

A Message from the President

“Go Talk to Them!”

As incoming President of SOHA for 2015-17, it gives me great pleasure to introduce myself to you. I want to share a bit about myself and outline some of the exciting plans we are putting in place for next year.

Although I have always loved a good story, I stumbled into doing oral history relatively late in life. I finished my undergraduate degree and began a graduate program in history at age 45 after two decades of work as an organizer with the American Civil Liberties Union in San Francisco. I moved east to attend the City University of New York determined to write



Marcie Gallo

about lesbian history. There I met Martin Duberman, an accomplished scholar, activist, and interviewer. As my dissertation advisor, Marty pushed me not only to read about the women I wanted to document but also, more importantly, to “go talk to them!” It was life-changing advice. The dissertation evolved into my first book, *Different Daughters: A*



This past October, I was fortunate enough to attend the Oral History Association annual meeting in Tampa, FL. As is often the case at these meetings, I was made aware of the amazing, innovative, and crucial work that oral history practitioners around the country (and the world) are engaged in every single day. As we look to the next annual meeting, our regional organization has the unique opportunity to be front and center at the beginning of the next chapter of oral history.

In 2016, the Oral History Association will celebrate its 50th annual meeting in Long Beach, CA, right in SOHA’s backyard. This same year, we will be celebrating our own 35th anniversary. In order to fully embrace the anniversaries of both groups, the executive board decided to merge our own annual conference with the national association’s conference. This meeting will be held October 12-16, 2016, in Long Beach, California at the Renaissance Hotel. The goal of this meeting is not just to look back at the development of oral history, but also to be a springboard to the evolution of the craft and shape what the field will focus on for years to come.

Mark Your Calendars!

**2016 OHA Annual Conference
Renaissance Hotel
Long Beach CA**

October 12-16 2016

**Co-sponsored by the
Southwest Oral History Association**

History of the Daughters of Bilitis and the Rise of the Lesbian Rights Movement (2006). Experiencing the largely self-taught process of working with narrators – which entailed preparation, interviews, transcriptions, and revision, revision, and more revision -- I learned a great deal about listening as well as reading and writing. It was in “talking to them” that I gained information, insights, and awareness. I also confronted my own preconceived

(continued on page 2)

(S)OHA 2016: LOOKING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD

Carlos Lopez – First Vice President, SOHA

The Oral History Association 2016 Programming Committee has completely embraced the idea of SOHA being partners in this endeavor. It will be extremely crucial for our members to spread the news of our joint meeting in October 2016. We want SOHA members to be out in full force for this meeting. More importantly, we ask that our membership submit strong proposals, both individual and full panel, by the January 31, 2016 deadline. The programming committee also noted that the organization wants to open up the chairing/commentating of panels to younger members and/or students. If you are interested in chairing a panel, please contact your state delegate or the student representative.

After the conference in Tampa, there was a lot of excitement about the upcoming conference. The positive vibes from this conference should carry through the entire year. Overall the partnership with SOHA for the Long Beach conference has been very positively received. The SOHA leadership feels that our organization is one of, if not *the* strongest regional organizations in the country. OHA 2016 will be our moment to shine and to be a part of history.

President's Message continued from page 1

notions.

These lessons have been reinforced over the last decade. I returned to the west in 2008 to join the faculty at UNLV. There I found a vibrant and engaged Oral History Research Center, directed by Claytee White, as well as History Department colleagues such as Joanne Goodwin. They inspired me with their excellent work in oral history. Further, participating in regional conferences organized by the Southwest Oral History Association, and agreeing to take on a leadership role in the last three years, only deepened my commitment. I also have benefitted greatly from membership in the national Oral History Association (OHA), an involvement that will grow in the immediate future for myself, for SOHA, and hopefully for many of you.

It is an exciting time for us. Building on the great work done by SOHA's past leaders, especially immediate past president Caryll Batt Dzedziak, we now have a strong board and institutional support. Below are some goals the board and I have set for SOHA in 2015-16.

Sponsorship of OHA 50th Anniversary Conference

OHA president Paul Ortiz electrified our 2015 SOHA conference in Del Mar, California this past March with his thoughtful, passionate Keynote Address. He followed in the footsteps of a number of OHA presidents who have enriched our regional conferences by bringing a national perspective to our gatherings. During Paul's time with us in Del Mar, we discussed some of the ways in which SOHA can now enrich the OHA 50th anniversary conference being planned for next year in Long Beach, California.

We followed up that initial conversation in October 2015 when a small group of SOHA board members and organizational leaders attended the OHA conference in Tampa. We met again with Paul and were joined by OHA board member Doug Boyd. What became very clear is that SOHA is crucial to the success of next year's national conference, given its location in our geographic area. In addition, SOHA currently is the largest and most active regional oral history group in the OHA network. We have our own proud 35-year history of organizing, educating, and promoting oral history and we intend to build on the accomplishments of the past to strengthen our local and regional efforts in the future.

Local Event Organizing

To engage our membership and to build excitement for the 50th anniversary OHA conference in October 2016 in Long Beach, we will focus our energies (and our limited budget) in the next seven months on organizing local workshops, how-to sessions, receptions, and mini-conferences in southern California, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico rather than mount a SOHA annual conference in spring 2016. Under the direction of our state delegates, we welcome collaborations with oral history practitioners, programs, and projects, be they well established or in the beginning stages, in all of these areas and have a small amount of funding to support them. But we need your involvement! Please contact Jennifer Keil in California,

Claytee White in Nevada, or Duffie Westheimer in Arizona at soha@unlv.edu to share your ideas and to volunteer to help plan local events. We also ask for volunteers in New Mexico. We are counting on you to join us in creating innovative local programs during winter and spring 2016.

