



Spring 2007
Volume XLI Number 1

ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



International flavor set for Oakland

By Norma Smith and Horacio N. Roque Ramirez, Program Committee Co-Chairs

The program is shaping up beautifully for our Oakland 2007 Oral History Association conference set for Oct. 24-28 at the Marriott Oakland City Center.

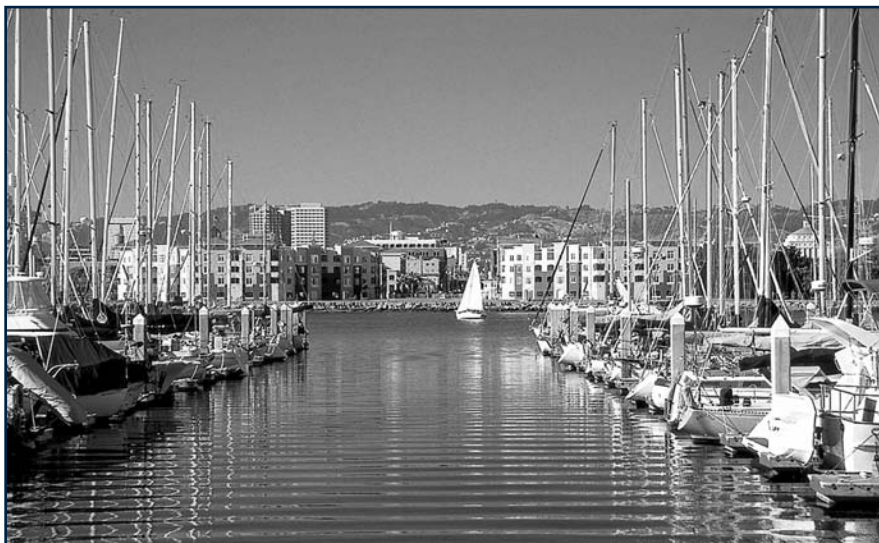
We have tentative plans for seven (count them seven!) plenary sessions, including five panels and two keynote speakers. There is a good representation of local, regional, national and international presenters among these sessions and the many proposals that have been submitted for individual papers and panels.

More than a quarter of the sessions will include either international participants from or research focusing on China, Kashmir, Chile, Australia, Palestine, Spain, Germany, Japan, the Czech Republic, Israel, Cuba, Austria, El Salvador, Afghanistan, New Zealand and Tonga.

A brief overview of the thematic breadth of the plenary sessions includes:

- “The Next Generation of Oral History,” featuring academic and community teachers, an artist who works with youth and a nationally known hip-hop journalist;
- “Transforming Communities,” with panelists addressing immigration stories, histories of multi-gender equity and the disability rights movement;
- “The Black Panther Party: 40 Years of Community Activism;”

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Sailboats—courtesy of the Oakland Convention & Visitors Bureau. Photo by Barry Muniz.

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From the president

A call to serve

The Executive Council of the Oral History Association concluded its midwinter business meeting in Baltimore, Md., Feb. 23-25. We all made it home safely despite weather delays that stranded at least four people.

Several major themes emerged while executing the business of the association. In discussing the past, present and future of oral history as an academic discipline, a popular field of public history, as well as an endeavor of solitary individuals, various groups and organizations, I found the major ideas for this column.

Three issues coalesced as essential ingredients if the field of oral history is going to expand, grow and solidify its place in the 21st century. Therefore it is crucial that we increase the membership base, enlist more of you in the leadership and service of the organization and continue to monitor how technology affects both recording and preserving various kinds of oral history documents.

It is absolutely necessary that we not only create as many oral documents as possible but also demand that they are appropriately preserved and accessible to the public.

With the celebration of its 40th anniversary in Little Rock, the association entered its third generation. We must actively begin to recruit a new generation of oral historians and practitioners. Indeed, it is necessary to both the continuance and health of the organization that you not only continue your membership in OHA but also express a willingness to serve on its various committees and to assume positions of leadership.

As your council approved names for the various elections and appointed people to several committees, it became very clear that a new generation of people is needed not only to carry OHA forward but also to invest it with new energy and ideas. If you are interested in either committee assignments or being considered for election to the Executive Council, please send me or the executive secretary an e-mail. Council would like to constantly update this list so that a pool of potential participants and leaders is readily available for consideration.

It seems appropriate that this call to service comes at this time because my involvement with StoryCorps has shown that all around America many people are interested in preserving their stories. However, as members of a professional organization dedicated to maintaining high standards in all of the various dimensions of oral history, it is incumbent upon all of us to share our expertise and training in this field.

Moreover, I call upon each of you to critique as well as criticize, if necessary, those oral history operations that fall short of OHA's national accepted and recognized evaluation criteria and guidelines. Each of us is enhanced when oral history is done well; however, we are all stigmatized when it is done in an unprofessional and inappropriate manner.

Consequently, this call to serve is simultaneously a call to record and preserve at the highest levels. It is absolutely necessary that we not only create as many oral documents as possible but also demand that they are appropriately preserved and accessible to the public.

