

# Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide

An operating activity of the Sonoma State University Academic Foundation

<http://www.sonoma.edu/holocaust/ash/> email: [alliance@sonoma.edu](mailto:alliance@sonoma.edu)

## Annual Newsletter 2013

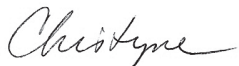
Dear Friends of the Alliance,

Thirty years ago, local Holocaust survivors, SSU faculty, and community members came together to form the SSU Holocaust Lecture Series and the Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust to educate “never again” to our students and community. Thirty years ago, Holocaust curricula were not common in our schools and it wasn’t until 1985 that California enacted a mandate for Holocaust and genocide education in our schools. Only 5 other states have since passed such mandates. Some possibly knew of the Armenian Genocide which was never and often still not taught during WW I history. Rarely was the Native American taught or even discussed in American History and the Rape of Nanking was unknown. The 1975 Cambodian Genocide did not reach the masses until *The Killing Fields* movie was released in 1984 and since then at least 5 more horrific genocides have occurred and there are dozens more on the genocide watch list today. Both the SSU Center and Alliance have been renamed to add “Genocide” to their titles and sadly, so many more genocide lectures besides the Holocaust added to the Lecture Series. As James Waller states so soberly during his annual lecture in our series, more have died in 20th century genocides than all other wars combined. That history continues to repeat.

With this 30 year perspective in mind, your support for the continuation of the SSU Lecture Series and the Alliance is even more critical than ever. **We hope that you will join us in preserving the legacy of Holocaust and Genocide Education at our rescheduled 30th anniversary event on Sunday, January 26, 2014.** It also honors the retirement of Professor Myrna Goodman from Sonoma State University. We’re looking forward to seeing you on this exciting day. Invitations with the final details will be mailed at the first of the year.

*We once again acknowledge special appreciation to the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, The Peninsula, Marin, and Sonoma Counties whose very generous grant for a fifth year will support the 2014 Robert L. Harris Memorial Lecture and reception.*

With deepest gratitude,



Christyne Davidian  
President, Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust

*Top Photo From Left:*

*Myrna Goodman and Jim Waller*

*Bottom Photo: SSU Student Andrew Sousa, Barbara Lesch McCaffry, Diane Parness, Hans Angress, and Eric Williams.*



## 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



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

There were several important milestones for the Center in 2013. In addition to celebrating the 30th anniversary of the lecture series with important lectures from our traditional corps of talented scholars and a masterful lecture from **Dr. Michael Berenbaum** titled “**Memorializing The Holocaust,**” we welcomed the new Series Academic Coordinator, **Dr. Diane L. Parness**. **Professor Parness**, a Political Scientist, brings extensive knowledge of the history and politics of Eastern Europe to the Series as well as her reputation as an outstanding teacher. I am delighted that she will now serve as the Academic Coordinator for the Series. I look forward to our continuing collaboration planning the annual Series and the ongoing work of the Center.

The **Anne Frank Sapling** was installed in the **Erna and Arthur Salm Memorial Grove** on April 14, 2013. I am particularly proud that the **Anne Frank Center USA** noted that our educational mission was a central factor in the awarding of our sapling. The committee also noted the **Alliance** and community support as noteworthy factors in the award.

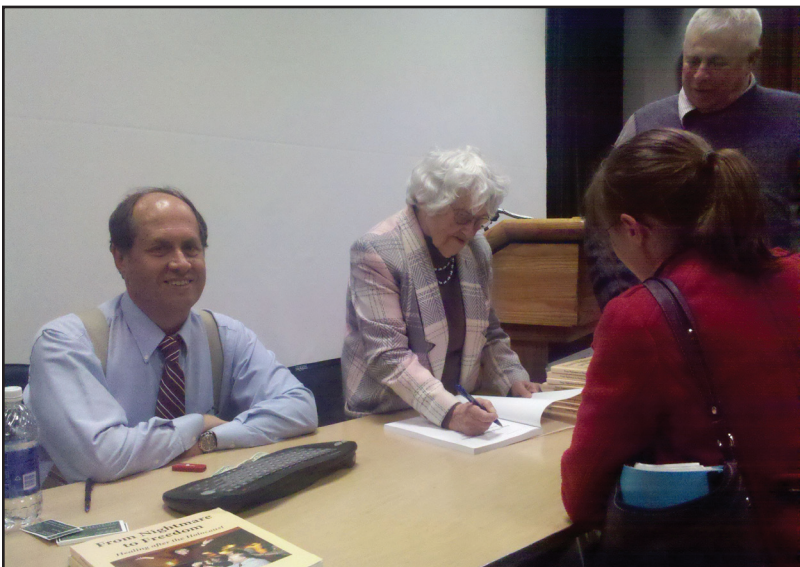
The 2014 Series, titled “**Never Again?**” promises to explore new ground. Speakers will cover a diverse set of topics including the genocides in **Guatemala** and **Bosnia**. **Professor Parness** will deliver a lecture on the increasing anti-Semitic tensions in Hungary and **Dr. Barry Preisler’s** lecture will focus on the origins of anti-Semitism in Europe.

