

Areté

Newsletter of The Honors School

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SUMMER HONORS SEMINAR:



H. G. WELLS: A VISIONARY

EN 298 631
July 5–August 15
M-T-W-TH 10:30-12:15

Dr. Garvey will be teaching this Honors seminar featuring the works of H.G. Wells. This course will include reading some of Wells' scientific fiction, his predictions in *Anticipations*, and his long-term vision of how science and technology will transform our world in the future.

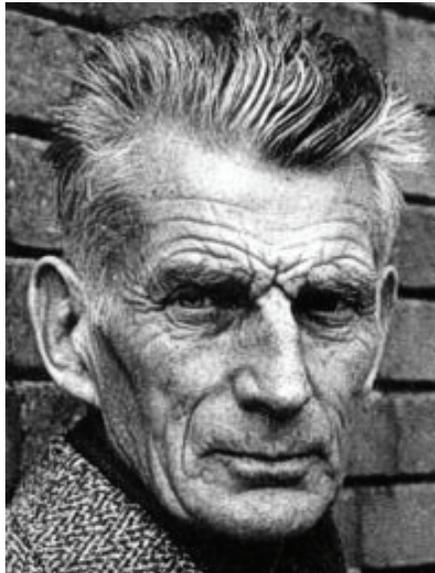
Beckett Festival

by Michael Edwards

Monmouth University and the Two River Theater Company teamed up once again to offer all students at Monmouth a chance at enriching their appreciation of Samuel Beckett with a month long celebration. The Beckett Festival & *Waiting for Godot* featured a collaboration of music, art, and theater to enrich this cultural experience.

On March 14th and 15th, Professor Ron Frangipane introduced the audience to a brief background on romantic, tonal music and its evolution to atonal music. The concert that followed was a beautiful piece inspired by composer Arnold Schoenberg. Both concerts were a huge success.

Professor Ed Jankowski presented an art lecture on March 15th which demonstrated the works of Marcel DuChamp as well as



Samuel Beckett

Beckett's friend Alberto Giacometti. These existential works helped paint the mood of post World War II European existentialism. Monmouth University events also included a Buster Keaton Film Festival in Pollak Theatre as well as the closing concert and reception featuring IoniSation performing Beckett's Words and Music. Together, these events served as a vantage point from which to view the centerpiece production in the Beckett Festival: "Waiting for Godot."

Two River Theater offered Beckett's masterpiece to fifteen sections of Literature II students who read the play in class. This absurdist play is written to expose the tedium and meaninglessness of modern life, a major claim of existentialists. The entire ensemble of art, film, literature, music, and theater proved to be a resounding success. Look for more benefits from the Two River Theater company on page 4.

Reminders

- ◆ Students registered for HO 498 (Honors Thesis Proposal) or HO 499 (Honors Thesis) this fall should complete the Honors Thesis Application and return it to the Honors School Office by September 12. Applications are available online at <http://www.monmouth.edu/academics/registrar/forms.asp>
- ◆ Sophomores need to complete an honors seminar course before the start of the thesis proposal.
- ◆ Juniors may still sign up for HO 498H 01 Thesis Proposal for the spring semester. Contact Dr. Garvey for more information.

“Hidden Children” of the Holocaust

By: Nicole Stevens

Childhood is normally a time in a person’s life filled with carefree fun, joyous laughter, and an abundance of happiness. It is a time of innocence and naivety, a time when most children have yet to see the cruelty which others are capable of.

However, the Holocaust changed that for many Jewish children. The Holocaust stole the happiness and innocence of childhood and replaced it with fear and hopelessness. One and half million of the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust were children, and even those who survived underwent a painful ordeal. Those who escaped the torturous concentration camps were forced to go into hiding. Some were still found by German raids of non-Jewish homes and immediately shot to their death, their bodies left to rot in the streets.

However, many of those who did survive are still alive today to tell about their experiences as “hidden children”—hidden away in dark places, chicken coops, barns, and attics, with nothing to do but remain as quiet and still as possible because the slightest noise could give away their hiding places.

Two former hidden children, Ruth Rosenfeld and Claire Boren, visited Monmouth’s campus on Monday, April 3, 2006, and shared their story with Professor Susan Douglass’ Holocaust class.

Rosenfeld, now 65, was less than two years old when she began her life as a hidden child. Her parents, Aaron and Sarah, were born in Poland, her father coming from a lower-class family, her mother from a pious middle-class family. When the Nazis invaded their town, Rosenfeld’s parents moved into hiding in her grandparents’ home. The Nazis were ordering Jews to live in ghettos, small, run-down towns where Jews were forced to share small homes with other families. Many Jewish men, including Rosenfeld’s uncles, were taken to work in labor camps. Rosenfeld’s mother began to teach a sewing class to other Jewish women, hoping that this skill would make them more useful to society and hopefully spare their lives.

