

Seventeen members of the Veterans and Servicemembers Association and their friends and family joined over 100 other Operation Shoebox volunteers as they packed boxes of food and personal hygiene items for troops overseas. The event was held at the Walter Kavanaugh Veterans of Foreign Wars building in February. It was the 13th anniversary of the first Operation Shoebox program; since its first packing event in 2005, tens of thousands of volunteers have helped assemble and ship 136,000 care packages overseas. Shown here is Eun Lee, Marine Corps veteran and the MCC Veterans Association president.



## College Develops New Program in Sustainability

Middlesex County College will offer a new program in Sustainability Sciences starting in the Fall of 2018. Parag Muley of the Natural Sciences Department says this field is a critical one for the planet.

“There are two questions of what, and one question of why,” he said. “The ‘What’ questions are ‘What are some of the unique characteristics of planet earth that makes life possible?’ and ‘What impact are humans having on these characteristics?’ The ‘Why’ question is ‘Why would someone knowingly impact their own life support system?’ It’s analogous to someone on a tree branch cutting that branch off behind him. Each and every

aspect of civilization intersects with this idea of sustainability.”

He suggests there’s a way to address this.

“The biggest component to all this is going to be education,” he said.

While the program won’t officially start until the fall, he is already teaching two sections of a new course, Introduction to Sustainability, which will be paired with two existing environmental sciences courses. Dr. Muley is teaching two sections of the intro course this spring, which are both at capacity. And Professor Claire Condie is teaching Climatology this semester. Dr. Condie has been leading students on beach cleanups for years.

The curriculum is designed to seamlessly transfer to New Jersey colleges and universities that offer environmental sciences majors.

MCC is a member of the New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability, which promotes education and sustainable practices at the state’s colleges and universities.

Dr. Muley said sustainability has many applications in engineering, business, political science, psychology and education and he expects the program will expand with options in those areas.

“It’s one of the most critical issues for our future,” he said.

# MCC Explores Holocaust Featuring Eyewitness Accounts

MCC's Holocaust and Human Rights Center is offering two programs this month and next that explore the horrors of the Holocaust by two people who were there.

Holocaust survivor Sol Lurie, who was rescued from Auschwitz when he was 15 years old and survived six concentration camps, will share his story Thursday March 8 at 2 p.m.

in West Hall. Born and raised in a small town in Lithuania, Mr. Lurie will recount being forced into ghettos with his family and then five different concentration camps before arriving at Auschwitz. He was brought to the United States after the war as an orphan and has dedicated his life to educating the world about the horrors of the Holocaust. The program is

called "Living Through Hell and Surviving It."

The next month, Erwin Ganz will speak on "Enduring Kristallnacht in Nazi Germany and Thriving in America: A Story of Survival and Immigration." It will take place Thursday, April 12 at 2 p.m. in the Parkview Room in West Hall.

Mr. Ganz will present his story of growing up in Nazi Germany during the rise of antisemitism and witnessing the violence and destruction of Kristallnacht – The Night of Broken Glass – that saw almost all synagogues in Germany and Austria destroyed, thousands of businesses and homes ruined, and 30,000 Jewish men forced into prisons and concentration camps. Mr. Ganz and his family immigrated to the United States in 1939. He went to college at night for nine years to become a successful Certified Public Accountant. This program will take place on April 12, which is known worldwide as Holocaust Remembrance Day, a time to reflect on the suffering inflicted on millions of European Jews by the Nazis.

Both programs are sponsored by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and the Holocaust and Human Rights Center at MCC.



MCC is hosting a riveting display of photographs of the Jewish community of Oświęcim, the Polish town more commonly known as Auschwitz. The town was taken over as the Nazis created the Auschwitz concentration camp. The designer and curator of the exhibit, Shiri Sandler (left), delivered a captivating lecture on the history of the town at a reception. The exhibit will be at MCC until March 9. Ms. Sandler is shown with Professor Terrence Corrigan, coordinator of MCC's Holocaust and Human Rights Center, which organized the exhibit, and Shirley Wachtel, English professor and author of books on the Holocaust.

## THIS MONTH AT MIDDLESEX

This Month at Middlesex is a publication of Middlesex County College  
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A novel written by English Professor Shirley Wachtel, "My Mother's Shoes," was presented by her son, Howie, to Nikki Haley, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, on January 29. The National Security Council paid a visit to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day.

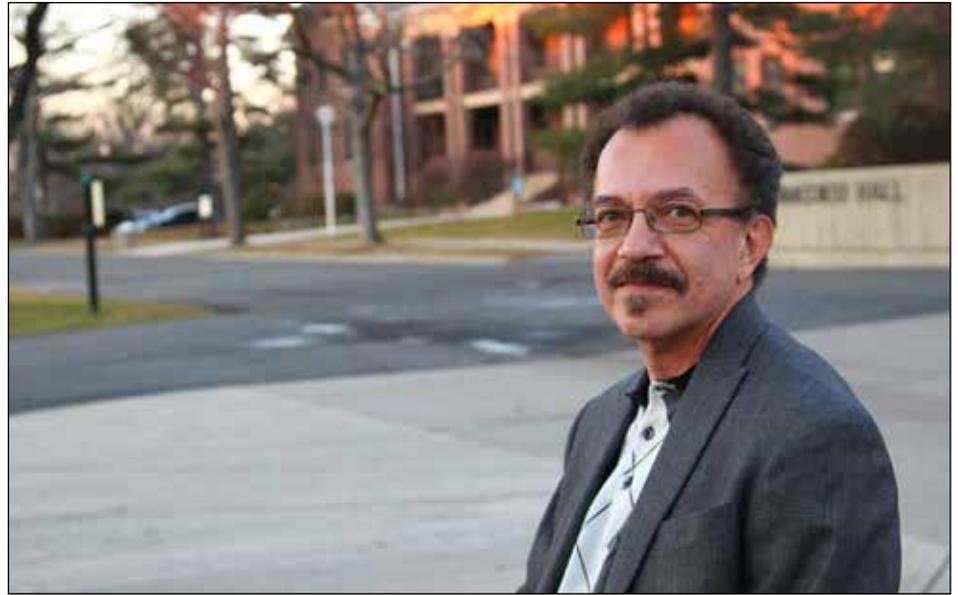
# Professor of English Honored for Playwriting

