

# **Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust**

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An operating activity of the Sonoma State University Academic Foundation

December 1, 2003

Dear Friends of the Alliance:

On behalf of the Alliance, I want to express my gratitude and the gratitude of others in the Alliance and in our communities for the excellent work that Joel Neuberg accomplished as President of the Alliance. It is with great humility that I step into the shoes of those who proceeded me in this role.

As we move toward the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Holocaust Lecture Series at Sonoma State, our hope is to expand our efforts both on the SSU campus and in the local schools (including co-sponsoring training for those who teach about the Holocaust). In a world where violence is capable of erupting into hatred and genocide, we need to increase our ability to teach the next generations. In the three years that I have been associated with the Lecture Series, I have witnessed the transformation that is possible in the classroom. As a result of enrolling in the Lecture Series, many of our students develop or strengthen their commitment to standing up against intolerance.

There are dreams that we share with SSU Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide to make the lectures more accessible through the use of new technologies (a pilot project will begin with their year's lecture series in collaboration with Jay Field, SSU's Director of Instructional Technology Services). Other dreams are still in the planning stages, but there is much energy and interest and a great deal of support from Dr. Elaine Leeder, Dean of the School of Social Sciences, and Dr. Myrna Goodman, Director of SSU's Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide.

We hope to expand participation in the Alliance and its meetings (the next one will be on January 7<sup>th</sup> starting at 4 p.m. on the Sonoma State University campus). If you know of someone who may be interested in being added to our mailing list or being invited to serve on the board of the Alliance, do let me know. My work number at Sonoma State is 707-664-2273 or I can be reached at: [mccaffry@sonoma.edu](mailto:mccaffry@sonoma.edu).

I hope that you will continue to generously support our efforts and look forward to meeting many new and familiar faces in the coming years. If you can, do join us for one of the lectures next semester and plan to join the faculty and members of the Alliance for dinner with our guest speaker.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Lesch McCaffry*

Barbara Lesch McCaffry, Ph.D.  
President, Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust and  
Faculty member, Department of Sociology (the Holocaust Lecture Series) at Sonoma  
State University

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

**November 11, 2003**

Dear Friend:

The condition of the Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust at Sonoma State University is good, but the condition of the rest of the world is another story. Anti-semitism in Europe is even more commonplace than it was when I wrote to you last year (at its highest level since the liberation of the concentration camps after World War II). The man in the street and national politicians in Asia and the Arab world talk openly of Jewish conspiracies and seem to be convinced that Jews (and, apparently, their American proxies) are the wellspring of all the world's problems. On California State University campuses; however, demonstrators no longer feel so free to shout in the faces of Jewish students, "Hitler should have finished the job." Educational programs about the Holocaust on UC and CSU campuses have confronted lies with truth and answered slanders with information.

The alliance was founded twenty years ago to encourage understanding of the Holocaust, its impacts and consequences. The Alliance supports the annual Holocaust Lecture Series at SSU, coordinates presentations by Holocaust survivors in secondary schools, sponsors training programs for teachers to learn to teach about the Holocaust, and provides resource materials on the Holocaust to college and high school libraries. Thousands of students and members of the Sonoma County community have attended the SSU lectures. Many graduates have gone on to become teachers themselves and teach what they have learned in schools and colleges across the country; one graduate is a professor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point (where SSU Professor Emeritus John Steiner was asked to address senior students this spring). Through examination of the Holocaust and other genocides, students gain insight into the causes and consequences of acts of genocide. Now, more than ever, that study is important to preserve the liberty and security of this and future generations.

Your contributions have helped us to bring world-class speakers to the forum at Sonoma State University and to support education about the Holocaust. The Paul V. Benko Endowment now covers the cost of two outside lecturers each year. To sponsor teacher training workshops, additional lectures and film programs, we count on your support. A tentative schedule for the 2004 lecture series is printed on the reverse side of this letter. We are increasing our efforts and our reach. We hope your donation will help this program to continue; and we hope to see you at the lectures.

