportunity.

Our trustees give hours of their weeks and weeks of their years to committees, programs, meetings, and conversations – all of them with the single goal of advancing the legacy of Sister Rose Thering. Some of our trustees are retired. A fair number run their own businesses or are professionals with distinguished practices. Others work for large companies. We have university professors, as well as primary and secondary school teachers on our Board. Yet with all of this, each one volunteers her and his precious available time to achieve our goals. As chairman, I am deeply grateful to our trustees, and applaud their commitment and perseverance.

Our trustees are only part of our success, however. You – our supporters and donors – are significant to our accomplishments. Your generosity provides for Sister Rose Thering Fund scholarships to educators enrolled in Seton Hall’s graduate program of Jewish-Christian Studies. Your enthusiasm and interest fill the auditorium at our annual Dr. Marcia Robbins-Wilf Lecture. Your vision of a world without religious prejudice inspires us to reach out to the community in various ways, all of which are designed to encourage acceptance of those who are “other.”

We’re hoping you are also inspired to volunteer your time and talent to the Sister Rose Thering Fund. We want your ideas and suggestions that will enable us to continue our mission and sustain our vision.

Please do what you can, when you can. We look forward to hearing from you.

To find out more about how you can volunteer your time and talent to the Sister Rose Thering Fund, please contact Fund Administrator Marilyn Zirl (marilyn.zirl@shu.edu or 973-761-9006) or Chairman Deborah Lerner Duane (lerner.duane@gmail.com).

Deborah Lerner Duane
Chairman

FILMS TO WATCH

Bruce Feiler’s “Sacred Journeys” – Series of six documentaries produced by author Bruce Feiler, (Walking the Bible, Secrets of Happy Families, New York Times columnist, “This Life”) on pilgrimages to centers of the world’s major religions including “The Hajj,” produced with Anisa Mehdi, SHU Adjunct Professor of Documentary Filmmaking, which was shown on December 23. Go to www.pbs.org/wgbh/sacredjourneys/content/home.

Ellen Friedland, our friend from JEMGLO Documentaries, who produced “Delicious Peace Grows in Ugandan Coffee Bean” (shown at SHU in December 2007), has recently produced “Flory’s Flame” and “Yellow Stars of Tolerance.” All can be read about on line and seen on YouTube. (Yellow Star of Tolerance https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IH_1Uf9B8U Flory’s Flame https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IH_1Uf9B8U)


Oren Jacoby’s latest documentary, “My Italian Secret”, shown in local theatres

AND A BOOK TO READ: A Lady in Gold by Anne-Marie O’Connor, relevant to Hannah Lessing’s work in restoring stolen art to Austrian owners. Hon. Lessing was the guest of Dr. Marcia Robbins Wilf at a special gathering for friends of the fund in May.
**The Jewish Cardinal**

The JCC of MetroWest in West Orange invited The Sister Rose Thering Fund to co-sponsor a special showing of “The Jewish Cardinal” on September 12. A group of SRTF board members and friends joined a full house in the Maurice Levin Theatre to view this French film based on the life of Jean-Marie Lustiger, a Polish Jew who had converted to Catholicism at the age of 13.

Jean-Marie eventually became a priest, serving as Bishop of Orléans, and then as Archbishop of Paris through a remarkable friendship with Pope John Paul II. An outstanding accomplishment during his tenure in Paris was his ability to successfully convince a group of Carmelite nuns not to build a convent at the site of Auschwitz for obvious reasons but also because his mother had died there. His life was a constant struggle for acceptance as a Catholic while striving to honor his dual identity.

The Reel Film Series, presenter of this film and others of interest to both Jewish and Christian audiences, had asked Dr. David Bossman to speak following this 100-minute film. Dr. Bossman answered questions from the audience and elaborated on the role of the Church during and after the Holocaust. He also spoke of the work of Sister Rose Thering in promoting interfaith relations throughout her career at Seton Hall and in the world community.