Three recent public history examples confirm the value of sharing information, conference attendance, interaction with other oral history practitioners and workshop participation. As a board member of a local historical society, I have been involved with a group trying to preserve a slave cemetery. In one training session with an antiquities resources firm, I learned about the care necessary to unearth graveyards, how to read skeletal remains, where to look for unmarked burial sites and when to call in trained experts for archaeological services. Obviously, we are not trying to interview the dead. But we have created an oral history project trying to locate, identify and interview the descendants of those buried in that cemetery.

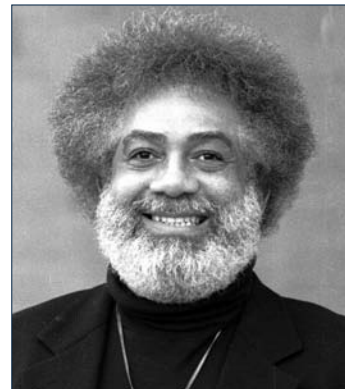
The second example involves a workshop I gave recently. While discussing the various kinds of recording techniques and equipment, I was embarrassed when the technology librarian of the organization walked out and gave me "an ipoidic device," which records beautifully and holds five hours of material. At that point this Luddite had to admit to himself it is time to take a technology workshop as soon as possible. Third, it became clear to me, after conducting another workshop, that although my emphasis on academic oral history production was important, it does not serve the vast majority of the oral history audience. Hence, OHA must continue to seek ways to include all who practice oral history.

Consequently, I have decided to attend several workshops in community and family history if I am going to call myself an expert in oral history. Conducting these workshops and participating in local community history projects have made me aware of the necessity for ongoing oral history training.

Therefore I encourage you to sign up for and attend the various workshops offered on Wednesday at the annual meetings. Our workshops range from the elementary to the advanced, and their subjects vary from beginning a new project to the latest offerings in technology.

These personal, practical and professional activities have once again affirmed the value of oral history as it relates to local, state and national efforts to claim, collect and catalogue the memories and stories of a fast-moving and historically amnesic people.

Alphine Wade Jefferson, Ph.D.
Professor of History and Black Studies
Randolph-Macon College



Alphine Wade Jefferson

Lives of artists with disabilities documented in oral histories

When award-winning playwright and performance artist Neil Marcus was 8 years old, he was diagnosed with dystonia, a severe neurological disorder that set his life on a new path.

"I didn't know what it meant to be crippled," Marcus told interviewer Esther Ehrlich of the Regional Oral History Office at the University of California, Berkeley. "It took a lot of learning about society."

It's not easy to talk about being discouraged with one's disability, Marcus said, "because there's a lot of pressure to look good or to look hopeful."

Those involved with the project "hoped to contribute to an understanding of the impact that the mainstream art scene has on those who, historically, have not been welcomed into it..."

Marcus, who says that "life is a performance," is one of five performing artists and dancers with disabilities whose in-depth oral history interviews are available online as part of ROHO's Artists with Disabilities Oral History Project.

Funded in part with a \$30,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the project grew out of ROHO's Disability Rights and Independent Living Movement collection, which documents the social and political history of the disability rights movement, whose roots grew out of the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Ehrlich said in the introduction to the online collection that those involved with the project "hoped to contribute to an understanding of the impact that the mainstream art scene has on those who, historically, have not been welcomed into it, as well as the role that artists with disabilities have had on artistic trends in the broader arts world."

On the Artists with Disabilities Web site, which can be accessed through <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/ROHO/>, viewers can read transcripts and view excerpts of the artists' performances, enriching an understanding of what it means to be an artist with disabilities.

In addition to breaking new ground in documenting the lives and work of

artists with disabilities, the project breaks new ground in oral history interviewing techniques.

All of the interviews were videotaped in the narrators' homes, except for the interviews with Marcus. They were recorded at ROHO and relied on instant messaging between two computers set side by side as well as spoken questions and answers and frequent rest breaks to accommodate Marcus, who because of his disability, speaks slowly and unclearly.

Ehrlich described their initial interview session, the first of six that ultimately totaled 16 hours:

"I type a question. 'When and where were you born?' There is a long pause. Neil's body is curved forward. His finger hovers above the keyboard. He slowly steers his finger toward a key, strikes. Over and over, his finger hovers and strikes, hovers and strikes. I wait. 'I was born in 1954 in Scarsdale ny.' I am astonished by how long it takes for Neil to answer my questions. He is working so hard, dripping sweat. What have I gotten us into? How will we possibly complete an interview of any substance if every word takes so long?"

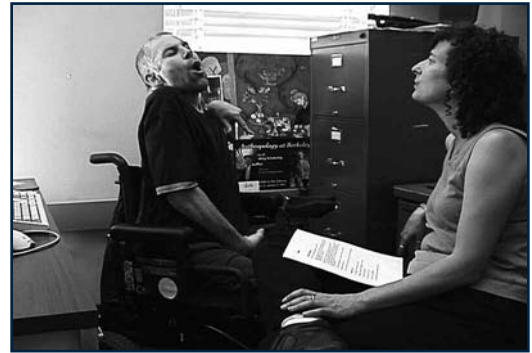
But they do.

