

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all SOHA members! And what a busy Spring it has been! Our April 3-5th Annual Conference in Tempe, Arizona showcased a wide variety of topics, presenters and attendees and enjoyed by all. For a complete recap, please note the 2014 Annual Conference article on page 3. Our thanks again to conference planning co-chairs Sarah Moorhead and Anna Coor for coordinating such a seamless conference.

On the heels of every conference comes the inevitable question: "Who will host the SOHA conference next year?" In true collegial spirit, Suzi Resnick and the members of the Del Mar Historical Society took on the challenge. Thanks to their willingness, we have our 2015 Annual Conference venue confirmed in time for announcement in our summer newsletter. So, Del Mar, CA here we come! Please help us spread the word as we solicit Proposals for the program.

I would like to extend a very grateful "Thank You!" to Dean Chris Hudgins and Dean Patty Iannuzzi of UNLV for their generous support to SOHA. They have made our new home possible! The support of the university gives SOHA long-needed stability moving forward.

We have also been busy consolidating SOHA files and information at our new home on the UNLV campus in Las Vegas, Nevada. With this change, we are turning over the work of formatting and publishing the SOHA newsletter to the university's Reprographics Department. Our many thanks to the volunteers who have coordinated the work of the newsletter in the past: JJ Lamb, Danette Turner, and Sarah Moorhead. You have all earned a well-deserved break!



Caryll Batt Dzedziak, President

Lastly, we still have a few vacancies on the SOHA Board. We are currently looking to fill the positions of Secretary, CA Representative and NM Representative. Please consider volunteering! As always, many thanks to those who have served SOHA in the past and currently holding leadership positions for our organization. Looking forward to seeing everyone in the beachside community of Del Mar!

Caryll Batt Dzedziak
SOHA President 2013-2015

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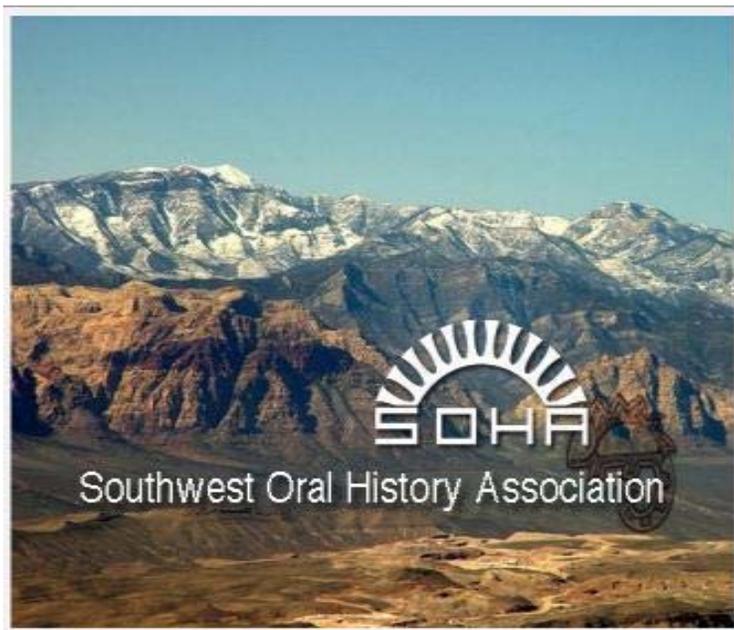
ARIZONA

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SOHA Website

Visit the SOHA website for the latest and most current information regarding upcoming events and activities:

<http://southwestoralhistory.org/>

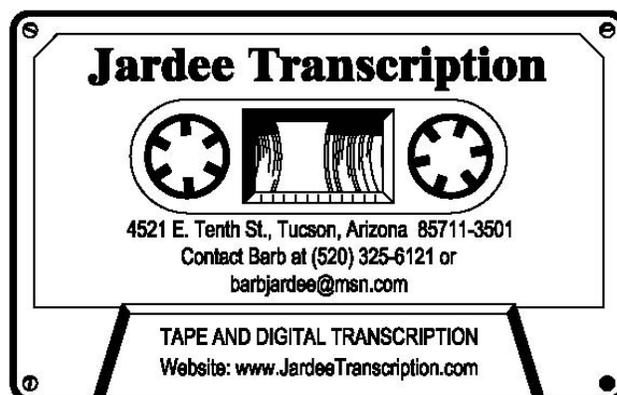


MEET SOHA'S GRADUATE ASSISTANT STEFANI EVANS

Stefani Evans, a PhD student in U.S. history at UNLV, is the SOHA graduate assistant for 2014–15. Stefani was raised in Orange County, California, and has lived in Las Vegas since 1980.