Rosenfeld was born on November 12, 1940. In August of 1942, all the Polish towns were liquidated, meaning that all Jews who had survived thus far would be taken by cattle cars to concentration camps. During this process, Rosenfeld’s mother, grandparents, uncle, and aunt all died.

Rosenfeld, her father, and her sister hid in the attic of a woman’s home, living in darkness and seclusion, Rosenfeld’s mouth constantly covered so she would not give away their hiding place. The family then tried to escape to Czechoslovakia by train; unfortunately, the train was raided by Germans and Rosenfeld’s father was shot and killed before her eyes.

Next, the two orphaned girls were separated into hiding with two different families. Rosenfeld went to live with a Christian peasant woman on a farm, disguising herself as a Christian. In a sense, such a task was not hard to do because of her light eyes and light hair; on the other hand, it did force her to give up some of her religious customs, as she had to kneel in church and make the sign of a cross to convince others of her religion.

Fortunately, she did get to see her sister, who was living with a farming family nearby. But the hiding continued, and on Nazi raids, Rosenfeld was forced to hide in barrels of poppy seeds, fear consuming her as the Nazis poked their rifles into the barrels to see if anyone was hiding there; luckily, they never found her.

The war finally ended, and Rosenfeld and her sister continued to live in Europe until September 1, 1949, when they moved to the United States. Rosenfeld still keeps in touch with the family that saved her life and even sends them \$500 a year, in an attempt to repay them for their wonderful and selfless act of kindness. The experience taught Rosenfeld that small acts of kindness can do miracles, and it has inspired her to help others in any way she can, because her life was saved by an act of selflessness.

Claire Boren was also a hidden child during the Holocaust. Born in a small Polish town of 5,000 people, 99% of whom were Jewish, Boren and her mother were two of the



Monmouth students standing in front of an enlarged picture of the “Hidden Children” of the Holocaust at the Museum of Jewish Heritage.



Professor Susan Douglass stands between “hidden children” of the Holocaust, Ruth Rosenfeld (left) and Claire Boren (right)

Facts Related to the Holocaust

* * * * *

- 1) Hitler was not German; he was born in Austria-Hungary.
- 2) The country of Denmark and its people helped rescue 7,000 Jews from a concentration camp.
- 3) Auschwitz was a death camp infamous for having the most gas chambers—4.
- 4) Of the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust, one and a half million were children.
- 5) Lice was a major problem for Jews during the Holocaust, since it could lead to the dangerous disease typhus.

“Hidden Children” *Continued*

five Jews from her town who survived the Holocaust. Now a therapist and artist, Boren began talking about her experiences just ten years ago, after a disturbing memory of a public hanging inspired her to tell her story.

From 1941 to 1942, Boren’s family lived in a ghetto amongst other Jews. Boren has vivid memories of this time, such as her German shepherd, Rex, being taken away; looking out of a kitchen window and seeing a man being hung a short distance away; and walking in a field with her family, which was the last time she would see him.

After the ghetto had been raided and Boren’s father killed, Boren and her mother hid in the forest, where partisan groups were being formed. Ukrainian and Polish police searched the woods, Boren and her mother to go into hiding in the attic of a non-Jewish family’s home.

Living in twenty-four hour darkness and rarely being able to speak a word, Boren would escape from reality and retreat into her own fantasy world. Consequently, the Christian family they were living with suspected that she was possessed by the devil, so she and her mother went instead to live with a Polish woman. At their new hiding place, Boren was happy to have a somewhat normal life, now able to take care of the animals on the woman’s farm and play with her children.

However, they could not stay in one hiding place for long periods of time. Boren’s mother needed to get money to pay a family to allow them to hide in their home, so one night she left Boren alone in a shed, covered by a blanket, as she went to look for money her husband had buried. Boren says she remembers that night as one of her most horrifying experiences. Alone and frightened, she thought to herself: “What will happen to me if my mother does not return?”

But her mother did return, and they were able to continue to hide safely until 1944, when the Russians liberated Poland. Then, in 1949, they moved to Queens, NY, where they started their lives anew, without the worry of finding a hiding place and with the tragedy of the Holocaust behind them.

However, the Holocaust did leave a lasting impression on both Rosenfeld and Boren. For a long time after the war, Boren was unable to speak above a whisper, since she was so accustomed to being as quiet as possible. “It stays with you forever,” she says. Now a mother and grandmother who never had a childhood of her own, Boren says she enjoyed that period in her children and grandchildren’s lives, for she was finally able to play with toys and experience a part of life that had been stolen from her.

