

The Robert H. Jackson Center 2001-2007



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THE ROBERT H. JACKSON CENTER, INC.

INTRODUCTION

Robert H. Jackson was a country lawyer who served as Solicitor General, U.S. Attorney General, and U.S. Supreme Court Justice. Following World War II, Justice Jackson was selected to be this country's Chief Prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trial of Nazi war criminals. His approach at Nuremberg in applying international law to war crimes against humanity continues as a standard in dealing with similar issues today. His writings and actions have come to personify the American ideal of fairness and justice for all.

It is important to the local community, our nation, and the world that the legacy of Justice Jackson be preserved and pursued forever in our history.

The Robert H. Jackson Center has been established to honor and preserve those issues of justice and fairness set forth by him. The Center honors this man, shares his legacy, and provides an educational facility for these purposes. The Center is dedicated to education, exhibits, symposiums, studies by law students and all who are interested in Justice Jackson's groundbreaking work in international law.

The Center places special emphasis on educating youth on issues of justice and fairness and applying Jackson's view on international law as they relate to aggressive war, war crimes and acts of terror in today's world.

The legacy of Justice Robert H. Jackson may affect the future of international law in a time when our world is becoming smaller and our need to interact and respect human rights often leads to international crisis.

The Robert H. Jackson Center is a historical and educational facility. Its short history and many accomplishments will speak for themselves and for the need to continue and grow while preserving the legacy of this extraordinary man.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Robert H. Jackson Center is to preserve, promote, and advance the legacy of Justice Jackson through education, exhibits and events, which emphasize the current relevance of Jackson's ideas on individual freedom and justice.

HISTORY

The Robert H. Jackson Center was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation in 2001 and is located in Jackson's hometown of Jamestown, New York.

Gregory L. Peterson together with the two primary benefactors had the vision that created the Center. Carl M. Cappa and Elizabeth S. Lenna believed that the legacy of the famous "favorite son" of Jamestown needed to be remembered and his ideas advanced for the benefit of future generations. Carl Cappa and Betty Lenna each contributed \$500,000 toward the founding of this institution bearing his name. In addition, the Gebbie Foundation made a similar financial commitment spread over five years to support the operational costs of the Center.

Dr. Daniel Bratton, recently retired President of the historic and world-renowned Chautauqua Institution, served as Executive Director (President) of the Jackson Center until his death in June 2001. Dan Bratton with his knowledge and reputation was instrumental in getting the Center "off-the-ground." Mr. Rolland E. Kidder, a former state legislator, an attorney, and a navy veteran and with a wide-ranging historical interest in World War II succeeded Dr. Bratton as a part-time Executive Director (President). He retired in December, 2006. Don Greenhouse currently serves as the interim executive director.

A home was needed for this new Center and arrangements were made with the Masonic Orders in the Jamestown area to purchase the Scottish Rite Consistory Building, also known as the Alonzo Kent Mansion, which since the 1920s had been the home of several Masonic lodges. Though a beautiful and elegant old structure, the home was in need of remedial work and for the last five years both exterior and interior restoration has taken place.

With the money from Carl Cappa, Elizabeth Lenna, a number of other Jamestown foundations including the Sheldon Foundation, and a significant number of individuals, major projects were undertaken that included the insulation and replacement of the existing roof, repointing of the masonry, making the facilities handicapped accessible by building a concrete ramp, the refurbishing of what is now known as the Weeks Room and a number of other smaller projects. A room in the Mansion also was rebuilt to house a continuing education center. The Jamestown Bar Association raised funds to refurbish and equip this room so that it is available for continuing legal education for lawyers as well as for educational events for local public schools. The most recent projects are the refurbishing of a small room to a film room where visitors can watch videos about Robert H. Jackson and the Jackson Center and the construction of an elevator providing further accessibility to the auditorium and to the banquet room which is located on the lowest level. The choice of making this old, 1860s downtown mansion the home of the Jackson Center also was fitting since Robert H. Jackson had once been a member of the Consistory, had been honored as a 33rd degree Mason, and had been in the building many times.

