



NEWSLETTER

OHA Meeting Draws Crowd to San Diego

The 530 oral historians who flocked to San Diego for the 36th annual meeting of the Oral History Association had their pick of nearly 90 conference sessions and area tours as well as reunions with colleagues and a chance to meet newcomers.

Newsletter Editor's Note By Mary Kay Quinlan

My deep thanks to members of the Oral History Association for allowing me to serve as editor of the **OHA Newsletter** for the past 10 years. It has been a privilege, and I hope to continue offering informative, interesting stories from the diverse OHA membership--and delivering it in a timely manner three times a year.

But the **Newsletter** will only be as interesting as you help make it. Please send me stories, photos, ideas and information about OHA committees, state and regional oral history groups or your own work. I try to make room for everything I get.

Copy deadlines are: March 1, July 1 and Nov. 1. You can reach me at ohaeditor@aol.com. Or you may fax stories to 402-420-1770. Or you may mail them to 7524 S. 35th St., Lincoln, NE 68516. Or just call me at 402-730-0473.

I look forward to hearing from you. And thank you again.

With the theme "Global Linkages: The Internationalization of Everyday Life," panels, workshops, films, featured speakers and off-site visits, including a trip to Tijuana, Mexico, explored links of all sorts.

The social, ethnic, geographic and cultural diversity of oral history and the OHA was a recurring theme, with the OHA Diversity Committee sponsoring several panels and special programs.

From presidents to displaced persons, war correspondents to soldiers and victims of war, students and their teachers, filmmakers and those they film, conference presentations offered an intellectual potpourri to tantalize many tastes.

The following pages of the **OHA Newsletter** feature news about award winners, upcoming events and featured speakers as well as non-conference stories, such as a report on a legal case of interest to oral historians.

The following pages also include conference highlights from a reporter's notebook:

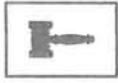
- + a half-day panel about oral history interviews in the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001;
- + Latina feminist testimonios at the Presidential Reception;
- + verbal snapshots from just a handful of the dozens of thought-provoking presentations.

Read. Learn. And enjoy.



San Diego's historic Gaslamp Quarter drew OHA visitors.

Photo by Bob Yarbrough, San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau



From Your President

By Arthur A. Hansen
OHA President

I would like to use this initial presidential column to share with you some of what I experienced at the 2002 annual meeting in San Diego. I would also like to adumbrate what is on the horizon for OHA in the coming year and beyond and also to preview several issues that I will take up more concretely in my remaining two columns in the 2003 issues of this *Newsletter*.

As a Japanese American research specialist (who is now a staff member at the Japanese American National Museum), I naturally attended both of the Oct. 23 sessions touching on this area. The first dealt with oral history from a Japanese/Japanese American perspective and showcased transnational, comparative work by mostly Japan-based scholars. The session chair, Professor Eriko Yamamoto of Sugiyama Jogakuen University, has been active in OHA, written on the development of oral history in Japan and is a prime mover in trying to launch a Japanese Oral History Association.

The second session dealt more explicitly with Japanese American historical topics, but one paper did have a comparative focus that encompassed the World War II experiences of Native Americans. I came away from these sessions determined to do what I could, in my capacity as OHA president, to assist Professor Yamamoto's push for the establishment of an oral history organization in her country and also to facilitate the ongoing movement within OHA to look beyond the binary black-white orientation, both nationally and internationally, in the work in which we participate as scholars and foster as a professional association.

This latter point was driven home to me with special force at the very stimulating community workshop on

the profoundly multiethnic Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles sponsored by the Diversity Committee and featuring four noted American scholars from Asian and Latino communities: Sojin Kim, John Kuo Wei Tchen, George Sanchez and Celia Alvarez.

I came away from this workshop convinced that OHA needed to do more to catalyze and promote oral history documentation and interpretation of communities such as Boyle Heights.

Accordingly, I will encourage the OHA Council and the Publications Committee to commission a new pamphlet in the OHA pamphlet series that will address the challenges of doing community oral history in a multicultural context. Likewise, I will urge them to consider developing training films, CDs and other media that oral historians can employ in the service of this enriched brand of community study.

My Thursday evening attendance at the readings of the Latina feminist testimonios, as well as the dizzying array of documentary films I viewed at several media and one plenary session on Friday and the featured performance at the Saturday night banquet by Marcos Martinez, reminded me anew of the power of oral history to teach, touch and move audiences into meaningful action. Our association needs to explore ways in which the presentation of our work can develop still further in this direction, and I pledge myself to do what I can to assist this process during my presidential tenure.

The combined participation in the Newcomer's Breakfast on Friday and the Elizabeth B. Mason Memorial Breakfast on Saturday morning simultaneously filled me with tasty food and made me thankful for the consistently high quality people I have met through OHA during my three-decade membership. These events also inspired me to propose a new event for the annual meeting: the Oldcomer's Breakfast. Its intent will be both to permit longtime OHA members to gather in a congenial milieu and, through assessing a

nominal charge for the event, to raise funds for the organization's invaluable endowment.

One of the two Sunday morning sessions I attended on San Diego projects included presentations that brought up a pair of issues--human subjects research and new media--that are pressing concerns for OHA and oral historians generally. I am pleased to say that the OHA Council has officially authorized an IRB Task Force, cochaired by Don Ritchie and Linda Shopes, to plan a course of action for dealing with Institutional Review Boards as they relate to oral history interviewing and human subjects.

Moreover, Council has constituted a Committee on Digital Technology and New Media, chaired by Cliff Kuhn, to explore and respond to innovations in applications, practices and issues in this area. Both of these developments merit our careful monitoring, and I will guarantee that this occurs through the work of these two groups and that the results are communicated to you in a timely and trenchant fashion.

Rose Diaz chaired the final session I attended on the last day of the San Diego meeting. This was very fitting, since as our new vice president/president elect she will be coordinating next year's annual meeting, "Creating Communities: Cultures, Neighborhoods, Institutions," in Bethesda, Md., at the Hyatt Regency, Oct. 8-12, 2003.

Roger Horowitz, the program chair, is assembling an ambitious and exciting program, so be sure to visit the OHA Web site to find out more about this event and perhaps even to respond to the call for papers with a proposal for a session or a single presentation.

With the memory from the San Diego meeting of a magnificent luncheon talk by George Lipsitz and a marvelous Tom Davies-led tour of Tijuana still fresh in my mind, I look forward to more of the same fare in Bethesda. Please mark your calendar now.

Awards, Featured Speakers Enliven San Diego Meeting

Oral History Association awards for an outstanding scholarly article, postsecondary teaching and projects were announced at the annual Saturday night awards banquet.

+ "From Amazons to Glamazons: The Rise and Fall of North Carolina Women's Basketball, 1920-1960" by Pamela Grundy was named outstanding article using oral history. It was published in the June 2000 *Journal of American History*.

+ "Growing Up in Washington," a project of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., received the Elizabeth B. Mason Project Award for projects with a budget of less than \$6,000.

