



CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST
& GENOCIDE STUDIES

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2013/2014

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD

Why Holocaust and Genocide Studies? The answer rests on three concepts: remembrance, responsibility and future. Remembering the Holocaust, the Armenian genocide, Rwanda and other mass atrocities is not only a means of uncovering little-known aspects of history. Above all, it serves to keep those events before our eyes.

At CHGS we firmly believe that promoting awareness of past genocides and gaining understanding of the causes and the devastating consequences of mass violence are essential components of progress towards the prevention of future atrocities.

During the academic year 2013/2014 CHGS carried out activities that have successfully linked remembrance, research and education. We can look back at achievements on various fronts: programming top notch academic lectures, symposia and panel discussions; fostering a community of engaged students of genocide and mass violence; and cultivating the essential connection between scholarly inquiry, education and outreach to several different sectors of society.

We are also very pleased about the strong and fruitful collaboration with centers, departments and faculty members across the University of Minnesota, international academic institutions and with community



organizations in the Twin Cities. Our mission can only be achieved by sharing expertise and resources, integrating multiple perspectives and engaging scholars, students, educators, survivors and community representatives as key players and participants in an ongoing conversation.

In this academic year, CHGS hopes to continue this tradition of collaboration and exchange while it prepares for a series of scholarly, instructional and community events surrounding important commemorations: the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps and the end of World War II, the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, and the 40th anniversary of the genocide in Cambodia.

We hope you will enjoy our annual report and we thank you for the many ways you support the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

—**Alejandro Baer,**
Stephen Feinstein Chair, Director
Center for Holocaust and Genocide
Studies

MISSION

The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (CHGS) promotes academic research, education and public awareness on the Holocaust and the recurring problem of genocide.

CHGS was established in 1997 by Dr. Stephen Feinstein as an interdisciplinary center for local, national, and international scholars, students and educators to share knowledge and gain understanding of the Holocaust, genocide and other forms of mass violence. CHGS reaches a broad audience through innovative programming, including lectures, conferences, workshops and our comprehensive website.

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SIGNATURE CONFERENCE

Academics, activists and diplomats led a public exploration of lessons learned from the genocide in Rwanda and how we respond to current atrocities and prevent future violence.

Genocide and its Aftermath: Lessons from Rwanda

The Conference was a collaboration between the Institute for Global Studies, the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, the Human Rights Program and the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, sponsored by the Ashram & Charlotte Ohanessian Fund at the Minneapolis Foundation.

On April 16, 17 & 19, a series of events were held to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 1994 genocide that took the lives of an estimated 500,000-1,000,000 Rwandans predominantly of the Tutsi minority. The events included a public conference, a student conference, and a K-16 teacher workshop.

Public Conference

The commemoration began with the public conference, *Genocide and its Aftermath: Lessons from Rwanda*, featuring an opening address by **Taylor Krauss**, founder of Voices of Rwanda, an organization dedicated to filming testimonies of Rwandan survivors. Their stories are recorded in order to inform the world about the genocide while inspiring a global responsibility to prevent further human rights atrocities. Krauss theorized that the final stage of genocide is to eliminate its trace, erase its history-as though it never took place. He shared excerpts of three testimonies, demonstrating the survivors' essential need to remember and our need to never forget.

The conference's panel discussions delved deeper into how the genocide is remembered



Taylor Krauss giving his opening address at the conference.

and represented in and outside Rwanda through commemorations, the media and education. Panelists led a critical examination of the failure of nation-states to lead a timely intervention into the genocide, as well as the long-term impacts of international criminal law and the practice of tying intervention to the designation of genocide. The narrative on 'lessons learned' and the platitude 'never again' was also questioned and sparked a pragmatic discussion on the application of such narratives to subsequent genocides and ongoing mass atrocities.



Barbara Frey with Adama Dieng at the Q&A session after Dieng's lecture.