The Center most recently completed renovations to the theater, where seating, acoustic, safety and technology improvements were made. Exhibit, research and archive rooms were completed late in 2006. The exhibit room houses temporary and traveling exhibits related to the legacy of Robert H. Jackson and the archive room houses artifacts, papers and other historical items related to the life and ideas of Justice Jackson. Renovations to the lower-level banquet room are under way and will be completed in 2007. Much of the building space is made available to the community for community functions and meetings.

Since incorporating in 2001, the Robert H. Jackson Center has been on a fast track of hosting events and providing education programs along with restoring a historic building. By sponsoring speeches and events, and by interviewing individuals who had a connection with Justice Jackson, a vibrancy has been shown that is appealing to young and old. There is a sense that the relevance of the ideas of this man, who died more than 50 years ago, is applicable to our own time in a unique and serendipitous way. Listed below are some of the major events and education programs undertaken since our incorporation in 2001.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2001–2007

— 2001 —

- Founder's Day (December 14, 2005) - Gregory L. Peterson, Elizabeth Lenna and Carl M. Cappa become the Center's incorporators.
- January, 2001 - Dr. Daniel Bratton hired as first Executive Director (President). He visits Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in Washington to brief her on the Jackson Center.
- Collaborations with Fenton History Center, Chautauqua Institution, Jamestown Community College, Jamestown Public Schools and *The Post-Journal* are established.
- Jackson Center Board of Directors purchase the Jamestown Consistory Building.
- Jackson Center names its theater after benefactor Carl M. Cappa.
- Law Day 2001, Jackson Center hosts Jackson biographer Eugene C. Gerhart, Esq.
- Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation grants the Jackson Center funds for facility renovation.
- Michael Berenbaum of the Shoah Foundations visits the Jackson Center.
- Elizabeth S. Lenna Fellow John Q. Barrett, who is a Jackson historian and Professor at St. John's University School of Law, and Jackson Center Board Chairman Greg Peterson speak on Justice Jackson at Nuremberg at Chautauqua Institution's Hall of Philosophy.
- Phase 1 of the facility renovation of the Robert H. Jackson Center begins. Construction includes new roofs, new steel support for the auditorium roof and repointing of masonry.
- John E. Dolibois, former U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg and interrogator of the Nazi high command during Nuremberg, speaks at the Jackson Center.
- Four of Jackson's fellow Nuremberg prosecutors, speak at the Jackson Center, local schools and colleges.
- The Gebbie Foundation agrees to a five year grant for operations.

- The Center receives a grant from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation to purchase original Nuremberg Trial video footage.

— 2002 —

- Congressman Amo Houghton visits the Jackson Center.
- Lars Ottoson, a Swedish writer and commentator for BBC at Nuremberg, visits the Center in collaboration with the American Scandinavian Heritage Foundation. The Reverend Moritz Fuchs, Jackson's bodyguard at Nuremberg, speaks at the Jackson Center.
- Law Day 2002 - Henry King, Esq., Nuremberg Prosecutor, speaks at the Center. Ray D'Addario, official photographer at Nuremberg, displays his photos taken at the Nuremberg Trials.
- Werner Von Rosenstiel, a prosecutor/interpreter at Nuremberg, speaks at the Jackson Center and was sponsored by the Jamestown Rotary Club. Mr. Von Rosenstiel also participated in Jamestown Community College's President's Roundtable the following day.
- Mr. Fred Korematsu, whose legal case, *Korematsu v. United States*, attacking the constitutionality of the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II was decided against him by the Supreme Court in 1944, addressed the Elderhostel at Chautauqua Institution. He was accompanied by Mr. Eric Fournier who presented his 1999 documentary film "Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: The Fred Korematsu Story."
- John Lattimer, physician at Nuremberg, speaks on War Crime.
- Three days of seminars and events with Jackson's Confidential Clerks (1940s).

