



SOUTHWESTORALHISTORY.ORG

**FROM THE
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE**
Farina King, Ph.D.



**Take a look at
SOHA'S
Introductory Oral History
Boot Camp!**



Summer 2021 got off to an amazing start thanks to SOHA's first Oral History Boot Camp! The intensive week-long event was organized and presented by our current 1st Vice President Summer Cherland, and featured expert speakers from the oral history community.



This is my first newsletter message to SOHA members as the new SOHA President. Thank you, SOHA members, for your continued support. We congratulate our newly elected SOHA board members, and we thank them and all our past SOHA officers for all their hard work and contributions to SOHA and oral history. You can learn more about our SOHA board members on our website and blog. Please follow us and share our posts on our social media and websites.

This newsletter issue will primarily feature participants in the SOHA Summer 2021 Bootcamp that 1st Vice President Summer Cherland spearheaded with several past presidents of SOHA. We are so grateful for all the participants and contributors who made this inaugural SOHA bootcamp such a great success.

We have an upcoming special SOHA members' meeting via Zoom on Friday, July 16, at 9 a.m. PST to vote on the proposed changes to the SOHA bylaws. Register for this meeting as soon as possible at <https://bit.ly/SOHAJuly16Mtg>.

We also want to encourage you to look for the opening of the Oral History Association (OHA) virtual conference registration this Fall of 2021. SOHA is one of the OHA 2021 virtual conference sponsors, and there will be several sessions with SOHA members, including an award ceremony and celebration of SOHA's 40th Anniversary. We encourage you all to share your stories as SOHA members and leaders in oral history in audio, visual, and/or written formats that we can highlight in SOHA at OHA 2021 for the 40th Anniversary of this wonderful organization. Please email any submissions to soha@unlv.edu by September 2021.

Stay tuned for our forthcoming Call for Proposals for the next in-person SOHA annual conference to be held sometime in Spring 2022. We look forward to meeting together and gathering safely again.

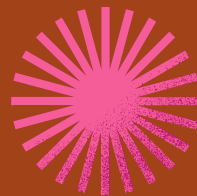
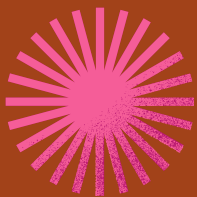
We sincerely hope and wish you the best as we support one another and continue this essential oral history work through the hardships and struggles of the COVID-19 pandemic. I know that I can honestly say that SOHA has pulled me through difficult times because of the kindness, generosity, and friendship that we, especially as fellow oral historians and human beings, extend to one another even from great distances.

Ahéhee' (Thank you). As my Diné ancestors have taught me, Walk in Beauty. Dí Baa Ahééh Niilzin (We are grateful for this).

Farina King, SOHA President, 2021-2023

SOHA'S ORAL HISTORY BOOTCAMP WHY IT MATTERS...

How do we know what questions to ask? What should we do to prepare before an interview? What use is there for our work after we are done? These were some of the many questions that were addressed during SOHA's first oral history boot camp. The intensive week-long event brought participants from multiple fields of study including history, political science and psychology. They were located all throughout the United States, even overseas, with a few from Germany and Nigeria. Despite the differences in study and location, we were all there for one thing; understanding where we fit into the world of oral history and how we may contribute in future.



ESTABLISHING TRUST



- ACADEMIA vs COMMUNITY
- CREDENTIALS or OBSTACLES?
- "WHY ME?..."



CLAYTEE WHITE PHD
"ASKING THE QUESTIONS"
JUNE 16TH, 2021

What SOHA's Boot Camp taught us...



Mathew Oluwasen Ayodele
M.A. Student University of Ibadan
Ibadan, Nigeria



Haleigh Marcello (she/her/hers)
PhD Student, Department of History
Co-Chair, History Graduate Student Association
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA

As a historian and budding scholar, participating in the SOHA Oral History Bootcamp has impacted my research ability and methods, particularly, my knowledge of oral history collection.

Before the Oral History Bootcamp, I already knew that oral history is an important methodology in historiography. Having conducted oral interviews as a researcher, I am familiar with basic concepts in oral history like ethical issues.