As the transcript makes clear, Marcus and Ehrlich achieve a rhythm in questions and answers, sometimes instant messaging, sometimes speaking, sometimes with Ehrlich repeating Marcus' words for clarity for the transcriber.

Ehrlich said she learned to "aim for the heart of things" rather than use "precious time and energy" on typical, linear oral history questions like, "Where did you go to high school?" Instead, she said she entered Marcus' "world of pared-down language used powerfully, homing in, as Neil does, on what matters most."

In addition to Marcus' powerful interview, the collection includes detailed, dramatic interviews with:

- Poet, playwright and actor Lynn Manning, an aspiring visual artist



Esther Ehrlich interviews Neil Marcus. Courtesy ROHO.

who was shot by a stranger in a bar and blinded. He steered his creativity into writing and theater arts.

Interviewing him included a visit to the judo class he teaches for blind and visually-impaired adults.

- Bill Shannon, an interdisciplinary performance and media artist who was diagnosed as a young boy with Legg Calve Perthes disease, a rare disorder affecting the growth of hip and leg bones. Using customized rocker-bottom crutches and a skateboard, Shannon's work is rooted in street dance but defies categorization.
- Judith Smith, artistic director of AXIS Dance Company, which she started after breaking her neck in a car accident. She pioneered physically-integrated dance, which involves collaboration of dancers with and without disabilities.
- Greg Walloch, a writer and performer born with cerebral palsy who incorporates his experiences as both a disabled man and gay man into his performances.

The site also pays tribute to Homer Avila, a dancer, choreographer and educator who lost his right leg and hip to bone cancer yet continued his dance career. Avila was involved in early project planning and was to be interviewed, but he died on April 27, 2004, two days after his last dance performance, before the interview could be recorded. ❖

Editor's Note:

Esther Ehrlich and Neil Marcus will be featured in a joint presentation at the Oral History Association's fall meeting in Oakland. Their plenary session, "Transforming Community," is scheduled for Oct. 25 from 10 a.m. until noon. Ehrlich is no longer with the Regional Oral History Office, but you can reach her at her new interviewing business, Story Lines, which creates videos and books for individuals, families and businesses. Her e-mail address is ehrlische@sbcglobal.net and her telephone number is 510-847-0628.

International flavor on tap for Oakland

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- a keynote speaker addressing immigration and repression since 9/11;
- “Power and Ethics in Oral History: Diversity, Empowerment, Representation,” exploring ethnic studies and indigenous struggles in this country and in the Middle East;



Oakland City Center—courtesy of the Oakland Convention & Visitors Bureau. Photo by Barry Muniz.

- the awards ceremony, presidential reception and a keynote speaker on stories for the living from California’s death row and
- a closing plenary on “Interviewing Across Difference.”

We are in the process of reviewing the proposals that have come in, with exciting examples of panels and single sessions illustrating how oral history projects serve as a transformative framework for community change.

Besides some possible performances and video clips scattered among the sessions, we are planning a video festival to be screened during one or two days of the conference, with some time for discussion with the filmmakers. We have a few poster sessions and photo galleries as well.

Workshops in the planning stages include:

- “Introduction to Oral History,” including a tentative one in Spanish and one in an Asian language, as well one in English;
- “Oral History in the Classroom” organized by the OHA Education Committee;
- “Editing Oral History for Publication;”
- “Producing Publishable Video Oral Histories in High School Classrooms” and
- “Distance Learning: Oral History for Teachers.” A group working with the Education Committee and the Task Force on New Technology is designing a teleconference format workshop that will broadcast to distant sites (Baltimore, Cleveland, Southern California and possibly other sites).

Finally, we are planning a few good tours of Oakland and the area including walking tours to Oakland’s Chinatown, downtown Oakland and the Embarcadero, several of San Francisco’s museums and archives and the Port of Oakland and West Oakland.

There is much to look forward to in our 2007 annual meeting in terms of content, breadth, diversity and global participation. We hope that this year’s conference will attract oral historians and potential oral historians from all over.

Please help us spread the word to your colleagues, students and friends, and make sure you register early and make your hotel reservations well in advance. We hope that OHA members will plan to come early for workshops and stay through Sunday’s full day of business meeting, final sessions and closing plenary. We will see you in Oakland! ❖

Lyons transcript corrected, clarified

Former OHA president Dale E. Treleven reports that a transcript of a 1994 oral history interview with **Dr. Albert S. Lyons**, who died last year after a career as a prominent surgeon at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, contained several factual errors about the early days of the Oral History Association.

The interview excerpt, provided by the Mount Sinai Archives and published in the Winter 2006 issue of the OHA Newsletter, should have said that James Mink co-organized the Arrowhead conference from the UCLA, not Berkeley, campus, Treleven said.

“Also, Mink’s name is erroneously bracketed as the vice president who wrangled with Louis Starr; actually, as is made clear several paragraphs later, that vice president was Gould Colman. And, the accurate spelling of Gould’s surname is Colman, not ‘Coleman,’” Treleven said.

