Greetings to our members and a warm welcome to new members!

ORGANIZE! ORGANIZE! ORGANIZE! No, we are not forming a new social movement. It’s much more basic than that! Over the past year, we have been very busy organizing years of SOHA files, cleaning up our Membership Directory, expanding the scope of our newsletters, updating our website, and increasing our intra-organizational communication. And a big “thanks” for much of this work goes to our new Graduate Assistant, Stefani Evans. So, as we approach the close of 2014, the SOHA Board feels as though we’ve finally tidied up our “cluttered desk!”

And onward to an exciting 2015! As mentioned in our recent newsletters, we are “Going to the Beach” for our 2015 Annual Conference. Thanks to the generosity of the Del Mar Historical Society who have agreed to sponsor our conference, we will enjoy the beautiful community of Del Mar, CA March 19-21, 2015. Suzi Resnick, Annie DuVal and the Del Mar team have been busily preparing the venue for this event to be hosted by the Clarion Inn. Please come join us!

I hope you noticed our new newsletter column, “Looking Back.” SOHA Historian, Joyce Moore will continue to feature stories from our SOHA days of long (or not so long) ago. If you have a funny or memorable memory from past SOHA events or activities, please contact Joyce for inclusion in upcoming newsletters.

And lastly, my thanks to all who have served or currently serve in leadership positions for SOHA. Your dedication and service enable SOHA to continue to make its mark across many southwestern communities. I look forward to continuing serving as SOHA President for 2013-2015 and look forward to greeting many of you in Del Mar!

Caryll Batt Dziedziak
SOHA President 2013-2015

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CALIFORNIA
VACANT! - Volunteer Welcome!

NEW MEXICO
VACANT! - Volunteer Welcome!

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SOHA Website
Visit the SOHA website for the most current information regarding upcoming events and activities:
http://southwestoralhistory.org/

Follow and Like SOHA on Social Media!

Twitter: https://twitter.com/SWoralhistory
Pinterest: http://www.pinterest.com/sworal/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Southwest-Oral-History-Association/146233432091533

Congratulations to SOHA Member, Dr. Christine Marin!
Congratulations to long-time SOHA member, oral historian, archivist-historian and storyteller extraordinaire, Dr. Chris Marin. She won the Dr. Loui Olivas Distinguished Leadership in Higher Education Award, presented by the Victoria Foundation in their 5th Annual Arizona Higher Education Awards for 2014. “This award is given to an outstanding administrator in the field of higher education who has demonstrated excellence in the profession and has championed Latinos. The award is named in honor of Dr. Loui Olivas, Professor Emeritus, Arizona State University, a leader, faculty member, mentor, and champion in higher education.” Chris was the director of the Chicano Collection at the ASU Library, but was a great help to students and others who needed assistance with other research, as well.
The Los Angeles Post World War II African American Oral History project will augment the limited primary sources in local, private, and public institutions that document the struggles and accomplishments of African Americans who were born in or migrated to Los Angeles in the second half of the twentieth century. Today’s technology can make their personal accounts of failures and successes in politics, civil rights, entertainment, sports, and cultural identification digitally accessible to scholars, educators, historians, students, and community members. The California State University, Northridge (CSUN) Institute for Arts and Media (IAM) in collaboration with the California African American Museum (CAAM) and the Tom and Ethel Bradley Family Foundation aims to capture at least fifty of these stories from a broad socioeconomic range of elites to the underrepresented and overlooked who lived, worked, struggled, survived, and excelled in Southern California.

Backstories provide rich context for each interview. Although the project focuses on the years after World War II, interviewees begin as far back as they can remember in childhood and often include what they were told about their origins and ancestors. Many interviewees are ageing members of the “greatest generation” that fought for democracy abroad in World War II and returned home to fight for their civil rights as black Americans at home. Unless we capture their stories now their memories will die with them.