Adama Dieng, UN Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, delivered the evening keynote address. Dieng addressed the past failures to intervene in the crime of genocide, acknowledging that the United Nations and its member states have not been as effective as they could have been. He emphasized the need to build and support prevention and response institutions and to understand the price of inaction. "When powerful minds put their strength to justice...justice will prevail," affirmed Dieng.

Student Conference

The student conference, held on April 17, brought together undergraduate students throughout the world from different disciplines who focus on the genocide in Rwanda or other episodes of genocide and mass violence. It was designed to foster dialogue between these future scholars and practitioners, as well as introduce them to a wider community of genocide scholarship. The students were also able to interact with senior scholars of genocide and mass atrocity and discuss future work and graduate school opportunities.

K-16 Teacher Workshop

On April 19, visiting genocide scholar **Samuel Totten** led a **secondary educator** training on genocide education, including the origins, causes and responses to genocide within the scope of human rights and international law. He provided an overview of genocides perpetrated in Africa in the 1990s before examining the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda as a case study. Participants of this workshop received resources and materials to develop curriculum to integrate into their classrooms.



Educators at the K-16 Teacher Workshop.

SCHOLARSHIP & COLLABORATION

CHGS collaborates with centers, departments and faculty members across the University of Minnesota, as well as with U.S. and international academic institutions devoted to the fields of genocide, social memory, human rights and mass violence studies.

2013/2014 Collaborative Reframing Mass Violence: Human Rights and Social Memory in Latin America and Southern Europe

Conveners: **Alejandro Baer**, Sociology, CHGS; **Barbara Frey**, Human Rights Program; **Joachim Savelsberg**, Sociology; **Kathryn Sikkink**, Political Science.

Over the course of the 2013/2014 academic year, the Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) collaborative “Reframing Mass Violence: Human Rights and Social Memory” held 10 public lectures to provide a common intellectual space for approximately 350 participants to hold interdisciplinary conversations on social memories and legacies of dictatorship, state terror, and grave human rights violations in Latin America and Southern Europe. The collaborative will continue in the 2014-2015 academic year with a focus on post-communist Europe.

IAS Collaborative Spotlight: Francisco Ferrandiz Exhumations, Memory, and the Return of Civil War Ghosts in Spain

Since 2000, the exhumation of mass graves from the Spanish Civil War and the Post-War years, mostly involving the largely abandoned graves of civilians killed in the Francoist rearguard by paramilitary groups, has become a central element in contemporary social and political debates about the nature of the armed conflict and the dictatorial regime following it.

On May 8, 2014, the IAS Collaborative hosted **Dr. Francisco Ferrandiz**, a researcher with the Spanish National Research Council, to lead an analysis of the complexity and dynamism of this process. With roughly fifty students, scholars and members of the general public in attendance, Dr. Ferrandiz argued that in the last few years, Spain has made many efforts to exhume and revitalize the memory of victims of the Civil War, adding that the “politics of dignification” of the defeated increasingly incorporates elements drawn from international law, such as the concept of ‘crimes against humanity’ or the category of ‘forced disappearance.’ These global memory scopes and human rights discourses, he asserted, heavily influence local memory cultures, lending to an emotional and political “unlearning” of Francoism.



Mass grave exhumation in La Pedraja (Burgos), July 2010.

FOSTERING FUTURE SCHOLARS, EDUCATORS & ACTIVISTS

CHGS guides and mentors undergraduate and graduate students by organizing courses and workshops, offering grants and fellowships, while providing unique opportunities for interaction with leading experts in the field of genocide and Holocaust studies.

2013-14 Interdisciplinary Workshop Series Holocaust, Genocide and Mass Violence Studies

In its second year the Holocaust, Genocide & Mass Violence (HGMV) Interdisciplinary Graduate Group continued to provide a common space to bring together the scholarly, legal, policy, and activist work being done on

Holocaust studies, genocide and memory, human rights, and other related subject areas. The group hosted a series of bi-monthly research workshops in which students presented their papers for feedback from fellow students, faculty and invited scholars.

