



NEWSLETTER

Oral History Emerges from Terrorist Attacks

Almost before the dust had settled following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., oral historians were making plans to document the events many observers were calling a turning point in American history.

Speaking at an early-morning special session at the Oral History Association meeting in St. Louis, President Mary Marshall Clark called it critical to "cast the net as widely as possible" to collect impressions and experiences of people affected by the attacks "before public stories, public interpretations impinge on their story." Oral historians' efforts to document individual experiences can "create a space for people to have alternative views," she said.

Clark announced that the Columbia University Oral History

Research Office, which she heads, and Columbia's Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy have received a grant of approximately \$50,000 from the National Science Foundation to begin interviews with as many people as possible who were directly or indirectly affected by the attacks.

Other schools and departments at Columbia, New York-area museums, including the New York Historical Society and the Skyscraper Museum, and local history groups around the country are part of the collaborative effort.

The project is called the September 11, 2001, Oral History Narrative and Memory Project.

Relying initially on experienced interviewers from public radio and television and other media, the project had interviewed 200 people

by mid-November, Clark said.

They represented a wide range: small business owners, Mexicans (some documented, some not), Muslims, other Arab Americans, refugees and immigrants from Afghanistan and Pakistan, eyewitnesses, physicians, rescue workers, community college students, artists whose studios or exhibit spaces were affected, people who lost loved ones, firefighters, police, volunteers, priests, other clerics, teachers, principals, people from the New York financial district, writers and journalists.

Clark said the project particularly sought to interview people from communities where citizens and non citizens have been victims of discrimination or reprisals after the attacks.

(Continued on page 3)

Gateway Arch Creates Backdrop for 2001 OHA Meeting

In the shadow of St. Louis' symbolic Gateway Arch, some 400 community historians and scholars, including 110 newcomers, attended the 35th annual meeting of the Oral History Association Oct. 17-21.

With the theme "Bearing Public Witness: Documenting Memories of Struggle and Resistance," program co-chairs Leslie Brown, Anne Valk and Jessica Wiederhorn, created more than 90 panels, forums, workshops and plenary sessions,

which, coincidentally, also painted the backdrop for conferees' discussions of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C.

Jacqueline K. Dace and John Wolford of the Missouri Historical Society scheduled an array of off-site tours and special events, including the annual Presidential Reception at the Missouri History Museum and a theatrical performance of "Through the Eyes of a Child: Coming Home,"

based on oral history interviews with residents of four historically-black St. Louis neighborhoods.

The OHA also presented awards for best use of oral history in a book and in non-print format and its newly named Martha Ross Teaching Award for distinguished precollegiate teaching.

The following pages of this **OHA Newsletter** offer a reporter's notebook sampling from the St. Louis meeting's intellectual smorgasbord.



From Your President

By Mary Marshall Clark
OHA President

The old and light-hearted refrain "meet me in St. Louis" took on a more pleading and somber tone as those of us touched directly and indirectly by the events of Sept. 11, 2001, called and wrote each other about how our annual meeting would be affected by the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the United States. The theme of the meeting, "Bearing Public Witness: Documenting Memories of Struggle and Resistance," was, for many, timely in a jarring, but also reassuring, way.

Several journalists noting the meeting in radio programs and newspapers in surrounding areas spoke of the unusual coincidence. A strong-minded and kind-hearted veteran labor activist in New York City, Moe Foner, called to say he was concerned that people might not want to fly, and that the association would lose the income it needed to survive. The three program co-chairs, Leslie Brown, Anne Valk and Jessica Wiederhorn, anxiously watched their e-mail for cancellations. If we younger matriarchs had been smart enough to consult some of the pioneer women of the Oral History Association, Martha Ross or Elizabeth Mason, for example, we would not have wasted so much time and worry. They would have reminded us that oral historians are made of sterner stuff. That, of course, would have been the correct advice.

Despite the confusion and chaos caused by the events of Sept. 11 and their aftermath, the 35th annual meeting of the Oral History Association went off without a hitch. While attendance was down by 40 or 50 people, the beautifully planned and executed program was a smooth success. All the credit goes to the on-the-ground organizers, as well as the co-chair in Los Angeles, whose

visits and calls to St. Louis made her employers wonder if she had established an outpost there. The local arrangements committee masterminded an elegant reception at the Missouri Historical Society, managed complex negotiations at the hotel, pruned a blossoming audio-visual invoice with intelligence and calm and delivered a smiling volunteer team daily to handle registration.

Our speakers, spanning the globe from Italy to South Africa and the United States from New York to Los Angeles and Chicago to Texas, all showed up on time. Gertrude Fester, recently named one of the 11 gender commissioners in the new constitution of South Africa, was discouraged by her colleagues from making the trip but decided to come anyway. She was thrilled, she said, "to meet people in the Oral History Association and to attend such a wonderful program....I will join and encourage other South Africans to do so!"

Professor Manning Marable, director of Columbia University's Institute on African American Research, attending the meeting to speak on a new oral history initiative tracing the history and legacy of Malcolm X, declared that he considered the OHA a "new intellectual home." Hands raised during the Saturday night dinner indicate that we will have at least 30 new members based on the strength of the program.

The OHA offers "a new intellectual home."

—Manning Marable

The Oral History Association clearly is growing in stature and in numbers. Through the strong leadership of members and past presidents, the OHA has attained national prominence as a partner with the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center in the Veterans Oral History Project. It has also exercised

leadership in defining the role of institutional review boards on university campuses across the nation. The association's annual meetings continue to attract scholars from a variety of disciplines and are increasingly seen as a site for multi-disciplinary exchange and a training ground for graduate students and young public historians. The vitality of our meetings reflects the hard work of those who keep interest in oral history alive through our publications, online and in print.

The strength of our association and the commitment of oral historians to document social change and social trauma was demonstrated when more than 100 people came to an early morning meeting to discuss responses to the Sept. 11 events and their impact. As a result of that meeting, oral historians are collaborating in New York, New Jersey, Boston, Seattle, Washington, D.C., California, Pennsylvania and elsewhere to document what may become a major turning point in our nation's history.

Institutions that are collaborating to devise similar goals, formats and uses of what may grow to be a national documentation project include: Columbia University, the New York Historical Society, the New Jersey Historical Society, the Museum of Jewish Heritage, City Lore, Elders Share the Arts, the Pennsylvania Museum and Historical Commission, local sites of the National Park Service and local chapters of the American Red Cross. The Oral History Association, as an organization that can exercise national leadership, can bring coherence and vision to an effort that, through collaborative relationships, can accomplish far more than any one institution or project.

In keeping with our mission as an association, it is fitting that we have something to offer to the families of those whose voices were lost as well as those whose voices may be silenced as a result of the events of a tragic Tuesday. As our program in St. Louis demonstrated so ably, we are more than prepared to do so.

NY Interviews...

(Continued from page 1)

The project ultimately aims to reinterview the same 300-500 people over two years to understand longer-term effects and learn how stories change.

For more information about the project e-mail Rachel Kleinman at rk2042@columbia.edu or call 212-854-2273.