The OHA Newsletter appreciates the corrections, which have been forwarded to the Mount Sinai Archives.

Elaine Eff honored with 2007 Pogue award

By Roger Horowitz, Hagley Museum and Library

Elaine Eff of the Maryland Historical Trust is the 2007 recipient of the Forrest C. Pogue award for outstanding and continuing contributions to oral history, presented at the spring conference of Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region at Washington College in Chestertown, Md.

The award committee, composed of OHMAR past presidents, recognized Eff for her substantial contributions as a folklorist and oral historian, her service to OHMAR as a board member and former president and her mentoring of many substantial oral history projects through her position at the Maryland Historical Trust.

Eff received a doctorate in folklore and folklife from the University of Pennsylvania in 1984. Her graduate work focused on the painted screens of Baltimore and resulted in a documentary film that she produced and directed, numerous exhibitions and the creation of an organization devoted to preserving this unique urban folk art.

At the Maryland Historical Trust, Eff wrote a book, *You Should Have Been Here Yesterday: A Guide to Cultural Documentation in Maryland*, that has served as a handbook for those who want to learn how to use oral history and other methods to record the history of their communities.

As the contact person for Marylanders seeking grants to support oral history and community history, Eff has mentored dozens of projects around the state. She also serves as co-director of Maryland Traditions, a partnership of the Maryland Historical Trust and the Maryland State Arts Council that seeks to discover and sustain traditional arts and culture.

Eff's selection fits especially well with the theme of OHMAR's spring conference, "Voices of the Chesapeake."

She has advised, funded or directed many projects documenting the living culture and history of that region. Among her contributions was developing and crafting the Delmarva Folklife Project, a multi-year initiative to preserve the history and folkways of this region.

When it came time to create a public product that could incorporate the project's results, a steering committee on which Eff served developed the innovative publication, "From Bridge to Boardwalk: An Audio Journey Along Maryland's Eastern Shore." The packet includes CDs with interviews, historical recordings and music, along with a 76-page book containing a pull-out map, essays, photographs and tips on finding local arts and cultural treasures. The recordings are keyed to the map so that tourists interested in hearing the authentic voices of the region can listen and learn as they drive the shore's byways.

OHMAR has presented the Forrest C. Pogue award annually since 1979. Pogue pioneered the use of oral history in combat during World War II and also served as an early president of the Oral History Association. ❖



Elaine Eff, recipient of the 2007 Pogue award for lifetime achievement in oral history.

Summer programs available

Opportunities to learn more about the techniques and theories of oral history are on tap for this summer.

Columbia University

The Columbia University Oral History Research Office will hold its annual Summer Institute from June 11-22. This year's theme is "Telling the World: Oral History, Struggles for Justice and Human Rights Dialogues."

The program will explore how oral history theory and method contribute to an understanding of the political, historical and personal dimensions of human rights dialogues.

Joining us in the creation of this year's program is the International Center for Transitional Justice, whose staff will collaborate with leading oral historians to consider how various practices of truth-telling apply to specific cases of human rights struggles and to

the personal, cultural and political processes of dialogue.

This institute is designed for students, scholars, documentarians and human rights workers.

Faculty will include: Mary Marshall Clark, director of OHRO; Amy Starecheski, interviewer/educator, OHRO; Ronald J. Grele, director emeritus, OHRO; Alessandro Portelli, professor of American literature at the University of Rome; Louis Bickford, Vasuki Nesiiah, Paige Arthur and Caitlin Reiger of the International Center for Transitional Justice.

Faculty also will include: Linda Shopes, historian, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; Steve Rowland, award-winning audio

documentarian and Roxsana Patel, oral historian and human rights consultant. Graeme Simpson will speak about the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission and a program will be held on Peru's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (Comisión de la Verdad y Reconciliación).

More details are available at: www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/oral/. Deadline for applications is April 15. The tuition is \$1,000. Housing is available at a reduced cost.

Kenyon College

Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, is the site of a hands-on Oral History Institute, June 5-7, aimed at volunteers or paid staff from local historical organ-

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OHA election nominees announced

The Oral History Association Nominating Committee announces the following candidates for election to the positions of first vice president and one OHA Council seat.

Nominated for first vice president is: **MICHAEL FRISCH**, State University of New York at Buffalo.

NOMINATED FOR COUNCIL ARE:

- **TRACY K'MEYER**, University of Louisville, and
- **DOUG BOYD**, University of Alabama.

OHA members also will elect three members to serve two-year terms on the Nominating Committee. Members will vote for one person for each of three seats. The candidates are:

POSITION ONE:

- **CLIFF KUHN**, Georgia State University, or
- **AL STEIN**, California State Agency.

POSITION TWO:

- **TERESA BERGEN**, independent scholar, Portland, Ore., or
- **ANNE VALK**, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

POSITION THREE:

- **CLAYTEE WHITE**, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, or
- **PAUL ORTIZ**, University of Santa Cruz.

OHA members in good standing will receive biographical information, candidate statements and mail ballots this summer.

Additional nominations for officers, council members and Nominating Committee members may be made as provided in the OHA bylaws.

