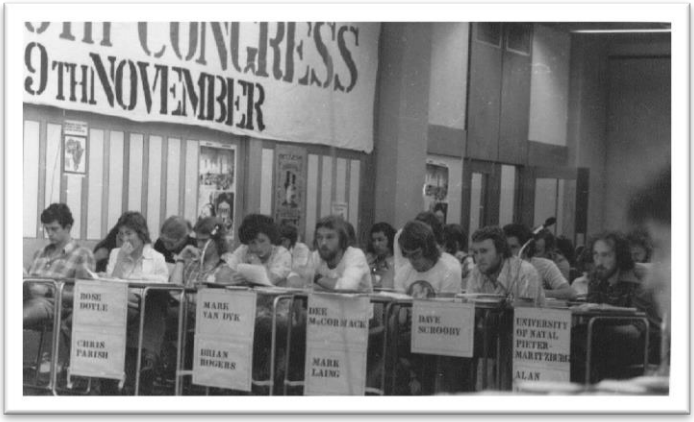
The Gerald Kraak Collection - Part 1 (1956-1979)

This month (October) marks a year since the sad passing of philanthropist, activist, poet, writer and humanitarian Gerald Kraak (1956-2014).

Kraak left a substantial personal collection to GALA in his will – reinforcing his commitment to the importance of archives and preserving history in his lifetime. The collection was handed over to GALA by the executor of Kraak's estate in July this year, and although the collection is still busy being processed, the parts covering his school and university years have been catalogued, and we wish to share some of the wonderful items that have come to light thus far.

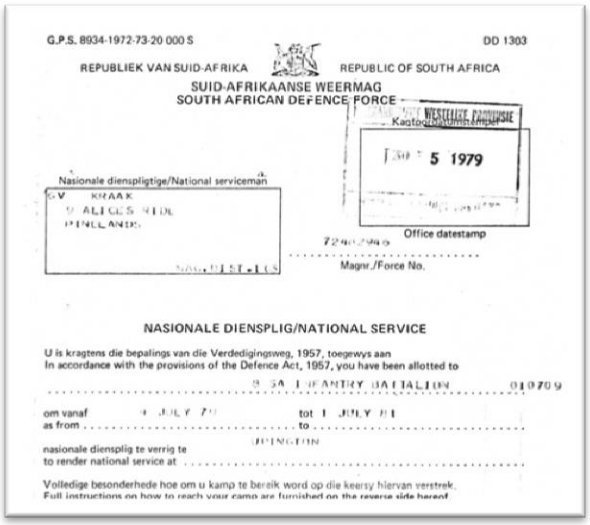
Kraak's social consciousness and political involvement began in high school, where as a student at Westerford in Cape Town he was a member of National Youth Action, a non-racial high school students' organisation. The records from his school years include early attempts at poetry as well as his report cards – which show how he excelled in the subjects that interested him – English and History (which he went on to study at university)– and his struggle with science and maths (which he failed!). In addition, a scrapbook of photographs documents his years at Westerford and the friends he made there.

After high school, Kraak went on to study at the University of Cape Town (UCT) (1975-1977) where his involvement in anti-apartheid, leftist politics and student activism intensified – an era of his life that later inspired Kraak's novel *Ice in the Lungs*.



This part of his collection is an enormously important record of student activism at white, English universities in South Africa at the time, containing documents and records from organisations like the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS), the UCT Students' Representative Council (SRC) and Students for Social Democracy (SSD) all of which Kraak was actively involved in. Some of the issues documented include: battles of student press freedom; forced removals by the Apartheid government (with a particular emphasis on Crossroads in Cape Town); Zionism on campus; bannings and detentions of student and academic activists; fights within the SRC between the largely left-leaning students in the council, and the Conservative Students' Alliance.

Student activism during this time was well documented and preserved by Kraak, assisted by his role as NUSAS media officer (1978/9). He kept scrapbooks with photographs and news cuttings, as well as an extensive collection of paper documents, which include flyers and posters for meetings and events, student newspapers, newsletters and SRC electioneering (many candidates went on to become highly influential in South Africa's political development). Also included are a large number of publications and reports from NUSAS, where Kraak went on to work as media officer for a year after graduating, before he left for the Netherlands in 1979 to live in political exile. Friends and fellow activists that appear in the collection include Stephen Bowey, Graeme Bloch, Julian Stern, Sue Gifford, Auret van Heerden and Nikki Roussow.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REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SUID-AFRIKAANSE WEERMAG
SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENCE FORCE

Nasionale diensplig/National serviceman

Office datestamp

Magnr./Force No.