**Sister Mary Gomolka in Israel**

Board member Sister Mary Gomolka, RSM, former music coordinator at St. Mary Academy in Watchung, New Jersey, spent almost two years in Israel after her retirement. During her first year, she entered a three-month sabbatical at the Tantur Institute in Jerusalem, and then volunteered with some of her colleagues from the Missionary Sisters to help care for a group of 23 children. During this time she met a seminarian who told her there was a need for a music teacher at the nearby Seminary, so she began giving piano lessons and accompanying choral training to a group of young seminarians, a task not unfamiliar to S. Mary, but one that involved men not the young girls at her previous positions.

S. Mary returned to New Jersey for a short time after her first year abroad, only to be called back to Israel in 2012, again by the Seminary, to continue teaching the young men. She spent another eight months totally involved in the life of the seminary family, even attending two priestly ordinations.

Sister Mary shared this information from an interview about her experiences in the Holy Land given to Sister Camille D'Arienzo, broadcaster and author.

**Carolyn Dorfman Dance**

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Michael Zavada, invited the Sister Rose Thering Fund Board of Trustees to co-sponsor a performance by Carolyn Dorfman Dance on November 13 at the South Orange Performing Arts Center. About thirty members of the board, along with their friends and family, were invited guests at this powerful dance program, part of the Legacy Project, A Dance of Hope, choreographed by Ms. Dorfman, founder and artistic director.

The program consisted of two parts - The Klezmer Sketch and the American Dream – both depicting Carolyn’s background as a child of survivors whose parents came from Eastern Europe and eventually arrived, as survivors of the Holocaust, in America. The pieces were performed with verve and high technical skill by her troupe of eleven professional dancers, with musical accompaniment, both original and from various sources.

At the conclusion of the dance segments, four panelists spoke personally about themselves as well as their impressions of the program. Aviva Twersky Glasner, moderator, is an Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at Seton Hall. Luna Kaufman is chairman emerita of the Sister Rose Thering Fund and a survivor of three labor camps in Poland, whose experiences have led her to live actively and positively by not dwelling on her past. Eugenie Mukeshimana, the founder and executive director of Genocide Survivors Support Network, is herself a survivor of the genocide in Rwanda, urges survivors to rebuild their lives and use their time and efforts to raise awareness about genocide. Carolyn Dorfman joined the panelists to discuss “Yesterday’s Story is Today’s Reality” and to answer questions from the audience which was then invited to a reception in The Loft at SOPAC.

The SRTF is deeply grateful to Dr. Zavada for his interest in the work of Carolyn Dorfman, the piece of history she represents so personally and dramatically, and the legacy of Sister Rose Thering that is its mission today.
Abraham’s Table

Peace Islands Institute once again invited Seton Hall faculty and students to enjoy lunch with a group of Jews, Christians and Muslims on November 3 and again in the spring. Students in classes in the Core Curriculum of Professor Paul Gibbons and Dr. Michael Maloney and faculty members from various departments came together to partake of an array of Turkish specialties, share conversation with one another and listen to three speakers discussing the meaning of the word “God” in each religion. Rabbi Matthew Gewirtz, spiritual leader of Congregation B’nai Jeshurun in Short Hills, Dr. Michael Maloney of Seton Hall’s Department of Religion, and Sam Tunagar, Peace Islands Representative, spoke briefly and informatively and answered questions from the attentive audience.

Addenda to the Evening of Roses Ad Journal

We acknowledge receipt of the following donations since the Ad Journal went to press:

SILVER BENEFACTOR:
In honor of all Holocaust survivors. With love, from
Sharon and David Halpern

Barbara J. Bromberg
Eliot and Judith Kraus
Miriam Peled

Temple Shalom - Scotch Plains, Rabbi Joel Abraham
Stephen Tencer
Dr. Howard N. Tepper

Copies of the Ad Journal are available by sending your mailing address to marilyn.zirl@shu.edu.

STUDENTS VISIT CAFE EUROPA

When students in the College of Nursing visited Café Europa in Fair Lawn to socialize with a group of Holocaust survivors, they carried out part of the mission of the Sister Rose Thering Fund, involving themselves in the wider interfaith community. Although the students’ participation was geared towards sensitizing them towards people as individuals, they also heard stories about survival and resilience, the lessons Dr. Bossman spoke of in his message at the Evening of Roses. (See Page 4.)
Amy-Jill Levine, Ph.D. (known widely as “A-J”) was the charismatic speaker at the fourth Dr. Marcia Robbins Wilf Lecture on Sunday, October 26 in Jubilee Hall. Speaking on the topic, “Hearing Jesus’ Parables Through Jewish Ears,” Dr. Levine captivated her audience with her witty yet insightful explanations of the short stories of Jesus, so well-known but so often misinterpreted.