Rosenfeld, also now a mother and grandmother, says that her time as a hidden child truly changed her life and still affects her today. Just recently, for example, she bought a new home, and the first thought that ran through her mind was to find the best possible hiding place should she need somewhere to hide. “Everyone has scars,” says Rosenfeld. “The experiences we [Holocaust victims] went through leave deeper scars that have yet to heal.”

On the other hand, the Holocaust also taught the two a great lesson about the compassion of others and how important small acts of kindness and love truly are, since their lives were saved because kind-hearted strangers risked their own lives to protect theirs.

These women’s stories prove that although the Holocaust was a horrific genocide, its main goal was never truly obtained, since the Jewish heritage lives on. As Rosenfeld and Boren now have grandchildren, they are able to share their stories with them and the rest of the world in an attempt to show the importance of love in place of hate, courage in place of fear, and kindness in place of cruelty. Most importantly, their stories prove that even in the most severe hardships, even in times of sadness and despair and loss, there must always be hope—hope that the goodness of one person can make up for the cruelty of another.



Professor Gilmartin, Professor Douglass, and their students stand with Holocaust survivor Ruth Merdinger.

All My Sons

by Michael Edwards

The Two River Theater Company sponsored its best play yet with the showing of *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller. The play was set with superb scenery of three houses surrounded by foliage and a front lawn to accommodate the majority of the action. We learn that Joe Keller wants his son Chris to move on with his life after he fought in World War II. He wants Chris to marry Ann, the girl of his dreams who desperately wants to be with him. Joe tends to disregard his wife Kate, who still believes her son Larry is still alive, albeit he has been MIA for quite some time.

Things soon progress and we learn that Ann once dated Larry, but she believes that he is dead and wants to move on with her life as well. She and Joe finally convince Chris to face the facts and move past the war and all of those under his com-



mand who were killed. Chris finally decides to marry Ann, but they have one obstacle to overcome: his mother, Kate. Kate tries desperately to make anyone believe her intuition that Larry is still alive. Soon, Kate's brother shares some interesting suspicions about Joe and his wartime activity owning a machinery plant during the war.

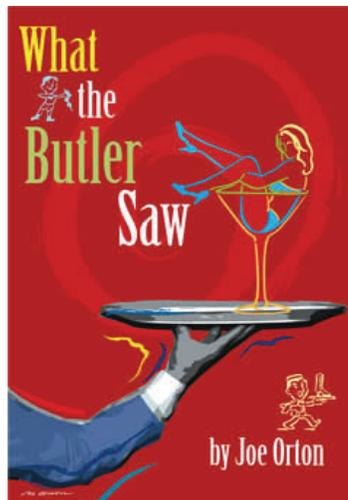
The third act ends with the audience learning Larry's fate, Joe Keller's best intentions gone awry and his sins paid for, and Chris's transformation from a young soldier into a man of his own. All of the theater reviewers for Arete were touched by this magnificent play and superb interpretation by the actors. We continued talking about its consequences, alternative viewpoints, and philosophy well after the curtain fell.

tain fell.

It is our strong recommendation that you see or read this play by Miller. Its overall themes are similar to *Death of a Salesman*, especially the theme of family. Two River Theater has housed a magnificent performance; look forward to great plays from them in the future.

"We continued talking about its consequences, alternative viewpoints, and philosophy well after the curtain fell."

What's next at Two River Theater



This hilarious farce, which pokes fun at sex, authority, family relationships and the world of psychoanalysis, remains as audacious today as ever. While attempting to seduce a prospective secretary, a sex-obsessed psychiatrist is confounded by the arrival of his nymphomaniac wife, a lunatic supervisor, a handsome bellhop, and a clueless policeman. Sound intriguing? Then come see "What the Butler Saw" by Joe Orton, playing at Two River from May 11–28.

Honors School Research Conference



The First Annual Honors School Research Conference was held on April 18 in Bey Hall, Andrew Young Auditorium. Eighteen of the twenty five honors students completing the program presented their research and findings to nearly sixty guests. Student presenters included research in the fields of Biology, Business Management and Marketing, Communication, English, History, Mathematics, Music Industry, Political Science, and Psychology. Some of the Honors student presenters and their advisors are pictured above.

Front row: Subrina Mahmood, Meghan Moratelli, Dan Duffy, Alanna Raines, Lauren Korcz, Samantha Bourque-Trieff, Krystle Hinds. Back row: Caitlin Graham, Dr. David Marshall, Dr. Gary Lewandowski, Dr. Joseph Coyle, Dr. Susan Marshall.