NASIONALE DIENSPLIG/NATIONAL SERVICE

U is kragtens die bepalings van die Verdedigingsweg, 1957, toegewys aan
In accordance with the provisions of the Defence Act, 1957, you have been allotted to

om vanaf ... tot ...
as from ... to ...

nasionale diensplig te verrig te
to render national service at

Volledige besonderhede hoe om u kamp te bereik word op die keersy hiervan verstrek.
Full instructions on how to reach your camp are furnished on the reverse side hereof.

Also included in this early part of Kraak's life are records relating to his military call up, which he refused as a conscientious objector, one of the reasons that ultimately led to Kraak leaving South Africa for the Netherlands (his father was Dutch-born) where he started his life in political exile in 1979.

The next part of Kraak's collection covers his exile years – look out for part II in the series with high-lights from this time period in the coming months.

Argus: 14 August 1975

R30 BAIL FOR 75 UCT STUDENTS

SEVENTY-FIVE University of Cape Town students appeared in the Magistrate's Court, Wynberg, yesterday on charges of a prohi Riot

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Pinelands; Bruce Smith, 27, of Rosebank.

Anthony Henry Black, 20, of Newlands; Charles

tor, 22, of Woodstock; Stanley van Emden, 20, of Cape Town; Neil Alperstein, 21, of Newlands; Ti-

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ol, 20, of Ron- itherine Rodell, o n d e b o s c h ; Harpham,

Muizenberg; a seventeen-year-old girl from Rosebank; Michel Wiggishoff, 19, of Plumstead; Maureen

Justine Quince, 20, of Mowbray; Philippa Green, 18, of R o n d e b o s c h ;

UCT MARCH

SOLIDARITY WITH SUFFERING

CA 24239

G.P.-S. G 352

VERHOORAFWAGTENDE
AWAITING TRIAL

No. 1093/76

Naam Name Gerald Kraak

Aanklag Charge Openbare Oproerigheid

Datum opgeneem Date admitted 5/8/76

Datum na Hoër Hof verwys
Date committed for trial

NOMINATED BY:

JONNY SANDLER : SRC member 1977/78
RORY GOGARTY : president - Law Students Council
LAURA LEVETAN : SRC exec member 1977/78 and fellow candidate
ROY MAARTENS : Science Students Council 1977
JULIAN STERN : Arts Students Council 1977/78; SSD
ANDREW THOMPSON: SRC member 1977/78 and fellow candidate
NOLAN WENGROVE : Medic
ANDRE KRAAK : Arts Students Council 1977/78 SSD
DERMOT GOGARTY : Cathsoc
NEIL DURBACH : Famous Archi. student and originator PFA silly posters
BARRY SMIT : Drtekoppen Res.
PIPPA GREEN : Comm. Comm. 1977
JEREMY DYSSELL : Medic, 'Pulse' editorial board
JENNY LEWIS : NICRO worker
LAWRENCE SIVE : Member of 'The Sive Brothers'
LISA THORNE : SSD
JACQUI SINCLAIR: Michaelis student
ROBIN FRIEDLANER: Medic
DAVE ABRAMSON : Medic

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BOWE

"we will not move"

struggle for crossroads

SUZMAN
AND OTHERS
SPEAK ON
STATE
SECURITY
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SSO
NEWSLETTER

Mozambique-3 years of
Foreign aid in Africa
Labour dispute
On Feminism
NAFCOC
Crossroads
On Radicalism
Letters and newsbrief

