



2017 Schächter Institute for Arts & Humanities Fellowship Program
Travel Stipend Opportunity
Sponsored by The Defiant Requiem Foundation

MAY 14-21 IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

(Departure from the US 5/13)

Now in its seventh year, The Rafael Schächter Institute for Arts and Humanities, presented by The Defiant Requiem Foundation, honors the legacy and memory of Nazi prisoners in the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp (Terezín), who found hope and inspiration in the arts and humanities in the midst of suffering, depravity, and death. **The Defiant Requiem Foundation is accepting applications from teachers, educators, students and others in the US and abroad with a personal or professional connection to the Holocaust for travel stipends to attend the Institute in May 2017. The Fellowship program is open to applicants of all religious backgrounds, ethnicities and races.**

The Institute is named for one of Terezín's inmates, Rafael Schächter, a young, talented Jewish conductor, who chose to confront evil by organizing and training a choir made up of fellow prisoners to perform the monumental Requiem Mass by Giuseppe Verdi. Schächter's choir performed the Requiem a total of 16 times, including a final, infamous performance before their Nazi persecutors and members of the International Red Cross on June 23, 1944. The Institute is dedicated to perpetuating the arts and humanities as practiced by the prisoners of Terezín and to illuminating this rare story of resistance and courage. Fellows will learn about Jewish life in the Czech Republic before the War, the importance of art and music to survival, and the inspiring story of Rafael Schächter and his prisoner choir in Terezín. The Institute hosts events each spring, alternating between the US and the Czech Republic.

THE 2017 INSTITUTE

The 2017 Rafael Schächter Institute for Arts and Humanities will consist of a unique tour focused on visits to nine of the ten historic, beautifully restored synagogues found throughout the Czech Republic, known as the *Ten Stars Project*. The Hilton Prague Old Town will serve as our home base, with day-trips to these important synagogues and their surrounding communities and one overnight stay in Brno. There will also be a day devoted to touring the old Jewish Quarter of Prague and the Prague Castle complex. The tour will

conclude with a private, guided tour of Terezín on Saturday with a Survivor, and the annual Terezín Commemoration Ceremony followed by a performance of Maestro Murry Sidlin's newest concert-drama, *Hours of Freedom: The Story of the Terezín Composer* on Sunday. Accompanying the tour will be our professional guide for the week, David Kraus; staff members from The Defiant Requiem Foundation; and the Klezmer trio Veretski Pass. We will also be joined by Foundation Board Member and Secretary of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic, Tomáš Kraus; local community members and other experts; and translators, as needed.

Music will be a part of each synagogue stop along with a talk on the Jewish history and culture of the surrounding towns. All tour logistics will be coordinated by the Foundation including lodging in the Czech Republic, transportation and tours.

Stipends provided by the Foundation cover double-occupancy lodging for the duration of the tour, ground transportation in the Czech Republic, admission fees, private guides, and several meals. Single-occupancy rooms are available for an additional cost of approximately \$875. Guests of fellows are welcome to participate as paying guests. The guest cost will be available in early 2017.

Fellows are responsible for their own airfare, flight arrangements, and airport transfers. Funding is limited to approximately 8-10 Fellows. The value of the stipend for tax purposes is \$2,400 per person.

More information about the Ten Stars project may be found at www.10hvezd.cz.

Preliminary Schedule of Events

Saturday, May 13	Depart the US
Sunday, May 14	Arrive Prague, Czech Republic Evening Welcome Reception
Monday, May 15	Orientation Tour of Prague Castle Complex Tour of Jewish Quarter
Tuesday, May 16	Tour and Lunch at Brandýs and Labem Castle Tour of Brandýs Synagogue and Cemetery Tour of Jičín Synagogue, Jewish Ghetto and Renaissance Town Square

Wednesday, May 17	Tour of Březnice Synagogue Tour and Lunch at the Pilsner Urquell Brewery Tour of Pilsen Great Synagogue Tour of Pilsen Old Synagogues Veretski Pass Concert in Old Synagogue
Thursday, May 18	Tour of Polná Synagogue Tour of Boskovice Synagogue Group Dinner in Brno (overnight in Brno)
Friday, May 19	Visit to Brno Conservatory Tour of Mikulov Synagogue Tour of Nová Cerekev Synagogue
Saturday, May 20	Tour of Terezín Small Fortress and Ghetto Tour of Uštěk Synagogue
Sunday, May 21	Terezín Commemoration Ceremony <i>Hours of Freedom</i> Concert Performance Farewell Dinner Cruise on the Vltava River
Monday, May 22	Return to the US

The schedule will also include a mandatory breakfast meeting each morning at the hotel; a film screening of the documentary film *Defiant Requiem* with an introduction to the film's curriculum guide; a learning session with artists from *Veretski Pass* and other special events designed for the Fellowship Program. A detailed daily schedule will be available to all stipend recipients in mid-March.

For individuals who observe the Sabbath and do not travel on Shabbat, special hotel arrangements can be made for lodging in Terezín the night of Friday, May 10. Please note that Kosher food will not be provided. All meals provided by the Foundation will have a vegetarian and/or vegan option.

This trip will also be open to other paying guests and friends of the Foundation. The trip will consist of no more than 50 total participants.

The schedule and itinerary are subject to change. The travel dates will remain the same.

HOW TO APPLY

The online application may be accessed at www.defiantrequiem.org by clicking on "Schächter Institute" at the top of the homepage. The application **will be available on January 3, 2017 at 10:00am EST and must be submitted by February 1, 2017 at 5:00pm EST.**

Stipend recipients will be required to attend Institute events. These stipends are generously provided by Nina and Sol Glasner through the Fischl/Kohn Family Stipend Fund and through the Fran Eizenstat Fund of The Defiant Requiem Foundation. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age by May 1, 2017, in order to participate.

For questions and additional information, please contact Louisa Hollman, Executive Director of The Defiant Requiem Foundation, by email at lhollman@defiantrequiem.org or by phone at 202-244-0220.