“Presenting at the workshop gave me the chance to present a work in-progress. It was very beneficial to respond to and receive feedback from professors and students from a number of different disciplines.”

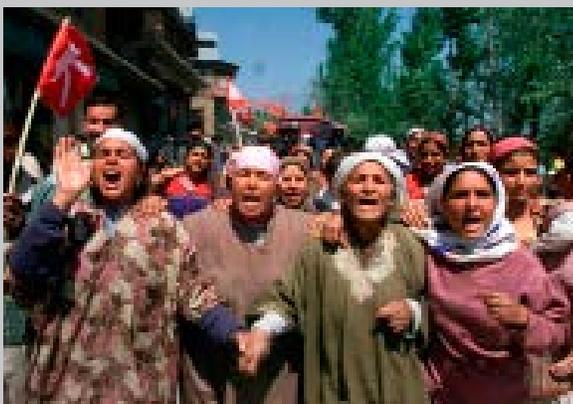
—Courtney Gildersleeve

HGMV Workshop Spotlight: Courtney Gildersleeve Poetry, Damaged Life & One Poem

The region of Kashmir bears one of the longest-standing and most deadly conflicts in history. In the aftermath of British imperialism and the Partition of 1947, the Kashmiri people continue to seek freedom—*azadi*—from many forms of political intervention and, in particular, an end to military occupation by the state of India.

On October 4, 2013, Courtney Gildersleeve, a graduate student with the Dept. of Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature, gave a presentation on how the work of the Kashmiri-American poet

Agha Shahid Ali (1949-2001) attends to this conflict, and also how it elucidates a much longer history in South Asia. Through a close reading of his poem *The Dacca Gauzes* Gildersleeve examined what is at stake in his poetic act and how it grapples with a process of overlapping histories and specific forms of violence. Her presentation was part of a larger project that attempts to examine the often fraught relations between poetry and violence over the last two centuries, and asks what the consequences are of this complicated interrelation for the on-going work of the humanities and social sciences.



Women in Kashmir taking part in a freedom rally.

Badzin Fellowship

In the spring of 2014, CHGS and the Department of History selected **Paula Sofia Cuellar** as the new Bernard and Fern Badzin Graduate Fellow in Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

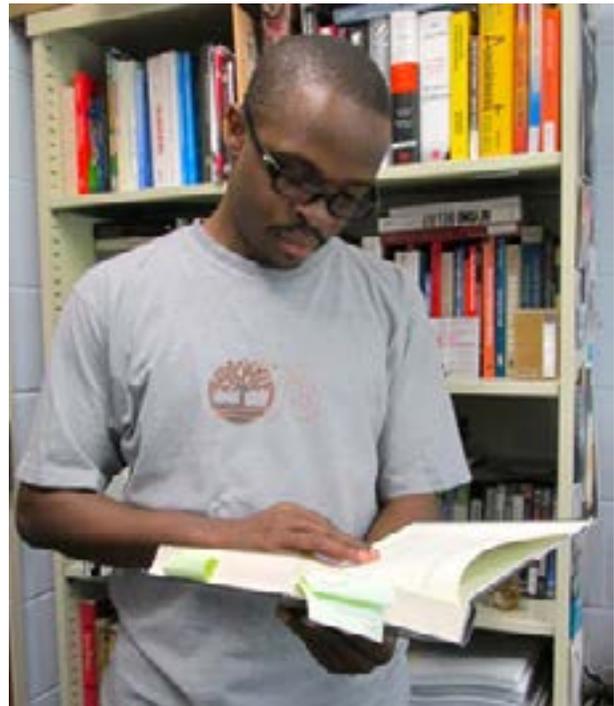


Cuellar's research project focuses on the genocide of indigenous people in El Salvador and Paraguay in the twentieth century. She suggests the genocide of indigenous people characterized national security policies during the military dictatorships of both General Maximiliano Hernández in El Salvador (1931-1944) and of General Alfredo Stroessner in Paraguay (1954 - 1989).

