



## Southwest Oral History Association Newsletter — Fall/Winter 2017-2018 — Issue 97

### CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Dear SOHA members, friends, allies, and supporters:

Welcome to the Fall/Winter 2017-2018 issue of our newsletter. Inside, in addition to notes from board members and articles from members, you will find the Call for Proposals for our 2018 Conference that will center around the theme, *Elevating Voices: Oral Histories of Resilience and Unity*.

A terrific team of SOHA board members and leaders, led by Jennifer Keil and including Virginia Espino, Karen Harper, Farina King, Carlos Lopez, Rachael Cassidy, and Midge Dellinger are already hard at work, but your ideas and involvement will make the conference happen. We meet the weekend of April 27-29, 2018 at the Marriott Fullerton and California State University, Fullerton hosted by the CSUF Department of History and the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History.

Mark your calendars now to be there! And then propose a plenary session, panel, roundtable, performance, or film that will inform and inspire us to continue doing the important work of “elevating voices” that too often are ignored or repressed.

Oral historians dedicate time, effort, and resources to collect, preserve, and disseminate oral histories of Americans of all walks of life who have been marginalized by traditional historical methodologies and narratives.

These stories elevate a voice that is lost in today's antagonistic social, political, sexist, nativist, and racially intolerant environment that has convinced a growing



Marcie M. Gallo



Juan D. Coronado

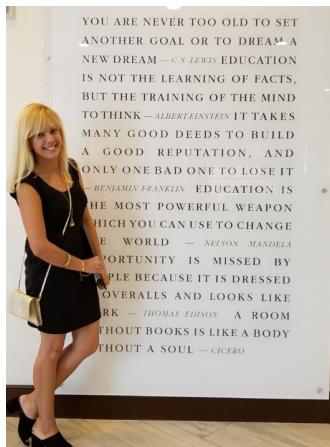
population that minorities are to blame for their own hardship and the struggles of the country. Oral histories reveal not how different people are in this country, but just the opposite. They demonstrate how similar Americans from diverse backgrounds really are at the core as their values, contributions, and aspirations are towards a higher civilization with a better future for their children and communities.

During these divisive times, oral histories and the work oral historians perform are needed more than ever as they can bring unity to the discord and chaos we experience daily.

It also is with great pleasure that we write to you as “co-presidents” and share with you the latest from our board of directors. This past July, SOHA held its biannual board elections and we made some exciting changes to our governing body. In teaming up to lead this vital and vibrant organization together, we are enabled by a terrific team of officers which includes 1st Vice President Jennifer Keil, 2nd Vice President Farina King, Treasurer Caryll Batt Dziedziak, Secretary and Newsletter Editor Barbara Tabach, and Historian Joyce Marshall Moore. Longtime SOHA officer Carlos Lopez has assumed the role of Arizona State Delegate. In addition, State Delegates Virginia Espino (California), Stefani Evans (Nevada), and Rachael Cassidy (New Mexico) joined the leadership team, as has Midge Dellinger, Student Representative. Bridget Groat has taken on the new position of Native American Representative. Please join us in welcoming all of SOHA's board members and send in your news, announcements, and any other items of interest to us.

## 2018 Conference to be held in Fullerton

Jennifer Keil, Conference Chair



1st VP Jennifer Keil at the Marriott Fullerton at CSUF

SOHA. They are training students with oral history methods, digital history, and practicum in public history. COPH has nearly 6,000 recorded interviews with other archival materials such as transcripts and photographs. My personal course and interests in the historical field were changed because scholars such as Drs. Cora Granata, Natalie Fousekis, Ben Cawthra, Nancy Fitch, and many others who mentored me in their specialties; their current students benefit from their passions and wide network, which includes SOHA. We hope that this community will be core participants in our conference presentations.

Reflecting on the heritage and culture of the Fullerton area, you will find the once agricultural and oilfield hub to be sprawling in development and diversity. CSUF University Historian and founder of the History department, Lawrence de Graaf, showcased these 200 acres of orange groves which became a collage in his book, *The Fullerton Way: Fifty Years at California State University, Fullerton*.



Above: Before it became California State Fullerton, the site once was Native American land, and then citrus ranches. *The Fullerton Way: Fifty Years at California State University, Fullerton* by Lawrence B. de Graaf .