**Professors Stephen Bittner** and **Eric Williams** will return to share their perspectives on the history and consequences of the Holocaust. We are also pleased that **Professor Sergio LaPorta** will present the annual **Armenian Genocide Memorial Lecture** and **Professor Carol Rittner, RSM**, a prominent Holocaust scholar will deliver the **Robert L. Harris Memorial Lecture**. **Dr. James Waller** will also return to share his insights how humans are capable of “**Becoming Evil.**”

On March 25, 2014, we will welcome **Her Excellency Mathilde Mukantabana, the Rwandan Ambassador to the United States**. **Professor Mukantabana** has been a lecturer in the Series and a member of the **Alliance Board** for several years. She will discuss the state of affairs in Rwandan society 20 years after the genocide.

On a personal note, this year marked my official retirement from teaching. I will continue to serve as the Director of the Center and I am scheduled to teach part-time this spring. I would like to thank you for your contributions to our endeavors over the years. Your continuing support has been essential in maintaining the outstanding quality and national reputation of our program.

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



*Dennis and Lillian Judd*



*Brenda Flyswithhawks and Diane Parness*





Leyla Mavris



Michael Berenbaum



Sergio La Porta

## Lecture Series Academic Coordinator Report

It is a great pleasure and honor to serve again as Academic Coordinator for the Holocaust & Genocide Lecture Series. I think you will agree that our 30th year series offered a very high standard of analysis and inspiration. The highlights of last year's series must include Dr. Michael Berenbaum's **Robert L. Harris Memorial Lecture** on the power of genocide memorials; the mural exposition and moving testimony of second generation Cambodian survivors; Mina Rush's inspirational call to join the fight against future genocides, and Prof. James Waller's captivating discussion of "Becoming Evil." At the close of the semester, student evaluations consistently noted that this was a course that had changed them.

In this 31st year of the series, I am delighted to be joined by two outstanding scholars and teachers in the field of genocide studies, Prof. Myrna Goodman and Prof. Barry Preisler. Each of us will offer a lecture reflecting our respective expertise. Prof. Goodman will speak on "The Concept of Genocide," Prof. Preisler will review "The Origins of Anti-Semitism in Europe," and I will consider "Hungary: The Perfect Storm." This is the first semester that our lecture series will be offered under the auspices of the Political Science department. I am confident that our students will be very well served by our core professors and the exceptional lecturers who will visit us this semester.

Our **Robert L. Harris Memorial Lecture** will feature Prof. Carol Rittner, whose highly regarded study of gender and genocide has garnered global accolades. We are pleased to offer the first series lecture on the Guatemalan genocide. Prof. Beatriz Manz of UC Berkeley recently testified as an expert eyewitness in the genocide trial of former Guatemalan military dictator General Ríos Montt. She will speak to us of her research on the legacy of genocide in the Mayan communities of Guatemala. Another exciting new lecture in our series features Mirza Velagic of the Washington based *Voices of the Bosnian Genocide*. Mr. Velagic will speak on "The Bosnian Genocide: Past, Present and Future."