After earning her BA in English and a teaching credential at Cal

State Fullerton she taught elementary school in Queensland, Australia; Lamont, California; and Las Vegas, Nevada. Her 2011 MA thesis at UNLV examined fifty years of decline, dynamism, and demographic change in a post-World War II housing tract in Santa Ana, California. Her PhD dissertation will extend her urban focus to Las Vegas and Salt Lake City, Utah. As the SOHA graduate assistant she looks forward to meeting and working with all SOHA members in the coming year.



**SOHA 2014 Annual Conference in
Tempe, Arizona**
By **Juan Coronado, PhD,**
General Scholarship Awardee

Attending the 2014 Southwest Oral History Association (SOHA) Conference in Tempe, Arizona was an absolute incredible experience. Even before our arrival, the organizers were extremely helpful. Sarah Moorhead, Dr. Caryll Dziedziak, and SOHA made my attendance and presentation possible. SOHA presented me with a scholarship that eased the financial burden on traveling from Texas to Arizona. A special SOHA donor, Mr. Wayne Pomeroy also facilitated the trip with his generous offering. My wife and I who are both historians enjoyed the conference and found it to be a great learning experience.

As an Oral Historian emphasizing on Mexican American former prisoners of war (POWs) from the Vietnam War, I became interested in presenting at SOHA 2014. All the former POWs, which I focus on in my research, originate from the Southwest including California, Colorado, New Mexico, and yes Texas. Given this mentioned fact, the subject matter of my work would be welcomed at SOHA 2014 and it most definitely was. I was part of the *Veterans from World War II and Vietnam* Panel moderated by Danette Turner. Presenting alongside were Dr. Benjamin Hruska who focused on the Sinking of CVE-21 and Larry Edmonds who presented on the impact of Agent Orange on one particular non-combat soldier. The panel had a significant audience that seemed intrigued and consequently generated interesting questions. Personally, I could not have been more thrilled and humbled by the interest the audience had on my work, as it is always pleasant and satisfactory to receive good reaction.

There were several worth noting presentations. The panel on Vietnamese Oral History Pro-

ject out of University of California, Irvine moderated by Anna Gee and presented by Dr. Thoy Vo Dang and Tram Le was very informative on the efforts of collecting these significant oral histories. With my work on the Vietnam War, I found this presentation fascinating.

Still, one of the highlights of SOHA 2014 must have been the special performance "Lost Boys Found." This was a reading from the future play that entails the story of survivors of the civil war in Sudan that were driven out during the 1980s and subsequently found refuge in the United States. The presentation was captivating as the performers gave a realistic account based on powerful oral histories. The performers stole the show.

Other than presentations, there several interesting workshops including, *Collecting Stories: An Introductory Workshop on the Craft of Doing Oral History* presented by Dr. Virginia Espino. The workshop gave a slight introduction or refresher on conducting oral histories. Dr. Espino had a diverse group of about eleven of us from different professional and ethnic backgrounds.

Diversity was very much present at SOHA 2014, not just from an ethnic perspective, but also from a professional sense. It was captivating to meet other folks who use oral histories in their line of work. Among the people who I was intrigued with meeting (other than Sarah Moorhead and Dr. Caryll Dziedziak) were Dr. Noël Cox Caniglia who does oral histories in the agriculture industry and Dr. Christine Marin, Emeritus Professor Archives & Special Collections at Arizona State University.

The near one hundred attendees at SOHA 2014 were delightful and open to expanding not just SOHA, but the field of Oral History. The organizing committee did an outstanding job in catering and setting up the conference. My wife and I very much look forward in continuing to be a part of SOHA and contributing in the near future. Once again thank you for the opportunity of being a part of SOHA 2014.