SIXTH ANNUAL SPRING AWARDS CEREMONY

The Honors School Sixth Annual Spring Awards Ceremony was held in Wilson Great Hall on April 18. Over one hundred students, faculty, parents, and guests attended. Twenty-eight awards were given to Honors students for Excellence in Academic Writing, Best Creative and Academic Projects, Highest GPA, Outstanding Cluster, Jane Freed Grant-In-Aid-Of-Creativity, and Jane Freed Outstanding Honors Student Achievement. Some of the award recipients are pictured below.

The Honors School Annual Spring Awards Ceremony is dedicated to the continued support and encouragement of Jane Freed.

Jane Freed Outstanding Honors Student Achievement Award

Standing with Jane Freed is Lindsay Stetson, the recipient of the Jane Freed Outstanding Honors Student Achievement Award.



Highest GPA (4.0): Fiori Alite, Alex Yegerov, Anoop Shah, Hekla Alite, Arci Guzman, Sara VanNess, Tara O'Neil, Nicole Stevens, Sunaina Kaushal, Jane Freed, and Dean Stanley Green.



Dr. Garvey, Dean of the Honors School, with Jane Freed, long time benefactor of the Honors Program/School at Monmouth University.

Jane Freed: A Journey of Self-Discovery

by Alana Raines

Thirty-two years earlier, and freshly relocated to New Jersey, Jane Freed had an epiphany: "I was always somebody's wife, daughter, or sister— not my own person," she explained, "I wanted to find out who I was." Faced with such uncertainty, she became proactive in finding her life's direction, diving head-first into all that interested her. Jane Freed's epiphany not only shed light on her own path of exploration, but lit the candles held by countless students finding their own way to self-discovery.

Born in Washington, D.C., Jane Freed originally attended Wellesley College in Maryland. After two years of study, her focus shifted toward marriage, and the birth of her two children followed. No longer a student, it was during this time that Jane Freed began to work fervently in the field of community service while raising her two children. She soon became President of The Settlement House, a recreational center for underprivileged children in the Washington, D.C. area. At the organization, Freed dedicated herself to arranging activities and events, as well as providing emotional support to the needy youth. Furthermore, she was an active volunteer for both the Girl Scouts of America and the Red Cross. After this period in her life came to a close, a new door of educational development opened.

The pivotal decision to move to the Jersey area soon proved to be the catalyst for Jane's academic career. Motivated once again to pursue schooling, she enrolled at Monmouth College, initially only auditing single classes. Before long, her fascination with archaeology drew her further in as she became a full-time student and served as a research assistant in the Anthropology Department. In 1981, Jane Freed graduated Summa Cum Laude with a major in Anthropology.

Following her graduation, Freed continued to work at Monmouth with her revered anthropology professor, Dr. William Mitchell. During this time, Freed reflected her love of the

field to students, carrying on her tradition of devotion to the benefit of others. She shared her spirit and new expertise while inspiring students. Along with Mitchell, Freed saw the need for a special academic program that would foster the intellectual abilities of the students with whom she worked so closely. With perseverance, hard work and vision, she was able to help begin the Honors Program, now the Honors School, nearly a quarter century ago. As the Honors School has grown and expanded, so has Jane's pride for its establishment. She continues her involvement by donating generously to Monmouth University students. In addition to athletic scholarships, there are five Jane Freed Grants for Creativity in Honors Thesis Proposal, each worth one thousand dollars.

As for students enrolled in the school she helped establish, Jane Freed sings very high praises. Members, she says, "instinctively know that they want more out of their education and are willing to work hard to achieve it." If there is one thing she truly wishes to emphasize, it is this: "There is nothing worthwhile that doesn't require great effort." Thus, Jane Freed's journey to self-discovery proved to be invaluable and worthwhile not only for herself, but for the innumerable students whose lives have been enriched by the path she forged.

This is further validated by the testimony of Honors students who have benefited greatly from what Jane Freed and the Honors School has afforded them. "Thanks to her generosity and dedication to the virtues of hard work," Adam Basham explains, "I am one of the many who have received a level of distinction here at Monmouth University." Honors student Subrina Mahmood echoes his sentiment: "If it were not for Jane, then we would not have the chance to enjoy many of the trips nor the scholarships that are offered. We are certainly grateful to her for all that she does."



"If there is one thing she truly wishes to emphasize, it is this: 'There is nothing worthwhile that doesn't require great effort.'"



Jane Freed Grant-In-Aid -Of-Creativity For Best Honors Thesis Proposal

Five Honors students were awarded the Jane Freed Grant-In-Aid of Creativity at the Honors School Sixth Annual Spring Awards Ceremony on April 19. Bettyann Monteleone, Samantha Bourque-Trieff, Danielle DePasquale, Karen Mintz, and Lindsay Savage are pictured on the left with Jane Freed and some of their advisors.