

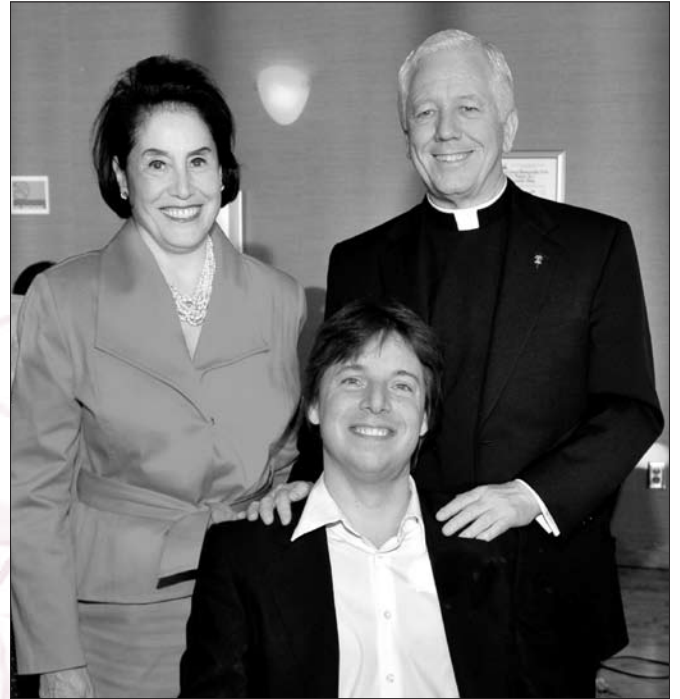
The Sister Rose Thering Endowment for Jewish/Christian Studies

Celebrating seventeen years of fostering understanding through education and inter-religious cooperation.

Seventeenth Annual Evening of Roses

Every spring for the past seventeen years the Sister Rose Thering Endowment gathers its members, friends, donors and guests to honor distinguished individuals and to proclaim the life and mission of Sr. Rose Thering. This year on Sunday, April 18, it was a privilege and thrill to celebrate our annual **Evening of Roses** as "An Evening of Music" when world renowned violinist **Joshua Bell** performed at the South Orange Performing Arts Center (SOPAC) to benefit the SRTE scholarship fund. He was the recipient of the 2010 Seton Hall University Humanitarian of the Year award in recognition of his special relationship with Israel and the Jewish world. A Sony Classical artist who has won many awards and performs with orchestras all over the world, Bell took part in two extraordinary concerts in Poland in October, 2009 which were significant to the worldwide Jewish community. Acclaimed Metropolitan Opera bass soloist **Kevin Maynor** also entertained as part of the gala festivities.

Following a pre-concert dinner for donors and guests in the SOPAC loft, the formal program began with welcoming remarks by **Marilyn Rosenbaum**, vice chairman of the SRTE board and chair of the Program Committee. **Dr. David Bossman**, the Evening's master of ceremonies and SRTE executive director, noted that each Evening of Roses is a celebration of both the important work of Sr. Rose, champion of fostering Jewish-Christian relations, and recognition of the contributions made by the person receiving the Humanitarian award.



CELEBRATING THE ANNUAL EVENING OF ROSES ... Monsignor Robert Sheeran (right), President of Seton Hall University, is joined by violinist Joshua Bell and Dr. Marcia Robbins-Wilf of the Sister Rose Thering Endowment.

Dr. Bossman then introduced **Paul Gibbons**, SRTE board chairman, who spoke about the Endowment's commitment to continue to fight prejudice through education. "By providing scholarships to over 350 teachers, in all grades in public, private and parochial schools, to attend classes in Seton Hall's graduate department of Jewish-Christian studies, we reach thousands of students in New Jersey and honor Sr. Rose's memory." Paul Gibbons invited audience members interested in the SRTE mission to consider sharing their time and treasure with the Endowment.

Before the musical portion of the program began, guests were treated to the premiere of a brief film clip, *Sister Rose Thering Remembered*, created and narrated by videographer **Robin Sanders**. Using scenes from the Oscar-nominated documentary, *Sr. Rose's Passion*, the film depicted Sr. Rose's dedication throughout her long life to encouraging dialogue and tolerance among all people, especially Jews and Christians, and fighting against hatred and bias.

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Godspeed!

The Sister Rose Thering Endowment bids a fond farewell to Monsignor Robert Sheeran as he steps down from his presidency to pursue his many interests. He has been a wonderful friend to the endowment supporting us in every way. We offer him our thanks and wish him *Shalom*.

Roses continued from page 1

Musical Highlights

Then came the magical segment of the evening. Kevin Maynor, accompanied by pianist **Eric Olsen**, took the stage and entertained the audience with eight selections in his elegant bass voice, including *Jerusalem of Gold*. He has performed in concert halls and opera houses all over the world and has interpreted more than 50 operatic roles in five languages. Maynor clearly charmed the Evening of Roses crowd.

Next to address the gathering was Board member **Dr. Marcia Robbins-Wilf**, who announced that Joshua Bell's performance that night was the inaugural of the *Dr. Marcia Robbins-Wilf Lecture Series*. "I am very proud that this is the first in what will be a series of programs and lectures, for many years in the future, by distinguished individuals who come to Seton Hall University to enrich our understanding and knowledge of the Holocaust and Jewish-Christian studies." She then introduced **Msgr. Robert Sheeran**, who made his final appearance as SHU president at an Evening of Roses as he retires from the university this June. Msgr. Sheeran observed how the worlds of higher education, music and the performing arts joined that day in South Orange to celebrate the memory of Sr. Rose and the work of the SRTE by bestowing the 2010 Humanitarian Award on Joshua Bell, American-born virtuoso violinist and son of Israel.

