



# NEWSLETTER

## Telling Stories, Creating Memories Focus of OHA Meeting in Portland, Ore.

The 480 attendees at the 2004 annual meeting of the Oral History Association Sept. 29-Oct. 3 could choose from an all-you-can-learn buffet of more than 100 sessions, workshops, tours and keynote speakers, a photo exhibit and book signing to get their fill of the stories and memories of oral history.

Meeting in Portland, Ore., the OHA sessions explored a wide array

of contemporary and historic themes, including civil rights, war stories, aboriginal cultures, politics, science and new technologies.

Prominent national and international scholars explored the meaning of memory, the challenges of ethical issues and the social power of oral history in plenary sessions and roundtable discussions.

The conference also featured a

leadership luncheon at which 18 past OHA presidents were recognized for their professional service. The past presidents attending spanned more than three decades of OHA history, from Charles Morrissey, who served in 1971-72, to Art Hansen, who served from 2002-03.

This **Newsletter** offers snapshots of some of the panels and special features of the 2004 conference.



*OHA Council members and officers gather after the 2004 annual meeting in Portland. Front row, from left, Vice President/President-Elect Rebecca Sharpless, Executive Secretary Madelyn Campbell, immediate past president Rose Diaz. Top row, from left, newly elected Council member Kathryn Nasstrom, First Vice President Alphine W. Jefferson and Council members Celia Alvarez and Mehmed Ali. Not pictured are President Kim Lacy Rogers and new members of the Nominating Committee: Doug Boyd, Andy Dunar and Michael Frisch.*

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## From Your President

By Kim Lacy Rogers

During our meetings in Portland, Ore., the Oral History Association Council decided to embark on several expansive initiatives that will take a more aggressive approach to what we do, with the aim of making the larger scholarly and lay public more aware of oral history and its importance.

First, we hope to initiate an Action Research Fund, which can offer modest but significant scholarships to individuals who are doing important oral history research in critical historical and contemporary events. A stipend of several thousand dollars could be awarded competitively to individuals conducting research on, say, the recent elections in Afghanistan, the crisis in Darfur or on natural disasters. Such scholarships also could fund research in emerging political organizations or subcultures.

The awards would stipulate that the recipient must prepare a presentation for an upcoming meeting of the Oral History Association. The **Oral History Review** also might reserve the right of first refusal on an article drawn from this research.

We also hope to expand our own use of electronic communications and publications for such OHA products as our pamphlet series and the **Oral History Review**. We welcome those with non-print applications of oral history theory and practice to propose presentations for future OHA meetings.

Other short- and long-term plans include an examination of our endowment funds and investments and a new capital campaign to aggressively grow the endowment in the next few years.

We want to expand our outreach to other professional organizations and specializations—such as researchers in anthropology, sociology and fields like the medical

humanities. Given the timeliness of health care as a vital issue in the contemporary world, we welcome researchers whose work focuses on significant health issues and oral narratives to attend and to participate in OHA conferences.

Monitoring ongoing governmental and academic debates concerning Institutional Review Boards and the use of human subjects in oral history research is another priority. Past OHA presidents Don Ritchie and Linda Shopes have been successful in having oral history research “excluded” from official definitions of research, but there continue to be a number of questions and attempted reclassifications from individual IRBs in various institutions.

The discussion of what constitutes oral history research and all of our relationships to whatever Institutional Review Boards operate at our institutions are matters that we need to continually assess.

We are also planning to reconstitute and recognize ongoing OHA committees. At our recent meetings in Portland, we placed sign-up sheets at registration so members who were interested in committee service could enter their names for possible positions on these groups. We are still looking for committee members and for others who wish to serve the OHA in various capacities.

If you are interested in further service and participation in the OHA, please e-mail Executive Secretary Madelyn Campbell (oha@dickinson.edu) and state your preference for participation and service.

Finally, we would like to urge all of you to attend the 2005 annual OHA meeting in Providence, R.I., on Nov. 2-6, 2005. The conference theme, “Voices of Dissent, Voices of Hope,” should serve as a call to action for many, if not all, OHA members. The conference planners have reminded us that “the history of protest is often the history of hopefulness.” The right to dissent from official policies and procedures is not just a fundamental right of all Americans, but it is often a patriotic act as well.

