Class of 1968 September Zoom

Ira Harkavy & Robert Cort: the Netter Center, with Hans Binnendijk: On The Ukraine

Panelist bios:

Ira Harkavy, PhD, C'70, GR'79

The visionary who envisioned and implemented a ground-breaking public/private partnership with permanent global significance and impact.

Ira Harkavy is Associate Vice President and Founding Director of the Barbara and Edward Netter Center for Community Partnerships, University of Pennsylvania.

As Director of the Netter Center since 1992, Harkavy has helped to develop academically based community service courses and participatory action research projects that involve creating university-community partnerships and university-assisted community schools with Penn's local community of West Philadelphia. Harkavy teaches in history, urban studies, and Africana studies, as well as in the Graduate School of Education.

Harkavy has written and lectured widely on the history and current practice of urban university-community-school partnerships and the democratic and civic missions of higher education. He has co-authored and co-edited eleven books:

Harkavy is the Chair of the International Consortium for Higher Education, Civic Responsibility, and Democracy; Chair of the Anchor Institutions Task Force; founder and member of the Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood Development (PHENND) Steering Committee, and Chair Emeritus of the Coalition for Community Schools.

Among other honors, Harkavy is the recipient of the University of Pennsylvania's Alumni Award of Merit, Campus Compact's Thomas Ehrlich Faculty Award for Service Learning,

New American Colleges and Universities' Ernest L. Boyer Award, a Fulbright Senior Specialist Grant, and three honorary degrees. Under his directorship, the Netter Center for Community Partnerships received the inaugural William T. Grant Foundation Youth Development Prize awarded by The National Academies and a Best Practices/Outstanding Achievement Award from HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research.

Harkavy received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in History from the University of Pennsylvania.

Robert Cort, C'68, G'70 WG'74

Robert Cort is an American film producer. Since 1985 he has produced forty-eight feature films which have grossed more than $2.5 billion in worldwide box office. These include: *On the Basis of Sex, Three Men and a Baby, Cocktail, Jumanji, Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure, Revenge of the Nerds II: Nerds in Paradise, The Cutting Edge, Against the Ropes, Runaway Bride, and Save the Last Dance* .

Cort also produced Mr. Holland's Opus and currently serves on the board of directors for The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation.

Cort's HBO film, *Something the Lord Made*, won three Emmy Awards, including the 2004 Outstanding Film Made for Television. The film also won the American Film Institute Award, the Director's and Writer's Guild Awards, the Christopher, NAACP Image Award and the prestigious Peabody Award. His other television films have also won multiple honors, including the 1990 Emmy for Outstanding Children's Program for *A Mother's Courage: The Mary Thomas Story*.

His production of the family drama *Im Winter ein Jahr* (English Title: *A Year Ago in Winter*), won the Silver Lola for Best Picture at the 2009 German Academy Awards.

In 2003 Random House published Cort's novel, *Action!* which garnered positive critical reviews and became a bestseller.

His articles and essays have been published in The New York Times and The New Yorker. and he is currently a professor of production on the faculty of the American Film Institute.

Prior to working in the entertainment industry, Cort earned BA and MA degrees in history from the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from the Wharton School, and was a management consultant for McKinsey & Company.

Dr. Hans Binnendijk

Dr. Hans Binnendijk is currently a Senior Fellow at the SAIS Center for Transatlantic Relations and at the RAND Corporation and is a distinguished fellow at the Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security.

Hans shares his latest thoughts on NATO in this **blog**.