



ROBERT H.  
**JACKSON**  
CENTER

# NEWSLETTER

## THREE CENTURIES: THREE PILLARS OF DEMOCRACY

The title of the keynote address, “From William Penn to John Marshall to Robert H. Jackson,” set a high bar that Justice Baer exceeded with his intriguing remarks and interesting historical insights. In celebration of its annual Jackson Day in Warren, the Jackson Center was pleased to host Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Max Baer on February 13, 2019 at the Warren County Courthouse. In the space of one hour, Justice Baer guided the audience on a journey linking the lives of Penn, Marshall and Jackson as men who challenged existing authority in service of advancing democratic ideals, such as religious freedom and judicial independence. In a striking revelation, Justice Baer not only identified a possible genetic bond between Penn and Jackson, but described an intriguing note written by Jackson on the following excerpt of the slip opinion he read from the bench in *West Virginia v. Barnette*, wherein he stated: “An individual has the right not to be coerced into symbolic speech, not to salute, to bow, to bend a knee, or to bare a head . . .”. The handwritten note at the top of the page, read: “William Penn’s refusal to remove his hat in the presence of the King,” a clear echo of Penn on trial for exercising his right to religious freedom 350 years earlier. The complete video of Justice Baer’s lecture is available on the Jackson Center’s YouTube channel.



Justice Baer  
Photo Credit Lori Savaree

Students from Allegheny College were also in the audience, and Justice Baer spent considerable time with them in discussion at a reception before his lecture.

This program was made possible by the generosity of the Center’s donors, and the following sponsors: Allegheny College, Jefferson Educational Society, Northwest Insurance Services, Kocur & Associates, LLP, Targeted Pet Treats, LLC, United Refining, and the Warren/Forest County Bar Association.

## PARDON OUR DUST!!

The Jackson Center will undergo some construction thanks to a successful application to the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) from the State of New York. We will be open and running as usual most of the time so, come on in! We’re excited to see the renovations and find out how they will improve our programs

and operations.

***For rentals, call the office at 716-483-6646 or email us at [info@roberthjackson.org](mailto:info@roberthjackson.org)***



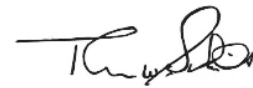
## A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Friends of the Center,

It is an exciting time here at the Robert H. Jackson Center, not just because spring is upon us, but because of all the exciting upcoming events and happenings over the next few months!

We will be commemorating the 75th anniversary of *Korematsu v. U.S.* in May. We are excited for two days of programming which includes a visit by Karen Korematsu, daughter of Fred T. Korematsu. A little later in the month we will be having our annual Young Readers program. This is always an exciting time when we get to work with students. More information for these and other programs are available through our social media pages and our website, [www.roberthjackson.org](http://www.roberthjackson.org).

I want to say thank you to everyone who donated to the Center this past year. It is your generosity that allows us to bring strong educational and informative programs to you. Keeping Robert Jackson's legacy and opinions alive is more important today than ever before in our history. I look forward to seeing you at some of our events in the future.



Thomas W. Schmidt  
*President and Board Chair*  
*Robert H. Jackson Center*

## MANIPULATION OF DEMOCRACIES: A DISCERNMENT

"There is a misunderstanding that referenda are the voice of the people. It is not an accident that, at the federal level, the U.S. Constitution does not recognize that [referenda]." Justice Sajó spoke these words as a scholar, University Dean, and judge who lived under a Communist government in Hungary for 40 years, and understands that even democracies call fall victim to elements of oppression.

The Jackson Center was pleased to welcome Judge András Sajó, in collaboration with the Jefferson Educational Society (JES), where he was interviewed by Jackson Center co-founder, Gregory Peterson on February 28, 2019. Judge Sajó is a Hungarian legal academic and former European Court of Human Rights judge. He is widely considered as one of the leading constitutional scholars of Central and Eastern Europe. After briefly leaving Hungary at age 7 during the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, Sajó rejoined his family one year later in Budapest and grew up in communist Hungary. Early in the presentation at JES, Sajó was joined by Jamestown attorney Lyle Hajdu and Erie resident Frank Juhasz. Hajdu discussed the immigration of his father to the U.S. from Hungary in 1956 and Juhasz shared his personal escape to the U.S. from his native Hungary. The full panel discussion and interview are available on the Jackson Center YouTube channel.