In addition to the New York-based project, the American Red Cross will conduct oral history interviews with employees and volunteers who participated in the relief efforts. While many served at the major disaster sites in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania, others worked at airports and other locations throughout the country. Oral historians and videographers interested in participating in the Red Cross oral history project should call Red Cross historian Brien Williams at 202-434-4976 or e-mail him at: WilliamsBr@usa.redcross.org.

Also in Washington, the Senate Historical Office began debriefing interviews the week after Sept. 11 with an eye toward documenting the evacuation of Capitol Hill and providing guidance for policy-makers about handling future emergencies. The interviews continued until the Hart Senate Office Building closed Oct. 15 for anthrax decontamination.

Please let Newsletter Editor Mary Kay Quinlan know about oral history efforts in your area relating to the Sept. 11 attacks. E-mail: ohaeditor@aol.com.

OHA Members Protest Foreign Speaker's Absence

Members attending the Oral History Association's annual business meeting Oct. 21 approved a resolution to "condemn the detention by the U.S. government" of Maysoun Sukarieh of the American University of Beirut, who was scheduled to speak on "Silencing Memories: The Case of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon."

Sukarieh notified OHA leaders that upon her arrival from Beirut at New York's Kennedy International Airport she was prohibited from entering the country.

"She was forced to return to Lebanon and was silenced herself," the OHA resolution said.

A U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service official told the OHA Newsletter that privacy rules prohibited officials from commenting on specific cases. But he noted that visa requirements for visitors attending professional or scholarly meetings are complex. Without knowing specific details about Sukarieh's visa status, it is inappropriate to assume that she was treated wrongly, he said.

Veterans History Focus Of National Project

The Library of Congress' American Folklife Center announced Nov. 8 it had received a \$3 million, three-year grant from the American Association of Retired Persons, the nation's largest organization of people over age 50, to support its Veterans History Project.

The Oral History Association is among the partners of the project, authorized by Congress a year ago to collect and preserve wartime memories of veterans. Selections from the interviews and documents collected ultimately will be available online.

"One of the project's goals is to broaden public understanding of oral history and to encourage direct participation in history by means of oral history," the folklife center said.

Funds from the AARP will be added to the \$250,000 in the Library of Congress' budget to pay for: processing and cataloging staff; transcription of tapes; preservation of the materials, including reformatting; public programs; design and printing of information kits, including those for blind and disabled vets; interview training workshops and promotional materials.

The ambitious project aims to collect audio and video recordings, letters, diaries, photographs, maps, home movies, drawings and other documents that tell veterans' stories and the stories of civilians who supported war efforts. Objects such as medals and uniforms will not be collected.

The Veterans History Project expects to rely on volunteers across the nation to collect interviews and documentary materials from veterans of World War I, World War II, and the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars.

Information about interviewing standards, including sample questions and technical advice, is available on the folklife center's Web site: www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/.



OHA officers, Council members and Nominating Committee members gather at the 2001 annual meeting. Left to right are: Tom King, Jacqueline K. Dace, Linda Wood, Executive Secretary Madelyn Campbell, Charles Hardy, Mary Marshall Clark, Cliff Kuhn and Arthur Hansen. Also elected but not pictured are: Rose Diaz, Wendy Ng and Gloria Holguin Cuadraz.

Storyteller Uses Laughter, Tears to Explore Life As Daughter of Hungarian Holocaust Survivor

When Lisa Lipkin was growing up in New York, she'd take the subway and pretend she was on a train going to Auschwitz. "But I always got off at Macy's," she told the Oral History Association awards banquet audience.

With poignant insights peppered by an irreverent sense of humor, the New York storyteller, daughter of a Hungarian concentration camp survivor, described the peculiar nature of living in a family whose sole goal was survival.

"We're forever living in the shadow of this tremendous evil," she said, noting that her parents taught her: "Don't dare to dream because dreams can be shattered. Evil lurks around any corner."

Lipkin has toured her performance, "What Mother Never Told Me: Reminiscences of a Child of a Holocaust Survivor," throughout the United States, Canada, Israel and England.

Lipkin said her father's family had come to America a generation before the Holocaust trapped European Jews. "He had a relatively good childhood," she said. But to Lipkin, her mother had no childhood at all.

"...my mother had no roots....As far as I knew, my mother's life started in America after the war."

--Lisa Lipkin, daughter of Holocaust survivor

"A plant needs roots to grow and flourish," Lipkin said. "But my mother had no roots....As far as I knew, my mother's life started in America after the war."

Lipkin recalled that as a child, she

hungered for stories about her mother's past and learned to listen to what her mother did not say as well as what she did. "She didn't need to tell me she starved," Lipkin said. "I saw it every time I opened the refrigerator."

"You never could get enough food in our family," Lipkin said, noting that her aunt, who was with her mother in the camp, once went out and bought 30 cans of catfood. "We didn't have a cat," Lipkin added.

Unbeknown to Lipkin, her aunt had donated to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., a sweater and the blue kerchiefs the two girls had worn in the camp. A friend of Lipkin's who worked at the museum arranged for her to visit the museum storage area, where Lipkin said she saw suitcases and umbrellas and assorted other possessions that had belonged to the Jewish men, women and children consigned to the death camps.

And then there was her aunt's sweater. "A teeny little child's sweater." Lipkin said she thought there must be a mistake, but then realized the grownup she'd always known once had been the child who wore the tiny sweater.

"I held it up to my cheek and I cried," Lipkin said. "And I really can't tell you why....It was a flash of insight....It gave me just enough light to go home and take my appropriate eternal place back in the shadow."

In a question-and-answer session following her performance, Lipkin credited storytelling with an "absolute power to heal and to transcend cultures." When one person tells a story, it gives license to others to tell theirs, she said.

Timuel Black of Chicago responded to her invitation, noting that during World War II he fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was among the Americans who saw the

Nazi death camp at Buchenwald.

Black said all of his grandparents were born in slavery, and whenever his sister would ask, "Grandma, what was it like to be a slave?" she would start to cry.

"I had that feeling at Buchenwald that this can happen to anybody," Black said. "There were blacks, Gypsies, gays....At Buchenwald, I knew it could happen to anyone."

"The prevention of this possibility," he said, "should be the goal of all of us."

OHA Announces Awards for 2001

At the Oct. 20 awards banquet, the Oral History Association presented its first endowed Martha Ross Award for precollegiate teaching and its awards for best book and nonprint media production using oral history.

Richard Williams, a high school social studies teacher from Pittsburgh, Pa., won the \$200 award recognizing his 35 years in the classroom, including 25 years of teaching oral history. His students have created more than 1,500 oral history transcripts.

The book award went to Urvashi Butalia for "The Other Side of Silence: Voices from the Partition of India," published by Duke University Press.

The nonprint media award went to the radio docudrama "Jazz: A Milwaukee History," produced by Roger Dobrick of WYMS Radio in Milwaukee.

At next year's OHA conference, awards will be presented for an outstanding oral history project, article and collegiate teacher.

The awards deadline is April 15, 2002. For details, visit the OHA Web page: www.dickinson.edu/oha.

