

IMMIGRATION HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

Fall/Winter 2011-12 – Volume XXVI, No. 1

From the Director

Fall is always invigorating—new student workers arrive at the IHRC to assist in our many projects, as do new researchers in residence to pursue their own research agendas (we introduce you to **Rim Triki** and **Florence Vychytil-Baudoux** on page 2).



Donna Gabaccia

The Global REM seminars continue apace, and the Digitizing Immigrant Letters (DIL) project is in the process of surveying scholars and archives worldwide about their collections, as well as planning for a workshop in Vienna in June 2012. With help from **Daniel Necas**, **Sonia Cancian** and **Keit Osadchuk**, we're also adding new samples of digitized letters from some of the most intriguing of our own IHRC letters collections and including, for the first time, some letters archived in Canada. North American and Europe-based members of the DIL group will convene in Boston in early November to confer about how to expand the project in modest ways.

Past research projects are also now coming to a conclusion. **Andy Wilhide** and **Mustafa Jumale** are putting the final touches on the Sheeko archive of video interviews with young Somalis. The "Gender Ratios and Global Migrations" research team saw its first article published in *International Migration Review*, and just learned that three more articles co-authored by various members of the team will be published as a special section of *Social Science History* in Summer 2012.

Continued on page 3, Gabaccia

IHRC at the Minnesota State Fair

On August 28th, IHRC collections were highlighted in the IHRC booth and included Sheeko (created by a student researcher team supervised by Director **Donna Gabaccia**) and the Digitizing Immigrant Letters project. While Digitizing Immigrant Letters focuses on how letters in the IHRC's existing historical collections document the emotional connections among immigrants separated by distance, Sheeko provides a fresh perspective by recording interviews with Somali youth who talk about their first-hand experience migrating and making a life in America. Sheeko means "stories" in Somali. When completed, the videos allow the researchers to create an online collection for the IHRC. Incoming University President **Eric Kaler** toured the Minnesota Building displays!



(L-R) President Eric Kaler, Saida Hassan, Mustafa Jumale, Karen Kaler, Kafia Ahmed, Andy Wilhide, Virgil Slade and Mohamed Dirie at the IHRC booth at the fair.

Central European Partnerships Grow

In June 2011, Director **Donna Gabaccia** and Research Archivist **Daniel Necas** traveled to Austria, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The main purpose of their travels was to meet and discuss shared interests with archivists and scholars working with immigrant letters and with other examples of immigrant life preserved in European repositories. In Slovenia, **Matjaz Klemencic** introduced Necas and Gabaccia to Slovenian colleagues in Maribor and Ljubljana. As a result, the University of Maribor and the IHRC are now involved in a two year exchange aimed at studying the Slovenian community of Ely, Minnesota. In Vienna, **Annemarie Steidl** (lead researcher on the Center for Austrian Studies' Botstiber-funded project on Austro-Hungarian migration to the United States) and **Wladimir Fischer** hosted Necas and Gabaccia, and arranged for meetings with colleagues from several key Czech- and German-language archives in the city of Vienna. As a follow-up to the visit to Central Europe the IHRC, Center for Austrian Studies and the University of Vienna will co-host in June 2012 a one-day workshop for archivists and scholars on letters exchanged between North America and Central Europe in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.



Meeting at the Slovenian Migration Institute in Ljubljana (L-R, Daniel Necas, Marjan Drnovsek, Donna Gabaccia, Mirjam Milharcić Hladnik, Matjaz Klemencic)

Visiting Scholars



(L to R) Rim Triki with Jeff Nelson

The IHRC was privileged to welcome **Rim Triki** and **Florence Vychytil-Baudoux** during summer 2011. Dr. Triki, American Studies, University of Tunis El-Manar, received an American Studies Grant from the Centre d'Etudes Maghrébines à Tunis (CEMAT) to work with immigrant personal papers and autobiographies housed in the IHRC, the ethnic press and the Foreign Language Information Service (FLIS) collections. Florence Vychytil-Baudoux, a graduate student at l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris,

received a Fulbright Fellowship to work with the Polish American Congress, Inc., Records collection. Both Rim and Florence extend their



Florence Vychytil-Baudoux

thanks to **Donna Gabaccia** and the entire "warm, welcoming, and helpful" IHRC staff. As Dr. Triki who also visited the IHRC in 1996 explained, "The IHRC has a special atmosphere. After 15 years, and even after it moved, the IHRC [has] kept its same warm, welcoming atmosphere. And in terms of research, the [IHRC] gives the maximum means to the researcher. Any means of [support and aid to] research are offered to the visiting researcher. Not every place.... that makes for fond memories."