DEATH

11 SEPTEMBER
1973

MASS
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helen joseph

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27

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Issue No 6
July 1978
FREE

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WHERE BLACK IS THE COLOR,
WHERE NONE IS THE NUMBER

JUNE 16

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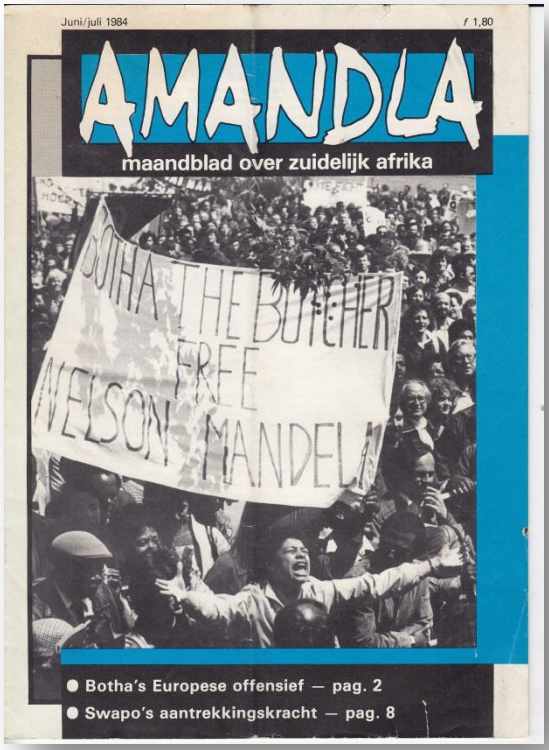
The Gerald Kraak Collection – Part II: The Exile Years (1979-1992)

The Netherlands 1979-1985

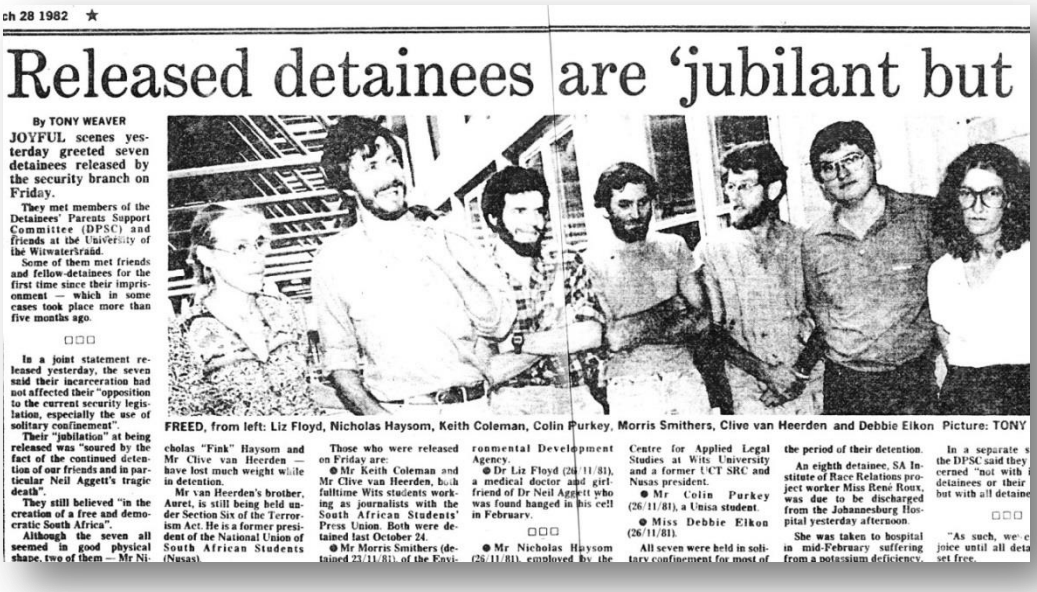
In 'Part II' of the Gerald Kraak Collection we pick up in 1979 when Kraak left South Africa for the Netherlands. Kraak left South Africa to go into political exile, evading his military call-up. Through his Dutch-born father, Kraak was able to obtain Dutch residency and later citizenship.

The first page of Kraak's first (of two) Netherlands scrapbooks begins with his air ticket from Johannesburg to Luxembourg on 13 June 1979. The scrapbooks for this time-period include photographs of friends and colleagues (including other South Africans who had joined him in exile), travel around the Netherlands and further afield (most notably the USSR and Zimbabwe), as well as newspaper clippings, photographs and ephemera relating to protest action in and around the Netherlands, including ant-apartheid demonstrations.

During his five years in Amsterdam, Kraak maintained his commitment to the anti-Apartheid struggle and forged new networks and bonds with other organisations and individuals sharing this cause. This is most evident in the archival collection of Dutch publications that Kraak kept during this period, such as *Amandla!,* a monthly anti-Apartheid magazine published by Boycot Outspan, Aktie, and *Zuidelijk Afrika Nieus* produced every 2 months by the AABN (Anti-Apartheids Beweging Nederland – Anti-Apartheid Movement Netherlands).