Oral historians for the project include Dr. Kent Kirkton, Director of the CSUN Institute for Arts and Media; Charmaine Jefferson, Executive Director of the California African American Museum; Greg Franks, Director of the Tom and Ethel Bradley Family Foundation; and Keith Rice, Research Historian for the CSUN Institute for Arts and Media. Kent Kirkton has conducted oral history interviews of photographers, journalists, and civil rights activists for the IAM since 1990. For more than twenty years Charmaine Jefferson has directed oral history interviews, lecture series, and panel discussions with some of the most prominent scholars, politicians, entertainers, activists, and trailblazers in the African American community. Greg Franks has interviewed many members of the African American political, entertainment, sports, and civil rights movement communities. Keith Rice has interviewed political, entertainment, and civil rights figures in Los Angeles and Detroit, and for oral history projects at the Autry National Center. He has four years’ experience as an archival technician and more than twenty-five years as sound and video post-production engineer. He will oversee production, post-production, and archiving.

All materials produced for this project will be born and preserved digitally and will be archived for deposit at CSUN and the CAAM. Video clips from each interview will be available on the participating institutions’ websites. The audio recordings of the complete interviews will be transcribed and posted online at the participating institutions and CSUN’s Oviatt Library. The CAAM will hold a public workshop to highlight the project and inspire participants to create their own oral history projects. Scholars, educators, and future Angelenos will benefit from the rich perspective these personal stories will contribute to the often marginalized and limited history of African Americans.

Keith Rice
Research Historian
California State University, Northridge
Institute for Arts and Media
Think pristine Pacific ocean...beautiful beaches...big blue sky...unique architecture...race track...and friendly people. If the workshops, plenaries, entertainment, camaraderie and collegiality of past SOHA gatherings aren’t enough to get you thinking about next year’s conference, then perhaps the beauty of the unique seaside community of Del Mar, California will be what motivates you to make plans now to join us there in spring 2015.

We are thrilled that the amazing organizers of the Del Mar Historical Society are our hosts for the Southwest Oral History Association conference scheduled for March 19-21. The theme, appropriately enough, is “It Takes A Village: Building Community Through Oral History,” and the setting as well as the people and the possibilities for the program add up to what we are sure will be an exceptional experience for all of us.

The focus on community is not accidental. We will be experiencing a strong and cohesive sense of community throughout the 2015 conference. And, as the organizers remind us, “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?” Opportunities to explore these and other questions of community and identity will define our 2015 program.

We can promise you multiple venues with skill-building sessions, panel presentations, informal conversations, and social events, to name just a few, all highlighting the sense of purpose and discovery that we bring to our practice of oral history. For those new to the field, the SOHA conference is a wonderful way to get to know some of the people throughout the southwestern U.S. and beyond who have created innovative projects and are willing to share their knowledge and expertise with you. It also is a great way to share your passions and ideas with people who believe in the power of oral history to define community. For folks who have not been to a SOHA conference lately, come spend part of your weekend (Thursday through Saturday) next March in a glorious locale. You will be updated not only on the exciting goings-on in Del Mar but also what is happening in your regional organization. Everyone -- new, old, longtime member or recent oral history practitioner -- is welcome! That includes friends and family, too.

But our conference will only be as good as your involvement. As chair of the Program Committee, I ask you to submit proposals for single presentations or panel sessions that cover a variety of oral history topics on the theme of “community.” This is an unparalleled chance to promote your projects, pose questions, try out some new ways of thinking and doing, and provide learning experiences. Students -- of all ages -- are particularly encouraged to participate. Scholarships are available. And although SOHA members typically represent Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, and southern California, we also have members and conference attendees from Texas, Oklahoma, northern California, and other areas. There is no limit to participation because we welcome submissions from oral historians of all stripes, in all areas, and all locations, be they community-based, academic, or institutional.

To make your participation easier, we have extended our proposal submission deadline to Friday, December 19, 2014. Please go to www.sohaconference.com for submission forms and guidelines. Do it now. We can help you form panels where necessary and can also provide assistance with “fleshing out” ideas for a presentation.

On behalf of all of us at SOHA, I look forward to hearing from you very soon and seeing you in Del Mar in March! Please don’t hesitate to contact me if I can answer any specific questions.

All best,
Marcia Gallo
SOHA THANKS...