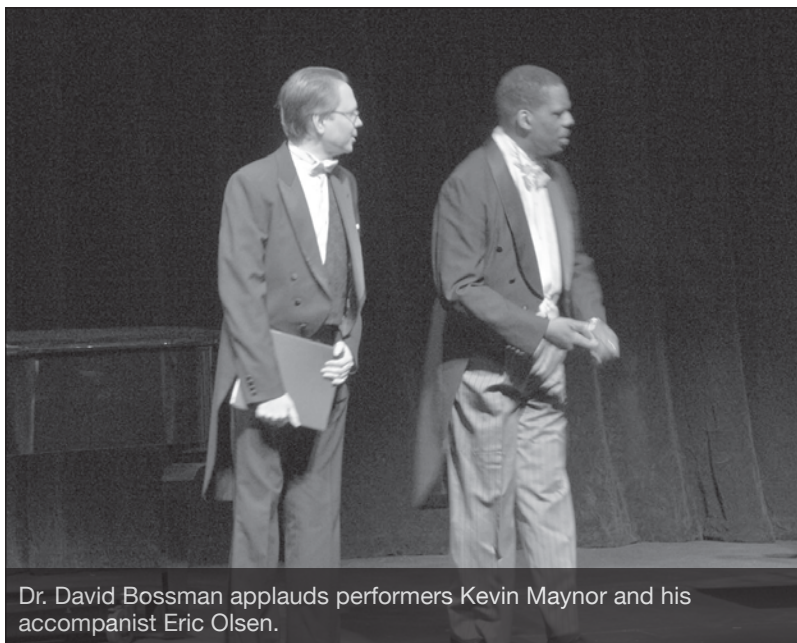
Accepting the plaque from Msgr. Sheeran and Dr. Robbins-Wilf, Joshua Bell said how honored, surprised and humbled he was to be selected, and that he was not really much of a speaker; rather he speaks through his music and with his violin. Bell then proudly and affectionately recalled the history of the Stradivarius he owns, the Gibson ex-Huberman, which belonged to the great 20th century Polish musician, Bronislaw Huberman, who was responsible for creating the Israel Philharmonic after World War II. As a violinist, Bell has had the opportunity to meet notables like Elie Wiesel and Nelson Mandela. He added that he wished he could have met Sr. Rose while she was alive because, among other things, it was obvious she had "chutzpah".

Accompanied by concert pianist **Sam Haywood**, Bell closed the "Evening of Music" with three glorious selections: Tchaikovsky's *Meditations*, Sarasate's *Overture to the Introduction to the Tarantella*, and Chopin's *Nocturne in C# Minor*.

Guests were then treated to an elegant dessert reception catered by In Thyme Caterers.



L to r: Susan Feinstein, Joshua Bell and Dr. Marcia Robbins-Wilf



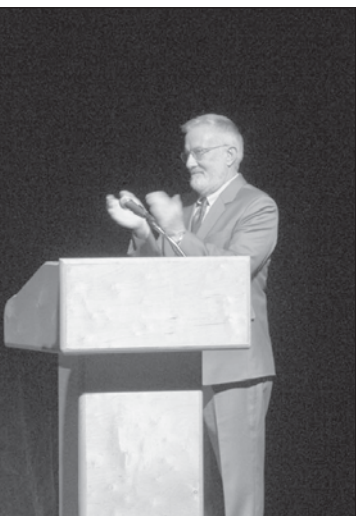
Dr. David Bossman applauds performers Kevin Maynor and his accompanist Eric Olsen.



Paul Gibbons, chairman, addresses guests at the pre-performance dinner.



Kevin Maynor and Luna Kaufman stand with Joshua Bell as he displays the SHU Humanitarian of the Year Award.



Joshua Bell performs on his Gibson ex Huberman



Rob Huberman, great nephew of Bronislaw Huberman, shows Joshua and Luna Kaufman a photo of his great uncle playing the Stradivarius as a young man



Joshua Bell accompanied by Sam Haywood while Eric Olsen assists



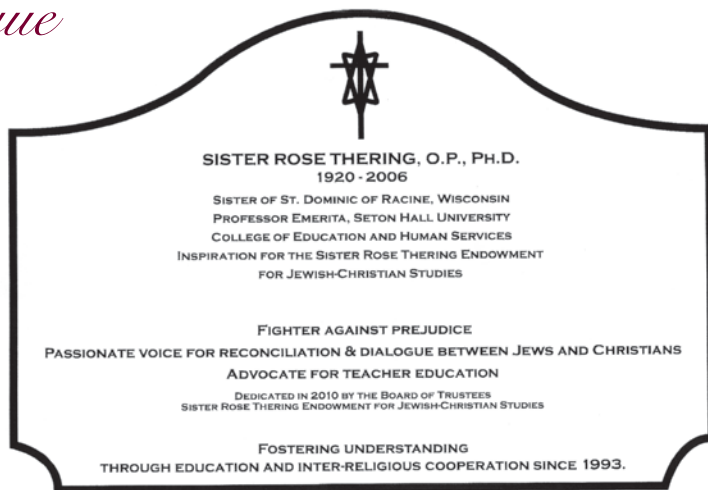
Posing with Kevin Maynor are Ken Oleckna, Helen Kaplan, Michael Kaplan (on his 70th birthday) and Karan Oleckna

SRTE Dedicates Memorial Plaque in Honor of Sr. Rose

Members, students and friends of the Endowment gathered on May 6, the fourth anniversary of Sr. Rose's passing, to memorialize our mentor by dedicating a bronze plaque in her honor. The Endowment wants to ensure that future generations of Setonians who pass by the brick wall in the rose garden near Duffy Hall will be aware of Sr. Rose's accomplishments and what she stood for as a fighter against prejudice and a voice for religious tolerance.

The dedication program began with an opening prayer by Rev. Lawrence Frizzell, chairman of the JCST department, followed by remarks from both our chairman, Paul Gibbons, and executive director, Dr. David Bossman. Luna Kaufman, chair emerita and moving force behind this project, performed the unveiling. JCST faculty member Rabbi Asher Finkel chanted the closing prayer. Dr. Alan Brill, who holds the Cooperman Ross/Endowed Chair in Sr. Rose's honor led the mourner's Kaddish in Hebrew. The group was then delighted by the warm recollections of Dr. Michael Kuchar, a school superintendent in New Jersey, who represented the College of Education and Human Services, of which Sr. Rose was a long-time faculty member. Dr. Kuchar credits encouragement from and conversations with Sr. Rose as the inspiration for his pursuing a career in education.