Nominees must be dues-paying members of the organization. ❖

OHA members honored

LINDA SHOPE, past president of the Oral History Association, was awarded the American Historical Association's prestigious Troyer Steele Anderson Prize at its January meeting in Atlanta for her "outstanding contribution to the advancement of the purposes" of the AHA.

The AHA praised Shopes for her "tireless effort on behalf of public history" and noted that she "took on the formidable task of addressing the complex and often contentious relationships between oral history and institutional review boards." Shopes "brought much expertise to the subject and a certain tenaciousness that was uniquely appropriate to the bewildering and overlapping array of jurisdictions and politics involved," the AHA said.

The association also recognized OHA member **ROY ROSENZWEIG**, executive producer of World History Matters (www.worldhistorymatters.org), a project of the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University. The Web site received the James Harvey Robinson Prize for outstanding contribution to the teaching and learning of history in any field for public or educational purposes.

Summer programs

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izations, libraries, schools and colleges and universities.

The institute will cover all stages of planning and conducting oral history projects, including framing questions, interviewing techniques, transcribing and archiving and creating public programs based on oral history. Sessions on videotaping interviews and on fundraising also are scheduled.

Faculty include professors from the fields of history, sociology, archiving and telecommunications, all of whom have experience in oral history.

Cost of the institute is \$250, which includes two nights accommodations, six meals and all workshop materials.

Institute sponsors include the Ohio Humanities Council, the Rural Life Center at Kenyon College, the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums and the Ohio Historical Society.

Applications are available at www.ohiohumanities.org or by calling

the Ohio Humanities Council at 800-293-9774. Deadline for applications is May 1.

San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum

The Legacy Oral History Program at the San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum will hold a three-day workshop June 8-10, suitable for beginning, intermediate or advanced oral historians.

While the workshop draws on examples from the performing arts, the workshop also will serve those involved in anthropology, institutional history, social history, family history, personal history, master's or doctoral studies or other projects.

The workshop will cover: project design, legal and ethical issues, technology, interviewing, transcription, editing and creating research quality documents.

Jeff Friedman of Rutgers University, founder of Legacy, and Basya Petnick,

Legacy program manager, are the workshop leaders.

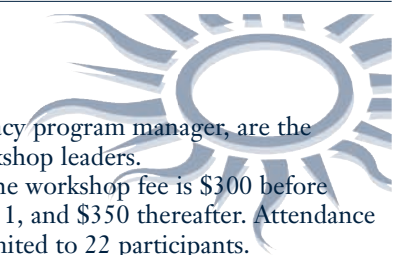
The workshop fee is \$300 before May 1, and \$350 thereafter. Attendance is limited to 22 participants.

For application information, contact: legacy500@gmail.com or call 415-255-4800, ext. *823. Application deadline is May 1.

Not this summer

Richard Candida Smith, director of the Regional Oral History Office at the University of California, Berkeley, and Charles Morrissey, past Oral History Association president and presenter of an annual workshop in Vermont, said that their customary summer programs are not being held this year for administrative reasons.

OHA members interested in other summer training opportunities are encouraged to contact state and regional oral history organizations, which often schedule such programs. ❖



ORAL HISTORY REVIEW (OHR) SURVEY

A task force has been assembled to assess and recommend changes to the Oral History Review: its content, its design, and its management. As part of our efforts to reshape, improve, and expand the Oral History Review, we seek feedback from the members of the association and from readers of the Review.

The following survey was devised with that in mind. We designed it to provide us with information about our current readers and members: their needs, their present interests and their views about the future direction of our field and journal. The survey contains both guided and non-guided response opportunities.

For us to accomplish our mission in the most productive and democratic way, we rely on your participation. Please take a few moments to fill out this survey and send it back, either electronically or via snail mail, to the below address. You may get this survey in various ways. Please respond in the way that is easiest for you and only respond once.

[Please note that some minor changes have been made from an earlier circulated version of this survey; one question – formerly question 17 – was dropped since it became moot as a result of negotiations with a new publisher, and question 14 was revised in light of an emerging consensus and our new publisher’s commitment to make the journal available electronically.]

E-mail:

gz580@albany.edu

Mailing Address:

Prof. Gerald Zahavi
Director, Documentary Studies Program
Department of History, The University at Albany
Albany, NY 12222

Thank you!

1. Employment/Occupation:

- Student
- School Teacher (K-12)
- Local/Regional Historical Society
- Museum
- Archive/Library
- University/College Faculty
- Private researcher/writer
- Other: _____

2. Research/topical interests (e.g. — local and regional, gender, immigration, political, etc.):

3. Major regional research and/or teaching interest:

- Asia
- Middle East
- Europe
- Africa
- Australia
- South America
- Central America/Caribbean
- Mexico
- Canada
- US – Northeast
- US – South
- US – West

- US – Midwest
- US – Alaska
- US – Hawaii
- Other: _____

4. Sex (M or F)

5. Age _____

6. Oral History Experience (i.e., years working in the field):

- None
- Less than a year
- 1-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-20 years
- More than 20 years