DEL MAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR SPONSORING OUR 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

About the Del Mar Historical Society:
- The Del Mar Historical Society was founded in 1985. The first president was Swede Throneson, who understood the importance of historical preservation and collecting oral histories in addition to photographs and printed materials. Our current president is Larry Brooks.
- Del Mar’s VOLUNTEER, NON-PROFIT associations—funded by the Del Mar Foundation.

About Del Mar Voices:
The DMHS Oral History Project began in 1995. Suzi Resnik and Don Terwilliger were the initial interviewers. A growing group of volunteers and changing technology brings us up to the present, including recording histories of old-timers, community leaders, mayors and group oral histories of the beach people. More projects are planned for the future.
ABOUT DEL MAR, CALIFORNIA

- Often referred to as “Paradise” by its residents.
- Anchored since it began in 1885 by a deluxe resort hotel. Del Mar was planned as a haven for the rich and famous to rival Newport, Rhode Island.

- Geography: Del mar has 1.8 square miles of one of the most beautiful beaches on the Pacific Ocean.
- Population: 4,161 people. The U.S. Navy outstanding medical centers, biotech research facilities, universities and centers for the arts all enrich the quality of Del Mar lives and community.
- Incorporated in 1959, Del Mar has a five-member elected City Council, who rotate as Mayor.

- The Fairgrounds relocated to Del Mar under the reacti-vated 22nd Agricultural Association in 1933—became a WPA constructions project.
- The Del Mar Racetrack was sponsored by Bing Crosby and Pat O’Brien in 1937 and became a favorite of Holly-wood personalities.
Our Representatives Report

Nevada Representative
Claytee White: Autumn 2014

The Oral History Research Center at UNLV Libraries is ending its eleventh year of service to the campus, local organizations, and citizens of the City of Las Vegas and all of Clark County. On Saturday, October 18th, we held the third celebratory event to applaud ten years of the center’s existence. Over one hundred and fifty people attended and enjoyed the interview/conversation with our current and former Las Vegas mayors, Carolyn and Oscar Goodman. The Goodmans shared stories of their early lives, the migration to Las Vegas, falling in love with this city, and their desire to serve the people of our region.

While fun, informative, and exciting, the event was the first official fundraiser for the Oral History Research Center. We asked attendees to sponsor the preservation of early voices that were captured by Dr. Ralph Roske’s classes beginning in 1970. As an early professor in our history department, Roske trained his students and sent them throughout the city to interview Las Vegas founding fathers and mothers. Though UNLV was very late in establishing a formal oral history center, we began the collection process at about the same time as other cities across the county.

Unfortunately, we have begun to find that more and more of these valuable cassette tapes holding early voices are degenerating. If you are thinking about the digitization of tapes under the bed and in closets, having them transcribed can be a first step in this process. AND at the Oral History Association meeting just held in Madison, Wisconsin, I attended a panel that may be of help to many of you. I am including the names, contact information and presentation titles of each panelist. They are all in the process of saving their many years of work as inexpensively as possible.


The second presenter, Ryan Barland, shared great technical information and grant funding ideas used at the Minnesota History Society, Presentation was: “Digitizing a Collection, Lessons Learned.” (651) 259-3000 http://www.mnhs.org/shpo/

The final presenters were Susan Becker and Lisa Holmberg from the Boulder Public Library. They discussed their experiences with Wordpress in a conversation titled “Transforming an Outdated Online Oral History Archive with Wordpress.” Please contact them with questions at Phone: 303-441-1981 Online: http://oralhistory.boulderlibrary.org
Contact us: beckers@boulderlibrary.org
Please that a look at their work.

The Oral History Association put on a great conference, showcased projects from around the country, and provided rare networking opportunities. Please know that OHA is getting excited about SOHA and I hope you are as well. Think a conference in Del Mar!

Arizona Representative
Duffie Westheimer: Autumn 2014

SOHA summer newsletters were distributed to more than two dozen of Arizona’s historically oriented organizations. SOHA member Mary Contini Gordon took newsletters to Tucson’s academic sites as well as to the Diocese of Tucson Archives. Institutions in smaller Arizona communities such as Holbrook, Ft. Apache, Wickenburg, Pinetop, Kingman and Yuma received newsletters via mail. In my home town of Flagstaff newsletters were shared with our relevant academic departments and Northern Arizona University’s Cline Library Special Collections and Archives (who has extensive oral history collections) as well as organizations with a historical focus working in and based out of Flagstaff.