Dr. Levine serves as Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies, and Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee. She is widely regarded as an outstanding interpreter of relations between Jews and Christians, due in part to her very early interest in the religion of her Catholic friends and her wish to understand why some Catholics reviled the Jewish people. She has written several acclaimed books including *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the of the Jewish Jesus* and *The Meaning of the Bible: What the Jewish Scriptures and the Christian Old Testament Can Teach Us* (co-authored with Douglas Knight), *The New Testament, Methods and Meanings*, (co-edited with Warren Carter), *The Jewish Annotated New Testament* (with Marc Z. Brettler), all of which were available for signing, as was her latest tome, *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi.*

Members of the Board of The Sister Rose Thering Fund and their guests had met informally with Dr. Levine prior to the lecture. All guests – nearly 300 in number – then participated in a lavish reception in Jubilee Atrium and had an opportunity to meet Dr. Levine and purchase a signed copy of her latest books. The following morning, Monday, October 27, a group of clergy and religious educators participated in a workshop led by Dr. Levine on how understanding Jesus in his Jewish context corrects false stereotypes about Jews and Judaism, brings new meaning to Jesus’ teaching, and offers a new path for Jewish-Christian relations.

The Dr. Marcia Robbins Wilf Lecture Series was established in 2008 by Dr. Robbins Wilf to fund these annual prestigious lectures. Those previously invited to the Seton Hall campus were Honorable Robert Menendez; Dr. Michael Berenbaum and Dr. John Pawlikowski; and, last year, Sister Mary Boys and Blu Greenberg.
Scholars and Sponsors Meet at Annual Awards Presentation

Ten graduate students, teachers in schools in New Jersey, had the opportunity to meet sponsors of their scholarships at a program and reception on Sunday, March 22. (See page 10 for a list of recipients and donors.)

Following the reception, an opportunity to meet and greet one another in a social setting, Dr. David Bossman then acted as MC, while Deborah Lerner Duane, chairman of the Board, and Ellen Hayes, interim Scholarship Chairman, presented each scholar and sponsor with a certificate from the Sister Rose Thering Fund. The students spoke about the courses they had taken and their experiences in the Jewish-Christian Studies Program. (See testimonials on page 10)

Matt Survis, son of board member Gary Survis, was the featured guest speaker at this annual program. A sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania, Matt has been involved in interfaith relations for several years starting in Millburn Middle School when he was a student of SRTF Board member, Mary Vazquez. He was inspired by Holocaust survivors such as Marsha Kreuzman to learn more about how the Holocaust affected survivors and their families, and, for his Bar Mitzvah project, developed a curriculum for teaching about the Holocaust to middle school students. He was honored by the Sister Rose Thering Fund at its Essay Contest in 2012. Since then he has continued to pursue his interest in Holocaust education by developing another program entitled “The Upstander Initiative” which he is offering in schools in the Philadelphia area where his college is located.

Special Guests

As a link to the past and a revival of friendships, the SRTF invited a group of special guests to this Scholarship Awards Program: from Teaneck, Rabbi Jack Bemporad, founder of the Center for Inter-religious Understanding; Bjorg and Stephen Ollendorff, president of the Center; and from Brooklyn, NY, Jeremy Lebensohn, artist/metalsmith; and Dr. Michael Zavada, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The reason for inviting this group was to re-connect with and re-dedicate the recently restored Yom Hashoah Menorah, a piece of sculpture located on the grounds of Mooney Hall, donated in 2001 to Seton Hall by the Center. The sculpture had suffered breakage over the years, but was repaired and restored by the artistry and expertise of Mr. Lebensohn. (see photo on page 2.