Speakers Examine How Memories Change Over Time

Scholars Explore Long-term Memory

Memories that change over time and memories that seem to be permanently fixed were the focus of a Friday morning panel discussion at the OHA annual conference.

Rhoda Lewin of Minneapolis, author of "Witness to the Holocaust," based on interviews with 60 Holocaust survivors, noted that her collection of interviews--or anyone else's--reflect people who agree to be interviewed and are not necessarily representative of Holocaust survivors generally.

Ninety percent of Poland's Jews were murdered, Lewin said, and after the war, the survivors were told by well-meaning sociologists to forget their past and get on with their lives.

Comparing contemporary interviews with a collection of interviews conducted in 1946, Lewin said she found the early interviewees were "not at all reluctant to reveal details that almost never come out in today's interviews," including stories about mistreatment by fellow Jews.

"We realize how much history has changed in terms of what people are willing to talk about," she said.

The evidence suggests, she said, that "people forget the bad stuff," or are at least unwilling to talk about it.

Many survivors today, she noted, "cannot separate or choose not to separate their own stories from those of others."

Alice and Howard Hoffman of Haverford, Pa., suggested, however, that a form of long-term memory exists that can best be described as archival.

"It's the sort of memory that leads us to say, 'I'll never forget that as long as I live,'" Howard Hoffman said.

For memories to take on archival qualities, they must be rehearsed and often are scripted. "They tend to be stories," Alice Hoffman said.

Archival memories, she said, "are very resistant to recognition cues." Memories of 40-year-old events "don't respond to recognition cues, but two-year-old memories do," she said.

She described her collaboration with Howard on his recall of his experiences as a World War II combat soldier and her interviews with alumni of Earlham College, a Quaker school in Richmond, Ind., in which classmates attending a 40th reunion were asked about their recollections of a controversial 1949 speech at the college by a visiting Army colonel, when a half-skinned dead cat fell at the speaker's feet.

Alice Hoffman, a student at Earlham at the time, noted that newspaper accounts and the college president's own files disagree on various aspects of the incidents, and also are at variance with what alumni remembered.

"If you wanted to really understand this event, going to the archives would not be enough.... Going to newspapers would not be enough. Indeed they would lead you astray," she said, adding: "It's worth remembering that archives save stuff for specific purposes."

Alice Hoffman distinguished between long-term memory and archival memory.

If a memory changes over time, something else is acting on that memory and it can't be regarded as reliable, she said. But, she added, the reasons why it has changed may be the most important thing to understand about it.

"The role of the storyteller is to change the world."

--Brother Blue

OHA Past Presidents Challenge Audience

Oral History Association past presidents Ron Grele and Kim Lacy Rogers mused about memory in a Friday morning session that was revamped in the absence of several scheduled presenters.

Calling himself "a skeptic among the true believers," Grele challenged what he said was oral historians' fixation on memory.

"We used to call the interviews testimony; now we call it memory," he said. "It used to be called the history of something; now we call it memory of something."

"We are not memory workers in the same sense a psychologist is," Grele said. Oral historians should not engage in projects designed to aid victims of trauma or serve other therapeutic purposes intended to make participants "feel good," he said.

Rogers distinguished between what she called a "locked strongbox model of memory" versus memory as "an incoherent mass of impressions" in people's minds that they put into a narrative to make it understandable.

Such narrative memories all have purposes, she said, suggesting that memories are turned into narratives only if they're meaningful to the person.

"Memory is a creative and recreative act," she said. "We tell stories in different ways throughout our lives.... We tend to reshape and recast memories across the life span according to their emotional values at the time."

Grele said a key stumbling block in talking about memory is the disconnect among various academic disciplines that deal with it in some way. "If you think we have problems in history,...you should be a political scientist," he quipped. "There are two camps of political scientists and they deny each other tenure."

Panelists Defend, Criticize Campus IRB Process

The contentious and sometimes confusing plight academic oral historians face in trying to comply with federal rules for research involving human subjects--and their institutional review boards' (IRB) interpretations of those rules--was in the spotlight at a Friday afternoon roundtable discussion.

Research involving "interaction with living individuals"--including oral history--has come under greater regulatory oversight on campuses partly because of the greater visibility of oral history and because of the deaths of two medical research subjects who might not have been fully informed about the research in which they participated, said Linda Shopes, past OHA president, who has been in the forefront in focusing attention on IRB compliance issues.

While the rules technically apply only to federally funded research, institutions are encouraged to apply the standards to all human research, explained Jeffrey M. Cohen of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP).

Otherwise, he said, they face the "completely indefensible position" of having different standards for research, depending on its source of funding.

The regulations are minimal standards, he said. Institutions are free to adopt more stringent rules if they see fit.

Cohen said the cornerstone of the federal regulation is the requirement for informed consent.

The rules, he said, are "admittedly focused toward biomedical research," which has raised hackles among social scientists and humanities scholars, who argue that the people they interview, in the case of oral historians, for example, are not "subjects" of research in the same sense that persons who participate in pharmaceutical tests are.

The regulations make oral history

research projects eligible for "expedited review" by a university's IRB, but just what constitutes that "expedited review" differs among campuses.

Jonathan Knight, who studied IRBs and social science research for the American Association of University Professors, predicted scholars will face an era of "strong protectionism of the subjects of research." Federal policy-makers are disinclined, he said, to rely on researchers themselves to protect their human subjects.

In academic and legislative circles, he said, there are proposals to require:

- accreditation of IRBs;
- disclosure of financial links between researchers and their subjects;
- more training of researchers;
- all research on human subjects, regardless of the source of financial support, to be subject to the rules, a proposal aimed largely at regulating research financed by drug companies.

Knight suggested that social scientists could help themselves by encouraging their academic departments or programs to get involved in reviewing research proposals before they even reach the campus IRB.

IRB members often do not have a good sense of research practices in fields outside their own, he noted. But they do have a strong sense of the importance of departmental independence, he added.

Knight also urged faculty to push for appointing social science and humanities scholars to IRBs.

Most of the complaints to the AAUP deal with concerns that IRB members do not understand research practices outside the biomedical world. Better representation of other scholars would help, he said.

While Cohen and Knight suggested academic oral historians might as well get used to the idea that their work is subject to federally

mandated review, two other panelists and several audience members expressed frustrations and concern with the process.

Alan Lessoff, who teaches history at Illinois State University, noted that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has never attempted to assess the risks involved in oral history research, yet the rules place the burden of proof on a researcher to prove that his or her work is not harmful.

He challenged HHS to define the risks to public safety and welfare posed by oral history.

Scholarly research and writing should remain outside the scope of government review, Lessoff said. The current review process, he added "amounts to censorship."

Mary Larson, assistant director of the oral history program at the University of Nevada, Reno, said her program successfully developed a standardized script, which satisfied the campus IRB, to document that its interviewees were granting informed consent to participate in interviews.

Among other points, the script says that "there are no known risks to this study."

Larson pointed out, however, what she suggested was a logical inconsistency in the how the human subjects rule is applied.

"I have yet to encounter an institution where journalists" have to have their questions reviewed in advance, she said.