(from left to right) Professor Stephen Paskey, Lyle Hajdu, Judge Sajó and RHJC President Thomas Schmidt.

## A HERO FORGED FROM WAR

Eric Bourquin, a platoon sergeant in the U.S. Army who completed three combat tours, one in Afghanistan and two in Iraq, traveled from Texas to the Jackson Center on November 8, 2018 to share “The Long Road Home: A Veteran’s Tale.” Sgt. Bourquin’s life story is part of the National Geographic Channel’s (NGC) global event miniseries “The Long Road Home,” that recounts the ambush of Bourquin’s platoon in Sadr City, Iraq. The deadly battle came to be known as “Black Sunday.” The NGC series is based on the New York Times-bestselling book by Martha Raddatz. Bourquin served as a military technical adviser for the series.



*Eric Bourquin*

An audience of veterans and members of the public were deeply moved to hear Bourquin’s story and learn about his efforts to inspire other veterans. Bourquin believes, “My experiences on the battlefield have taught me valuable lessons in leadership and my experiences and struggles in readjusting to civilian life continue to teach me lessons in the importance of leaning on the strength of others to build and share your own struggles.” The program was made possible by Jackson Center donors, and the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer to Peer Program grant from the Chautauqua County Department of Veterans Services. The full interview with Sgt. Bourquin is on the Jackson Center YouTube channel.



*Nicole Gustafson*

## NEW STAFF MEMBER AT THE JACKSON CENTER

We are very pleased that Nicole Gustafson joined the staff of the Jackson Center last November as our Communications and Program Administration Manager. Nicole designs and manages our social media and website content,

creates promotional material for Jackson Center events, and performs various administrative duties regarding Jackson Center programming. She has brought great skills with her and has been an excellent addition to our staff. Nicole grew up in Frewsburg, NY, graduated from Jamestown

Community College and Houghton College, and lived in Bath, NY for nine years before returning to the Jamestown area in 2017. Nicole now lives in Falconer with her husband Alan and their two children, Katie and Erik. When she’s not working at the Center, Nicole is completing a Master of Arts in Social and Public Policy online through SUNY Empire State College, serving on the Adult Forum Advisory Committee and St. Angles Altar Guild at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, walking local 5Ks and watching movies with her family. Please take a few minutes to stop by the Center and say hello.

## Center Welcomes New Educational Advisor

The Center is pleased to have the skills and talents of Maple Grove Middle/Senior High School teacher Michael Baronich. Michael was hired for one year, beginning November 2018, to revitalize and oversee the Jackson Center’s Teacher Fellows program. He is a New York State certified Social Studies teacher with a background in human rights education. Mike believes that all students should be able to bring their cultures, diverse backgrounds and interests into the classroom. He aspires to use his experiences to help others further their knowledge, concepts and tools necessary for success.



Funding for the Jackson Center’s Educational Advisor was supported through the generosity of the Cummins Foundation and the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation.



