

Contact: Darcy Maher, 732-729-9877 / Email: dbmbildner@comcast.net

November 16, 2016
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ATTEND FREE HOLOCAUST FILM
SCREENING AT RUTGERS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL**

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. – On November 3, approximately 320 middle and high school students from across New Jersey gathered at the AMC Loews New Brunswick 18 for a free screening of *Fanny's Journey*, a remarkable French film about surviving the Holocaust as hidden children in France. After the film, special guest Maud Dahme, a Holocaust educator who was herself a hidden child in the Netherlands during World War II, shared her experiences and insights and fielded questions from the students.

The students and chaperones hailed from Neptune High School; the Marion P. Thomas Charter School in Newark; Wall High School; BelovED Community Charter School, Jersey City; Freehold Township High School; Abraham Clark High School, Roselle; Patterson East Side High School; and Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield.

This special event was part of the annual Rutgers Jewish Film Festival, which, for seventeen years, has been bringing Central New Jersey diverse, award-winning, international films, as well as discussions with filmmakers, actors, scholars, and other noteworthy speakers who enrich the festival screenings. The film festival is sponsored by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers University and made possible through a grant from the Karma Foundation. The school screening was presented in partnership with the Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center at the Bildner Center as a way of supporting and supplementing classroom learning about the Holocaust.

The recently released French drama *Fanny's Journey* tells the story of thirteen-year-old Fanny and her little sisters who were sent by their parents to be hidden in a foster home for Jewish children after the German occupation of France. But as the Nazis encroach, Fanny and her sisters are among a group of children who must urgently flee the home and reach the Swiss border without any adult help or supervision. The film is inspired by an autobiographical book by Fanny Ben Ami.

Maude Dahme, born in the Netherlands, was one of the Dutch “hidden children” who survived the Holocaust and came to the United States at the age of 14. She serves on the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, and also served on the State Board of Education from 1983–2007, including five years as president. A Holocaust Commission award is named in her honor, and she now devotes her time to Holocaust/Genocide education and guiding groups to Holocaust sites.

INSERT QUOTE FROM KAREN TITUS....

The Bildner Center is home to the Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center (HRC), whose mission is to teach future generations about the Holocaust by training educators and providing educational materials to teachers, students, and scholars. Its programs are designed to enhance public awareness of the Holocaust and promote discussion of racism, genocide, discrimination, and the importance of protecting human rights. The HRC is an important part of the Bildner Center’s overall mission of prejudice reduction and outreach to the broader community.

The Bildner Center also connects the university with the community through public lectures, Jewish communal initiatives, cultural events, and free online courses. For more information about the Bildner Center, visit BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu, call 848-932-2033, or email csjl@rci.rutgers.edu.