Southern California, chosen for the 2018 site of the SOHA conference, provided ample opportunities for the Conference Planning Committee. Our board believes that university partnership is key to our organization; one example is our ongoing rapport with UNLV, our institutional home. Having done my graduate studies as CSU, Fullerton, I knew that the Department of History and the Larry de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH) would create an incredible partnership with

Our concurrent sessions will be offered at the university. CSUF's technology-equipped classrooms are adjacent to the Fullerton Marriott and near a small group of citrus trees that honor the past life of this land. You will find the Marriott Fullerton rooms, lobby, and on site restaurant to be lovely and comfortable, as the hotel received a recent remodel. The hotel's university theme has scholarly elements such as their card catalog tables and books. When you arrive in April, you will find the 70 degree and sunny weather to be a perfect surrounding for the pool for a late or early swim before sessions.



Other attractions await our 2018 conference attendees. Home to the famous Fender, the Fullerton Museum Center features a gallery featuring the birth of this guitar-based business in their downtown location along with rotating exhibits. The Muckenthaler Cultural Center holds an array of events and activities in the 1924 Spanish Revival styled abode. The Fullerton Arboretum, which is twenty-six acres of robust and delicate flowers and plants, is located at CSUF. This site includes the Heritage House, which was pioneer Dr. George Clark's personal home and office, (where living history presentations provide period costumed docents.) You do not want to miss an opportunity to join us for a memorable conference April 27-29, 2018!



## Thoughts on the SOHA 2018 Conference Theme

Farina King, Second Vice President

### *Elevating Voices: Oral Histories of Resilience and Unity*

Creating the theme, “Elevating Voices: Oral Histories of Resilience and Unity,” for this 2018 SOHA conference was a major collaborative effort. Our SOHA board and conference committee had long discussions and serious dialogue about the underpinnings of the theme. We were shaped by our shared vantage point of living in today’s world that many identify with anxieties and divisions among communities. We also were all impressed by the ongoing dynamics of resiliency and unity that brings people together under stresses and challenges. We viewed and approached the theme, however, from different angles and perspectives based on our various experiences, personalities, and backgrounds. The process of developing a theme for SOHA 2018 epitomized many of the forces that influence people including those that we engage with through oral histories. We each had our own stories and distinct voices, but we had to come together in unity and consensus to decide on a theme while respecting our differences. Unity is a bedrock of societies and peoples since ancient time, but it constantly faces tensions and possible collapse. Resiliency enables peoples to (re)build from such disruptions

and struggles. As a Navajo scholar, I think of the Diné conceptualization of “warrior” to understand this theme.

Since time immemorial, Navajos have passed on oral histories of warriors and what being a warrior means. Being a warrior does not only mean fighting; rather, it means someone who serves the people, brings them together, and reminds them that we are all family. A warrior fights for unity through resilience in the challenges of life. We look forward to hearing your stories that elevate voices of people who have demonstrated such perseverance and strength. These diverse stories altogether make a people as Cherokee scholar Thomas King stresses:

“The truth about stories is that that’s all we are.”



Farina King

### Snapshots From October 2017 Oral History Association Conference



Documentary filmmaker John Little (who made “More Than a Word”), Farina King, and Chelsea Mead.



Farina King, Ma-Nee Chacaby (who won an award for her coauthored book *A Two-Spirit Journey*), and Chelsea Mead.



Beth Castle, Madonna Thunder Hawk, Farina King, Chelsea Mead, Sasha Suarez, and Ryan Morini.

## Book Review

### Caryll Batt Dziedziak



Caryll Batt Dziedziak  
SOHA Past President and  
Treasurer

### *Chiriaco Summit: Built by Love to Last in the Desert.* Tucson, Wheatmark, 2017.

SOHA lifetime member, Dr. Mary Contini Gordon, has brought another southwestern gem to life with the publication of this fascinating work. Gordon shares with readers the inspiring story of Joe and Ruth Chiriaco, who immigrated to the United States, settled in the desolate southwestern desert, and created

a welcomed and lasting oasis for travelers along Interstate 10.

The breadth of Gordon's past historical and ethnographic research led her to develop data management practices to tag metadata and timestamp interviews called the Her-History Method™. The author used this methodology for her past publication, *TIQ SLO 'W: The Making of a Modern Day Chief* and this current work. In compiling *Chiriaco Summit*, Gordon interviewed family members, employees, and customers; reviewed geographical records, correspondence, and photos; studied governmental documents and news media; and visited the Summit many times, even living there occasionally.

Gordon recounts the story of a multi-generational family business; an American success story that endured despite severe environmental challenges, economic turmoil, and political

unrest. It is a refreshing reminder of the strength of families, the determination of immigrants, and the community-building capacity of small businesses.

