

October 2015

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From the Director

Los Angeles, October 30, 2015

This month was groundbreaking for the Center, with the successful presentation of "Singing in the Lion's Mouth: Music as Resistance to Genocide," a two-day event series. The program began with two film screenings, *Screamers*, a film by Carla Garapedian, and *Following the Ninth*, a film by Kerry Candaele. Both films were followed by very interesting discussions involving the audience and the filmmakers. The second day of the conference hosted an academic symposium with seven incredible scholars from Europe, Indonesia, South Africa, and the United States. Their presentations discussed and challenged our understanding of how music serves as a means of resistance. The program ended with a moving concert, which included performances by students enrolled in the Thornton School of Music. The concert also included original recordings of songs used in their respective eras. The students performed various choral and instrumental pieces that were songs created during times of mass violence, or that were reinterpreted for resistance (See below for more).

This month, we screened the impressive film *Intore* (the chosen), by filmmaker Eric Kabera. The film portrays how Rwanda continues to cope with the aftermath of the genocide. We are very proud to announce that as a result of our screening, Eric Kabera's film was invited to the International Family Film Festival in Hollywood. Moreover, it is my distinct pleasure to announce that I was invited to present to him the newly-created IFFF Humanitarian Award. The award celebrates his documentary, which offers "a powerful and rare look at how Rwanda survived its tragic past by regaining its identity through music, dance and the resilience of a new generation. It's a story of triumph, survival, hope and a lesson in how to forgive and live; work has given the Rwandan culture a new dimension of identity and celebration."

The Center looks forward to the next month, for we are expanding our horizons through collaboration and more interdisciplinary events. Our Center Fellow, Dr. Kiril Feferman, has joined us now for about a week, to begin his four-month residency period with the Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research (see below for more info). We will screen Peter Logue's documentary, *The Search for the White Rose*, in cooperation with the USC Shoah Foundation Student Organization DEFY, as well as partner with the USC Casden Institute and USC Max Kade Institute for the 2015 Jerome Nemer Lecture, featuring Stuart Eizenstat and the film *Defiant Requiem*. We will also host a lecture by Maximilian Strnad (University of Munich) on interracial marriage during the Nazi era. (See information below for all upcoming events.)

We are in for some exciting new events, and we hope you can join us as we continue to develop and expand.

Wolf Gruner
Director, USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research
Shapell-Guerin Chair in Jewish Studies
Professor of History

News

Impact in Profile: Kiril Feferman

Kiril Feferman, formerly a senior lecturer at the Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow and head of the educational and research department of the Russian Research and Educational Holocaust Center, has been named the 2015-16 Center Fellow at the Center for Advanced Genocide Research. Last week, he began his approximately four months in residence at USC this fall conducting research in the Visual History Archive for his upcoming book project. He will also give a public lecture during his stay.

He earned his Ph.D. at the Institute of Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and was a fellow at Yad Vashem and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM).

Feferman has conducted extensive research on the Holocaust in Crimea, the North Caucasus and the Soviet Union, but said there is one subject that is severely underrepresented in the field of Holocaust research: the role that religion played in the lives of Jewish and non-Jewish aid providers, aid recipients and survivors in the Soviet Union.



Read the full article [here](#).

Singing in the Lion's Mouth: Music as Resistance to Genocide (A Reflection by Scott Spencer, PhD)

During the weekend of October 10-11, the University of Southern California gathered international academics, musicians, film makers, students and members of the Los Angeles community for a symposium and series of events, collectively called "Singing in the Lion's Mouth: Music as Resistance to Genocide." Hosted by Professor Wolf Gruner of the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research, and Professor Nick Strimple of the USC Thornton School of Music, the symposium, film screening and concert were also sponsored by USC's Vision and Voices arts and humanities initiative.

It was clear at the outset that the conference would not be bound by a single idea, style of music, or academic field of study. ..

For the full report on the individual events and reflections about the larger ideas raised in discussions over the course of the weekend, please click [here](#).
Read the Daily Trojan coverage [here](#).



