Dear Friends of the Alliance,

2020 will be a year to remember for the small acts of love, kindness and compassion amidst the chaos of a pandemic and economic challenges and fires. It has been a year of discovering our own living spaces, our resiliency and, for many, our Zoom screens. In March, all in-person classes at Sonoma State were cancelled. We missed hearing and having dinner with many of our returning and new speakers. While we remained connected to our community partners, we regretted not being able to be with them for our annual Yom Hashoah and genocide commemorations.

In spite of those challenges, it was a positive year for the Alliance due to the energy and commitment of our Board members; Myrna Goodman, the Director of the Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide; and Diane Parness’ leadership as the Academic Coordinator of the Lecture Series. Please see their reports, as well as Arline Thomas’ on the work of our Education Committee (who schedules presentations at local middle schools, high schools, and religious and service organizations).

We were saddened by the death of Lucille Eichengreen who spoke in the series several times about her experiences of surviving the Lodz ghetto and the death of a local Holocaust descendant associated with the Alliance Education Committee who had been preparing to share his mother's story with local students, Louis Kenneth Hopfer. Both will be remembered at the annual Sylvia G. Sucher Memorial Lecture on February 2nd.

Overcoming Adversity, the theme of the Spring 2021 semester lecture series, will bring a number of new and returning speakers and topics. Much gratitude goes to Diane Parness for coordinating what we know will be an outstanding series and to Her Excellency Mathilde Mukantabana, Chiaya Rawlins, Arline Thomas, and the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria who are underwriting lectures in the upcoming series.

We are saddened by the recent rise of anti-Semitic acts and speech, especially as it has impacted students in Marin County high schools this year. There have been hate crimes in San Francisco with hate graffiti and shootings at the Armenian KZV School, arson at St. Gregory’s Armenian Apostolic Church Hall, and recent unprovoked attacks against Armenians in Artsakh, their ancient lands in the South Caucasus. So, this year our work in addressing intolerance feels even more important.

We hope that you will be able to support the Alliance and allow us to bring speakers to the series who can expand our understanding of the Holocaust and genocide and educate the next generations of students and future educators. We look forward to seeing many new and familiar faces on screen in the coming months. Members of the community, middle school, high school and SSU students are invited to attend any of the lectures in the series via Zoom. To receive the link, please send an e-mail to alliance@sonoma.edu by noon on the Sunday prior to the lecture and indicate the full names of all those planning to attend.

We hope to return to live presentations and our tradition of dinners with you and our guest speaker, the faculty, and Alliance Board members in 2022. Those interested in training as speakers in the schools, being included in our mailings to Holocaust and genocide survivors and their descendants or receiving information about the lectures and special events should forward their name and e-mail address to alliance@sonoma.edu and like our Facebook page at the Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide.

May 2021 bring healing, understanding and support for all whose lives have been affected by prejudice and intolerance and may we be able to be together again before this time next year.

With deepest gratitude,
Barbara Lesch McCaffry, Ph.D.
Emerita Professor,
Hutchins School of Liberal Studies,
Sonoma State University
President, Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide

Alliance Mission Statement

Our Mission
Honor the experience and preserve the memory of the innocent victims, survivors, and rescuers impacted by the tragedy of genocide.
Support Holocaust and genocide education in conjunction with the Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide at Sonoma State University.

Our Work
Attract, collaborate, and coordinate with scholars, survivors, and experts. Outreach to our community, schools, and survivor groups. Seek funding and support methods to preserve memory.

Our Vision
Inspire a “never again” moral stance that focuses on our common humanity. Promote personal action and proactive prevention awareness of the causes of intolerance, genocide, and denial.
It goes without saying that this year has been filled with unprecedented challenges for all of us. Early in the 2020 Lecture Series, Professor Parness had to convert the Series to an online format. Now, as I compose this report (in early October), it appears the 2021 Series will also be online. The University administration has determined that the safest course of action for the Spring 2021 semester will be to continue to hold classes remotely. Given those constraints, Dr. Parness has arranged an excellent schedule of speakers for our 38th Annual Series. By its nature, an online version of the Series will reach more people, but we will miss the personal connections that develop when lectures are held in person.