— 2003 —

- Law Day 2003 - E. Barrett Prettyman, former law clerk to Robert H. Jackson, speaks at the Center.
- Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court William Rehnquist, former law clerk to Jackson, participates in the dedication of the Jackson Center building. More than 2000 people covered the Center's front lawn and surrounding streets to hear the Chief Justice speak.
- Professor Henry Abraham, the James Hart Professor Emeritus of Government at the University of Virginia, speaks about Jackson on the topic "Justices, Presidents and Senators." Also appears the next day at the Jamestown Community College President's Roundtable which co-sponsored Abraham's visit to Jamestown.
- Dr. Arnold Joseph, Professor Emeritus of Modern Languages, Denison University and Nuremberg interpreter, visited the St. John's United Methodist Church in Dunkirk in conjunction with the Jackson Center and spoke in recognition of victims of the Holocaust.
- Law Day 2003 - 250 Jamestown Schools' elementary children attend a mock trial performance by advanced fourth grade students based on the story of "The Three Pigs." The Honorable Joseph Gerace interpreted the trial for the children.
- The Stanley and Sarita Weeks Room was dedicated at the Jackson Center. Members of area foundations, organizations, individuals and contractors who made possible the recent

facade, porch, signage, window installations and flagpole monument at the Center are invited to an Appreciation Day and flag raising at the Center.

- The Jamestown Bar Association was honored at the dedication of the Jamestown Bar Association Room.
- Professor Henry T. King, Jr., Nuremberg Prosecutor, spoke at Chautauqua Institution's 55 Plus Weekend with Jackson Center Board Chairman Gregory L. Peterson moderating the two-day appearance.
- The Jackson Center collaborated with Chautauqua Institution in its "Security & Justice Week" with Elizabeth S. Lenna Fellow John Q. Barrett and former U.S. Ambassador, John Dolibois, participating.
- In conjunction with the Chautauqua Elderhostel, an event featuring 1950's Supreme Court Law Clerks of Justice Jackson, was held at the Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall at Chautauqua.

— 2004 —

In preparation for the 50th anniversary of the landmark case of *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka* when the Supreme Court held that segregated schools were unconstitutional, a number of events were held which included:

- Law Day 2004 - Jamestown Schools' elementary children attended a play entitled "What Daddy Says," written by local playwright Matthew Kraft of the Bunbury Theater and presented to local children by local middle school students. The play was taken to Chautauqua Institution's Boys' & Girls' Club in the summer where it was presented before 300 additional students from across the country.
- A six-part PBS series video on the Civil Rights Movement shown on several Thursdays followed by discussions conducted by John Twinam, Jamestown High School Teacher. Kevin McMahon, SUNY Fredonia professor and author of University of Chicago book *Reconsidering Roosevelt on Race* spoke at the Jackson Center.
- James T. Patterson, Brown University professor and author of *Brown vs. Board of Education, A Civil Rights Milestone and Its Troubled Legacy* spoke at the Jackson Center.
- 3rd and 4th grade students invited to an assembly featuring Aaron Beckwith and his Emmy award-winning film "Follow the North Star" about the Underground Railroad. More than 2000 people attended the appearance of Brown sisters, Cheryl Brown Thompson and Linda Brown at the Chautauqua Amphitheater. The two Brown sisters spoke at the event moderated by Elizabeth S. Lenna Fellow John Q. Barrett. Students attended from as far away as Rochester, New York. A roundtable discussion held during *Brown vs. Board* with the participation of four law clerks to the Supreme Court Justices at the time of *Brown vs. Board*. Nicholas deB. Katzenback, the Attorney General charged with enforcing *Brown vs. Board* was a major speaker at a dinner held at the Athenaeum Hotel at Chautauqua Institution. A statewide essay contest was conducted about the topic "Separate But Equal" co-sponsored by the New York State Law, Youth and Citizenship

Program of the New York State Bar Association. The five statewide winners of the essay contest were recognized at the *Brown vs. Board* dinner held at Chautauqua Institution.

Other events held include:

- The Jackson Center collaborated with Chautauqua Institution by presenting the appearance of Richard Sonnenfeldt, Chief Interpreter at the Nuremberg Trials, who had worked with Justice Jackson.
- Nuremberg Prosecutor, Whitney R. Harris, completed a book entitled *The Tragedy of War*, which was published specifically for the Jackson Center. He spoke before an overflowing crowd at the Center with his speech based on his book.
- Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the funeral of Robert H. Jackson at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Father Moritz Fuchs served as the guest preacher.