In addition, the following researchers were awarded Grants-In-Aid and conducted research at the IHRC in 2011:

Melissa May Borja, Ph.D. Candidate, Columbia University
Irène Elksnis Geisler, Ph.D. Candidate, W. Michigan University
John Tofik Karam, DePaul University
Heather R. Lee, Ph.D. Candidate, Brown University
Ji-Hye Shin, Ph.D. Candidate, Rutgers University

Global Race, Ethnicity & Migration

The first speaker of this year's series was **Rim Triki** who presented "Tunisian Perspectives on Immigration, Race and Ethnicity: Past and Present" on September 13th.



(L to R) Donna Gabaccia, Abdi Samatar, Paul Porter, & Mohamed Dirie

The September 19th event was a roundtable discussion entitled "The Politics of Famine and Displacement in the Horn of Africa." Participants included **Donna Gabaccia**, **Abdi Samatar**, Professor of Geography, **Paul Porter**, Professor of Agronomy/Plant Genetics, and **Mohamed Dirie**, President, Somali Student Association.

Heather Lee, Ph.D. candidate from Brown University, gave a talk on October 5th entitled "Work & Mobility in the Chinese Restaurant Industry of New York City, 1920-1946."



Heather Lee (R) giving her presentation

On October 24th, **Rebekka Geitner**, Ballinstadt, the Emigration Museum, Hamburg presented "Emigration and Public History: The View from Hamburg."



Rebekka Geitner

Visit ihrc.umn.edu for additional details

Julia Clancy-Smith, University of Arizona, presented back to back talks on October 17 and 18. The first was "Muslim Princes & Catholic Sisters," followed by "Barbary Coasts: How Mediterraneans Came to Be" on the 18th.



Julia Clancy-Smith

Silvana Hackett received funding for summer 2011 from the Maurice A. Roberts Fellowship for the History of Immigration Law Policy. Silvana worked under the supervision of Humphrey School faculty to conduct research on the polarization of immigration policies in the United States over the last 20 years. She created a database that documented over 70,000 Congressional votes on immigration from 1993 to 2010.



Familiar faces around the IHRC this year, **Charlotte Albrecht** (L) who received the Francis Maria Fellowship in Arab American Studies and is a feminist studies doctoral candidate, and **Arta Ankrava** (R), who is the recipient of the American Latvian Association Graduate Fellowship in Latvian American Studies and is a sociology doctoral student.

Summer Seminar “Europe–Migration–Identity”

A workshop was held at the University of Minnesota (UMN), Minneapolis, in cooperation with the German Historical Institute (GHI), August 24-27, 2011. This seminar set out to build bridges between migration studies and research in the history of Europeanization and Europeaness which has generated much interest in recent years. Convened by **Donna Gabaccia** (UMN), **Sally Gregory Kohlstedt** (UMN) and **Jan Logemann** (GHI), participants included 25 North American and international researchers, some of

whom are pictured below. One of the highlights of the 3 day workshop was a walking tour of the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood coordinated by **Anduin “Andy” Wilhide** and assisted by several other UMN students from the Somali-American community. The tour contrasted previous Northern European immigrants who settled the area with today’s East African residents. The rich immigrant history they experienced put into context why the IHRC is located in Minnesota.



Gabaccia, continued from page 1

Community remains important to the IHRC. The annual meeting of the Friends of the IHRC is rapidly approaching, and I continue to work, along with Andy Wilhide, on a number of important national and local public history projects that will take our research out into the wider communities that so effectively support our work.