We hope our plaque will be noticed and read for many years in the future.





Executive Director's Message

The mission of Sister Rose lives on in the minds and hearts of those who knew her charm and wisdom as well as her fierce pursuit of justice. In life, she set her face against anti-Semitism and insisted that educators be prepared to teach lessons from the Holocaust

at all grade levels. In death she continues to inspire us with her life's convictions.

The Endowment board erected a bronze plaque on the University's rose garden wall honoring Sister Rose on the fourth Yahrzeit of her passing on May 6th. It describes Sister Rose as "Fighter Against Prejudice, Passionate Voice for Reconciliation and Dialogue between Jews and Christians, and Advocate for Teacher Education."

Sister Rose knew that oppression did not end with the Third Reich. Hate and prejudice born of ignorance hold sway even today in the form of genocides, ethnic cleansing, terrorism, and the denial of human rights around the world as well as bullying in our schools and society. Unless we learn from the past, hate will continue unabated to poison people's minds and hearts. We must fight bullying wherever and whenever it occurs.

The dignity of the least of our brothers and sisters is a clarion call in the teachings of the biblical prophets. It is clear as well in the words of Jesus and for all who earnestly live within the Abrahamic faith tradition called by God to bring blessings to the world.

Sr. Rose's Educational Legacy

We thank all who support the work of the Sister Rose Thering Endowment for Jewish-Christian Studies. In the footsteps of Sister Rose, the Endowment carries out the mandate of the Second Vatican Council in condemning prejudice, recognizing the merits of other religious traditions, and promoting the education of teachers in pluralistic values. This legacy is embedded in the State of New Jersey's mandate to teach Holocaust and Genocide studies in our schools and is the core teaching of courses in the Graduate Department of Jewish-Christian Studies where teachers study with tuition assistance from the Endowment. Seton Hall is committed to Sister Rose's educational legacy.

We are especially grateful for all who contributed to the 17th Annual Evening of Roses on April 18th. The program drew an enthusiastic audience and inspired all who attended. Marilyn Rosenbaum chaired a very dedicated program committee that brought the program to life with the devoted service of Endowment Administrator, Marilyn Zirl and office assistant Cynthia Vallario.

Special thanks to Dr. Marcia Robbins-Wilf and Perry Robins and Perry's son, Larry, for their assistance in bringing celebrated violinist Joshua Bell to accept our Humanitarian of the Year award with grace and conviction. Both Joshua Bell and Kevin Maynor lifted the hearts and spirits with their stellar musical programs. Robin Sanders' ebullient 9-minute video on Sister Rose and the mission of the Sister Rose

Thering Endowment gave a fresh look at who we are. This delightful video will be available through the Endowment office at Seton Hall.

The overall theme of that night's program was contained in Seton Hall President Msgr. Robert Sheeran's message. The educational mission of both the SRTE and the University are intertwined in the motto *Ever Forward*.

David M. Broerman

THE SRTE ESSAY CONTEST

The SRTE sponsored its third annual essay contest during 2010. Students throughout New Jersey viewed *Sister Rose's Passion* in their classrooms and were encouraged by their teachers to write an essay on the topic, "How does this film relate to an experience in your life?"

The winners who will be invited to the Orientation Program this fall are:

11th GRADE WINNERS

All from Memorial High School in West New York

First place – Michelle Martinez

Runners-up – Bryan Gaviria & Maryelena Caballero

12th GRADE WINNERS

First place – Shamm Petros, Irvington High School

Runners-up – Carlos Cuenca, Memorial High School and Jaelyn Weisz, Montville Twp. High School

A total of 83 students in grades 9, 11 and 12 representing six New Jersey schools participated:

Memorial High School (West New York)

Myra Schnur, teacher

Bishop George Ahr High School (Edison)

Patricia Bilby, teacher

Camden County Technical School

Diane Rugala, teacher

Irvington High School

Michael Skibicki, guidance counselor

Morristown High School

Cherie Streiff, guidance counselor

Montville High School

Christopher Butchko, teacher

The contest committee members evaluated each essay using three criteria: relevancy, eloquence and originality. Each winner will receive a monetary award and a personal copy of *Sister Rose's Passion*, and will be invited to read his/her essay at the Teachers Orientation program to be held in October, 2010. This contest is conducted through the cooperation of Dr. Paul Winkler, Executive Director of the NJ Commission for Holocaust Education.

Report from Paul Gibbons, SRTE Chairman



Paul Gibbons with Schindler's "children" Nachum and Genya Manor of Beer Sheva

usual supporters one of the major benefits of the event was the number of new people who now know about Sister Rose and the work of the Endowment. This was due in part to a wonderful short documentary by **Robin Sanders** introducing Rose to this new audience.

Thanking the many people who had a hand in meeting, planning, getting ready for the event and supporting our goals is a pleasant task indeed. **Marilyn Rosenbaum**, our Program Committee chairman, was dauntless in leading the group and keeping everything on track. The entire program committee deserves our gratitude for their hard work and dedication. Special thanks to **Dr. Marcia Robbins-Wilf** whose generous support and gracious help enabled us to contact Joshua Bell and convince him to come to South Orange and accept the Humanitarian of the Year Award from Seton Hall University. **Susan Feinstein**, our contact with Joshua and Marcia, handled the myriad details that are an integral part of an undertaking such as this. Thanks to **Msgr. Robert Sheeran**, President of Seton Hall, who continues his unwavering support of the Evening and the Endowment. A special thanks to **Marilyn Zirl**, our administrator, on whose strong back fell the many tasks large and small that have to be done to ensure success. I must also thank **Luna Kaufman** who first mentioned Joshua Bell and his Huberman violin

It hardly seems possible that another year has gone by. This year's Evening of Roses was by far the best ever. The Evening of Music was held at the South Orange Performing Arts Center, the first time our event was held off campus. The world-renowned violinist **Joshua Bell** was honored as the Humanitarian of the Year. The theater was warm and welcoming and filled almost to capacity. In addition to the long list of our

as a candidate for the award and whose long list of contacts included Basso **Kevin Maynor**, our guest artist. The audience left the theater full of delight and smiles. Bravo, Brava, Brave.