We wish to see all who regard the problematic but necessary experience of dissent to join us in Providence to explore the many ways of wresting freedom from oppressive forces, laws and governments.

## Diversity Committee Reports Great Progress

By Alva Moore Stevenson  
Chair, Committee on Diversity

The Committee on Diversity met at the annual meeting of the Oral History Association on Oct. 1. Both veteran and new members discussed the tremendous progress the committee has made in the 16 years since its formation at the 1988 meeting in Baltimore, which is reflected in the annual meeting programs and the OHA leadership.

We are exploring ways to sustain this for the future. The goals for the 2004-05 year are:

- + Work with program and nominating committees to further strengthen gains made in annual meeting programs and leadership.
- + Utilize the OHA Web site, membership list and H-Oralhist to stimulate broader participation in the Committee on Diversity and heighten visibility.
- + Reach out to state and regional leadership to share information and resources.

The Committee on Diversity for the coming year consists of:

- + Alva Moore Stevenson, UCLA, continuing as chair;
- + Al Broussard, Texas A&M, College Station;
- + Gloria Cuadraz, Arizona State University West and
- + Warren Nishimoto, University of Hawaii, Manoa.

Agreeing so far to serve in the 2005-06 year is Claytee White, University of Nevada Las Vegas.

We strongly encourage OHA members to participate not only at annual meetings but to contact us in between (astevens@library.ucla.edu).



# Meeting Planners Raise Concerns About No-Shows

By Lu Ann Jones and  
Kathy Nasstrom  
Program Co-Chairs  
2004 OHA Annual Meeting

Each year as the annual meeting ends, program chairs begin to reflect upon the planning process in hopes that future program committees might learn from our successes and avoid our pitfalls.

We want to solicit the advice of OHA members about how to ameliorate a problem that vexes program committees year after year—the high number of scheduled panelists who drop off the program, usually less than a month before the meeting convenes. The 2004 meeting was no exception. A program addendum that reflected changes brought to our attention by midnight of Sept. 23 filled two pages. Even more cancellations occurred once the Portland conference began on Sept. 28.

We make a serious pledge to panelists—and to all the people who participate in and attend the program—when we accept sessions and papers in the spring. How can we insure that our commitment to them is reciprocated by their commitment to us in the fall?

Planning the 2004 OHA program was a challenging and creative process that unfolded over the course of 18 months. We enjoyed brainstorming with panelists as they developed sessions and submitted proposals. Unlike most organizations, the OHA welcomes individual paper proposals, and we spent many hours devising panels from individual submissions and securing chairs and commentators for these new sessions.

We then strove to design a program that had cohesion and integrity from the workshops on Wednesday to the final panels on Sunday morning. We sought to balance panel topics, veteran and emerging scholars, session formats and geographical regions. Many

variables influenced the placement of each panel on the final program.

When presenters dropped out, their absence was more than a logistical headache. Rather, multiple no-shows undermined the unity of the entire conference. Absences disappoint conference-goers who look forward to sessions described in the published program that arrives several weeks before the meeting.

To their credit, some panelists who withdrew from the program submitted papers that were read in their absence or they found replacements. Some commentators who withdrew suggested substitutes. But to our dismay, other presenters simply pulled out or cancelled sessions without explaining or warning us of their decisions.

For the Portland meeting we went to great lengths to salvage dissolving panels. For example, in mid-September members of two panels that dealt with related topics began to drop out one by one. In an effort to provide a platform for panelists who still planned to attend, we tried to reconfigure a new panel, but that effort failed, too, because conflicting schedules could not be reconciled. Another flurry of e-mail messages provided a happy ending for the one remaining panelist when we secured a spot for her on an existing panel. But the last-minute changes placed a new set of responsibilities upon the session's chair and commentator.

We hope our point is clear: No-shows have consequences that reach far beyond the individuals themselves or individual panels. The ripples that no shows create ultimately affect the entire conference schedule.

At the annual business meeting in Portland, Karen Harper urged OHA members to make a special effort to attend panels scheduled on Sunday morning, when conference attendance dwindles as people begin their return travel home. We applaud those sentiments—and Harper's comments remind us that the success of our annual meetings is the responsibility

of all OHA members. If we want OHA to work for us, we have to work for OHA.