Kraak also kept stories from the English press covering political detentions and bannings of his former NUSAS associates back in South Africa. Also largely from the English press, Kraak had a feel for important international events and moments, keeping historic editions of *Time* and *Newsweek*.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Released detainees are 'jubilant but

By TONY WEAVER

JOYFUL scenes yesterday greeted seven detainees released by the security branch on Friday.

They met members of the Detainees' Parents Support Committee (DPSC) and friends at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Some of them met friends and fellow-detainees for the first time since their imprisonment — which in some cases took place more than five months ago.

□□□

In a joint statement released yesterday, the seven said their incarceration had not affected their "opposition to the current security legislation, especially the use of solitary confinement".

Their "jubilation" at being released was "soured by the fact of the continued detention of our friends and in particular Neil Aggett's tragic death".

They still believed "in the creation of a free and democratic South Africa".

Although the seven all seemed in good physical shape, two of them — Mr Nicholas "Fink" Haysom and Mr Clive van Heerden — have lost much weight while in detention.

Mr van Heerden's brother, Auret, is still being held under Section Six of the Terrorism Act. He is a former president of the National Union of South African Students (Nusas).

Those who were released on Friday are:

● Mr Keith Coleman and Mr Clive van Heerden, both fulltime Wits students working as journalists with the South African Students' Press Union. Both were detained last October 24.

● Mr Morris Smithers (detained 23/11/81), of the Environmental Development Agency.

● Dr Liz Floyd (26/11/81), a medical doctor and girlfriend of Dr Neil Aggett who was found hanged in his cell in February.

□□□

● Mr Nicholas Haysom (26/11/81), employed by the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at Wits University and a former UCT SRC and Nusas president.

● Mr Colin Purkey (26/11/81), a Unisa student.

● Miss Debbie Elkon (26/11/81).

All seven were held in solitary confinement for most of the period of their detention.

An eighth detainee, SA Institute of Race Relations project worker Miss René Roux, was due to be discharged from the Johannesburg Hospital yesterday afternoon.

She was taken to hospital in mid-February suffering from a potassium deficiency.

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"As such, we e
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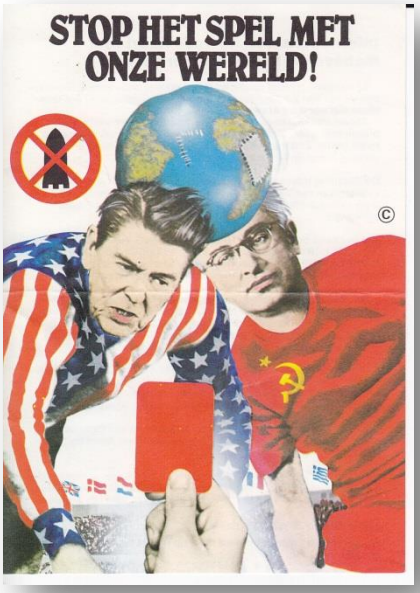
FREED, from left: Liz Floyd, Nicholas Haysom, Keith Coleman, Colin Purkey, Morris Smithers, Clive van Heerden and Debbie Elkon Picture: TONY

At the same time, Kraak became increasingly engaged with local Dutch protest and resistance, reflected in the Dutch newspaper clippings he kept, covering topics such as the Communist Party of the Netherlands (CPN), anti-nuclear war protests, and a large amount of articles relating to the 1980 Amsterdam rent riots.



Straatgevechten in heel Amsterdam

Haarlems Dagblad 8/3/80

☆ Tanks en pantserwagens van politie en marechaussee hebben vanochtend de barricaden rond de Vondelstraat in Amsterdam Oud-West geslecht.

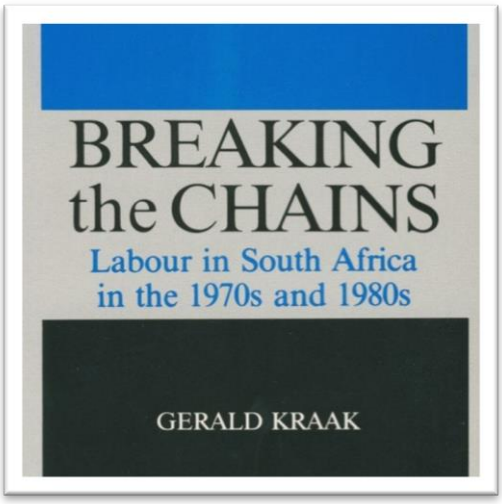
With the onset of HIV/AIDS during this time (early 1980s), Kraak also kept articles published by academics, NGOs and government health sectors, as well as mainstream and LGBTI press. Most of this material was produced in America.