While the establishment of the Summit Café Store during the Great Depression years provided only a meager respite for early Interstate travelers, that soon changed. According to the author, the World War II years brought a boon to the Chiriaco's Summit Café Store. Determining that the desolate desert was similar enough to the conditions of North Africa, General Patton established his Camp Young headquarters adjacent to the Chiriaco's property, providing an optimal training ground for the military. The Summit Café Store, which had served about twenty customers daily soon struggled to serve several hundred hungry and thirsty soldiers. As Gordon recounts, the Chiriaco family happily met that challenge.

As the years passed and the Chiriaco family grew, they met the challenges posed by a growing family; both the joys and heartaches. Their effect on landscape and community continued to grow as they negotiated for water rights, commercial power, and interstate exits, dealt with rowdy neighboring communities, worked to recognize and remember the service of the military; and erected Our Lady of Interstate 10 Shrine; all while continuing to expand the services of their family business.

The Chiriaco Summit is a fascinating family story woven together with dedication and care. Dr. Gordon has carefully provided the four-generational history of an Interstate 10 roadside stop. In doing so, she has recognized that lasting contributions to this southwestern region and community made by a gritty and determined immigrant family. So, next time you travel on Interstate 10, be sure to watch for Exit 173 "Chiriaco Summit."

**"Wine was free, but we had to pay for water."**

Joe Chiriaco and his thirteen siblings heard this from their Italian immigrant father as he recounted his ocean journey to America. In the face of limited water and rudimentary dirt roads, Joe and his Norwegian wife, Ruth Bergseid, founded Chiriaco Summit in the 1930s, a desert travel oasis on today's I-10 between Phoenix and Los Angeles, promising to serve the world on wheels.

**"The Chiriaco Summit story will appeal to anyone who wants to understand how a modern business was founded, grew, and survived against all odds."**

—Howard N. Stewart, CEO AGM, US Chamber's Best Small Business of the year 2009

**"One of the greatest stories of the California desert is that of the Chiriaco family. They, like the park rangers, understood the daunting challenges of living in the desert, especially as it relates to water."**

—Jeff Ohlfs, US Chief Park Ranger (Ret.)

The twenty-four-seven challenges are lightened with the courtship of two feisty lovers, the frolicking of youngsters in the desert, more loves, and the juxtaposition of some very imposing personalities, including those of Joe Chiriaco and General Patton.

**"Meet the members of this great American family my grandfather came to know who were so crucial to the readiness of our troops in WWII."**

—Helen Patton

After moving through new aqueducts and highways, military camps, societal upheavals, and a welcome new set of hard-working immigrants, the 21st century brings provisions for electric cars, modern aircraft, and ATV facilities outside Joshua Tree National Park from whence the first Summit waters flowed.

wheatmark

ISBN 978-1-62787-465-4  
9 0000  
9 781627 874656  
HISTORY / BUSINESS / LEADERSHIP

*Chiriaco Summit*

Built by Love to Last in the Desert

## SOHA Grant Winner: Nasario Remembers the Rio Puerco

### Shebana Coelho

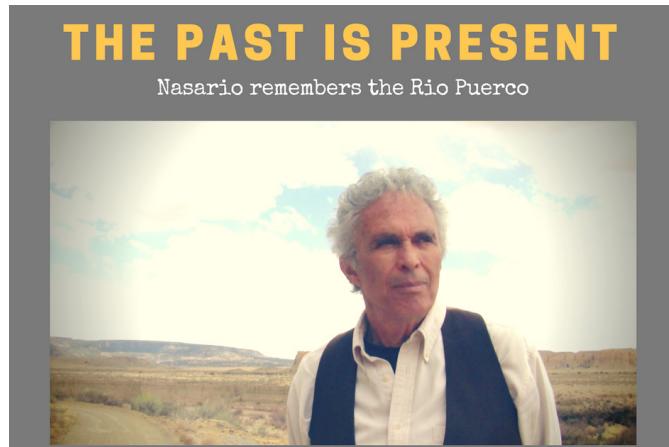
Hello friends of Nasario Remembers the Río Puerco:

Our small post production team, Shelene Bridge, our editor, me, the assistant editor Shawn Wayman—we all feel we have been in a parallel universe of sorts these last few months, as we gratefully, industriously, full-heartedly work on the film, thanks to the donations and goodwill contributed by you, our friends and supporters.

All this will take us to the end of this first phase of editing and we have been so gratified to be able to log, transcribe, digitize, organize the footage, create paper scripts, find beautiful music, archival footage and photos, including an iconic map made by a famous Spanish mapmaker named Miera y Pacheco which puts Nasario García's Río Puerco hometown on the map as "Guadalupe de Los Garcías" as early as the 1780s. And, of course, we are editing every day, transforming hours of footage into a story for the screen.