2014 Annual Conference Silent Auction Donors:
THANK YOU! FOR HELPING US RAISE OVER \$1,200!

Indira Berndtson
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Tiki Hair Salon

2014 SOHA Conference In Tempe/Phoenix, Arizona

By Sarah Moorhead and Karen S. Harper

The 2014 conference was held in Tempe, Arizona in the Phoenix area near Arizona State University at the DoubleTree Hilton, formerly the Fiesta Inn. April 3-5 turned out to be ideal weather, enhancing our Welcome Reception on the patio. President, Caryll Dzedziak, welcomed attendees and introduced Mark Tebeau, the new Director of the Public History Program at ASU. The Public History Department graciously co-sponsored the conference, along with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, and the Salt River Project. Sponsorships are key to keeping conference costs affordable.

Dr. Tebeau is an enthusiastic promoter of oral history and emphasized its relationship to the "public" in public history. He is known for the Curate-scape, a mobile publishing framework for curating landscape and museums, which he led at Cleveland State University. Similarly, ASU's History Department has created Salt River Stories to make local history accessible.

Our introductory workshop is an essential part of our mission as an organization. Virginia Espino came from UCLA to prepare and encourage new oral historians. In the technology workshop, Paul Bergelin recruited fellow experts to facilitate small group hands on practice with different digital recorders. Julie Pearson Little Thunder came from Oklahoma to lead the performance workshop for the second year, providing inspiring editing and performance practice with varied sensitive interviews. The workshops came close to paying their way, but more importantly, met the needs of over 40 attendees. Thank you to our workshop leaders!!



From Left: Joyce Moore, Marcie Gallo, Anna Coor, Sarah Moorhead, Caryll Batt Dzedziak, Claytee White, Barbara Tabach

Our other keynote speaker was Stephen Sloan, the President of the Oral History Association and Director of the Institute for Oral History at Baylor University, where he also teaches history. Stephen spoke on our theme, *Courage to Ask, Courage to Tell*, about interviewing after traumatic events, such as Katrina in Louisiana or the lost stories of veterans silenced by PTSD, and the therapeutic effects of oral history interviews. Stephen's use of humor lightened the serious topic to the enjoyment of his listeners.



From Left: Grace Watkinson, Dr. Katherine Osburn, Farina King

Our third keynote speaker, Patricia Preciado Martin, who uses oral history in her books on Hispanics in Arizona, was unable to attend at the last minute. As a creative replacement, President Caryll Dzedziak spoke on the value of oral history and SOHA's contributions to the field. Then she invited three authors, Barbara Tabach, Mary Gordon, and Loretta Hall, to talk about their recently published books. This spontaneous Plenary was so good that many would like to see the format in the future.

Twenty-one sessions on Friday and Saturday covered topics which spoke about *Courage to Ask and Courage to Tell* in various ways. There were sessions on veterans, archival and access issues, LGBT concerns, migration after WWII, Vietnamese-American, African American, Native American, and other communities, women's reproduction issues, mining unions and ethnicity, the elderly, and difficulties after the interviews. There were also technical mini-workshops: one on podcasting, which was lead by Alisha Cooper, and how to connect oral history interviews with

smart phones by Katherine Defensor and Lisa Falk. In addition, the Past Presidents of SOHA contributed their insights on challenges and possibilities for the organization.

The Awards Luncheon presented scholarship and service awards and the Mink Award which went to Mary Melcher for her extensive use of oral history in Arizona, especially on women's history as reflected in her book, "Pregnancy, Motherhood, and Choice in Twentieth Century Arizona" published in 2013.

A few specific comments on a few presentations will help represent the quality of the conference. In panel 7 titled, "Veterans from WWII, Vietnam" Benjamin Hruska told of his fascinating journey from Director of the Block Island Historical Society

(BIHS) in Rhode Island to a PhD in Public History from ASU. His dissertation is based on the oral histories of the men who served on the Block Island CVR-21 escort carrier. The ship was sunk by the Germans off the Canary Islands during WWII after transporting soldiers to Europe and sinking German submarines. Family and sailors, needing an archive, began sending artifacts to the BIHS, not knowing there was no connection. Hruska found himself compelled to change his life course and gather the courageous and tragic stories of the Block Island sailors.