7. Years of membership in the Oral History Association:

- Not a member
- Less than a year
- 1-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-20 years
- More than 20 years

8. How often do you attend OHA meetings?

- Every year
- Every 2, 3, or 4 years
- Rarely
- Never

9. How long have you received the Oral History Review and how much of it do you regularly read?

10. What would you like the OHR to be:

- a journal of the Association
- a journal of the field of oral history more generally
- a journal of oral history and related fields and inquiries, such as memory and narrative
- or, something else (please specify):

11. In your own words, please describe what are the strengths and weaknesses of the OHR (content, design and format):

12. Which section of the Oral History Review do you feel is the best?

- Articles
- Book reviews
- Media reviews
- Special theme sections
- Other _____

Explain what you like about it:

13. Which section of the Oral History Review do you feel is the weakest?

- Articles
- Text reviews
- Media reviews
- Special theme sections
- Other _____

Explain why and how it might be strengthened:

14. The Oral History Review, in the future will have both a print and electronic edition. Please indicate some of the features you would like to see in an electronic edition:

- Interview sound files
- Video clips with sound

- Links to Web-based resources
- Other possibilities/examples, eg:

15. For many oral historians, emerging video and other media technologies have been changing the traditional methodology, practice and uses of oral history in dramatic ways. To what extent do you think such developments should be the focus of in-depth features and coverage in the Review, in addition to more informational coverage in the Newsletter?

16. A number of suggestions have been made on expanding or adding content to the Oral History Review. Similar suggestions have been made for the OHA Newsletter. In the list below of suggested additions and expansions, please rank each from 1 to 3, with "1" as most desirable, and place the prefix letter "R" or "N" before the number to communicate if you believe it belongs in the Review (R) or Newsletter (N). If you are not interested in an item, leave it blank.

[For example, if you strongly believe that more articles on oral history in exhibits and museums should appear in the Review, you would rank that choice as "R-1"; if you support the idea (but not strongly) that information for beginners should be provided, but in the Newsletter rather than the Review, you might rank that choice as "N-3"].

- Equipment and recording techniques
- Software (for interviews and collections management)
- Transcription, indexing and alternatives
- Online oral history presentations and Web sites
- Threads (the "best" of OHA's online discussions)
- Legal and ethical issues
- Commentary and debate
- Oral history in exhibits and museums
- Announcements and notices (jobs, grants, conferences, call for papers, etc.)
- Oral history projects
- Regional news updates
- Methodological or theoretical issues
- Expanded reviews
- Theme-based issues
- Information for beginners
- Other:

17. What other changes would you like to see in the Oral History Review that may not have been covered in this survey, or that you would like to especially emphasize:

International oral history info

AUSTRALIA

Oral histories about shopping formed the basis of a museum exhibit titled “Shop ‘Til You Drop” at the Unley Museum in the city of Unley, near Adelaide in South Australia, according to “Word of Mouth,” the newsletter of the South Australian Branch of the Oral History Association of Australia.

The exhibit “explores the experience of shopping and how it has changed,” the newsletter reported.

One visitor to the exhibit wrote on the visitor response board: “I love shopping—it makes me feel happy when I get something. I have lots of stuff. Some of it I don’t even like.”



INTERNATIONAL ORAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

The International Oral History Association invites proposals from around the world for its 15th international conference scheduled for Sept. 23-26, 2008, in Guadalajara, Mexico. The University of Guadalajara and the Mexican Oral History Association are collaborating with the IOHA to sponsor the conference.



The conference theme is “Oral History—A Dialogue with our Times.”

July 15, 2007, is the deadline for proposing conference papers, thematic panels, special interest group sessions or workshops.

Proposals will be considered only if they clearly focus on oral history.

Sub-themes of the conference include:

- Contributions of oral history to the understanding of the 20th century
- Time in memory: what is remembered and what is forgotten
- Spaces of memory: community, locally and globally
- Ecology and disasters
- Memory and politics
- Family and generations
- Migrations
- Sharing and transmitting faith
- Memories of violence and war
- Oral history of work, health and gender
- Oral history theory and methods
- Legal and ethical issues
- Oral history in archives and museums
- Teaching oral history

The conference also will include master classes and workshops presented by internationally renowned oral history scholars and will also feature special interest groups, which will allow participants to get acquainted with one another.

Conference proposals must be written in English or Spanish. For complete directions on how to apply, visit the conference Web site: www.congresoioha2008.cucsh.udg.mx.

To contact the conference organizers in Guadalajara, please e-mail or write to:

Maestra Ana María de la O Castellanos
E-mail: iohacongress@csh.udg.mx

DEPARTAMENTO DE HISTORIA

Centro Universitario de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades
Guanajuato # 1045

Colonia Alcalde Barranquitas
Guadalajara, Jalisco, México. C.P. 44260
Phone Number/FAX (52) 33 38 19 33 79/74

Editor’s note:

The OHA Newsletter received a number of complimentary notes and e-mail messages praising the newsletter’s new look and strong content. Alexandra Tzoumas, the photo and production editor, and I are delighted. We appreciate your comments, and we look forward to your continuing contributions toward making the publication a useful benefit of OHA membership.

