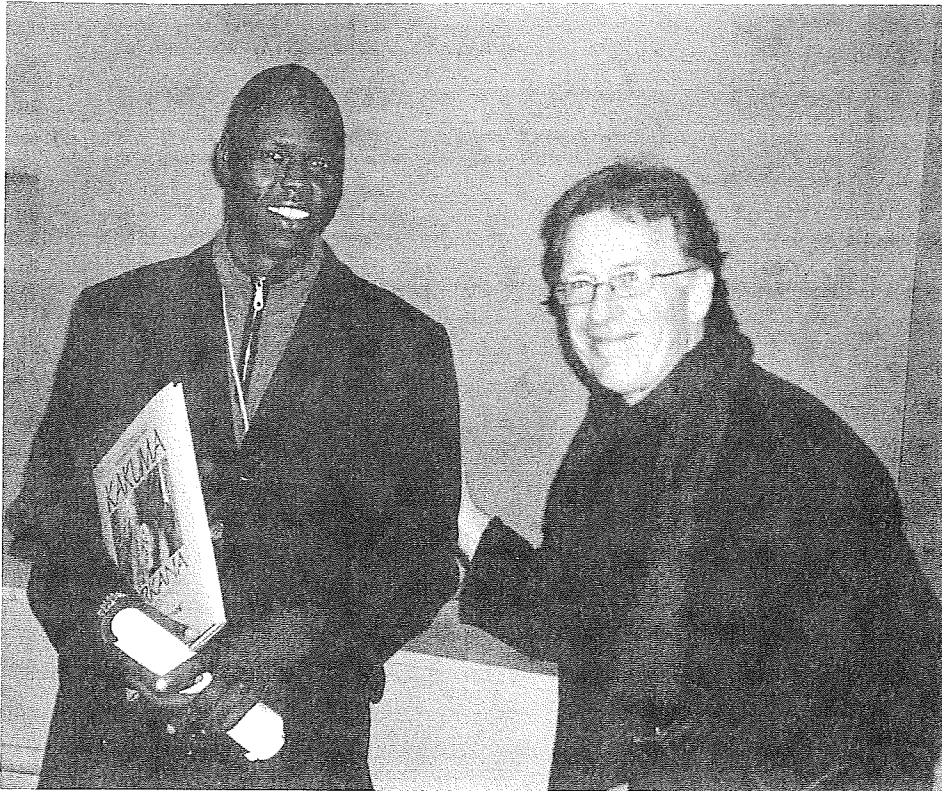


### CHGS: The Year in Review and Looking Forward to 2008



Atem Aleu (l), student at Brigham Young University and one of the "Lost Boys of Sudan," came to the opening of the Children's Theatre production of "Lost Boys" with Peter Brosius (r), artistic director of Children's Theatre. CHGS supported art exhibitions at the event from various artists, many still in Africa.

By Stephen Feinstein,  
CHGS director

The past academic year at CHGS was eventful as some issues, such as the ongoing genocide in Darfur and the congressional debate about the Armenian genocide, festered.

Academically, CHGS was involved in a number of academic conferences, while staff members participated in various international conferences. The major local initiative was the April 2007 conference on "Norway, World War II, and the Holocaust," that was co-organized with Professor Monika Zagar from the

Department of German, Scandinavian and Dutch. The conference, supported by grants from the American-Scandinavian Foundation and Thanks to Scandinavia, featured some of the foremost scholars in Norway: Dr. Arnfinn Moland from the Norwegian Resistance Museum; Bjarte Bruland from the Oslo Jewish Museum; Dr. Berit Reisel, of Oslo Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies; Dr. Irene Levin, Oslo University; and others (see pages 4-5) including Professor Reidar Dittmann from St. Olaf College in Northfield, who was a political prisoner in the notorious Buchenwald concentration camp. The conference drew strong support from the Norwegian consul general

in Minnesota, the Honorable Rolf Hansen. The event was inspired by the financial support of Irene Berman of Hartford, Connecticut, a child survivor of the Holocaust in Norway, whose family luckily reached neutral Sweden.

CHGS was also a co-sponsor of the conference "Spaces of War: France and the Francophone World." This conference was jointly organized and sponsored by the departments of History and French & Italian, October 26-28, 2006. On November 9 and 10, 2006, CHGS and MNSCU held a conference for teachers: "Never Again, All Over Again," at Metro State University in St. Paul. Featured speakers included Major Brent Beardsley, Canadian Armed Forces and Second in Command of UNAMIR Rwanda during the 1994 genocide; Professor Charles Fishman, professor emeritus, State University of New York at Farmington, who spoke on "The Importance of Poetry and the Literary Imagination in Understanding the Holocaust;" and Stephen Feinberg, educational outreach director, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC.

Our first speaker of the year at Beth El Synagogue for the Badzin Lecture series was Professor Devorah Dwork, Clark University, who spoke about the fate of children during the Holocaust. Other speakers included Professor Scott Straus, University of Wisconsin-Madison, who spoke on "Rwanda and Darfur: A Comparative Analysis." Professor Eugen Schoenfeld spoke on "Surviving the Holocaust: A Personal Account," and "Durkheim, Anomie and the Roots of Intolerance in Genocidal Regimes." Krista Hegburg, Department of Anthropology, Columbia University, visited CHGS (co-sponsored by Institute for Advanced Study and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC). She spoke on "Unknown Holocaust: Czech-

*The Year in Review continued from page 1*

Romani History and the Politics of Commensuration." Alexander Korb, a fellow at the US Holocaust Museum, spoke about the Holocaust under the Ustashe regime in Croatia and new research in that area.

CHGS was also involved in several art projects. In September 2006, Katherine E. Nash Gallery showed "The Sur-Rational Paintings of Fritz Hirschberger." Hirschberger, originally from Dresden, fought in the Polish army and later in the Anders Army in North Africa, while his parents and other relatives died in the Holocaust. His work can be seen on line at

<http://www.chgs.umn.edu/museum/exhibitions/surRational/index.html>.