Session 15 was a presentation by Thuy Vo Dang, Director of the Southeast Asian Archive and founder of the Vietnamese American Oral History Project (VAHP) and Tram Lee, Associate Director of the VAHP at UC, Irvine. In just over two years, they have already gathered over 120 interviews and posted them on the VAHP website with audio and transcriptions covering life narratives of pre-war Vietnam, the war years, refugee experiences, and adjustments to American life. To make the collection more accessible, they also employ a Blog and a Facebook page. Websites are: <http://sites.uci.edu/vaohp> www.facebook.com/VAOHP.

In Session 21, organized by UCLA Archivist Dalena Hunter and titled, "Oral History and Archives: Returning Hidden Stories to the Community" Patricia Garcia, Doctoral student at UCLA, talked about trying to teach archival best practices and motivate action for a wealth of precious United Farm Workers historical information that is piled in a storage building out in a rural area.

SOHA also has a long tradition, largely through the influence of past-president Jean Marie Arrigo, of presenting readers' theater performances based on oral histories. Friday evening, Julie Amparano from ASU West, brought the premier performance of "Lost Boys Found" based on her interviews with young refugees from the Sudan. She obtained grant funding to hire a director and professional actors. We were thrilled to provide the venue for this powerful work in progress. The program included a follow up discussion which included two of original "lost boys" who are now professionals serving their community.



Karen S. Harper & Joyce Moore

When the conference committee and the board of SOHA put on a conference, we have many goals. We strive to plan a conference that meets the needs of our members and reaches out to those who are new to oral history. We look for a location that is reasonably priced and provides welcoming spaces for meetings and gatherings. We also strive to put together a program with diversity of topics and presenters by age, generation, ethnicity, experience, and southwest regions. We managed to balance all these things fairly well at the conference including a good number of young scholars.

**CONGRATULATIONS
to our 2015 Awardees!**

Mink Award	Mary Melcher
Lifetime Award	Karen S. Harper
Service Award	Danette Turner
Eva Tulene- Watt Scholarship	Farina King & Susan Gehr
General Scholarship	Juan Coronado & Jennifer Keil
Mini-Grant	Monica Bilka, Loretta Hall & New Mexico Jewish Historical Society (NMJHS)

We had good attendance from extensive outreach to oral historians, museums, historical societies, the OHA list serve, etc. But we still need to be more successful in increasing attendance numbers. We tried to get publicity in local papers as well as student newspapers. We would like ideas about how to be more effective in the future.

Thanks to the Arizona committee who put together the local arrangements and the program: Anna Coor, Danette Turner, Karen Harper, Carlos Lopez, Jean Reynolds, Mary Melcher, Kim Chuppa-Cornell, and Sarah Moorhead. Also, Past-president, Dan Killoren, arranged for the program printing by Salt River Project Water and Power Company. The program color, layout, and use of photos was one of the most effective and readable programs ever! Thank you, SRP! Gratitude also to the SOHA Board of Directors and the staff for their generous assistance.

The Impact of Oral History in My Life

Mary Melcher

Receiving the SOHA Mink Award today is a wonderful honor. Thank you very much. It means a great deal to me, and I really appreciate this recognition of my work as an oral historian. I would like to share some of the experiences that I've had and explain how conducting oral histories has influenced me both professionally and personally.

I first began learning about oral histories when I was an undergraduate at the University of Montana in the 1970s. I joined a group called the Montana Women's Oral History Collective and had the good fortune of convincing a history professor to give me credit for interviewing elderly women. K Ross Toole, the professor and an excellent Montana historian, was a soft touch, I guess, because it wasn't too hard to convince him. Through the Montana Women's History Collective, I learned how to interview and began doing it. I didn't know it then, but this was the beginning of a line of work that would give me great satisfaction throughout my career.

After that project, I conducted interviews for the Montana Historical Society, working with Laurie Mercier, whom some of you may know. When I moved to Arizona in 1981, I had interviewed about 25 people, mainly women, and I had a strong interest in oral histories and in women's history.