The United Kingdom 1985-1992

Kraak left the Netherlands in January 1985 to take up the post of Research Officer at the International Defence & Aid Fund in London. He remained with them until 1989 when he left to work for Interfund.

This part of Kraak's collection continues with his preservation of media, with a large collection of newspapers and magazines following the collapse of world events, with a distinct focus on the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe, as well as substantial clippings on South Africa politics, the 1986 bus boycotts and street committees in particular.

It was also during his years in London that Kraak completed his Masters' thesis 'Restructuring skills: Capital's Initiatives in the Black Education and Industrial Training Arenas since 1976". (1988 - University of Cape Town, Sociology) and the collection contains research material used for his thesis and subsequent book - *Breaking the Chains: Labour in South Africa in the 1970s and 1980s* (Pluto Press, 1993).



On a more personal level, this part of the collection reflects Kraak's love of opera, with posters, programs and tickets he kept from the London Opera and travel. There are two boxes pf photographs (though sadly no scrapbook) for his London years, with subject matters including friends, protests and travel (e.g. Portugal).

The Gerald Kraak Collection – Part III: Return to South Africa (1993-2014)

Gerald Kraak returned to South Africa in 1993, part of a large wave of political exiles returning to South Africa in the run-up to the first democratic elections of 1994. Kraak settled in Yeoville, and continued to work for Interfund, who had set up an office in Johannesburg.

This part of the collection covers the 1994 elections and includes documents from Kraak's work as an election agent in the (then) Northern Transvaal and some of the challenges faced, his personal reflections about this momentous time, press cuttings and memorabilia (such as a t-shirt, ballot papers and his ANC membership card).

The collection also includes documents are from Kraak's time with Interfund and mostly relate to his funding efforts (through Interfund) for the National Coalition of Gay & Lesbian Equality (NCGLE).

EQUALITY

ISSUE 2, JULY - SEPTEMBER 1996

Catholic Bishop speaks out on Gay Marriages (page 4)

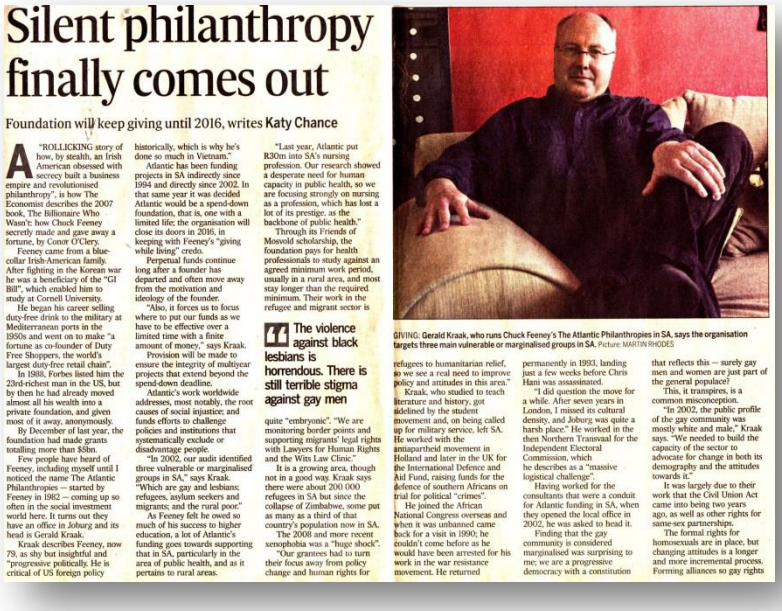
Legal gains are not easy victories (page 12)

POLMED Victory:

Holding hands? Finally OUR relationships can be recognised!

Kraak at an NCGLE event in 1996 (from the NCGLE collection)

In 2002, Kraak joined the newly established South African branch of Atlantic Philanthropies (AP) as Programme Executive for its Reconciliation and Human Rights Programme. His work with AP had a dramatic impact on the funding landscape for LGBTI organisations in South Africa. Other issues that Gerald supported through AP included the establishment of the Constitutional Court, higher education, and health.