Our service as annual meeting program chairs ranks among the most satisfying work of our careers. We are grateful for the opportunity to give back to an organization that has meant so much to our professional development.

But we are left with the nagging question: How do we instill in program presenters a sense of professional responsibility that encourages them to take seriously their commitment to the program from the moment papers are accepted? It's a question we all need to ponder.

## OHA Leaders Meet With Oregon Officials

Oral History Association leaders met in Portland with officials of the Oregon Historical Society, which suspended its oral history program earlier this year in the wake of a \$1 million loss of public funds, about 20 percent of its budget.

Jim Strassmaier of Portland recently thanked OHA past president Rose Diaz for the OHA's support.

"Thank you, one and all," he wrote, "for raising a voice in behalf of our oral history program at the Oregon Historical Society.

"It was the refining touch crowning our campaign for reinstatement of the program, adding the imposing high-level professional counsel to the many local pleas of writers and students, judges, legislators, program volunteers and proud interviewees, etc.—a whole chorus that certainly has been heard.

"I should mention that two important charitable foundations, past regular contributors to OHS, have also weighed in. There is also special promise in developing the OHS/PSU [Portland State University] public history relationship. And so, we remain hopeful. We'll be sure to let you know the outcome."



## Panel from Northern Manitoba Describes Efforts To Create “House of Stories” to Preserve Cultures

When Cree elder Stella Neff was growing up near the northern shores of Lake Winnipeg, there were no highways, no electricity, no water systems, no telephones, radios or televisions, no paper.

Getting mail took three days of travel by dog team in winter and a week by canoe in summer.

“Those were the best of times,” she said at an OHA conference session on Oct. 1.

Because there was no contact with white settlers, Neff’s people had no liquor, no gambling, no bingo, no welfare.

“Yet we knew our stories,” Neff said. “We had no maps, yet we knew our land. When we had no paper, we knew our stories.”

Neff joined Flora Beardy, director of the Aboriginal Heritage Program for the York Factory First Nation, near York Landing, Manitoba, and Peter Geller of the University College of the North in Thompson, Manitoba, to describe a fledgling effort to create a *honekwe*, or “house of stories.”

The long-range vision, Beardy said, is to create a center for preserving the oral history of northern aboriginal cultures.

It would be a place, she said, “to celebrate the uniqueness of oral knowledge, which is how aboriginal people have sustained themselves from time immemorial.”

Honekwe members have sponsored two regional gatherings in Thompson, nearly 500 miles north of Winnipeg. Each gathering attracted nearly 100 participants, including Cree, Metis and Dene. Student participants created a 20-minute video showing highlights from the gathering, which Geller showed at the panel’s session.

An audience member from Oklahoma said tribes there are reluctant to cooperate with traditional enemies in inter-tribal activities like the Cree women described.

Neff said she understood. She attended college in a traditionally Sioux area, she said. “I was terrified of them,” she recalled. “They didn’t know my stories.”

Beardy noted that historically there has been fighting among the Inuit, Cree and Dene, but she said she hadn’t noticed any animosity in the story gatherings.

“All bad feelings are aside,” Neff said. “We want their stories to be known.”

“It was so exciting to see these people who came with their stories,” Neff said. Their stories were of history and genealogy, stories about the land, stories told for entertainment, music and laughter.

“It was just like a spring,” she recalled. “Everything just bubbled.”

“The most heartwarming thing for me was the youth telling us what they want,” she said.

One group of young people at the Honekwe gathering asked if it was OK to use rap music to tell the traditional stories.

“Well, of course,” Neff said. “That’s how cultures change, how the stories are passed on.”

The Cree elder, a retired teacher, said collecting and preserving the stories is a way of undoing the damage from years when aboriginal people were not allowed to speak their language or engage in traditional spiritual practices.

“It’s about restoring, revaluing our cultural ways, reestablishing links to our cultural practices and creating an environment for our individual wellness,” she said.

Neff said that in sharing stories at the gatherings, people from various communities discovered that each group had different pieces of the same stories.

“It was from generations when we weren’t allowed to tell the stories,” she said.



*Moccasins tell stories in their intricate beadwork passed down from one generation to the next, Cree panelist Flora Beardy told an OHA audience in Portland.*

That’s why Honekwe is so important, she said. “We have these stories, but we have to put them on paper.”

