Faculty, students, staff and community members gathered to read poems such as “Written in Pencil in the Sealed Freightcar” (above) on Holocaust Remembrance Day. Every year, the Ackerman Center hosts a public gathering to recite poetry in a multitude of languages in the entrance hall of the Edith O’Donnell Arts Technology Building.

In addition to the readings, LabSynthE created “Syntonic Refuge,” a knitted shawl meant for two, ending in gloves capable of reading the wearers’ heart rates. While wearing it, the pair touch hands and read each other’s pulses. PhD student Amal Shafek and PhD Candidate Latoria Ferreira de Souza pressed their palms together beneath the shawl while reading

Here in this carload
I am Eve
With my son Abel
If you see my older boy
Cain son of Adam
Tell him that I
Paul Celan’s poem, “Death Fugue” in Arabic and Portuguese simultaneously (top right). As they read, the sensors detected the changes in their heart rates, communicating their emotional reaction to the words, the connection forged between the two and the languages as they overlapped with each other. “It really felt like we were completing each other’s sentences even though they were in different languages,” says Amal.

The event included an excerpt from Donald McCullough’s “Holocaust Cantata,” (cover photo) conducted by Dr. Jonathan Palant, featuring Dallas Chamber Singers and University Choir, solos from sopranos McKenzie Flynn, Anna Rasmussen and baritone William Hughes, as well as pianist Artem Arutyunyan and cellist Joseph Kuipers. Additionally, Professor Frederick Turner and Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth (bottom right) read testimonies from Holocaust survivors who endured the horrors from the camps.