In collaboration with the Children's Theatre production of "Lost Boys of Sudan," CHGS collaborated with Atem Aleu of the African Refugee Artists Club to show works from the Lost Boys community at the Children's Theatre and then at the Nash Gallery during summer 2007.

Looking toward the future, the most important event of 2007-2008 will be the CHGS sponsorship from February 27 to May 4, 2008 of "Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race," a traveling exhibition from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum that will be at the Science Museum of Minnesota. CHGS expects to be working with the Science Museum's excellent staff, the Program for Human Rights in Health, Center for Human Rights at the Law School, Center for Bioethics, African American and African Studies as well as other departments. Some of the anticipated speakers are Harriet Washington, author of *Medical Apartheid*, which details medical experimentation in the United States on African Americans; Dr. Mark Soderstrom, Center for Graduate Programs, Empire State College, State University of New York, who will speak on "Science, Segregation, Eugenics, and the Rhetoric of Racism at the University of Minnesota and the Big Ten, 1900-1945"; and German scholar Hans-Walter Schmuhl, Ph.D., University of Bielefeld/Zeitsprung Agency, who will speak on "Race, Hygiene, National Socialism and Euthanasia: From Prevention to Annihilation of 'Life Unworthy of Life',

1890-1945." Consult our new web page for all events: [www.chgs.umn.edu](http://www.chgs.umn.edu)



Vicky Knickerbocker

profiled below.

As genocide continues to occur, we hope that CHGS can be a source of information, teaching, research and collaboration with communities and interested parties in the Upper Midwest.

## New Outreach Coordinator

Our new outreach coordinator, hired after an extensive search, is Dr. Ellen Kennedy. Dr. Kennedy taught at the University of St. Thomas from 1988-2007. She was the recipient of the "Higher Education Leader of the Year" in 2004 from the National Society for Experiential Education for achievements in service-learning. Regionally, she serves as the Minnesota director for the Genocide Intervention Network, a non-governmental organization dedicated to the prevention of genocide.



Contact Ellen for any public or school issues about genocide: [ekennedy@umn.edu](mailto:ekennedy@umn.edu)

## SHOAH Project at U of M Libraries

University of Minnesota students, faculty, and staff—as well as the general public—now have access to the world's largest archive of visual histories of the Holocaust. In February 2007, the University Libraries launched public access to a two-terabyte digital media cache of testimonies from the USC Shoah Foundation Institute's Visual History Archive. The University of Minnesota is among six universities worldwide that currently provide access to the Institute's archive.

The archive, which is accessible from workstations on the U's Twin Cities campus, includes nearly 52,000 video testimonies of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses. These histories, in 32 languages and from 56 countries, were collected by the Shoah Foundation. The vast majority of the interviews—about 90 percent—are with the Jewish survivors of Nazi persecution; however, political prisoners, Roma and Sinti (Gypsy) survivors, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and liberators, witnesses, rescuers, and aid providers are also represented in the Archive.

"The oral histories in the Visual History Archive are an invaluable resource for researchers," said University Librarian Wendy Pradt Lougee. "By studying the first hand experiences of these survivors, scholars of history, religion, anthropology and many other disciplines can gain the authentic perspective that only primary source material can provide. We are deeply honored that the University of Minnesota is now one of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute's partners and can give millions of Minnesotans access to the Archive."

The USC Shoah Foundation Institute grew out of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, founded by Steven Spielberg to document the experiences of survivors and other witnesses of the Holocaust.

## Armenian Genocide Recognition Heats Up! The Intimidation Campaign Against Taner Akçam

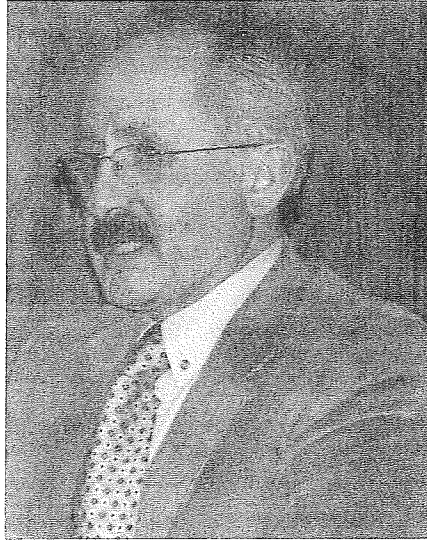
University of Minnesota sociologist-historian Taner Akçam, an international authority on the 1915 Armenian genocide, is the target of an ongoing intimidation campaign to portray him as a convicted terrorist and a traitor to his native Turkey.

A noted writer and lecturer on Turkish nationalism, the Armenian genocide, and Armenian-Turkish dialogue, Professor Akçam relocated to the United States in 2001, the year that his writings began to appear in English and the campaign against him was launched in response.

In a sensational commentary published by the Washington, DC-based Assembly of Turkish American Associations, Akçam was denounced as a mastermind of terrorist violence, including the assassinations of American and NATO military personnel. Disseminated online by the 19,000-member Turkish Forum and posted since 2004 at the influential Genocide-denial site *Tall Armenian Tale*, these allegations were soon copied to well over 10,000 Web pages, including Akçam's book reviews at Amazon and his persistently vandalized biography at Wikipedia. He began receiving death threats after Turkish Forum posted his contact information so that readers could "send greetings to this traitor."

Following the November 2006 publication of Akçam's critically acclaimed study, *A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and the Question of Turkish Responsibility*, which won the Minnesota Book Award, the campaign intensified. Akçam's lectures and book tour were violently disrupted, and poison-pen letters were emailed to the hosting universities. In February 2007, en route to lecture at McGill University Law School, Akçam was detained in the Montreal airport for nearly four hours on suspicion of terrorism. He was shown, as evidence, his vandalized Wikipedia biography.

Just one month before the Montreal incident, the assassination of Akçam's friend and colleague, Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink, had put Turkey's intellectuals on high alert. They knew that in the



Taner Akçam

months before his murder, Dink had been targeted as a traitor by an increasingly vicious media campaign. Leading the pack was *Hürriyet*, one of the most widely-read newspapers in Turkey.