Silent philanthropy finally comes out

Foundation will keep giving until 2016, writes **Katy Chance**

A "ROLLICKING story of how, by stealth, an Irish American obsessed with secrecy built a business empire and revolutionised philanthropy", is how The Economist describes the 2007 book, The Billionaire Who Wasn't: how Chuck Feeney secretly made and gave away a fortune, by Conor O'Clery.

Feeney came from a blue-collar Irish-American family. After fighting in the Korean war he was a beneficiary of the "GI Bill", which enabled him to study at Cornell University.

He began his career selling duty-free drink to the military at Mediterranean ports in the 1950s and went on to make "a fortune as co-founder of Duty Free Shoppers, the world's largest duty-free retail chain".

In 1988, Forbes listed him the 23rd-richest man in the US, but by then he had already moved almost all his wealth into a private foundation, and given most of it away, anonymously.

By December of last year, the foundation had made grants totalling more than $5bn.

Few people have heard of Feeney, including myself until I noticed the name The Atlantic Philanthropies — started by Feeney in 1982 — coming up so often in the social investment world here. It turns out they have an office in Joburg and its head is Gerald Kraak.

Kraak describes Feeney, now 79, as shy but insightful and "progressive politically. He is critical of US foreign policy historically, which is why he's done so much in Vietnam."

Atlantic has been funding projects in SA indirectly since 1994 and directly since 2002. In that same year it was decided Atlantic would be a spend-down foundation, that is, one with a limited life; the organisation will close its doors in 2016, in keeping with Feeney's "giving while living" credo.

Perpetual funds continue long after a founder has departed and often move away from the motivation and ideology of the founder.

"Also, it forces us to focus where to put our funds as we have to be effective over a limited time with a finite amount of money," says Kraak.

Provision will be made to ensure the integrity of multiyear projects that extend beyond the spend-down deadline.

Atlantic's work worldwide addresses, most notably, the root causes of social injustice; and funds efforts to challenge policies and institutions that systematically exclude or disadvantage people.

"In 2002, our audit identified three vulnerable or marginalised groups in SA," says Kraak. "Which are gay and lesbians; refugees, asylum seekers and migrants; and the rural poor."

As Feeney felt he owed so much of his success to higher education, a lot of Atlantic's funding goes towards supporting that in SA, particularly in the area of public health, and as it pertains to rural areas.

"Last year, Atlantic put R30m into SA's nursing profession. Our research showed a desperate need for human capacity in public health, so we are focusing strongly on nursing as a profession, which has lost a lot of its prestige, as the backbone of public health."

Through its Friends of Mosvold scholarship, the foundation pays for health professionals to study against an agreed minimum work period, usually in a rural area, and most stay longer than the required minimum. Their work in the refugee and migrant sector is

"The violence against black lesbians is horrendous. There is still terrible stigma against gay men

quite "embryonic". "We are monitoring border points and supporting migrants' legal rights with Lawyers for Human Rights and the Wits Law Clinic."

It is a growing area, though not in a good way. Kraak says there were about 200 000 refugees in SA but since the collapse of Zimbabwe, some put as many as a third of that country's population now in SA.

The 2008 and more recent xenophobia was a "huge shock".

"Our grantees had to turn their focus away from policy change and human rights for refugees to humanitarian relief, so we see a real need to improve policy and attitudes in this area."

Kraak, who studied to teach literature and history, got sidelined by the student movement and, on being called up for military service, left SA. He worked with the antiapartheid movement in Holland and later in the UK for the International Defence and Aid Fund, raising funds for the defence of southern Africans on trial for political "crimes".

He joined the African National Congress overseas and when it was unbanned came back for a visit in 1990; he couldn't come before as he would have been arrested for his work in the war resistance movement. He returned permanently in 1993, landing just a few weeks before Chris Hani was assassinated.

"I did question the move for a while. After seven years in London, I missed its cultural density, and Joburg was quite a harsh place." He worked in the then Northern Transvaal for the Independent Electoral Commission, which he describes as a "massive logistical challenge".

Having worked for the consultants that were a conduit for Atlantic funding in SA, when they opened the local office in 2002, he was asked to head it.