We are delighted to bring back to the series several speakers who consistently fascinate and inspire our students. Among these are two perennial series favorites, Paul Schwarzbart and Hans Angress, who will return to move us with their tales of Holocaust survival. Prof. James Waller will enthrall us again with his exceptional analysis of "Becoming Evil." We are very fortunate to welcome back Prof. Greg Sarris, who will speak of "Genocide Beneath Our Feet." Prof. Sergio La Porta will bring us his masterful account of the Armenian Genocide; Prof. Stephen Bittner will provide his expert analysis of the historical context of the Holocaust, and Prof. Eric Williams offers his provocative perspective on international war crimes. We must make special note of the return of the newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to the United States, The Honorable Mathilde Mukantabana. The Ambassador will reflect on Rwanda twenty years after the horrors of genocide.

We hope you share our enthusiasm for the coming semester. The Holocaust and Genocide Lecture Series has been a highlight of SSU's curriculum for 31 years. We will work very hard to sustain that proud tradition.

Diane L. Parness, Ph. D.  
Professor, Department of Political Science  
Academic Coordinator, Holocaust & Genocide Lecture Series  
Sonoma State University



*Back Row: SSU Student Ashley Duke, Christyne Davidian, Sergio La Porta, Hans Angress, and Barbara Lesch McCaffry.  
Front Row: Lynn and Nikki Arsanis*



*Front Row: Afaf Almeki and Myrna Goodman  
Back row: Michael McCaffry, SSU Students Andrew Sousa and Ashley Duke, Hamdan Gouumaa's daughters, and Hamdan Gouumaa*

## Understanding the Evolution of Genocides Through the Lens of Kristallnacht

The Yom Hashoah Committee of the Jewish Community Center of Sonoma County recently sponsored an event both to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht and to understand it in the context of a common pattern of genocide that has tragically befallen many other peoples.

The weekend of November 9–10, 1938 in Germany and Austria marked the progression from repression and ostracism to outright violence and vandalism—the wholesale physical destruction of Judaism’s religious, economic, and cultural roots—while an acquiescing society watched. This event has come to be called Kristallnacht, the night of shattered glass, for the thousands of synagogue windows and storefronts that were destroyed.

The commemoration took place on Sunday, November 10th and was attended by more than 300 people. It included a slide show on “The Evolution of Genocide” presented by Dr. Myrna Goodman, Emerita Professor of Sociology and the Director of the Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide at Sonoma State, a keynote address on “Genocide Studies in the Light of Kristallnacht” by Dr. Sergio LaPorta, the Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at CSU Fresno. Also heard were the voices of local survivors who experienced Kristallnacht (Betty Kale, Alfred Batzdorff and Susanne Batzdorff) as well as poetry and music in commemoration of the victims of genocide and a candle lighting ceremony. It concluded with a commitment to work to prevent genocide and other acts of intolerance.

Faith, ethnic, social service, and educational communities of Sonoma County and the Greater Bay Area were invited to be co-sponsors of this event as organizations that understand the connection between “standing idly by” and the evolution of evil. The Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide was proud to be a co-sponsor along with the following organizations: Armenians of the North Bay, Armenian National Committee-San Francisco Bay Area, B’nai Israel Jewish Center, Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide, Chevra Kadisha of Sonoma County (Jewish Burial Society), Committee for Immigrant Rights Sonoma County (CIRSC), Community Church of Sebastopol, Congregation Beth Ami, Congregation Ner Shalom, Congregation Shomrei Torah, Faith Lutheran Church of Santa Rosa, Friends of Rwanda Association (FORA), Hillel of Sonoma County, Jewish Community Center of Sonoma County, Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), Jewish Family and Children’s Services Holocaust Center (San Francisco), La Voz Bilingual Newspaper, Muslim Institute for Interfaith Studies & Understanding, Redwood Forest Friends Meeting (Quakers), and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa.

Barbara Lesch McCaffry  
Alliance Board Liaison to the Yom Hashoah Planning Committee  
Emerita Professor, Hutchins School of Liberal Studies  
Sonoma State University

# 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 an 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.
- **Adele Zygielbaum Endowment Fund (E0396):** This endowment fund, created in memory of a Holocaust survivor, supports Holocaust and Genocide Education including the lecture series.
- **Guest Lecturer Hospitality Fund (not tax deductible):** This fund supports guest speaker dinner costs.

**You can also donate directly online through Sonoma State University “Give Online” system:**

- Go to: <https://www.sonoma.edu/development/>
- Click on the green button on the left side of the screen for “Give Online”
- Click on Schools, Departments & Programs
- Click on School of Social Sciences
- 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 include information here if you would like us to send someone else an acknowledgement of your gift.

