



Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust

An operating activity of the Sonoma State University Academic Foundation

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2009

Dear Friends of the Alliance,

Your dedicated support of Holocaust and Genocide Education at Sonoma State has proved to be one of tremendous precedence this past year. Along with another excellent lecture series, the Erna and Arthur Salm Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Grove became a reality with an amazing dedication inclusive of all genocide communities. Months later, an announcement was made that Sonoma State would be granted one of the 11 Anne Frank saplings coming to the U.S., more detail of which you will read further in this newsletter.


The grove dedication has also inspired two new board members deeply committed to genocide awareness and education. We welcome Rich Morley, who comes to us all the way from Silicon Valley and our newly elected Education Committee Chair, and Brian Boyajian, an Armenians of the North Bay member who recently moved back to Sonoma County. We also welcome former student board member Nick Firestone to full board membership.

Our executive board has also seen some transition as well. Following the footsteps of so many competent and bright leaders, it is with honor and humility that I assume the role of president of the Alliance after serving on the board for six years as representative of the Armenian community. Barbara Lesch McCaffry remains committed to our board as the new treasurer and Barbara Tobin has taken on double duty as both our corresponding and recording secretary. We sadly say good-bye to David Salm as a board member after many years but are thrilled that he will continue to serve as our grove liaison and as a senior advisor.

Combining the Alliance transitions and the amazing events together this year at Sonoma State comes a renewed commitment of our board members to the Alliance, a desire to improve our educational outreach, the crafting of a new mission to broaden our scope, launching a dedicated website, and enhancing our funding to ensure Holocaust and Genocide Education at Sonoma State is secure.

We are deeply grateful to those of you who continue to generously support us through these tough times and want to especially thank those who donated to the Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Grove in 2009. We would like to acknowledge special appreciation to the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties whose generous grant will support the 2010 Harris lecture and reception with scholar Dr. John Roth. As we move forward into our 2010 programs, we truly appreciate your continued support by making a yearly contribution, attending our lecture series, and/or volunteering to assist with our programs or as a board member.

With deepest gratitude,


Christyne Davidian

President, Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust

**We would appreciate sending information about special lectures and events to you via e-mail.
Please forward your name and e-mail address to alliance@sonoma.edu requesting inclusion.**

Report from the Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide at Sonoma State

2009 was a remarkable year for the Holocaust and Genocide Studies program. Our 26th Annual Lecture Series: "Understanding the Past: Personal and Intellectual Perspectives on the Holocaust and Genocide," featured diverse lectures: Barbara Epstein on the unique experience of Jews in the Minsk Ghetto, Holocaust Survivors Lucille Eichengreen and Paul Schwarzbart shared their powerful life stories, Jeanette Ringold spoke on "Hidden Children during the Holocaust," and Greg Sarris, Chairman of the Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria spoke on the eradication of Native American culture in our county in Genocide Beneath Our Feet.

We also participated in the successful proposal that will bring one of 11 saplings from the Anne Frank horse chestnut tree in Amsterdam to the Erna and Arthur Salm Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Grove on the SSU campus. The Grove was dedicated this past March and proceeds from brick sales will be used for Holocaust and Genocide education on campus. We also served as advisors to the Petaluma Historical Society in planning and presenting the exhibit "Schindler," a traveling exhibit from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

The 2010 series theme, "Repercussions of Genocide: Family, Community and Society" promises to be one of our best. In addition to John Roth, PhD who will present the Robert L. Harris Memorial Lecture, we are proud to once again feature a performance of Klezmer music. The Santa Rosa Youth Orchestra will perform with a lecture and commentary by Robin Seletsky. The Armenian Genocide Memorial Lecture will feature Sergio LaPorta, PhD from CSU Fresno. Board member Mathilde Mukantabana, MSW will discuss the situation in post-genocide Rwanda.

The Center received several generous donations this past year from Henry and Lucille Libicki through the Jewish Community Federation Endowment, Susan and David Garfin, and Virgil and Sharon Miller. The 2009 Series was also made possible in part through a generous grant from the Sonoma State Instructionally Related Activities Fund (which is supported by student fees) written by Myrna Goodman and Barbara Lesch McCaffry.

My deepest thanks. Your efforts on our behalf are deeply appreciated and assure the success of our mission. I look forward to working with you all again this coming year.