Because of Covid-19 restrictions, our person-to-person meetings were limited this year. However, our collaboration and outreach to national and international Holocaust and genocide organizations has produced positive results in the fight against the spread of Holocaust denial and increasing anti-Semitic attacks on the Internet. There has been a serious increase in racist posting on these platforms and the posts appear responsible, in part, for the surge in violent attacks against Jewish people and institutions. I am pleased to report that both Facebook and Twitter have announced their intention to more closely monitor and prevent the dissemination of Holocaust denial and anti-Semitic and racist postings on their platforms.

Our home has shifted! Stevenson Hall is in the beginning stages of a complete remodel. Our office has been relocated to Schultz Library along with the other academic and administrative offices housed in Stevenson. Our thanks to the School administrative staff; Viri Ruiz, Jill Siliznoff and Julie Wood for their steadfast support and helping us facilitate our move. We look forward to the time when the modernization of Stevenson Hall is completed and we can all work together in person!

Thank you to the Alliance for their continuing support of the Lecture Series. Their financial support, along with the Associated Students has helped us attract prominent scholars and activist speakers. The Series also draws support from the Department of Political Science.

Special compliments go to the Alliance Education Committee. Their stellar Speakers Program connecting Holocaust and genocide survivors and descendants to middle and high school students in our region has been an outstanding contribution to students’ understanding of the importance of tolerance and respect for all people.

Finally, our gratitude to Interim Dean Maureen Buckley for her support during her tenure as Acting Dean of the School of Social Sciences. We wish her well on her return to teaching. A warm welcome is in order for our new Dean, Dr. Troi Carleton. Dr. Carleton has expressed enthusiasm for the goals of the Center and Holocaust and Genocide education at SSU. We look forward to working with her to meet the challenges that lie ahead of us.

My best wishes for a safe and healthy journey through the coming months.

Myrna Goodman, Ph.D.
Emerita Professor of Sociology,
Sonoma State University
Director, Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide

Report from the Lecture Series Academic Coordinator

The Holocaust and Genocide lecture series was not immune from the challenges of 2020. Our series was abruptly interrupted when SSU closed its classrooms last March. As a result, we had to scurry to find replacements for our scheduled lectures on American Genocide, Becoming Evil, East Timor: Its Tragedy and Triumph, Genocide In the DRC, Genocide In Bosnia, and Genocide Against the Tutsi In Rwanda. Nothing can take the place of our esteemed speakers presenting in person to our students and the community. That experience is irreplaceable. But we did the best we could to substitute with taped lectures, films, and power point presentations from several of our speakers. These were very well received by our students who clearly appreciated our effort to make the most of a difficult situation.

We hoped to return to some semblance of normalcy in 2021. But the CSU has already determined that all classes will continue to be offered virtually next semester. We would much prefer to return to our traditional classroom environment, but our virtual classroom does offer additional flexibility. Some speakers who have found it difficult to travel to the West Coast in the past have accepted our invitation to speak next in Spring ’21. Our theme is Overcoming Adversity, a timely motif on many levels.

Our new presentations include an account of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen, a report on the plight of the Uighurs of China, and an analysis of the Cambodian Genocide by a highly regarded scholar in that field, Professor Ben Kiernan of Yale University. Professor Ashley Greene of Keene University will offer two presentations to our series. One is on human trafficking as an element of genocide. The other is her excellent analysis of genocide in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Once again, Christyne Davidian has arranged the presentation of a new and exciting documentary on the Armenian Genocide titled The Stateless Diplomat. The filmmaker, Mimi Malayan, will be with us to discuss her work.

We are very pleased to bring back some of our perennial favorites. Professors Michael Berenbaum, James Waller, Mehnaz Afridi, Ben Madley, Steve Bittner, and Kathleen Noonan and our wonderful presenters on the Tutsi Genocide in Rwanda, led by the Honorable Mathilde Mukantabana, will all return to share their wisdom and insight into some of the most important and difficult questions of our time.