The year itself has also gone well. We have awarded 30 scholarships to teachers this year. All of the professors in the department have scholarship students in their classes and the students continue to praise the positive effect on their lives of what they are learning.

I nominated our own **Mary Vazquez** to receive the Irena Sendler Project Award after reading the requirements for that award. Not only are we all aware of the great things that Mary has done in NJ, but the Irena Sendler Project agrees and has named Mary Vazquez a finalist.

Our Board meetings and committee meetings have been hard working sessions, and the goodness and dedication of our members is ever more in evidence.

On a personal note I applied for and was awarded a grant from the Christian Friends of Vad Vashem to study in Jerusalem for ten days. Besides much learning and prayer one of the most moving events was to see the last 40 minutes of *Schindler's List* and then go to his grave in the Catholic Cemetery and spend time with a couple he rescued, who met and fell in love at his factory.

*Paul Gibbons
Chairman*

Paul Gibbons Participates in Israeli Program

Chairman Paul Gibbons took part in a weeklong educational program at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Museum in Jerusalem. Hosted by the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem to raise awareness about the Holocaust and its universal lessons in Christian communities world-wide, the seminar was attended by 23 people from eight countries.

Dr. Susanna Kokkonen, Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem, who had attended Luna Kaufman's book signing in May 2009, feels that the "lessons of that tragedy (the Holocaust) concern Christian values and their failure in the period when they were most needed. The formal education and emotional and spiritual connection provided by this seminar will equip leaders so they will spread the word in their communities."

Paul Gibbons, through his long connection with the Sister Rose Thering Endowment, his work with the Newark Archdiocese and his affiliation as an adjunct professor in the Religious Studies Department at Seton Hall, was the perfect choice for this program, according to Dr. David Bossman. "We are most fortunate to have someone of Paul's caliber as its chairman and we are very proud of this accomplishment," said Dr. Bossman.



Survivor Screens Holocaust Documentary at Annual Colloquium

The 1999 award-winning documentary, *The Children of Chabannes*, is a powerful story of tolerance, kindness and courage exhibited by ordinary French villagers towards Jewish children who needed refuge from the Nazis during World War II. Norbert Bikales is one of the survivors who was sheltered at Chabannes, a remote rural village in the Creuse region of Vichy France. Now a resident of Livingston, New Jersey, he screened the film and shared his story with the SRTE gathering at the annual colloquium on December 6, 2009. Filmmaker Lisa Gossels, whose father and uncle were Chabannes children, and her co-director Dean Wetherell, depict the conditions of daily life through interviews with Chabannes residents and survivors, Bikales among them.

Bikales was born in Berlin, and in 1939 left for France on a *Kindertransport* after his parents and brother were deported to Poland. Once in France he was placed in various homes run by the Jewish welfare organization, *Ouvre de Secours aux Enfants*. The OSE worked with Christians to hide the children from the Nazis and their collaborators. Bikales came to Chabannes in 1940, joining children who ranged in age from 2 to 17, and when conditions became too dangerous in 1943, Bikales and a few other children were smuggled into Switzerland.

At Chabannes, the director Felix Chevrier and the teachers Irene and Renee Paillassou, a pair of remarkable sisters, worked tirelessly to teach, care for and protect the children. Chevrier kept a journal containing photos, children's art, essays and writings and historical memorabilia. All three of these individuals have been honored at Yad Vashem as "Righteous among the Nations".



Norbert Bikales

Eventually coming to the United States in 1946, Bikales earned several degrees, including a Ph.D from Polytechnic University in Brooklyn, and became an internationally known polymer chemist with many published articles and books to his credit. Bikales is active in Holocaust-Survivor affairs as president of the *Friends and Alumni of OSE-USA*, as a board member and past secretary of the *World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust*, and as a board member

of the Holocaust Council of Metrowest, New Jersey. He is married to a survivor and has two children and five grandchildren.

After the colloquium audience viewed the emotional documentary, Bikales spoke about his recollections, particularly the constant scarcity of food, the work of the OSE, and the experience of attending the "Chabannes" reunion in France shown in the film. Asked what motivated him to surmount all the tragic and difficult obstacles that confronted him during WWII, he paused, and then answered that he wanted to fulfill his parents' expectations for him to succeed.

JCST Graduate Presents Father's Wartime Diary at Book Signing

CONTINUATION

*Excerpt from a poem written
June 2, 2007 by Renata Kessler
for Edmund Kessler's Birthday*

The dignity you were denied
The words that were not said
Find their voice in mine
Where father stops
And daughter starts
I do not know
The hazy lines between life and death
Cannot be explained
I only know the task left unfinished
Still remains

This task defines what I must do
This book, my birthday gift to you
To share the history of our nation
This bond of love
Our continuation.

The evening of May 6 was busy and nostalgic in several ways for the SRTE. Renata (Renee) Kessler, a graduate of our JCST department, presented her father's memoirs, *The Wartime Diary of Edmund Kessler, Lwow, Poland 1942-1944* at a book signing hosted by the Endowment. She developed the English translation of her father's diary for publication through the JCST department and had researched and coordinated the manuscript over a ten year period. Her pursuit of her father's story, an eye-witness account of the Holocaust through events he lived through, took her to Poland, Israel and the Ukraine. Renee was assisted by renowned scholar and Brandeis professor, Antony Polonsky, who contributed an historical overview during which the events took place in Poland. Dr. Polonsky was the featured speaker at the book signing. Przemyslaw Murckiewicz, a native of Poland and a student in our JCST program, also contributed to the original manuscript.