+ The Agincourt Community Project, done by the Multicultural History Society of Ontario received the Elizabeth B. Mason Project Award for projects with a budget of more than \$6,000.

+ The postsecondary teaching award for outstanding use of oral history in the college classroom went to A. Glenn Crothers of the School of Social Science at Indiana University Southeast.

At the 2003 OHA meeting, awards will be presented for outstanding use of oral history in elementary or secondary classrooms, book and nonprint media.

The awards deadline is April 15, 2003. For details, visit the OHA Web page: www.dickinson.edu/oha.



OHA President Mary Marshall Clark congratulates George Lipsitz, professor of ethnic studies at the University of California, San Diego after his Friday luncheon speech.

Lipsitz called San Diego a "global crossroads," where people sew clothes they can't afford to buy, clean hotels they can't afford to stay in and provide the daycare, landscaping, drywalling and a host of other services that undergird the middle class of California, which in turn ostracizes them.

Lipsitz recalled becoming interested in place and layers of experience during an oral history project he was involved with 25 years ago in St. Louis. It was a project that started with the premise that "St. Louis was the most important place on earth," he said.

What evolved, he said, was the realization that "everything we thought was local was really global" and that it indeed had been since the days of the Louisiana Purchase.

"We were always part of the global world, but we just didn't see it," Lipsitz said, adding:

"We can't remain provincial in defense of local places."

Lipsitz urged oral historians not to think of "global" and "local" as mutually exclusive spheres. "They can't exist without each other," he said.

OHA Heads to D.C.-Metro Area for 2003 Meet

If you liked riding the Trolley in San Diego at this year's Oral History Association conference, you'll love riding the Metro at next year's OHA meeting in Bethesda, Md.

Mark your calendars now for the Oct. 8-12, 2003, meeting in the bustling Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Theme of next year's conference is: "Creating Communities: Cultures, Neighborhoods, Institutions."

The deadline for submitting proposals is Dec. 31. You may mail or fax them to:

Rose Diaz, Program Committee
UNM General Library, Political Archive
Albuquerque, NM 87131-1466
FAX: 505-277-3284.

For Compulsive Planners

For those whose calendars fill up fast--or who just like to plan WAY ahead--the 2004 OHA meeting will be back on the West Coast in Portland, Ore., Sept. 29-Oct. 3.

The OHA Council is tentatively considering Providence, R.I., in 2005 and Little Rock, Ark., in 2006.

CNN-Time Tailwind Story: Implications for Oral Historians



By John A. Neuenschwander
Carthage College

On June 7, 1998, CNN and Time magazine aired the first broadcast of their prime-time television news magazine: "NewsStand: CNN and Time," which was intended to be a new journalistic collaboration between the television network and the newsmagazine, corporate siblings in the Time Warner family. One of the stories aired that first evening was an 18-minute investigative report, "Valley of Death." The report focused on a secret military mission into Laos in 1970 named Operation Tailwind.

Nerve Gas Use Alleged

As narrated by correspondent Peter Arnett, U.S. Special Forces commandos used sarin, a deadly nerve gas, in the operation and killed about 100 people, including American defectors who were hiding in an enemy camp.

Time magazine also published a print version of the story in its June 15, 1998, edition titled, "Did the U.S. Drop Nerve Gas?" Following a firestorm of criticism from all sides of the political spectrum, CNN and Time hired Floyd Abrams, a noted media lawyer, to review the factual basis of the "Valley of Death" reports. On July 2, CNN reported that the finding of the "Abrams

Report" was that there should be a retraction due to "...insufficient credible evidence to support the story's claims." That same day CNN retracted its broadcast and apologized.

CNN and Time's primary source for the "Valley of Death" report had been Robert Van Buskirk, a former Special Forces lieutenant and second in command during Operation Tailwind. On the July 5, 1998, broadcast of "Talkback Live," CNN explained the basis for its retraction decision. Questions about the credibility and stability of Van Buskirk were the foremost factors in CNN's decision to retract its story.

For example, Van Buskirk had published a book about Operation Tailwind in 1983 yet never mentioned the use of nerve gas or the killing of defectors. Other problems were numerous inconsistencies in his interviews, his very limited knowledge of the properties of the gas that was used and the fact that he "...had been taking drugs for a nervous disorder for 10 years though he finally stopped."

CNN's seeming desire to place most of the blame for this failed story on Van Buskirk was perhaps best summed up by a statement Floyd Abrams made during a subsequent "NewsStand" broadcast: "...he didn't know what he was talking about. He's not a guy who would know if it was nerve gas or sleeping gas or tear gas. He was on the ground."

After the Retraction

Following CNN's retraction, Van Buskirk filed a lawsuit for defamation in federal court in North Carolina against Cable News Network and Time. His suit was consolidated with six others and moved to the Northern California District Court for trial.

In his lawsuit, Van Buskirk maintained that he had been the victim of coercive and repetitive

interviewing. Because of the nature and length of the interviews--six to seven hours altogether--he maintained that CNN "planted in his mind the belief that the true mission might have been to kill American defectors."

His second contention was that CNN had used material out of context to support the sensational charges that sarin gas was used and that the purpose was to kill American defectors.

His third contention arose from the way in which CNN and Time retracted their original story. According to Van Buskirk, by labeling him the "primary source" in their retraction coverage, they made him the "fall guy" for the failed story and thus libeled him by implication.

Defendants Try to Dismiss Case

The defendants filed a motion to dismiss Van Buskirk's lawsuit for failing to state a claim upon which relief could be granted. In granting their motion the District Court held that his first two defamation contentions--coercive interviewing and out-of-context usage of material--could not support a cause of action for libel because the resulting broadcast and article came almost directly from his own words.

The District Court also found there was no defamatory meaning in CNN labeling him a "primary source" in the retraction, in its claim that he had been on medication for 10 years for a nervous disorder or the fact that there was no mention in his book that nerve gas was used and American defectors targeted. In the court's eyes all of these claims were natural outgrowths of the role he had chosen to play in giving such an explosive story to CNN and Time.

Van Buskirk appealed this dismissal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. In a decision handed down in March 2002 [Van Buskirk v. Cable News Network, Inc., 284 F.3d

977 (9th Cir 2002)], the Ninth Circuit affirmed the dismissal of two of Van Buskirk's defamation contentions but reversed the District Court's dismissal of all of his contentions relating to CNN's retraction. The cause of action that the court resurrected had to do with CNN's characterization of his nervous disorder.

Van Buskirk Interview

Van Buskirk originally admitted to his disorder during the course of one of his interviews with CNN interviewers. The following question prompted his admission:

Q: Do you have any physical maladies today that you can tie to this gas that you got exposed to?

A: I really you know, I really don't know. And for 10 years they gave me lithium. And I had side effects, from the lithium to where I finally stopped. I don't know that the nervous disorder that I've been diagnosed with, I don't know if it's associated with stress, or with exposure to chemicals or not. I know one thing, I know that I've had a tough time physically. And I am often at the VA Hospital.