Cuellar's academic education includes a LL.B. Degree from the Central American University José Simeón Cañas, a Master's Degree in Human Rights and Education for Peace from the University of El Salvador, and a LL.M. Degree in International Human Rights Law from Notre Dame. She also has a Postgraduate Diploma on Human Rights and Democratization Processes from the University of Chile and several diplomas on constitutional law and transitional justice courses. She

is currently working towards a minor in Human Rights and an advanced degree in History at the University of Minnesota.

Wahutu Siguru, PhD candidate in the Dept. of Sociology and the recipient of the Badzin Graduate Fellowship in 2013-2014, received a \$9,000 fellowship extension for Spring semester 2015 to continue his research. Siguru seeks to answer the questions about what knowledge and memories journalists (especially African journalists) rely upon when reporting about mass violence, specifically on Darfur. Siguru hopes to demonstrate that conflict representations have consequences on how suffering and victimization are understood and what types of responses they will inspire in terms of possible interventions.



“The opportunities provided by the Badzin Fellowship have helped me grow as a scholar, enabling me to gain confidence in my work through the presentation of my findings and sharing my expertise with others interested in the topic of genocide.” – Wahutu Siguru

L ECTURES, PROGRAMS & EVENTS

CHGS educates audiences through conferences, lectures, film screenings, art exhibitions, and theatrical performances at the University of Minnesota and throughout the state.

Highlighting Antisemitism on the 75th Anniversary of *Kristallnacht*

November 9 & 10, 2013, marked the 75th Anniversary of *Kristallnacht*, or Night of Broken Glass, in which Nazi authorities instigated a pogrom against Jews in Germany and Austria, resulting in the destruction of synagogues, Jewish businesses and homes, along with at least 91 deaths and the arrest of over 30,000 Jewish citizens.

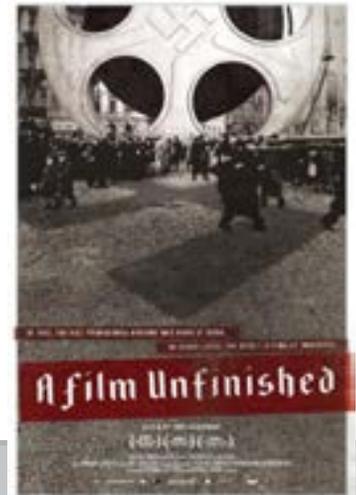
In commemoration of this grievous episode, CHGS and its campus and community partners presented the following programs about the Holocaust and contemporary antisemitism:

November 9: CHGS held a one-day professional development **workshop**, *History, Memory and Pedagogy*, that examined the genocide of the Roma during World War II, commemorations of the Holocaust, and reflections on the anniversary

of *Kristallnacht*.

November 9: CHGS Advisory Board member and Professor of History Daniel Schroeter gave an introduction to the **film** *BESA: The Promise*, which documents first-person accounts of the Albanian Muslims who rescued Jews during the Holocaust.

November 12: A special screening of the **documentary** *A Film Unfinished* was screened with producer Noemi Schory. The film sheds light on a lost reel of footage taken in the Warsaw Ghetto, which shows that the Nazis were staging scenes in order to produce a propaganda film.



Antisemitism Then and Now

On **December 5**, CHGS, the Center for Austrian Studies and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas (JCRC) convened a **panel discussion**, *Antisemitism Then and Now*, to serve as the capstone event of the *Kristallnacht* commemoration. The panel examined new and historic antisemitism, its aftereffects and contemporary manifestations in Europe and the U.S.