Building SOHA Membership

We also have set a goal of increasing SOHA's current membership by 20 percent, from approximately 150 individuals and groups, in the next year. If you have not yet responded to our membership appeal emails, which were sent out mid-October, please do so today!

If each one of us "talks to them" – recruits two new SOHA members for 2016 – we can easily increase our membership. And if we also commit to actively participating in at least one local event as well as the 50th Anniversary OHA Conference in Long Beach, we will contribute greatly to seeing our individual and collective oral history efforts strengthen and expand locally, regionally, and nationally.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2015 DONORS

We are grateful for the individual donations we've received from members and community supporters.

We are especially grateful for the continued support of the Ak-Chin Indian Community and the HL Boyer Charitable Foundation.

Your contributions make our oral history outreach possible!

SOHA's office:

UNLV

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Box 455020
4505 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-5020
Email: soha@unlv.edu
Office: 702-895- 5011
SOHA's Graduate Assistant:
Stefani Evans

REFLECTIONS: OHA 2015 TAMPA

Stories of Social Change and Social Justice

By Juan Coronado, 2nd Vice President, SOHA



The 2015 OHA Conference held in Tampa on October 14-18 was an enjoyable experience. Being that this was my first OHA conference I did not quite know what to expect. Calming my uncertainty was the friendly and relaxed environment—somewhat similar to the SOHA atmosphere. The conference themed “Stories of Social Change and Social Justice” brought oral historians from across the country together in what turned out to be an engaging event. One of the more lively sessions was the plenary on Oral History in Spaces at the Boundary: Narratives of Social Change. The three presenters at that session were incredible: Jim Hubbard showcased his work on AIDS activism, Yolanda Leyva featured her work on El Paso’s Segundo Barrio and their struggles, and Kim Diehl presented her work on labor struggles. It was a well attended session and the presenters did an amazing job in bringing the stories to life. I was particularly impressed by Yolanda Leyva’s work. Through oral histories, Leyva and the University of Texas-El Paso are giving a voice to a population long ignored and are fighting a good fight in preserving their community from neo-liberal agendas.

On a side note, wanting to get a feel for Florida I spent an afternoon in Historic Ybor City and talked to a group of Cuban American cigar factory workers. The men and women I talked to immigrated to the U.S. at a high risk with hopes and dreams of being able to provide a better future for themselves and their families. Navigating in uncharted waters and at times dealing with ruthless individuals, these folks were willing to search for and establish a new home and fulfill the American Dream.



Some images of Tampa: beautiful surroundings, hardworking women and men, and great Cuban sandwiches!

Digital History: Creating Accessible Oral History Collections

by Jennifer Keil, SOHA California Delegate



Technology is rapidly evolving in our society and it has influenced the manner in which we share information. As a Millennial entering the oral history profession, I am hard wired to adapt and adopt to new platforms. Yet, we have to ask ourselves, how do we integrate the tapes sitting on the shelves to this new way of accessing information? I attended a riveting workshop at OHA that made me consider the public’s ease-of-access to these collections. Professors Charles Hardy and Jannekan Smucker led a workshop titled, “How to Build a Website to Curate” which is based from their online oral history project on the Great Migration, <http://goinnorth.org/>. They taught a course to undergraduate honor and graduate students that curated a collection into a dynamic online project based on the Omeka website platform. To engage the visitor, each interview included a one-page overview of the oral history with ephemera to inspire people to listen. These professors provided a Google Doc of useful tools, <https://goo.gl/LZT0cw>, to help the audience develop their own e-projects. To index your media, you can use Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS), <http://www.oralhistoryonline.org/>, to further enhance your collection and assist your listeners to find pertinent research topics.

How do we treat new digital records such as social media as a potential source in online archives? The OHA 2015 plenary session titled “Documenting Ferguson: Oral History, Virtual Technologies and the Making of a Movement” provided a framework about how they are using mass media and integrating it into their digital collections. This method validates the grassroots perspectives. By including these often fringe voices, it empowers a community to mobilize and even protest. Visit <http://digital.wustl.edu/ferguson/> to view and add to their growing collection. They, too, use the Omeka platform and use strategic hashtags such as #blacklivesmatter and #changethedebate to gather information. This project caused me to consider current and future digital content and the future of oral history practice. Your organization should consider informed consent with the technological age that would include release forms. To maintain best practice standards in our work, narrators should be notified about the future usage of the collection, especially if we want to make a project fully accessible to the public. We can collaborate with the community to create a unique online-based project that they would feel best represent their voices. It is certainly a challenge, but it will make our narrators’ voices relevant in every era by curating our media with updated technology.

TRACING THE IMPACT OF SOHA SCHOLARSHIPS

An Interview with Dr. Willy Bauer

by Caryll Batt Dzedziak



I recently had the chance to speak with my colleague, Dr. Willy Bauer, at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Willy is of Wialacki and Concow heritage and grew up on the Round Valley Reservation in northern, CA. As an associate professor in UNLV's History Department, Dr.

Bauer offers classes on California Indian, American Indian, and American West history. He is also UNLV's faculty liaison to the Newberry Library's Consortium on American Indian Studies. Not long ago I learned that Dr. Bauer had been a past recipient of SOHA's General Scholarship in 2001. I wanted to find out how the SOHA scholarship impacted his dissertation and how the use of oral history has grounded his research.

This is Caryll Dzedziak with Willy Bauer, Associate Professor of History at UNLV. Willy, I'm assuming that you received the SOHA scholarship when you were in your early stages of dissertation writing.

Yes, it was the first grant application, first that I had applied for when I was applying for grants and fellowships to do dissertation writing. And it was also the first one that I was awarded. So, it was kind of nice! Well, I was a little concerned because the dissertation project and the book project were kind of northern California, not southern California. But I needed to do interviews with former students who were attending the Sherman Indian Institute. So a part of the dissertation and the later book was based on students who were at Sherman and their experiences there. So that was the support that I got.