*Further questions on donations can be directed to the Alliance at [alliance@sonoma.edu](mailto:alliance@sonoma.edu).*

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## 2013 Donations\*

**We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the following donors who made it possible to continue the work of those who founded the Alliance:**

### **Paul V. Benko Holocaust Education Endowment Fund**

Flora Lee Ganzler (in honor of Wilson & Jackson Ganzler)  
Evelyn Gurevitch (in memory of Paul Benko)  
Jewish Community Federation: Roberta and Murray Zucker Fund  
Peggy Hammett and Rudy Lacoe (in memory of Paul Benko)  
Lily Krulevitch  
Marcelle and Kenneth Marcus  
Sharon and Virgil Miller  
Ruth and Steven Nash (in memory of Paul Benko)  
Suzy and Robert Raful  
Roberta and Murray Zucker (Zucker Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Community Federation)

### **Armenian Genocide Memorial Lecture Fund**

Brian Boyajian  
Rosann Bazirjian and Patrick Burger (in memory of Rose and Dikran Bazirjian)  
Todd Cereghino (in memory of Satmar Reb Yoel Tietelbaum)  
Adrena Clemmer  
Larissa Golitti  
David Salm

### **Adele Zygielbaum Endowment Fund**

Eileen M. Baustian (in memory of Adele Zygielbaum)  
Margaret Pope (in memory of Adele Zygielbaum)

### **Guest Lecturer Hospitality Fund**

Anonymous (in honor of Yom Hashoah)  
Anonymous (in honor of Yom Hashoah)

### **Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust Lecture Series Fund**

Hans Herbert Angress  
Congregation Shomrei Torah: Rabbi Michael A. Robinson Memorial Fund  
(in memory of Rabbi Michael A. Robinson)  
Loretta and Bruce Denner (in memory of Sylvia Bailin)  
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Dzieza (a grant from the Dzieza Family Fund of the American Endowment Foundation)  
Linda Emblen (in memory of Werner Berg)  
Howard Harris (in memory of Robert L. Harris)  
Nancy R. Harris (in memory of Claire and Robert L. Harris)  
Barbara Lesch and Michael “Mac” McCaffry (in memory of Leo Schweitzer)  
J. and F. Piotrkowki  
Ruth Robinson (in memory of Rabbi Michael A. Robinson and Joel Robinson)  
Rita Rothman (in honor of the Rothman Brothers)  
Arlene Thomas (in memory of Kenneth Lipfield)  
A generous grant from the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties / Community Core Fund

### **SSU Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide**

Myrna Goodman  
Lucille and Henry Libicki Donor Advised Continuity Fund of the Jewish Community Federation Endowment  
A generous grant from the Sonoma State University Instructionally-Related Activities Fund

*\*includes donations received between January 1, 2013 and October 31, 2013*



# *In Memoriam*

## *Holocaust Survivor*

LEO SCHWEITZER (FATHER OF BLAIR PLEASANT)

## 2014 Holocaust and Genocide Commemorations and Events

**April 24th** will mark the **99th Annual World Wide Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide**. The SF Bay Area Armenian Genocide Commemoration Committee coordinates Bay Area events and will be listed at [www.agccnc.org](http://www.agccnc.org). The SF Bay Area Armenian National Committee also coordinates events throughout the month of April which and will be listed at <http://www.ancsf.org>.

**The 6th Annual Walk to End Genocide: Santa Rosa** in coordination with Jewish World Watch will be held on **Sunday, April 27th**. Registration is from 8:00 to 8:45 am and walk begins at 9 am at Congregation Shomrei Torah, 2600 Bennett Valley Rd, Santa Rosa. Register at [walktoendgenocide.org](http://walktoendgenocide.org) or for more information, email [walktoendgenocidesr@gmail.com](mailto:walktoendgenocidesr@gmail.com).

The **Annual County-Wide Yom Hashoah Commemoration** will be held at the Friedman Center, 4676 Mayette Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95405 on **Sunday, April 27th from 2-4 p.m.** For more information about this year's theme and guest speakers, please <http://www.jccsoco.org> and click on the link for "Special Events" or contact the Jewish Community Center at 707-528-4222.