This gathering of friends, old and new, members of the SRTF Board of Trustees and our teacher/scholars was a perfect opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the mission of Sister Rose and to all that the Yom Hashoah monument stands for - “Remembrance and Commitment.”

Seton Hall Represented at the Opening of The Polin Museum of The History of Polish Jews

After almost twenty years of planning, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews was unveiled to the world on October 28. Built on the very site of the Warsaw Ghetto, the opening deeply moved Luna Kaufman and Alan Silberstein, members of the Board of Trustees of the Sister Rose Thering Fund, who were invited to attend by the Polish government.

Luna commented how the city has changed even since she visited in 1948 when the Ghetto Monument was unveiled. She saw today a bustling city, not one of rubble, and a more positive populace. She is pleased that the Polin Museum’s goal is to tell the broad history of Polish Jews, not just the period of the Shoah. Luna feels the Holocaust is important “but it’s just a fragment of the Jews’ total history in Poland….This new museum is dedicated to the life of the Jews.” Luna returned from this trip feeling very proud of her heritage.

Alan had sent the SRTF Board access to a video of the museum, a virtual tour of the exhibition. He says of the Museum itself that the “architectural distinction of the building and the well-conceived exhibitions are a triumph… It’s not a museum for displaying valuable artifacts, it is a museum for teaching visitors, Polish and foreign, about the 1,000-year history of Jews in Poland and their contribution to the country.” He goes on to say, “When I discussed the exhibition with one young American, he said it did not give enough attention to the Holocaust, “the most significant event in our era.” I turned to Roman Kent, survivor and Treasurer of the Claims Conference, and asked what he thought. He said that, indeed “In my life, the Holocaust was the defining event. However, to a victim of the Spanish Inquisition, finding refuge in Poland would have been the defining event in that person’s life. We need to see both sides.”

Both Alan and Luna would agree that “living with bitterness doesn’t accomplish anything, but being tolerant and open does.”
EDUCATORS RECEIVING SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS

The following educators in the Sister Rose Thering Fund program in Jewish-Christian Studies have been awarded sponsored scholarships during this academic year. Generous individuals from the Board of Trustees and the community at large have donated funding to cover tuition for a single course for each student thereby furthering the legacy of Sister Rose Thering of understanding and cooperation among Christian, Jews and people of other religions through education.

FALL 2014

Elizabeth (Liz) Casciano – Teacher of Adults, Crossroads Church, Union, took three courses, Biblical Hebrew, Jewish-Christian Foundations for Social Service; Peace and War in Biblical Jewish Tradition as an adult – sponsor, Dr. Marcia Robbins Wilf

Piotr Dudek – full time graduate student, Values for a Pluralistic Society- sponsors, Deborah Lerner Duane and Daniel Duane

Michael Durante – Special education teacher, Jersey City, Values for a Pluralistic Society, sponsor, Curt C. and Else Silberman Foundation


Anisa Mehdi – Adjunct Professor of Communications at SHU, Peace and War in Bible and Jewish Tradition - sponsors, Susan Feinstein and the Curt C. and Else Silberman Foundation

Nancy Nunes – Pre-K through 5, Irvington, Christian and Jewish Encounter, sponsor, Curt C. and Else Silberman Foundation

Rev. Ralph Terrell, Administrator, Religious School, Nishanic Station, Values for a Pluralistic Society - sponsor, Curt C. and Else Silberman Foundation

SPRING 2015

Ymani Belcher – Permanent Substitute, Irvington High School, Lessons from the Holocaust – sponsors, Carol and Alan Silverstein in memory of Natan and Zygmunt Zilberstajn.

Elizabeth (Liz) Casciano – teacher of adults Crossroads Church, Union, Hebrew Bible Reading, Comparative Study of Judaism and Christianity - sponsor, Curt C. and Else Silberman Foundation

Michael Durante – special education teacher, Jersey City, Lessons from the Holocaust – sponsor, Dr. Marcia Robbins Wilf.