And we have news: Our goal is to finish a full rough cut by early May. We have another date with New Mexico PBS on May 12 to show them this version and hopefully, proceed to a broadcast contract and date. Our next step will be to start the process of fundraising for finishing funds, for the last leg of the journey. To reach this goal, we are creating a package for possible sponsors and corporate underwriters; working with a documentary consultant group called DocuMentors and also another local marking/PR company. We are creating lists of individuals and businesses to approach.

We are excited to share an opportunity to have their names be associated with a project that preserves and re-imagines not only



the cultural heritage of New Mexico but also storytelling, and reconnecting to land and community. Our ideal scenario is to have the film broadcast in October on New Mexico PBS. Towards the end of September—Hispanic Heritage month. We hope to have "preview" screenings in Santa Fe and Albuquerque. PBS itself encourages such screenings because they drum up enthusiasm for the broadcast. Once we have the dates down, we will share them.

We are also considering screenings in other New Mexico cities like Cuba, Bernalillo, Taos, Las Vegas, and Las Cruces later in October/November. If you have seen the *Rio Puerco* play, you might remember that we had "Share Your Recuerdos Open Mics" at select performances and we would like to repeat these because they created such a beautiful ambient of sharing and re-connecting. For now, it is all editing all the time all stories all the time and we could not be more grateful to you for helping this project find its way...we hope you will stay with us to the end of the journey and the beginning of the broadcast and screenings.

Special thanks to Kelvin DuVal our cameraperson who captured beautiful footage for us and our fiscal sponsor, New Mexico Film Foundation, Dirk Norris who gives us such great support.

We would love to hear from you. Let us know what you thought of the clip, share any suggestions for sponsorship or just say Hola!

Best wishes from the edit room,  
Shebana Coelho, director, and the team at Nasario remembers the Río Puerco



## NOTES FROM THE SOHA OFFICE

### Franklin Howard, SOHA Graduate Assistant University of Nevada, Las Vegas



Hi, everyone! First of all, I want to take a moment to extend my thoughts and prayers to those of our SOHA family who might have been affected by Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma. Know that we are here to support you and wish you the best. Second, I'm happy to tell you all that I will be staying on as SOHA's graduate assistant as we move into the Fall semester. Thank you so much for

letting me hang around and help you all. For those of you who are starting the Fall term, I wish you the best of luck. For those of you who aren't, I hope the Fall is nice and beautiful with a quick decline into cooler temperatures.

In years past, SOHA would highlight the outstanding work that our members have done in the field. I would like to bring that back. If you or someone you know is working on an interesting project please send me some information about it the SOHA email at [soha@unlv.edu](mailto:soha@unlv.edu) and I will write about it in our newsletter and our social media. SOHA does amazing work and it is time for us to share it with the world around us.

Lastly, though I am sure you are sick of us reminding you about it already, we are holding our annual conference at the Fullerton Marriott in April 2018. The Call for Presentations is available at our website and I can always send you one, too. I am already working on my proposal and I hope you are too. I would love to see you all again after the fun I had last year.

Thank you for all of your hard work!! I can not wait to hear from you all.

## MIDGE DELLINGER: STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE



### Students urged to apply for SOHA scholarships

Hello fellow SOHA student members!

My name is Midge Dellinger and I am the current Student Representative for SOHA. I reside in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and I am a second year graduate student at Northeastern State University, located in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. It is at Northeastern State University that I am pursuing a Master of Arts in American Studies, with an emphasis in Native

American Studies. I became involved with the folks at SOHA after attending their annual conference, which was held this last April in beautiful Tempe, Arizona. I attended the conference as a student "presenter," after being invited by my professor of Native American history. Having very limited public speaking experience, I was a bit nervous, but in the end, the experience was fantastic!

Everyone at the conference was so supportive and encouraging. I very quickly began to understand the great importance of oral history, as well as the significance of SOHA itself.

As the Student Representative, I would like to encourage all current student members, as well as those students who might be checking out the SOHA newsletter and/or website for the first time, to become involved in the work of this organization. Being an active member of SOHA has many benefits. You are now a member of a network of individuals who all work in many capacities, but who all have the same goals and ambitions in keeping history alive through the acquisition of oral history. As a student member, the annual conference gives you an opportunity to propose a topic and then possibly present your findings and information. This allows you a very comfortable platform on which to discuss topics and issues, which are not only significant to yourself, but to the attainment of what holds our communities intact...its stories!