With your help, we hope to bring as much as we can of our traditional lecture series to new students and the community in 2021. We hope you will be able to join us virtually.

Dr. Diane L. Parness
Professor, Department of Political Science
Academic Coordinator, Holocaust and Genocide Lecture Series
Sonoma State University
The schedule for the 2021 Lecture Series can be found at:
In January of 2020, the Alliance Education Committee continued its tradition of sending a letter to the principals of all Sonoma County public high schools and middle schools. Our intent was to familiarize them with the resources available to teachers: the lecture series schedule, access to video archives of prior lectures through YouTube, and opportunities to arrange for presentations in their classrooms and assemblies by Holocaust and genocide survivors and their descendants. We also sent comparable information to all the teachers in whose classrooms we coordinated presentations in the past few years.

In spite of the COVID restrictions that went into place in March, the Alliance Education Committee was very successful in coordinating speakers for classroom and assemblies during the 2019-2020 academic year. Unfortunately, we had to cancel more than 20 scheduled in-person presentations. But we were able to support presentations that reached 66 classes, 1,743 middle and high school students and 64 teachers and an additional presentation that reached 40 community members. These included several presentations via Zoom locally, and in Napa and Marin counties.

The presentations by Holocaust and genocide survivors and descendants are an integral part of “Our Work: outreach to our community, schools, and survivor groups.” We also continue to work collaboratively with Jewish Family and Children’s Services Holocaust Center in San Francisco in responding to speaker bureau requests they receive from schools in Sonoma County.

The Alliance Education Committee currently has a group of 11 speakers. We are crafting biographies with 3 new speakers. Our speakers include Holocaust survivors, Holocaust descendants and a third generation Armenian Genocide descendant. They provide a very personal account of the impact of intolerance. “They remember so we don’t forget.”

Due to the pandemic, the speakers for The Alliance Education Committee have “pivoted” with regard to the format of their presentations. We are currently offering remote formats: live and pre-recorded on Zoom, Quick Time, or YouTube. Our advocates who “accompany” our speakers are well prepared to introduce and support our speakers and share information about The Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide. We are so proud of this highly dedicated group of volunteers.

The Alliance Education Committee requests feedback from teachers after each presentation. We gain valuable information with regard to our speakers and how they can best meet the needs of their audiences. We also receive feedback from students in the form of thank you notes and banners at the presentations to acknowledge the speakers. The work of those associated with the Alliance Education Committee continues to have a positive and lasting impact with regard to “countering acts of Intolerance.”

For more information about the Education Committee or to request a speaker, please contact alliance@sonoma.edu or call Alliance Education Committee Chair Arline Thomas at 707-235-9403.

Arline Thomas
Retired teacher, Rohnert Park/Cotati Unified School District and Chair, Alliance Education Committee

Christyne Davidsen at Roseland Collegiate Prep (2/27/20)
Shelley Bauer at Piner High School (3/2/20)
Sandy Feldhorn at Roseland Collegiate Prep (3/13/20)

If you are interested in learning more about the Alliance, our work supporting the SSU Holocaust and Genocide Lecture Series, and our speaker programs in the local county schools, please email us at alliance@sonoma.edu.
2021 Holocaust and Genocide Commemorations and Events

The Annual Sonoma County Yom Hashoah Commemoration will be held on Sunday, April 11, 2021 2-3:15 p.m. via Zoom. The commemoration will include video and musical interludes, as well as a candle lighting ceremony by Jewish survivors and those targeted by genocide. Information on how to participate via Zoom will be available closer to the date of the event. For questions, please contact the Jewish Community Center, Sonoma County at 707-528-4222.

April 24th marks the 106th Annual World-Wide Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. The SF Bay Area Armenian Genocide Commemoration Committee coordinates Bay Area events that will be listed at: www.sfbayecalendar.com. The SF Bay Area Armenian National Committee also coordinates events that will be listed at: www.ancsf.org.