After juxtaposing Van Buskirk's interview statement with CNN's treatment of it in its retraction broadcasts, the Circuit Court found that the District Court had failed to appreciate the full nature of his libel claim.

CNN's "Zeal to Shift Blame"

As the Circuit Court noted: "It would appear that CNN in its zeal to shift all blame for its own failure to adequately research the Tailwind story, sought to portray Van Buskirk as unreliable by any means available."

Thus CNN's statement that he "had been taking medication for a nervous disorder for 10 years, though he finally stopped" seemed to be purposely out of context. The two additional facts that might have put this into fuller perspective--that he stopped taking lithium more than 10

years earlier and that this was not a mind-altering type of medication--were noticeably absent from the CNN retraction broadcasts.

The Circuit Court then cited several cases, including *Milkovich v. Loraine Journal Co.*, 497 U.S. 1, 18-19 (1990) and *Dixson v. Newsweek, Inc.*, 587 F. 2d 626 (10th Cir. 1977), in support of its position that a libel action can be maintained if the publisher uses facts or quotations out of context and as a result creates a misleading and false impression of the defendant. Based on these precedents the Circuit Court remanded the case back to the District Court for a full hearing. Although Van Buskirk ultimately may lose again, this decision puts him back in court for a second try.

Lessons for Oral Historians

While this case certainly does not involve an oral historian or an oral history program, it nevertheless raises some legal issues that are important to the field.

The claim by Van Buskirk that he was literally coerced through repetitive and suggestive interviewing into making the sensational claims that he did about the use of lethal nerve gas and the targeting of American defectors is fortunately not one of the issues that should be a concern.

Van Buskirk's attorneys could not cite any precedents for this novel claim. Even if he was subjected to such pressure, this is not a practice that oral historians subscribe to or, it is hoped, ever engage in.

Of much more consequence is the recognition by the Circuit Court that facts and quotations can be libelous if the publisher ignores or minimizes the context in which they were uttered and thereby creates a false impression with his or her rearrangement.

Since most oral history programs and projects are archival in nature, researchers who use interviews are the ones who should, based on this case, be especially cautious about

how they present facts and quotations drawn from oral history interviews.

Editor's Note: Neuenschwander, a frequent contributor to the OHA Newsletter on legal issues, is a past president of OHA and a municipal judge in Kenosha, Wis. He is also the author of "Oral History and the Law," Third Edition, available from the OHA.

New Oral History, Law Pamphlet Available From OHA Office

Oral historians need to understand the legal ramifications of their work, and the new, third edition of "Oral History and the Law" by John A. Neuenschwander offers a thorough and readily understandable introduction to this important aspect of oral history.

Like its two predecessors, this edition describes the basic legal framework for oral history and cites appropriate case law.

It also includes numerous recent cases, expanded sample legal forms and several new sections, including a discussion of the legal ramifications of putting oral history materials on the Internet and working with college and university Institutional Review Boards.

Neuenschwander writes with authority. He received his Ph.D. in history from Case Western Reserve University and his J.D. from IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law. He is a history professor at Carthage College, a municipal judge in Kenosha, Wis., and a past president of the Oral History Association. Neuenschwander comments frequently on legal issues involving oral history and is a popular workshop presenter at OHA conferences.

The 94-page pamphlet can be ordered from the OHA for \$15 using the form on page 15 of this **Newsletter**.

Presidential Reception Features Latina Feminist Testimonios

Nearly a decade ago, 18 Latina women from a wide variety of cultural and academic backgrounds decided to collaborate on a scholarly project. But when they first got together, they discarded their academic project and became the subject of their own research.

The result was the centerpiece of the Oral History Association's presidential reception Thursday, Oct. 24, when about half of the women shared excerpts from "Telling to Live: Latina Feminist Testimonios."

"Many of us had never rendered our own stories," said Rina Benmayor of California State University, Monterey Bay. "We were able to translate ourselves to each other."

What they found, she said, were "incredible journeys of achievement despite expectations of failure."

They had all dealt with experiences "that were deeply painful," she told the OHA members, adding:

"For racialized women of subjugated people, success is a double-edged sword."

Independent scholar Celia Alvarez, the first-born child of a Puerto Rican seamstress and a Korean War veteran, described her upbringing in a Brooklyn working-class neighborhood.

St. Ann's Church on Front Street embraced civil rights and social activities and "gave me an opportunity to engage in social change at a very early age," she recalled.

Norma E. Cantu of the University of Texas, San Antonio recounted her graduate school days in Nebraska, where she was hired in the mid-'70s to talk to teachers about cultural diversity. She was introduced to the group as being Spanish.

"I'm not really Spanish," she told them. "I'm from Texas."

Her host replied: "I didn't want to insult you by calling you Mexican."

To the woman from Laredo,

Texas, there's no uncertainty.

"I know who I am and what I feel," she said. "I am a Chicana."

Iris Lopez of City College of New York described how she won a Martin Luther King Jr. scholarship to attend New York University. Her parents' tiny apartment had no room to study, so she waited till late at night and studied in the bathroom.

Several of the woman stressed the strength they derive from writing.

Yvette Flores-Ortiz of the University of California, Davis told the OHA audience: "I write because I must, because I have the power of words."

Patricia Zavella of the University of California, Santa Cruz described herself as a fourth-generation, U.S.-born, English-speaking Chicana who is trying to reclaim her Spanish heritage.

To her, "field work is tracking down the pieces of a giant puzzle."

The presidential reception was held at the San Diego Historical Society in Balboa Park.

OHA Thanks Donors

A wide array of California and Southwest institutions helped support various special programs at the Oral History Association annual meeting in San Diego.

Donors to the Boyle Heights Diversity Workshop included:

- + California State University, Fullerton, Center for Oral and Public History;
- + California State University, Long Beach, Oral History Program;
- + California State University, Pomona, Oral History Program;
- + Friends of the Chinese American Museum of Southern California;
- + Pasadena Heritage;
- + University of California, Berkeley, Regional Oral History Office;
- + University of California, Irvine, Southeast Asian Archives.

Donors to the presidential reception and reading at the San Diego Historical Society included:



Balboa Park, the cultural heart of San Diego.

Photo by James Blank, San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau

- Diego Historical Society included:
- + Arizona State University Public History Program;
 - + California State University, Fullerton;
 - + Duke University Press;
 - + First American Corp. of Santa Ana;
 - + Japanese American National Museum;
 - + San Diego Historical Society;
 - + University of Nevada-Reno Oral History Program.

Donors to the plenary session dealing with the use of interviews in documentary films included:

- + Deborah Lattimore and TechniType Transcripts;
- + University of California, Los Angeles, Oral History Program.

Also, the Southwest Oral History Association sponsored the Newcomer's Breakfast and welcomed attendees to Southern California.