In May 2007, citing the heightened danger to his own life, Akçam unmasked the secretive Webmaster of *Tall Armenian Tale* as Turkish-American illustrator Murad "Holdwater" Gümen of New York City. Death threats and denunciations followed. *Hürriyet* portrayed Akçam as a cowardly traitor who "vomits hate towards our country." No attempt was made to interview him, and his letter to the editor was ignored.

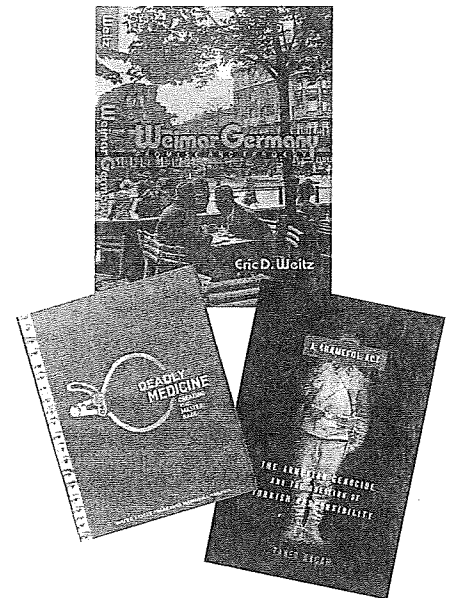
"Once again, intellectuals and activists who dare to question the government's 'official history' are being put on notice," said Akçam on July 16. "This shameful campaign not only endangers my life and the lives of my colleagues, my family and friends; ironically enough, the very notion of free expression is being undermined by the very institution that depends on it most: the public press.

"And what is the point, after all?" he continued. "I published a scholarly study that deviated from the official position of the Turkish State. One should ask the Turkish authorities whether they truly believe that shooting the messenger will prove that their position on 1915 is the correct one."

## Berlin Memorial to Gay Victims of Nazis

Berlin will be home to a monument commemorating gays and lesbians persecuted by the Nazis. Located near an existing memorial to the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust, it should be completed within the year.

The Nazi law against homosexuality remained in West Germany until 1969, and in 2002 the German parliament issued a formal pardon for all gays convicted under the Nazis. Nearly 50,000 were convicted and an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 gay men were deported to concentration camps, where few survived.



### Just Published

*Weimer Germany: Promise and Tragedy*  
(Hardcover)

By Eric D. Weitz  
Chair—history department,  
University of Minnesota

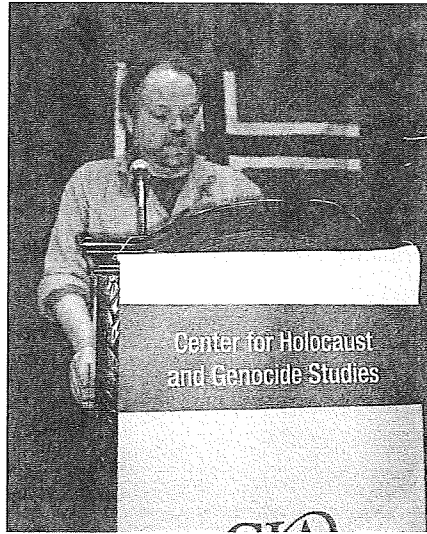
**And now in paperback:**  
*A Shameful Act*, by Taner Akçam

*Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race*,  
United States Holocaust Memorial  
Museum

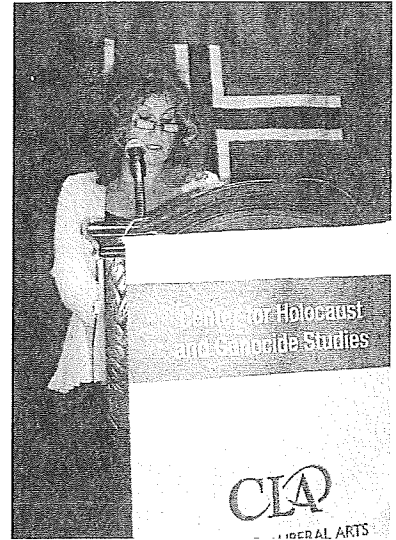
## CONFERENCE ON NORWAY, WORLD WAR II & THE HOLOCAUST



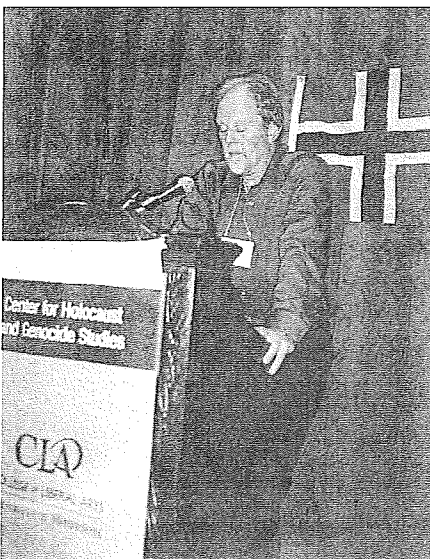
Reidar Dittmann, retired professor of art history at St. Olaf College in Northfield and a member of the Norwegian resistance to German occupation during World War II, spent two years in the concentration camp at Buchenwald.



Bjarte Bruland from Oslo's Jewish Museum was involved in the 1997 Norway Claims settlement regarding seizure of Jewish property during World War II as well as documentation of Norwegian efficiency of sending 761 Jews to Auschwitz.



Dr. Berit Reisel, psychologist and member of the board of the Oslo Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, was involved in the 1997 Norway Claims settlement regarding seizure of Jewish property during World War II.



Dr. Arnfinn Moland from Norway's Resistance Museum spoke of the conflicts between identifying Norwegian resistance and memory with Jewish-Norwegian losses, compensation and memory.