2021 is the 27th anniversary of the Genocide against the Tutsi. The Rwandan Community of Northern California (TRCC) will observe Kwibuka 27 on Saturday April 24, 2021. For additional information contact: Roger Remera (415) 215-1556 or rogeremera@gmail.com.
The Friends of Rwanda (F.O.R.A.) will also be coordinating an event to observe Kwibuka 27. For additional information contact: Vianney Mugabo: 916-202-2718.

The Sebastopol Center for the Arts iconic award-winning Sebastopol Documentary Film Festival is a 4-day celebration of non-fiction film from June 10-13, 2021. The festival features extraordinary films shown at different venues in historic downtown Sebastopol. Documentary filmmakers work to share truth. In so doing, SDFF often includes films related to the Holocaust and genocide. For more information contact The Sebastopol Center for the Arts at 707-829-4797 or https://sebastopolfilmfestival.org.

The Jewish Community Center of Sonoma County (JCC) will hold the 6th Annual Israeli Film Festival, bringing a selection of Israel's robust and prolific film industry, and helping explore the complexity of life there, to our community. This is the newest JCC film festival, building on the success of the long-running and well-regarded Jewish Film Festival, next in the fall of 2021. The Israeli Film Festival will feature four films. Tickets and films will be announced by the JCC in February 2021 when tickets will go on sale. For more information go to www.jccsoco.org or email ireneh@jccsoco.org.

SPECIAL REPORT: Armenians in Crisis

by Christyne Davidian

Armenians around the world were horrified on September 27, 2020 when Azerbaijan, with the aid of Turkey, launched an unprovoked, aggressive attack on the independent enclave of Nagorno Karabakh, called Artsakh by Armenians, that has caused a major humanitarian crisis for the ethnic Armenians living in this region inside the Azerbaijan borders. Enormous material and human loss during the war was attributed to the use of technologically advanced and illegal weaponry, such as UAV’s (Drones), long range missiles, cluster and phosphorus bombs indiscriminately targeting hospitals, schools, farms and residential dwellings. Beheadings and execution of civilians, as well as prisoners of war, raised the fear of ethnic cleansing. Approximately 90,000 ethnic Armenians fled across the neighboring border of Armenia abandoning their ancestral homes with minimal clothing and supplies. A trilateral agreement reached on November 9, 2020 between Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Russia resulted in a tremendous loss of ancestral Armenian lands, homes, businesses, churches, and monasteries. The families from the lands turned over to Azerbaijan are homeless while those going back to the retained lands need to rebuild. We estimate at least two years to recover. The combination of severe cold weather and the Covid-19 pandemic has placed a tremendous strain on Armenia to provide shelter, supplies, and medical resources to the wounded and displaced families. Your help in any amount for this humanitarian crisis is tremendously and gratefully appreciated. I recommend the following organizations who are helping registered Artsakh families directly with 100% of the funds donated:

Armenian General Benevolent Union “Warm Homes-Warm Hearts” Program providing warm clothes, blankets, and heaters made in Armenia for 2500 Artsakh families: https://donate.agbu.org/ypcares.

Armenian Relief Society “Stand for Artsakh” program providing money for at least the next 4 months to 1000 Artsakh families: https://ars1910.org/withartsakh.
2020 Donations

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the following donors who make it possible to continue the work of the founders of the Alliance:

Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust Lecture Series Fund (C0119)
Janine and D. Jules Bamberger (in honor of the Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide)
Helen Baum
Steve and Ellen Beckwith Fund of the Community Foundation of Sonoma County
Karen J. Brodsky & Mark Dierkhising
Morten G. Ender & Corina Moreno-Ender (in memory of John M. Steiner)
Sanders J. and Laureen F. Feldhorn
Rhonda Findling (in memory of my uncles Joe and Freddy, survivors who passed last year)
Samuel Friend
Gloria Tausk & Donald S. Glickman (in memory of Henry and Ann Tausk)
Pauline Helen Heal
Keegan Family Trust / James B. & Diane E. Keegan
Margo & Charlie Klipp
Assumpta Kamanzi-Mbangukira & Yehoyada Mbangukira (in honor of the Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide)
The McBride Group, LLC & Mr. & Mrs. James A. McBride
Barbara Lesch McCaffry & Michael J. McCaffry (in memory of Holocaust descendant Louis Kenneth Hopfer)
Her Excellency Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana (to underwrite a lecture in memory of Alexandre Kimenyi)
Tecla & Ralph Pierotti (in honor of the 6 million Jews murdered & Primo Levi)
The Adrian & Mary K. Praetzellis Trust (in memory of George Triest)
Chiaya Rawlins (to underwrite a lecture in memory of Alexandre Kimenyi)
Stanford T. Roodman & Roberta G. Berg (in memory of the Jews of Poland who were murdered in the Holocaust)
Michael V. Tange & Joanne J. Figone
Dan R. & Muriel L. Williamson (in honor of Rabbi Ted Feldman)
Carrie O. Wong (in support of education related to the Cambodian Genocide & the Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda)
Roberta and Murray Zucker