Myrna Goodman, Ph.D.
Director, Center for the Study of the
Holocaust and Genocide

Anne Frank Horse Chestnut Tree Sapling Award

One of eleven 3 foot tall saplings from the horse chestnut tree in the courtyard of Anne Frank Hus in Amsterdam is coming to the Erna and Arthur Salm Holocaust and Genocide Memorial at Sonoma State University. Sonoma State is the only location in California and the only institution of higher education to be awarded one of the trees. In her comments on the awards, Yvonne Simons of the Anne Frank Center, U.S.A., said that the SSU proposal was inspiring and that our site and proposal blended our beginnings, our current programs and our commitment to Holocaust and genocide education were a perfect blend of reasons to award one of the saplings.

She said: "The panel felt that your site 'connected all the dots' by writing an inspiring proposal, drawing all aspects of tolerance together. Your Center for the Study of the Holocaust [and Genocide], created by Dr. John Steiner (Dachau and Auschwitz survivor), your membership including Hans Angress, a Berlin Jew who attended school with Anne Frank, and your inclusion of educational programs on other genocides in the world. We particularly like the concept that the sapling would be placed near the Martin Luther King sculpture, both were born in 1929, both slain by ignorance and hatred, and both lives committed to contribute to human dialogue. And of course, your site plan and ability to maintain the tree on your premises was also very good!"

We are proud to be a grantee of one of the saplings. Thanks and congratulations go to the team that drafted and prepared the proposal: Christopher Dinno (Senior Director for Facilities Management), Myrna Goodman, Bob Klose, Dean Elaine Leeder, David Salm and Sam Youney (Director of Landscape).



Interpretation of the Anne Frank sapling upon maturity



Virgil and Sharon Miller with
Speaker and Survivor Lucille Eichengreen



Speaker Barbara Epstein



Center Director Myrna Goodman and Board
Member/Speaker Mathilde Mukantabana

Memorial Grove Dedication: March 29, 2009

Over 500 people gathered at Sonoma State University for a remarkable program to dedicate a memorial art sculpture to victims of genocide. Representatives from six groups of genocide victims and war atrocity survivors addressed the standing-room-only crowd along with keynote speaker Rwandan Ambassador to the United Nations, Professor Joseph Nsengimana. Genocide groups included members of the Native American, Armenian, Jewish, Chinese, Cambodian, Rwandan, and Darfuri communities.

Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust Board Member David Salm was a major contributor to the project in hopes of remembering the past and drawing attention to genocides still occurring.

The 10-foot-tall glass sculpture, created by Jann Nunn, an associate professor of sculpture at SSU, took three years in the making. It is built of 5,000 pieces of glass and is illuminated by internal lights from dusk to dawn. Over 300 memorial bricks inscribed with survivor and donor names lay at the foundation of the sculpture representing railroad tracks leading up to the tower of light.

Dr. Elaine Leeder, Dean of the School of Social Sciences at SSU and member of the Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust Board, expertly facilitated the lengthy process and made it a reality. "Unfortunately, there is now a field of study called comparative genocide," she said in her opening remarks.

You can watch the entire dedication and learn more about the grove memorial and genocide communities at: <http://www.sonoma.edu/holocaust/grove/index.html>. There are still bricks available for purchase and those interested should contact Christyne Davidian at christyne@callatg.com or 707-762-2995.



David Salm overseeing Memorial Grove
Marble Base Installation



Memorial Grove Glass
Tower Installation

2010 Holocaust and Genocide Commemorations

The Annual Community Yom Hashoah Commemoration will be held at the Friedman Center, Sunday April 11, 2010 from 2-4PM. The theme will be "Liberation Experience" and will be in the form of a dramatic reading by students. The reading will be written by Susanne Batzdorff and directed by Kathy Pither, based on interviews with four survivors. For more information, contact the Jewish Community Center at 707-528-4222.

Congregation Shomrei Torah (CST) will host a brief, simple Yom Hashoah Candle Lighting Ceremony, Sunday April 11, 2010 at 9AM. Rabbi George Gittleman and a Child of Survivors will speak. Special music from the Holocaust will be performed. Highlight of the program will be the Candle Lighting for the six million Jews murdered, non-Jews killed in the Holocaust, and the other genocides: Native America, Armenia, Cambodia, Rwanda, Darfur. Hosted by CST's Social Action Committee. For more information, contact Shomrei Torah at (707) 578-5519.

Every year around the world, April 24th marks the commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. The SF Bay Area Armenian National Committee will coordinate Bay Area events commemorating the **95th year of the Armenian Genocide throughout the month of April**. For information, see <http://www.ancsf.org>.

The Friends of Rwanda Association will conduct its **16th year commemoration of the Tutsi genocide in Rwanda in April**. The Memorial service will take place at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. For more information, see the web page of the Friends of Rwanda Association at: <http://www.friends-of-rwanda.org/>.