While living in Tucson in the early 1980s, I learned that the Arizona Humanities Council sometimes funded oral history projects. I applied for a grant to conduct an oral history project concerning the history of women's work in Arizona. The idea was to create radio programs, using the oral histories. To develop this project, I worked with a radio producer who worked for the public radio station in Tucson. I found a couple of other oral historians to work with me, and one of them was Patricia Martin. She conducted about 4 interviews with Mexican American women. The interviews were about the women's lives and different types of work, including ranching and farming, domestic work or homemaking, teaching, and other types of professional work. This was a very fun project, and I traveled all over the state. The radio producer convinced me to use a sound technician, so we would get excellent sound. This was a good idea. The sound tech listened for noise outside the house, planes flying overhead, dogs barking, and traffic. When it was noisy, she would actually ask us to pause the interview until the noise stopped. After we had conducted about 25 interviews, I indexed them all and found quotes for the radio program scripts. Then I wrote the scripts, mixing quotes with narration, and the scripts went through an editing process with our grant scholars. Finally they were ready for the producer, Tim McIntire, to compose the programs. He worked magic with them, combining

the oral history quotes with narration and music. I remember how excited I was to hear the first radio program. I had a new baby by that time, and I picked her up and danced around the room! What fun to collaborate with someone and have the interviews turned into a product that NPR wanted to broadcast! They were broadcast on National Public Radio stations in Arizona and other western states.

These oral history projects fed my growing interest in women's history. I began graduate school at ASU, studying for a Ph.D. in American history, with an emphasis on the 20th Century, women's history, the West. During graduate school, I looked for more opportunities to do interviews. I became intrigued by changes in racial relations in Phoenix after driving around south Phoenix, which had been a segregated area. It was still somewhat segregated in the 1980s, but it was also racially mixed. During a seminar, I decided to explore the civil rights movement in Phoenix by conducting oral histories and then writing a seminar paper. This was an undocumented subject at the time. This project turned into a wonderful learning experience. I was a middle class white woman from Montana, fairly young at that point, and I began trying to get interviews with a multi-cultural group of Phoenix people, including several movers and shakers among the African American community. It was fairly easy to get interviews with people like Bill Mahoney, who had been a civil rights attorney. He was a white man who was happy to talk to me about his experiences. It was harder to get an interview with George Brooks, an African American pastor and leader. I must have called him a half a dozen times and he would not return my calls, as I tried to schedule an interview. Finally, I convinced his secretary to set up a time for me to meet with him. When I called him the day before to confirm the interview, I finally spoke to him and he was brisk. He asked how much time I needed, and I said an hour and a half, if he could spare it. He said, "You come, ask the questions and I'll talk fast..." So I wasn't sure how it would go when I began interviewing Reverend Brooks, but he gave me a wonderful interview! Sometimes, it can work to be a newcomer and especially, an interested newcomer. He was very open and shared his experiences. Once I had interviewed him, I could ask other African American men, and they said yes because I had interviewed George Brooks, Bill Mahoney, ect. And they were all friends. I also had the good fortune to interview Lincoln and Eleanor Ragsdale. These were all remarkable people, who changed Phoenix for the better. I published an article about the civil rights movement in the *Journal of Arizona History* called "Blacks and Whites Together: Interracial Leadership in the Phoenix Civil Rights Movement." I also donated my interviews to the Arizona Historical Foundation, and they were available to future researchers, such as Matthew Whitaker, who used them to write his biography of the Ragsdales. I would like to stress the importance of donating interviews to an archives or library, so they can be used by people in the future and so that they will expand the historical material available about our diverse society.



Mary Melcher

Conducting interviews has greatly broadened my knowledge of the Southwest and racial relations. It's been a wonderful experience to get to know people from different ethnic and racial groups and to hear their stories. Around the same time as my civil rights project, I worked with the Casa Grande Valley Historical Society, doing research and oral histories about their community's school history. There was a segregated school in Casa Grande, so I interviewed Black former students, as well as white students. Here again, I learned a great deal about segregation and its affects. When the project ended I gave a talk to the members of the historical society, detailing the school history, including the difficulties endured by African American students in their sub-par segregated school. Luckily they had been blessed with a wonderful teacher named Rebecca Dallis who had helped many of them to excel in school and deal with the insults of segregation.

During these years, conducting oral histories was part of every research project that I did. As a twentieth century historian, I could find people to interview about nearly every subject that I pursued. When I worked on my dissertation on ranch and farm women in southern Arizona, I also interviewed about 20 women. I met some wonderful people whom I still remember. I'm sure you all have had the experience of recalling a certain narrator when you drive into a neighborhood or town and remember finding their house and meeting them. These women who farmed and ranched during the years of 1910 to 1940 all had clear recollections of the Great Depression. Those hard times had been burned into their memories, and they told me many stories that have stayed with me. During difficult times in my own life, I've often recalled the women's stories and reminded myself that many others have endured more troubles than I've faced.