The Rwandan Community of California in conjunction with Palo Alto University and Stanford University will host the **20th Commemoration of the Genocide Against Tutsis in Rwanda** on the Stanford Campus on May 15-17th, 2014. We are expecting great guest speakers, testimonials from survivors and a number of workshops and panel discussions on how far the country has come since the tragic events of 1994. For more information, please contact Yeho Mbangukira at [yehombangukira@yahoo.com](mailto:yehombangukira@yahoo.com).

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## 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.

We extend our thanks and goodbyes to the following board members: Zina Besirevic, Lillian Mattimore, Lionel Rawlins, Sue Ross, B.J. Stolbov, and Dean Elaine Leeder. **While we are very proud of Her Excellency Mathilde Mutantabana on her appointment as Rwandan Ambassador to the United States, we are sad to see her leave the board and graduate to Senior Advisor status.** Finally, we missed recognizing both Arline Thomas and Dick Grant who officially joined our board last year and this year we welcome Todd Cereghino, an SSU Lecture Series alumni, and Chiaya Rawlins from the Friends of Rwanda.

## Alliance 2013-14 Board Members

Herbert Hans Angress

Brian Boyajian

Todd Cereghino

Christyne Davidian

Flora Lee Ganzler

Myrna Goodman

Dick Grant

Yehoyada Mbangukira

Barbara Lesch McCaffry

Chiaya Rawlins

Arline Thomas

### Senior Advisors

Mathilde Mukantabana

Virgil Miller

Joel Neuberger

David Salm

Sylvia Sucher

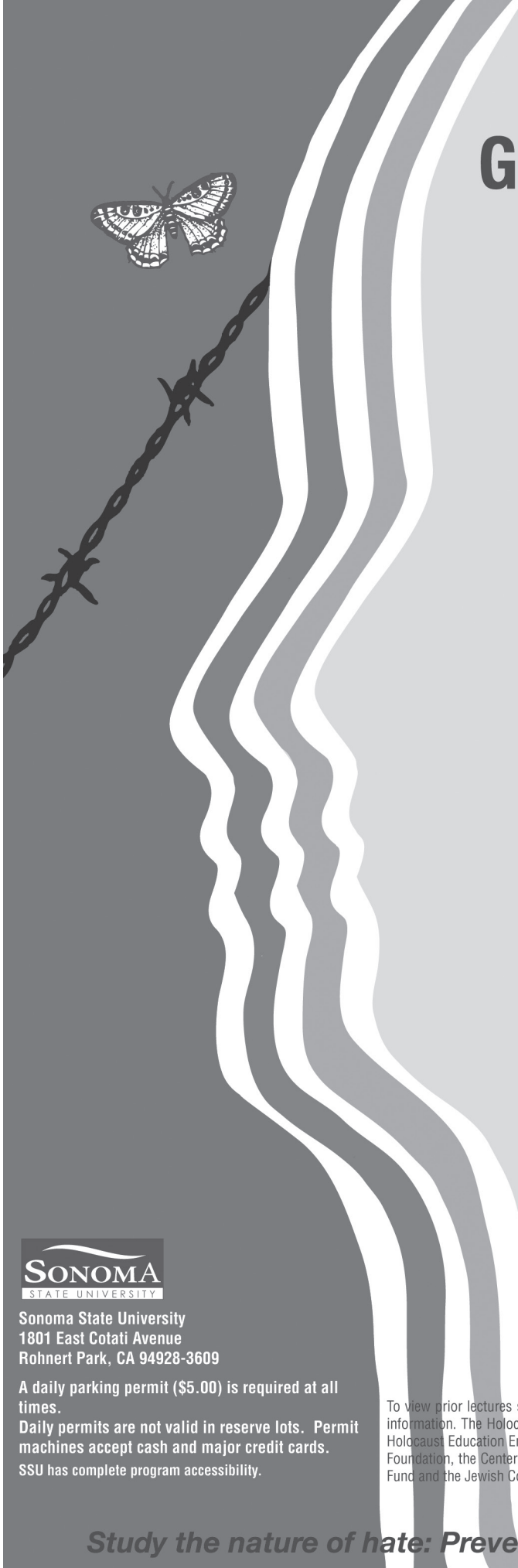
### Emeritus Board Members

Ilka Hartmann

Evelyn "Evey" Sackler



Myrna Goodman, Mathilde Mathilde, and Diane Parness. Back Row: Barbara Lesch McCaffry, Flora Lee Ganzler, and SSU Student David Smith



# 31st Annual Sonoma State University 2014 Holocaust and Genocide Lecture Series

January 14-April 29, 2014 / Tuesdays 4:00 PM-5:50 PM

Warren Auditorium (Ives Hall)

SSU Students: POLS 307, Perspectives on the Holocaust and Genocide,  
counts as upper-division General Education credit under GE category D5.