Filmmakers Share Their Craft At OHA Session

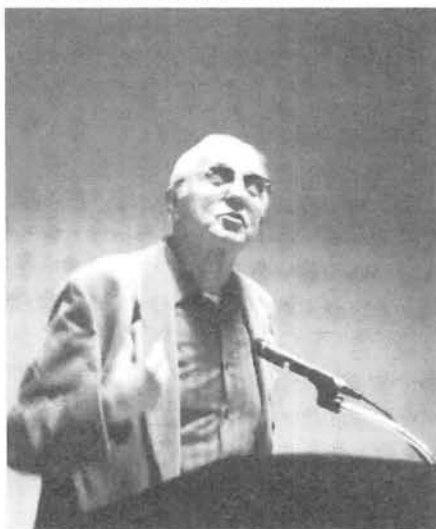
Filmmakers Paul Espinosa, Haskell Wexler and Garrett Scott brought their multicultural, multi-generational experiences in using interviews in documentary films to a Friday afternoon plenary session chaired by Michael Frisch of the State University of New York, Buffalo.

Espinosa, who called himself a "recovering anthropologist," showed excerpts from his film "Uneasy Neighbors," which contrasts the stark inequities between a migrant worker camp in Green Valley, in the northern part of San Diego County, and the camp's encroaching white, suburban neighbors.

The film was shot 13 years ago, "and sad to say we could probably go out and shoot the same film today," Espinosa said.

The film was an attempt to counter stereotypes about migrant workers and show their strong sense of community.

Frisch observed that the migrant workers exhibited a keen sense of



Award-winning filmmaker Haskell Wexler critiques his industry at an OHA session.

place, while it's the suburbanites who are displaced.

Garrett Scott, the youngest of the filmmaking trio, showed excerpts from "Cul de Sac: A Suburban War Story." The film focuses on an aging, blue-collar, San Diego suburb where in 1995 a man stole a tank and ran amok through the neighborhood until police killed him.

It's the story of a suburban neighborhood that owed its existence to the Cold War-spawned defense industry.

But with the jobs gone, so also has the community's reason for existence disappeared, and Scott's film explores the relationships among the disaffected, unemployed, drug-making-and-using residents of the disintegrating neighborhood.

Wexler, the senior filmmaker on the panel whose cinematography has earned him five Academy Award nominations and two Oscars, decried the power of government and the entertainment industry to shape public opinion to suit their own ends.

The technology of communication is in the hands of a system controlled by greed, he said.

"The truth is, it's all fiction," he said, noting the president uses words like "scenario" and television shows are constructed only "to get you to stay there until the next commercial comes on."

"The history of Pearl Harbor is a movie called 'Pearl Harbor' that's full of lies," he said.

Wexler said his work on "A Bus Rider's Union" gave him some optimism about the future. The film documents a multiracial, grassroots movement that brought the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority to its knees and forced the city to provide transportation for all.

The filmmakers stressed the value of letting interviewees talk--and keenly listening to what they have to say.

The result, Haskell said, is often "more than what you had in mind when you started."

First-time Raffle Earns Lots of Cash for OHA Endowment Fund

Books, food, stationery, wine, a blanket, candies, children's literature, lifetime OHA memberships, coffees, teas, a painting of Elvis on velvet and dozens of other raffle items along with a spirited auction for a limited edition original painting yielded \$1,983 for the OHA Endowment Fund at the San Diego conference.

The fund supports special projects and scholarships for international oral historians to attend OHA meetings.

Spearheaded by local arrangements co-chair Laura Wendling of California State University, San Marcos, the raffle and art auction featured elaborate gift baskets, many with a Southwest or California theme.

Mary Palevsky of Oak View, Calif., and Kathleen Frazee of Placentia, Calif., won OHA life memberships in the raffle, thanks to an anonymous donor.

The raffle netted \$983, while the auction of an original painting by local artist Randall M. Hasson brought \$1,000.

Valued at \$1,200, the work, titled "I Remember," combines imagery and text to depict the story of a house telling its memories of the people who brought it to life.

Contributions from Rose Diaz, Linda Wood, Charles Hardy, Laura Wendling, Madelyn Campbell, Fran Chadwick, Teresa Barnett, Frank Flesher, Pam Whitenack and Barry Lanman won the auctioned painting for the new Martha Ross Center for Oral History at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Other recent Endowment Fund contributors include: Shirley E. Stephenson and Mary Palevsky.

OHA Executive Secretary Madelyn Campbell reported at the annual meeting that despite the economic downturn, the Endowment Fund currently totals \$107,000. Members are encouraged to make tax deductible contributions at any time.

Images of Sept. 11 Fill Half-Day Session at OHA Conference; "History Hot" Reveals Complexities Masked in Media Accounts

If Ron Grele had still been running Columbia University's Oral History Research Office a year ago, he said he might not have gone along with a proposal to collaborate on a major interviewing effort in the wake of the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

"History hot is not necessarily what I'd be inclined to go with," Grele told a half-day special conference session he moderated on oral history and Sept. 11.

But his successor at Columbia, OHA President Mary Marshall Clark, embraced the plan, and some 420 interviews later, the project is creating a priceless window into a tumultuous time.

"As the years go on we'll see this material reinterpreted and reinterpreted and reinterpreted," Grele said, adding:

"Cataclysmic events do expose the fault lines in any society.... What's unique now is that we won't have to rely on the literary imagination to expose those fault lines."

The interviews have yielded first-hand information through which to understand the impact of the events of Sept. 11, Grele said.

The Saturday morning session featured presentations from six researchers who have been involved with Sept. 11 interviews in New York, Washington, D.C., and throughout the nation.

One dramatic story followed another--from Afghan women living in New York, World Trade Center security guards, a chef, a data entry clerk, a flight attendant, a postal worker--in the three-hour session that was stitched together with laughter, tears and the respectful silences that so often characterize oral history.

Each presenter brought a unique perspective, but all were passionate in the conviction that their work--amassing information about Sept. 11

and its aftermath from often silent or silenced sources--is critical to shaping public understanding of the cataclysm.

For independent oral historian Elisabeth Pozzi-Thanner, who moved to the United States from Austria 20 years ago, the residential neighborhood just north of the World Trade Center is her own backyard.

She painted a picture of a tightly knit neighborhood where faces are familiar even though names might be unknown.

"I realize I've been traumatized myself," she said, adding:

"We have all these images burned into our collective memory."

Pozzi-Thanner was visiting family in Vienna on Sept. 11 and recalled watching a BBC correspondent broadcasting from the trade center's concourse level being told by producers in London to run outside to safety.

It took her days to reach family and friends in her neighborhood. "Everyone was physically safe,...but everyone was in different stages of shock."

"I realize I've been traumatized myself."

--Sept. 11 interviewer

Pozzi-Thanner interviewed 16 people who either lived and worked in the neighborhood as writers, artists or self-employed businesswomen whose children grew up together, or who worked in Lower Manhattan but commuted into the city from the outer boroughs.

One was a blind woman from Colombia who worked at the post office across the street from the World Trade Center, commuting daily from her home in Queens.

"She helped somebody else with water and the telephone as long as possible," Pozzi-Thanner said.

"Then somebody took her by the elbow and ran as the tower fell."