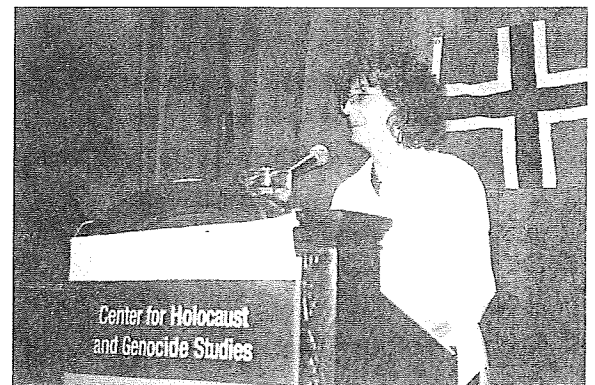
Irene Berman, a child survivor of the Holocaust from Norway, rescued in Sweden, spoke at the U of M Norway Conference and the American-Scandinavian Foundation in New York. Her memoir of the Holocaust will soon appear.



Opening dinner of Norway conference held at the Radisson University was sponsored by the Honorable Rolf Hansen, Norwegian consul general in Minnesota, with 140 guests.



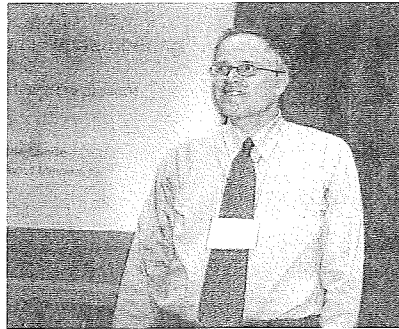
Norway, Resistance and the Holocaust Conference held at the Radisson University Hotel on April 20, 2007.



Professor Monika Žagar explained the complicated role of Knut Hamsun, a Nobel Prize winner for literature, who had an influential role in supporting the Nazified government of Vikun Quisling during World War II.



(l-r) Irene Berman, Dr. Martin Berman, Consul General Rolf Hansen, Mrs. Hansen and Sue Feinstein.



Arne Lunde, former lecturer in Norwegian at the U of M, presented a paper on Norway's approaches in film about resistance and the Jewish question.

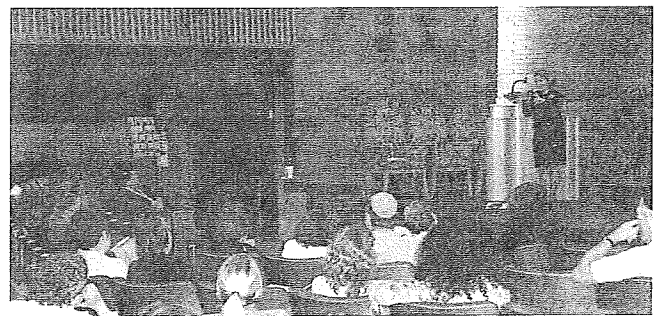


Norway Conference. (l-r) Dr. Irene Levin, Dr. Arnfinn Moland, Norwegian Consul General Rolf Hansen, and Dr. Berit Reisel at the concluding session, Norway Conference.

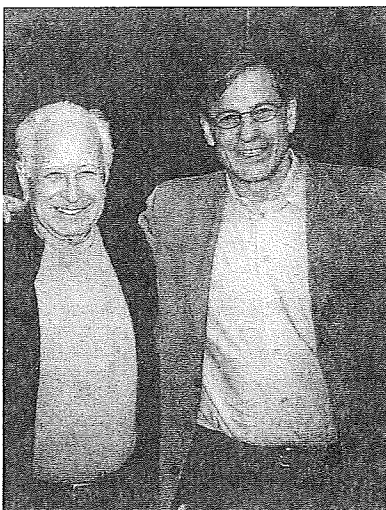
**And other events in 2006-07...**



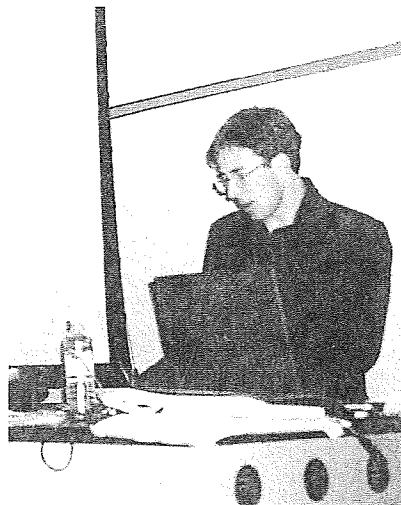
Dr. Stephen Feinstein, director of CHGS (l), and Professor Eugen Schoenfeld, Auschwitz survivor and professor emeritus from Georgia State University.



Professor Devorah Dwork, Clark University, was the first speaker in the Badzin Lecture series at Beth El Synagogue. She spoke on the fate of hidden children during the Holocaust.



Professor Eugen Schoenfeld (l) and Professor Eric Weitz (r) after Schoenfeld spoke to almost 400 students about his Holocaust experiences.



Alexander Korb, a fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and instructor at Humboldt University-Berlin, spoke on the Holocaust in Croatia and Ustashe motives against Serbs and Jews.

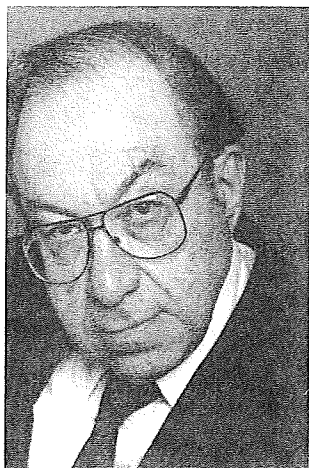


Krista Hegburg from Columbia University and U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum spoke about Holocaust memories of the Roma (Gypsies).