Armenian Genocide Memorial Lecture Fund (C0286)
Todd W. Cereghino (in honor of Albert Hougassian, Armenian Genocide survivor; his wife Makrouhi; and his daughter Berthe. Rescuers in Lyon, France, 1942-44)
Christyne Davidian (in memory of Adrena Oghidian Clemmer)
Larissa Goliti
Rosemary Matossian (in memory of Misak & Mariam Pilbosian)
Medtronic-Your Cause, LLC
Suzanne & Louis Roberts
Jirary R. & Meline Roubinian (in honor of Levon Roubinian, Armenian Genocide survivor)
Diana V. Torykian (in memory of N. Martha Torykian)
Carrie O. Wong (in support of Armenian Genocide education)

The SSU Rwanda Student Education and Travel Fund (C0410)
Todd W. Cereghino (in honor of the resilience of the Tutsi diaspora)

Paul V. Benko Holocaust Education Endowment Fund (E0022)
Nancy & Reed Ferrick (in memory of Paul V. Benko)
Sandra Benko Fichtenberg (in memory of Paul V. Benko)
Eszter G. Freeman & Larry Harper
Leslie Gattmann
The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (to underwrite the lecture by Benjamin Madley in the 2021 lecture series)
Evelyn Gurevitch
Nancy R. Harris (in memory of Claire and Robert Harris)
The Jacobs Family Charitable Trust / Marsha Jacobs
Jewish Community Federation’s Holocaust Memorial / Education Fund
Jeffrey Kahn
Amar S. & Sahib-Amar K. Khalsa (in memory of Sylvia G. Sucher)
Rudy Lacoe & Peggy Hammert Charitable Fund (in memory of Paul V. Benko)
Marcelle & Kenneth K. Marcus
Barbara Lesch McCaffry & Michael J. McCaffry (in memory of Lucille Eichengreen and to underwrite the Robert L. Harris Memorial Lecture by Professor Michael Berenbaum in the 2021 lecture series)
Susan Miller (in memory of Suzy Rafal and Sylvia G. Sucher)
Sharon & Virgil Miller
Ruth K. Nash (in memory of Paul V. Benko)
Pam & Joel G. Neuberg (for the 2021 Robert L. Harris Lecture)
Rita Rothman (in memory of Marty, Allan, and Bernard Rothman)
Joseph M. & Pamela S. Stafford
Eileen & Joe Tenn
Arline F. Thomas (to underwrite the Sylvia G. Sucher lecture by Bernice Lerner in the 2021 lecture series)
Stephen D. Wattrous & Melanie B. Webster (in memory of Paul V. Benko)
Corey Weinstein (in memory of Lazlo Frankovitz who died at the age of nine months in Birkenau on 9/14/44 on the day I was born)
Carrie O. Wong (in memory of Governor George Dukemijian)
The Ziblatt Family Trust / Susan Foran Ziblatt & David Ziblatt (in memory of Paul V. Benko)

Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide (C0183)
Carrie O. Wong

Alliance Hospitality Fund
Sharon & Virgil Miller
And a generous grant for the lecture series from the Sonoma State University Students’ Instructionally-Related Activities Fund

This list includes donations received between December 1, 2019 and December 15, 2020. If we inadvertently omitted your name or listed it incorrectly, please let us know at: alliance@sonoma.edu
Giving to the Alliance

Your kind gift to the Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide can be submitted using the enclosed envelope. Please designate the fund to which you wish to make your gift:

- **Paul V. Benko Holocaust Education Endowment Fund (E0022)**: This endowment fund, named for a SSU faculty member who was one of the founding members of the Alliance, supports the lecture series on the Holocaust and genocide offered annually at Sonoma State University.