We’ve said good-bye to former co-workers **Liz Zanoni** and **Ilze Garoza**, who have both graduated, and welcomed, or welcomed back, graduate students working in a half dozen disciplines, including **Evan Taparata** in History, **Raphi Rechitsky** and **Arta Ankrava** in Sociology, and **Charlotte Karam Albrecht** in Gender, Women, and Sexuality studies. On Mondays you’ll find one or more of the dissertation writers among this group sitting in 308 Andersen Library in a “writing circle” sponsored by IHRC Graduate Research Assistant **Kelly Condit-Shrestha**.

Stop by to enjoy the action!

Sincerely,

—**Donna Gabaccia, Director**

Giving to the IHRC

Through December 31, 2011, you can make charitable gifts using funds from your individual retirement accounts (IRAs) without undesirable tax effects. If you are age 70 ½ years or older and own an IRA, the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 allows you to transfer up to \$100,000 directly to charity this year. Charitable transfers are excluded from gross income, and distributions made under this law also satisfy the donor’s minimum required distribution.

Make your gift before year-end to take advantage. If you are interested in learning more about IRA gifts, contact **Eva Widder** by phone or email.



Contact **Eva Widder**, External Relations, College of Liberal Arts, at ewidder@umn.edu or 612-626-5146 to arrange a bequest or pledge. Thank you for your support.

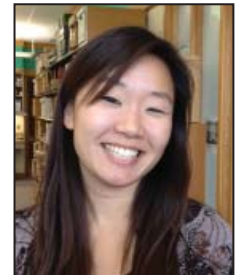
Staff Updates

Welcome to three incoming freshmen working in the IHRC this fall. Two are working as library assistants, **Zoe Bartholomew**, majoring in art history, Scandinavian studies and Finnish, is from St Paul. **Hope Shinn** is a linguistics major from Quincy, IL. The third is **Leah Kinnard**, a Speech Language and Hearing Sciences major (see photo on p 4) from Stevens Point, WI. She is working as an office assistant.



Hope Shinn & Zoe Bartholomew

Also joining us is **Kelly Condit-Shrestha**, Ph.D. candidate in history, who is working with Donna Gabaccia as a research assistant.



Research-in-Progress Talks

John Tofik Karam, DePaul University, presented “Area Studies through Diasporic Eyes: Philip Hitti and the American University Beirut (AUB) Alumni Network in Brazil” on August 23.



Save the Date
Wednesday, March 7, 2012
IHRC Appreciation Event

IHRC Staff

Donna Gabaccia, Director

Haven Hawley, Cindy Herring, Daniel Necas, Jeff Nelson, Sara Wakefield

Student Assistants: Zoe Bartholomew, Kelly Condit-Shrestha, Mary George, Adam Grant, Dan Grussing, Leah Kinnard, Keit Osadchuk, Hope Shinn, Andy Wilhide

University of Minnesota
Immigration History Research Center
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IHRC News — Fall/Winter 2011-12

IMMIGRATION HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

The IHRC promotes interdisciplinary research on international migration, develops archives documenting immigrant and refugee life, especially in the United States, and makes specialized scholarships available to students, teachers, and the public. The IHRC acts in partnership with various ethnic communities, historical agencies, research specialists, educators, and many others. Its work supports the tripartite mission teaching, research, and service of its parent institution, the University of Minnesota. IHRC is a unit of the College of Liberal Arts.

IHRC News is published fall/winter and spring/summer (print and online). It is sent to supporters of the IHRC, including selected and prospective members of Friends of IHRC, donors, University of Minnesota colleagues, and exchange publications. Please notify the IHRC if you wish to receive the online version only. (ihrc@umn.edu)

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

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Driven to Discover™



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This publication is available in alternate formats upon request.
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Novak Scholarship Awarded

The recently established Louis P. and Mary Ann Novak Scholarship has been awarded to **Leah Kinnard** and **Miles Norman**. Preference is given to students with an interest in studying Central European (in particular Croatian or Hungarian) studies, or first-generation college students, or students majoring in history in at the University of Minnesota.



Leah Kinnard and Miles Norman

Lambros Greek American Studies Fund

The IHRC would like to acknowledge a significant increase in the number of donors and the size of the gifts to the John W. and Nausica (Nancy) Lambros Greek American Studies Fund. It will ensure that the Greek American collections will survive long into the future and that the strength of the fund will allow additional grants to be given to researchers and scholars wishing to use the collections at the IHRC.