July 1 is the copy deadline for the next issue. Please send stories and story ideas to: Mary Kay Quinlan at: ohaeditor@aol.com. All photos should be sent directly to Alexandra Tzoumas at: alexandratz@verizon.net.

Michigan database project

The Michigan Oral History Association (MOHA) reports that its Michigan Oral History Database Project, a collaboration with Wayne State University's Walter P. Reuther Library, is underway.

The project will solicit oral history descriptions from institutions to be compiled into one searchable database to be published on the Internet.

MOHA said in a press release that one important aspect of the database is the planned self-sustaining feature in which participating institutions will be given an access code enabling them to update their own collection information.

For further information, contact Ronee L. Francis at au5071@wayne.edu.



Michigan Oral History Association

Michigan oral historians have a full calendar of oral history workshops and presentations this spring and summer, according to Geneva Kebler Wiskemann, secretary of the Michigan Oral History Association (MOHA).

Among its scheduled events, MOHA plans to interview workmen and administrators involved with building the famed Mackinac Bridge. The bridge's 50th anniversary will be celebrated the last weekend in July, and MOHA volunteers will be there to record the stories of men who threw hot rivets while standing on a beam 500 feet high.



Southwest Oral History Association

The Southwest Oral History Association (SOHA) reports that its annual conference is scheduled for April 20-22 at California State University, Fullerton.

Theme of the conference is "Listening to the Past and Keeping it Alive." Conference sessions will be held at the Ruby Gerontology Center and the Center for Oral and Public History. Accommodations are available at the Marriott Hotel on the Fullerton campus.



Bay Area oral history collections

Oral historians in the San Francisco Bay area are urged to contribute information about their oral history collections for a directory being compiled by the Bay Area Oral Historians organization.

Oakland oral historian Nancy MacKay urges people to respond to an online survey available at

www.surveymonkey.com or through her Web site, www.nancymackay.net.

MacKay said the Bay Area organization is compiling a directory of area oral history collections in the hope that it will be useful to other area oral historians, the general public and the Oral History Association, whose conference will be held in Oakland this fall.



Sandy Ives recording in national registry

Interviews conducted more than 50 years ago with a Maine north woodsman by folklorist and oral historian Edward D. "Sandy" Ives are among 25 recordings listed on the Library of Congress' 2006 National Recording Registry.

Ives' field interviews join a distinguished list of musical and spoken recordings deemed by the registry as being "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant" and worth preserving permanently.

Also named on the 2006 list were:

- President Franklin D. Roosevelt's address to Congress after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor;
- a radio broadcast of a national defense test in 1924;



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In remembrance ...

BENIS M. FRANK, who founded the U.S. Marine Corps' oral history program and served as the first president of Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region, died March 10 in Maryland, the *Washington Post* reported March 14. He was 82.

Frank, the author of a highly regarded oral history primer, was a Marine veteran of World War II who served in the invasions of Peleliu and Okinawa and who returned to active duty as an intelligence officer during the Korean War. He later returned to the Marine Corps as a civilian and started the Marine headquarters' oral history section in the early 1960s. From 1991 until his retirement in 1997, Frank was the Marine Corps' chief historian.

A history graduate of the University of Connecticut, Frank was the author of numerous books and articles detailing various aspects of Marine Corps history, contributed to prominent reference works and was involved with several military history organizations.

He served as general editor of a series of monographs published by the Marine Corps' History and Museums Division commemorating the 50th anniversary of World War II.

An active OHMAR member for many years, Frank also, in recent years, was a periodic contributor to the Oral History Association's listserv.



Minnesota project presented to Dalai Lama

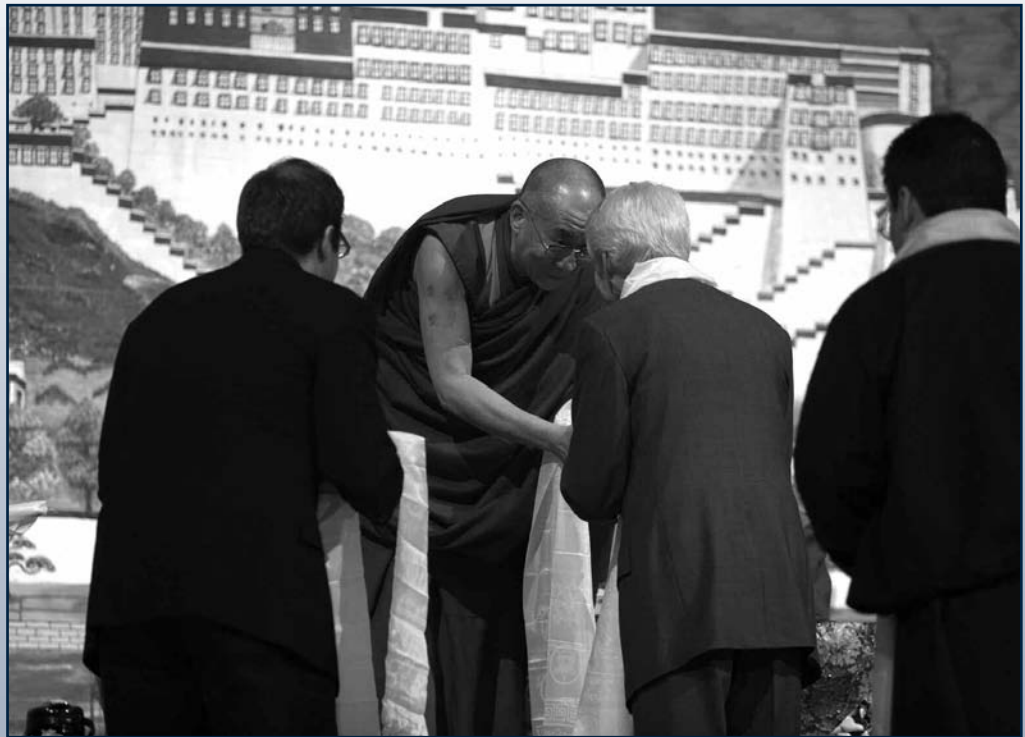
By James Fogerty, Minnesota Historical Society