Finding that the gay community is considered marginalised was surprising to me; we are a progressive democracy with a constitution that reflects this — surely gay men and women are just part of the general populace?

This, it transpires, is a common misconception.

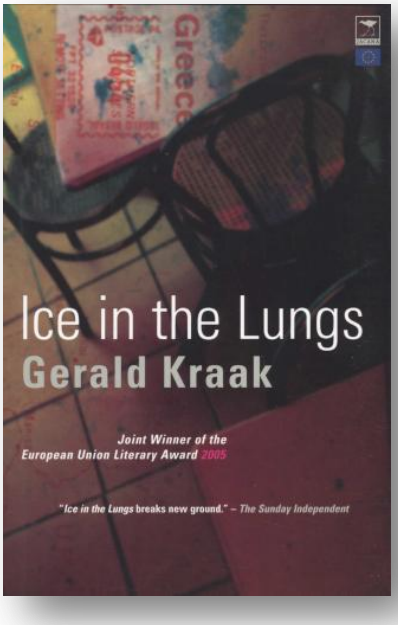
"In 2002, the public profile of the gay community was mostly white and male," Kraak says. "We needed to build the capacity of the sector to advocate for change in both its demography and the attitudes towards it."

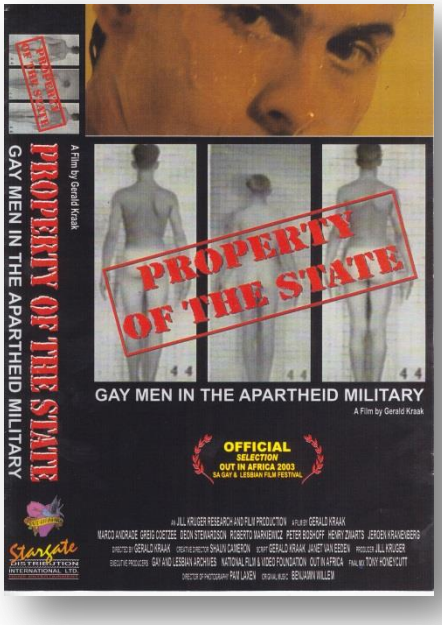
It was largely due to their work that the Civil Union Act came into being two years ago, as well as other rights for same-sex partnerships.

The formal rights for homosexuals are in place, but changing attitudes is a longer and more incremental process. Forming alliances so gay rights

GIVING: Gerald Kraak, who runs Chuck Feeney's The Atlantic Philanthropies in SA, says the organisation targets three main vulnerable or marginalised groups in SA. Picture: MARTIN RHODES

Aside from his professional activities during this time, Kraak also wrote an award-winning novel, *Ice in the Lungs* (2005), based largely on his own experiences while at UCT, and produced the documentary film *Property of the state: gay men in the apartheid military* (2003). These are reflected in his archival collection through drafts and notes, and for *Property of the State* in particular, a significant amount of background research.





On a more personal level, Kraak was actively involved in LGBTI activism as well as the fight for free antiretrovirals in South Africa. He also had a great passion for the arts – in particular theatre and opera – and this is reflected in the posters, programs and tickets he kept from, amongst others, productions at the Market Theatre in Johannesburg, the annual National Arts Festival in Grahamstown (Kraak attended even in 2014, when he was already very sick) as well as the Out in Africa Film Festival, on whose Board he served. Kraak also served on the body corporate of his two Johannesburg apartment buildings, Gerald's Court in Yeoville, and Gleneagles in Killarney, and kept documents relating to this.

And, as throughout the other periods of Kraak's life, he continued to keep press cuttings and magazines of important local and international political events, with a specific focus on the death of Nelson Mandela in 2013.

The final part of the collection deals with Kraak's memorial, and was added by friends as well as the GALA archivist after Kraak's death. It includes photographs as well as printouts from the Gerald Kraak Memorial Website.

*Note: GALA is processing Kraak's personal correspondence and putting appropriate privacy measures in places, and material from Kraak's second novel (currently being edited) is still forthcoming.

Written by Linda Chernis, GALA archivist, 12 November 2015.

To access the collection's inventory (AM 2669), please contact the GALA archivist, Linda Chernis: linda.chernis@wits.ac.za or +27 1 1717 1797. Please note that GALA collections are stored off-site and so viewing appointments must be made three working days in advance. More information on GALA and its archival collection can be found on the website: www.gala.co.za