Your dissertation and later book entitled, "We were All Migrants Here: Community and Memory on California's Round Valley Reservation, 1850-1941" focused on the changing labor patterns on the reservation and the social, political, economic adaptations inhabitants had to embrace during this process.

How and when did you first decide to write about this?

When I applied to graduate school I knew I wanted to write something about my home, about Round Valley. Initially, I thought I'd write something about the Indian Reorganization Act, the Great Depression, the 1930s. But the more I kind of dug into the archival research, the archival work, I noticed these incidents and these descriptions of work and labor kept popping up. And it was one of those things that I hadn't quite expected going into the archive. And so I decided to kind of follow that path and see where it took me and so, it pushed me deeper into time. So the 1930s would have made it a solidly 20th C project. Now, the book

is 19th and 20th C, so I think it added a lot of depth and breadth to it. And one of the reasons I actually applied for the scholarship was I knew from the onset too that I wanted to include oral history, the voices and the text. A lot of the books that had been written about Round Valley never included native speakers, so native people were in a sense absent from a lot of these texts. I wanted to make sure there was a strong native voice throughout and oral history provided that. The interviews not only told me

about their working experiences, but it also helped me frame the argument of the book. The title of the book comes from an interview that I had with my great aunt. So, it was a way to not only let those native voices tell the past but to interpret the past and what it meant to them.

Telling their own history.

Exactly right! I don't think a lot of people think of native peoples as workers. I think people think about Native Americans in the present or in history more as "unemployment"... newspaper stories often mention the high unemployment rates in Indian country. So I wanted to help rectify that issue a little bit. Kind of look at ways in which work and labor can bring together a community – a disparate community of people.

Had you taken a course in the methodology of oral history?

I did not take a course in the methodology of oral history. And no doubt, that would have helped me out a lot! No, I just talked to other people on my dissertation committee who had done oral history interviews and gave me a lot of good insight. And what helped me out a lot was I was able to cut my teeth doing oral history interviews with family members. The first person I interviewed was my grandmother. The second person I interviewed was my great aunt. They helped make the process comfortable and I applied that to interviewing other elders in the community. I had a number of questions that I had laid out, but obviously the beauty of oral interviews is that sometimes the best stuff happens when the speaker starts to recall their own experiences. It's nice to have that script, but being able to go off script, just sit back and listen to what they're saying empowers the person you're interviewing. It's important to understand how people create a collective memory... a usable past for themselves... as well as telling us what happened.

How much did the experience of talking to these elders really change the direction and scope of your dissertation?

I couldn't have written the dissertation and the book without the interviews. The project would have been kind of "top down"



or policy-oriented. For example, I was doing a lot of work at the National Archives branch in San Bernardino, California researching the records from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I would often find mentions of native people leaving the reservation to go to work. And that was all that they would say. There was no texture to the experiences of native peoples I would often find mentions of native people leaving the reservation to go to work. And that was all that they would say. There was no texture to the experiences of native peoples working. So I would often say “I know there are native people working, but what was that experience like?” The archive will have certain voices, certain narratives and it’s important to kind of bounce that with oral history interviews. So then by having interviews and talking to people, I was able to add a depth to the project that was not available in the archive.

You grew up on this reservation. So, in going back, you were again one of the locals. How much did that help the interview process?

Well it helped out a lot! I remember I interviewed one lady who remembered my mother taking my brother and me to Church. I think that was one reason why I was able to interview so many people and people were friendly and welcoming to me. They remembered me, they knew my family. Everyone always dropped in an anecdote, you know, memories about how they remembered me as a kid. And I think that was kind of a way to build that bridge, that connection. This wasn’t two strangers talking to one another but we knew each other a long time. You know, there’s a tradition, a concern in many Indian communities that scholars come in and take from communities and never give back. So I hope I was able to bridge and alleviate some of those concerns.

And I would think that they found it very satisfying, given the generational difference, that they were experiencing how one of the younger inhabitants is appreciating the community that he grew up in.

Yes. One of the things that always popped up in interviews was that they also had a preconceived idea of what I was going to be interested in. And when I started asking them about picking hops when they were kids, they were all kind of surprised! And it was also to a person, when I’d ask that question, “Did you pick hops?” I’d get this statement, “Yeah, that’s what *everyone* did!” And it took a little bit of prodding to get them to reveal more because I don’t think that was what they expected me to ask. They didn’t think that was historically important. But once we began to have that conversation, and they began to tap into those memories of doing that work that helped to bring us both together too. One woman remembered how after work people would go and play gambling games. And as a little girl, she would go to these gambling games with her dad and would fall asleep on his back. And he would play into the night! I don’t think that’s something that would be in books about federal Indian policy. That kind of top-down narrative. That’s only something you get by interviewing. That was one of my favorite stories!

Some of your current work is writing a biography about your great grandfather. Are you still in process of that?

I have an essay that’s going to be in the *Pacific Historical Review*. Before my grandmother passed away, she shared her memories of him with me. And then aunt, my grandmother’s sister, had other stories. Oral history is the foundation of that work. In the National Archives I found a folder about my grandfather with land records. And included in those land records were receipts from a store where he had to buy supplies. My grandmother would read through those receipts and she would remember what was purchased and what some of these items were used for. It was a nice way to bring a textual dimension into the conversation of memory and oral history. So that’s a project that’s going on and then actually, my second book is going to go into production probably later today. It is using oral traditions, oral histories from the 1930s to examine how Californian’s reclaimed history, retold the narrative of Californian history.

What’s the title?