When I worked at the Arizona Historical Society in Tempe from 1999 to 2006, I worked to expand

our collections by conducting oral histories, especially with people from under-represented groups. Jean Reynolds, another SOHA member, and I worked there at the same time, and we made it our mission to enlarge the stories told through the museum exhibits so that they included the histories of everyone in Arizona, not just Anglo men. As we interviewed men and women of Mexican, African, Asian and American Indian descent, we demonstrated to our narrators that their history was important. We incorporated these new oral histories into the exhibits and invited those whom we had interviewed and their families to the exhibit openings. In this way, we expanded the audience of the museum and showed people of color that it was their museum, too.

Another project that I would like to touch on briefly is my work on women's reproduction. As I discussed in the session I shared with Carlos this morning, I've conducted many interviews related to this area of women's lives, covering childbirth, birth control, abortion and movements for social change related to reproduction. I became involved in interviewing about these topics when I was an undergraduate at the University of Montana and have continued to ask women about this aspect of their lives throughout my career. Reproduction and the ability to have babies or limit fertility is a crucial aspect of women's lives that affects one's health, family life, ability to work, to participate in politics, and in community life. Reproduction has been a major factor in women's lives throughout time, and we have only recently acquired reliable means to control fertility. So, it's a very important topic in women's lives and one that can be pursued through oral history interviews. These types of interviews are a significant component of my book, *Pregnancy, Motherhood and Choice in Twentieth Century Arizona*, which the University of Arizona Press published in the fall of 2012. Through the interviews, women conveyed personal experiences, beliefs and attitudes. It's necessary to conduct interviews about this topic because primary historical documents are limited in number. And once they get started, women are often happy to discuss their lives in relation to reproduction because these experiences were vital aspects of their lives.

In closing, I would like to urge you all to continue your work as oral historians. By conducting oral histories and donating the interviews to libraries and archival collections, we are expanding the available knowledge for researchers and students of history. We are also allowing people to share their stories and to make their own life stories a part of the historical record. In addition, we are saving family and community histories. This work is challenging, fun and rewarding. It has been an important part of my professional life and my personal life because the narrators have taught me so much and changed me in many ways. I thank you again for this lovely honor and wish you luck in your future projects.





Suzi Resnick, Tensia Trejo, Annie DuVal

HISTORY SPEAKS by Suzi Resnick

(DMHS) Oral History Project: Tensia Trejo, Annie Duval, Rob Healey, and myself as moderator, had just completed a 90-minute presentation on our oral history project: “An Update on a Community Model” at the 2014 Southwest Oral History Association (SOHA) annual meeting “The Courage to Ask and the Courage to Tell.”

Tensia kicked off the presentation with an overview of Del Mar’s history and the genesis of the Del Mar Historical Society. Rob’s visuals including photos of our seaside paradise and of times past drew “oohs” and “ahhhs.” Annie traced the history of the Oral History Project beginning with Swede Throneson’s early steps to capture the history of our community with amusing tales such as the original DMHS office perched on top of the roof of the Kockritz (Stratford Square) building, not a very

accessible location for viewing historical artifacts or reading and listening to oral histories.

She described working with the Del Mar Library to house our oral history binders and catalogue our stories in the San Diego County Library system. She noted that the original interviewer team of Don Terwilliger and Suzi Resnik was formed in 1995 and continue to work together with Tensia, the album expert, continuing to produce them. Annie discussed her oral history interviewer experiences - particularly with Jock Jocoy and Pat Welsh. She described the digitization of all our oral histories and plans to post them on the DMHS website.

Rob discussed the use of new technology in our current projects and credited the City of Del Mar, Lynn Gaylord, and recently the Del Mar Foundation for funding that furthers our projects using new modalities. He showed how we developed a “script” working with Jan McMillan, former mayor of Del Mar, so that her additions and changes could be seamlessly integrated into the audio portion as well as into the transcript.

We explained the Beach Stories Project, an idea created by Lynn Gaylord and developed into roundtable sessions by Susie Good Stevenson, who grew up on the beach and reached out to groups of old-timers to discuss what life was like then. Rob illustrated how we can record up to eight voices with our new audio equipment identifying each speaker. A photo was shown of Larry Brooks, our DMHS President with Lauren Bridges, volunteer who has made enormous contributions to further DMHS for the future.