Sincerely,

Walter Kuttner

Joel Neuberger

Barbara Lesch McCaffry

David Salm

**To Members and Contributors to the Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF ALLIANCE ACTIVITIES 2002-2003**

**The report on the year just completed - the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Sonoma State University Holocaust Lecture Series – is good. The life of the program is reflected in the continuing deep interest and involvement of upper division students and community members.**

**The focus of this past year was:**

**Witnessing, Resisting, And Preventing Genocide**

**The list of 2003 lectures is printed on the reverse of this sheet. Perhaps the most important achievements of this year's lecture series were the presentations by distinguished lecturers who graced the program. Yehuda Bauer, one of the World's foremost authorities on the Holocaust, came from Yad Vashem in Jerusalem to speak on "Rethinking the Holocaust", and Michael Berenbaum, Director, Sigi Ziering Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Ethics, University of Judaism, gave the Robert Harris Memorial Lecture: "Why Wasn't Auschwitz Bombed?" We are grateful to Alliance member Dr. Michael Thaler for arranging Dr. Bauer's lecture and to Alliance member Dr. Murray Zucker for arranging Dr. Berenbaum's presentation. Dr. Thaler will be teaching a short course on the Holocaust through SSU's Lifelong Learning Institute on Tuesdays from 1-2:45 p.m. from April 6 through May 28, 2004.**

**The survivor panel (joined at the last minute by SSU alumnus Bernard Offen, an Auschwitz survivor who has spent the past decade organizing educational tours of Holocaust sites in Poland) was, as always, one of the best received by the students, who consistently list this personal link to the events of history as one of the strongest aspects of the course. The power of this emotional component was evident also in GENOCIDE IN RWANDA presented by Mathilde Mukantabana, and in the SECOND GENERATION PANEL facilitated by SSU Dean of Social Sciences Elaine Leeder. All of the lectures were videotaped and will be added to the archive of tapes in SSU's Jean and Charles Schulz Information Center.**

**Cal State University budget cuts led to the reduction of the number of sections of Social Science 305 from five to four, but sections were again filled (25 students each instead of 20) with over one hundred students enrolled in the course. Alliance President Joel Neuberg, filled in for Barbara Lesch McCaffry teaching one section of the course. The support of the Alliance enabled Sonoma State University to continue its excellent educational program with no noticeable reductions in quality.**

**20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**2003 HOLOCAUST LECTURES**  
**WITNESSING, RESISTING AND PREVENTING GENOCIDE**

FEBRUARY 4: INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES: FACULTY PANEL

MAJOR CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS. Myrna Goodman, Ph.D., Ilka Hartmann, M.A., Joel Neuberg, MLIS, M.A.

FEBRUARY 11: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND VIDEOS: “ MASTER RACE 1933” AND “THE GENOCIDE FACTOR.” Myrna Goodman, Ph.D., Ilka Hartmann, M.A., Joel Neuberg, MLIS M.A.

FEBRUARY 18: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE HOLOCAUST

Elaine Leeder, Ph.D. Sonoma State University

FEBRUARY 25: SURVIVOR’S PANELL Lucille Eichengreen and Lillian Judd

MARCH 4: MYTHS OF RACE AND THE INFLUENCE OF RACISM ON GENOCIDE Michael Thaler, M.D., M.A. San Francisco

MARCH 11: WHEN DOES GENOCIDE END? : THE ARMENIAN CASE

Dickran Kouymjian, Ph.D. Director, Armenian Studies Program, CSU Fresno

MARCH 18: THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN EXPERIENCE: THE BLOODY ISLAND

MASSACRE Edward Castillo, Ph.D., Sonoma State University

MARCH 25: WHY WASN'T AUSCHWITZ BOMBED? Michael Berenbaum, Ph.D. Director, Sigi Ziering Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Ethics, University of Judaism.

*Robert L. Harris Memorial Lecture*  
*The Cooperage*

APRIL 1: VOICES OF THE SHOAH: THE SONDERKOMMANDO UPRISING Mikko Alane, Historical Content Supervisor, *Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation*

APRIL 8: SPRING RECESS

APRIL 15: THE SOCIOLOGY OF GENOCIDE Myrna Goodman, Ph.D. Sonoma State University

APRIL 22: RESISTING THE HOLOCAUST IN DENMARK Knud Dyby, Novato

APRIL 29: GENOCIDE IN RWANDA Mathilde Mukantabana. M.S.W. Consumnes River College; President, Friends of Rwanda Association.

MAY 6: RETHINKING THE HOLOCAUST

Dr. Yehuda Bauer Ph.D., Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Hebrew University.  
*The Cooperage*

MAY 13: FACING CURRENT GENOCIDES

Jerry Fowler, Staff Director, Committee on Conscience, United State Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D. C.

MAY 20: LEGACIES OF THE HOLOCAUST: SECOND GENERATION PANEL Elaine Leeder, Ph.D. Moderator

MAY 27: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

Faculty/Student Panel FINAL EXAMINATION DUE

SOCI 305: PERSPECTIVES ON THE HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE  
TUESDAYS: 4:00-5:40  
WARREN AUDITORIUM AND THE COOPERAGE