## **NEVER AGAIN?**

January 14: **INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES & *THE MASTER RACE***

Professor Diane L. Parness, Ph.D., Sonoma State University

January 21: **THE HOLOCAUST IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

Professor Stephen Bittner, Ph.D., Sonoma State University

January 28: ***BREAKING THE SILENCE: A HOLOCAUST CHILDHOOD***

Paul A. Schwarzbart

February 4: **THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**

Professor Sergio LaPorta, Ph.D., CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program

***Armenian Genocide Memorial Lecture***

February 11: **THE CONCEPT OF GENOCIDE**

Professor Myrna Goodman, Ph.D., Sonoma State University

February 18: **ORIGINS OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE**

Professor Barry Preisler, Ph.D., Sonoma State University

February 25: **LESSONS LEARNED FROM A HOLOCAUST CHILDHOOD**

Hans Angress

March 4: **PERSPECTIVES ON INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES**

Professor Eric Williams, Ph.D., Sonoma State University

March 11: **THE BOSNIAN GENOCIDE – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**

Mirza Velagic, Voices of the Bosnian Genocide

March 19: **SPRING BREAK** (campus closed)

March 25: **RWANDA TWENTY YEARS AFTER GENOCIDE**

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana, Rwandan Ambassador to the United States

April 1: ***BECOMING EVIL***

Professor James Waller, Ph.D., Cohen Endowed Chair of Holocaust and  
Genocide Studies, Keene State College

April 8: **GENDER AND GENOCIDE**

Professor Carol Rittner, RSM, Distinguished Professor of Holocaust & Genocide Studies  
and the Dr. Marsha Raticoff Grossman Professor of Holocaust Studies,

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

***Robert L. Harris Memorial Lecture***

April 15: **THE GUATEMALAN GENOCIDE**

Professor Beatriz Manz, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley

April 22: **HUNGARY: THE PERFECT STORM**

Professor Diane L. Parness, Ph.D., Sonoma State University

April 29: **GENOCIDE BENEATH OUR FEET**

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



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

A daily parking permit (\$5.00) is required at all  
times.

Daily permits are not valid in reserve lots. Permit  
machines accept cash and major credit cards.

SSU has complete program accessibility.

To view prior lectures see: <http://www.sonoma.edu/holocaust/lectures/previous.html> or see <http://www.sonoma.edu/holocaust/> for more  
information. The Holocaust Lecture Series is sponsored by the Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide, The Paul V. Benko  
Holocaust Education Endowment, the Armenian Genocide Memorial Lecture Fund, the Adele Zygielbaum Endowment, the Thomas Family  
Foundation, the Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide, the Sonoma State Students' Instructionally Related Activities (IRA)  
Fund and the Jewish Community Federation (JCF) of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties

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



**Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide**  
c/o Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide  
Sonoma State University  
1801 East Cotati Avenue  
Rohnert Park, California 94928-3609

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## TIME SENSITIVE

Address corrections or deletions can be requested using the enclosed donation envelope or via e-mail to [alliance@sonoma.edu](mailto:alliance@sonoma.edu). Those interested in receiving information for special events via e-mail should forward name and e-mail address to [alliance@sonoma.edu](mailto:alliance@sonoma.edu).

**Lucia Roncalli, M.D., and 2nd Generation Cambodian Survivors Amy Kouch and Mathilda & Vichaka Meas**



### **Past Lecture Archives**

A treasure trove of past Holocaust and Genocide Lectures are archived and available for viewing via YouTube and Streaming Video from the Center Website: <http://www.sonoma.edu/holocaust/lectures/index.html>. Click on Previous Lecture Series Schedules to the Video Archives link.