## Raul Hilberg, Dean of Holocaust Historians dies at age 81

By Stephen Feinstein, CHGS Director

Raul Hilberg, often referred to as "The Dean of Holocaust Historians," passed away in Vermont on August



4, 2007. Hilberg, born in Vienna, escaped with his family to Cuba and came to the United States just before the outbreak of World War II. After the war, he attended Brooklyn College and Columbia University, completing his doctorate under Franz Neumann. Hilberg's major concern was with the use of German documents to prove varying aspects of the Holocaust. In the early 1960s, when virtually no books on the Holocaust had appeared, Hilberg finally found a publisher. I can recall walking into the Sheridan Square Bookstore near New York University and purchasing his book, *The Destruction of European Jewry*. My own reaction at the time (1964) was, "imagine this—an entire book on the Holocaust!" Hilberg had published the book three years earlier when Quadrangle Books accepted the contracts. Most other publishers had turned him down. The original edition by Quadrangle is printed with two columns on each page, which creates a discussion about publication guidelines. Since 1961, it has been reprinted many times.

French filmmaker Claude Lanzmann turned to Hilberg as the expert in the making of his own nine-plus hour film *SHOAH*, during the early 1980s. Hilberg is the only academic source in the film (the rest being perpetrators, victims, and bystanders), and is particularly brilliant in explaining why the "Final Solution" came about, as well as the bureaucratic style of "desk murderers" who routed trains to Auschwitz without any concern about the cargo. Hilberg's analysis suggested that any one of these people working for the

German railroads could have derailed, literally, some of the killing.

Hilberg also wrote *Perpetrators Victims Bystanders: Jewish Catastrophe 1933-1945* (1993) and an autobiographical work describing his difficulties with research and publishing in *The Politics of Memory: The Journey of a Holocaust Historian* (1996). At a conference sponsored by the Holocaust Education Foundation at Brown University four years ago, Hilberg got into a battle with lawyers who were dealing with Holocaust restitution when he suggested that issues with the Claims Conference (Jewish Material Claims Against the German Government) had become a bureaucratic mess and that most survivors should not receive reparations. He was countered strongly by other academics and especially those in the legal community.

Hilberg's entire academic career was at the University of Vermont.

## Laurinda Stryker Passes Away



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Laurinda Stryker in Seattle. She received her B.A. from Macalester College in St Paul, her M.A. from Harvard Divinity School and her Ph.D. from Cambridge. She taught at the University of Brighton in England before coming back to St. Cloud State University to teach courses on the Holocaust and European history. Unfortunately she became

## Holocaust Rescuers

On July 31, 2007, the office of Congressman Tom Lantos conducted an open forum in the U.S. Congress to honor Raoul Wallenberg and Nicholas Winton, two men who saved the lives of thousands of European Jews before and during World War II. Mrs. Annette Lantos, wife of Congressman Tom Lantos, herself a Holocaust survivor saved by Wallenberg, moderated the event.

Raoul Wallenberg, a Swede, saved an estimated 100,000 Hungarian Jews over the course of the war and subsequently perished in the Soviet prison system during the Cold War era.

Sir Nicholas Winton was a 29-year-old English stockbroker when he saved the lives of 669 Jewish and non-Jewish Czechoslovak children during the months before the outbreak of World War II. Mr. Winton recently celebrated his 98th birthday in England, where he lives today.

The forum included a 20 minute screening of the documentary *The Power of Good*, which chronicles the story of Nicholas Winton saving the 669 Czechoslovak children, and highlights the lives some of them went on to live. It also featured a seven minute clip from the television show "60 Minutes" about Mr. Wallenberg's rescue efforts that includes Mrs. Lantos recounting her personal story and discussing Mr. Wallenberg's post-war fate.

Following the screenings, several guest speakers discussed their personal experiences with the two rescuers.

"collateral damage" in the infamous anti-Semitism hiring case there several years ago which resulted in finding the university at fault. She was not able to keep her job, although a modest financial settlement was reached. Since then she had been living in Seattle. Laurinda gave many academic papers at conferences. The story of the St. Cloud State case is related in Laurinda's last article: "The Tensions of Teaching: Truth and Consequences," in *Testimony, Tensions and Tikkun: Teaching the Holocaust in Colleges and Universities*, edited and introduced by Myrna Goldenberg and Rochelle L. Millen (U of Wash. Press).

## ers Recognized in press

Mr. Peter Rafaeli, honorary consul general of the Czech Republic in Philadelphia, Penn., spoke of Winton's extraordinary accomplishments achieved through Winton's personal philosophy that anything can be accomplished as long as it is not absolutely impossible.

Jaroslav Kurfurst, deputy ambassador of the Czech Republic, spoke of Winton's heroism and compassion toward humanity despite the fact that Winton does not consider himself a hero.

Two of the children saved by Winton, Alice Masters of Bethesda, Maryland, and Benjamin Abeles of New Jersey, shared their stories. Alice Masters, whose two sisters also were saved, pointed out that *The Power of Good* contains footage of her mother putting her little sister on the transport and taking her off three times before she was finally able to pull herself away from her girls. The three sisters never saw their parents again.

Ms. Kayla Kaufman of New York, who was saved by Wallenberg, spoke about post-traumatic stress syndrome and her personal struggle with the memories of her family's escape.

Concurrent to the Wallenberg forum, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs unanimously approved House Resolution 583 to honor Nicholas Winton and those who helped with his rescue effort. Resolution 583 will go to the House floor for debate when Congress reconvenes after the August recess.

House Resolution 583 states that: "The House of Representatives commends Sir Nicholas Winton, and those British and Czechoslovakian citizens who worked with him, for their remarkable persistence and selfless courage in saving the lives of 669 Czechoslovak Jewish children in the months before the outbreak of World War II, and urges men and women everywhere to recognize in Winton's remarkable humanitarian effort the difference that one devoted, principled individual can make in changing and improving the lives of others."

## Debate Heats Up with American Jewish Orgs and Recognition of Armenian Genocide

In Congress presently there is a strong debate going on about HR/S 106, to have the United States government recognize the Armenian massacres of 1915-1923 as the "Armenian Genocide." Original cosponsors of the resolution are Reps. Adam Schiff (D-CA), Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), George Radanovich (R-CA) and Joe Knollenberg (R-MI).

The full text of the resolution (see: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c110:H.RES.106>) requests a declaration of policy that:

(1) calls upon the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide and the consequences of the failure to realize a just resolution; and

(2) calls upon the President in the President's annual message commemorating the Armenian Genocide issued on or about April 24, to accurately characterize the systematic and deliberate annihilation of 1,500,000 Armenians as genocide and to recall the proud history of United States intervention in opposition to the Armenian Genocide.