Neff said that when she started teaching in 1967 in Grand Rapids, Manitoba, on the shore of northern Lake Winnipeg, she used a reel-to-reel recorder to gather elders’ stories. She transcribed them for her students and was glad she did when she discovered many years later that the tapes all had been thrown away.

Beardy encountered formal oral history work more recently.

She was working as a historic site interpreter for Parks Canada and took on the challenge of interviewing Cree elders at York Factory, site of a Hudson Bay Co. fur trading post, “because there weren’t stories from aboriginal people.”

“I didn’t have a clue how to do it,” Beardy said. “I just had a tape recorder and these people that I knew.”

Beardy conducted interviews with 12 people between 70 and 90 years old. All the interviews were in Cree, (Continued on next page)



## Cree Women Describe Plans for Manitoba “House of Stories”

(From previous page) which had the effect of preserving not only their stories, but also their language.

“They shared so much with me,” she said.

Translating and transcribing the interviews into English was time consuming, Beardy said. But the result was “Voices from Hudson Bay: Cree Stories from York Factory,” published by McGill-Queens University Press.

Beardy said all of the elders she contacted were “so glad” to be interviewed. All of them told her someone should have done it long ago. The chief, councils and their families all supported the oral history interviews, too.

The elders declined to be videotaped and none of them wanted an honorarium, Beardy said, telling her: “The gift for us is that future generations will know about our life stories.”

Beardy said the schools in York Landing now have a Cree language program, and she is committed to making sure the history of York Factory people is incorporated into the classroom.

“That makes you a better person, if you know you who are and where you came from,” she said.

For two weeks in May, she said, children from York Factory go to Goose Camp, where they learn how to clean and cook game and attend workshops on the Cree language, tanning hides and beading.

Beardy said the oral history interviews were a profound experience.

“I still thank Creator for having the opportunity to work with elders on this project,” she said.

“And I thank my late grandmother for making sure we speak our language every day.”

## Banquet Features Awards, Music

### Prizewinners

The civil rights movement in Kentucky and the gay Latino community in San Francisco were among the themes of the award-winning projects recognized at the annual OHA awards banquet Oct. 2.

Kim Lady Smith and Doug Boyd of the Kentucky Oral History Commission accepted the Elizabeth B. Mason Project Award for projects with a budget of more than \$6,000 for the Civil Rights Movement in Kentucky Oral History Project.

Honorable mention in that category went to The Wallpaper Project, a theatrical production based on oral histories collected in Ohio.

Project award committee members were: Phil Cantelon, chair, Albert Broussard and Shelley Bookspan.

No projects were nominated in the under \$6,000 category.

Horacio N. Roque Ramirez received the Article Award for “That’s My Place!”: Negotiating Racial, Sexual and Gender Politics in San Francisco’s Gay Latino Alliance, 1975-1983,” published in the April 2003 issue of the Journal of the History of Sexuality.

Honorable mention went to: “The Embers of Hiroshima: From Author to Subject in a Transnational Oral History Collaboration,” by Mary Palevsky and “From Atomic Fragments to Memories of the Trinity Bomb: A Bridge of Oral History Over the Pacific,” by Kayoko Yoshida.

Article committee members were: Rosemary Crockett, chair, Sam Nelson and Ann McCleary.

No recipient was selected for the post-secondary teaching award.

### Keynote Speaker

With music, slides and stories, labor historian and activist Michael Honey of the University of Washington explored “The Power of Remembering: Race, Labor and Oral History” at the annual OHA awards banquet.

Honey recalled his years as a labor organizer in Memphis who traveled the South working in social justice movements. Until then, he said, “I didn’t want to be a historian. I thought historians were boring.”

But he was lured to study history out of a need to understand how things got the way they were when he was trying to effect change in the South.

To understand the black freedom struggle, he said, historians need to go back to the 1930s and ‘40s and learn about the working class and poor people who were involved in the earliest sharecroppers’ struggles.

Often, Honey said, black workers were fighting on two fronts, one against their white employers and one against white workers.



Keynote speaker Michael Honey regaled OHA members with songs and stories.



