

CONFERENCE

REMEMBRANCE

BY JONATHAN OSKVAREK | City Editor

Genocide felt, commemorated by community

Anna Berkovitz had a normal childhood until 1944. Now, years later, she still has nightmares of her family being taken from their home by the Nazis.

"I was 13 years old at the time when I was taken with my family to Auschwitz, just before D-Day," said Berkovitz, Purdue Professor Emerita of biology.

At the concentration camp, Berkovitz and her family faced grim odds of survival. Six hundred thousand Hungarian Jews entered the camp between May and September of 1944. In just three months, 500,000 were killed.

"The killing machine was so effective that names were not even taken when we arrived."

Berkovitz's grandparents, aunts, uncle, cousin and probably her father were among the victims of the genocide conducted by the Nazis.

Her survival, as Berkovitz says, can only be accounted for by a series of miracles. After six months in Auschwitz and another camp and forced labor in an airplane factory, Berkovitz and her mother were packed into a train with other prisoners without food or water for nine days.

Eventually, they were found by the Swedish Red Cross and taken, along with the few other train survivors, to Sweden to recover.

Remembering stories like Berkovitz's is part of the purpose of the Greater Lafayette Holocaust Remembrance Conference, which is in its 29th year.

Susan Prohofskey, conference co-chair, said the April 11 to 15 conference includes several events to honor those who died, such as a candle lighting ceremony, talks by professors and guest speakers, a play and several movies. Music written during the Holocaust and afterward in tribute of its survivors will also be played.

"A lot of musicians and artists were badly treated if not killed outright, yet they continued to produce music," Prohofskey said.

This year, Berkovitz will be attending the conference, but participating in these events brings personal pain.

"It's very difficult for me ... to me it's just like it happened yesterday, so I don't need a conference to remember."

Still, Berkovitz recognizes and even asserts the necessity of the conference and sees participating as a duty.

"I think I owe it to the people who died to be remembered."

Berkovitz's story does not end in Sweden; rather, her rescue from tyranny marks the start of a new journey that defies the unthinkable trauma of the Holocaust.

In Sweden, Berkovitz maintains that she suffered from no depression or bitterness and looked forward to the future.

"I could have lived my life as a victim, but I did not," she said.

Coming to the U.S. with her mother, she settled in Los Angeles and went to school to "make something" of herself. In short time, she mastered the English language, was accepted to the University of California-Los Angeles for biology and graduated as a member of Phi Beta Kappa with high honors. She married and had two children six months later. Living near Purdue, where her husband was a professor, she enrolled in graduate school and eventually became a faculty member in 1968. She still teaches

genetics in the University Honors Program, many years and teaching accolades later.

Marveling at her accomplishments for the time - raising a family while entering a competitive career field as a woman when it

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CHARLENE CHOI | GRAPHICS EDITOR

FINANCES

Benefits plan goes forward for approval

BY MIKEL LIVINGSTON
Executive Reporter

On Thursday, the Board of Trustees finance committee recommended approving changes to the University's benefits plan, essentially ending an extended debate that, for some faculty, has been tumultuous.

The plan, which applies only to employees who are a part of Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association - College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF), will reduce University contribution to benefits to 10 percent while requiring a 4 percent contribution from employees. The University will increase the budgeted salaries of affected employees in order to maintain budget neutrality, while saving money in the long run.

The plan will now go before the full Board of Trustees for approval during its stated meeting at 9 a.m. tomorrow at the Purdue North Central campus in Westville, Ind. If approved, the plan will go into effect Jan. 1, 2011.

During his remarks to the committee, University Senate chairman Howard Zelaznik said the plan has received overwhelming support from faculty, many of whom were lukewarm to prior proposals.



HOWARD ZELAZNIK
Senate chairman

"Though this took a long time, the faculty did what they were supposed to do," Zelaznik said. "They did not believe; they questioned and they prodded. I think that process helped the University find a reasonable solution to the problems it faced."

Morris Levy, a senator and professor of biological sciences, said that compared to previous proposals, this one is a vast improvement. Levy said many faculty have been justifiably concerned in recent months about the discussion of

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Board lays out plan of action for voting in today's meeting

The Purdue Board of Trustees met on Thursday at Purdue North Central to discuss what they will vote on today. The list of action items is as follows:

Allowing Victor Lechtenberg, vice provost for engagement, to stay in his position after the retirement age set in Purdue policy.

Appointing Stephen Turner as vice chancellor for administration at Purdue North Central.

Appointing Douglas Adams as the Kenninger Professor of Renewable Energy and Power Systems, Natalia Dudareva as Distinguished Professor of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture and Farshid Sadeghi as the Cummins Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

Renaming the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences to the College of Pharmacy.

Approving a request to plan the Center for Student Excellence and Leadership.

Approving \$3 million construction contract to begin work on the Turf Recreation Exercise Center addition to the Student Fitness and Wellness Center.

Approving \$12 million construction contract for the Marriott Hall for hospitality and tourism management.

Approving \$9 million renovation to Windsor Residence Halls.

Approving for revisions in student conduct violation policy and the creation of a community board to make decisions on these cases.

Approve general fund operating budget that gives no merit increases and no increases in supply or expense money.

SOURCE: STAFF REPORT

PGSG

Elected officials push for community role

BY ASHLEY MIKUTIS
Assistant Campus Editor

Citing more involvement of constituents and of senator representatives, newly elected Purdue Graduate Student Government officials have high expectations for the upcoming academic year.

Thursday night, PGSG senators elected Andy Robinson as president, Emily Arentson as vice president, Rebecca Longston as secretary and Eric Robinson as treasurer for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Responsible for representing graduate student interests and concerns in University life and the West Lafayette community, PGSG senators elected new officials and discussed issues pertinent to graduate life including health insurance, campus living and strategies for assuming a more active role in the broader community.

Assuming his new role of president of PGSG, Andy Robinson said he plans to implement an environment conducive to more constituent involvement in the issues and ideas proposed in the senate.

"What I would like to get graduate students to see is the impact of PGSG on campus ... get (constituents) more involved," Andy Robinson said. "What it gets down to is communication ... we really need to communicate clearly and succinctly with them."

Each elected official echoed Andy Robinson's platform for more interaction between constituents and their representatives. Longston said senators should be proud of the roles they serve.

"I was surprised some positions were not filled ... (some suggestions) would be to go to department committees and propose to them that students are



ASHLEY MIKUTIS | ASSISTANT CAMPUS EDITOR

Newly elected Purdue Graduate Student Government Vice President Emily Arentson, Secretary Rebecca Longston, President Andy Robinson, and Treasurer Eric Robinson.

not involved. Being a senator is an important role; they should be proud of it."

Arentson said she would like to ensure that graduate students better understand the role of PGSG which would call for senator education.

"It involves choosing committed committee chairs ... choosing who will be committed to what they are doing."

Eric Robinson said he plans to help encourage more corporate communication and involvement in graduate activities.

"Contacting and approaching is a step in the right direction ... it also is making sure people who are involved, stay involved," Eric Robinson said.

Richard Sévère, former president of PGSG, said he has enjoyed his involvement in the governmental body and wishes the best for the new officials.

"We have created a positive relationship with community and University leaders," Sévère said. "PGSG has truly been a presence ... I am anxious to see it do more to ensure the presence of graduate students on campus."

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