Middlesex County College Professor and playwright Benjamin V. Marshall was recently honored twice: he received the Wagner College Stanley Award for Drama and a fellowship from the New Jersey Council on the Arts.

The Stanley Award was presented for his brilliant play, "Incident at Willow Creek," about an African-American professor agonizing over the gun issue. She obsesses over an incident that resulted in the killing of an innocent black man but is torn between self-defense and complying with law enforcement. One of her students has a fixation on guns and offers to teach her how to shoot. This is not a play with easy answers.

Felicia Ruff, chair of the Theater and Speech Department at Wagner College, presented the award.

"To call it a play about gun culture in American society is too simplistic, though it is about that," she said. "Mr. Marshall has managed to do in 'Incident at Willow Creek' what great playwrights do, he has managed to make the recounting of events the central action. His play strikes me as doing what the great Greek dramas do – it shows characters debating not as a rhetorical exercise, but as an embodied



action – from various complicated perspectives that are given voice in recognizable people. I know these people and I know their deep longing to be heard."

Professor Marshall said he began writing the play two years ago during a spate of incidents involving gun violence and African-Americans.

"I was trying to understand why such things happen," he said. "Art can reflect its time and by holding up a mirror to our world, we try to comprehend it."

Professor Marshall also received a \$12,000 fellowship from the New Jersey Council on the Arts. New Jersey Individual Artist Fellowships are competitive awards to New Jersey artists based on independent peer assessment of work samples. The awards may be used to help artists produce new work and advance their careers. Professor Marshall was one of 18 artists to receive a fellowship.

"Whether it's sculpture, poetry, or theater, New Jersey has long been a forerunner in the arts," said Acting Secretary of State Tahesha Way. "Our arts history is incredibly rich and its pages are thick with distinguished emissaries like William Carlos Williams and Alice Barber Stephens. I have full faith and confidence that our newest generations of artists, like those supported through this excellent program, will not disappoint."



Students, faculty and staff in the Nursing Program participated in the National Wear Red Day campaign, promoted by the American Heart Association and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. They were asked to wear red to promote heart health.

## Literacy Alive!

Developing reading skills in kids K-3rd grade

Featuring MCC Education honor society students and children's author Josh Funk.

Saturday, March 24 • 9-11:45 a.m.  
College Center

**Free!**

[www.middlesexcc.edu/literacy](http://www.middlesexcc.edu/literacy)

## Math and the Mouse Club in Hall of Fame

Two representatives of the Middlesex Math and the Mouse Club again traveled to Walt Disney World in January to gather data and test several algorithms. The duo also earned Hall of Fame status by completing 40 out of 46 attractions in less than 11 hours at Disney's Animal Kingdom Park. They also broke a Touring Plans Hall of Fame record for experiencing 30 core attractions in one day. The club holds second place for the overall tour and first place for core attractions experienced.

"On the day of the tour, Disney posted an average wait time of 54 minutes for each ride in the park, with a range of between five minutes and three hours," said Patty Kiernan, the faculty advisor. "Using our data analysis, we waited an average of seven minutes for each ride."

Veronica Liguori (left), the club president, and Professor Kiernan also examined Disney World transportation options; the actual time guests wait in line versus the posted wait times; and commonalities of workers at Epcot.

The club comprises non-STEM majors and meets regularly to discuss ways to apply statistics to avoid waiting in lines at Walt Disney World. It was created to provide students a nonthreatening, practical application of material taught in statistics courses at MCC by allowing them to analyze and gather real data at Walt Disney World.



## Pink Night Scores Big Win for Cancer Awareness

"Pink Night," a program in which the Middlesex County College and Brookdale Community College basketball teams supported cancer awareness, was held at Middlesex on February 8. Before the women's game, Thomas Bikowski, a throat cancer survivor and the father of freshman guard Alissa Bikowski, officiated at a ceremonial tipoff. He is tossing the ball, and is flanked by Middlesex forward Nicole Baudendistel, left and Brookdale's Katie Molloy. MCC dropped both contests, 84-60 (women) and 97-81 (men).



The dental clinic was the home of bright smiles on February 21 as 22 children from all over the area visited for free dental care during "Give Kids a Smile Day," a program to ensure that children have access to quality dental care. Local dentists, hygienists, and MCC dental students and alumnae volunteered their time and talents as they treated kids who received an exam, cleaning, fluoride treatments, sealants, as well as education on how to brush and floss. Here, Kristina Paramithis, otherwise known as the tooth fairy, shows Alexander and Alina Said the proper way to brush.