**Friends of the IHRC Open House
3:30-5 pm, Friday, January 27, 2012**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

*Immigration History Research Center
College of Liberal Arts*

*311 Elmer L. Andersen Library
222-21st Avenue South
Minneapolis MN 55455
Office: 612-625-4800
Fax: 612-626-0018
www.ihrc.umn.edu/
E-mail: ihrc@umn.edu*

November 2011

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your support of the Immigration History Research Center. With your help we have been able to accomplish a number of projects including:

- adding Russian letters to our digital collection of immigrant letters with Italian, Czech and Slovenian translations underway
- working with graduate and undergraduate students on oral history and digital research projects (Minnesota 2.0)
- adding 1,000+ online digital images to U Media Archives
- providing financial support to graduate students and visiting researchers
- publications emerging from scholarly research collaborations

In the year ahead we will host a conference in Vienna on letters written by immigrants back to loved ones in Europe. We continue to process our “backlog” of materials donated years ago to our collections so we can create space for new acquisitions. We’re working hard to honor and celebrate the experiences and stories of America’s immigrants. We invite you to join us on Facebook and You Tube.

Your contribution to the Vecoli Chair or the IHRC general fund is critical to our success. We need your financial assistance to make the new academic year as exciting as last year has been. We hope you will consider sending a check donation by mail or online gift through the University of Minnesota Foundation’s secure site (www.ihrc.umn.edu/support/).

Thank you for your partnership in mentoring scholars today and preserving the archives for the future!

Sincerely,



Donna R. Gabaccia
Rudolph J. Vecoli Chair of Immigration History and Director

Mentioned above:

Digitizing Immigrant Letters - <http://ihrc.umn.edu/research/dil/index.html>

Minnesota 2.0 - <http://ihrc.umn.edu/research/vitrage/all/ma/ihrc3908.html>

U Media Archives - <http://umedia.lib.umn.edu/dassetsearch?term=immigration&sc=keyword>

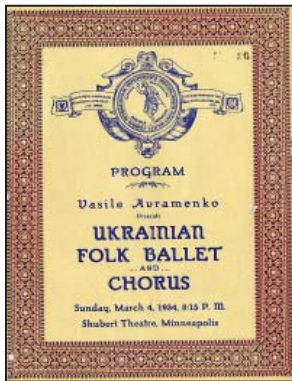
Fellowships and Scholarships - <http://ihrc.umn.edu/educators/fellowships.php>

Publications - <http://www.brill.nl/connecting-seas-and-connected-ocean-rims>

Creating Access to Collections

Three processing projects are under way this fall at the IHRC, overseen by **Daniel Necas**. After several semesters of sorting the large numbers of books and periodicals, **Adam Grant** has begun work on the archival portion of the A. William Høglund Collection. **Mary George** is nearing completion of the George Papademetriou Papers processing project which will make accessible a substantial part of the IHRC's Greek American collection. In September, **Keit Osadchuk** started her work on the Francis Maria Collection, another major representative of the IHRC's materials documenting immigration from the eastern Mediterranean.

The Ukrainian Folk Ballet of the Twin Cities collection has been digitized. During the spring and summer months of 2011, student assistant **Dan Grussing** scanned all items contained in the three scrapbooks compiled by the dance group over 20 years of its existence from 1934 to

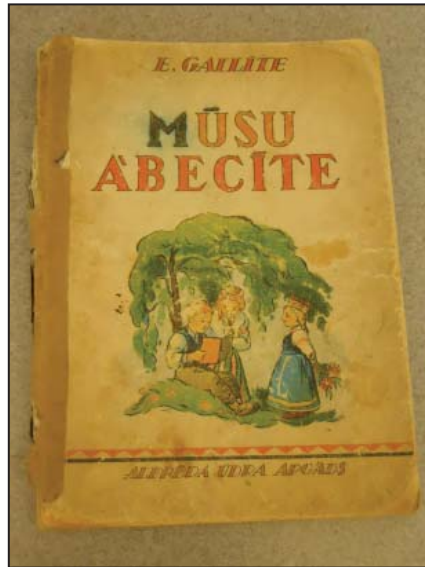


1953. The project has added 1500 images to the IHRC's digital archive.

Former student assistant **Mia Overly** processed the papers of Carl Ross, labor activist and historian of Finnish American immigration. A new finding aid is now available. The first phase of the former IHRC director Rudolph J. Vecoli's Collection processing project has recently been completed. Some of the materials were used by one of the organizers (and former IHRC staff person) **John Andreozzi** in the preparation of exhibits for the St. Paul Festa Italiana event in September as part of IHRC's contribution to this community festival. Both the former and current directors of IHRC were featured among the "prominent Italian Americans of Minnesota."