But during the Bootcamp, I learned about the importance of transcription, transcribing formats, and oral histories indexing. I was elated about the insight I received from Ryan Morini, the coordinator of my mentor group, on how to effectively conduct an oral history interview for a group of persons, this is something I have been curious about.

Also, Professor Summer Cherland's session on 'Researching and Preparing for the Interview' deepened and broadened my knowledge on the importance of oral history, how to do oral history, and preparing oral history questions. Although I was unable to attend all the sessions, the reading lists provided were quite exploratory and expository.

So, now I have started transcribing my oral history interview using one of the transcribing formats provided. I am applying Ryan's insights and interventions while conducting my next oral history interview with a group. Also, I have applied Professor Cherland's method on how to prepare oral history interview questions, and it has been productive!

I am glad to have participated in such a scholarly program. I look forward to more opportunities to expand my knowledge of research methodologies.

Mathew Oluwaseun Ayodele

For as long as I have been interested in my current research project, I have known that oral history would be a large part of it. In order to truly unpack and pay tribute to the history of LGBT activism in Orange County, California, I would need to interview LGBT activists – archival work was not enough. Though I knew I needed to embark on this journey, I was always nervous about it. I felt that I knew a little about oral history, but was not confident enough in my abilities as an oral historian to go out on the ground and conduct interviews.

I saw the SOHA bootcamp as a way for me to expand my knowledge in the field of oral history and to become more confident in my own skills. Before beginning the workshop, I saw oral history as a tool, or a method, for me to use in order to fill in gaps in my research.

The biggest thing that the workshop helped me to realize is the importance of oral history interviews beyond my own selfish goals as a researcher. I had not thought much about oral history as an opportunity for interviewees to tell their entire story beyond the LGBT rights movement. The SOHA bootcamp helped me to realize that oral history is about so much more than my own research – it is about preserving histories for future generations, for other scholars, and for the interviewees themselves.

I have since revised my approach to oral history to become much more comprehensive, and to focus on the entire lives of the individuals I intend to interview, not just the activism that is so important to my own research. I am so grateful to SOHA for this insight, among the many others that I came to learn over the course of the workshop.

Haleigh Marcello



Daisy R. Herrera MA
(Incoming) Ph.D Student, Department of History
University of California, Riverside
SOHA California Co-Delegate

I have experience in collecting community oral histories/testimonios but decided to join the oral history bootcamp to get a head-start on my Ph.D. studies research plan for this fall and anticipated on broadening my oral history techniques by conversing with the mentors, presenters and participants. But, this bootcamp exceeded my expectations and I finished it having completed my week-long goal of creating my research outline, networking with participants, building new friendships, and learning from oral history experts! The daily exercises, podcast episodes, presentations and discussions all contributed to my understanding of oral history, how I can improve my techniques and sparked some amazing ideas on oral history projects I can begin as a board member with my local historical society. My mentor group with Dr. Juan Coronado was amazing as all of our research had underlining focuses and intersectionality. It's nice to know our group will keep in touch and we may see each other at SOHA next year! Every day provided a great and comfortable learning experience, but my favorite day was the fourth day when I learned how I can make my oral histories accessible on both the local, regional and national level. Making my oral histories accessible is very important to me since my dissertation research will focus on my local history, which is often overlooked within Chicana History and the Chicano Movement. I absolutely loved this bootcamp and am hoping SOHA will offer it again next year!

FINDING THE "TRUTH"

Caryll Dzedziak PhD and Claytee White PhD
"Asking the Questions"
June 16th, 2021

Virginia Espino PhD
"These Interviews Don't Die with Us"
June 17, 2021

SAVE THE DATE

SOHA AT OHA

MOVING STORIES

OHA's 2021 Annual Meeting
October 2021



FOR UPDATES AND MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
<https://www.oralhistory.org/annual-meeting/>



Spotlight on California-Based Oral History Projects!

Daisy Herrera and Annie Duval

SOHA California Co-Delegates

Interested in learning about current oral history projects happening in California? Do you have a project you would like to speak about? SOHA's California Co-Delegates Annie Duval and Daisy Herrera invite you to take part in the on-going workshop series highlighting these oral history projects. The series aims to bring California members together to showcase projects and network with others! Interested in attending or showcasing your work? Stay tuned as an official announcement will be sent out in the coming weeks for the first workshop in August!