It’s *California through Native Eyes: Reclaiming History*. And so I argue that the Californian Indians used the Great Depression Works Project Administration (WPA) to retell and reinterpret Californian history. They did it to talk about their past but also address present contemporary concerns during the depression about sovereignty and water rights.

Congratulations! Nice timing! And thanks for sitting with me. I appreciate it!

Thanks for asking me.

2015 SOHA Conference

A Community of Oral History Scholars and Activists

by Stan Thayne

As a recipient of the Cooke-Holmes Award, generously provided by SOHA member Mary Gordon, I was privileged to attend the 2015 spring conference at Del Mar. I had a wonderful time at the conference. Everyone I met was warm and welcoming. The panel I participated in--on doing oral history fieldwork in Native communities--was very well received with excellent audience feedback. I was able to make several really great connections with other students in Native American Studies and oral history, as well as with more seasoned scholars who went out of their way to offer both encouragement and advice to a young scholar. The people were friendly and the food was great—a very nice added bonus. And the setting was incredible! I don’t think I’ve ever looked out the window of the room I was presenting in to see surfers and palm trees and such a beautiful beach! I learned a lot from the sessions I attended, on the latest digital technologies in oral history research, on being an insider and an outsider in community research, on scholarly activism, and on making our work artistic and meaningful, rooted in place, family, and community. I really learned a lot in two fully packed days! It was a conference that will stay with me and one that hopefully I can attend again. Thank you to Mary Gordon and to SOHA for making it possible for graduate students like me to attend such a rewarding and enjoyable conference!

THE COOKE-HOLMES SOHA AWARD

(A Little Boy's Story)

by Mary Gordon

A four-year-old child was squirming in a small NPS auditorium at Satwiwa, a majestic site in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA). He was there for the talk, "The Kid who became a Chief." He had earlier caused a stir for a small crowd gathered outside the building. They were trying to figure out how to retrieve the Teddy Bear he had thrown on the roof. Ranger Razsa Cruz promised to get it down the next day.

What does this have to do with SOHA, our oral history association? Oral History and the activity it spurred were involved—typical of Charlie Cooke and Phil Holmes for whom a SOHA Award was named.

The talk was about Charlie Cooke, a revered Indian leader in Southern California with a focus on his rambunctious childhood leading to his accomplishments as an adult. Not only did Charlie help to restore Indian culture in the area including respect for Indians themselves and their sites, but he also worked to foster Native American respect and care for the environment, especially with children. This talk was for children. It was paired with a scavenger hunt to find plants used for food, medicine, and even hair washing. The activity was informed by several oral history interviews. Children would find these plants in the Native Garden designed by the former SMMNRA superintendent, now superintendent of Sequoia National Park, Woody Smeck. Woody consulted with Charlie on much of the ethnobotany.

It was time for the kids to go into the garden. Most were methodical. The Teddy Bear boy first rushed in with his note pad and plant cards looking like he was going to be very scattered in his approach, but no. Now he became focused moving from plant to plant wanting to know about each. He was too little to read the signs or mark his check sheet but not shy about asking for help. He was exactly why Charlie gave untold hours to the Southern California Indian movement and to the national



Bench and typical sign in the plant garden.

and state parks. Charlie as a child learned about native plants and their uses from his Indian family. As an adult he became very much involved with the work of national and state parks especially through his association with NPS anthropologist, Phil Holmes, both learning from each other.

So again, what does SOHA (the Southwest Oral History Association) have to do with any of this?

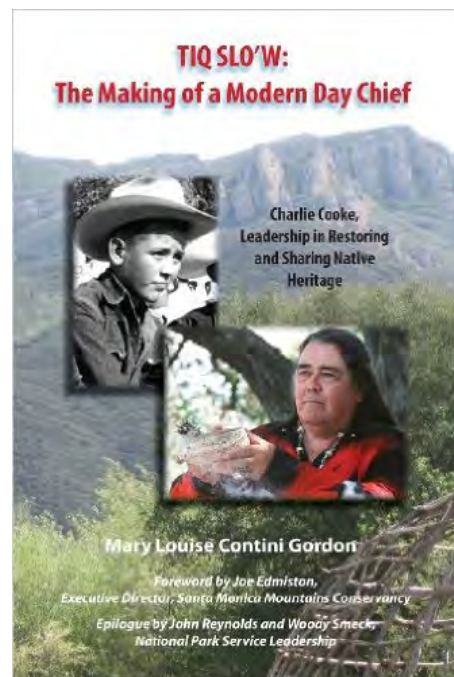
Stan Thayne, a Ph.D. Candidate from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who is conducting oral history interviews as part of his dissertation

research, received the first Cooke-Holmes award at the April 2015 SOHA conference. The award is apropos. Phil Holmes conducted a treasure trove of oral histories in his 30 years at NPS, which he usually referred to as ethnographies. Charlie was the subject of many of these conducted by Phil and others.

The book, *TIQ SLO'W*, his Indian name, covers Charlie's journey from his own childhood to becoming an elder, always with the eye of an eagle (the meaning of TIQ SLO'W) on culture and environment. The author conducted a large number of interviews to write Charlie's biography and the history of SMMNRA and state parks in the area. Phil Holmes was the key consultant throughout the research and writing phases of the story. The book is an example of a rigorous approach to this type of research. It is being used at UCLA in an upper division class.

Charlie and Phil passed away at the end of 2013 within weeks of each other. They left their legacies at places like Satwiwa for the squirmy little boy and so many more like him. By the way the four-year-old visited all twenty of the plants, got someone to read their signs, managed to fill in his check sheet—and got his Teddy Bear back.