Needless to say, there is considerable debate about this resolution, with the Turkish anti-genocide position being taken by former Congressman Robert Livingston who has represented the Turkish government as a lobbyist. Air Force Maj. Gen. Robertus Remkes, director of strategy, policy and assessments at U.S. European Command (EUCOM) says this could "impact our operations in Iraq and Afghanistan." The bill, however, calls mainly for recognition and sensitivity, not a boycott or sanctions against Turkey. The deeper issue is transparency in historical writing, which is now largely controlled by the Turkish government. Lack of recognition of the Armenian genocide is also seen as a test of democracy from the European Union perspective.

Recently, American Jewish organizations have become involved because of Israel's close relationship with Turkey. The Anti-

Defamation League got into a particularly difficult situation in late August 2007 with the firing of its New England regional director, Andrew H. Tarsy, one day after he broke ranks with national ADL leadership and said the human rights organization should acknowledge the Armenian genocide. The regional ADL board had backed Mr. Tarsy's position. The decision by ADL national director Abraham Foxman on this issue also undercut the ADL's "No Place for Hate" program in Massachusetts. The Watertown council, for example, pulled out of the program.

A day later, however, on August 21, the ADL modified its position in a statement which said: "We have never negated but have always described the painful events of 1915-1918 perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire against the Armenians as massacres and atrocities. On reflection, we have come to share the view of Henry Morgenthau, Sr. that the consequences of those actions were indeed tantamount to genocide. If the word genocide had existed then, they would have called it genocide."

Foxman continued by noting: "I have consulted with my friend and mentor Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel and other respected historians who acknowledge this consensus. I hope that Turkey will understand that it is Turkey's friends who urge that nation to confront its past and work to reconcile with Armenians over this dark chapter in history.

"Having said that, we continue to firmly believe that a Congressional resolution on such matters is a counterproductive diversion and will not foster reconciliation between Turks and Armenians and may put at risk the Turkish Jewish community and the important multilateral relationship between Turkey, Israel and the United States."

CHGS believes that this issue will continue to fester, as it affects both Armenians and Turks in the diaspora, and has also been a factor in Jewish-Armenian relations in the United States. The problem is that few trials took place after the

## Genocide - What are we going to DO about this?

Ellen J. Kennedy, Ph.D.  
 Coordinator, Genocide  
 Intervention Network, Minnesota  
 Outreach Coordinator, CHGS

I'm a sociologist. I've been teaching about the Rwandan genocide for several years. One of my students, Ina Ziegler, approached me after class one day very shaken by what we'd been studying. Ina asked, "What are we going to *do* about this?"

I was profoundly disturbed by her question. I thought I *had* been doing something. I'd been teaching a lot of students about genocide, hoping to make them more aware of the world and hoping to make them better global citizens. In fact, I felt pretty good about my efforts. But clearly Ina needed something more tangible, more concrete.

Students' attitudes often change as a result of courses, but much of the response to learning about genocide consists of being overwhelmed by human suffering and violence. An unfortunate result of teaching about genocide is that many students come away feeling not only sad, but also incapable of acting on their new knowledge. Teaching about genocide is a crucial first step but probably is not sufficient to make 'never again' mean 'never.'

Ina expected that options for 'standing up' and *doing* something would be part of the class.

But I had no answer, no ideas of what we could *do* about this. I struggled with her question for weeks. One evening, reading an issue of this newsletter from the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, I saw a small item about an organization called the Genocide Intervention Network (GI-Net), an organization formed by college students with chapters throughout the country. The purpose? To engage students in advocating for an end to the Darfur crisis.

Here was my answer.

GI-Net was formed several years ago by Mark Hanis, then a student at Swarthmore College. Mark, grandson of four Holocaust survivors, grew up in a small Ecua-

dorian community where the Jewish elders bore tattooed numbers on their arms, visible daily reminders of Hitler's atrocities. From an early age, Mark was determined that the international community should never again allow genocide to happen. When he read reports of the conflict in Darfur, he was compelled to act.

GI-Net's mission is to empower ordinary citizens to take steps to prevent and stop genocide. The organization's three goals are to *educate* people about genocide; to teach people how to *advocate* with their legislators to prevent or to stop genocides from occurring; and to *raise funds* to increase safety and security for those whose lives are at risk. GI-Net's staff of fourteen is headquartered in Washington, D.C. and has over 700 chapters around the country.

I formed a chapter at the university where I was teaching. We began small, with films and speakers. We raised some money for a civilian protection program in Darfur. We sent letters to our legislators.

And now, about 18 months later, our original chapter coordinates state-wide activities, with most of our work being done by students. Last year we spoke at nearly thirty colleges, universities, religious organizations, and civic groups, reaching almost 3,000 people. Our efforts succeeded in making Minnesota the 13th state in the country to divest its public pension fund from companies complicit in the genocide. Edina, a Minneapolis suburb, became the third city in the country, after Chicago and San Francisco, to officially support a United Nations resolution to prevent genocide and to urge national legislators to take a stronger stand in protecting innocent people. We held a conference for potential activists at civic, religious, and academic institutions throughout the state. We've raised a great deal of money from Minnesotans to support efforts to keep women and girls safe from gender-based violence in Darfur.

The most remarkable outcome, however, is students' commitment to this anti-genocide work. I asked them about their involvement. They all knew little or nothing about Darfur when they joined GI-Net. Although they all had studied the

Holocaust in high school, they had no broader context for genocidal crimes, nor was the word 'genocide' necessarily connected to the Holocaust in their educational experiences. Instead, they had a general interest in global issues. For nearly all of them, this has been their first role as activists. Their participation hasn't been easy, since most work many hours a week to pay college tuition. Students' families and friends who aren't politically involved were initially skeptical of the students' activities.