Pozzi-Thanner interviewed an accountant from Westchester who worked in a Manhattan office building adjacent to the trade center. He took his office's computer back-up data, ran down 20 flights of stairs past body parts coveed with tablecloths from a restaurant and made it to the last ferry to Staten Island. He talked about a 16-year-old Latino boy on the ferry who managed to keep people calm.

"Beyond 14th Street, life just continued up there," she said. "Just a few blocks down, life had come to a standstill."

Interviewer Amy Starecheski talked to members of the Service Employees International Union, Local 32BJ, who worked at the World Trade Center. More than 20 of its members died in the attack.

One interviewee was a Dominican immigrant who worked as a handyman/mechanic but who was at home when the planes hit.

"His identity is rooted in his workplace," Starecheski said, adding that he had never been out of work and felt he couldn't heal until he could get back to work.

She also interviewed three women who worked as security guards. One was at home and the two others escaped injury because they were outside on a loading dock when the planes hit.

The security guards said they felt abandoned by the company that employed them and resented the white-collar workers at the World Trade Center who always treated the guards disrespectfully.

One guard told Starecheski that the guards did the same things the firefighters did, but have not been accorded the same respect. Another specifically challenged the media myth that civilized behavior prevailed during the evacuation.

All of them, however, took pride in being part of an event that was widely portrayed in the media.

Clark described the magnitude of the Columbia oral history office's undertaking. On Sept. 10, the office had four working tape recorders and 1.5 staff. Since then, 30 interviewers have been at work, and the collection now totals some 420 interviews.

"This minor, trivial errand would save my life."

--Chef who survived

The office also has received tapes sent in from interviewers around the country, she said, adding that she would like more interviews for the collection from outside New York.

Clark said the project initially sought to document life stories of 300 people, especially focusing on communities that might be ignored by the news media or the government, such as first-generation immigrants.

And the project has succeeded at that, having interviewed 15 Muslims, including Latino and African-American Muslims, and 10 people from New York's Sikh community, among others.

Also guiding the interviews was a desire to document individuals' experiences before the media-shaped public perception became dominant, Clark said, noting that the official public interpretation is that of a nation unified by grief.

"This consensus was constructed not by those who lived through it, but by those who observed it from a distance and had political reasons" to create that image, she said.

The interviews, by contrast, reveal a reality far more complex, like the stories narrators told of saving one person and pushing another away to save their own lives--stories that are not in the media, she noted.

Likewise media accounts have failed to reveal the degree of pervasive fear disclosed by

interviews in the immigrant community, Clark said.

Thirty interviews with Afghan women in particular reveal intense fears of retaliation and of permanent exile.

"While the country may have seen a consensus,...there is no consensus among those directly affected by these events," Clark said.

Jessica Wiederhorn, the Columbia oral history office's assistant director who has experience listening to Holocaust survivors, said the New York interviews reveal themes in how people struggle to create understanding of an incomprehensible event.

Before Sept. 11, New Yorkers thought of the World Trade Center as a shopping mall, restaurant or place to work, not an icon of America, Wiederhorn said.

Grele added: "Before Sept. 11, most of us in New York thought it was a pretty ugly thing." The bombing attempt there in 1993 showed how strong the buildings were, making their collapse even more incredible.

Wiederhorn said the interviewees attribute their survival to an act of God, human agency or happenstance. But all of those explanations raise more questions because none explains the destruction of others. Thus survivors also struggle to understand the meaning of their survival, much like many who lived through the Holocaust.

Wiederhorn sketched verbal snapshots of several of them:

+ A chef at Windows on the World on the 106th floor of Tower I was consumed with describing how he went to LensCrafters on the concourse level to get new glasses. The optometrist burst through the door saying something had happened and everyone had to get out.

"I would have been in the elevator five minutes later," the chef said. "This minor, trivial errand would save my life."

+ A woman who takes the PATH train from New Jersey every day reached the mall level right when the

first plane struck. People screamed that it was a bomb, but she managed to escape while pieces of burning metal set others afire.

"I really believe it was the spirit of God guiding me," she said. "God protected me....God spared me from that....Not to say He cared any more or less about me than anyone else."

+ A data input worker on the 86th floor "just left...I'm very disappointed in myself. I couldn't have been a bigger chicken....There is a weight because I have to do something with my life now."

+ A physicist who lives in the neighborhood described seeing bodies falling from the towers as though they were in slow motion. He dispassionately explained to the interviewer the laws of physics governing falling objects, noting that the "terminal velocity" of the human body is 200 miles an hour and that once they reached that, they would appear to be in slow motion.

"There's no law of physics that allows you to survive," he said.

+ A senior technologist who worked on the 38th floor of the north tower overslept on Sept. 11. She saw people jumping from the windows. "By jumping, they were taking their lives back," she said. "They didn't jump out of panic, out of fear."

"By jumping, they were taking their lives back. They didn't jump out of panic, out of fear."

--World Trade Center worker, witness

Independent oral historian Karen Harper, a flight attendant who has begun to interview other airline personnel, called her airline job "the best of global linkages" because airline travel has made the world a smaller place.

"The fact that our planes were used as weapons has deeply affected us all," she said.

(Continued on page 10.)

Sept. 11 Panel Describes Complexities of Informants' Stories

(Continued from page 9.)

Harper said flight attendants "feel deeply hurt" that they have been left out of the post-Sept. 11 picture.

"Very likely the first victim was a flight attendant getting her throat slit," she said.

Many flight attendants, she said, are furious with government officials for claiming no one could have known terrorists intended to commandeer planes.

"Very likely the first victim was a flight attendant getting her throat slit."

***--Karen Harper,
flight attendant***

Harper recalled a 1994 hijacking by Islamic extremists in Algeria. The pilot thwarted their efforts and managed to land the plane in Marseilles by convincing the hijackers it was out of fuel, she said.

Terrorists learned then that to be successful, they had to have their own trained pilots, she added, so the belated discovery that the Sept. 11 hijackers had enrolled in flight training in the United States should not have come as a surprise.

Harper said she recruited a fellow flight attendant and journalist to help with interviews, but while some people are willing to be interviewed, many in the profession are reluctant to talk. Interviewing flight attendants also raises concerns about respecting the need to keep certain security procedures secret.

Flight attendants are required to spend two days annually practicing for disasters. "It's a trauma we go through every year," she said. "We've been trained to stay and help till the fire is too hot, the water is too deep, the smoke is too thick."

But terrorists know how to find the holes in a security system.

"They'll find them again," she said.

The Arkansas family of flight attendant Sara Low, who was killed on American Airlines Flight 11 was the focus of interviews described by Robert H. Black of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark.

Low's parents first were told she wasn't on the flight but an hour later they learned that she was.

"They eventually found two rings that belonged to Sara Low," Black said.

He also interviewed a dozen members and staff of Arkansas' congressional delegation, which faced the extended period of uncertainty over anthrax contamination in the wake of the Sept. 11 airplane attacks.

"I was worried in the beginning that I might just get political sound bites," Black said, but that didn't happen.

The Sept. 11 attack was "a great leveler" for people on Capitol Hill, he said.

"If you were a senator or a mail room clerk, you needed to get out of there."

