Save the Date
JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM
CELEBRATION & RECEPTION
Thursday, August 31, 2017
Schroeder Hall | 7:30 – 8:45 p.m.
immediately following the Jewish Music Series
Saxon Three Opening Night

Message from the Jewish Studies Program Director

DEAR FRIENDS,

Just two years ago, I was handed the reins of the Jewish Studies Program. As professor and chair of the music department, it was natural to incorporate music into the program and so sprang the idea for the “Survey of Jewish Music” class and the Jewish Music Series at Schroeder Hall. It’s hard to believe that we just closed out the second season of performances. The third season kicks off in August – I hope that many of you will be able to join us for a performance or two and learn about the variety of Jewish music made in the world.

The coming 2017-18 academic year is proving to be an exciting one. In addition to offering the now-standard courses, the Israel Institute awarded us a grant to bring a full-time visiting professor to campus as a fellow for up to three years. He or she will teach courses that focus on modern Israeli and will also organize events that relate to Israel, which will be largely open to the public.

The Jewish Studies Program exists because of the foresight of Elaine Leeder and others, the ingenuity and generosity of Claude Ganz and his expansive network, the groundwork from former director Mike Eza, and of course from the support from donors like you. Thank you for making this possible.

Warm regards and Happy Hanukkah,

Brian S. Wilson

A Good Omen that Sparked the Jewish Studies Program

It all began with a check from the Swiss government made out to Claude Ganz. Claude is a holocaust survivor. His story, like many others’, is one of perseverance, bravery, adaptation and tenacity that led him from the Nazis in Germany through France and Switzerland and ultimately to California, where he built a strong family and a prosperous business.

The Jewish Studies Program was building in 2007 when Claude decided to apply for Holocaust restitution from the Swiss government that distributed seats as part of the Holocaust Victims’ Assets litigation settlement. The New York resolution tribunal informed Claude of his settlement, which he described as “a pittance relative to what my family lost, but nonetheless a gesture of justice.” It was $1,500, and he and his wife, Lynne, agreed that they did not want the money for themselves. Claude said it was “appropriate for us to earmark the funds to support the continuity of the Jewish people.”

And with that, Claude and Lynn added their own funds to the $3,000 and began making phone calls.

“He was calling for dollars,” SUU professor and former director of the Jewish Studies Program, Mike Eza, said. “He called every Jewish leader in the bay area he knew and asked them to join him in building the Jewish Studies Program on campus. And they responded generously. Claude made that happen.”

Claude is modest but proud about his contribution and commitment to the program. He is sure to credit others in building it, such as Elaine Leeder, former dean of Social Sciences and emeritus professor at SUU. “She was instrumental in its beginning and Mike took the program and ran with it,” he said.

Mike enthusiastically describes the Jewish Studies Program as being a spoke in the wheel that makes SUU a hub for Jewish life in the North Bay.

The Jewish Studies Program is a forum for students to learn about the Jewish culture and connect with others who are interested in the history of Jewish people.

Come for a Visit

http://www.sonoma.edu/jewishstudies/home/current_class_schedule.html

http://www.sonoma.edu/jewishstudies/home/jewish_music_series.html

http://www.sonoma.edu/holocaustgrove

http://www.sonoma.edu/holocaust/lectures/academics.html

GIVE TO JEWISH STUDIES

Did you know: Sonoma State University and Bixler Park is a hub for Jewish life in the North Bay?

http://www.sonoma.edu/jewishstudies/home/give.html

http://www.sonoma.edu/jewishstudies/home/history_fund.html

http://www.sonsoar.org/hsf

http://www.sonsoar.org/bixlerpark

http://www.sonsoar.org/hsf