## Japanese Internment Focus of Keynote Speaker, Panel

On Feb. 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 authorizing a wholesale roundup of Japanese Americans, most of whom were born in the United States. Their assets were frozen, a curfew was imposed and they subsequently were transported to internment camps for the duration of the war.

It was a time, said Linda Tamura of Willamette University, when fear, mistrust and economic pressures overtook civil rights.

"Confusion and fear overshadowed everyday judgments," she said in her luncheon speech on Oct. 1.

Tamura described the wartime experiences of Japanese Americans she has interviewed in Hood River, Ore., an agricultural community at the base of Mount Hood.

Four of her colleagues—Vicki Nakashima, Tim Rooney, Scott Sakamoto and Grant Yoshihara—read excerpts from the oral history interviews. And four of the Japanese-American World War II veterans she interviewed were in the audience: Sagie Nishioka, George Akiyama, Mam Noji and Harry Tamura.

More than 3,000 Japanese Americans already were in the armed forces on Dec. 7, 1941, the day Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor, Tamura said. But they were all reassigned to menial tasks and later were transferred under armed guard to Arkansas.

Draft boards reclassified Japanese Americans as 4F, physically, mentally or morally unfit for service, a classification later changed to 4C, aliens unfit for service, she said.

But the War Department needed people who knew Japanese to translate captured Japanese documents and to interview Japanese prisoners of war.

One of Tamura's interviewees recalled trying to talk a captured pilot out of committing suicide.

The War Department also needed soldiers, and in 1943, an all-Japanese



*Linda Tamura of Willamette University entertained and enlightened an OHA audience with stories of Japanese Americans from Hood River, Ore.*

regimental combat unit was formed, which saw legendary service in Italy and France. It suffered the highest combat casualty rate of any combat regiment in the Army, Tamura said. And it was the most decorated unit in military history.

"We earned our right to stay here," one veteran said.

But Hood River residents did not all welcome back their Japanese-American neighbors.

One soldier recalled an episode at a barbershop when he was in uniform. The barber told him, "I ought to slit your throat."

"Boy, you're no worse than some of those Germans we fought," the soldier replied.

Tamura said that people in Hood River who urged fair treatment for the Japanese Americans often were ostracized themselves.

And the returnees frequently were snubbed by former friends.

"We had the wrong kinds of faces," one recalled.

"War does a lot of strange things to people," another observed.

Japanese-American narratives were the focus of another session on Oct. 2, organized by Nancy MacKay of Mills College.

June Arima Schumann of the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center in Portland described her organization's efforts to preserve the story of the Japanese-American experience in Oregon for future generations.

"If we don't actively do something, things will disappear," she said.

The center's oral history efforts are based on the premise that Nikkei (which means Japanese people living outside Japan) history has a place in the teaching of American history and that the Japanese-American story should be presented from a Japanese-American point of view.

Schumann said the center made a conscious decision to videotape all of its interviews, and is now doing digital video, because that creates more options for presentations in schools.

She showed excerpts from several interviews:

"We asked Dad, 'Where's Pearl Harbor?'" one woman recalled. "He thought a minute and said, 'I think it's in Singapore.'"

"That was a pretty scary period for us," she continued. "It was a pretty scary, lonely kind of existence."



She recalled federal agents coming to her family's house. "They even came to my bedroom and looked through all the drawers and I was just a kid," she said, recalling that her family all thought: "They wouldn't take us. We're citizens."

Schumann said the Nikkei Legacy Center has found that students respond better to local information and local people.

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***"They wouldn't take us.  
We're citizens."***

**—Japanese-American  
interviewee**

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But people who are embedded in the community often don't make the best interviewers because they have too much preexisting knowledge, she said.

Wendy Ng of San Jose State University said interviewers do, however, need cultural knowledge to help them understand the way in which people talk about their experiences.

Ng said many Japanese-American parents, including her mother, never talked about their World War II experiences.

"It is not surprising that they would want to forget what happened to them and their families," she said.

After the war, many Japanese Americans really wanted to assimilate into the larger society, she said. They moved to the suburbs and pursued professional occupations, and the cohesive Japanese community was dispersed.

What many Japanese-Americans choose to remember may be those things that are more positive than negative," Ng said. They choose to talk about the good people they met and the social activities they had in the camps.

Ng said that when she, as an adult, interviewed her mother about those World War II years, her mother would say: "I never think about it until you bring it up."