— 2005 —

- Approximately 50 Jamestown members of the Robert H. Jackson Society along with others from the Washington, D.C., area attended an event held at the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. This event was co-sponsored by the Supreme Court Historical Society. Senator Christopher Dodd, son of Nuremberg prosecutor Tom Dodd, spoke at this event.
- Youth author, Jerry Spinelli, spoke at the Jackson Center to 8th graders about his book, *Milkweed*, which deals with the Holocaust from a 12-year-old boy's perspective.
- A statewide book review contest was held in collaboration with the New York Bar Youth, Law and Citizenship Committee. The winners of this contest were given recognition at the Spinelli Event.
- Helen Fagin, Holocaust survivor, speaks at the Jackson Center.
- A two-day *Brown vs. Board II* event was held. Participants in this event included E. Barrett Prettyman and three other former Jackson law clerks along with Elizabeth S. Lenna Fellow John Q. Barrett at a roundtable held at Lenna Hall, Chautauqua Institution. Ophelia DeLaine Gona, daughter of the minister who started the South Carolina desegregation case, also appeared to tell her experiences. The film "With All Deliberate Speed" was shown.
- Memorandum of Understanding between Bowling Green State University and Jackson Center signed June 13, 2005, outlining a mutually beneficial collaboration in areas such as symposiums, internships and research.
- "Supreme Court Today" lecture held at Chautauqua Institution.
- Nuremberg Symposium co-sponsored with State University of New York at Fredonia and Chautauqua Institution held September 27-29 at Chautauqua Institution.
- American Bar Association Symposium co-sponsored held in Washington, D.C.
- 50+ members of the Robert H. Jackson Society and friends attend 60th Anniversary Commemorative Event of the Nuremberg Trials held in Nuremberg, Germany.
- Robert H. Jackson Center co-sponsor Commemorative of Nuremberg Trials at Syracuse University.

- Young people's author Lois Lowry appeared before 1000+ area school children; videoconferenced to other classrooms.
- *West Virginia State Board of Education vs. Barnette* events held featuring the two "Barnette Sisters" with former Supreme Court Law Clerk Bennett Boskey to Justice Harlan Stone at the time of the case. The Barnette decision invalidated a West Virginia State Board of Education resolution that required all school teachers and students to participate in the flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance. Supreme Court Historical Society, Washington, D.C. co-sponsored the event. Professor John Q. Barrett led the discussion. Shawn Francis Peters, University of Wisconsin Professor and author of the book *Judging Jehovah's Witnesses*, appeared prior to the discussion.
- Law Day Program held for area schools.
- Joseph Persico, author and historian who not only wrote the book *Nuremberg* but a number of other nonfiction books appeared at the Jackson Center's Carl Cappa Auditorium.
- Aaron Beckwith showed his Emmy Award-winning film "Follow the North Star" to local student audiences on the fourth grade level.
- Linda Greenhouse, reporter for the *New York Times*, who has been the paper's correspondent for the United States Supreme Court, for which she received the Pulitzer prize in 1998, will spoke at the Hall of Philosophy, Chautauqua Institution on July 25.
- The Robert H. Jackson Center co-sponsored Whitney R. Harris Institute of the Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, Mo., event held September 29-30.
- International Law Symposium co-sponsored at Bowling Green State University at Bowling Green, Ohio by the Graduate Program in Policy History and the Social Philosophy and Policy Center of Bowling Green State University, the University of Toledo College of Law and the Jackson Center.
- Linda Holmes, author of *4000 Bowls of Rice: A Prisoner of War Comes Home*, was the featured speaker at a November 2 luncheon at the Williams Center, SUNY Fredonia, co-sponsored by the Jackson Center, SUNY Fredonia and the Dunkirk and Fredonia Rotary Clubs.
- The Robert H. Jackson Center opened its new exhibit and archive rooms on November 17th. The first public exhibit in the new facility was dedicated in the honor of Harold Jackson Adams, nephew of Justice Jackson.
- Gregory L. Peterson, Board Chairman, Robert H. Jackson Center; John Q. Barrett, Elizabeth S. Lenna Fellow, Robert H. Jackson Center; and Christi Bartman, Ph.D. student, Department of History, Bowling Green State University attended a two-day conference at the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, Russia, which examined the Nuremberg Trial, Robert H. Jackson and their impact on current international law issues.