Edmund Kessler was a Jewish lawyer from Lwow, Poland who was hidden in an underground bunker in 1942-1944 with 23 other Jews by a courageous, Polish Catholic family, the Kalwinskis, who have since been honored at Yad Vashem. The Kalwinskis' son, Kazimierz, helped his parents in their rescue efforts during WWII and wrote about his experiences for the Kessler book.

As Renee spoke about completing her father's legacy, she remarked that she showed drafts of the manuscript to Sr. Rose who told her "these memoirs must be published". Renee added she was humbled to have the opportunity to present her book to the SHU community on May 6, the anniversary of Sr. Rose's passing. At the left we are pleased to share a portion of a poem written by Renee which appears at the beginning of *The Wartime Diary of Edmund Kessler*.

SRTE Sends Polish Catholic Educator to Yad Vashem Conference

Przemyslaw (Shem) Murczkiewicz is a native of Staszow, Poland and came to this country in 1997 at the age of 29. Seven years later he matriculated as a graduate student in Seton Hall University's Jewish-Christian studies program. This connection to Seton Hall enabled Shem, a Catholic and elementary school teacher, to realize a dream of returning to Israel with the help of a scholarship from the SRTE.

He first visited Israel in 1990, spending two weeks doing research at Yad Vashem on Polish-Jewish relations during World War II for his Master's thesis. On this trip he fell in love with Israel, its culture and music and wanted to learn more about Judaism and the Shoah. For many years Shem hoped to return to Israel and found the opportunity to do so last summer.

In the spring of 2009 Luna Kaufman, chair emerita of the SRTE, contacted Shem and told him he had been selected for a SRTE scholarship to attend the International Summer Seminar for Educators at Yad Vashem. Shem said that as



Przemyslaw (Shem) Murczkiewicz

a native of Poland his knowledge of the Holocaust is personal and broad in scope. But he knew that "attending the Yad Vashem seminar would give him a very different perspective to use as a teacher."

Participants included educators, principals and museum employees from nine countries who attended lectures and meetings with survivors to explore the theme "Teaching about the Shoah and Anti-Semitism." His experiences during the seminar taught Shem that when discussing the Holocaust there are many things to focus on besides the suffering of victims and survivors. As an elementary school teacher, he believes "It is important to instruct students that Jewish children in pre-war Europe were the same as non-Jewish children and had the same problems and ambitions as children do today, no matter where they live."

Shem returns to visit his family in Poland every two years. The town where he spent his childhood, Staszow, was home to approximately 5,000 Jews in 1939 when the Germans invaded. By the end of 1942 all those still remaining were marched out of town and murdered or deported to an extermination camp.

Shem teaches the 3rd grade at St. Francis Cabrini Elementary School in Brooklyn and has taught nearly all grade levels during his 10-year teaching stint at this school. He feels privileged to have met Sr. Rose Thering and is grateful to both the SRTE and to Luna Kaufman for making it possible to spend a month studying and traveling in Israel.

2008 Colloquium Speaker Visits WWII Counterfeiters

Danny Spungen, lifelong collector of stamps and coins, was one of the featured speakers at the SRTE colloquium in 2008. During that program he presented his valuable historical collection of postal memorabilia and currency used in Nazi concentration camps and ghettos.

Danny sent us an interesting article from the April 2010 issue of *The Numismatist*, which describes his visits with the three remaining survivors of the famous Nazi forgery scheme known as Operation Bernhard. Danny first met the only survivor living in the US, 87-year old Hans Walter. He then traveled on separate occasions to Berlin and Prague to meet Isaak Plapler and Adolf Burger, the latter being the most well-known of the individuals involved in Operation Bernhard. A group of Jewish inmates at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp were forced to produce counterfeit bank notes in an effort to destabilize the British economy. Burger's memoirs were the basis for the Austrian film made in 2007, *The Counterfeiters*, which won the Oscar for best foreign language film.

Sister Rose Endowment Honored by Essex County

On April 28, at its annual ethnic celebration of the mosaic that is Essex County, Joseph DiVincenzo, Jr., County Executive, presented an award to the Sister Rose Thering Endowment, that read in part, "We commend Seton Hall University and the Sister Rose Thering Endowment for continuing her dreams and providing scholarships to the students of the Graduate Department of Jewish-Christian Studies." The award, recommended by Freeholder Patricia Sebold, was accepted by Dr. David Bossman representing the Endowment and Monsignor Sheeran, who was not able to attend this event.

State Senator Loretta Weinberg and Dr. Jeremy Goodman, director of the Turtleback Zoo, were the honorees at this Jewish Heritage celebration held at the Hall of Records in Newark.

Visit our website:
www.shu.edu/go/SRTE

ORIENTATION 2009



Left to right - Mary D'Alessio, Hagit Barnir, Lisa Lenn, Melissa Walcott, Alanna Carter, Kristina Lawrence-Shire, Victoria Marcial.

Having **Norm Conard** as the featured speaker at the SRTE's Orientation Program on October 25, 2009 enabled us to again honor the heroism of Irena Sendler which we celebrated at the 2009 *Evening of Roses*. The Orientation Program, held shortly after the start of the academic year, is the first of three major annual events sponsored by the SRTE and brings together the teachers enrolled in our graduate courses with our board of trustees.

Welcoming remarks by Paul Gibbons, chairman of the SRTE board, were followed by the presentation of sponsored scholarships to eight educators enrolled in our Fall semester classes (see list on page 13). Dr. David Bossman, Executive Director, then announced the winner of the second annual SRTE Essay Contest for high school students, Kae Yamane. She graduated from North Brunswick High School in June, 2009 and presently attends Rutgers University. The essay contest hopes to encourage teachers throughout New Jersey to use the film *Sr. Rose's Passion* as a tool to address issues of prejudice and diversity.