Neon History

The Neon Museum's Upcoming Oral History Project

Kristel Peralta and Paige Figanbaum

SOHA Nevada Co-Delegates

Las Vegas is known for its glitz and glamour forever preserved within the iconic neon signs. Tourists come from all walks of life to wonder at the neon lights adorning the buildings. Since 1996, The Neon Museum has collected, preserved, and exhibited neon signs for enriching and educating the public. Derek Weis, the education and engagement manager at The Neon Museum, describes an upcoming oral history project. Nevada Humanities funded the project to support interviewing sign industry veterans who contributed to Las Vegas' neon sign designs and technology. The project is scheduled between May and October, with a total of four interviews. Within this scope, names like Jack Dubois, Kent Carmichael, Oscar Gonzalez, and Ina Macias are sure to bring richness in preserving the history of sign design and technology.

Mitchell Cohen, The Neon Museum's oral historian, creatively conducted the first interview with Kent Carmichael in person, following CDC protocols. Although future interviews may be conducted remotely, Weis is hopeful that interviews will be conducted in person with the improving Covid-19 cases. Weis is excited about future researchers who will be able to use the interviews and learn more about diverse histories, mentioning Indigenous Peoples and African American communities contributing to the Las Vegas' sign industry. The intention and "behind-the-scenes" look from the artists who created these signs are always an exciting reveal. The

Neon Museum is searching for a transcriber for the project, and if interested, contact kristelmarie.peralta@unlv.edu. This intriguing project offers many avenues to learn about Las Vegas' history. Read upcoming SOHA newsletters to learn more about this exciting project.



Voices of the Golden State

Unlocking California's Past

California State Library Oral History Site Is Now Live

Allison Tracy-Taylor
Sacramento, California
caoralhistory@library.ca.gov

The California State Library website Voices of the Golden State is now live. This website is home to a growing collection of oral history interviews that recount California's rich history and heritage, especially highlighting the state's diversity. Those who work with oral histories know they are unique and valuable primary sources, and often underutilized by researchers. Voices of the Golden State is a platform through which programs, projects, and archives can promote their oral history collections and efforts. Additionally, through these oral histories, users have an opportunity to explore California's history through the stories of those who lived it.

Currently, you can find interviews from various California-based programs, including Open California, UC Santa Cruz's Regional History Project, California State University, Fullerton's Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History, and more. Voices has also partnered with California Revealed to feature oral histories preserved through this program's important work. Check out California Revealed's website to learn more about its digital preservation services and other robust offerings, as well as to access a treasure trove of archival material on California.

If your program is interested in sharing oral histories on the site, we invite you to register for a Contributor Account. You can also find more information on selecting interviews, required material and metadata, how to create accessible transcripts, and instructions on how to submit interviews on our Contributors page. A Statement on Diversity has also been developed for the site to help contributors and users better understand how this goal is meant to inform the site's curation. Ultimately, the long-term success of the Voices of the Golden State will rely on contributing programs to open their oral history collections, and we hope you'll join us in this endeavor. Any questions about the website or how to become a contributing program can be directed to the project lead, Allison Tracy-Taylor, at caoralhistory@library.ca.gov.

Recent Interviews



Clemmie Shuck
Barry

Sound recording of Lucille Kendall's interview with Clemmie Shuck Barry documenting Barry's activities as an organizer for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (ACWA) in the 1930s, her involvement in the Communist Party in San Francisco in the late 1930s and 1940s, and her efforts to integrate housing in Marin County, Calif., in the 1950s.



Michele Martinez

An oral history of Michele Martinez, current Santa Ana city councilwoman. The interview was conducted for the Women, Politics, and Activism Since Suffrage Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton's Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Michele's career on the city council. Specifically this interview [...]



Roz Wyman

Rosalind Wiener Wyman's impact on Los Angeles is hard to overstate. "Roz" is the youngest person and the first woman ever elected to the Los Angeles City Council. A passionate Democrat and baseball fan, she played a fundamental role in bringing the Dodgers to Los Angeles and - this may surprise you - in getting [...]