Ihar Labacevich returned earlier this fall as a volunteer to work with **Daniel Necas** on adding letters in the Belarusian language from the IHRC's collections to the Digitizing Immigrant Letters project. **Sara Wakefield**, IHRC reference librarian has received a well deserved promotion to Library Assistant 3. She continues work on the temporary catalog card conversion in addition to her reference librarian duties.

Highlighting our Collections



This rare Latvian book, *Mūsu Abecīte (Our ABC Book)* illustrated by Leonida Alksna, was donated by John Plume. The book was published in Riga, Latvia in 1944 and was used by Mr. Plume as a child. The book has been cataloged and is in the University of Minnesota Library system.



Another rare Latvian book, *Pionieru vaditaja gramata (Pioneers vaditaja book)*, was also recently cataloged by the University of Minnesota libraries. The beginning of the book includes Soviet propaganda while the rest of the book covers youth scouting. The IHRC has many scouting items across ethnic groups in the collections. The book was published in Riga, Latvia in 1947.

Collection Update

The temporary catalog project has revealed the exceptional rarity of our uncataloged printed matter. Every book we catalog becomes available for research (see left). As our cataloging gears up, we keep our eye on a huge amount of printed matter yet to be processed.

Karin Lichters and **Maia**



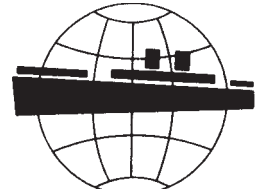
Haven Hawley

Palang, volunteer librarians from Estonian Archives in the U.S., Inc., in Lakewood, N.J., traveled to the Center in September to assist our processing of Estonian print. In 2012, we will begin undertaking larger projects of this sort, and I encourage language specialists with library experience to contact me if they wish to volunteer.

With volunteers and scholars, we carefully assess books, serials and newspapers donated in past decades to IHRC so that we can identify duplicates or those that are "not in scope" (not related directly to immigrant experience). We have placed those that may be historically important with partners such as St. Sophia Religious Association of Ukrainian Catholics, Finnish American Heritage Center and the National Library of Latvia, among other partners.

The largest amount of work takes place afterward and can only be accomplished by regular staff, however. Thank you for your continued support as IHRC's staff keep their attention patiently focused on the detailed work of "processing" print—selecting what can be kept by IHRC, cataloging each book and reviewing each issue, and locating appropriate placements for other materials. Our work ensures IHRC's status as a premier repository and supports the study of immigration, both in the United States and internationally.

Cindy Herring has redesigned the IHRC homepage to make it easier to search our collections. Try it and see!



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January 2011–December 2012

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Karen Varian
(Rusin Association of MN)

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Mary Ann Novak

Jeanette Pafko

Christian Skjervold

(In Memorium)

IHRC Representative

Haven Hawley

Friends of IHRC Annual Meeting

The 2011 Friends of the IHRC's Annual Meeting and Dinner was held on Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Minnesota Humanities Center in St Paul. The evening featured a report by historians **Dr. Marilyn Chiat** and **Professor Jeanne Halgren Kilde** on their research into religious congregations and houses of worship formed by early settlers in nine neighborhoods developed along the Mississippi River between 1849 and 1924. The project explores themes such as community creation, ethnicity and identity, relationships among congregations, intra-congregational interactions, the role of houses of worship, and social class structures. The goal of the project is to document the long heritage of religious diversity that has been central to this area's growth and development. Doctoral candidate **Andy Wilhide** is the third member of the group but due to another commitment was unable to attend.