Students should be sure and check-out the scholarships and grants that are available, and, please remember to share SOHA with your classmates and professors! If you have any questions concerning SOHA, and or the conference, feel free to contact us at [soha@unlv.edu](mailto:soha@unlv.edu).

I hope to see all student membership at the 2018 conference, April 27-29, in Fullerton. The planning committee is hard at work preparing what I know will be a fantastic weekend of oratory, education, and comradery.

**See page 12 for links to  
scholarships and grants.**

## STEFANI EVANS: NEVADA DELEGATE



### ***The Silver State's oral history folks have been busy!***

Where *hasn't* Claytee White recently taught, promoted, or conducted oral history? See for yourself by looking at one week in the life of the stellar founding director of UNLV's Oral History Research Center.

- Friday, September 1: Claytee spent the day conducting workshops designed to engage 180 Valley High School juniors and seniors to use oral history to understand more deeply certain rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution: four classes focused on the freedom of speech as protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution, while two classes concentrated on the principle of equal justice under the law as warranted by the Fourteenth Amendment.
- Tuesday, September 5: The *Las Vegas Review-Journal* newspaper featured White as one of John Przybyls' Vegas Voices in "Recorder of Las Vegas' Oral Histories Has Own Tale to Tell": <https://www.reviewjournal.com/life/recorder-of-las-vegas-oral-histories-has-own-tale-to-tell/>.
- Wednesday, September 6: White introduced students in UNLV Professor Satish C. Bhatnagar's History of Mathematics class to ways they could use oral history to explore the "necessary and sufficient conditions" for the development of mathematics.
- Thursday, September 7: White moderated the third and final panel discussion for the Building Las Vegas Summer Speaker Series. "Turning the Tide: Water in the Desert" featured four panelists who had played important roles in the shaping the supply, quality, and management of Southern Nevada's water and who had given their oral histories for the Building Las Vegas initiative. The panel allowed them to build on their knowledge and experiences to discuss how water policy affected the region's growth and development.

Besides nurturing the OHRC and its projects, Claytee enthusiastically responds when UNLV professors invite her to introduce their students to oral history. In the case of one English professor, Claytee has for the past four years conducted a class workshop, met with students individually, loaned equipment, and attended the students' final presentations.



Barbara Tabach is beginning her fourth year of coordinating the Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage Project through the Oral History Research Center at UNLV Libraries. As Barbara explains, the story of Jewish entrepreneurs moving to Las Vegas to legitimize their careers in bootlegging and gambling is well-known. Barbara has been able to collect the oral histories of those who grew up in the city during that era, those whose parents settled here for other occupation opportunities. The project also documents the Jewish spiritual community that blossomed as a result. She has added over 150 fresh oral histories and identified dozens of archived tape-recorded interviews from that past to be digitized. Barbara continues to be inspired by the number of community outreach opportunities that are a result of this project. She speaks to groups of all ages and interests about local history through the thread of Jewish history in Las Vegas.

Of the over 80,000 Jews in Las Vegas there are nearly 200 Holocaust survivors. She is taking special attention with the local survivor organizations to include those personal accounts to the project. In addition, the digital team has digitized hundreds of photos, Jewish newspapers, and miscellaneous documents for researchers to sample on project's website: <http://digital.library.unlv.edu/jewishheritage>.

Stefani Evans is beginning her second year managing the Building Las Vegas initiative through the Oral History Research Center at UNLV Libraries. <https://www.library.unlv.edu/speccol/building-las-vegas> Building Las Vegas has collected more than 130 interviews of architects, builders, designers, developers, engineers, planners, politicians, and other individuals who helped shape Southern Nevada's built environment. The oral histories are only one component of the initiative, which also seeks to identify and collect archival records that document changes in our

region's roads, pipes, wires, and buildings. Building Las Vegas also just completed its inaugural Summer Speaker Series, with Claytee White moderating panels composed of narrators who had contributed their oral histories. "Reimagining Downtown" opened the series on Thursday, July 6, 2017, with experts who examined past and present redevelopment plans of Downtown Las Vegas as a tourist and entertainment destination and as an urban residential neighborhood. The second panel, Thursday, August 3, 2017, "A Woman's Place Is . . ." featured four high-achieving women who shared their experiences in shaping the growth and development of Las Vegas. The series closed Thursday, September 7, 2017, with "Turning the Tide: Water in the Desert." <https://www.library.unlv.edu/speccol/summer-series>

## CARLOS LOPEZ: ARIZONA DELEGATE



Greetings from the Grand Canyon State! As the summer ends and the weather begins to (finally) cool, the bustle of Arizona activity begins anew. Throughout the state, historians, students, and communities continue to bring forth better understanding of the past through the use of oral history.