The struggle to make sense of the senseless was a recurring theme in the interviews, panelists indicated.

"Everyone tried to put it in the context of something they already knew," Grele said, recalling that he was outside having breakfast at 114th and Broadway when the first plane hit.

"It was a lovely day--that sticks in my mind, the loveliness of the day."

"I remember when a plane hit the Empire State Building when I was a kid," he said, so he thought to himself on Sept. 11, "It won't be anything big...It couldn't possibly fall down."

Grele said he was struck by the "ways in which people are reaching to impute causality to circumstance... We can't be satisfied with things just happening."

Clark noted that while there were general public reactions that likened the Sept. 11 attacks to the Japanese

bombing of Pearl Harbor that drew the United States into World War II, "Pearl Harbor was not the analogy that people we interviewed used."

Rather, she said, the interviewees feared a repeat of the wartime roundup and internment of Japanese Americans merely because of their Japanese ancestry, with Middle Eastern-appearing people as the target this time.

But even that analogy is imperfect, Grele suggested, because in the wake of Sept. 11, there was no organized public outcry to do something about Muslims the way there was about Japanese Americans, with President Roosevelt moving openly to round people up into camps.

Clark said the Columbia project plans to reinterview the informants in an effort to track their views over time.

"This is not a project about commemoration.... It's a documentary project."

***--Mary Marshall Clark,
Columbia University***

That effort seems likely to keep alive the complexity of the events of Sept. 11 and their aftermath, a complexity Clark and others welcome.

"There is no roundup, no summary," Clark said. "This is not a project about commemoration.... It's a documentary project."

And the documentary work is creating countless new, powerful images, like a snippet Clark described from an interview with a 7-year-old boy in New York's Sikh community who was asked about his classmates:

Q: Do they call you names?

A: They call me Osama.

Q: How does that make you feel?

A: I love them anyway.

From a Reporter's Notebook...

Several scholars examined the history of presidential oral histories at a Thursday afternoon conference session.

Andrew J. Dunar of the University of Alabama, Huntsville traced the evolution of the first use of oral history in a presidential library for Harry S Truman. The Truman Library drew on the experience of the Columbia University oral history program and initially decided not to preserve the interview tapes in their entirety, keeping only a small portion of each just to preserve a sample of the interviewee's voice, Dunar said.

James S. Young of the University of Virginia decried the post-Watergate phenomenon of White House officials deciding not to keep detailed written records, making oral history critical to understanding how policy decisions are made.

Donald Ritchie of the U.S. Senate Historical Office, describing himself as a researcher who has used oral histories in presidential libraries "from Austin to Boston," said they are a goldmine for scholars and contribute new perspectives and reinterpretations of a presidency.

Typically, Ritchie noted, once a set of presidential papers is opened, historical assessments of that president go up. "Even Warren G. Harding looked better after his papers were opened up."

Pamela Brooks of Oberlin College described her experiences interviewing South African women who returned to their ancestral lands and black women political activists in Alabama. A sense of community and "fearless and fiery leadership" binds them despite their differences of place and nationality, she said.

Jeff Charnley of Michigan State University, who heads an oral history project sparked by the university's

sesquicentennial in 2005, reported that 80 interviews have been conducted so far with a wide range of top university officials and faculty. The interviews deal with many of the controversies--from big-time athletics to anti-war protests--that have faced Michigan State.

"There were no attempts to censor me," Charnley said. Indeed, the interviewees anticipated the tough questions and seemed eager to put their views on the record.

More problematic was the return of edited transcripts. Some were returned fully edited as the books they'd never written while other interviewees even tried to improve their jokes, Charnley said.

Sarah Rouse of the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center called the project the largest documentation effort since the Works Progress Administration.

The project, funded by Congress and the American Association of Retired Persons, has received interviews and other materials like letters, diaries, home movies and memoirs from 2,300 people, mostly World War II veterans. Many of the interviews are only short vignettes, Rouse said, urging OHA members to sign up as workshop leaders to improve the quality of the interviews.

The OHA and the American Folklife Society are providing workshop leaders to groups around the country that request interview training, she said.

OHA members who want to lead workshops should contact Alicia Rouverol at: ajrouverol@earthlink.net.

Fred Allison of the U.S. Marine Corps Historical Center described the Marines' oral history collection efforts, which include some 10,000 interviews collected in Vietnam and some 400 collected already in the war on terrorism by Marine reservist historians on duty in the field.

The interviews supplement official combat reports and "capture the human experience," he said.

Troy Reeves of the Idaho State Historical Society said the major obstacle to interviewing more veterans is getting enough volunteers to help. One source of volunteers, however, is Boy Scouts working on their Eagle Scout projects, he said.

Andrew Russell of Albuquerque, N.M., described his interviews with Japanese American railroad and mining families in the West during World War II.

Most lived in isolated company towns and either worked for the Union Pacific railroad or worked in coal or copper mines in Wyoming, Utah or Nevada.

Living in extreme isolation, they were subject to mass firings in 1942. Although the federal government distanced itself from the mass firings, Russell said the evidence shows the firings occurred under pressure from the Army. Most of the mining and railroad workers were never sent to the internment camps that imprisoned other Japanese Americans during the war, but they were required to carry travel and identification cards.

They struggled to survive and to hold their families together after efforts to affirm their American loyalty went for naught. Some found work as farm laborers, others sharecropped or worked for local canneries. One worked as a dishwasher at a Mormon hospital in Salt Lake City, while another supervised turkey farms.

Russell recounted an interview with a woman who recalled that as a first grader, her teacher came over to her during a classroom discussion of the war. The teacher put her hand on the child's head and said: "This is a Jap. This is the enemy."

Russell said that of the 20 people he interviewed, half earned professional degrees and all had productive professional lives. Most also eventually recovered their railroad retirement benefits.

"Oral history interviews have done much to peel back the veil of time," he said.

STATE AND REGIONAL REPORT



OHMAR Plans Meeting In New York City

By Donita Moorhus
Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic
Region

OHMAR's spring 2003 conference will take place March 29 in New York City. Program Chair Deborah Gardner, independent oral historian, has arranged for the Saturday meeting to be held at Hunter College. It will be co-sponsored by the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute, a program of Hunter.

The conference is titled "From the Ground Up" and will focus on public policy and community needs. In addition to exploring the use of oral history in historic and community preservation, there will be presentations on the methodological challenges of oral history during times of national emergency, with special attention to Sept. 11, 2001.

On Friday, March 28, 2003, two workshops will be held at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts coordinated by Elly Shodell, Port Washington Public Library, and Susan Kraft, coordinator of the Dance Oral History Project at the New York Public Library. Titled "Oral History from ABC to CD-R," the workshops will include a beginners session in the morning and an afternoon workshop on taping and preserving oral history interviews.

Program information and registration forms for the conference and the workshops will be posted on

www.OHMAR.org and mailed to members in early January.