Ng said she came to understand that "the silence was to protect me

from the things she experienced."

"She was a 13-year-old girl and things were very hurtful," she said.

Ng said oral history interviews with Japanese Americans also need to be seen in the context of Japanese cultural characteristics in which individual needs are superceded by the needs of the group.

Alice Ito, the granddaughter of Japanese immigrants, described the Densho project in Seattle.

"Densho" means to pass on to the next generation, Ito said.

The project began interviews in 1996 and focused on Japanese Americans' World War II experiences, but more recent interviews have been life histories, about four hours long, and focus on interviewees' lives before and after World War II, too.

Ito said the character of the interviews has changed since Sept. 11, 2001.

"This ancient history from 60 years ago is just as relevant now as it ever has been," one interviewee said, in a video clip Ito showed.

She said many of the interviewees make an explicit connection between their experiences and current events, in which people who look "Arab" are targeted.

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***"Injustice doesn't only  
happen to us. It happens  
to others."***

**—Japanese-American  
interviewee**

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One man told an interviewer: "Injustice doesn't only happen to us. It happens to others....We all should be concerned with humanity."

Some saw parallels between the public reactions after the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks on Sept. 11 and the reactions to Pearl Harbor, she said.

A Densho interviewee said:

"The kind of intimidation that the Muslims or Arabs are going through—it's tragic. It's very bad." Ito said the public needs to be aware of increasing calls for racial profiling

as a way to deal with contemporary terrorist threats.

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***"I'm asking all of you  
now, today to do  
something about stereo-  
typing and restriction of  
civil rights."***

**—Alice Ito**

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"There's an increasing number of vocal supporters of this view, she said.

Parents on Bainbridge Island, Wash., recently have complained that the social studies curriculum is teaching that the Japanese internment in World War II was a mistake.

"I'm asking all of you now, today to do something about stereotyping and restriction of civil rights," she challenged the OHA audience.

Past OHA president Art Hansen, commenting on the presentations, echoed Ito's challenge. And he praised the presenters' work in documenting Japanese Americans' wartime experiences.

He also urged oral historians to remember that there isn't just a single Japanese-American perspective. "We want other voices," he said.

Hansen also cautioned oral historians not to ignore the importance of research before they embark on their interviews. Oral historians need to be people who "passionately study the subject," he said. "Passion with technology isn't enough."

Hansen, who has been interviewing Japanese Americans for 30 years, said it is important to know that many Japanese Americans didn't want to leave the internment camps because they had no place else to go.

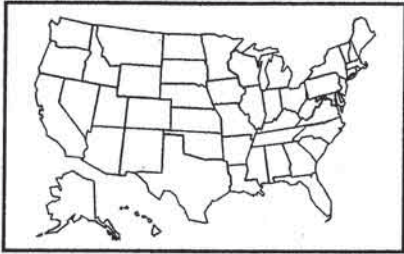
Likewise, he said, oral historians need to know that some 6,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry renounced their citizenship after the war.

"We need to ask about that," he said, adding:

"We have to get around to talking about what happened after the war.



## STATE AND REGIONAL REPORT



### Corps of Engineers To Receive Pogue Award At OHMAR Meeting

Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR) will present its annual Pogue Award for exemplary oral history work to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Oral History Program.

The award will be presented at OHMAR's joint conference on March 17-18, 2005, in Washington, D.C., with the Society for History in the Federal Government.

In his nomination for the Corps of Engineers, past OHMAR president Don Ritchie noted that the Corps' oral histories date back to 1957, when interviews were part of the research for a history of building the Pentagon.

Ritchie noted: "The Corps of Engineers has relied on well-trained oral historians both within its History Office and on contract to conduct a wide range of archival-quality interviews. Their formal oral history gathering was initiated by John Greenwood, as chief historian, in 1978. Over the years, many of the Corps' staff of interviewers—Paul Walker, Martin Gordon, Bill Baldwin, Barry Fowle and John Lonnquest—have reported on their work at OHMAR and OHA conferences. They have used oral history interviews in just about every historical publication by the Corps of Engineers.

"One aspect that I especially admire has been their use of contract interviewers to conduct oral histories with environmental critics of the

Corps' projects, on the logical assumption that these critics would speak more candidly to interviewers from outside the agency. Their effort to collect information so broadly stands as a model of objectivity," Ritchie said.