Conard's Life in a Jar Project

Next, our audience of teachers, scholarship recipients and donors, board members, faculty and guests were inspired and humbled by Norm Conard's presentation on "the Protestant children from rural Kansas who discovered a Catholic woman who saved Jewish children during World War II." Conard is an award-winning social studies teacher from Fort Scott, Kansas whose spark of encouragement in 1999 to four students in a classroom history project led to the creation and production of "Life in a Jar" and world-wide media attention for Irena Sendler's story of smuggling 2500 children out of the Warsaw ghetto. His classroom motto became, "He who changes one person, changes the world" and was readily adopted by his students through their multi-cultural projects. *Tikkun olam* became their by-word.

Conard spoke of how he and the original four students who performed "Life in a Jar" realized their dream of meeting Irena Sendler in person in Warsaw in 2001. She particularly loved teachers and education, and, noted Conard, shared in common with American civil rights activists the

ability to battle and overcome indifference and prejudice. He first incorporated teaching multi-cultural diversity into his classroom 22 years ago. An example of the fruits of such endeavors was a student who began a project in 1996 that led to creating a documentary about Elizabeth Eckford, one of the students who integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1958.

After retiring from the classroom, Conard became the executive director of the Life in a Jar Foundation and the Lowell Milken Education Center. The "Life in a Jar" project has extended the Irena Sendler story from schools

to the world community in many ways (can be reached at www.irenasendler.org). Conard is very proud of the Irena Sendler Award, begun in 2007 which annually awards \$10,000 to a teacher in the United States and to a teacher in Poland for innovative and inspirational teaching of Holocaust education. Pleased to have the opportunity to bring his presentation to Seton Hall, Conard was impressed with the SRTE's "excellence in leading and motivating in education, and the way this organization radiates the positive attitudes toward all people that the world needs."



Susan Feinstein and David Bossman pictured with Kae Yamane (center), winner of the 2009 Essay Contest.



Left to right - Lisa Lenn, Hagit Barnir, Alanna Carter and Victoria Marcial pose with Norm Conard.



Guest Columnist Dr. Paul Winkler

*Executive Director of the New Jersey
Commission on Holocaust Education*

Why It Is Important to Integrate Holocaust/Genocide Studies into the Standard Curriculum

In New Jersey the mandate on teaching Holocaust and genocide studies became law in 1994. Since then, through the activities of survivors' willingness to share, thousands of educator volunteers, networks of Holocaust centers and the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, much has occurred in the teaching of genocide in New Jersey classrooms. While we are very proud of these efforts, the level of study varies from district to district.

The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education has developed and adopted a rationale, with the input of many, which may help to bring Holocaust/genocide studies into alignment with state standards, thereby making the curriculum not a separate issue but one integrated into all subjects.

Holocaust Rationale Statement

Study of the Holocaust and genocides in the public schools of the State of New Jersey is designed to:

- contribute to student attainment of the goals of general education based upon academic standards established by the N. J. State Board of Education;
- improve understanding of the significance of the Holocaust as a unique historical tragedy of the 20th century, and as one of a series of genocides that challenge humankind's commitments to tolerance, peace and the preservation of human life,
- provide opportunities for the analysis of patterns of human behavior by perpetrators, bystanders, victims of genocidal acts, individuals and groups who resisted, and others who acted to support and rescue members of targeted victim groups;
- stimulate reflection on the fragility of democratic institutions and the roles and responsibilities of citizens in democratic societies to combat prejudice, hate, intolerance and discrimination;
- develop recognition and respect for cultural diversity, as well as for the protection of international human rights for all members of society;
- preserve and examine the legacy of the Holocaust and genocides as a form of public remembrance in an effort to combat efforts to deny historical truths and to honor the memory of survivors and their cultural legacies.

There is a need to develop guides for educators as to what constitutes an outstanding program, along with a system to monitor what is occurring in New Jersey classrooms and ways to remediate problems.

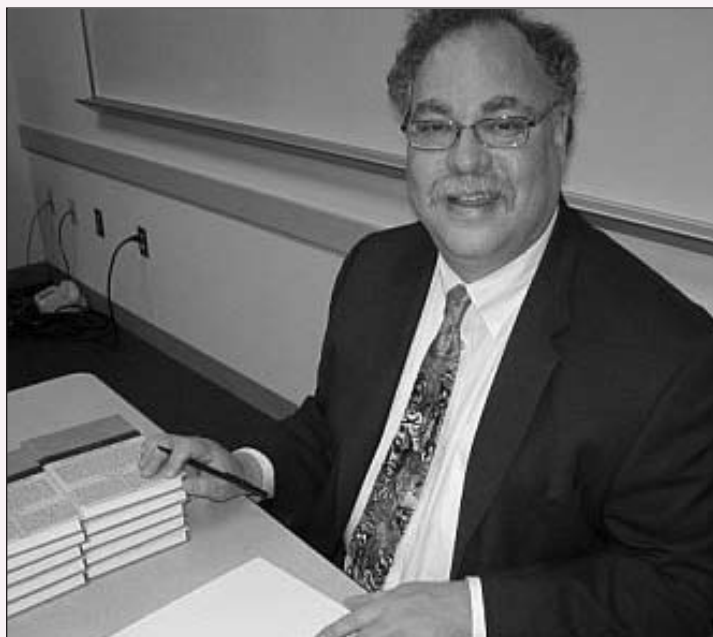
The use of fine and performing arts has proven very useful in bringing students into a discussion about Holocaust and genocide topics. Music, dance, drama, art must now be fully integrated in the same way that Holocaust History or Social Studies and Language Arts are integrated.

Other guides that must be developed for classroom use should demonstrate similarities or uniqueness of each genocidal act. Examples are that of the Italian Commission about how many Italians saved Jews; or the story of Japanese atrocities; or the work of the Amistad Commission showing the connection between slavery and genocide. Additional areas to be explored to foster appropriate learning and discussion in the classroom include:

- Role of religion in genocide
- America's role during the Holocaust – aside from liberation
- In-depth study of the impact of sexism, racism and anti-Semitism on genocide
- Question of forgiveness and reconciliation
- Inclusivity vs. uniqueness

About five years ago, the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education made a decision to actively support, encourage and initiate activities that would bring students and survivors together in meaningful and positive ways. Imagine Holocaust survivors attending their own special senior prom, participating in a high school graduation program, sitting for a personalized portrait, participating in an adoption program, a writing seminar, a Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony. These are a few of the activities students and Holocaust survivors participated in recently—activities denied to them during their own teenage years.