The AAUP's report on IRBs noted that the IRB and the journalism faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill determined that news stories students write "do not contribute to generalizable knowledge and therefore are not subject to IRB review." News stories that use social science research methods like public opinion polling, however, are subject to IRB review on that campus, the AAUP report said.

(Continued on page 7)

Shoah Foundation Technology Expert Describes Process, Pitfalls in Creating Huge Video Archive of Holocaust Survivors

When Sam Gustman talks about collecting oral histories, he uses numbers several orders of magnitude larger than most oral historians do.

As executive director of technology for the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, Gustman described to a plenary session audience what it takes to digitize, catalog and distribute a 180-terabyte video archive of more than 51,000 videotaped interviews with Holocaust survivors.

Begun in 1995, the project cost \$2 million just to set up a structure to store that much video, he said.

Collecting and processing nearly 116,300 hours of testimony has carried with it a pricetag of nearly \$175 million, including about \$35 million in in-kind technology donations, to collect and catalog the interviews, Gustman said.

The foundation has interviewed some 20,000 Holocaust survivors in the United States and 9,000 in states of the former Soviet Union, with the rest of the interviews in Eastern Europe and scattered around the world. Interviews have been conducted in 32 different languages, including American and Hungarian sign languages.

Gustman said each interview

begins with a 40-page structured pre-interview. Using a standardized questionnaire makes it possible to craft a searchable database, he said.

The foundation is no longer focusing on collecting interviews, Gustman said, but has turned its efforts to "building products" from the archives, including eight documentaries--three in English and five in other languages--books, movies, videos, CD-ROMS and other interactive materials. Its most recent documentary won an Oscar, he said.

The bulk of the foundation's effort in the next few years will be aimed at helping teachers use the materials, Gustman said, adding: "I think there's more merit in focusing on distribution rather than expanding the archive."

The foundation discovered that "the technical challenges that oral archives present...are very interesting to the computer science community," Gustman said, noting that the Survivors of the Shoah Foundation received a \$7.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation to study voice recognition systems.

Gustman's conclusion? "Voice recognition doesn't work."

The Shoah Foundation repeatedly asks vendors to test voice recognition

systems with the Holocaust survivor interviews. But the interviews often include people crying and exhibiting other emotions, switching languages, even using slang in different languages, presenting a stiff challenge to computer software creators.

With a medium-to-understand tape, the voice recognition accuracy is about 15 percent, Gustman said. For a hard-to-understand interview, which constitutes a large share of the foundation's material, the accuracy rate "was basically flat line."

Hard-to-understand tapes that have been tested using the best system created by the Defense Advanced Research Programs Agency, however, have shown a 26 percent accuracy rate, he said.

Gustman advised oral historians interested in building video archives like his to make technology decisions "based on what you want your end users to be able to do with it."

Digitizing and storing data like the Shoah Foundation does "is monstrously expensive," Gustman said. "While you don't have to do it to the quality we have, it's still expensive."

Spotlight Turned On IRB Process

(Continued from page 6)

Cohen insisted that the human subjects review process can work in an efficient and timely fashion and said it does not pose an undue burden on researchers.

Most research proposals that come before IRBs require some modification before they are approved, he said, adding:

"If we didn't have this system, there'd be more problems."

OHA Seeks Ideas On Working With Campus IRBs

To serve campus-based oral historians, the OHA would like to distribute information from members who have developed effective working relationships with campus IRBs. Please send to the OHA **Newsletter** information about your experiences with a campus IRB that might serve as a model for others. Examples from various academic

settings are encouraged. Some academic oral historians operate from a separate department or office that conducts ongoing oral history research, while others engage in oral history interviews as part of periodic classroom activities. Please share examples of successful work with IRBs in all such settings.

Send your IRB success stories to: Mary Kay Quinlan, Editor, OHA Newsletter, 7524 S. 35th St., Lincoln, NE 68516. Fax: 402-420-1770. E-mail: ohaeditor@aol.com. **Please do not send material as e-mail attachments.**

OHA Featured Speakers Tell Dramatic Stories

Victims of trauma offer lessons about the value of remembering, three featured speakers told an Oral History Association audience Friday afternoon at the annual OHA meeting.

+ Gertrude Fester, a playwright, performer, scholar and member of the South African Commission on Gender Equality, described her own experience as a political prisoner in South Africa--the price she paid for her work as an organizer in the grassroots struggle against apartheid.

"I was so lonely, there were times I longed to be interrogated," she recalled.

"When I saw a spider, I was so happy. This was another creature. I composed a poem to it."

Fester wrote poetry to maintain her sanity in the face of "purposeful dehumanization."

Women who refused to break under torture made their captors mad, Fester said. "Mere women had no right to be so strong."

+ Ann Cvetkovich, a literary and cultural critic from the University of Texas at Austin, described her experiences interviewing lesbian AIDS activists in New York in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Many AIDS activists, she said, suffered the trauma of the loss of their friends and fellow activists, which was compounded by the fact that AIDS victims often are not seen as worthy of public mourning.

Being inside the crisis didn't always permit the AIDS activists time to mourn, she said.

Cvetkovich told the audience it was important not to see trauma as something that marks people as somehow being sick.

+ Stevan Weine, a psychiatrist at the University of Illinois at Chicago and an expert in trauma mental health, described his work with Bosnian refugees in Chicago.

The opportunity to tell their stories reduced the incidence of post-traumatic stress and reduced their

suffering, he said.

Weine rejected the notion that giving testimony is somehow a cathartic experience for trauma victims.

It could be, he suggested, "that it's the elaboration, not the erasure, of the event that's important."

He noted that elaborating a traumatic experience requires telling the different parts of a story and putting them together in a narrative so it can be communicated to others.

While an opportunity to give voice to past experiences is important for trauma victims, giving testimony offers no answers for many of the social ills--crime, alcoholism, unemployment, loneliness--that also plague them, Weine said.

Kaplan Relates Story Of Chilean Prisoner

Featured speaker Temma Kaplan, distinguished professor of history at Rutgers University, captured a Friday luncheon audience with the story of Nieves Ayress, a Chilean political prisoner under dictator Augusto Pinochet. She now runs a community

center in the South Bronx that caters largely to a black and Latino audience. "Testifying about past traumatic experiences can sometimes be an act of resistance," Kaplan said of Ayress, who was raped and tortured in a Chilean prison for her political activism in the 1970s.

"Nieves clearly keeps the years she was tortured marked off from the rest of her life," Kaplan said. Even her tone of voice is different when she speaks of her life as a revolutionary.

"She discusses the torture as though she were in a trance," Kaplan said.

The Chilean woman managed to smuggle her story out while she was still imprisoned, which had the effect of reversing the sense of shame the government wanted her to feel, Kaplan said, noting that people in such situations who are able to see themselves as political prisoners are better able to cope than those who see themselves as victims.

Kaplan urged oral historians to remember that their reasons for gathering oral histories may be different that the reasons people have for giving oral testimony.



Temma Kaplan, distinguished professor of history at Rutgers University, takes a question from an audience member after her speech describing the torture of a woman imprisoned in Chile for her political activism.

Marable, Portelli Conclude OHA Conference in St. Louis

Oral history can help unlock the meaning of the past, not just document the events of the past.