- The eve of Robert H. Jackson's 115th birthday was observed on Monday, February 12, 2007 at the Warren County, Pa., courthouse with an evening lecture by Professor Henry T. King, Jr. This event, co-sponsored by the Warren County Historical Society and the Jackson Center, was the inaugural observance of Robert H. Jackson Day in Warren County, Jackson's birthplace.
- James Meredith, the first African-American to gain admission to the University of Mississippi and an important civil rights activist, marked the 45th anniversary of his entrance into the University with an appearance at the Robert H. Jackson Center on March 25.
- The Robert H. Jackson Center and the Law, Youth and Citizenship Program of the New York State Bar Association co-sponsored a statewide book review contest for seventh and eighth graders based on the Christopher Paul Curtis book, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963*. In conjunction with the contest, Vivian Taylor and Rolland Kidder shared their early 1960s civil rights movement experiences during a public program at the Carl Cappa Theater on April 17, which honored the book award recipients and Mr. Curtis.
- On April 18, author Christopher Paul Curtis spoke to local students, discussing desegregation, diversity and civil rights law. His book *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963* was the basis for the 2007 statewide book review contest for seventh and eighth graders.
- An interactive mock trial geared to 11th grade students took place on May 2 at the Jackson Center. This educational program was co-sponsored by the Jackson Center and the Jamestown Bar Association.
- The Jackson Center and the City of Nuremberg signed a protocol agreement outlining a mutually beneficial collaboration between the two institutions on May 10, 2007, in Nuremberg. This collaboration will advance their common interest in promoting an awareness of the Nuremberg Trials and the importance of international law in dealing with contemporary situations related to war and its perpetrators.
- Focusing on the Steel Seizure Cases and other notable decisions and aspects of the Supreme Court's October Term 1951, a roundtable discussion with 1951-52 U.S. Supreme Court Law Clerks was held at on May 16 at Chautauqua Institution's Lenna Hall.
- Yves Beigbeder, who served as legal secretary to French Judge H. Donnedieu de Vabres at the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg (1945-46), spoke at the Jackson Center's Carl Cappa Theater on June 11.
- Aaron Beckwith's Emmy Award-winning *Follow the North Star* film about the Underground Railroad was featured at presentations to local students on June 19 and 20.
- The Jackson Center is one of three local organizations selected to mount an exhibit at the Chautauqua Institution. Robert H. Jackson is featured in tabletop, wall and interactive displays at Smith Memorial Library during the 2007 summer season.

- Seth Waxman delivered the Chautauqua Institution's third annual Robert H. Jackson Lecture on the Supreme Court of the United States at the Hall of Philosophy on July 9. He was the guest of honor at the Jackson Society's annual dinner that evening.
- A dialogue on international humanitarian law, under the auspices of the International Legal Practice Institute of Syracuse University, the Robert H. Jackson Center and the Chautauqua Institution, will be held on August 29 at the Chautauqua Institution.

CONCLUSION

The Robert H. Jackson Center, Inc. has been off to a "fast start" primarily through the financial support of Elizabeth Lenna, Carl Cappa and the Gebbie Foundation. The Center also has made tremendous strides during its six years of existence because of the support of the community and many others in our nation. John Merino, Executive Director of the Gebbie Foundation, last year stated "that the Center is a 10-year-old in a 4-year-old body." This presents many challenges in the next five years. Our experience to date leads us to believe that there will be three major foci at the Robert H. Jackson Center over the next five years:

- Educational outreach primarily to middle and high school students and collaboration with universities and law schools.
- Advancing Jackson's legacy at Nuremberg as it relates to the relevancy of his ideas on international law in today's world.
- Preserving archives, both written and audio/visual, including interviews and speeches made at the Jackson Center, which help preserve the legacy of this great jurist.

People have stated that the offerings of the Robert H. Jackson Center are impressive, stimulating and educational. Many of the visiting program participants commend the Center for the calibre of programs which the Center sponsors. Robert H. Jackson, by example, embodied the concept that one person, committed to a cause or idea, can make a difference in bettering the state of common humanity. Professor John Q. Barrett noted that the Center "will preserve and provide the story, ideas, and causes of a great man." The journey ahead can only be an exciting and challenging one when the mission is to preserve the legacy of such a great man.