Editor's note: The book, *TIQ SLO'W*, by SOHA member Mary Louise Contini Gordon is available on Amazon. Photos of the event are at <https://www.facebook.com/media/>



SOHA BOARD 2015-2017



PRESIDENT
Marcia M. Gallo

PAST PRESIDENT
Caryll Batt Dziedziak

1ST VICE PRESIDENT
Carlos Lopez

2ND VICE PRESIDENT
Juan Coronado

TREASURER
Caryll Batt Dziedziak

SECRETARY
Barbara Tabach

HISTORIAN
Joyce Moore

STATE DELEGATES
AZ – Duffie Westheimer
CA – Jennifer Keil
NM – Vacant
NV – Claytee D. White

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
Angela Moor

Arizona News

By Duffie Westheimer



When I was close to putting the finishing punctuation on my Master's Thesis in Applied Cultural Anthropology I said in a phone conversation with my main advisor, "Anthropology doesn't relate to anything..." An intentional pause got the anticipated reaction of a gasp I could feel through the phone. I was pretty sure she had a thought like, "Oh! Don't quit now, you've almost finished the degree!" I smiled to myself and completed my statement, "...it relates to everything!" I think the same of oral history. Stories--personal experiences that illustrate life--are everywhere. Opportunities to make meaningful collections of these stories can be found all around us.

References to "stories" are everywhere these days. The Northern Arizona University theatre season announcement postcard is essentially titled, "Great Stories from Great Storytellers." The season description reads, "At NAU Theater we tell great stories by powerful storytellers.

From classic tales so popular they seem literally timeless,

To plots so woven into the fabric of American they're a part of history,

To stories so poignant, so gripping they question and illuminate long-held notions of our own humanity."

They could be referring to oral histories!

The season's productions might be fiction or real personal stories. Oral histories are being turned into theater productions. Narrated lived experiences are being transformed back into animated life. Oral history stories have been performed at SOHA conferences. If you've not attended one of these productions or associated conference workshops I recommend doing so. Exciting stuff!

Recently I was contacted by the manager of an oral history project that is getting its feet on the ground in Flagstaff. The American Red Cross has a Veterans History Project. Who woulda thunk the Red Cross would be doing oral history! They are looking for people with experiences in "World War I (are there any still able to tell their stories?), World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War, Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts, including U.S. citizen civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts, such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors and medical volunteers." The Red Cross is casting a wide net to capture the lived experiences associated with war in communities across the country. The Red Cross has their own trainer who will come to town to work with their volunteers. As the SOHA state representative I offered to attend that training and address gaps or emphasize important technical matters as well as to

practice with the new oral historians.

The stories collected by the Red Cross volunteers will be archived at the Library of Congress (LC). They will be added to the ongoing collection and made available on the LC website. www.loc.gov/vets Each narrator will receive a copy of the audio or video, whichever is recorded. The project is also accepting donated artifacts for the Library of Congress collection. Perhaps there are SOHA members are working on this project in their communities.

Who knows, these Red Cross volunteers new to oral history may realize how exciting and rewarding it is to collect stories and having learned the oral history techniques they will follow up with their own projects. I will provide information about SOHA to the volunteers—maybe we will have new members who present their project stories at a future SOHA conference. Stories are everywhere.

Arizonans, please send me short descriptions of your past and present projects for a future newsletter state report. Your stories can inspire others who may be overlooking exciting, interesting and enlightening oral history projects they could do. How did you find the idea for your project? What got you going on the project? What was/is the project? Please, share your stories!

Living History in California

by Jennifer Keil

“That’s a wrap!” Jennifer and Cindy Keil, Oral History Project Managers, are working on new interviews with longtime residents at Balboa Island Museum & Historical Society. The “Over the Bridge” Oral History project has collected 30 unique stories. These memories preserve the pioneers’ perspectives. The developer, W.S. Collins, started this community by dredging the island in 1906. The interviews span multiple generations of families who recall visiting the area via the Red Car system, which was a railed trolley system that connected Los Angeles to Newport Beach, and spending endless summers on the beaches. They danced the night away to Big Band music in the Pavilion where The Balboa Swing was created. These individuals savored every moment here at some of the most beloved establishments such as the Jolly Roger getting tacos at the stand, driving down Marine Ave. with the sea breeze flowing through their hair, spotting Hollywood celebrities on boats and frequenting the family owned restaurants.

It’s a charming town that made Barry Meguiar return here and make it his permanent home. Barry learned life lessons from his grandfather who lived in a beach cottage. Barry’s grandfather purchased the lot in 1942, during the tumultuous WWII years when the island was occupied by the US Coast Guard to defend the Pacific. Meguiar later inherited the family’s business which began in 1901 with a polish originally used on carriages that is now used on automobiles. Barry fondly recalled his black ‘57 Chevy, hardtop that he still has today. He shared, “When I drive on the island, I think I’m 16 years old all over again. I have that same feeling. I make sure that the windows are down. I want to hear the sounds of Balboa Island...It just melts me. There’s something magical about this place.” He recalled early memories such as hearing the boats going out and catching his first fish at the public pier. These timeless traditions define the community and span multiple generations.

We love gathering stories and look forward to capturing more on film. During these interviews, we request artifacts to include in the museum’s catalog, PastPerfect. We invite you to search our online archive at balboaislandmuseum.org/archive to view our current collection. Visitors are able to listen to the stories we’ve recorded at our Media Center. We will be hosting a workshop in order to train the community in the art of storytelling in spring 2016 with the Southwest Oral History Association. Please let us know if you’d like to become involved with our project.

Vietnamese Focus: Generation of Stories

The Old Orange County Courthouse in Santa Ana is currently exhibiting Vietnamese Focus: Generation of Stories. This multimedia gallery features narratives from the University of California Irvine Vietnamese American Oral History Project, which is digitally accessible. Keil received a personal tour from the Associate Director, Tram Le, and Visual Art Designer, Trinh Mai, who provided insight to the development and installation of this exhibit. It features three components-- overall history of the

community, oral histories, and art installations. Their passion for the Vietnamese community and capturing their authentic voice was extremely evident.