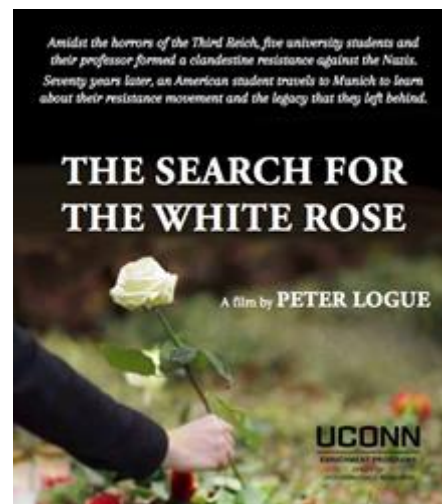
Upcoming Events

Film Screening: *The Search for the White Rose* A documentary by Peter Logue

Followed by a panel discussion with the filmmaker and
USC student activists
November 10, 2015
Location & Time: SGM 123 .30 pm

In 1942, amidst inexplicable evil and destruction, a small group of University of Munich students and one professor found themselves morally incapable of remaining complicit. Through the publication and distribution of six anti-Nazi leaflets, the members of the White Rose implored their countrymen to rise against the government by asking them to consider the "dimensions of shame that will befall us and our children when one day the veil has fallen from our eyes and the most horrible of crimes- crimes that infinitely outdistance every human measure- reach the light of day."

In this documentary, Peter Logue explores the legacy that was left behind by the members of the White Rose after they were executed at the hands of the Gestapo. Through extensive interviews with scholars and conversations with current University of Munich students, Logue asks us all to consider what we can learn from the White Rose today and, most importantly, "what would you have done?"



Please RSVP at marinaka@usc.edu

This event is in cooperation with DEFY, the USC Shoah Foundation Student organization.

The USC Casden Institute, USC Shoah Foundation and USC's Max Kade Institute present:

**A film screening of *Defiant Requiem*,
& a lecture by American diplomat and attorney
Stuart E. Eizenstat,
followed by commentary by Wolf Gruner, Director
of the Center for Advanced Genocide Research,
USC Shoah Foundation**

Sunday, November 15, 2015

2:00pm, Film Screening at Norris Theatre

4:45pm, Reception

5:30pm, Lecture at Town and Gown

Defiant Requiem:

The film highlights a dramatic example of intellectual and artistic courage in the ghetto of Theresienstadt (Terezín) during World War II: the remarkable story of Rafael Schächter, a brilliant, young and passionate Czech opera-choral conductor who was arrested and sent to the camp in 1941. Schächter demonstrated moral leadership under the most brutal circumstances; his performance of the Verdi Requiem sustained courage and hope among his fellow prisoners.



Lecture:

We must perpetuate the memory and lessons of the Holocaust after the eyewitnesses have gone, in ways that will honor the victims of Nazi brutality. This means focusing on Holocaust education in our schools and upholding tolerance and the rule of law in our own age. It requires confronting anti-Semitism in Europe today – the root cause of the Holocaust in the 20th Century – and countering efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel.

Please RSVP by November 10 at usc.edu/esvp code: NEMERLECTURE

[Learn more...](#)

"The Fortune of Survival - Intermarried Jews in Nazi Germany"

A lecture by Maximilian Strnad (University of Munich)

Thursday, November 19, 2015
Doheny Memorial Library, Rm. 240, 4pm

Strnad's research provides an in-depth look in to the lives of inter-married Jews attempting to survive the war during its final year. By focusing on this specific time period, this lecture will provide new insights into the persecution of the Jews that remained within the German Reich.

Maximilian Strnad has published two books on unknown forced labor camps for Jews: *Zwischenstation "Judensiedlung": Verfolgung und Deportation der jüdischen Münchner 1941-1945* (2011) and *Flachs für das Reich. Das jüdische Zwangsarbeitslager 'Flachsroste Lohhof' bei München* (2013) as well as co-edited the book *Der Holocaust in der deutschsprachigen Geschichtswissenschaft* (2012, The Holocaust in German historiography).



Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP at shefalid@usc.edu.

[Learn more...](#)

Opportunities

Call for Applications:

The 2016-2017 Center Fellow

The USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research invites applications from senior scholars for its 2016-2017 Center Research Fellow. The fellowship provides \$30,000 support and will be awarded to an outstanding candidate from any discipline, who will advance genocide research through the use of the Visual History Archive (VHA) of the USC Shoah Foundation and other USC resources. The incumbent will spend one semester in residence at the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research during the 2016-2017 academic year. The chosen fellow will be expected to provide the Center with fresh research perspectives, to play a role in Center activities, and to give a public talk during his or her stay.

Award decisions for this fellowship will be based on the originality of the research proposal and its potential to advance research within the field of Holocaust and genocide studies.

For more details, click [here](#).

Special Collections

Please consider donating private papers, documents, photographs or films regarding the Holocaust and other genocides.

The Center works with USC Libraries Special Collections to preserve private collections and make them accessible for academic research and student investigation.

To find out more about donating materials, please visit our website at cagr.usc.edu or call 213-740-6001.

**For more information about the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research and its work, please visit our website at: cagr.usc.edu
To subscribe to the Center's mailing list, please email cagr@usc.edu**