- **Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust Annual SSU Lecture Series Fund (C0119)**: This fund supports Holocaust and genocide education including the lecture series and the annual Robert L. Harris Memorial Lecture that is part of the series.

- **Armenian Genocide Memorial Lecture Fund (C0286)**: This fund supports an annual lecture related to the Armenian Genocide as part of the lecture series.

- **Holocaust and Genocide Program Documentary Fund (C0409)**: This fund will support the production of a documentary about Holocaust and genocide programs at Sonoma State University including the Memorial Grove and the Anne Frank Tree.

- **The SSU Rwanda Student Education and Travel Fund (C0410)**: This fund, created in collaboration with the Friends of Rwanda Association (F.O.R.A.), will support the education of SSU student(s) regarding the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and/or support their travel to Rwanda to work and teach in F.O.R.A. vocational schools with survivors of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

- **Adele Zygielbaum Endowment Fund (E0396)**: This endowment fund, created in memory of a Holocaust survivor, supports Holocaust and genocide education including the lecture series.

You can also donate on-line

- go to: https://www.sonoma.edu/give
- click on the images for Schools, Departments & Programs
- click on School of Social Sciences
- select either “recurring” or “one time”

To donate to the Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust Annual SSU Lecture Series Fund (C0119) please select the button for “The Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust.” To donate to all other funds, please select the button for “Other” and indicate the name of the fund and its associated fund number in the designated box. You can also provide information if you would like to donate in memory of or in honor of someone or an event or if you would like us to send someone else an acknowledgement of your gift. Questions can be directed to the Alliance at alliance@sonoma.edu.

Alliance History

The Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust was formed in 1982 on behalf of the victims and survivors of the Holocaust and the need to tell their stories and for others to learn from their experiences. Those who began this collaborative effort between the community and members of the Sonoma State University faculty promised to let the world know of the atrocities that had occurred. The initial intention was primarily to learn the facts, act on them, and never forget.

As a result of these efforts, a highly successful annual lecture series on the Holocaust and genocide was created at Sonoma State University. As a University-community partnership, the Board includes members of the community, University faculty and administrators, and students who have participated in the Lecture Series. In 2010, the name of the Alliance was changed to the Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide to reflect its revised mission and its continuing educational commitment to include all those affected by genocide.

Alliance 2020-21 Board Members

| Todd Cereghino, Recording Secretary | Alexia Moreno, Student Board Member | Senior Advisors |
| Samuel Cohen | Chiya Rawlins | Hans Angress |
| Christyne Davidian, Past President (SC) | Suzanne Roberts | Mathilde Mukantabana |
| Eszter Freeman | Arline Thomas (SC) | Virgil Miller |
| Gloria Tausk Glickman | Susan Victor | Joel Neuberg |
| Myrna Goodman, Vice President (SC) | | David Salm |
| Yehoyada Mbangukira (SC) | | Emeritus Board Member |
| Barbara Lesch McCaffry, President (SC) | | Ilka Hartmann |
| Mac McCaffry, Corresponding Secretary | | |
| Kate McGerity | | |

( SC ) = Steering Committee members

We extend our gratitude to former board members Elly Cohen and Brian Wilson who will be missed.
TIME SENSITIVE

Address corrections or deletions can be requested using the enclosed donation envelope or via e-mail to alliance@sonoma.edu. Those interested in receiving information about the lectures and special events should forward their name and e-mail address to alliance@sonoma.edu.

Past Lecture Archives
Information and access to the video archive of past lectures can be found at http://www.sonoma.edu/holocaust by clicking on the link for the Holocaust & Genocide Video Archive. Please select “Playlist” to see videos for each annual series.

Please like our Facebook page at Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide.