President’s Column

by Jennifer Keil, President

I am honored to be serving as the SOHA 2019-21 president. Thank you for your support. The newly elected 2019-21 board is excited to meet you and hopes you will attend our next conference at our institutional home at UNLV on March 27-29, 2020. The Lied Library has graciously offered to host us. We will offer inspiring plenary sessions. We have already planned an incredible series of panels for you and hope you will submit your panel session. Please consider arranging a panel with our GoogleSheet link:

bit.ly/2020panels. You can register to our conference via our website.

During my graduate studies, I became involved with the organization. I was named the California Delegate in 2015 and enjoyed connecting with the regional centers. I chaired the 2018 conference in Fullerton, CA at the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH). I earned my master’s degree at Cal State Fullerton in oral and public history. I believe that these two disciplines can be bridged together. As a museum archivist, I have seen how these projects can facilitate a new voice in our exhibitions. It is an amazing era where we can create online repositories that can be remotely accessed around the world with content management systems such as Omeka and CONTENTdm that are displayed on WordPress sites. We obtain wider audiences with these digital repositories.

I liaison with the Oral History Association and have served on their committees. I plan on reaching out to other organizations such as the American Alliance of Museums, National Council for Public History, and Society of

Register for #SOHA2020 at UNLV
March 27-29, 2020 at southwestoralhistory.org

See page 10 for our Call for Papers for the Southwest Oral History Conference in Las Vegas! Please update your annual membership to ensure your early bird rate.

SOHA SOCIAL MEDIA
Visit our Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and News Blog for more updates!
American Archivists. Our role as practitioners was the subject of the recent conference of SOHA at OHA 2019 meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. One of the plenary sessions focused on the challenges of oral history which included forms, technologies, and logistical challenges. These honest stories of the pitfalls we’ve had as oral historians encourage us to do our best and not to worry when certain elements don’t go as planned. SOHA at OHA was a refreshing conversation with our leaders and new members regarding best practices. Our goal is to maintain clear communication regarding our role as interviewers and how we operate our projects. Visit OHA’s site for additional information regarding best practices: https://www.oralhistory.org/principles-and-best-practices-revised-2018/

Technologies continue to shift the way in which we create, store, and access materials. OHA provides us with Oral History in the Digital Age guidelines: https://www.oralhistory.org/oral-history-in-the-digital-age/.

I enjoyed presenting Curating Communities which considered our role in creating programs. Our panelists from UCLA and UCI shared how they are facilitating fascinating projects about Latinx and Korean histories. As a digital historian, I have been able to work with both these entities with my company 70 Degrees. It has been a platform where I've shared resources and expanded the SOHA network. I reached out to universities, museums, and cultural centers in order to encourage them to participate in our regional events. Please read sohanews.wordpress.com, subscribe, and follow our social media accounts (@sworalhistory) to learn about regional events.

Decolonizing “Home” Through Indigenous Oral History

by Farina King, 1st Vice President

It was an honor and privilege to serve as the local arrangements co-chair with Jedediah Rogers for OHA 2019 in Salt Lake City. Utah is another “home” to me. Although I have visited Utah many times before and many of my relatives have relocated and settled there, I continue to learn about Indigenous voices and perspectives of this place. OHA 2019 enriched my understanding of these Indigenous perspectives and experiences thanks to the various conversations and contributors of Native American and Indigenous oral histories.

Of the diverse Indigenous scholars and oral historians, Larry Cesspooch and Forrest Cuch of the Ute Indian Tribe, Uintah and Ouray Ute Reservation, featured voices of their Indigenous community in Utah. Although I have met and interacted with many diverse Native Americans in Utah, engaging with Larry and Forrest was one of the first times that I have heard Ute perspectives and experiences through oral histories of their people.

Larry talked about his personal journey involving his experiences as a Vietnam veteran who eventually became a filmmaker. He began with the story of his family name meaning “white belly” since his great-grandfather had a white birthmark on his stomach. Larry now runs his own production company, “Through Native Eyes Productions,” emphasizing Ute stories and experiences. Forrest discussed how we must know the Indigenous histories of places, even when they are tragic and difficult. He warned against romanticizing Native American peoples but stressed seeking truths about what happened and how oral history illuminates those truths.

In the plenary session with Forrest, fellow Native American panelist Jacqueline Keeler (Diné/Yankton Dakota) pointed out that it is okay to feel uncomfortable when learning some difficult truths. We need to feel this discomfort sometimes, but it is important to decide what to do with those emotions moving forward in positive directions and healing. As someone who has lived in and visited Utah many times, coming and hearing Ute voices was necessary for me to decolonize my own consciousness and recognize the Indigenous peoples that

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The Diné frybread stories offered me and Diné women elders the opportunity to share making and tasting frybread with everyone at OHA. Diné women elders Lorina Steah Antonio, Rose Jakub, and Ellouise Paredes have supported my oral history projects and work. They graciously shared their stories, time, and knowledge of frybread making with oral historians at the OHA opening reception. They talked about the significance of making frybread among Diné communities and how it embodied womanhood, as women fed and nurtured the families through frybread. We also acknowledged how Navajos and other Native Americans have made frybread to survive during struggles of removal and deprivation. For a prosperous future, it is our hope that Diné traditional foods of the three sisters, corn, beans, and squash, will be revitalized and become the staples as they once were among Diné peoples and their healthy ways of life and beauty. We seek to live a long life of beauty, hózhǫ́, through our sustenance and nourishment.

Thank you to everyone who participated in and supported SOHA at OHA 2019. We look forward to SOHA 2020 to be held in our foundational home at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Submit your proposals before January. Invite your friends and community, and join us for the upcoming SOHA conference in March 2020!

SOHA at OHA 2019
by Summer Cherland, 2nd Vice President

The first time I heard about SOHA was when Marcia Gallo and Claytee White encouraged me to present at the conference in Albuquerque. It was 2012 and I was training in Oral History at UNLV. SOHA welcomed me immediately. I was delighted to meet colleagues and other scholars of Oral History. I was grateful to learn more about the craft that would eventually anchor my academic career, and I was enamored with New Mexico. The West has always been my personal and professional home and SOHA’s notable significance in our region inspired me then, as it continues to inspire now.

After graduating I began my professional career at South Mountain Community College, a 40-year-old institution that was founded in large part due to local activism. After discovering a staggering dearth of research on the history of this community, I knew right away, that as the sole historian on my campus, it was my responsibility to help right this wrong. I began drawing on my oral history training to research and reclaim the history of South Phoenix and with a group of students founded the South Phoenix Oral History Project (southphoenixoralhistory.com). Our mission is to capture and preserve the history of South Phoenix and SMCC. We train community college students—typically underserved and poorly prepared for academic life – to research and conduct oral histories with politicians, business-leaders, local activists, and educators. They produce professional, academic research which is published on our website and an academic manuscript is in the works. Students indicate that their participation in the project has helped them to develop sophisticated research, writing, and analytical skills beyond the traditional history class. It’s a true joy to watch this project take shape.

My connections to SOHA fundamentally shaped the way we developed the South Phoenix Oral History Project. When we were creating training and research strategies, we reached out to SOHA colleagues for support and guidance. When we began to develop our website, SOHA put me in touch with a librarian who gave us incredible advice on indexing and transcribing. In spring 2019, SOHA awarded our project with a mini-grant to support student and faculty work. At the 2019 Oral History Association conference, the co-founders of SPOH presented to SOHA members and attendees, and the feedback we received was immeasurable. In short, SOHA has given me more than I would ever expect from any professional association. I am privileged to give back in service and time.

At the 2019 SOHA business meeting, it was apparent that our association is facing a time of great transition, as many of our longstanding leaders are moving on. It was also evident that the new leadership will continue to honor and uphold SOHA’s legacy, and I am proud to be a part of this evolution.

SOHA 2020
by Ryan Morini, Conference Co-Chair

It has been a great experience to serve as program co-chair with Farina, especially since our upcoming meeting
will be in Las Vegas, on traditional Nuwovi (Southern Paiute) lands adjacent to Newene Sogobia (Western Shoshone territory), where I have met and worked with so many incredible people over the past decade. Some of that work was conducted under the auspices of a SOHA mini-grant back in 2013, which made it possible for me to complete my dissertation and graduate the following year. Having these opportunities over the years to sit down with Newe elders, activists, and general community members, and sometimes recording their memories and reflections for the archives so that future generations will be able to hear their own words in their own voices, has been by far the most meaningful and rewarding part of getting a doctoral degree and working in the academy. Aishen tsaa. There is something truly beautiful and powerful about dedicated, engaged oral history work that no other (inter)discipline quite captures; I look forward to hearing everyone else’s reflections and research in Las Vegas this March.

CSU Japanese American History Digitization Project

by Cindy Keil, California Delegate

The Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History’s annual lecture series took place at California State University, Fullerton on November 5th, 2019. Greg Williams, Director of Archives and Special Collections at California State University, Dominguez Hills, was the guest speaker. Part of COPH’s practice is to conduct an oral history with the speaker prior to the lecture. Williams spoke about the CSU Japanese American History Digitization Project, which is a system-wide, digitally accessible collection (csujad.com). According to CSUJAD, “Among the archives are letters, photographs, oral histories, camp publications, papers of camp administrators and counselors, poetry, art works, leases, certificates and other documents to prove citizenship, and school yearbooks.”

One of the collections that Williams highlighted was the Atsushi Ishida Collection. Ishida took approximately six hundred photographs. The collection description states, “chronicling his time immediately after/during his incarceration in the Jerome camp, Arkansas, and the Tule Lake segregation camp, California.” Williams shared that Ishida took the photos with a camera that he had purchased at Sears. He said that Ishida, at the age of ninety-seven, still had the ability to identify his photographs. Pictures of The George and Mitzi Naohara Papers Collection were shown, which included items such as Mitzi Naohara’s scrapbook consisting of postcards that she received and also George Naohara’s photo album. Williams said that the database is multigenerational and the purpose is to, “bring together archival materials and is intended for “students, scholars, and interested public.” This collaborative project is increasing their archive. CSUJAD states, “If you would like to discuss a possible donation to the collections, please contact your local California State University Library.”

Latinx Voices Unveiled: UNLV’s Oral History Center project

By Nathalie Martinez, On behalf of the Latinx Voices Team: Monserrath Hernandez, Rodrigo Vazquez, Elsa Lopez and Nathalie Martinez.

The Latinx Voices of Southern Nevada Oral History Project, a project of UNLV’s Oral History Research Center, has created a collection of intergenerational experiences that express what it means to be Latinx in Las Vegas. Our team of undergraduate and graduate researchers have collected over one hundred interviews in English and Spanish since the project initiated in August 2018.

Having been given the opportunity to present at the 2019 SOHA at OHA conference in Salt Lake City was an inspiring experience. Seeing all of the profound work that individuals are doing cemented the importance of the Latinx Voices of Southern Nevada Oral History project. In particular, listening to others share their research allowed me to realize that I want the stories we have
collected to be shared with as wide an audience as possible. It is for this reason that I am delighted that we have been able to use the voices of our narrators in the creation of the “Latinx Voices Unveiled,” a podcast that will allow individuals from across the country the opportunity to learn about the diversity that exists within the Las Vegas Latinx community.

Monse Hernandez, SOHA Treasurer and student oral historian

Taking this new creative spin on the project, brought our team—an educator, a journalist, an economist and an anthropologist—into a studio to discuss the Latinx experience and power of oral history. We had the chance to host a panel discussion in October during Research Week at UNLV to officially launch the podcast. This is a digital milestone for the Oral History Research Center.

Oral history is meant to be shared and what better way to do so than through a medium that sparks conversation and can be shared worldwide. We invite you to listen to the voices that have made this project such a rewarding experience for us and to join us at the Southwest Oral History Association 2020 Annual Conference to be held at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas from March 27-29. You will hear more about how you too can make your oral history projects come to life through your own podcast series.

Link to the six episode podcast series: Latinx Voices Unveiled

https://soundcloud.com/user-971546837/sets/unlvs-oral-history-research

SOHA at OHA 2019

By Midge Dellinger, Past-Student Representative

A fantastic weekend of educational and intellectually stimulating presentations from folks involved in every aspect of oral history was surely had by all who attended the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Oral History Association in Salt Lake City, October 16th-20th, 2019. From the moment I picked up my program guide and began reviewing it, I knew I was in for a treat. As an emerging Indigenous oral historian, I came to the meeting with a few expectations. I wanted to learn more about the technical components of oral history collection, such as archiving and transcription. I also wanted to hear from other Indigenous peoples about oral history work currently being performed in their Indigenous communities. OHA 2019 delivered on all of my wishes. Thank you to the Oral History Association and the Southwest Oral History Association for putting together such a great conference!

As the exiting SOHA Student Representative, I would like to thank SOHA for allowing me the opportunity to serve your organization in this capacity. And, I am excited to announce that fellow Northeastern State University graduate student, Teagan Dreyer, is the new SOHA Student Representative. As a reminder to those of you who are students, SOHA offers terrific opportunities for academic and professional growth and networking with other professionals in the field. We are always excited to have students attend and or present at our conference. Be sure to check out SOHA’s grants and scholarships. Every year SOHA gives numerous awards to those who are doing work in the field and who want to attend and participate in the yearly SOHA conference. Have a great winter, and see you in March in fabulous Las Vegas!

Big, Small, In-Person, and Online: Discussions on Incorporating Oral History into Undergraduate Classrooms

By Marcia M. Gallo, Past-President

The 2019 OHA conference featured many sessions created and sponsored by the Southwest Oral History Association, indicated as such in the program by our sunburst logo.

One of them was an early Saturday morning session, “Big, Small, In-Person, and Online: Discussions on Incorporating Oral History into Undergraduate Classrooms,” in which I had the pleasure of participating. There were several notable parts of this session. In this brief summation, I will highlight the organizational and logistical components.

Created and chaired by Priscilla Martinez, Ph.D. candidate in History at the University of California at Santa Cruz and a member of the 2019 OHA Conference Program Committee, the roundtable also included oral historians and teachers Nancy MacKay and Karen Schairer. Before we arrived in Salt Lake City, Priscilla created a website that incorporated all of our talking points and images. During the session, after introducing each one of us, she not only moderated our discussions but showed the images we had provided to illustrate
our talks. In this way, we were able to organize our presentations and make them available to those who were not able to attend. (See https://priscillamariemartinez.com/conferences)

We also agreed to forego the traditional conference panel set-up of a speakers’ table set above and apart from the audience. We reorganized the room to create a more inclusive and shared space, moving audience chairs into a large oval that facilitated conversations and incorporated all of us. Following our prepared presentations, Priscilla posed questions to the three of us which helped develop our different ideas and experiences of working with undergraduate students via oral histories. Audience participation was focused and useful, with a special emphasis on utilizing the resources available online and on campus to expand the capacity of individual instructors. I for one happily promoted the valuable partnerships I have enjoyed with oral historians Claytee White, Stefani Evans, and Barbara Tabach of UNLV’s Oral History Research Center as well as Su Kim Chung, head archivist for Lied Libraries’ Special Collections, and the Library’s faculty liaison for the History Department, Priscilla Finley.

Attendees at the 2020 Southwest Oral History Conference, set for March 27-29 at UNLV’s University Libraries, will have an opportunity to experience the impressive array of support for undergraduate research that our university provides.

See you in Las Vegas!

My Journey in Oral History
by Ignacio M. García, 2019 Mink Awardee

My first experience with oral history came when I lived as a young boy in the barrios of the west side of San Antonio. An older gentleman, with a flower garden in the front of his house, would gather the kids in the neighborhood, and while he sat on a bench and us on the ground, he commenced to tell us stories about the heroes of the Mexican Revolution, the Mexican war for independence or about la Llorona. I was fascinated by the story telling and the way that characters came to life. Later, just before going to El Salvador, I began to do research on the country and the war. That habit I had developed from my first attempt to get a master’s in history—a journey interrupted when someone stole a brief case with all my thesis notes in a time before personal computers.

I learned that research, outlines and constructing “possibilities” all helped me prepared to do oral interviews that produced a good end product. I learned to be a collaborator with those I interviewed, in telling their story, and to do so without being intrusive. They remembered, I constructed, they reviewed, and I provided new question and new perspectives so they could remember more details. I also learned to get oral interviews to speak to other oral interviews, and to the documents that I was uncovering to prepare and to make sense. This allows the interviewee to become part of the construction and final product of the oral history project.

I constantly tell my students to have their documents and the authors of books they use to speak to each other. They can do this by constructing context through the use of documents shared with the interviewee, the mentioning of what others might have said about the similar topic or situation, and by asking them to think and assess and not just retell. In this way, the interviewee speaks not only speak to memory but to the memories of others and of documents, and sometimes even of “probabilities”. I find that this helps the interviewee remember more and to make sense of what he/she remembers, and that usually leads to more memories and to their own assessments. I try to do this all throughout the interview so that people are not simply assessing the totality of their remembrance but to its parts, and this allows me to create times spaces as I record, so that I get not only “remembrances” but also “moments in time”.

My approach to oral history allows me to look at primary and secondary sources as oral history—in other words, I treat them as speaking entities, letting them speak to me so as to collaborate with
me. I assure you it is not about going crazy and getting myself into conversations with inanimate objects, but about “hearing” history unfold. I use techniques from the arts, literature—plot, setting, characterization, etc.—because to keep getting oral history right, you have to keep learning. In the end, it takes curiosity, a lot of preparation, a sense of what you want to say, and a collaboration with the interviewee to help them tell “their” story, and also to speak to the larger world around their lives at the time, to do a good oral history.

Dr. Ignacio M. Garcia, the 2019 James V. Mink award winner, is thelemuel Hardison Redd Jr. Professor of Western & Latino History at Brigham Young University.

2019 Watt Winners

Many thanks to the Ak-Chin Community for supporting the Eva Tulene Watt Award again in 2019 in order to bring Native Americans to the SOHA conference.

Farina King, a previous Eva Tulene Watt recipient, did an amazing job of inviting most of the panelists to the conference. SOHA was able to distribute the award to more than our usual number by adding SOHA funding, as we did not have some of the expenses of putting on our own conference. Winners won free registration and transportation costs, depending on their distance from Salt Lake City.

Below is a list of each winner and a brief description of their work and the panel in which they participated:

Panelists for the OHA panel "Indigenous Voices of the Land":

Larry Cesspooch, of the Uintah & Ouray Ute Reservation, is a modern storyteller, filmmaker, founder of his own production company "Through Native Eyes Productions," and a Ute spiritual leader who maintains one of the sweat lodges on the Ute reservation with his Appah relatives. He is also a member of the Utah Humanities Public Square Speaker Bureau.

Ash Soltni-Stone is a filmmaker and storyteller who recently made the documentary Rez Metal. He is co-authoring a book based on the film titled "Rez Metal: Navajo Tradition and Innovation."

Wahéhshon Shiann Whitebean is a Wolf Clan member of the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) Nation at Kahnawà:ke. Her knowledge is rooted in her extensive background within the Longhouse and her work as a community activist. She received a Master's degree in First Peoples Studies at Concordia University based on a storytelling and oral history project that explores the history and experiences of Indian Day Schools in her home community of Kahnawà:ke.

Panelists for the plenary session "Native American Oral Histories with Utah Connections":

Forrest Cuch is an enrolled member of the Ute Indian Tribe who has worked in Indian education, tribal planning and administration. He also served as executive director of the Utah Division of Indian Affairs, during which he published A History of Utah's American Indians (Utah State University Press, 2000).

Jacqueline Keeler is a Navajo/Yankton Dakota Sioux writer and editor of The Edge of Morning: Native Voices Speak for the Bears Ears.

Sarah Newcomb, of the Tsimshian First Nations people and Eagle Clan, has a Bachelors in English with a focus in Non-Fiction writing and minor in Philosophy, and an Associates in Communications. Her work is focused on Indigenous history and present events, including Native American experiences in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

2020 Awards, Scholarship & Mini-Grants Applications:

Eva Tulene Watt Scholarship for Native American Scholars
General Scholarship
Mini-Grant Opportunity

Deadline for Applications: January 31, 2020
Award Notifications:February 28, 2020

Panelists for "Native Stories of Peoplehood":

Miranda Haskie is a faculty member of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Department at Diné College in Tsaile, Arizona. She teaches sociology. She received her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Change from Fielding Graduate University. She has led the Diné College Navajo Oral History Project in collaboration with Winona State University.

Sheldon Spotted Elk (Northern Cheyenne) is a Director with Casey Family Programs, Indian Child Welfare Unit, in Denver which is a national foundation dedicated to building "Communities of Hope" to improve safety and success of children and their families. Sheldon previously worked as a Guardian ad Litem attorney representing the best interest of children in child welfare legal proceedings.

Panelist for "Creating a Legacy of Home":

Lorina Antonio is a Diné woman from Chinle, Arizona, who has made Utah her home since attending the Intermountain Indian School in Brigham City. She has worked with several scholars on oral history projects featuring the Intermountain Indian School. She and Farina spoke about the historical and cultural importance of fry bread. Lorina gave a demonstration on making fry bread and conference attendees were able to enjoy the results.
From the SOHA Office
By Anthony Graham

I am excited for the opportunity to serve as the 2019-2020 SOHA Graduate Assistant and to work and learn with fellow historians. I am a PhD Candidate at the University of Nevada Las Vegas focusing on environmental and public history. I received my M.A. in history from CSU East Bay in 2013 where I investigated environmental perceptions and the development of San Francisco before and after the 1906 earthquake. My research interests include: the study of sustainability, environmentalism, technology, boosterism, and development. Currently my dissertation uses oral histories and booster literature to map the changing environmental perspectives of the Mojave Desert and how they shape our built environment. I have worked with the National Park Service on the Teaching with Historic Places Project and the Mob Museum as student Director of Education for Ready to Roar and currently sit on Nevada Site Specific Resource Board advising on environmental management activities at the Nevada National Security Site, formerly the Nevada Test Site. I look forward to contributing and studying with everyone in SOHA.

2020 SOHA Awards

Apply for the 2020 SOHA awards for the March 27-29, 2020 conference at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. See our Call for Proposals for additional details.

Eva Tulene Watt Scholarship for Native American Scholars:
Named in honor of Apache author and oral historian Eva Tulene Watt, who shared the story of her family and her people’s past through recounted events, biographical sketches, and cultural descriptions (Don’t Let the Sun Step Over You: A White Mountain Apache Family Life, 1860-1975, with Keith Basso, University of Arizona, 2004), this SOHA scholarship enables indigenous oral history practitioners to attend and participate in the Annual SOHA Conference. As part of the award, the SOHA conference registration fee is waived and travel and hotel expenses are reimbursed up to an amount of $500. Recipients are not eligible for the Eva Tulene Watt scholarship two years in a row. A one-year SOHA membership will be included in the scholarship award. 2020 Application

General Scholarship:
SOHA awards two General Scholarships to oral historians and practitioners to attend and participate in the Annual SOHA Conference. Students, teachers, independent oral historians and individuals associated with nonprofit organizations in the general SOHA region are encouraged to apply. Funding includes one cash award of $300 per recipient and should be applied toward travel and hotel expenses. The SOHA conference registration fee is waived. Recipients are not eligible for the General Scholarship two years in a row. A one-year SOHA membership will be included in the scholarship award. 2020 Application

Mini-Grants
SOHA awards up to three mini-grants each year 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 in the general SOHA region are encouraged to apply to conduct research on the Southwest. Recipients may be invited to present their work at a SOHA conference within two years of receiving the award. We also ask that recipients prepare a written report on their work for inclusion in SOHA’s newsletter within six months of receiving the award. 2020 Application

Visit www.southwestoralhistory.org/awards.html for more information.

Book Announcement

Transcribing Oral History by Teresa Bergen offers a comprehensive guide to the transcription of qualitative interviews, an often richly debated practice within oral history. Beginning with an introduction to the field and an overview of the many disciplines that conduct and transcribe interviews, the book goes on to offer practical advice to those looking to use transcription within their own projects. A helpful how-to section covers technology, style guides, ways to format transcripts and troubleshoot the many problems that can arise. In addition to the practicalities of transcription itself, the book encourages the reader to consider legal and ethical issues, and the effects of troubling audio on the transcriptionist. It explains how scholars can turn recorded interviews and transcripts into books, films and museum exhibits, enabling the reader to understand the wider concerns surrounding transcription as well as the practical uses to which it can be put.
Based upon the author's personal experience as a freelance transcriptionist and interviews with more than 30 professionals working around the world in the oral history and qualitative research fields, this is an indispensable guide for those involved in interviews and transcription at any level of an oral history project, including historians, transcriptionists, interviewers, project administrators, archivists, researchers and students.


Project Announcement

by Allison K. Tracy-Taylor, OHA President

California State Library to launch new oral history website:

The California State Library has begun work on a new website, Voices of the Golden State. This website will feature oral histories that recount California’s rich history and heritage. In focusing on California’s history, the ever-growing collection will especially highlight the state’s diversity. Additionally, it will be a platform through which oral history programs and archives can promote their work and collections. With this announcement, we hope you’ll consider contributing interviews to the site.

To provide guidance to both potential contributors and users of the site, the Library developed a Statement on Diversity. Here’s an excerpt:

As this page seeks to explore California’s rich diversity, we will strive to include interviewees of different races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, religious backgrounds, economic backgrounds, immigration status, abilities, as well as voices from all the geographic regions of the state. Because California is one of the largest economies in the world, these interviews will reveal the multitude of industries that exist in the state, and the experiences of those who have worked in these industries. Finally, the interviews will reflect the importance of civic involvement and political action in California’s history and how Californians from many backgrounds have meaningfully engaged in this work.