I concluded by emphasizing that the role of our oral history project is to foster discussions focusing on historical developments using a community roundtable idea - and that by sharing perceptions from the past - new thoughts and conclusions may emerge, and old divisions healed.



Joyce Moore

LOOKING BACK

It was, what seems to me now, as a very short six years ago that our conference was held at the Fiesta Inn in Tempe, AZ. It was wonderful to see old friends and make new ones. “Capturing and Preserving Stories in the Southwest” promised to be full of wonderful panels and it did not disappoint. We enjoyed learning how to capture the working person’s experiences, document changes in the Hispanic and Asian Communities, and how to look at oral history as a business among other wonderful topics.

One personally exciting part of the conference for me was that I prepared the food for the Friday night reception. Cooking has always been a passion of mine, however, I couldn’t have pulled it off without the help of Sarah Moorhead and many others who pitched in to cut, slice and roll. The evening continued with “Hearing Their Voices: Oral history in song and performance.” John Crigler memorialized his mother in songs created from her oral histories and then a reader’s theater, “Never Have Half Enough of Anything”: A Great Depression story, written by Mary Melcher from oral histories done by Marsha Weisiger. The awards luncheon on Saturday was held on the patio and Mehmed Ali, president of the Oral History Assoc. was our speaker. Sunday began with the general meeting along with breakfast and ended with a Plenary: Commentary of Sessions where the themes of the sessions were discussed by distinguished oral historians. A wonderful time was had by all.

Those of us from Las Vegas were excited to go back to Tempe for this year’s conference. We were sure that none of us had been to the Doubletree Hotel before; however, when our cab pulled up to the entrance, we all felt a sense of déjà vu. I remember Barbara Tabach walking into the restaurant with a wondering look on her face when she quizzed, “I feel like I’ve been here before.” Yes, Barbara, this is the Fiesta Inn. I think we all had that “Ahah” moment. There was a feeling of comfort and surety being back where we had had such an ideal conference experience in 2008.

2014 Annual Conference Experience

By Farina King, 2014 Eva Tulene Watt Scholarship Awardee

I had many memorable experiences and great opportunities at this past Southwest Oral History Association Conference with the theme “Courage to Ask, Courage to Tell.” As my first time at a SOHA conference, I especially appreciated making connections with fellow oral historians and supporters of oral history from throughout the Southwest. Of the many great people that I met, I enjoyed the company of the representatives from the Ak-Chin Indian Community who helped sponsor the conference. They described their efforts to revitalize their indigenous language by developing technologies and application software. Such networking and casual conversations enriched my understanding of the relationship between oral history, indigenous peoples, and language.

The presentation of the other Eva Tulene Watt Scholarship recipient, Susan Gehr, directly related to these connections. I watched Susan discuss her research with the Ak-Chin Indian Community members and present on her thesis, “Breath of Life: Revitalizing California’s Native American Languages Through Archives.” Native Americans now apply various tools and resources that have formally been considered “non-traditional” or “western” to propagate their ancestral languages, such as computer technologies and archival literature as the Ak-Chin Indian community representatives and Susan demonstrated at the SOHA conference. Indigenous languages remain a key to accessing Native American oral histories, which preserve decades of Indian history. At the SOHA conference, I could see the resiliency and efforts of Native Americans to protect and support the key of their languages.

I had another striking experience by attending the session, “Beyond the War Zone: Engaging Veterans On Campus.” As a history graduate student at Arizona State University, I know Dr. Von Hagen and have taken a couple of his classes. He was unable to participate in this session as originally planned. Only one presenter, Chloe Westlund, could come. Chloe’s presentation sparked a long dialogue during the question and answer portion of the session meeting. I spoke to Dr. Von Hagen after the conference about his efforts with the Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement and the Veterans’ Oral History project at ASU. Arizona and Phoenix have recently received national attention in regards to the issues of Veterans’ Affairs and specifically the VA Phoenix Hospital.

Before the major news coverage and popular discussions of Veterans’ Affairs, Dr. Von Hagen helped to open the Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement and involved some of his classes in a veteran oral history project. He aspired to interview military veterans at ASU and others from Arizona in general. Chloe was one of his students in his oral history class. She described her experiences interviewing her uncle about his service in Vietnam before taking the ASU course with Von Hagen. She compared the experience to her work on the Veterans’ Oral History project at ASU, which inspired her to interview Roan who was a veteran of the Iraq War. Chloe explained how the stories of her uncle and Roan became a part of her consciousness. Coming from a family with many military veterans, I value the insights that Chloe’s presentation provided about the significance and efforts to collect veterans’ oral histories despite the difficulties of engaging in conversations about war and post-war experiences. I look forward to seeing the developments of the ASU Veterans’ Oral History project and collection, especially as it encourages and teaches young adults to practice oral history methodologies and serve others by interviewing and preserving veterans’ stories. Hopefully, the oral history collection will include Arizona veterans’ thoughts and experiences in these recent events of historical significance regarding the VA controversy as well. In the official launching of the Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement, Mark Von Hagen told the attendees, “Our mantra is listening, connecting, learning. We are learning much about ourselves and our humanity from our veteran students, about sacrifice and duty, about resilience and courage.” Oral history for many, especially Native American and veteran interviewees and their interviewers, takes great courage, signifying its great value to society.



Farina King



**2015 SOUTHWEST ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION (SOHA)
ANNUAL CONFERENCE * MARCH 19-21, 2015
“IT TAKES A VILLAGE: BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH ORAL HISTORY”
DEL MAR, CALIFORNIA**

COMMUNITY (def) – *A group of people living in the same locality and under the same government. A group of people having common interests. Similarity or identity. Sharing, participation, and fellowship.*

A community can be defined in many ways. Whether through geographic location or common experiences; community is bound by some form of identity. How can the practice of oral history be used to identify and explore various communities? Join us in beautiful and historic beachside Del Mar, CA for our annual SOHA conference. Information will be posted on our SOHA website as it becomes available. We encourage all members to consider presenting or participating on a panel. Please note the contact information listed below: *For more information, including scholarships, please visit us at:*
Southwest Oral History Association: <http://www.southwestoralhistory.org>
Conference information and website: <http://sohaconference.com/>

Questions? Contact the SOHA Office at: soha@unlv.edu or call 702-895-5011.



CALL FOR PAPERS, COMMENTATORS & CHAIRS

Conference Theme: *It Takes a Village: Building Community through Oral History*

The Program Committee invites proposals for panels or single presentations that cover a variety of oral history topics on the theme of “community.” Students are especially encouraged to participate.

Here is your opportunity to share and learn with other advocates of oral history as an important means of capturing community histories.

SOHA members typically represent Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, and southern California. However, our roster also includes members from Texas, Oklahoma and northern California. In other words, there are no geographical limits to who can participate and share experiences. We are interested in hearing from oral historians—professionals, students, community organizations—from all parts of the country.

**Please find submission forms & guidelines at: www.sohaconference.com
Proposal submission deadline: November 7, 2014.**

Notification of Acceptance: no later than **January 9, 2015**.
We will consider panel submissions or create panels from related individual proposals.

The Program Committee also welcomes scholars willing to serve as commentators or panel chairs.
If you are planning to attend the 2015 SOHA Annual Conference and would be willing to serve as commentator or panel chair. Please email a brief CV, description of your area of expertise, and topics of special interest to you to: soha@unlv.edu **Deadline: November 7, 2014.**

**Current SOHA membership and 2015 conference pre-registration are required of all program participants.
SOHA annual membership is effective per calendar year: January—December.**

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

It's time to renew your Southwest Oral History Association Membership!

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

(Note: If you took advantage of the two year membership during the past fiscal year, you are paid up through December 2014.)

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).

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

SOHA Newsletter

The SOHA newsletter is issued three times a year. It welcomes submissions regarding regional news, articles by oral historians about oral history, reviews, and other items related to oral history.

Due dates are: **Spring: February 1, Summer: June 1, Fall/Winter: October 1.**

Please send submissions to the editor.

SOHA Editorial Board

Editor: C/O soha@unlv.edu

Formatter: Judy L. Smith,
judy.smith@unlv.edu

Production: UNLV Reprographics / Design Services Department

Advertising is available within the newsletter

\$25 business card size

\$50 half page

\$75 full page