It will be important for the future of Holocaust/genocide education to continue to be a viable subject in our schools; it must be coordinated with other genocide studies and integrated into general education. In other words, inclusivity is the key word for the future.



Dr. Brill Publishes Second Book

Speaking before a receptive group of colleagues, students and friends, Rabbi Alan Brill, Cooperman-Ross Professor of Jewish-Christian Studies in honor of Sister Rose Thering, introduced his new book, *Judaism and Other Religions: Models of Understanding*. The event took place on Sunday, March 21 at a book-signing arranged by the Department of Jewish-Christian Studies in the Beck Rooms of Walsh Library. His first publication, *Thinking God: The Mysticism of Rabbi Zadok of Lublin*, appeared in 2002.

Introduced by Fr. Lawrence Frizzell, chairman of the department of Jewish-Christian Studies, Rabbi Brill is an inheritor of the philosophy of Vatican II but a member of the newer generation of Jewish scholars. He received a doctorate in Catholic Theology at Fordham University in a multi-religious environment among graduate students from all ethnic backgrounds. His personal background and his awareness that many Jews have no understanding of Catholicism led him to write this first of two volumes on the similarities and differences among the major religions. He was also influenced to write on this topic by the publication in 2001 of *Dabru Emet*, a Jewish statement on Christians and Christianity that left many questions unanswered, and by the events following 9/11 that emphasized a need for lectures on extremism and moderates from all religions.

This first volume, a companion to *Judaism and World Religions: Christianity, Islam and Eastern Religions (2011)*, both published by Palgrave-Macmillan, explores how the historic ideas of inclusivists, exclusivists, universalists and pluralists had impact on Judaism as Jews first met other religions. The second volume will deal with the specifics of each religion encountered.

Rabbi Brill answered questions and concluded by stressing the need to work together to learn what is positive in each religion.

Graduate Student's Book to Bring Luna's Life to Young Children

As a daughter of a Jewish mother and a father who is a Baptist minister it was natural for Alanna Carter to care about interreligious issues. Alanna is a full-time student in SHU's graduate department of Jewish-Christian Studies and has been a named recipient of several scholarships awarded by the SRTE. Luna Kaufman, SRTE chair emerita and Holocaust survivor, visited Dr. David Bossman's class, *Lessons from the Holocaust*, one day in the fall 2009 semester. Alanna was a student in the class, and had found preparing lesson plans to teach Holocaust studies to children in lower elementary grades to be quite challenging. "I realized it is very difficult to convey the concepts of this subject matter to young children," said Alanna.

With encouragement from Dr. Bossman and inspired by Luna's classroom visit, Alanna decided to take on the project of writing a book targeted to children in the second through fourth grades. She spoke with Luna about writing and publishing a book based on *Luna's Life*. Luna gave her enthusiastic support. Alanna chose to focus the story on Luna's treasured coat, which she had kept with her throughout the war years but eventually lost while working in the Nazi labor camps.

"Love and loss is an important concept in teaching about the Holocaust and is something children can readily relate to," noted Alanna. She hopes her classmates in the JCST program will eventually be able to obtain approval to incorporate her book into their classroom curriculum.

While a freshman in high school Alanna won a poetry contest by writing a poem about a blonde, blue-eyed Jewish girl who encountered increasing anti-Semitism living in pre-war Europe. Growing up Alanna identified as a Christian, attending church services on Sundays. As a young adult she began exploring her Jewish heritage. She received her undergraduate degree in Fine Arts from Seton Hall University in 2007. Both her parents are SHU employees.

Much success to Alanna Carter on the publication of her children's book, *Luna's Coat!*

Summer Program in Germany

In addition to her busy schedule of courses and writing a book, Alanna was chosen to attend a summer program for Jewish students under the auspices of the American Jewish Committee and Germany Close Up. From May 5-16 she travelled to Berlin, Sachsenhausen, Munich and Oberammergau. Her group then joined a special workshop of 100,000 German Catholics and Protestants at the Kirchentag, an ecumenical gathering, whose theme is "That you may have hope." Alanna plans to report on this trip, her first to Europe, in the fall.

Reaction to *Schindler's List* from an Eighth Grader

Rebecca Enright is an eighth grade student at Mustard Seed School in Hoboken, New Jersey. Last summer Rebecca read *Schindler's List* as a required reading assignment. Her mother, Nancy, is an English professor here at Seton Hall University. Nancy Enright knew Sr. Rose Thering well and how important



Rebecca Enright-Schur, today at age 14

Holocaust education in the schools was to Sr. Rose. Nancy shared her daughter's review with us as an example of "the fruits of Sr. Rose's labors".

The first book I read this summer was *Schindler's List* by Thomas Kenneally. It was about a man named Oskar Schindler and his incredible efforts to save the Jews from the Nazis. Schindler was a well-acclaimed businessman. He owned his own enamel works factory (meaning a factory where they make

weapons for the war) in Poland where he helped employ Jews from the nearby Jewish ghetto. His workers are now known as the "Schindler Jews".



Sister Rose and her friend Rebecca as a little girl

Schindler was also a member of the Nazi party so he had to "befriend" many of the Nazi commandants, such as Amon Goeth. Goeth was relatively young and reckless. He had no problem killing children for stupid things, like not being able to clean his bathtub (which he once did!) or separating families (which he did many times). That being said, it was very hard for Schindler to create a relationship with him, but he was able to do so by being very wise and also cunning. He told Goeth and other Nazi commandants that his employees were a crucial part of his business; in other words, THEY COULD NOT BE PUT IN A CAMP! He eventually had to pay for the Jews on his list (Schindler's List), and although he lost a great sum of his money he knew he was doing the right thing. "To some people it now seemed that Oskar was spending like a compulsive gambler. Even from the little they knew of him, his prisoners could sense that he would ruin himself for them if that was the price." (page 225, *Schindler's List*).