The spring OHMAR meeting follows a successful workshop conference day held Sept. 27 at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and co-sponsored by the Veterans History Project. The conference included four workshops and an informal buffet lunch. Program Chair Robert Grathwol reported that nearly 70 people attended, and OHMAR gained 22 new members.

Brien Williams, former OHMAR president, led a beginner's workshop while former president Don Ritchie and current president Donita Moorhus discussed advanced oral history issues and led a lively Q-and-A session.

David Winkler of the Navy Historical Foundation brought a team to present information on the Sea Service Oral History Conservation Program, through which the Navy and Marine Corps are digitizing more than 10,000 interviews.

John Lonquest, from the Army Corps of Engineers History Office, and independent transcriber Doug Wilson gave a workshop on transcribing, editing and publishing oral history interviews.

OHMAR is a partner in the national Veterans History Project, and several project staff attended the workshops.

SOHA to Gather At Las Vegas in Spring

"The Tapestry of Oral History: Unraveling the Threads of Discourse" is the theme set for the 2003 annual meeting of the Southwest Oral History Association.

Scheduled for April 11-13, 2003, at the Amerisuites Hotel in Las Vegas, the spring conference organizers encourage would-be presenters to propose panels, roundtables, papers and presentations

on all aspects of oral history research. Works in progress are welcomed, too.

Submissions should be postmarked by Dec. 15, 2002. For more details, contact Joyce A. Hanson at: jahanson@csusb.edu.

MOHA Sponsors Vets History Workshop

The Michigan Oral History Association collaborated with the Michigan State University Museum, the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries and the Friends of Michigan History to present a day-long oral history workshop for the Michigan Veterans History Project.

The Nov. 9 workshop offered the basics for beginning oral historians and an advanced track for more experienced interviewers interested in detailed information about a variety of oral history issues.

Attendees also learned about the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project and efforts in Michigan to capture and preserve information about wartime experiences.

Police Interviewed For Phoenix Museum

The Southwest Oral History Association Newsletter reports that volunteers at the Phoenix Police Museum are interviewing retired police chiefs and officers. Most of the interviewees are, themselves, police officers.

The interviews document from a police perspective how Phoenix has grown from a town of 45,000 before World War II to a major metropolitan area today.

Included among the interviewees is one of the first women officers and the first African American to work the day shift in the early 1950s. (While the city hired its first black officers in 1919, they were only permitted to work at night.)

Center Named For Martha Ross Started in Md.

Documenting the centennial of powered flight and teaching American history are the goals of recent major grants to the Martha Ross Center for Oral History at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

The center, associated with UMBC's Department of History and the Albin O. Kuhn Library and Gallery, was established to conduct oral history research throughout the state of Maryland, to serve as a clearinghouse for state projects and to teach oral history as an educational and research methodology.

It was named in honor of past Oral History Association president Martha Ross of Bethesda, Md., a founder of Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region and a longtime advocate of oral history education.

Center Director Barry A. Lanman is responsible for external research and education projects, advisement and outreach. The center is assisting a variety of organizations, including the Distinguished Flying Cross Society, The Carroll Museum, Inc. and the Baltimore County Public Schools. Joseph Tatarewicz is teaching a graduate oral history research course and is the director of the UMBC Founders Oral History Project.

This year, the center received a grant from the Maryland Historic Trust to conduct 50 oral history interviews on the theme of Maryland aviation, a project designed to celebrate the centennial of powered flight in the state from 1903-2003. Public lectures and presentations for the aviation centennial are planned.

In partnership with the Center for History Education at UMBC, the Martha Ross Center also has been awarded a U.S. Department of Education Teaching American History Grant. The grant will focus on teaching elementary and

secondary teachers from the Baltimore City Public School System how to conduct oral history interviews and how to use oral history as an educational methodology. Past OHA presidents Charles Morrissey and Donald Ritchie are among the guest lecturers.

A partnership among the school system, historical organizations and UMBC's history department will provide three groups of teachers with unique learning experiences that integrate oral history theory and practice in the classroom.

The Martha Ross Center also will host a coffee at the OHA annual meeting next year in Bethesda, Md., to honor Ross and promote the importance of oral history education.

For more information, the center's Web site is: www.umbc.edu/mr. You may also e-mail the center at: m_r_c_@umbc.edu.

Hershey Museum To Study Labor History At Hershey Foods Corp.

The Hershey Museum recently received a \$15,000 local history grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Matched with \$15,000 in local funds, including support from area labor unions, the grant will finance research for a book examining the history of work, community and labor relations at Hershey Foods Corporation.

The project will attempt to place the Hershey experience in a broader context by examining other company towns and paternalistic employers.

"The history of Hershey is often told from the perspective of [founder] Milton Hershey," said project director Amy Bischof, who is assistant curator for the Hershey Museum.

"We hope to reveal the vital roles played by factory workers in the history of the company," she added. "This groundbreaking study will be an important contribution to working-class and corporate history."

News from OHA Exec. Secretary

By Madelyn Campbell

It has been another busy year for the Office of the Executive Secretary. Many of the administrative tasks involved in planning the annual meeting have been centralized in my office so the program chairs will have more time to be creative rather than attending to myriad administrative details. Based on our most recent meeting in San Diego, it seems this new process is working well.

My office now maintains a database of all meeting presenters, provides working documents for the program chairs, produces the annual meeting program, handles all mailings, coordinates audiovisual needs, manages registration and works closely with local arrangements.

Special thanks to this year's Local Arrangements Committee. Laura Wendling and Brad Westbrook organized a hardworking and conscientious group, whose efforts added a special flare to this year's meeting. The first annual raffle, the tours and dinner groups and several great meals provided an energized backdrop to a diverse program.

OHA has renewed its contract with the University of California Press, which will continue to handle membership processing. Sheryle Hodapp is our customer services representative. If you have any questions, you may phone her directly at 510-643-0953 or e-mail: sheryle.hodapp@ucpress.edu. Of course, you may still call the OHA office, and I will be happy to troubleshoot any problems.

This year OHA will not send out an appeal for Endowment Fund contributions, but I urge every member to consider giving even a small donation to a fund that provides support to special projects and to worthy oral historians both nationally and internationally. Ask your colleagues to contribute as well.

BULLETIN BOARD

International Meeting Set for Rome in 2004

The International Oral History Association urges interested oral historians to plan to attend the next international gathering, scheduled for Rome in June 2004.

Details will be forthcoming on the Web site: www.ioha.fgv.br.

"Oral History Manual" Available From AltaMira Press

New from AltaMira Press is "The Oral History Manual" by Barbara W. Sommer, a long-time member of the Oral History Association and a founding member of the Minnesota Oral History Association, and Mary Kay Quinlan, editor of the **OHA Newsletter**.

The manual covers the basics of creating an oral history project, including a detailed discussion of initial planning steps, budgeting, equipment selection, legal and ethical concerns, interviewing techniques, processing and archival considerations.

For information, contact:
www.altamirapress.com.

Book Published on Life Of Jeannette Rankin

The Montana Historical Society Press announces publication of "Jeannette Rankin, America's Conscience" by Norma Smith, who was a friend of Rankin's.