Northern Arizona: The Pioneer Home in Williams, AZ has opened an exhibit, to coincide with National Hispanic Heritage Month, to celebrate the contributions of Latinos in Arizona. Curators Breann Velasco, Jill Hough and Sacha Siskonen, along with the Arizona Historical Society and Northern Arizona University, present a limited-time exhibit that looks to shed new light on the lives of Latinos/Latinas in Northern Arizona. Using oral histories from long-time Hispanic residents of Flagstaff and Williams, *Todos Unidos: The Hispanic Experience in Flagstaff* highlights the often-overlooked cultural contributions of Latinos/Latinas from the 1800s to the 1950s. While celebrating the positive contributions of Hispanics in the area, the exhibit does not shy away from the discrimination they were subjected to. Stories of hope, fear, family, and friendship show a community that formed close ties and left a lasting impression on the area, and still does to this day. The exhibit is open through April 2018.

Central Arizona: SOHA member Danette Turner, professor at Chandler-Gilbert Community College, has been using oral history, as many of our university members do, in her class for students to be able to get closer to and understand the forces that create the History that we usually only understand through our textbooks. The one thing that is often overlooked is what to do with the oral histories themselves after classes end. Housing and archiving oral histories is an often-overlooked aspect of our field.

Recently, however, Danette has contacted the Arizona State Archives to work with the institution to house the students' oral history projects. Beginning this coming year, the interviews will be housed at the Arizona State Archives and will be eventually digitized and indexed via OHMS.

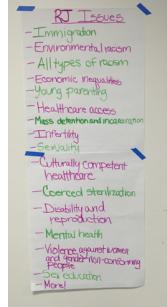
Southern Arizona: In Southwest Arizona, Aaron Wright, a preservation archaeologist, has received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to fund a three-year study of the cultural landscape of the Lower Gila River. Wright, who works with non-profit organization Archaeology Southwest, will now investigate the cultural history of the Gila River Basin using oral histories and traditions from the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe, Cocopah Indian Tribe, the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. While the area is rich with petroglyphs and other remains of an ancient past, the tribes have been under-represented in the ethnography and history of the area.

## VIRGINIA ESPINO: CALIFORNIA DELEGATE



Story-sharing is vital to Latinx activist work, especially when dealing with taboo subjects such as our sexuality and reproductive decision making. Growing up in a Mexican American household I learned at an early age that certain topics were forbidden in polite conversation. Latinx of my generation lived our passion, our pain and our confusion in silence. Fast forward 40 years and one can find a growing body of storytelling projects that seek to amplify the experiences of Latinx in their own words and on their own terms. I recently conducted an oral history workshop for one such project: *Speaking Story: Amplifying Latina Voices in Reproductive Narratives*. This important endeavor originated out of the California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ), a statewide organization committed to honoring the varied and diverse experiences of Latinas by upholding and celebrating their dignity, bodies, sexuality, and families. *Speaking Story* seeks to expand on CLRJ's mission by documenting how Latinx experience reproductive freedom and reproductive oppression. Participants in the workshop were trained in oral history methods for use in gathering life stories that link one's sexuality to broader issues facing Latinx such as immigration, educational opportunities and access to quality health

care. The goal of the project is to use personal experiences to illustrate the intersectional issues that shape Latinx reproductive lives; the oral history interview is the perfect medium to achieve that goal.



I am grateful for the opportunity to conduct oral history workshops with the CLRJ community because they merge my passion for documenting memory and meaning with my social justice goal of creating a culture shift that challenges negative images of Latinxs. We are often viewed as burdens rather than contributors and are seen solely through our fertility. What we do with our uterus has long been the subject of many a sociological study. Just ask the brilliant Elena Gutierrez, author of *Fertile Matters: The Politics of Mexican-Origin Women's Reproduction*. The creation of reproductive justice as a theoretical framework helped women of color make necessary connections between reproduction and structural inequality that Gutierrez so eloquently highlights and that Speaking story hopes to document. Reproductive justice

also calls for personal bodily autonomy that women of color have been demanding for centuries. My hope is that *Speaking Story* will generate multi-faceted narratives that complicate your understanding of who Latinx are as individuals at the same time offering the public a window into our common struggles for reproductive freedom.