That was the message from two renowned oral historians who closed the Oral History Association annual conference Sunday noon.

+ Manning Marable, founding director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University, described his new Malcolm X Project, which will create the first Malcolm X archive and is expected to include interviews with up to 200 people who had some relationship with the slain black leader.

At his death in 1965, the mainstream press condemned Malcolm X as "an irresponsible rabble rouser," Marable said. A generation later, his image has been transformed, and Malcolm X has become "a ubiquitous presence in mainstream commercial culture."

In one of what Marable called "the ironies of history," the U.S. Postal Service unveiled a postage stamp in 1999 with Malcolm X's picture, a move that angered some conservatives and offended "some revolutionaries and Marxists" because the same government that issued the stamp honoring his memory also harassed and wiretapped him during his lifetime.

Marable noted that "The Autobiography of Malcolm X," first published in 1965, is all many people know about the civil rights activist.

But the book, he said, is more a work of literature than a factual account of his life.

"The real Malcolm was largely unknown," Marable said, "more myth than reality."

Marable said he started compiling information on Malcolm X in the early 1990s. In 1999, one of Malcolm X's daughters asked Marable to help organize the family papers, which evolved into the Malcolm X Project at Columbia.



Alessandro Portelli of the University of Rome and Manning Marable of Columbia University share a laugh before the OHA conference's closing session.

Marable said the archival collection includes recently released FBI surveillance records of Malcolm X.

"What oral history tools may help us understand better is the construction of black identity in the 1960s," Marable said, adding that he hopes to "reconstruct the urban black world of the mid-20th century."

People closest to Malcolm X say that his biggest struggle was to convince African Americans that they could win their civil rights struggle, Marable said.

"The quest for power begins in one's mind. You cannot become free unless you can think of yourself as free....That was Malcolm's contribution," he said, adding:

"History is more than a simple record of the past. It is a prologue to the future....Malcolm really understood this."

+ Alessandro Portelli, who teaches American literature at the University of Rome, recounted the complexities of interviews with men and women involved in a still-controversial episode in Rome during World War II.

On April 24, 1944, the Nazi army in Rome executed several hundred men at a crossing on the Appian Way in retaliation for an attack the previous day in which underground

Italian freedom fighters killed 32 members of the occupying army.

"Political controversy is still raging in Italy" over the episode, Portelli said.

In war, he noted, one is ready to give one's life and to take the life of others. "You're ready to die, but you're also ready to kill."

Members of the Italian underground were volunteers. "They never claimed they were merely following orders," he said.

"In their just war, these Partisans committed acts that would that would be unjust in times of peace," Portelli said.

Women participated equally with men in the Roman resistance, and all were young, exhibiting a sense of adventure and a great feeling of affection and solidarity, cut off as they were from their families and everything else familiar.

Portelli recounted the words of a woman who had planted a bomb in a railroad station. She talked about how she just didn't think about what she was doing "because it was such an abnormal thing....If you started to think about it, you'd maybe collapse."

Another informant, Portelli said, recalled the cold-blooded killings and said the freedom fighters "couldn't even talk to Christ because even He wouldn't understand."

STATE AND REGIONAL REPORT



TOHA Presents Award For Lifetime Work

By Lois E. Myers
Texas Oral History Association

The Texas Oral History Association is pleased to announce the presentation of its Thomas L. Charlton Lifetime Achievement Award to Austin scholar Thad Sitton.

Sitton has tape recorded the life stories of Texans for more than two decades. His interviewees range from Lady Bird Johnson to Texas cotton farmers. Sitton was among the founding members of TOHA and one of its early workshop leaders.

In the 1980s, he served as information director of the Texas 1986 Sesquicentennial Commission. As contract historian for the Lower Colorado River Authority, HEB Corporation, Prewitt and Associates (for the U.S. Army) and Baylor University, Sitton is responsible for hundreds of oral histories documenting Texas personalities, places and culture.

Author of books that both teach and apply oral history research, Sitton is a three-time recipient of the T.R. Fehrenbach Award from the Texas Historical Commission:

+ in 1987 for "Ringing the Children In: Texas Country Schools;"

+ in 1998 for "Nameless Towns: Texas Sawmill Communities, 1880-1942" and

+ in 2001 for "The Texas Sheriff: Lord of the County Line."

In 1986 the East Texas Historical Association honored Sitton's "Every Sun That Rises: Wyatt Moore of

Caddo Lake" its annual Otis Locke Award for Best Book. His methodology book, "Oral History: A Guide for Teachers and Others," has gone through several printings, instructing and inspiring both professional and beginner oral historians.

TOHA's board of directors, Thomas L. Charlton and Austin-area TOHA members presented the award to Sitton at an Aug. 4 luncheon in Austin.

Grant to Benefit St. Louis Middle Schools

The Missouri Historical Society has received an \$88,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation for an oral history project called "In the Voice of a Child."

The project is expected to involve 125 students in five St. Louis middle schools for each of the next three years.

The students will conduct oral history interviews, which will become part of the society's "Through the Eyes of a Child Collection" documenting African-American neighborhoods in St. Louis. Material from the collection formed the basis for the play "Through the Eyes of a Child: Coming Home," which was performed for OHA members attending the 2001 annual meeting in St. Louis.

Project director Jacqueline K. Dace said the students will work in partnership with several local radio and television stations and community organizations to create productions based on their interviews. Their productions will be showcased at a festival at the Missouri History Museum.

Dace said she is excited about receiving the grant and credited Mary Marshall Clark, OHA's new president, for her encouragement and support of the project.

Texas Library Grant For Tejano Voices

By Ann Hodges
University of Texas at Arlington

The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries have received a \$20,000 grant from the Texas State Library and Archives' TexTreasures program.

The grant will partially fund a project called Tejano Voices, which will provide improved access to 77 oral history interviews conducted during the 1990s by U.T. Arlington political science professor Jose Angel Gutierrez.

The interviews emphasize the personal stories and struggles of Tejano leaders, many of whom are the first individuals of Mexican descent in their communities elected or appointed to government office.

The interviews uniquely reflect the history of the Tejano community as it pressed for an end to racial segregation in Texas and access to political power after World War II.

The interviews are housed in Special Collections at the U.T. Arlington Libraries. The Tejano Voices project will expand access to the materials by creating a Web site featuring streamed audio of the interviews and the interview transcripts.

The TexTreasures grant program was created to help public and academic libraries in Texas provide access to their special or unique local holdings and make information about these collections available to library users throughout Texas.

The Tejano Voices project is directed by Ann Hodges, special collections projects manager at the U.T. Arlington Libraries. For more information about the project, e-mail her at: ann.hodges@uta.edu.

Chicago Art Institute Explores Architecture with Oral History

By Betty J. Blum and
Annemarie van Roessel,
The Art Institute of Chicago

In an article in *Chicago History* in 1974, noted oral historian Louis Starr issued a wake-up call to Chicago.

At a time when numerous institutions throughout the United States were undertaking oral history projects on a wide range of subjects, he asked why did Chicago not have a major project underway to document its rich history for future generations?