The interviews are transcribed, translated, and digitized to offer ease of accessibility. Oral history methods also included interview field notes, photographs, and artifacts from the narrator. Some of the glass cases include the very suitcase that the immigrant used to journey to America. The art installations by Tram Le were created by reflecting and integrating archival materials. One piece was even collaborative, the “I am OC” display shown in the photo, includes photos submitted to the project about Vietnamese culture. I was moved by the location selected to showcase this history-- the courthouse where marriage licenses and passports are currently issued. Because of these new beginnings, laughter and crying often mix on the 1st floor which are the ambient sounds of this building. It is a constant reminder that, we too, are living history.

New Oral History Resources:

Curating Oral Histories (2nd ed. out fall 2015), by Nancy MacKay

Practicing Oral History with Immigrant Narrators, by Carol McKirdy

Practicing Oral History in Historical Organizations, by Barbara Sommer

http://www.lcoastpress.com/books_series.php?id=27

Oral History Films:

Berkeley Historical Society’s Free Speech Movement films will be available on YouTube. One of these films were featured at the 2015 SOHA conference in Del Mar, California.

Southern Foodways Alliance: This project includes an array of oral histories and films that cover food culture primarily in the South, but include Texas and Southwest cuisine.

<https://www.southernfoodways.org/film/>

Oral History Events in California:

California Museum Exhibit (1020 O St, Sacramento CA 95814): WE ARE ALL CALIFORNIANS: STORIES OF MODERN IMMIGRATION

An all new exhibit, “We Are All Californians: Stories of Modern Immigration” examines the journeys of immigrants to the Golden State in the 21st century. Oral History highlight clips: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4t-snVt8hY&index=4&list=PLNL8cU66DdUBLSSmf8C4_wO7uIK82RLC

February 6, 2016 Oral History Workshop at the Center for Oral and Public History (Cal State University, Fullerton: Pollak Library South 363 Fullerton, CA 92834): These free workshops provide the core tools you’ll need in a project. The center’s directors will give you ample resources.

<http://coph.fullerton.edu/services.aspx#workshops>

Blue Diamonds

By Claytee White



Twelve years ago the Oral History Research Center at UNLV Libraries began. Simultaneously, a local volunteer group formed as well. We walk in locked steps.

I often tell the story of how the Blue Diamond History Group got started. I'll repeat that story again, recount their accomplishments, and remind you and them of their value in this wonderful field of oral history. But the purpose of this piece is to reassure you that you can conduct a project or help a community group perform this valuable work. Just assemble the perfect group.

In 2003, Pat van Betten invited me to Blue Diamond, a community 26 miles outside the city of Las Vegas. Her dream was to collect the history of her village named for the superior quality of the gypsum ore mined there. She gathered a group of locals and I trained them. Now, twelve years later, they have collected about 100 interviews, became a 501©3 organization, received grants to transcribe all their interviews, and have donated them to UNLV Libraries. Along the way, they produced a play of the village's past taken from the oral histories, compiled a cookbook filled with local facts, and staged exhibits at the famed Red Rock Visitor's Center.

Why now, do I retell this story? I am proud of a volunteer group that meets monthly and has done so for 12 years. It is only the heat of our summers that gives



them meeting breaks in July and August. Secondly, I want to motivate all of you to return to the basics, get back to the excitement of learning a new chapter in your area's history. And finally, I write this to honor Pat van Betten who has resigned as president of the Blue Diamond History Committee. After a brief illness, she is resting more, taking long walks with her husband, and just loving life. I am not sure that she won't continue to collect an interview or two; I had to pry the recorder out of her grasp. Seriously, she has been a guiding force, a motivator, and a brilliant historian. She has passed the reins of leadership on to a lovely person, Laurie Lee, who will take the group in a new direction knowing that they can do anything because of their firm foundation. I wish them well as they embark upon the project of interviewing their second generation.

Pat and the entire history group are true blue diamonds of the oral history tradition.

Surveying Student Members

By Angela Moor



As the SOHA Student Representative, my goal is make our organization valuable to all student members. We have put together a survey that was emailed to all student members asking them what they want out of their SOHA membership. We will use the survey responses for planning for future events and programming.

Please use it to offer ideas about how SOHA can help in your development. What would you like to see at future conferences? Would you like to see a more active social media presence or is your Facebook feed already overwhelming? We are also hoping to get a sense of how our student members came to work in oral history and see what kind of oral history education is being offered. If you have not had a chance to fill out the survey, please follow this link. https://unlv.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_esT7VxuVM39o15X

We want to make SOHA welcoming to all students. I am interested in increasing our SOHA student membership and getting our existing members more involved. I would like to create ways for students to engage with one another about their oral history work and exchange ideas. If you have more ideas for SOHA or want to be more involved with student outreach, please send an email to soha@unlv.edu with Student Outreach in the subject line.

SOHA NEWSLETTER

Our newsletter is published three times a year: Spring, Summer & Winter. We welcome submissions regarding regional news, articles by oral historians about oral history, reviews, and other items related to oral history.

Please send submissions to:

soha@unlv.edu

Co-editors: Marcia M. Gallo & Caryl Batt Dzieziak

Our thanks to . . .

Dean Christopher Hudgins,
College of Liberal Arts, UNLV
for underwriting the costs of
production

“Atlanta Loses Its Greatest Listener: Cliff Kuhn, 1952-2015”

SOHA joins the Oral History Association and communities of oral historians internationally in mourning the passing of OHA Executive Director Clifford M. Kuhn on November 8, 2015. Cliff was a renowned expert in Southern, urban, and oral history who spent more than two decades as associate professor at Georgia State University. He is survived by his wife, Kathie Klein, and their two sons.