The students are passionate about this work. They have organized speakers' events, testified at the Minnesota legislature to support divestment, lobbied representatives in Washington, organized fundraisers, taught classes in middle and high schools, spoken to church groups, sent hundreds of letters to Washington written newspaper articles about the Darfur genocide, developed DVDs for classroom instruction, and developed a website.

The students report getting back so much more than they give. Ben's words, typical of the students, are eloquent:

"I gain hope from the students I've met. I gain a sense of purpose. I wake up in the morning with a poster the church group made about genocide. That poster hangs on the far side of my room and that's what I see; it's a constant reminder of what I'm doing. I gain motivation; it's a drive to be able to learn about the issue and go to school, fight for it, advocate for stuff to stop that [genocide]... it's understanding this that I could never have experienced in the classroom. It's more valuable than any textbook or lecture... I've learned the strength of how when people come together, they can make a big change. You read about it but—we're doing it right now."

Heather says,

"I feel it's a part of me now, it shapes who I am, shapes how I view the world and people here and even my view of people that I haven't met, and how I can be of impact in their lives. It's been a very powerful experience; it's opened my eyes to the power of grass-roots efforts. It's really shaped my college experience as well. This



has just changed my life completely. I've been able to educate the public on such an important issue, have a profound effect on lives here as they learn, and find the passion I've found in it, and in turn affecting countless lives, or hoping to affect countless lives halfway across the world."

These students weren't transformed by their classes. They were changed by finding answers to Ina's question: doing something to affect both public dialogue and public policy.

Ina is embarrassed that I talk about her question. She expects everybody to ask it. And now I know what we can *do* about genocide: educate, advocate, and donate.

## Local Librarian Fights for Armenian Genocide Recognition

One might think that the issues of libraries escape those who do research and teach about genocide. After all, has a library been mentioned in the Darfur genocide discourse? However, in 2003, Rebecca Knuth published a monograph, *Libricide: The State Sponsored Destruction of Books and Libraries in the Twentieth Century* (Greenwood Press). In case readers might think this is an artificial subject, one might reflect on the famous quote by the German poet Heinrich Heine which is now at the Bebelplatz at Humboldt University in Berlin: "Where they have burned books, they will end in burning human beings."

Luckily, this hasn't happened in Minnesota. One reason is because of a local retired librarian "watchdog," Sandy Berman. Just about once every week or two, CHGS is certain to receive a packet of material from retired Minneapolis librarian Sandy Berman. Berman, who was head cataloguer at the Hennepin County Library for 26 years, has a passion for getting things correctly labeled, especially in libraries. Recently he resigned from the American Library Association (ALA) Council in a policy dispute after just get-

ting elected to it by a large number of votes.

Since 1999, Berman has regularly sent the Library of Congress information supporting the creation of new subject headings. Recently, thanks to his efforts, the Library of Congress finally changed "Vietnam Conflict" to "Vietnam War." Just a few of the other subject headings he has helped create: Plutocracy, American Dream, Anti-racism, Conflict Diamonds, Moral Panics, Sex Toys, Wicca, and Zines. Headings he is still trying to get established: GI Movement, Anti-Arabism, Anarcho-Primitivism, Culture Wars, Erotophobia, Native American Holocaust, and Lesbian Bikers.

One of his great concerns is to get the word "genocide" used appropriately. In this respect, he has written countless letters to the Library of Congress urging that the phrase "Armenian Genocide, (1915-1923)" be employed in LC listings.

Berman continues to lecture, he writes a regular column for Mitch Freedman's *Unabashed Librarian*, assists editors at *Counterpoise* magazine, and helps numerous other publications and writers around the country and world. Berman serves as a board member of the Tretter Collection at the University of Minnesota Libraries.

Berman is also still very active in many other areas of library reform, including advising John Gehner, the current chairman of the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table Hunger, Homelessness & Poverty Task Force, and promoting awareness of ALA's failed promise to help libraries help the poor. He has also been active in fighting for the release of imprisoned Cuban librarians and for greater librarian attention to the Darfur genocide.

In short, Berman is the type of ally that education needs so that popular and newly developed categories for research get catalogued the proper way.

Official Web site:

<http://www.sanfordberman.org/>

and for other information: [http://](http://www.sanfordberman.org/cityp/ber1t.htm)

[www.sanfordberman.org/cityp/ber1t.htm](http://www.sanfordberman.org/cityp/ber1t.htm)

## Debate Heats Up continued...

*Continued from page 7*

end of World War I regarding the destruction of the Armenians. Mustafa Kemal Ataturk called it "a shameful act," but the subject has remained buried to the extent that many Turks are ignorant of the issue and find out about it only by traveling outside Turkey.

The teaching of the Armenian genocide is included in the Minnesota social science curriculum for the period of World War I while the Holocaust is included in World War II. CHGS has "teaching trunks" available for both subjects.

## Minnesota Responds to Genocide in Darfur

On July 3, Edina, Minnesota joined Chicago and San Francisco in adopting a resolution urging President Bush and Congress to protect victims of mass atrocities. The resolution by the Edina City Council supported implementation of UN resolutions aimed at ending genocide. On May 23, Governor Tim Pawlenty signed a bill that will divest Minnesota's public pension funds from companies that are complicit in supporting the Sudanese regime. Activities are also afoot by various human rights organizations to boycott the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, as China has some of the greatest investment and interest in Sudan. Some have begun to call the Beijing games "the genocide Olympics."

## Upcoming Events

A comprehensive list of Holocaust- and genocide-related events at the University of Minnesota and in the community is always available on the home page of our web site, [www.chgs.umn.edu](http://www.chgs.umn.edu).

### “According to the Flesh: Metamorphoses of the Jew in Christian and Post-Christian Europe”

Tuesday, October 30, 4:00 p.m.

Institute for Advanced Study, 125 Nolte Center

Talk by Professor Alain Finkielkraut

### Henry Oerteldt

Tuesday, November 6, 11:15 a.m.

155 Nicholson Hall

Holocaust survivor Henry Oerteldt will talk about his experiences and have copies of his book, *An Unbroken Chain: My Journey Through the Nazi Holocaust*, for sale.