Five renowned scholars in the field of antisemitism studies officiated as panelists: Philip Spencer, historian at Kingston University, UK; Chad Allen Goldberg, professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; Zsolt Nagy, political scientist at the University of St. Thomas; Gary Cohen, historian at the University of Minnesota; and Bruno Chaouat, French Literature & Thought, University of Minnesota, former CHGS director.

On **December 6**, Philip Spencer followed the panel with a lecture on *The Recurrence of Genocide Since the Holocaust*, in which he reflected on how our current understanding of the Holocaust can shed light on the acute problem of genocide today.

Countering Mass Atrocities in Syria: Between Human Rights Ideals and Geo-Political Concerns

Panel: Sarah Parkinson, Assistant Professor, Humphrey School of Public Affairs; **Ragui Assaad**, Professor, Planning and Public Affairs at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs; **Ron Krebs**, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science; and Dr. **Wael Khouli** and **Mazen Halibi**,

On September 11, 2013, CHGS and the Human Rights Program hosted a panel discussion featuring members of the Syrian community, to discuss ways to respond to the unfolding mass atrocities in Syria without vast and devastating consequences.

The discussion was moderated by **Barbara Frey**, Director of the Human Rights Program and introduced by **Alejandro Baer**, Director of CHGS. Director Baer had this to say about the crisis:

The figures of the Syrian tragedy are well known. 100,000 people killed in two years, two million refugees living in bordering countries, four million displaced within the country and, only a few weeks ago, a lethal chemical weapons attack against the civilian population, in a clear violation of international law. No other government has dared to cross the line of chemical weapons use since the 1980s. The situation has reached a tipping point and it requires a meaningful response by the international community. But what sort of action should be taken?

It seems we are always fighting the previous genocide. Violence unfolding before our eyes usually lacks the unambiguous quality of moral outrage, naming and condemnation. It is entangled in a complex constellation of forces and unpredictable developments that

lead to the fact that the realpolitik, immediate interests and geopolitical concerns are weighted against human rights ideals.

Campus Sponsored Events

- **The Discovery of the ‘New World’ and Traditions of Othering.** On September 20, 2013, Pedro Martinez Garcia, Lecturer, Early Modern History at University of Bayreuth, Germany, presented on European perceptions of the natives of the Americas through chronicles and travel narratives. Sponsored with Center for Early Modern History, Spanish & Portuguese, Institute for Global Studies, and the European Studies Consortium.
- **The Musa Dagh Resistance to the Armenian Genocide and Its Impact through Franz Werfel’s Historical Novel *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh*.** On October 17, 2013, Dr. Vahram Shemmassian, Associate Professor and Director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Northridge, spoke of resistance and genocide at the 2013 Ohanessian Chair Lecture. Sponsored with the Institute for Global Studies, the Center for Austrian Studies, and the Center for Critical Asian Studies.
- **The Concept of Survival.** On November 20, 2013, Falko Schmieder, DAAD visiting professor at the University of Minnesota, examined the significance of the temporalization of survival for different fields of knowledge. Sponsored with the Department of History.
- **War, Genocide & Justice: Cambodian American Memory Work.** On February 6, 2014, Cathy Schlund-Vials, Associate Professor of English and Asian American Studies at the University of Connecticut at Storrs, presented on genocide remembrance and activism in Cambodian American literature, film, and hip hop. Sponsored with Asian American Studies & University of Minnesota Press.
- **Laughter in the Dark: Newly Discovered Songs and Sketches from the Terezín/Theresienstadt Ghetto, 1942-44.** On April 3, 2014, Lisa Peschel, University of York’s Department of Theatre, Film and Television, outlined how the plays came to light and their role in helping prisoners deal with life in the ghetto. Sponsored with the Center for Austrian Studies, the Center for Jewish Studies and the European Studies Consortium.

Bearing Witness

On November 21, 2013 Holocaust survivor, **Dora Zaidenweber** shared her story with students in the History of the Holocaust course taught by visiting scholar Falko Schmieder. The talk was open to the public to allow students, scholars and interested individuals the opportunity to hear her speak.