Maybe a future SOHA conference will include papers about the oral history work of the Grand Canyon River Guides who collect personal experiences on the Colorado River at the bottom of the Canyon, the work of the Grand Canyon Historical Society who focuses on lived experiences from the River to thousands of feet above on the Canyon rim or the oral history of Lowell Observatory where scientists have looked to the skies since 1894!

When Mary Contini Gordon was not running around Tucson for SOHA she was in California speaking about her research and book, TIQ SLO’W: The making of a modern day Chief as well as starting on a new research project! I am continuing to make contacts and interview folks about Flagstaff’s historic Townsite neighborhood.

Arizona members, please send me news of your activities to include in the next AZ report!
WELCOME!
TO SOHA’s NEWEST LITTLE MASCOT!
SOHA’s Student Representative, Angela Moor, gave birth to
ADELINE JOY MOOR-LEE
On July 24, 2014

CONGRATULATIONS ANGELA AND ERIK!

Looking Back by Joyce Moore

I spent a weekend in October with some incredible and dedicated members of SOHA, planning for our next conference. It made me think about all the wonderful projects and stories we have captured in our 33 years and wondered how it all came about.

In 1981, the Southwest Oral History Association became the newest of the regional groups in the United States. The original formation meeting took place on February 21, 1981 followed by the first organizational meeting on June 6, 1981, in Pasadena, California where approximately seventy-five oral historians from Southern California and Arizona gathered to discuss their work, elect officers, and adopt the constitution. Steven Stern was the first President and Shirley Stephenson, vice-president.

The next meeting of SOHA, an all-day workshop on November 7, 1981, at California State University, Fullerton, was planned by Stern and Stephenson. The purpose was to bring together individuals from different institutions, programs, and projects who desired a better way of implementing oral history. Principal speakers were Fullerton State professors Gordon Bakken and Larry deGraaf. The meeting was a huge success and it was decided at then that SOHA would host a conference each spring, a workshop in the fall, and print a quarterly newsletter. It wasn’t long before oral historians from Nevada and New Mexico joined the organization and it began to flourish.

Over the years, SOHA has had its peaks and valleys; however, today it stands as the strongest regional organization in the country. We have the former visionaries to thank for their hard work and dedication and to all the present members who continue to plan conferences, educate, and bring treasured interviews to the public for enjoyment and research.
Field Notes: A CSUF Graduate Student's First Time Attendee Experience  
Written by Jennifer L. Keil

I first learned about SOHA at the 2013 OHA conference in Oklahoma City. I knew then that I'd like to be a part of this regionally based organization. As a native Arizonian, I was thrilled to learn that the conference would be held in the bustling city of Tempe, AZ. I was very excited to receive the news that my presentation on "The Home Front: World War II Daily Conditions for Women in Hitler's Europe to the Golden State" was accepted. In addition to receiving this opportunity, I was selected as a SOHA scholarship recipient. I anticipated meeting all the veteran and new members. When I arrived, I felt welcomed by this stellar group of individuals. I'm incredibly thankful for the support of my new community of historians.

At the conference, I was able to gather information about techniques and learn how other programs have become integral parts of the community. The first panel I attended was titled "Del Mar Voices, Community Oral History." It inspired me to identify more themes in projects. I really appreciated how this group offered insight as to how they've been able to partner with the local library and had their interviews cataloged in the San Diego County system.

I recently instituted an Oral History program at the Balboa Island Museum and Historical Society (BIMHS). I hope to install an Oral History station at BIMHS. The panel on "Oral History Meets Technology and Stimulates Conversation" made me consider ways to engage the public with QR codes, phone apps, and cellphone audio tours. I hope to eventually upload my interviews to an app that would allow the public to easily access them. The panel, "Native American Oral History and Narratives of Peoplehood and Identity" captured shared traditions. The presented research made me view surrounding mountain ranges in a completely different way-- through the natives' eyes.

I'm grateful for all the oral historians' contributions to increase grassroots research. Being able to study the daily life of women during war and community life has made me engage with history in a powerful way. The legacy of previous and ongoing projects have motivated me to grow in this practice. I am eager to use my new research tools on the field and engage with the past. I'm grateful for this wonderful opportunity.

Eva Tulene Watt Scholarship 2014

I am so grateful to the Southwest Oral History Association for the 2014 Eva Tulene Watt Scholarship for Native Americans. With this travel scholarship, I was able to attend the annual conference in Tempe and present on the oral history project I recently finished about the Advocates For Indigenous California Language Survival and their Breath of Life archives workshops. My thesis, “Breath of Life: Revitalizing California’s Native Languages Through Archives” is available for download at http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/etd_theses/4386/.

I attended so many helpful workshops and conference sessions. In Paul Bergelin’s “Making Sense of Digital Equipment” workshop, we tested three digital recorders with various microphone setups, which confirmed to me that I had made a good choice with my own equipment purchase. My father is in his early seventies and starting to look back on his life. With him in mind, I attended Barbara Tabach’s session on personal histories, and I will be ordering her book so that I can document his life for my family. I appreciated the opportunity to brush up on interviewing techniques and the legal and ethical issues of oral history during Virginia Espino’s introductory workshop.

By Susan Gehr, Assistant Librarian, Special Collections, Humboldt State University
2014 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 below:

Southwest Oral History Association: http://www.southwestoralhistory.org

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

CALL FOR PAPERS, COMMENTATORS, & CHAIRS

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, but our roster includes members from all over the U.S. In other words, there are no geographical limits to who can participate and share experiences. We are interested in hearing from oral historians—academics, professionals, students, and community organizations—from all parts of the country.

Proposal submission deadline now extended: December 19, 2014
Please find submission forms & guidelines: http://www.southwestoralhistory.org

Notification of Acceptance no later than January 16, 2015. We will consider panel submissions or create panels from related individual proposals.

The Program Committee welcomes scholars willing to serve as commentators or panel chairs. If you plan to attend the SOHA 2015 annual conference and would be willing to serve as commentator or panel chair please e-mail a brief CV, description of your area of expertise, and topics of special interest to soha@unlv.edu by December 19, 2014.

Current SOHA membership and 2015 conference pre-registration are required of all program participants. SOHA annual membership runs with the calendar year: January through December.
To become a member (or renew), please print the relevant information clearly (as you would like it to appear in the directory), and mail it to the address below (please print clearly).

All SOHA announcements, newsletters and activities are distributed electronically unless otherwise specified.

Date: ______________________

Name____________________________________________________________

Mailing Address____________________________________________________________________________________

City_________________________ State ______ Zip________________________

Preferred Phone Number______________________________________________

E-Mail Address________________________________________________________

Institutional/Organizational Affiliation (as applicable) ____________________________

☐ You may print my information in the membership directory  ☐ Do Not Publish this information

Membership Level (check one): (Effective January 2015)

☐ Individual Annual $35
☐ Student Annual $20
☐ Individual Lifetime $250
☐ 2 year Individual Membership (Jan 2015-Dec 2016) NEW RATE!!!! $65.00
☐ SOHA Community Partners $100
☐ SOHA Corporate Partners $350
☐ SOHA Institutional Partners $500

SPONSOR/DONATION
I would like to continue to support the work and programs of the Southwest Oral History Association with the following donation: $________

[Note: No membership privileges with donations]

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE to SOHA and send payment to:
Email: soha@unlv.edu
Phone: (702) 895-5011

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

I am interested in hearing more about the following SOHA Committees:
☐ Newsletter ☐ Membership ☐ Annual Meeting ☐ Grants/Scholarships

Advertisements in the newsletter:
$25 for 1/4 pg ad
$50 for 1/2 page ad
$75 for a full page ad

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

Thank you for your interest in SOHA and WELCOME!
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

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Production: Underwritten by the College of Liberal Arts, UNLV
Advertising is available within the newsletter

$25 business card size
$50 half page
$75 full page