For more information, please see <https://tropicsofmeta.wordpress.com/2015/11/09/atlanta-loses-its-greatest-listener-cliff-kuhn-1952-2015/>



LOOKING BACK

by Joyce Moore



As we look forward to meeting next year in Long Beach, California and being a part of the Oral History Association's (OHA) Annual Meeting we realize what an exciting opportunity this is for all of us to participate actively in a national meeting on the West Coast. Now, *looking back*, it is amazing to realize that it will be the 30th anniversary of our first collaboration with OHA. In 1986, the national association held their conference on the Queen Mary, moored at Long Beach. As an aside, this year also marked a return “home” to Southern California for OHA, where the First Annual Colloquium on Oral History was held in 1966 at the University of California's Lake Arrowhead Conference Center.

In 1986, the program co-chairs were Art Hansen (California State University, Fullerton) and Dale E. Treleven (University of California, Los Angeles), both active members of SOHA. The Conference was packed with workshops, papers, and media sessions. There were several screenings of films drawing heavily on oral history interviews that featured the West's profound ethnic and cultural diversity. Another emphasis for the conference was on oral history in the classroom. Two workshops were offered for teachers at the intermediate, secondary and college levels. One outcome of the workshops was an oral history assignment to fifth and sixth grade students at Pasadena Alternative School. Many of the students focused on the Vietnam War, looking at parents or other relatives' experiences in combat or the antiwar movement. Another common topic was

immigration to and settling in the United States.

Shirley Stephenson (UC, Fullerton), also a SOHA member, served as chair of the local arrangements committee. She organized the 7,000 square foot space for personal computers, word processors (how many of us remember them), other tools of the up-to-date oral historian's trade, and for publishers and booksellers. Stephenson also set up a newcomer's reception for everyone who had never attended a conference. The reception was well attended and as noted in future newsletters, many considered it a true highlight of the conference. Little did Stephenson know how much her efforts were appreciated until she received the James V. Mink Award at SOHA's fall workshop held in November at the Claremont Graduate School. She became the second recipient of the award, which honors individuals who make meritorious contributions to the field of oral history activity.

I love writing these short looks back at our association because it gives me a chance to rifle through the archives and visit old friends. As I was focused on Long Beach, California in 1986, I pulled out a newsletter and realized that Sylvia Arden was the SOHA president that year. Claytee White and I met her at a SOHA conference in California. She came up to Las Vegas from San Diego in about 1994 and presented our UNLV history class with its first in-depth look at doing oral history. She certainly did something right since we are as excited today as we were then.

2016 MINI-GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Deadline: January 29, 2016

The Southwest Oral History Association will award up to three mini-grants totaling up to \$1500. Funds may be used for interviewing, equipment, transcription, editing, publishing, and other oral history-related expenses.

Students, teachers, independent researchers, historical societies, archives, museums, and nonprofits are encouraged to apply to conduct research on the Southwest. First consideration is given to community-based projects concerning Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, and California, the states within the SOHA region. There is no application form.

PLEASE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING AS A WORD ATTACHMENT VIA EMAIL to soha@unlv.edu. Please put “2016 MINI-GRANT APPLICATION” in the subject line:

- **A Cover Letter:** Submit a one-page cover letter including name, address, telephone number, and email of applicant. If an organization is applying, include the same as above. Include brief background history of applicant.
- **Concise description of Oral History Project:** Include the title of the project, background on development, need for topic, planned number of interviews, expected length and depth, oral historians’ names and oral history experience, archiving plans, possible presentation plans, and project timetable. Maximum of three double-spaced pages.
- **A Budget for the project:** Include amount requested and other sources of funding.
- **One letter of recommendation.**

SOHA will send a return receipt via email to acknowledge receipt of application. Award recipients cannot be considered two years in a row.

IF USING US POSTAL SERVICE, MAIL MINI-GRANT REQUESTS TO:

Southwest Oral History Association
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 S. Maryland Pkwy., Box 455020
Las Vegas, NV 89154-5020
ATTENTION: SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

For questions, please email the SOHA Office:
soha@unlv.edu

Notification of awards will be issued by February 26, 2016.

2016 CALL FOR PAPERS: OHA ANNUAL MEETING

October 12-16, 2016
Long Beach, California
Renaissance Hotel

OHA@50: Traditions, Transitions and Technologies from the Field

The Oral History Association invites proposals for papers and presentations for its 50th anniversary meeting in 2016 to be held October 12-16, 2016 at the Renaissance Hotel in Long Beach, California. The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2016.

The fiftieth anniversary meeting offers at once an opportunity to reflect back on the evolution of this interdisciplinary field, gauge its current trends, and look ahead into the ever shifting oral history landscape of the future. As always, the Program Committee invites proposals on a variety of topics, but in keeping with this year's theme we especially encourage proposals which address key developments in the field, as well as the challenges and possibilities for oral history in the future.

OHA welcomes proposals from independent scholars, archivists, librarians, museum curators, web designers, public historians, educators, media artists, filmmakers, journalists, social justice activists, community organizers, playwrights, performers, storytellers, and all people working in oral history's continuum of practice.

We also hope to have a significant international presence at the meeting. If accepted, international presenters may apply for partial scholarships, made available by OHA in support of international presentations. Small scholarships are also available for accepted presenters and others who attend the meeting.

Background:

In 1966, the First National Colloquium on Oral History took place in Lake Arrowhead, California, leading to the founding of the Oral History Association. Over the past half century the OHA has played a leadership role in the emergence, and evolution of oral history as a distinct methodology and practice. In 2016, we return to Southern California to reflect upon and honor our past, actively engage with the major issues and developments of the present, and imagine the future of oral history as the OHA moves into its second half century.