Dora Eiger Zaidenweber was born on January 24, 1924 in Radom, Poland. She remembers Germany's invasion of Poland as being "like something you would see in a movie, but never think would happen to you." In 1941 Dora and her family were forced into the ghetto where she met her husband Jules Zaidenweber. Dora was later transported to Auschwitz before being evacuated on a forced march to Bergen-Belsen. She was liberated on April 15, 1945 and later reunited with Jules, her father and brother.

The Zaidenwebers settled in Minnesota in 1950. Dora has always believed in speaking about her experiences and has educated many young people, teachers and individuals about the Holocaust. If there is a lesson in the Holocaust, she believes it is that if you do nothing and ignore the persecution of others, you are no different than those who perpetrate the crimes. For more information about Dora and her family please visit the CHGS website.

Dora and Jules Zaidenweber in 1942



Community Events

• **Global Holocaust Memory and the New Antisemitism.** On February 5, 2014, at Beth El Synagogue, Alejandro Baer shed light on the sources, functions and different contexts of emergence of a new antisemitism related to the globalization of Holocaust memory. Sponsored with the Center for Jewish Studies and the Dept. of German, Scandinavian & Dutch.

• **Remembering the Holocaust in Literature, Film and Theology.** On February 6, 2014, Alejandro Baer joined a panel event at Bethel University to touch on the role of memory in constructing identity and the ethical challenge that the Holocaust presents to the modern world and the Christian and Jewish communities.

• **Aftermath**, a film by Wladyslaw Pasikowski, was featured at the Minneapolis Film Festival on April 10, 2014 and included an introduction by Alejandro Baer. *Aftermath* presents a hard-hitting allegory on the antisemitism that still raises its ugly head in Pasikowski's home country of Poland.

• **The Last of the Unjust**, a film by Claude Lanzmann, was also featured at the Minneapolis Film Festival on April 13, 2014 and included an introduction by Bruno Chaoaut, former CHGS director. The film features a series of interviews with Benjamin Murmelstein, the last President of the Jewish Council in the Theresienstadt ghetto in Czechoslovakia and the only "Elder of the Jews" not to have been killed during the war.

• **Flickering Images: The Holocaust in American Film and Television.** In coordination with Genocide Awareness Week, held annually April 7-10, Gateway Community College in Phoenix, Arizona invited Jodi Elowitz to present on representations of the Holocaust in American media. Elowitz illustrated the way American television and film have influenced and shaped the way Americans perceive the Holocaust and yet our knowledge of the event is fragmented and often out of focus. Susan Mills, faculty member with Gateway's Arts and Humanities Dept., stated that Elowitz's talk, "provided me with the resources and expertise to create a new Humanities course on the Holocaust, which was a much needed addition to our offerings."

CHGS IN THE MEDIA

As consultants to the news media we offer expertise on issues concerning the Holocaust and other genocides.

Minneapolis group ‘plays’ Nazi: Sorry, it’s no trifle. Minneapolis Star Tribune March 19, 2014.

Article by Alejandro Baer, Sabine Engel, Rick McCormick, Riv-Ellen Prell, Ruth Mazo Karras, and Klaas Van Der Sanden.

In March 2014, CHGS and several departments at the University of Minnesota voiced their concern and condemnation of a Nazi-themed dinner that took place at the Minneapolis restaurant Gasthof zur Gemütlichkeit. Below is a brief excerpt from the piece.

We wonder what exactly the mostly male participants in this Nazi-themed dinner party were re-enacting. A militarized, fundamentally antidemocratic and ethnically cleansed community? A supremacist fantasy of conviviality stripped of its underlying genocidal violence and passed off as nice and normal? To witness fellow Minnesotans entertaining themselves in this fashion, no less at a restaurant named “Gasthof zur Gemütlichkeit” — German conviviality inn — is nothing short of obscene.