A few years before, there was to have been an oral history consortium formed by several Chicago institutions, but it had not materialized.

Better late than never, in 1983, the Department of Architecture at The Art Institute of Chicago sponsored the Chicago Architects Oral History Project to tap the richness of the city's architectural history. The CAOHP's mission is to develop an architectural data bank of information about the city's architects and architecture.

The project is intended not only to fill the gap in the literature, but also to go beyond the facts, exploring motivations, influences, behind-the-scene stories and personal reflections to create a meaningful record. The oral histories that have been collected explore the development of Chicago's architecture and planning from the early 1900s through the present.

Funded completely by grants and contributions, the project currently includes the oral histories of 69 architects, each ranging in length from two to 27 hours of audio tape.

Recorded in the collection are partners and associates of the architectural firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, students and colleagues of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, members of the renegade Chicago Seven group and many architects who defy classification.

All interviews are fully transcribed and indexed, and the transcripts may be consulted in the Ryerson and Burnham Libraries at

The Art Institute. They are also available on The Art Institute's Web site: www.artic.edu/aic/.

The oral history project Web pages include a complete list of the architects interviewed, biographical summaries, interview highlights and excerpts and links to other archival resources. Selected transcripts may be downloaded, making them more accessible than ever before. A comprehensive master index, updated regularly, is also available to help users of the collection.

Recently, "Chicago Architects: Voices on Paper," an exhibition of architectural drawings, models and travel sketches, was featured at The Art Institute. Each object was accompanied by an excerpt from an interview that reveals insights about the project in the architect's own words. Exposure through exhibitions, the Internet and The Art Institute's Library allows the CAOHP to tell the story of our man-made city to worldwide audiences.

Exec. Secretary's Report

By Madelyn Campbell

It was a pleasure to meet many of you at our recent annual meeting in St. Louis. The OHA Council met for two days and discussed a wide range of topics related to promoting oral history and providing support to various constituencies.

Of most interest to the executive secretary's office was the report from the Annual Meeting Task Force. Although many of the recommendations will be discussed and acted upon in our midwinter meeting in San Diego, I am already taking on the new task of receiving and processing the panel and paper submissions for the 2002 annual meeting.

As executive secretary, I will be providing administrative support to the program chairs as they develop

the details of our next conference. It is hoped that by centralizing these functions, the administrative burdens can be removed from the program chairs, thereby allowing them more time for creative program planning. I look forward to working with Teresa Barnett and Jane Collings, program chairs, and Laura Wendling and Brad Westbrook, local arrangements.

As reported at our annual business meeting, OHA remains in excellent financial condition. Our reserve funds have remained around \$38,000, and the endowment, despite losses in our Vanguard Growth Fund, has grown to just under \$110,000. Since the Membership Directory is now being printed only in even-numbered years, I would like to remind members that they may request a new member addendum and full financial reports for 2000 from the office at any time.

By now you should have received the second volume of the **Oral History Review** for 2001. It is time to renew your membership for 2002, and I encourage all of you to look for your renewal notice in the mail. If you know of anyone who is considering joining or whom you think would enjoy becoming a member of OHA, please forward their name and address and I will send membership information to them. It's easy to join online by going to our Web site: www.dickinson.edu/oha, so pass the word along to your friends and colleagues.

As always, I want to thank those I have worked with this past year, especially Cliff Kuhn, who worked hard to further the reach of the OHA into new arenas. I look forward to working with the new OHA officers and council members.

N. Carolina Teachers See Power of Oral History

By Pamela Grundy
Southern Oral History Program
University of North Carolina,
Chapel Hill

The voice of Brian Tarr filled the classroom air with sound as it emerged from a boom box speaker and spread throughout the room.

"It's hard work, getting along with people who are different from yourself," the high school literature teacher explained, the emotion in his voice conveying as much as his slow, soft-spoken words.

"It's no different, I guess, than any other relationship. It's just real hard work. One's feelings are going to be hurt. One will make mistakes, and feel terribly guilty. There'll be successes, too, but it's just hard work, and it's really minute by minute by minute."

The dozen teachers in the room bent over their desks, seeking to translate the heartfelt description into print and then into poetry.

Over and over they listened to Tarr's memory of teaching at a recently desegregated school. They checked their transcription; they arranged and rearranged the lines. After they finished, lively talk broke out as they discussed his statement, their varying renditions and the ways they might use the exercise to encourage their own students to listen carefully to others and to consider the challenges of interracial interaction.

The exercise, testament to the power of oral history to engage listeners and raise challenging questions, formed part of a week-long Teachers' Institute sponsored jointly by the Southern Oral History Program in Chapel Hill (SOHP) and the North Carolina Humanities Council (NCHC) in June 2001.

The institute brought 51 public school teachers from across North Carolina to participate in seminars and workshops designed to expand their understanding of recent North Carolina history and help them learn

ways to use oral history in their classrooms.

The program took place at the Paul J. Rizzo Center in Chapel Hill, and it received funding from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the First Union Foundation.

The missions of both the SOHP and the NCHC emphasize the importance of conveying the insights gleaned from scholarship to the broadest possible audience. This project, part of a two-year collaboration, allowed them to pool their efforts.

For the NCHC, the institute was the latest in a series of such endeavors, coordinated by Special Programs Director Lynn Wright-Kernodle, which have aimed to provide North Carolina's public school teachers with intellectual challenges designed to help renew their passion for learning and to inspire creative planning for their classrooms.

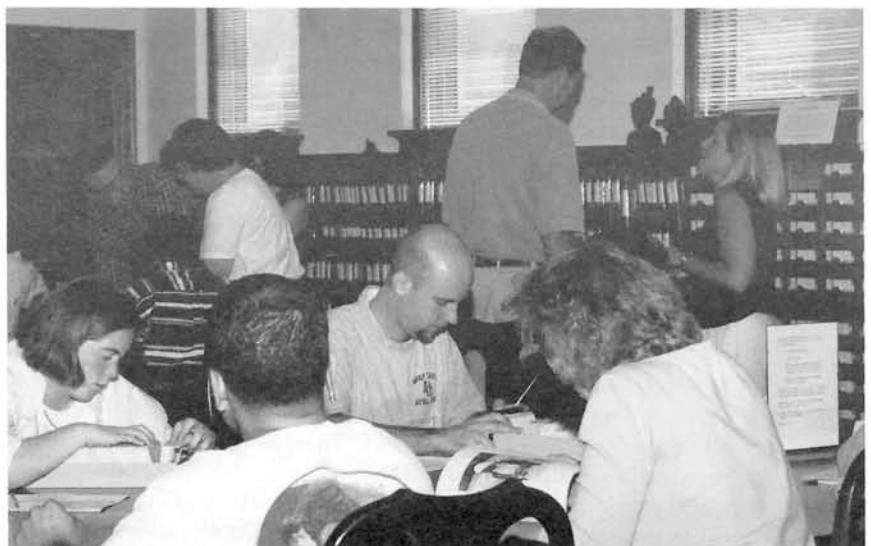
For the SOHP, the institute capped a two-year program of research in which SOHP scholars used oral history interviews to explore some of the enormous

changes that have swept over the state in the years since World War II.