Education Committee Report

We have a dynamic team comprised of our new Board President Christyne Davidian, Michael "Mac" McCaffry, Flora Lee Ganzler, and myself. Together we combine unique backgrounds of both academia and industry to the goal of furthering the educational agenda of the Alliance.

We are continuing the classic activity of getting the word out about the lecture series in itself a laudable mission. In addition, we are also starting to work on several other longer term projects which need the support and funding of the Alliance's constituencies.

We intend to develop strategic synergies with other like minded organizations such as the Genocide Education Project (www.genocideeducation.org), Facing History and Ourselves (www.facinghistory.org), and Listening for a Change (www.listeningforachange.org) so that we can develop unique Educate the Educator Programs, further the creation of a survivor panel, and assure viability of survivor memories and oral histories for the future as the survivor population decreases.

We're excited about these programs and hope that together we can create a unique program at Sonoma State to facilitate these key Alliance educational goals. We welcome your interest and endorsement by volunteering or making a contribution. Please feel free to contact me directly at (925) 577-6000 or at richmorley@comcast.net.

*Rich Morley
Education Committee Chair*

2009 Donations

We would like to express our gratitude to the following donors who made it possible for us to continue the work for those who found the Alliance.

Paul V. Benko Holocaust Education Endowment Fund

An endowment whose interest supports the lecture series

Marjorie and Barry Feldman, in memory of Gerald Chernofsky

Evelyn Gurevitch, in memory of Paul Benko

Donna Newman-Fields, in memory of Paul Benko

Joseph Schwartz

Roberta and Murray Zucker, in honor of Sylvia Sucher

Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust Lecture Series Fund

Supports the lecture series and the annual Robert L. Harris Memorial Lecture

Brian Boyajian, In honor of Christyne Davidian's presidency

and in honor of receiving the Anne Frank sapling

Ellen and Herb Brosbe, in memory of Adele Zygielbaum

Hilde and Tovi Catz

Susan and David Garfin, in honor of Myrna Goodman

Ruth Gumpel

Katy Ha, in honor of Eli Jacobson

Elizabeth Hagen, in memory of Richard Simkover

Barbara Lesch McCaffry and Michael J. McCaffry,
in memory of Hans Cohn, Rabbi Alan Lew,
Ida Piotrkowski, Adele Zygielbaum, and
in honor of Shari Brenner's 50th Birthday

Marian McDonald

Congregation Shomrei Torah and Ruth Robinson,
in memory of Rabbi Michael Robinson

Sylvia Sucher

Sandy Tate

Roberta and Murray Zucker, in memory of Paul Benko
and in honor of Sylvia Sucher

Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco,
the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties

Armenian Genocide Memorial Lecture Fund

Supports the Armenian Genocide Memorial Lecture

Christyne Davidian

Motorola, Inc.

Armenian Fund Donations in memory of Melanie Davidian

Emma and David Charlebois

Myrna Goodman and Susanne Otteman

Barbara Lesch McCaffry and Michael J. McCaffry

David Salm

Sylvia G. Sucher

Barbara Tobin and Cass Smith

SSU Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide

Supports the work of the Center

Susan and David Garfin

Myrna Goodman

Lucille and Henry Libicki

Sharon and Virgil Miller

Jewish Community Federation Endowment

Sonoma State University Instructionally Related Activities Fund

Center Donations in memory of Adele Zygielbaum

Karolyn Bradley

Leah Davidson

Dana Furia, Richard Ruthnick and Lisa Smith

Susan Hubbard

Donald W. Linscott

W. D. Nelson

G. L. Perel

Elaine Pile

Deanna M. Sincovec

Gerald Zahler

Constance J. Zehr

Guest Lecturer Hospitality Fund

Supports cost of guest speaker dinners

Berrine de Carmo

Rich Morley, in memory of Henry Savaddy Klein

Mathilde Mukantabana and Alexandre Kimenyi

All donations made toward inscribed memorial bricks for the SSU Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Grove this past year have been separately acknowledged. Your continued support is needed and appreciated as we plan for the 27th Annual Lecture Series. Donations received after 12/1/09 will be acknowledged in the 2010 annual report.

In Memoriam

Holocaust Survivors and Alliance Members:

HANS COHN

IDA PIOTRKOWSKI

ADELE ZYGIELBAUM

Alliance History and Mission

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 SSU. 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. Its current mission is to co-sponsor the Lecture Series, to support SSU's Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide in providing programming to the larger community (including K-12 teachers), and to collaborate with other community groups working with issues related to the Holocaust and genocide.