Ann Marie Felix-Peters, teacher, grades 1-5, Our Lady of Help of Christians, East Orange, Jewish History I – sponsor, Curt C. and Else Silberman Foundation

Hazel Goines – Teacher, pre-K, Irvington, Lessons from the Holocaust, sponsor, Hattie Segal in memory of Arnold Segal

Anisa Mehdi – Adjunct in Communications at SHU, Lessons from the Holocaust –

Nancy Nunes – Teacher, Pre-K, Irvington, Lessons from the Holocaust - sponsor, Curt C. and Else Silberman Foundation

John D. Thompson – Substitute, all subjects, West Orange, Rights and Responsibilities for a Just Society - sponsor, Curt C. and Else Silberman Foundation

Does this program interest you?

You can use the attached pledge envelope, contact Marilyn Zirl, at marilyn.zirl@shu.edu, or call 973-761-9006 to become a sponsor of a teacher in our program.

Thank you.
Testimonials

Individuals who have received Sister Rose Thering Fund Scholarships during Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 have written about their class experiences and goals, and have given permission to print these excerpts.

Elizabeth (Liz) Casciano, teacher of adults and recipient of the Racine Dominican Scholarship, writes: I know that what I have learned this semester will enrich my teaching and bring to it greater breadth and richness.

Piotr Dudek, recipient of the Deborah Lerner and Daniel Duane Scholarship, received his MA in Jewish-Christian Studies this spring. He wrote his master's thesis on “The Day of Judaism in the Catholic Church in Poland”, and comments, The courses I have taken, due to [the] beneficence of the Sister Rose Thering Fund, have aided me personally. It has been a fruitful time of meeting like-minded people and forming close friendships that will contribute to my future career... The courses at Seton Hall as well as the research and interviews in Poland opened my eyes to the specific needs of Jewish communities in this country, the necessity to preserve their heritage... and some legal and practical ways to put it into practice. The classes I have taken at Seton Hall encouraged me to take a closer look at the Jewish faith in the course of my further education.

Ann Marie Felix-Peters, fifth grade teacher in Our Lady of Help of Christians School in East Orange, writes, I know that educators need to intervene very early in the lives of children, to foster a sustainable level of compassion, empathy and tolerance... I thank the generous members of the Sister Rose Thering Fund and Seton Hall for making this course of study possible. I hope many lives will be changed positively as a result of this altruistic group of benefactors. Ann Marie is a Silberman Foundation Scholarship recipient.

Anisa Mehdi, recipient of a Curt C. and Else Silberman Foundation Scholarship and the Susan Feinstein Scholarship in memory of Howard Feinstein, is an Adjunct Professor in Communications at Seton Hall. She writes, “Refuel, Refresh. Renew” – These were the goals I named when I first applied for assistance to continue my graduate education... This semester I have been privileged to study with Father Lawrence Frizzell and I am experiencing all of the above plus “Raring to Go!” (As a documentary film maker) I am better prepared for promotion of the... PBS television series, “Sacred Journeys”, six documentary films on the practice of pilgrimage for which I’ve made a new film on the Hajj. (It premiered on December 23, 2014.)

Ymani Belcher, a permanent substitute in Irvington High School, received the Carol and Alan Silberstein Scholarship in memory of Natan and Zygmunt Zilberstajn. She has written, “Lessons from the Holocaust: Trauma and Resilience” will greatly impact me both personally and professionally. Working in an urban school district, and interacting with predominantly African American students every day, I am faced with many of the personal issues that they experience both inside and outside of the school. As of late, the police killings of unarmed African American men and the societal uproar for justice and peace, affect how and what I teach to my students, as well as how I live my own life. Being an African American woman, I face similar if not the same issues – prejudice and hate; exclusionary and destructive social practice relating to race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity and political views—that this course examines. My desire is to be able to instill hope, faith and optimism in my students as well as those that I love. I believe that in times like these, resilience is key, so learning different ways to teach it will be my first step in becoming a part of the change that I pray our society sees.

Hazel Goines, pre-school teacher in Irvington, and recipient of the Hattie Segal Scholarship in memory of Arnold Segal, writes: We have to learn to live beyond our universe of responsibility. I have learned that we have to be up-standers in our communities... I am gaining knowledge that I can pass on to my students as being a part of the [whole]human race. I use activities that promote healthy self-esteem, and I also use life experiences to discuss...solving social problems. These will be my goals in taking the courses [offered by the Sister Rose Thering Fund.]

Nancy Nunes, teacher in Augusta Street School in Irvington, a recipient of a Curt C. and Else Silberman Foundation scholarship, writes: Developing kindness and compassion for others is a critical part of [a] child’s growth. The ability to accept others even if they are different, and feel compassion for them is an essential element of social competency, which I firmly believe is just as important as any academic training. Socially competent children are more successful in life [and more able to live] in a diverse society.

John D. Thompson, a special education/substitute teacher in Linden, has this to say: The course I took this fall, “Rights and Responsibilities for a Just Society”, has taught me a great deal. [I had believed] that you (the teacher) had to solve problems for students and I was a little hard on them not letting them explain themselves when they made a mistake. Now, after reading books such as “Code of Silence”, “Reign of Error” and “Sticks and Stones”, I have a new perspective on my career. I believe that I can now understand better the difference between bullying and self-defense... I now have strategies to deal with these issues... I hope to continue my personal education... by taking “Values for a Pluralistic Society” this semester. I greatly appreciate this opportunity to study with my peers.
Once again high school students throughout New Jersey had an opportunity to view *Sister Rose’s Passion*, the award-winning documentary produced by film-maker Oren Jacoby. Teachers in public, private and parochial schools incorporated the film into their curricula, discussed it in depth and asked their students to write an original essay on one of four suggested topics, each dealing with reduction of prejudice.

One-hundred twenty-five essays were submitted to the Sister Rose Thering Fund, were screened for eligibility, and were read by a committee of eight members of the SRTF Board of Trustees. Each essay was graded by the readers on criteria such as originality, organization, use of language, relevance to the topic and action taken to reduce prejudice.

On Sunday, April 12, the ten winners from five different schools were honored, along with their teachers and family members, at a reception in Jubilee Atrium. Each student read his/her essay, received a certificate and monetary gift from the Sister Rose Thering Fund, and enjoyed making their own ice cream sundae while socializing with our trustees. This year, for the first time, all winning essays were published as part of the program booklet.

### SISTER ROSE THERING ESSAY COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS … (left to right)

Jack Roberts, Second Place 11th grade, St. Joseph High School; Michelle Gekhtman, Second Place 11th grade, Watchung Hills; Stephanie Peters, First Place 9th grade, Bayonne High School; Kirtika Sharad, Second Place, 10th grade Bayonne HS; Tumai Ly, Second Place 10th grade, Bayonne HS; Harrison Kern, First Place, 11th grade, Randolph HS; Holly Koerwer, First Place, Trinity Hall and Talha Iqbal, Second Place, 9th grade, Bayonne HS.

### ESSAY CONTEST 2015 WINNERS

#### 9TH GRADE:
1. Stephanie Peters  
   Bayonne HS, Ms. Kowalski  
   *Sister Rose’s passion has broadened my spiritual horizons.*
2. Talha Iqbal  
   Bayonne HS, Ms. Kowalski  
   *I have joined groups in Bayonne to help the needy. . . and I support organizations through Service Learning...*

#### 10TH GRADE:
1. Holly Koerwer  
   Trinity Hall, Ms. Geoghan  
   *I have made it my own personal mission to reduce the gender gap in the technical field.*
2. Tumai Ly  
   Bayonne HS, Mrs. De Luca  
   *Even simple actions like standing up for someone, reduce prejudice.*
2. Kirtika Sharad  
   Bayonne HS, Mrs. DeLuca  
   *Changing sexist attitudes. . .is not going to be an easy task but it is not impossible.*

#### 11TH GRADE:
1. Harrison Kern  
   Randolph HS – Mr. Zovola  
   *Changing hate-filled opinions starts with action. . . S. Rose succeeded. . . through her tireless efforts.*
2. Michelle Gekhtman  
   Watchung Hills, Mr. Murray  
   *Sister Rose has really inspired me to take initiative and make a change in the world.*
2. Jack Roberts  
   St. Joseph High School, Mrs. Dellatacoma  
   *Sister Rose is a true role model for all people who seek to make a positive difference in the world.*

#### 12TH GRADE:
1. Irene Dunne  
   Bayonne HS – Mr. Woods  
   *Kindness and passion are almost infectious the way they affect people.*
2. Jaliyah Gardner  
   Bayonne HS – Mr. Woods  
   *I’ve learned that a true upstander values morals and selflessness over self-preservation.*

### 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.
TRIBUTES 2014-2015

-- In Honor --

Deborah Lerner Duane and Daniel J. Duane..... Marriage of Yonathan, son of Miki Fine
   Marriage of Linda Malanga’s daughter
   For Mary Vazquez’ recovery
   For S. Mary Gomolka’s recovery
   For Evi Meinhardt’s recovery
   For Ellin Cohen’s recovery

Susan Feinstein ................................................................. For Mary Vazquez’ recovery
   For Evi Meinhardt’s recovery
   For S. Mary Gomolka’s recovery

Evi Meinhard and Ed Meinhardt ..................... To Marilyn Rosenbaum, thanking her for her hospitality

Marilyn Rosenbaum ............................................................. In honor of Amanda Tulman’s Bat Mitzvah
   In honor of Allen Zolty’s special birthday
   In honor of Joan Rosenbaum’s special birthday

SRTF Board of Trustees .................................................... Marriage of Miki Fine’s son Yonathan
   In honor of Dr. Gabriel Esteban receiving the Papal Honor of Knight of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre
   In honor of Fr. Christopher Cicciarino receiving the Papal Honor of Knight of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre
   For S. Mary Gomolka’s recovery
   Congratulations to Sigmund Rolat honored by the Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation

SRTS Executive Committee ................................................ For Ellin Cohen’s complete recovery

Marilyn Zirl ................................................................. In honor of Jennifer and Dante Lombardi’s son Leo on his Bat Mitzvah
   For S. Mary Gomolka’s recovery
   For Ellin Cohen’s recovery
   In honor of Stephen Lenox on this 60th birthday
   In honor of Jacob Lenox’ graduation from high school

-- In Memory --

Felice and Herb Blank .................................................. In memory of Dorothea Hammer

Deborah Lerner Duane and Daniel J. Duane..... In memory of Yolanda Joseph
   In memory of Ralph Barbieri, father of Rosalie Izzi

Susan Feinstein ................................................................. In memory of husband of Mrs. Serena Michaelson
   In memory of Larry Silfen, husband of Judy Silfen and father
   In memory of Ralph Barbieri, father of Rosalie Izzi
   In memory of Arthur Rosenblatt
   In memory of Norman Jaffe
   In memory of Jay Ferraro, husband of Marie Ferraro
   In memory of Marie Louise Chicco
   In memory of Albee Grupico, beloved husband of Marie Grupico

Carmi Weiner Guthertz .................................................. In memory of Shirley J. Weiner

Ira and Ruth Melon .................................................. In memory of Arthur Charles Watkins, Jr.

Miriam Peled .......................................................... In memory of Irving Jochelman

Marilyn Rosenbaum .................................................. In memory of mother of Andrea Barash

SRTF Executive Committee ............................................ In memory of Madeline Stefanyak, mother-in-law of Adrienne Stefanyak
   In memory of brother of Kathy Decker
   In memory of Ralph Barbieri, father of Rosalie Izzi
   In memory of Allen Bildner
   In memory of Sir Martin Gilbert

Jane Wallerstein .................................................. In memory of Bernard Wallerstein

Marilyn Zirl .......................................................... In memory of Burt Perlmutter, friend of Evelyn Blau
   In memory of Renee Katz, wife of Dr. Frank Katz
### Course Offerings in Jewish-Christian Studies

#### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR FALL 2015

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JCST 6001</td>
<td>Christian-Jewish Encounter</td>
<td>Thursdays, 6:15 – 8:25 p.m Frizzell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCST 6005</td>
<td>Hebrew Bible Readings I</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Frizzell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCST 6014</td>
<td>Lessons from the Holocaust - Trauma and Resilience</td>
<td>Tuesdays, 5-7:10 p.m. Bossman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCST 6020</td>
<td>Jewish History I</td>
<td>Tuesdays, 5-7 p.m. David Bossman, Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCST 6022</td>
<td>Judaism of the Second Temple Period</td>
<td>Mondays, 6:15 – 8:25 p.m. Lawrence Frizzell, D.Phil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCST 6006</td>
<td>Hebrew Bible Readings II</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lawrence Frizzell, D.Phil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCST 6011</td>
<td>Biblical Thought II: Paul and John</td>
<td>Thursdays, 6:15 – 8:25 p.m. Lawrence Frizzell, D.Phil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCST 7585</td>
<td>Comparative Study of Judaism and Christianity</td>
<td>Mondays, 4-6:10 p.m. Alan Brill, Ph.D.,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCST 7047</td>
<td>Philosophic Perspectives on the Holocaust</td>
<td>Tuesdays, 5-7:10 p.m. Alan Brill, Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCST 9001</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>Lawrence Frizzell, D.Phil.</td>
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#### SPRING 2015

**JANUARY 12 - MAY 4**

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<td>*JCST 6014</td>
<td>Lessons from the Holocaust: Trauma and Resilience</td>
<td>Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m. David Bossman, Ph.D., Executive Director, Sister Rose Thering Fund</td>
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**Note:** Courses with an (*) are recommended for educators in the Sister Rose Thering Scholarship Program.

### Sister Carla Mae Streeter, O.P., Receives Malachi Award

An outstanding member of Sister Rose Thering’s order of the Sisters of St. Dominic in Racine, Wisconsin, Sister Carla Mae Streeter, O.P. recently received an award that she and Sister Rose could readily have shared. Called the Malachi Award, it was established by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Deutsch, members of Temple Israel in St. Louis, Missouri. Its purpose is to honor someone in the community who recognizes and practices the importance of interfaith relations and understanding.

The award was presented to S. Carla Mae during a special Shabbat worship service at the synagogue on January 16. She was introduced by Rabbi Emeritus Mark L. Shook, himself a past Malachi Award recipient, who spoke of S. Carla Mae’s relationship with S. Rose Thering. As a gesture of our connection through S. Rose to S. Carla Mae and this event, the Sister Rose Thering Fund sponsored the Oneg Shabbat, the reception at the conclusion of the Friday evening service, and sent a letter of congratulations to S. Carla Mae.

It should be noted that since the establishment of this award in 1986, it has been bestowed only thirteen times.

A member of the committee that had nominated Sister Carla Mae for this honor, wrote in her letter of nomination, “She is truly a person who ‘walks’ her ‘talk’ in that she is constantly engaged in actions that promote unity in diversity.”

We know well that the same had been said often during Sister Rose’s lifetime and has become her legacy that she shares with Sister Carla Mae.

**NOTE:** See article on Evening of Roses for information about a special gift to the SRTF from Sister Carla Mae Streeter.

Applications for scholarships available on our website, [www.shu.edu/go/sisterrose](http://www.shu.edu/go/sisterrose)
Welcome New Board Members

Ellen Hayes: Teacher of English at Millburn High School and currently completing work towards a Master's Degree in Jewish-Christian Studies at SHU, Ellen joined the board in September 2014 and immediately became an active member of the Scholarship Committee, now serving as its Interim Chair.

Dr. Jason Tramm: Assistant Professor and Director of Choral Activities at Seton Hall, and Artistic Director of the MidAtlantic Opera in Morristown, also joined the Board in September. Dr. Tramm has participated in SRTF musical events since 2011 and is eager to become an integral part of the Fund's activities.

Dr. Andrea Bartoli, Dean of the College of Diplomacy and International Relations, expressed interest in joining the SRTF Board and was nominated by Paul Gibbons, chairman emeritus.

Dr. Ki Joo (KC) Choi of the Department of Religion is serving as Interim Chair of the graduate program in Jewish-Christian Studies while Dr. Anthony Sciglitano is on Sabbatical.

Monsignor Robert Coleman, Associate Vice Provost, has been appointed by the Provost to sit on the Board of the SRTF.

Brigette Bryant, Associate Vice President for Development, has been appointed by Vice President David Bohan to sit on the Board of the SRTF.

Marlene Jacobs, former board member, has offered her services as a volunteer. We welcome your help, Marlene.
Issue Highlights:

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