Information on how to contribute interviews will be available closer to the site’s launch in late 2019 to early 2020. There will not be a limit on how many oral histories a program or archive can contribute, but submissions will be reviewed and featured on a schedule. The success of Voices of the Golden State will rely on contributing programs opening their oral history collections. We hope you’ll join us in this endeavor.

Allison K. Tracy-Taylor
Project Lead, Voices of the Golden State
voicesofthegoldenstate@gmail.com

OHA CALL FOR PAPERS

The Oral History Association is now accepting submissions.

“One Hundred Years of Struggle: The Quest for Democracy”

2020 OHA Annual Meeting
October 21-24, 2020
Hyatt Regency
Baltimore, Maryland

The submission portal for conference proposals is now open! The deadline is February 3, 2020. Please note that you will have to create a new account, even if you have submitted conference proposals in the past or are a member of the organization. Remember to refer to our Submission Guidelines page for more information about the submission process.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the OHA Executive Office at oha@oralhistory.org.
Call for Proposals:  
SOHA Annual Conference,  
March 27-29, 2020  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

The Southwest Oral History Association (SOHA) will host its annual conference with the theme of Home(Lands) and Oral Histories of (Re)Vitalization on March 27-29, 2020, at the Lied Library on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). Home(Lands) is a timely platform for the conference, as SOHA returns to its institutional home at UNLV. Home(Lands) also reflects major issues in Nevada such as the possible reinstatement of the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository, the Southern Nevada Water Authority’s controversial and repeated efforts to gain groundwater rights from valleys to the distant north of Las Vegas, and the continued presence of open pit mining in the entangled boom/bust continuum that powers so much of rural Nevada economies. This call stresses the question of the rights and the meanings that inhere in claims to and experiences of home, acknowledging the voices of those claiming their home. Since time immemorial to our present-day in the Southwest and beyond, vicissitudes of harmony and tensions about understandings of home and belonging in terms of the national and international imaginary persist. Oral Histories of (Re)Vitalization refer to the vitality and the struggles surrounding the value—at times, valuation—of life, both human and nonhuman. Home(Lands) are the center of life, which oral histories encapsulate and express as ways to revitalize and support thriving beings. Oral history and oral traditions function to create communities’ senses of “home” and “vitality” (life).

We invite all oral historians, scholars, students, teachers, community members, and others, to submit proposals for presentations and/or sessions to be considered for the program. Topics should include clear evidence of oral history research and/or offer innovative insights on methodologies and practices. Both complete session and individual proposals are welcome, and all proposals will be reviewed.

Proposals should include the names, affiliations, and preferred contact information of participants, a one-page CV or brief biography for each presenter, the titles of sessions and papers/presentations, and a brief abstract of each presentation/paper (no more than 250 words per abstract) along with a brief summary (30-40 words) of the overall session if applicable. Indicate if your presentation requires the use of technology (A/V). If you can serve as a commentator or panel chair, please email a brief CV, description of your expertise, and topics of special interest to soha2020conf@gmail.com. Please submit your complete proposals as a single PDF via email by January 6, 2020. Direct all submissions and inquiries about the conference to soha2020conf@gmail.com. Thank you, and we look forward to your submissions!

The Southwest Oral History Association (SOHA) was founded in 1981 to serve practitioners of oral history throughout the Southwestern United States and contiguous regions. 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 Southwest.

Our Institutional Home

Southwest Oral History Association
southwestoralhistory.org | soha@unlv.edu | (702) 895-5011
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 S. Maryland Parkway Box 455020 Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-5020
Mission & Membership

THE SOUTHWEST ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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

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

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), 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.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES
1. Annual Meeting
2. Newsletter
3. Website Presence
4. Scholarships and Grants
5. Annual Awards

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS
1. Annual Individual $35
2. Student $20
3. Individual Lifetime $250
4. 2-Year Individual Membership $65
5. SOHA Community Partners $100
6. SOHA Corporate Partners $350
7. SOHA Institutional Partners $350

Membership Dues APPLY only for the calendar year—so join early!

Questions: soha@unlv.edu
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Office: 702-895-5011
Email: SOHA@UNLV.EDU
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Please contact us to contribute to our next newsletter or to be featured in our social media.