#s109
I Second That Emotion: Working with Emotionally Challenging Collections

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Session chair Stephanie Bennett
Community Healing and the Archiving of a Tragedy

Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords’ Congress on Your Corner Shooting

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Context & Background

- January 8, 2011
- Public Outpouring
- Spontaneous Memorials
- Media Coverage
Archival Response

Acquisition Now
Appraisal Later

Preservation Triage
Preliminary Organization
Team Effort:
Physical work & Emotional support
Archival Questions Raised

• Who owns the material?
• What is the research/intrinsic/historical/etc. value?
• When or should(!!) the materials be donated to a repository?
  If so then...
• Where should they be donated?
• Why/should all the materials be kept?
• Who should make these decisions?
• What are the best practices?
Emotional Questions

• What role should I play?

• How much “advice” should I give?

• Did I do right by the community I served?
Thank You!