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

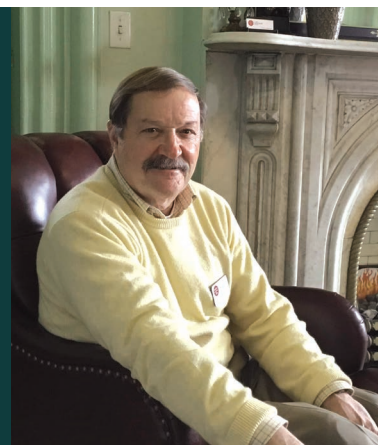
- 1 **Living Voices: “Within the Silence”** A Live, Multimedia Program on Japanese Internment Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 9:00am/10:30am/12:00pm at the Robert H. Jackson Center
- 2 **“Jackson Homestead Project”** featuring Mercyhurst student, Rose Pregler, Saturday, May 11 at 11:00am at The Spring Creek Fire Hall, Spring Creek PA
- 3 **75th Anniversary of Korematsu v. U.S. “Of Civil Wrongs and Rights”** and “Snow Falling on Cedars” screening Monday, May 13 at 7:00pm at The Reg Lenna Center for the Arts Lecture by Prof. John Q. Barrett, play read of “The Fight for Justice” written by Judge Denny Chin, and interview with Karen Korematsu Tuesday, May 14 at 9:30am at The Robert H. Jackson Center
- 4 **“Harry Truman and Robert H. Jackson”** with Kurt Graham, Director of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum Wednesday, May 15 at 12:30pm at The Robert H. Jackson Center
- 5 **Young Readers: “The Real Magic of Harry Potter: A Tale of Human Rights”** Friday, May 17th at 10:00am & 1:00pm with Dr. Allida Black at The Reg Lenna Center for the Arts
- 6 **Continuing Legal Education Seminar: “The Fall of the Buffalo Mob”** with Anthony M. Bruce, Lee Coppola, Judge Salvatore R. Martoche & author Paul Heimel Tuesday, May 21, 8:40am-2:00pm at The Robert H. Jackson Center
- 7 **Living Voices: “Through the Eyes of a Friend” & “The New American”** - Live, Multimedia Programs on the Holocaust and Immigration, Wednesday June 19 and Thursday June 20 at 9:00am/10:30am/12:00pm at The Robert H. Jackson Center
- 8 **15th Annual Robert H. Jackson Lecture** with Donald B. Verrilli Jr., Former Solicitor General of the United States, Monday, July 1 at 4:00 pm at Chautauqua Institution Hall of Philosophy

## DOORS OPEN – JANUARY 19, 2019

Over 150 visitors crossed the thresholds of the Center on January 19th. A variety of ages expressed historic interests and curiosity about the mansion. Volunteers guided and answered questions, children were invited to color pictures and some watched our documentary “*Liberty Under Law*” in the Cappa Theatre. We even had a wood carver outside working on a statue of Robert Jackson! All in all a wonderful community day.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Bert Anderson, Docent

Bert Anderson has been a docent for over three years at the Jackson Center. Bert has always enjoyed history and jumped at the chance to volunteer at the Center. He heard about the opportunity through Chautauqua County’s Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP.) Bert enjoys talking to the people who come for tours at the Jackson Center about the relevance of Jackson’s decisions and beliefs in the current political climate: immigration, executive powers, human rights, etc. Bert was born in Central NY and moved to Jamestown in 1975. He has a degree in Industrial Technology. He enjoys traveling, and recently took a trip to Northern Quebec and Labrador.



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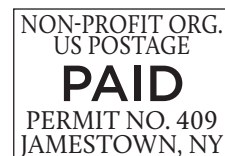
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Jamestown, NY 14701



There are times here at the Center when major donor opportunities arise. These are above and beyond our normal operational fundraising opportunities. Opportunities for the Center to grow beyond where we are and to take Robert H. Jackson's legacy to the next step. Some of these items are:

- Funding for Phases 2 and 3 of our facility improvement and renovation project.
- The funding of a digital media specialist.

If any of these items are something you think you might have a passion for, please feel free to contact us at the Center so we can schedule a meeting with you.

## SIR GEORGE DESMOND LORENZ DE SILVA, QC, KSTJ (1939-2018)

The world lost a giant in the legal community with the passing of Sir Desmond Lorenz de Silva on June 2, 2018.

In a career spanning five decades in the courts of England and abroad, Sir Desmond tried more than 250 international murder trials, with a specialty in white collar fraud, extradition, human rights issues, importation of drugs, money laundering, tax and VAT fraud, and espionage and terrorism. The greatest legal achievement among many, however, was his role in the 2002 arrest and prosecution of the former president of Liberia, Charles Taylor, for war crimes.

The Jackson Center was honored to welcome Sir Desmond to Jamestown for the 1st and 6th annual International Humanitarian Law Dialogs (IHLD). Interviews of Sir Desmond are available on the Jackson Center YouTube channel. Sir Desmond de Silva's remarkable life and legacy were remembered and acknowledged by all at the 12th annual IHLD in August 2018.

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