## RACHAEL CASSIDY: NEW MEXICO DELEGATE



### Rachael Cassidy encourages others to apply for Eva Tulene Watt scholarship

Osiyo, or hello, in the Cherokee language. I was extremely fortunate to attend my first Southwest Oral History Association Conference in April of 2017, thanks to the Eva Tulene-Watt Scholarship. The conference was a wonderful opportunity to meet scholars and community members who have dedicated their lives to oral history. As a citizen of the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma, I have always felt that oral traditions and family stories are essential for community identity. All too often, people with knowledge are not asked to share their stories. However, the SOHA conference buzzed with the energy and excitement of oral historians sharing stories, ideas, methods, and concepts with one another. It was truly an incredible opportunity to be around people with such multifaceted experiences in the field and to be a part of SOHA's warm and welcoming community.

One panel in particular was very exciting for me. Jennifer Keil and Cindy Keil both work extensively on an oral history project at the Balboa Island Museum and Laguna Woods History Center. These ladies presented a new oral history methodology, which utilizes filmmaking skills. Jennifer and Cindy conveyed the benefits of visual components in addition to the audio in oral histories. Video adds an extra component for researchers to see what the interviewee wore, their mannerisms, gestures, and facial expressions. Additionally, the audio from microphones used in filmmaking is exceptionally clean and of excellent quality. If only the audio is needed, it can easily be separated from the video using basic video editing software, such as iMovie. Also, video creates

the opportunity for future usability (of course with the interviewee's permission). Short videos or media pieces can be created from video-oral histories to promote projects, ideas, and stories. The ladies concluded by demonstrating a wonderful program that allows armatures to create their own simple animations to communicate complex concepts. It was truly exciting to see how Jennifer and Cindy are applying this methodology to their own work.

The presentations at the SOHA conference were excellent, and several offered insights to oral history and story-telling from multiple Indigenous perspectives. Farina King (Dinè) coordinated panelists from a number of Native communities, which was such a treat! The opportunity to hear from diverse Native voices is rare and appreciated by young scholars like myself. For Native communities, oral history is an incredibly useful tool. However, the tool has limitations according to cultural protocols, individual comfort, and community preference. Angelo Baca and Teresa Montoya's documentary regarding the Navajo Nation's fight to protect Bears Ears National Monument illustrated some of these limitations and benefits.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to engage with scholar and community members who make oral history and telling stories their life's work every day. The SOHA conference was energizing, welcoming, and culturally stimulating. I appreciated my SOHA experience so much that I decided to serve on the board as the New Mexico representative.

I encourage anyone from New Mexico who is interested in SOHA or with ideas and information to share with our community to contact me directly. I look forward to the next conference and I encourage Native students to apply for the Eva Tulene-Watt scholarship for the opportunity to experience this special conference first hand.

## BRIDGET GROAT: NATIVE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE



My name is Bridget Groat and I am your new Native American representative to SOHA. I am a third year PhD student at Arizona State University studying Native American History. My other areas of interest are the American West, environmental history, and women.

I am from Naknek, Alaska, a small village on the Bristol Bay. Located in Southwest Alaska, Bristol

Bay sits at the easternmost edge of the Bering Sea. I grew up on the northern side of Naknek River, one of the major river systems that empty into Bristol Bay. The bay produces over half of the global wild salmon harvest. My dissertation focuses on the role Alaska Natives played and continue to play in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery from time immemorial to the present time.

I argue that Bristol Bay needs protection from industrial development and mining. Bristol Bay salmon have sustained Alaska Natives for thousands of years. As a cultural keystone species, salmon, a wild and healthy food source, provides sustenance to thousands of people as well as food and nutrients for many plant and animal species in its ecosystem. Salmon also play a vital role as a cultural keystone

species for Alaska Natives. As one of the last viable salmon fisheries worldwide, the area deserves protection.

The sustainable salmon fishery in Bristol Bay stands out as a fisheries management success story amidst collapsing fisheries throughout the world. Although the fishery has experienced the devastating effects of overfishing and mismanagement, the fishery has recovered. Geographic isolation and the lack of competing economic resources protected the salmon environment and allowed the salmon to return in great numbers each year. In 1988, the discovery of minerals including gold, copper, and molybdenum in the area created the potential for the development of the Pebble Mine Project, a proposed mine that would endanger the fishery. As foreign economic interests explore the wealth of the mineral deposit, many oppose its development. The opponents of the mine include the United Tribes of Bristol Bay, Native corporations, commercial fishermen, sports fishermen, environmental groups, jewelers, and many others. This mineral discovery places salmon in direct conflict with mining. I argue that salmon must be protected from mining.

If you would like to send me your ideas for programs that SOHA can develop relating to Native American scholarship, please do so at [soha@unlv.edu](mailto:soha@unlv.edu)

## 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

*We now have an online option for  
membership renewals at:  
[www.southwestoralhistory.org](http://www.southwestoralhistory.org)*

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

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

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).