What I find very interesting about Schindler is that he had many flaws, too. His wife Emilie chose to live mainly in Moravia, but when she was gone Schindler would act very unfaithfully. He would get into other relationships, one with his Polish secretary, Klonowska, and another with Ingrid, his German mistress. Schindler also liked the many parties he and his friends (real or fake) held, and at the parties he would drink a lot! Even though alcohol didn't really effect Schindler the way it does most people, as the author says, "that has never been an excuse for carousing." (page 14). Schindler took pleasure in buying expensive things for himself and others, so much so that many could have called him materialistic. Nevertheless, overall I think the good definitely outweighs the bad in Schindler and makes his character much more complex. The "Schindler Jews" certainly thought so. "He was our father, our mother, he was our only faith. He never let us down."

Luna's Life, Part Two

In May, 2009 the SRTE and SHU celebrated the publication of Luna Kaufman's memoirs, *Luna's Life*, at a book signing reception. Since that time Luna has been busy visiting a number of sites to lecture on her book and present her remarkable life odyssey.

The first event on her list was a talk at the Museum of Jewish Heritage located in lower Manhattan. She was invited to give the second annual Erna and Henry Rubinstein Memorial Lecture in Holocaust Studies at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton on January 17, 2010. Other dates on her itinerary include:

March 4, 2010
National Council of Jewish Women
in Fair Lawn, NJ

April 11, 2010
Temple Makor Chayim in Cranford, NJ

May 2, 2010
St. Bartholomew Church, New York

May 30-31, 2010
U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

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STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

Jillian Harris

Newly-enrolled student in JCST Master's degree program and social studies teacher at Marquis de Lafayette Middle School in Elizabeth:

"Am I just a teacher of civics and geography? Not quite. I am a teacher dedicated to schooling young people in the fundamentals in life. ... Teaching about the citizenship and government of the United States cannot be accomplished without a profound understanding of Judaism and Christianity, along with their interconnectedness. Topics [enslavement and emancipation of African Americans, the Holocaust, Japanese internment] contain an instruction that continually reinforce the need for a multicultural society and equal rights and opportunity for all human beings. With a Master's degree in Jewish-Christian studies, I know that I will receive the knowledge that will foster inter-racial, inter-socioeconomic, and inter-religious cooperation."

Kristina Lawrence-Shire

Enrolled in first JCST course in Fall, 2009 and middle school social studies teacher at Academy of St. Francis of Assisi, Totowa:

"The Jewish-Christian Studies program at Seton Hall has markedly increased my interest in the Holocaust... After taking Dr. Bossman's course, *Lessons from the Holocaust*, as an educator I developed a high level of sensitivity and a keen awareness of the complexity of Holocaust education vital for teaching middle school students... This course, through lectures, textbooks and independent study, enabled me to help students understand the reasons behind the Holocaust genocide and to become more compassionate in dealing with each other."

Daniel Beyer

Completed four courses in JCST for certification and teaches 5th grade at Roberge Elementary school in River Vale:

"As a public school teacher I have students from many different faiths. While I do not have the opportunity to speak with my students about deep matters of faith, I do speak with them about the fact that while people are different in many ways—our similarities outweigh our differences. It is when we don't understand the differences that they become problems... I consider myself very blessed to have been the recipient of assistance from the Sister Rose Thering Endowment. I have grown personally and professionally as a result of the courses I have completed thus far."

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More than 350 teachers throughout New Jersey have benefited from the Endowment during the past 17 years, and have had an impact on more than 150,000 students in their classes. The Evening of Roses is our only fund-raising event focusing on educating teachers about Jewish-Christian relations, the Holocaust, tolerance and prejudice reduction.

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Ellin and Fred Cohen	Madeline Romani Kerns, Social Studies teacher, Assumption School, Morristown
Gloria Steiner Memorial Scholarship	Kristina Lawrence-Shire, Social Studies teacher, St. Francis Assisi Academy, Totowa
Racine Dominicans of the Siena Center	Lisa Lenn, Religious Studies teacher, St. John Vianney HS, Holmdel
Carol and Alan Silberstein	Victoria Marcial, graduate student, Seton Hall University
Dr. Charles Steiner	Melissa Walcott, 4th grade teacher, St. Mary's School, Newark

Spring 2010

SPONSOR	RECIPIENT
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Orlie and Richard Prince	Mary D'Alessio, 8th grade teacher of Holocaust and Genocide, Millburn Middle School
Eleanor Siegler/Werbel Family	Jillian Harris, Social Studies teacher, Marquis de Lafayette Middle School, Elizabeth
Ellin and Fred Cohen	Madeline Romani Kerns, Social Studies teacher, grades 5-6, Assumption School, Morristown
Gloria Steiner Memorial Scholarship	Kristina Lawrence-Shire, Social Studies teacher, grades 6-8, Academy of St. Francis of Assisi, Totowa
Carol and Alan Silberstein	Victoria Marcial, graduate student, SHU Department of Jewish-Christian Studies

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Department of Jewish-Christian Studies Course Offerings

Fall 2010

August 30 - December 21

JCST 6001	Christian-Jewish Encounter Frizzell
JCST 6005	Hebrew Bible Readings I Frizzell
JCST 6014	Lessons from the Holocaust Bossman
JCST 6015	Cross-Cultural Analysis for Jewish-Christian Studies Bossman
JCST 7036	Peace and War in Bible and Jewish Tradition Frizzell
JCST 7560	The Land of Israel and the Three faiths Brill
JCST 7570	Jewish Ethics Brill

Spring 2011

January 18 - May 13

JCST 6007	Qumran Hebrew Readings Frizzell
JCST 6014	Lessons from the Holocaust Bossman
JCST 6016	Values for a Pluralistic Society Bossman
JCST 7030	Law and Ethics Frizzell
JCST 7033	Philosophic Perspectives on the Holocaust Brill
JCST 7585	Comparative Study of Judaism and Christianity Brill
JCST 9001	Thesis



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