Alliance Board Members

Herbert Hans Angress, Community Yom Hashoah Liaison, Survivor Speaker
Brian Boyajian, Mission Statement Committee and Liaison to Armenians of the North Bay
Larry Carlin, Public Relations, Shomrei Torah Yom Hashoah Liaison, Mission Statement Committee
Christyne Davidian, President, Liaison to Armenians of the North Bay, Education and Mission Statement Committees
Nick Firestone, on leave while teaching in China
Flora Lee Ganzler, Education Committee
Myrna Goodman, Director of the Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide
Barbara Lesch McCaffry, Treasurer
Michael "Mac" McCaffry, Education Committee
Rich Morley, Education Committee Chair and Mission Statement Committee
Mathilde Mukantabana, Liaison to the Friends of Rwanda Association
B. J. Stolbov, Membership Database
Barbara Tobin, Corresponding and Recording Secretary

Student Board Member

Veronica Taylor

Senior Advisors

Virgil Miller
Joel Neuberg
David Salm
Sylvia Sucher

Associate Board Members

Tina Kelly
Scott Lapinski
Dean Elaine Leeder

Emeritus Board Members

Ilka Hartmann
Evelyn "Evey" Sackler




Center Director Myrna Goodman and Speaker and Survivor Paul A. Schwarzbart



Speaker James Waller and founding Center Director and Survivor John Steiner



Center Director Myrna Goodman, Board Member and Survivor Hans Angress, and Speaker and Survivor Jeanette Ringold



27th Annual Sonoma State University 2010 Holocaust and Genocide Lecture Series

February 2-May 25, 2010/ Tuesdays 4:00 PM-5:40 PM

Warren Auditorium (Ives Hall)

SSU Students: SOCI 305, Perspectives on the Holocaust and Genocide counts as upper-division General Education credit under GE category D5, and towards the B.A. Degree in CCJ, English, Global Studies, History, Liberal Arts, Nursing, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and the Hutchins School

Repercussions of Genocide: Family, Community and Society

February 2: **INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES**

Myrna Goodman, Ph.D., Sonoma State University

February 9: **HOLOCAUST IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

Stephen Bittner, Ph.D., Sonoma State University

February 16: **IMAGE BEFORE MY EYES:
A HISTORY OF JEWISH LIFE IN POLAND BEFORE THE HOLOCAUST:**
FILM AND DISCUSSION

February 23: **BREAKING THE SILENCE: A HOLOCAUST CHILDHOOD**

Paul A. Schwarzbart

March 2: **KLEZMER CONCERT AND LECTURE**

Robin Seletsky, SUNY Oneonta and Hartwick College,
with The Santa Rosa Junior Orchestra conducted by Dr. Richard Loheyde

March 9: **HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR PANEL**

Hans Angress and Lucille Eichengreen

March 16: **PERSPECTIVES ON INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES**

Eric Williams, Ph.D., Sonoma State University

March 23: **REPERCUSSIONS OF GENOCIDE: REBUILDING RWANDAN SOCIETY**

Mathilde Mukantabana, M.A. and M.S.W., Cosumnes Community College,
and President, Friends of Rwanda Assn. (FORA)

March 30: **THE RAPE OF NANKING: FILM AND DISCUSSION**

Community Panelists

April 6: **SPRING BREAK (campus closed)**

April 13: **BECOMING EVIL**

James Waller, Ph.D., Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation

April 20: **CHILD OF WAR, MAN OF PEACE**

Arn Chorn-Pond, Cambodian Survivor and Human Rights Activist

April 27: **THE GEOPOLITICS OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RECOGNITION:
AMERICAN AND ISRAELI REACTIONS**

Sergio LaPorta, Ph.D., CSU Fresno / Armenian Genocide Memorial Lecture

May 4: **INHERITING THE HOLOCAUST: A SECOND GENERATION MEMOIR**

Paula Fass, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley

May 11: **"BRICKS, TREES, AND THE FAILURE(S) OF ETHICS:
REFLECTIONS ON THE COMMON GOOD"**

John Roth, Ph.D., Claremont College (Emeritus) / Robert L. Harris Memorial Lecture

May 18: **GENOCIDE BENEATH OUR FEET**

Greg Sarris, Ph.D., Endowed Professor, Sonoma State University
and Chairman, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria

May 25: **WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?**

Student/Faculty Panel

To view prior lectures see: <http://www.sonoma.edu/holocaust/center.htm>

The Holocaust Lecture Series is sponsored by the Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust, The Paul V. Benko Holocaust Education Endowment, the Armenian Genocide Memorial Lecture Fund, the Thomas Family Foundation, the Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide, the Sonoma State Students' Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) Fund and Associated Students Productions, and the Jewish Community Federation (JCF) of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties

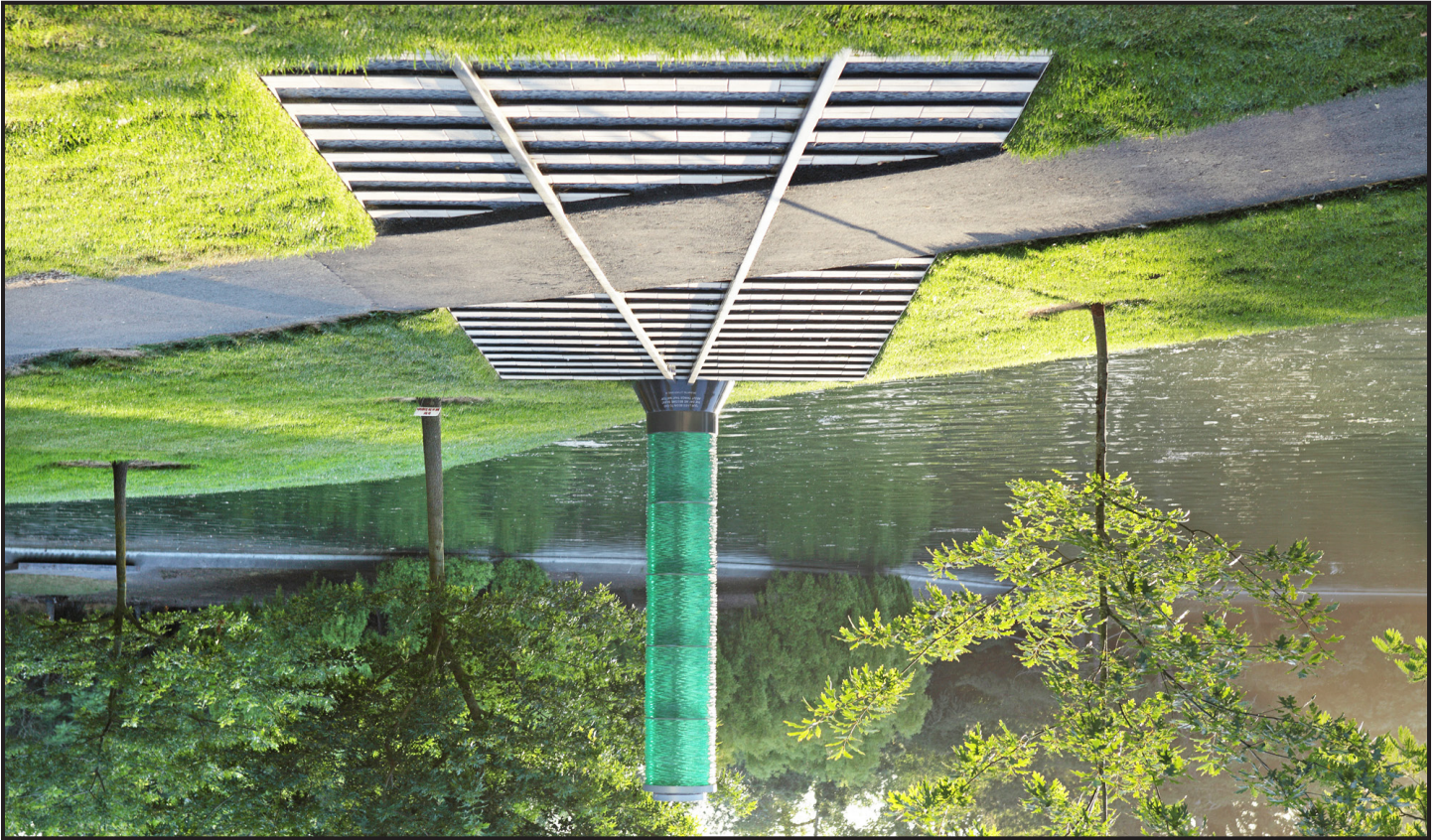


Sonoma State University
1801 East Cotati Avenue
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609

A daily parking permit (\$2.50) is required M-TH,
6 a.m.-10 p.m. and 6 a.m.-5 p.m. on Fridays,
except holidays. Daily permits are not valid in reserve lots.
Some permit machines accept quarters only.

SSU has complete program accessibility.

Study the nature of hate: Prevent the escalation of prejudice into genocide



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c/o Holocaust Studies Center
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