The latest in the Minnesota Historical Society's oral history series documenting recent immigration was celebrated when Charles Lenz and James Fogerty of the Society presented a set of oral history transcripts to His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The presentation took place before nearly 2,000 people gathered for a ceremony at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The transcripts represent interviews with members of Minnesota's Tibetan community. With nearly 1,300 members, it is the second largest Tibetan community in the nation. The transcripts were placed in a custom-made, silk covered presentation case constructed in the society's conservation laboratory.

The 25 interviews document the lives of a diverse group of Tibetan immigrants to Minnesota. The Tibetan community grew through the efforts of an influential Tibetan businessman who assisted many community members with immigration issues.

The interview narrators share stories of emigration, resettlement and adjustment to life in the United States. In some



Dalai Lama, center, receives oral histories from James Fogerty. Courtesy Minnesota Historical Society.

cases they also recount dramatic tales of escape from Tibet to India. The project involved four Tibetan college students in the work of interviewing members of the community.

Earlier, the project was celebrated at a Tibetan community event held at the Minnesota History Center that featured music, dance and presentation of transcripts to each narrator. ❖

News Notes ...

Smells Like Money: The Story of Bellingham's Georgia Pacific Plant uses oral history interviews, historic film clips and television reports to explore the human side of a waterfront pulp mill in Bellingham, Wash., that closed in 2001 in the wake of environmental concerns raised in the 1990s.

The documentary was produced and directed by David Albright, a student at Western Washington University and the Northwest Film School. It premiered at the Northwest Projections Film Festival in November.

For more information, see:
www.NorthwestFilmSchool.com Money

* * *

The American Italian Historical Association invites proposals for papers and panels for its history conference, scheduled for Nov. 1-3, in Denver at the Adams Mark Hotel and Denver Public Library.

The conference will feature a year-long exhibit, "The Italians of Denver," curat-

ed by association member Alisa Zahller at the Colorado Historical Society.

Conference planners particularly welcome papers that focus on family, community history and genealogy.

For more information on how to submit proposals, see the association's Web site at www.aihawe.org or contact Janet E. Worrall at janet.worrall@uncalumni.org.

Deadline for proposals is May 1.

* * *

The American Library Association has named **Recording Oral History: A Guide for the Humanities and Social Sciences** by Valerie Yow to its list of Best Academic Texts of 2006. Yow, an independent oral historian, is a long-time member of the Oral History Association and serves on its executive council.

* * *

Oral history interviews form the basis of a new book, **Fearless Resilience: The**

Story of Lt. Col. Nola Forrest, who Led the Army Nurses through Heat, Rain, Mud and Enemy Fire in World War II, by Eleanor Stoddard.

A retired journalist and independent oral historian, Stoddard chronicles the life of Forrest, who was in the Army Nurse Corps for more than 20 years, ultimately serving as director of Army nurses in the Southwest Pacific during World War II. The book recounts how she led nurses from two field hospitals into Leyte under enemy attack and later successfully rescued 67 Army nurses from a Japanese internment camp in Manila.

Stoddard, a longtime member of the Oral History Association and Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region, spent 16 years conducting interviews with women who served during World War II in all branches of the armed services and the American Red Cross.

Fearless Resilience was published by the American Literary Press.

The Oral History Association Newsletter (ISSN: 0474-3253) is published three times yearly by the Oral History Association for its members. **Copy deadlines are:** March 1, July 1 and Nov. 1.

Submit stories to **Editor Mary Kay Quinlan**, 7524 S. 35th St., Lincoln, NE 68516, or via e-mail at ohaeditor@aol.com

Submit photographs to **Photo and Production Editor Alexandra Tzoumas** at alexandratz@verizon.net

Address membership, change of address, subscription and delivery inquiries to: University of California Press, Journals, 2000 Center St., Suite 303, Berkeley, CA 94704-1223. Phone: 510-643-7154. E-mail: journals@ucop.edu

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Oral History Association
NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
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Jefferson City, MO
PERMIT NO. 210