### God Grew Tired of Us

Monday, November 26, 7:00 p.m.

118 Drew Sciences Building, Hamline University, St. Paul.

Film and discussion about *The Lost Boys of Sudan*, by Augustino Mayai.

State: [www.mngin.org](http://www.mngin.org)

National: [www.genocideintervention.net](http://www.genocideintervention.net)

### The Legacy of the Nazi Doctors' Trial for American Bioethics and International Human Rights Law

Thursday, February 7, 4:00 p.m.

Location TBA—see [www.chgs.umn.edu](http://www.chgs.umn.edu)

Professor George Annas, Boston University School of Public Health and co-founder of Global Lawyers & Physicians and the Patients Rights Project.

### Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present

Thursday, February 28

Time and location TBA—see

[www.chgs.umn.edu](http://www.chgs.umn.edu)

Talk by author Harriet A. Washington, based on her book of the same name.

## Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race

A traveling exhibit by the  
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

February 27—May 4, 2008  
Science Museum of Minnesota  
St. Paul

Presented by  
Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies and  
Science Museum of Minnesota

From 1933 to 1945, Nazi Germany carried out a campaign to “cleanse” German society of individuals viewed as biological threats to the nation’s “health.” Enlisting the help of physicians and medically trained geneticists, psychiatrists, and anthropologists, the Nazis developed racial health policies that began with the mass sterilization of “genetically diseased” persons and ended with the near annihilation of European Jewry.

To relate this history, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has assembled objects, photographs, documents, and historic film footage from European and American collections and presents them in settings evoking medical and scientific environments. *Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race* provokes reflection on the continuing attraction of biological utopias that promote the possibility of human perfection. From the early twentieth-century international eugenics movements to present-day dreams of eliminating inherited disabilities through genetic manipulation, the issues remain timely.

### Events in the Twin Cities will include:

- Speakers series
- Course
- Film series
- Teacher training

### VOLUNTEER DOCENTS NEEDED

See <http://www.smm.org/volunteer/> for more information.

Supported also by: University of Minnesota Program in Human Rights in Health; Department of African American & African Studies; and Department of German, Scandinavian & Dutch

Check [www.chgs.umn.edu](http://www.chgs.umn.edu)  
and [www.smm.org](http://www.smm.org) for  
updates.



## Darfur Events October 11-15

### Darfur: Documenting a Genocide

#### Dr. Sam Totten

Co-editor with Eric Markusen of  
*Genocide in Darfur:  
Investigating the Atrocities in the Sudan*

**Thursday, Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m.**

Room 25, Law School  
University of Minnesota

Related event:

Teacher Workshop on Genocide  
Saturday Oct. 13, 2007  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Room 23, Law School

For more information, contact Dr. Ellen  
Kennedy at  
ekennedy@umn.edu

#### *In memory of Dr. Eric Markusen*

Presented by the Genocide Intervention  
Network-Minnesota and the Center for  
Holocaust and Genocide Studies

Co-sponsors: STAND, and the Human Rights Resource Center, University of Minnesota; the Minnesota Interfaith Darfur Coalition; the Minnesota International Center; the Center for Victims of Torture; Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights; Students FOR Peace, Hamline University; and the Genocide Intervention Network- University of St. Thomas.



**Have a hand in stopping genocide.**

### "The Devil Came on Horseback" film to show in Minneapolis

"The Devil Came on Horseback" depicts the Sudanese crisis through the eyes of former U.S. Marine Capt. Brian Steidle. The *New York Times* has said that this documentary must be seen by as many people as possible and as soon as possible.

Steidle, hired by the African Union to monitor a 2004 cease-fire, became widely known when *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof wrote about what Steidle had learned, supported by the observer's damning photographs.

In the film, Steidle wrestles with the constraints of his role as an "unarmed military observer ... all I had was a camera, a pen and paper," helplessly witnessing horrific acts. "The things you see here were not meant to be seen," he says, as reported in the *Los Angeles Times*.

The film will be shown at the following times; those noted with an asterisk include a post-film panel discussion with activists and experts on the crisis.

Friday, Oct. 12 7:15\*, 9\* p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 13 5:30\*, 7:15\*, 9\* p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 14 5:30\*, 7:15\*, 9 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,

Oct. 15-17 7:15, 9 p.m. (no panels)

Location: Bell Auditorium, 17th St. and University Ave. SE, University of Minnesota east bank campus.

The screenings are co-sponsored by Minnesota Film Arts, the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and the Genocide Intervention Network-Minnesota.

### "Camp Darfur" exhibit at Minnesota State Capitol Mall, Oct. 13

Camp Darfur is an interactive awareness and education event that brings attention to genocide and the ongoing conflict in Darfur, Sudan. Set up as a traveling refugee camp, this exhibit highlights history and consequences of genocides in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

Camp Darfur will be exhibited at the Minnesota State Capitol on Saturday, October 13, from 10:00 am. -5:00 pm. The exhibit is free of charge and open to the public.

A special program will be held from 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm featuring talks by Minnesota legislators who were instrumental in divestment, key citizen activists, and a candle-lighting and interfaith service of prayer.

Co-sponsors are the Genocide Intervention Network - Minnesota; the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and STAND, University of Minnesota; the Minnesota Interfaith Darfur Coalition; Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights; and the Genocide Intervention Network-University of St. Thomas.

For more information, please contact Heather Schommer at [hlschommer@mngin.org](mailto:hlschommer@mngin.org) and see [www.mngin.org](http://www.mngin.org)

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[www.chgs.umn.edu](http://www.chgs.umn.edu)  
for all scheduled events!

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I want to sustain the memory and expand the coverage by contributing to the  
Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Minnesota.

**\$50 \_\_ \$100 \_\_ \$500 \_\_ \$1000 \_\_ Other \_\_**

I would like my donation to go to the following:

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Holocaust Lecture Series Fund (fund 3832) \_\_\_\_  
Wexler Special Events Fund (fund 5508) \_\_\_\_  
CHGS General Fund (fund 4370) \_\_\_\_

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