That project, titled "Listening for a Change: North Carolina Communities in Transition," sent scholars into a variety of North Carolina communities to explore subjects that included schooling and school desegregation, the arrival of Asian and Latino immigrants, the decline of tobacco farming, the effects of population growth and the development of grassroots environmental movements. Each of the projects sought to document the range of challenges that North Carolinians have faced in recent years, the creative strategies that residents have devised to meet those challenges and the issues that remain unresolved.

The institute was one of several outreach efforts that sought to bring the words and experiences that emerged in these interviews to broader public attention, emphasizing the importance of understanding a broad range of historical developments as well as the role that such an understanding could play in present-day efforts to deal with a rapidly changing world.

The state's public school



Teachers' Institute participants working in the University of North Carolina Archives.
Photo by Gail Komives

classrooms were a major target of such efforts.

The institute itself involved an elaborate array of content-focused seminars, oral history workshops and opportunities for archival research. Teachers were offered five areas of concentration:

+ "Race and the Public Schools" considered the supportive learning environment that developed at African-American schools during segregation, as well as the cultural, political and academic challenges that North Carolina schools faced during desegregation.

+ "Environment and Communities" offered an overview of environmental changes and challenges in different areas of the state, as well as an in-depth look at the dynamics of grassroots environmental movements.

+ "New Immigrants" focused on the recent flood of Latino immigrants into the state, considering these new residents' histories as well as their effects on the communities in which they settled.

+ "Understanding the Post-World War II Economy" traced the large-scale economic shifts that had transformed so much of state life and then focused on the effects such changes had on the state's tobacco economy.

+ "Political Change" dealt with political shifts that included the growth of the civil rights movement and the rise of the state's Republican party.

The faculty, drawn from several North Carolina institutions, included: SOHP Director Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, who delivered the keynote address; Joe Mosnier from UNC's Center for the Study of the American South; Kelly Navies and Angela Hornsby from the SOHP; Barbara Lau and Charlie Thompson from Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies; Kathryn Newfont from Mars Hill College and Lu Ann Jones from East Carolina University.

SOHP associates Pamela Grundy and Kathryn Walbert designed and

administered the program while Lynn Wright-Kernodle and the NCHC staff handled logistics.

The heart of the program included three days of intensive seminars and workshops.

Evening programs sought to further expand the teachers' understanding of the possibilities of oral history. These included a personal account of exploring family history, presented by SOHP associate Kelly Navies, a demonstration of oral history's uses in dramatic performances and an evening devoted to the history and dance traditions of North Carolina's Cambodian communities. Finally, the teachers also spent several sessions in UNC's Southern Historical Collection and North Carolina Collection, adding documentary research to the oral testimony.

For each seminar, teachers received original essays prepared for the institute by SOHP scholars as well as lengthy excerpts from interviews and annotated bibliographies suggesting further readings. They also could review a detailed set of curriculum materials designed by Kathryn Walbert.

The materials were both intellectually and emotionally challenging, and the teachers leaped in eagerly, asking questions, recounting stories from their own experiences and planning their own projects.

"In my sessions on environment," lead teacher Kathryn Newfont said, "participants asked penetrating questions about the role of government in managing natural resources, about how race and class demographics affect environmental decision-making, about the relationship between contemporary consumer society and environmental quality, about whether there is such a thing as corporate social responsibility.... Teachers' commitment to learning was evident."

The collaboration proved inspiring as well as informative. In their evaluations, teachers pointed to a variety of benefits, ranging from

"great intellectual conversations" to "the practical experience I had in working with interview tapes" to an atmosphere that "rejuvenated me to creating lessons that are interesting and would engage students in an oral history project."

"One of the best weeks of my life!"

—Workshop participant

"Each session divulged facts I wasn't aware of and had me questing for more," one participant explained, while another called it "one of the best weeks of my life!"

The SOHP scholars who led the sessions were equally enthusiastic about their experiences.

"As an experienced oral historian, I benefitted most deeply from seeing the enthusiasm of teachers for our craft," Kathryn Walbert wrote in her assessment of the week. "Often, when oral historians praise the unique power of oral history to generate interest, uncover alternative perspectives on the past and build community, we do so in our own journals, conferences and programs. In essence, we are 'preaching to the choir.' But bringing this message to teachers, many of whom had never really done much with oral history, and seeing their overwhelming interest in the methodology and its possibilities confirmed for me the value in what I do and its very real contribution to historical understanding and the building of community."

As outside evaluator Gail O'Brien wrote: "Teachers become teachers because they are intellectually stimulated by the subject matter they teach; at the same time, they benefit greatly from practical strategies and suggestions for teaching it. This institute offered renewal at both levels.... Thanks to all--participants and faculty alike--for rekindling and nourishing the flame of inquisitiveness that should--and can--burn brightly in all of us."

BULLETIN BOARD

Columbia University Names

Mary Marshall Clark

Columbia University has appointed OHA President Mary Marshall Clark as director of its Oral History Research Office. She succeeds Ronald J. Grele, a past OHA president, who retired in September after 18 years heading the Columbia oral history program, which boasts more than 15,000 hours of tape and 8,000 interviews.

Clark has worked at Columbia since 1990 and has interviewed a wide array of political, social and cultural figures. She said she will work to enhance the collection's efforts to promote interdisciplinary and cross-cultural research and to set new standards for oral history using visual and digital media.

New OHA Pamphlet

Serves Classroom Teachers

A classroom oral history project contains all the components of a good education by engaging students in a meaningful activity, interrelating different aspects of the curriculum, illustrating that the learning process is as important as the content and that education can happen outside the classroom. Students also learn important communication skills. Moreover, the product of an oral history project becomes an historical document itself.

To help teachers create classroom oral history projects, the OHA has just published "Oral History Projects in Your Classroom," by Linda P. Wood. It is available three-hole punched for easy use. It contains an extensive bibliography and sample handouts, including a legal release form and a project evaluation form.

The guide, part of the OHA pamphlet series, costs \$15 or \$20, including a three-ring binder. Use the order form on the next page or visit the OHA Web page at www.dickinson.edu/oha. A companion video, "History from the Living: The Organization and Craft

of Oral History," also is available for \$20 from J. Long, Grin Productions, 6 Carey St., Newport, RI 02804.

OHA Thanks Endowment Donors

The Oral History Association thanks recent contributors to the OHA Endowment's Martha Ross Fund. They include: Fern S. Ingersoll, Eleanor Shodell, Roger S. Horowitz, Deborah S. Gardner, Frederick P. Jessup, Mame Warren and the Stephenson Family Frust.

H-Oralhist Keeps Growing

In 2001 the number of subscribers to H-Net and the Oral History Association's discussion list, H-Oralhist, increased from 1,250 to more than 1,500. Many new subscribers came from outside the United States. Mary Larson of the University of Nevada, Reno and Kathryn Blakeman of Baylor University joined Jeff Charnley and Gene Preuss as listserv editors.

The H-Oralhist Web site has added new features, including updated graphics and photos along with a "Special Features" table highlighting notable Web sites that use oral history in an innovative way. Also improved is the H-Net search engine that allows Web site visitors to search through all previous H-Oralhist messages. The address is: www2.h-net.msu.edu/~oralhist/.