Our speakers, Marilyn Chiat and Jeanne Halgren Kilde



Donna Gabaccia, (center) thanks the Friends for a \$2000 check for the Vecoli Chair presented by John Andreozzi (left) and Karen Varian (right)

To the Friends of the Immigration History Research Center

It's taken some time for me to write this thank you note for awarding me a scholarship to the SAA Understanding Archives Workshop last October. I knew when I took on the volunteer assignment as the archivist of the Cathedral of Saint Paul, that my past use of archives would not be enough background to prepare me for the work. But the SAA workshop helped me to get behind the front desks of archives and see what is done to create and maintain accessible archival collections. In the workshop, short though it was, I learned important fundamentals of archival work—its mission in an organization and the basics of organizing, appraising, preserving and inventorying materials. I learned the vocabulary of archival work, the variety of skills needed, and the many resources that have already led me beyond the outline of the workshop.

Your award of the scholarships to me and **Carl Simmons**, my colleague, is right on target with the goals of the Friends of IHRC. The Cathedral documents not only the history of the Cathedral building that goes back to 1851, when the log cabin Chapel of Saint Paul became the first Cathedral of Saint Paul, it records the work of the thousands of immigrants who built the Cathedral. The archive's lists might have been copied from an Ellis Island manifest—Italians, French, Irish, German, Poles, Czechs, Swedes, Danes, Finns and Norwegians—they are there, immigrants—and American all.

I have come to appreciate how the history of this building has shaped so much of the history of our city, our state—and the region. All this has given me a new sense of confidence, that even as a volunteer, a non-professional archivist, I can make a contribution to an important segment of immigrant history—that history that records the building and embellishment of houses of worship. I thank you again for your share in that contribution. Want a tour of the Cathedral of Saint Paul? Contact me and we can arrange a day and time (raspanti1@comcast.net; 651-207-4871).

Celeste R. Raspanti



Celeste Raspanti

Who are the Friends?

In 1977, members of the immigrant groups documented at the IHRC decided to formally acknowledge the value of the Center and to define the role that ethnic communities can play in supporting its mission. They organized the Friends, which soon afterward became an independent, non-profit charitable group [under 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code], to be a bridge between the scholarly activity of the IHRC and the ethnic communities whose heritage it documents and promotes.

Since that time the organization members and board of directors have met regularly and supported the IHRC by advertising and promoting its resources and services, fundraising, lobbying, encouraging the donation of materials for the collections, and sponsoring educational and cultural programs to stimulate public support and understanding. These activities also foster the coordination and cooperation of ethnic organizations and individuals among themselves.

Why join the Friends?

As a Friend you are invited to the IHRC's conferences and seminars as well as the activities of the Friends organization.

News of IHRC and Friends projects and activities is available at the Web site, <www.ihrc.umn.edu>, through e-mailed and mailed notices, and in the twice-a-year IHRC newsletter mailed to supporters (and also available online).

By supporting the IHRC through the Friends, you help preserve and promote this country's ethnic heritage. Everyone benefits from the enrichment of U.S. culture that this provides.

Memberships and donations to the Friends of IHRC are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The Friends are a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charity.

I (we) want to join the Friends of the IHRC _____new _____renew for 2012 calendar year

Enclosed is my (our) check payable to **Friends of IHRC** for \$_____ (see categories/rates below)

Additional donation for the Friends' work in support of the IHRC \$_____

Name(s)_____

Ethnic group interest_____ E-mail_____

Address_____

_____ Phone ()_____

City/State/Zip_____

Categories of membership in Friends of IHRC:

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|----------------|---------|---|-------|
| ___ Individual | \$15 | ___ Supporter | \$50 | ___ Organization, fewer than 50 members | \$25 |
| ___ Family | \$25 | ___ Sponsor | \$100 | ___ Org., 50-499 members | \$50 |
| ___ Sr. citizen (62+) | \$10 | ___ Patron | \$500 | ___ Org., 500 or more members | \$200 |
| ___ F-Time student | \$10 | ___ Benefactor | \$1,000 | | |

MAIL WITH YOUR CHECK (payable to Friends of IHRC) TO:

Friends of IHRC, Univ. of MN, 311 Andersen Library, 222-21st Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55455
Attention: Treasurer

NOTE: Your membership is for a calendar year. It is separate from any donation to the IHRC.