The past fifty years have seen enormous transformations in oral history, from a more sophisticated consideration of the interview process itself and of how people remember, to the extension of oral history practice into multiple disciplines and settings. The internationalization of the field has helped raise in high relief a host of theoretical, methodological, and ethical issues. The idea of shared interpretative authority among narrators, interviewers and others has gained currency, with an increase in recent years of oral history-related collaborative activities. And oral history

in the digital age has demanded a reconsideration of all aspects of the oral history process, from field work to curation to the representation of interviews.

At the same time, much remains constant. The concerns of those who gathered at the first colloquium in 1966 – what makes a good interview, sound ethical guidelines, the relationship between specific technology and historical practice, issues of access – remain lively today. The participants at Lake Arrowhead would have concurred with OHA's current stated values of democracy, inclusivity, and quality. As it has since its inception, the OHA remains committed to fostering best practices in every aspect of the oral history process, in all the diverse places where it is done.

The Program Committee welcomes broad and diverse interpretations of the conference theme. We especially encourage presenters to think about innovative delivery models including dramatic performance, interactive sessions, and use of digital media. We welcome proposals from a variety of fields, including, but not limited to, history, folklore, music, literature, sociology, anthropology, American and ethnic studies, cultural studies, women's and gender studies, political science, information science and technology, business, communications, and urban studies.

Why Long Beach? Long Beach is a fitting site for this fiftieth anniversary meeting. Since the initial colloquium, Southern California has been the site of a great deal of cutting-edge oral history work and southern Californians have played important leadership roles within OHA. In its diversity and creativity, Southern California embodies many of the possibilities and challenges of oral history practice today.

Proposal format:

The online proposal site will open in November and submission information will be posted on the OHA website, www.oralhistory.org

Proposal queries may be directed to:

Sady Sullivan, 2016 Program Co-chair, Columbia Center for Oral History, Columbia University, sas2358@columbia.edu

Sarah Milligan, 2016 Program Co-chair, Oklahoma Oral History Research Program, Oklahoma State University Library, sarah.milligan@okstate.edu

Doug Boyd, 2015-2016 OHA Vice-President, Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History, University of Kentucky, doug.boyd@uky.edu

For submission inquiries or more information, contact:

Oral History Association, Georgia State University, oha@gsu.edu, Telephone: (404) 413-5751

We congratulate SOHA Member Virginia Espino, UCLA Oral History Center, on producing the new documentary

no más bebés

It tells the story of women who experienced coercive sterilization at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center in the 1960s and 1970s. Espino premiered the film at the Los Angeles Film Festival in June 2015. It will be shown on January 25 2016 on PBS' Independent Lens – check local listings.

<http://www.nomasbebesmovie.com>



Virginia Espino with one of her narrators, Dolores Madrigal, the lead plaintiff in the civil rights lawsuit *Madrigal v. Quilligan*.

1981 to 2016: SOHA celebrates 35 years!

Calling all members, award recipients, supporters — let us hear from you with memories of SOHA over the past three and one-half decades. Tell us about projects, meetings, and conferences you were involved in...friends you have made...and please share any photographs of our activities that you may have in your files.

We hope to create a display for the 2016 OHA Conference based on remembrances from members who have helped build the Southwest Oral History Association into the strong and vibrant regional network of oral history practitioners that it is today.

We look forward to hearing from you! Send your thoughts to soha@unlv.edu

**NEW & RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS
SINCE OUR 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

LIFETIME

STEFANI EVANS

DAVID MORSE

2 YEAR

KAREN KINZEY

STEVEN DANSKY

KAYE BRIEGEL

JANET SHAFRON

JOANNE GOODWIN

THERESE PIPE

DUFFIE WESTHEIMER

GAYLE MORRISON

L GREG McALISTER

1 YEAR

BEN SENO

SUNNY NASH

CN MARIN

BARBARA TABACH

KENNETH BURT

TERESITA GREENFIELD

ELIZABETH SANDERS

JACKIE MALONE

NANCY MACKAY

MARY GORDON

CAROL PITTMAN

ANNA COOR

RYAN MORINI

DAVID REICHARD

STUDENT

LINDA ROYBAL

FRANKLIN HOWARD

DEANNA SENO

BRIDGET GROAT

MELISA ORTIZ BERRY

JOHN GRYGO

Thank you and welcome to our new and renewed members!

MEMBERSHIP CORNER: Please renew today!
Membership Fees apply for the calendar year (Jan-Dec).



SOHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To become a member or renew, please print out the following application, fill in the relevant information (as you would like it to appear in the directory), and mail it to the address below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Phone: (_____) _____

E-Mail Address: _____ @ _____

Institutional Affiliation: _____

Please circle committees in which you might be interested:

- Newsletter | Membership | Annual Meeting | Grants/Scholarships

Here's a quick review of the membership levels:

- Individual Annual: \$35
- Individual Two-Year Membership: \$65
- Student Annual: \$20
- Individual Lifetime: \$250
- SOHA Community Partners: \$100
- SOHA Corporate Partners: \$350
- SOHA Institutional Partners: \$500

Make checks payable to **SOHA** and send payment to:

Southwest Oral History Association
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Box 455020
4505 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-5020

SOHA is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization and donations are very much appreciated. Donations are tax deductible in accordance with IRS Tax code Section 170(c).

*ONLINE MEMBERSHIP
RENEWALS*

*We now have an online option
for membership renewals at:
www.southwestoralhistory.org*

**Please note that this does include a small
processing fee.**

*To avoid paying the processing fee, mail
checks directly to SOHA's office.*

UNLV | SOUTHWEST ORAL
HISTORY ASSOCIATION

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY • UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Box 455020
4505 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89154-5020