To subscribe to the H-Oralhist discussion list, send the following message to: listserv@h-net.msu.edu. *SUB H-Oralhist firstname lastname, affiliation*

Example: *SUB H-Oralhist John Smith, Michigan State University*

Once you send the above message, listserv will ask you to confirm that you want to subscribe. To do so, simply reply to the message that is forwarded to you.

Having trouble subscribing? Feel free to contact Editor Jeff Charnley at Michigan State University. His e-mail is: charnl2@msu.edu. You also can call him at: 517-355-2400.

NEH Seeks Directors

The National Endowment for the Humanities offers a slate of residential summer seminars and institutes that give teachers at all levels the opportunity for intensive study of important texts and topics in the humanities. Programs set for the summer of 2002 are listed on these Web sites: www.neh.gov/projects/si-school.html and www.neh.gov/projects/si-university.html. Deadline: March 1, 2002.

NEH also is looking for new program directors. Guidelines and applications for directors are on the NEH homepage: www.neh.gov. The deadline is March 1, 2002, for prospective directors of projects to be conducted in the summer of 2003. Prospective directors are encouraged to discuss a preliminary draft with a program director in the Division of Education. Phone 202-606-8463 or e-mail: sem-inst@neh.gov.

Missouri Fellowship Offered

The Missouri Historical Society announces its 2002 Research Fellowship competition. The fellowships provide from one to three months in residence to selected scholars working in any area pertinent to MHS collections and missions. Deadline: Feb. 28, 2002. Stipend: \$1,700/month. For information or application, write: MHS Research Division, P.O. Box 11940, St. Louis, MO 63112.

Morrissey Workshop Scheduled

The eighth annual Morrissey Oral History Workshop is scheduled for March 1-3, 2002, in San Francisco. Past OHA president Charles Morrissey will share 40 years of experience in sessions geared for beginners as well as seasoned oral history practitioners. For information, call Gail Kurtz at 510-525-7050 or e-mail her at: gdkurtz@home.com.

Deaf Survivors Pose Challenges

Documenting the experiences of deaf Holocaust survivors creates unique challenges, retired Gallaudet University history professor John S. Schuchman told a Sunday morning audience at the OHA conference.

Many oral history interviewers know a lot about the Holocaust but nothing about the deaf community, or know a great deal about being deaf but little about the Holocaust, he said.

Schuchman described his efforts to remedy those shortcomings with about 30 interviews with graduates of the Jewish School for the Deaf in Berlin, deaf Jews who had survived the concentration camps and first went to Shanghai before coming to the United States, deaf Hungarian Jews who had survived the death camps, and deaf German Christians.

Schuchman noted that the Nazis sterilized some 16,000 deaf Germans

in the mistaken belief that deafness was a genetic trait. But when the Nazis came to power, many deaf people looked to them in the hope that their lives on the economic margins of society would improve, Schuchman said.

Schuchman showed video excerpts of interviews with deaf Holocaust survivors, including one that illustrated the sometimes complex logistics required to record the interviews. In the interview, a deaf Hungarian woman signed in Hungarian sign language to a hearing Hungarian signer who spoke to another person who translated into spoken English. The video tape also was captioned.

The interviews reveal an array of different experiences for deaf people in the Nazi concentration camps, Schuchman said. For example:

Some deaf people who couldn't hear orders were summarily shot.

Some groups of deaf men in labor brigades signed openly. Other deaf camp inmates survived by allying themselves with those who could hear

and who would help them.

While Schuchman's work has begun to document the experiences of deaf children at the hands of the Nazis, he noted that no one has researched how blind children were treated. "I'm convinced they were all killed," Schuchman said.

National Park Service Seeks Tuskegee Airmen

The National Park Service is creating a national historic site dedicated to the Tuskegee Airmen, the elite African-American Army Air Corps pilots who made history during World War II.

The site is expected to open in 2005 at Moton Field in Tuskegee, Ala. Project planners aim to interview as many surviving Tuskegee Airmen as they can locate.

For more information about the project, please call toll free 1-866-294-2914 or visit the NPS Web site at www.nps.gov.

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.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Country _____

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.

Amount Ordered (Quantity x Price)

Oral History and the Law
2nd ed., John Neuenschwander,
1993, \$8.00

Oral History Projects in
Your Classroom, Linda Wood,
2001, \$15.00 pages only, \$20.00
including three-ring binder

Using Oral History in
Community History Projects,
Laurie Mercier and Madeline
Buckendorf, 1992, \$8.00

Oral History Evaluation
Guidelines, \$5.00

Order total

Optional mailing charge

TOTAL ENCLOSED

Give Us Your Stories

By Andrew J. Dunar, Editor
Oral History Review

The **Oral History Review** is planning to publish a collection of individual recollections relating how people first became involved in the practice of oral history.

Some time ago several individuals told their stories in response to a similar query as part of an H-Oralhist discussion. The stories were engaging; they revealed something of the breadth of the practice of oral history and of the sometimes serendipitous ways in which people became involved in oral history.

The editor of the **Oral History Review** is looking for individual reminiscences from people at all levels of involvement in oral history, from professionals at established university oral history programs to those involved in community or individual projects with no institutional connection. Stories from people with many years of experience and from those who have only recently begun to use oral history will be welcome.

A target length of 1,200 words is recommended, although longer or shorter stories are welcome. The deadline is Feb. 1, 2002. Please send the story of your oral history roots (including a diskette if possible) to: Andrew J. Dunar, Editor, **Oral History Review**, Dept. of History, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville AL 35899; or via e-mail to dunara@uah.edu.

San Diego is California's oldest city, dating from the founding of the first mission by Father Junipero Serra in

If you guessed 1492 or 1776, you'd better start packing for the Oral History Association conference in San Diego, Oct. 23-27, 2002. You have lots to learn about this vibrant Southern California coastal city. The conference theme is "Global Linkages: The Internationalization of Everyday Life." The headquarters hotel is the Doubletree Inn in Mission Valley, within walking distance to shops, restaurants and the San Diego Trolley, which can take you throughout the metropolitan area. Look for more details in the spring OHA Newsletter.

[The correct answer is 1769.]

Note New Newsletter Schedule

Beginning with this issue, the OHA Newsletter will feature an expanded 16-page issue every December for more complete coverage of the annual fall meetings.

The Newsletter will continue to be published three times a year, but the new publication dates are April 1, Aug. 1 and Dec. 1. Copy deadlines for those issues are March 1, July 1 and Nov. 1, respectively.

Send your stories, photos and ideas to: Mary Kay Quinlan, Editor, 7524 S. 35th St., Lincoln, NE 68516. Fax: 402-420-1770. E-mail: ohaeditor@aol.com. Please do **NOT** send articles as e-mail attachments.

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

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. Fax: 510-642-9917. E-mail: journals@ucop.edu

Editor: Mary Kay Quinlan, 7524 S. 35th St., Lincoln, NE 68516.

Copyright 2001 Oral History Association, Incorporated

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

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Jefferson City, Mo.
PERMIT NO. 210