The book is based on a series of interviews Smith conducted with Rankin in the 1960s and '70s and sheds new light on the life of the first woman elected to Congress, the only member to vote against U.S. entry into both World War I and World War II and a tireless worker for women's rights and peace.

Rankin, who died in 1973, told Smith that she was subject to "anger and irritability" in her old age. She recalled a time when her eyesight was failing that she mistook a cat for one of her own and later tried to pick it up and put it out of her house.

But the cat had established territorial rights and bit her. "I lost my pacifism," Rankin told Smith. "If I could have killed that cat, I would have."

For information, contact the Montana Historical Society at 800-243-9900.

Palgrave Seeks Manuscripts For New Oral History Series

For Palgrave, the academic trade imprint of St. Martin's Press, is seeking manuscripts for its new series, Palgrave Studies in Oral History, edited by Linda Shopes, an OHA past president, and Bruce M. Stave, former editor of the **Oral History Review**.

Manuscripts should use edited oral history interviews to explore a wide variety of topics and themes in all areas of history. While interviews will dominate the text, the editors seek work that places the interviews in broad historical context and engages issues of historical memory and narrative construction.

For more information or to submit proposals, contact:

Bruce M. Stave
Center for Oral History
University of Connecticut
Storrs, CT 06269

and:
Linda Shopes
1520 Shughart Road
Carlisle, PA 17013

Applications Invited For Pa. Scholars in Residence

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission invites applications for its 2003-04 Scholars in Residence Program. The program provides support for full-time research and study in the manuscript and artifact collections at any commission facility, including the state archives, state museum and 26 historic sites and museums around Pennsylvania.

The application deadline is Jan. 10, 2003. For complete information and

application materials go to:
www.phmc.state.pa.us.

Morrissey Workshop Scheduled For August in Vermont

For hands-on oral history training in a refreshing summer setting, plan to attend Charles Morrissey's oral history workshop Aug. 11-15, 2003, in Montpelier, Vt.

Morrissey, a past president of the Oral History Association and oral history consultant for the Baylor College of Medicine and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, brings more than 35 years of experience to the week-long workshop at Vermont College. Class size is limited to 20. For registration details, phone: 802-828-8764 or e-mail: rick.zind@tui.edu.

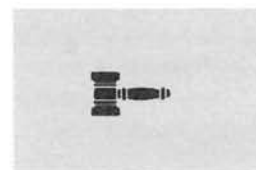
New Assistant Named For The Oral History Review

Gina S. Lee is the new assistant to the editor of **The Oral History Review**. She graduated magna cum laude from Athens State University in 1998 with a B.S. in psychology and justice studies. While attending Athens State, she completed an internship with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Huntsville, Ala.

After pursuing a career in retail management for several years, she dreamed of returning to school to achieve an M.A. in history with a Class A teaching certificate.

She is fulfilling this dream at the University of Alabama in Huntsville where she is president of Phi Alpha Theta and assists Andrew Dunar with **The Oral History Review**.

*Plan to include the Oral
History Association's
Endowment Fund in your
year-end charitable giving!*



Workshops Aim to Collect Oral Histories Along Route 66

The National Park Service will fund a series of free workshops on collecting the oral history of Route 66. David Dunaway of the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque will conduct the training, which will be organized through each state's Route 66 Association, starting in January.

These workshops stem from the more than 100 interviews Dunaway conducted last year for the 75th anniversary of the road John Steinbeck called "America's Main Street," running from Chicago to Los Angeles. The interviews were conducted for National Public Radio's "Morning Edition" and Public Radio International, which aired three one-hour radio documentaries on 230 stations.

Dunaway, co-editor of the classic "Oral History: An Interdisciplinary Perspective," spent three years documenting Route 66's overlooked stories and places.

"For me, Route 66 is a corridor intime as well as place--a grand avenue into exploring American history," Dunaway said, adding:

"Route 66's image as a place for cruising and nostalgia is giving way to a broader understanding of all those communities and peoples left standing in the dust as the travelers passed.

"I am interested in the communities of color who were displaced to make this important transportation corridor: the Japanese internment camps; the Hispanic ranchers and black sharecroppers whose land was used by the government; the Native tribes who were pushed from ancient lands, first by the railroad and then by Route 66--all the rainbow communities whose stories have been left out of our understanding of Route 66."

For information about participating in these workshops, contact a state Route 66 Association

for details. The 2,400-mile road traverses: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California.

For information about Dunaway's series, "Across the Tracks: A Route 66 Story," visit: www.unm.edu/~rt66 or call 505-277-4438.



Oral historian David Dunaway

OHA Pamphlet Order Form

Add to your professional reference library the Oral History Association's pamphlets. OHA members get a 10 percent discount for orders of 10 or more copies. Clip and mail this coupon, with your check made out to OHA, to:
Oral History Assn., Dickinson College, Box 1773, Carlisle, PA 17013.

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All prices include shipping via domestic mail. Inquire for costs of Federal Express delivery. International shipping by surface mail at no extra charge; add 30 percent to your order if you prefer international airmail delivery.

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- _____ Oral History and the Law
3rd ed., John Neuenschwander, 2002,
\$15.00
- _____ Oral History Projects in Your Classroom,
Linda Wood, 2001, \$15.00 pages only; \$20.00
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- _____ Using Oral History in Community History
Projects, Laurie Mercier and Madeline
Buckendorf, 1992, \$8.00
- _____ Oral History Evaluation Guidelines, \$5.00
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OHA Election Winners Announced, Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates

Arthur A. Hansen assumed the presidency of the Oral History Association at the 2002 annual meeting, while Rose Diaz moved up the ladder to vice president/president-elect.

Election results announced at the 2002 meeting showed OHA members chose the following new officer, council member and Nominating Committee members:

Kim Lacy Rogers was elected first vice president. She is a professor of history and American Studies at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., and has served on the OHA Council and as chair of the OHA Publications Committee.

Mehmed Ali was elected to Council. He is coordinator of the Patrick J. Morgan Cultural Center at

Lowell National Historical Park in Lowell, Mass., and is president of the New England Association of Oral History.

Elected to the Nominating Committee were:

Jeff Charnley, who teaches in the interdisciplinary freshman writing program at Michigan State University and is a past president of the Michigan Oral History Association. Charnley also is lead editor of H-Oralhist, the OHA electronic discussion list.

Jessica Wiederhorn, who is associate director of the Oral History Research Office at Columbia University and was co-chair of the 2001 OHA annual meeting in St. Louis.

Jeff Friedman, a dancer and choreographer who is also founder

and program director of LEGACY, an oral history program that records and preserves the life histories of the performing arts communities of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Kathryn Nasstrom, outgoing chair of the Nominating Committee, encouraged OHA members at the annual meeting to nominate themselves for OHA elective offices.

Because of the geographically widespread nature of the OHA membership, Nominating Committee members only have a limited knowledge of who is in the association, she said.

President Mary Marshall Clark added that those who volunteer to serve the organization can count on being asked to participate in some form, even if they are not initially nominated for elective office.

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