Southwest Oral  
History Association

**Call for Presentations Deadline: November 20, 2017**

**2018 Southwest Oral History Association Annual Conference**

**APRIL 27-29, 2018 - Marriott Fullerton and California State University, Fullerton**

***Elevating Voices: Oral Histories of Resilience and Unity***

Oral histories uplift diverse voices that reveal the human condition. They tell stories of loneliness, isolation, and rejection as well as resilience and unity in the face of adversity. The many voices of oral history highlight our capacity to overcome both everyday and extraordinary challenges and to foster and build communities with common purposes and solidarity. While we are living in a historical moment of deep-seated ideological conflict and division, we turn to oral history to show us how and why communities come together as well as why they are divided. Orange County, the site of our 2018 SOHA conference in Fullerton, California, is a unique location to interrogate these issues. Popularly known as a conservative bastion, Orange County is a surprisingly diverse area that hosts a vibrant community of activists and academics who facilitate significant oral history projects, including those at the California State University, Fullerton Department of History and the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History, our hosts.

Join us in Fullerton from April 27-29, 2018 for our annual SOHA conference, where we will share, observe, and collaborate on the fascinating and important work being done in the field of oral history throughout our region and beyond. We encourage all members, friends, and supporters to attend and to participate on a panel, roundtable, performance, or workshop. We invite other forms of involvement as well.

Students are especially encouraged to participate, as our 2018 SOHA Conference will focus on young and emerging scholars. How has the past shaped us and our students? How does history—both recent and long ago—affect us? What are the innovative ways that oral historians have developed in order to gather and present stories, especially from people whose experiences have not been valued or promoted? What projects are we developing today, and what technologies do we find most useful?

We invite proposals that cover a variety of oral history topics on the general theme of ***Elevating Voices: Oral Histories of Resilience and Unity***. We seek presentations that document our past, our current times, and what today's youth are living and experiencing as they look to the future. Oral history offers ways to learn from a range of experiences and cultures; we also acknowledge that it differs generationally and incorporates a variety of people, ample perspectives, and a multitude of voices. All proposals will be considered.

# 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

**Our Gratitude to the following  
for their continued support of  
SOHA Scholarships:**

**The Ak-Chin Indian Community  
HL Boyer Foundation  
Wayne Pomeroy**

**APPLY NOW for one of  
SOHA's scholarships or mini-grants!  
Deadlines for applications are December 10, 2017 with  
notification by January 22, 2018.**

**2018 Eva Tulene Watt Scholarship Application**  
[www.southwestoralhistory.org](http://www.southwestoralhistory.org)

**2018 General Scholarship Application**  
[www.southwestoralhistory.org](http://www.southwestoralhistory.org)

**2018 Mini-Grant Application**  
[www.southwestoralhistory.org](http://www.southwestoralhistory.org)

## Save the Date

The Southwest Oral History Association invites you to join us for our annual conference April 27-29, 2018 at the Fullerton Marriott. This conference is in partnership with California State University, Fullerton. This year's theme is *Elevating Voices: Oral Histories of Resilience and Unity*. The Call for Presentations is available on our website, [www.southwestoralhistory.org](http://www.southwestoralhistory.org). Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with #SOHA2018 for conference updates.

Photo Credit: Lucas Himovitz

## SOHA OFFICERS

**Co-President**

Juan D. Coronado

**Co-President**

Marcia M. Gallo

**Past President and Treasurer**

Caryll Batt Dziedziak

**1st Vice President**

Jennifer Keil

**2nd Vice President**

Farina King (Navajo Diné)

**Secretary**

Barbara Tabach

**Historian**

Joyce Moore

**Arizona Delegate**

Carlos Lopez

**California Delegate**

Virginia Espino

**Nevada Delegate**

Stefani Evans

**New Mexico Delegate**

Rachael Cassidy

(Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma)

**Student Representative (one year term)**

Diana (Midge) Dellinger (Muskogee Creek)

**Native American Representative**

Bridget Groat (Alaska Native (Naknek)/  
Inupiac, Yup'ik, Dena'ina, Alutiiq)

**SOHA NEWSLETTER**  
The SOHA 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](mailto:soha@unlv.edu)

**Editor: Barbara Tabach**

Our thanks to . . .  
Dean Chris Heavey  
College of Liberal Arts,  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
for underwriting the costs of  
production

Email: [soha@unlv.edu](mailto:soha@unlv.edu)  
SOHA's Graduate Assistant:  
Frankin Howard