The Nazi-themed dinner is a grievous insult to war’s victims and survivors and their families, and to American veterans and their relatives. It is also offensive to present-day Germans and to the way the Federal Republic of Germany has tried to deal with this awful legacy. The Gasthof episode is symptomatic of a wider phenomenon that should be reflected upon. It seems that Nazism and the Holocaust have entered a stage of extreme trivialization.

As University of Minnesota professors and

center directors committed to teaching about the Holocaust and genocides; about German culture and history, and about Jewish studies, we resist such trivialization. As Minnesotans, we are proud of our state’s distinguished record as a haven for political refugees and victims of civil wars. That ethos of sharing and vision of community are incompatible with what the supposed “re-enactors” aim for.

May 22, 2014. Minnesota Nazi-Suspect Case Moves Ahead

Interview with Alejandro Baer, KSTP channel 5

In June 2013, it was revealed after an investigation by the Associated Press that local Ukrainian immigrant and retired Minnesota carpenter, 95-year-old Michael Karkoc, allegedly served as a top commander of a Nazi SS-led unit. Debate ensued regarding whether - almost 70 years after the events - justice could be served and, if so, where and delivered by whom?

In May 2014, Germany’s highest criminal court ruled that they had legal jurisdiction over the matter and, as such, the case has been referred to Munich prosecutors to determine whether to charge Karkoc and seek his extradition from the United States.

It [Karkoc’s age] is just not an issue in this case, and it should not be. There is no statute of limitations for these types of crimes – war crimes, crimes against humanity – and the important message that this case sends out goes beyond this individual case. The message is that there is no impunity.

IN MEMORIAM:

This year we lost three Holocaust survivors who were committed to educating others by sharing their memories.

Gus Gutman 1935-2014

Gus was always full of energy, a wonderful storyteller and great to be around. We had the pleasure of working with Gus on the “Portraying Memories” project with artist Felix de la Concha. Gus was an enthusiastic participant, turning a typically 2-4 hour session into a daylong adventure. Gus’s story will live on through his portrait and video, as well as in the memories of those who knew him.

Margot De Wilde 1921-2014

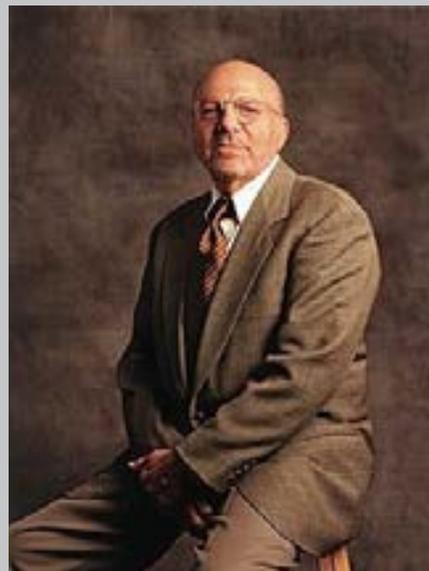
Margot always said she was not bitter about what happened to her. She felt that she was put here on earth to do something and maybe bearing witness to the Holocaust was what she was meant to do. When she eventually had to stop speaking because of her health she said she had no regrets. She had done all she could do and maybe it was time to rest. Margot did not fear death, she thought of it as a part of life. Her story will live on as will her spirit.

Fred Baron 1924-2014

Fred had a kind and gentle spirit and a very optimistic outlook on life. He spoke often about his experiences and generously supported Holocaust education. He was determined to pass on his experiences to future generations.

Myron Kunin, friend and supporter of CHGS

Myron Kunin, whose vision and generosity led to the creation of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, died in October 2013 at the age of 85.