40th Anniversary

The Southwest Oral History Association is celebrating its 40th Anniversary. We want to celebrate **you!**

We want to know:
Why did you join SOHA?

Please record a short video (1 min.) of yourself answering this question and email it to soha@unlv.edu

The video messages will be shared during our 40th celebrations, which will be held all online.



**WORDS FROM FORMER
SOHA PRESIDENT**

Jennifer L. Keil



Thank you SOHA 2019 to 2021 Board of Directors for the Crystal Award! It was an honor to serve as the President. I appreciate the beautiful gift and will cherish it.

I look forward to participating in the 2021 Oral History Association conference with other past presidents for our session, "SOHA at 40: Past Presidents and S'mores Remembering Challenges, Solutions, and Accomplishments." I am excited to celebrate our organization's heritage and share stories about leadership roles.

Jennifer Keil is the founder of 70°, an organization dedicated to historical preservation. Currently she is working on the establishment of the Moulton Museum set to open later this year.

Save the date!

**SOHA Summer
Members'
Meeting to Vote on
Bylaws**

**July 16, 9 am to 11 am PT
Register at**

<https://bit.ly/SOHAJuly16Mtg>



Mission & Membership

The Southwest Oral History Association (SOHA) was founded in 1981 to serve practitioners of oral history in Arizona, Southern California, Nevada, New Mexico and contiguous areas. Through publications, meetings, workshops and special events, SOHA supports and promotes oral history as a method for exploring and recording history, culture, and current experiences in the Southwestern United States. In this endeavor the association cooperates with other organizations and institutions in the region, and it maintains close ties with the national Oral History Association. Membership in SOHA provides meaningful opportunities for participation in the exchange of information and the discussion of matters of common concern among those interested in oral history throughout the Southwest region.

ONLINE MEMBERSHIP ACTIVATION/RENEWAL:
bit.ly/supportSOHA

OFFLINE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Print membership form and mail to:
 SOHA
 University of Nevada Las Vegas
 4505 S. Maryland Parkway Box 455020
 Las Vegas, NV 89154-5020

DONATE

SOHA MEMBERS

SOHA's membership includes professional oral historians, public historians, students, teachers, genealogists, family historians, volunteer interviewers, archivists, librarians, individuals, and community programs interested in oral history. Institutional and community members include oral history programs, universities, libraries, archives, historical societies and museums.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Annual Meetings
 Held in the spring, the SOHA annual meeting offers a variety of experiences valuable to the membership including introductory and advanced workshops, session topics of both general and professional interest, presentation of awards, the annual business meeting and election of officers.

Subscription to the SOHA

Newsletter

The SOHA Newsletter, issued three times a year, contains regional news, articles by oral historians about oral history, reviews, trends, and discussions of oral history concerns at all levels.

SOHA Member Directory Listing
 The directory is published and sent to all current members on a biannual basis via E-mail (unless otherwise specified by the individual member).

It is also available by electronic means to current members. It is SOHA policy not to distribute or sell either our membership list or newsletter to other organizations.

Training Workshops and Special Events

Workshops focus on practical approaches and solutions to problems common to the practice of oral history. Other events may include regional tours to places of historic interest, lectures and book reviews.

INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Members are encouraged to become involved in one of the SOHA standing committees (Annual Meeting, Membership, Grants/Scholarships, Marketing and Publicity), develop projects, and to expand the potential of the Southwest Oral History community through organizational leadership positions and elected office. SOHA values the energy and ideas that new members bring to the association.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

1. Annual Individual \$35
2. Student \$20
3. Individual Lifetime \$250
4. 2-Year Individual Membership \$65
5. COVID-19 Pay What You Can Option
6. SOHA Community Partners \$100
7. SOHA Corporate Partners \$350
8. SOHA Institutional Partners \$350

*Wishing you a
great summer!*
SOUTHWEST ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION



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Photo by Lyonel Tso

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Such donations are tax deductible in accordance with IRS Tax Code Section 170(c).

Design by Cynthia Castaneda, 2nd Vice President, and Farina King, President. Edited by Dalena Sanderson-Hunter, SOHA Secretary. Please contact us at soha@unlv.edu to contribute to our next newsletter or to be featured in our social media.