The Pogue Award is named after oral history pioneer Forrest C. Pogue, a founding member of OHMAR and an early OHA president.

On Oct. 22, OHMAR sponsored its fall workshop at the Library of Congress with the Veterans History Project. Workshop sessions covered oral history basics, copyright issues, video history techniques and writing oral history.

### Flood in Hawaii Spares Oral History Collection

Heavy rains in Hawaii caused a flash flood the evening of Oct. 30 that inundated the Manoa Valley and left widespread damage at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Flood water caused millions of dollars in damage to university buildings, but spared the collections of the university's Center for Oral History, Warren Nishimoto, center director reported.

Flood waters up to 10 feet caused major damage to the ground floor of the graduate research library and destroyed decades of research experiments in adjoining buildings. Nishimoto said the oral history collection is held on the library's fifth floor and was undamaged.

The oral history center's offices are in a different building unaffected by the flood, he said.

Nishimoto called the damage "devastating" and said it would take the university several years to recover from the weather disaster.

News reports said the flood destroyed the Library and Information Sciences program as well as cataloguing, government documents and map collection departments. The library's file servers also were lost in the flood.

### Students in 5 States Take Kentucky Oral History Class

The University of Kentucky Oral History Program reported in its inaugural newsletter earlier this year that the university's School of Library and Information Science offered an oral history class for graduate students in a five-state region.

Using interactive video technology, the class was part of the Southeast Archives Education Collaborative, which aims to improve archival education in the region.

Students from Kentucky, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana took the class, taught by Terry Birdwhistell, director of UK's oral history program.

The course provided an introduction to oral history theory and methods and was designed for those intending to use oral history interviews in historical or other qualitative research as well as managers of oral history collections in libraries and archives.

### UCLA Names Barnett As New Director Of Oral History

Longtime OHA member Teresa Barnett was appointed head of the UCLA Oral History Program on July 1. Barnett joined the program in 1984 and was formerly both principal editor and associate director. She served as co-chair of the OHA program committee for the San Diego meeting in 2002 and was book review editor for the **Oral History Review**. Barnett also has chaired both the book and article awards committees.

Barnett holds a master's degree in history from UCLA. Her oral history work involves interviewing people involved in the Central American solidarity movement in the 1980s.



# U.S. Latino & Latina WWII Oral History Project Focus of All-Day Forum in Washington, D.C.

By **Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez**  
**Project Director**  
**University of Texas at Austin**

The U.S. Latino & Latina World War II Oral History Project held an all-day public forum in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 12 to explore themes that have emerged in more than 450 interviews.

The interviews have been featured in eight issues of a newspaper, *Narratives*, dedicated to the project. But the newspaper stories didn't quite address the larger themes. Soon after the project began in 1999, it became apparent that those larger themes needed a closer and more rigorous examination. Those themes include:

1. Mexican citizens who served in the U.S. military during World War II
2. How the role of Latinas changed in World War II
3. The civil rights advancements made by this generation of Latinos
4. How the GI Bill affected this generation of Latinos

The scholars who presented included professors from throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, five graduate students and one independent scholar. A special feature was that all PowerPoint presentations included video or audio clips from the interviews.

The video and audio clips were made possible through the work at the University of Texas at Austin's Instructional Design Group, which digitized portions of the tape selected by the researchers. The tapes were indexed by students at UT-Austin, in a specially-designed form that keyed in on specific themes to be explored. Researchers viewed the indexes on a private Web site and requested VHS copies of pertinent interviews. They then identified—by time and specific quote—which short section of the interview they wished to use in their individual presentations. The

scholars then e-mailed their Power Point slides to Austin and, in Austin, those audio and video excerpts were embedded.

The researchers are developing their presentations into manuscripts for publication in an anthology at a later date.

Brian Lucero, a doctoral student at the University of New Mexico, pointed out in his presentation how oral history uncovers untold stories.

Lucero researched the mining community of Santa Rita, in southwestern New Mexico. He had searched through the 1930s and 1940s archives of the mining company and other regional materials, including the larger newspapers available. If he had based his research on those records, Lucero said, his understanding of the area's history would have been that there was a blissful coexistence between the Mexican-American miners and the Anglo community.