It was his love for art that brought Myron in touch with CHGS founding director Stephen Feinstein. In 1995 they both curated *Witness and Legacy*, a major exhibition dedicated to representation of the Holocaust in the visual arts. Inspired by Steve’s vision for a center dedicated to the study of the Holocaust and genocide, Myron made CHGS a reality by generously endowing funds for the creation of CHGS at the University of Minnesota.

Over the years Myron helped build CHGS art collection and supported a range of programs that established our reputation as an internationally recognized academic research institution for Holocaust and genocide studies.

CHGS will honor Myron’s legacy by continuing to curate our virtual museum and by highlighting the work of new artists committed to raising awareness on the Holocaust and the recurrent problem of genocide. We will be reminded of his friendship and generosity as we strive to fulfill our mission.

CHGS Social Media

CHGS continues to expand its web presence through our renowned website and through Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Website: www.chgs.umn.edu
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/chgsumn
 Twitter: <https://twitter.com/chgsumn>
 Youtube: www.youtube.com/CHGSumn

CHGS' electronic monthly newsletter is also available on our website. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter you may subscribe by clicking the link on the top right corner of our home page at www.chgs.umn.edu.

CHGS Community Partners

- Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas (JCRC)
- Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education at Saint Cloud State University
- St. Sahag Armenian Church

CHGS International Partners

- Helen Bamber Centre for the Study of Rights, Conflict and Mass Violence, Kingston University (London)
- Center for the Study of Antisemitism, Technical University of Berlin
- Centro de Estudios de Memoria y Derechos Humanos (Madrid)
- Red Interdisciplinaria de Estudios sobre Memoria Social (RIEMS) (Buenos Aires)

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CHGS Profiles

Alejandro Baer

Stephen Feinstein Chair and Director, Associate Professor of Sociology

In August 2012, Professor Alejandro Baer was named the Stephen Feinstein Chair and director of CHGS. Baer earned his Ph.D. at the Universidad Complutense and held faculty positions at universities in Madrid, Bayreuth and Munich. He has authored numerous books and articles addressing issues of genocide, collective memory, and antisemitism. He is currently engaged in research on the representations of present and past mass violence in a transnational arena of interconnected memory cultures (particularly the cases of Spain, Argentina and Germany). In April 2014 Alejandro Baer was honored with the 2014 University of Minnesota Sociology Department's Public Sociology Award.



Jodi Elowitz

Outreach Coordinator

Jodi Elowitz oversees numerous educational and community programs and designs resources, study guides and curriculum for secondary educators. Elowitz also teaches seminars, workshops and has given lectures on the Holocaust. Her specialty is dealing with artistic representation of the Holocaust in the visual arts with an emphasis on work done in the camps and ghettos. Her current research is on Holocaust memory in animated film and the Holocaust in Polish Memory, particularly in film and tourism. Elowitz received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Humanities/Art History and her Master of Liberal Studies degree at the University of Minnesota.

Tracy Baumgardt

Program Associate

Tracy Baumgardt has been providing program support to CHGS since February 2013. Baumgardt has worked for seven years as a human rights practitioner in Washington D.C., Geneva and post-conflict communities. Prior to CHGS she served as a Human Rights Officer with Peace Brigades International in Kathmandu, Nepal and Nairobi, Kenya. There she supported at-risk human rights defenders through protective accompaniment, advocacy and capacity building. Baumgardt graduated from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs with a Masters of Public Policy and a minor in Human Rights.





“For the dead and the living, we must bear witness.”

- Elie Wiesel

Giving Opportunities

Your generous support is key to maintaining the important work we do. Your donation helps us continue to provide the quality programming, scholarship and resources we have created over the years. Generous annual gifts help to fund public events, undergraduate and graduate research, academic conferences and exhibitions. Endowments established by major contributions fund the ongoing operation of CHGS, supporting staff and outreach.

Please make a gift to the Center online through the University of Minnesota Foundation at <http://giving.umn.edu/giveto/chgs>.

For more information on how you can make a difference, please contact:

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