But in interviews conducted last summer with men and women who worked in the mines, he found a vastly different story. The mine had two entrances, one for Anglos, the other for Mexican Americans; two different lines to be paid; inferior facilities for the Hispanic workers; the quick promotion of new Anglo miners and the complete inability for even the most capable and experienced Mexican-American miners to advance.

The day-long forum was held at the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation's Naval Heritage Center Theatre. Sponsors included:

- + Univision Communications, Inc.
- + the University of Texas at Austin's College of Communication
- + the University of New Mexico's Center for Regional Studies
- + the Pew Hispanic Center
- + the Ernesto Galarza Applied Research Center, University of California, Riverside
- + the University of Texas at

Austin's Center for Mexican American Studies

+ American Airlines

The interviews are being prepared for transfer to the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection at the University of Texas at Austin in 2005.

For more information, please see the project's Web site:  
<http://www.utexas.edu/projects/latinoarchives>.

You also may contact the project at 512-471-1924 or e-mail: [latinoarchives@www.utexas.edu](mailto:latinoarchives@www.utexas.edu).

## New Texas Oral History Journal Available

By **Lois E. Myers**  
**Texas Oral History Association**

Volume 8 of *Sound Historian*, the journal of the Texas Oral History Association, includes an array of articles involving oral history. They include pieces on U.S.-Mexican border issues at El Paso and oral memoirs from Western swing musicians. To order the journal or join TOHA, write to Lois Myers at: [lois\\_myers@baylor.edu](mailto:lois_myers@baylor.edu).

Earlier this year TOHA awarded its 2004 Thomas L. Charlton Lifetime Achievement Award to Jo Ann Stiles, who has devoted more than 36 years of her professional career at Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas, to instructing students and others about Texas history and the virtues of oral history.

Stiles is the fifth recipient of the award and the first woman so honored. She also is the first person from Southeast Texas to be recognized by TOHA for her oral history work. She has received numerous teaching awards and has conducted interviews on the East Texas oil industry. Stiles is a past president of TOHA and is active in other regional historical associations.



# Panel Tackles Thorny Oral History Ethical Issues

Five panelists wrestled with thorny ethical issues at an Oct. 3 roundtable session moderated by Jim Strassmaier of the Oregon Historical Society. Here is a brief summary of key points each of them made:

+ Valerie Yow, an independent scholar from Chapel Hill, N.C., said oral historians must observe two fundamental ethical principles: “don’t hurt anybody” and “tell the truth.”

Oral historians, she said, need to be mindful of the “ethics of care” and the “ethics of justice.”

And sometimes the two are at odds. Yow cited as an example an oral historian who built a trusting relationship with a narrator suspected of murder and then took his tapes to police.

She called it unethical for an oral historian to “appear for a benign purpose and then turn him in.”

But she said she could envision a circumstance where “I, too, would rat on my narrator,” if she learned of a situation involving child abuse, for example.

+ E. Taylor Atkins, who teaches history at Northern Illinois University, took issue with OHA members who object to Institutional Review Board oversight of oral history research.

He said oral historians and IRBs can teach each other and added that by serving on his school’s IRB, he had managed to avoid the “bizarre scenarios and unreasonable demands” to which some historians have been subjected.

He called it “arrogant to assume that oral historians have nothing to gain” from having their projects reviewed by scholars in other disciplines.

“It’s more in our interest to participate in rather than flee from the subject,” he said.

+ Linda Shopes of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a past president of OHA, also represented the American Historical Association when she and OHA past president Don Ritchie

negotiated an agreement with federal officials whereby oral history “in general” was excluded from IRB oversight.

Noting that some IRBs have chosen not to accept the agreement, Shopes said she was concerned that IRBs were attempting not just to limit research that could harm narrators, but to inhibit inquiry into topics that might prove embarrassing.

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***Oral historians are duty bound to “follow the evidence wherever it leads, whether we like it or not.”***

**—Linda Shopes**

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OHA standards repeatedly articulate protections for informants. But an equally important ethical principle for historians is to “follow the evidence wherever it leads, whether we like it or not,” Shopes said.

Broader civil or moral claims may trump a need to protect narrators, she said.

+ William S. Schneider of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks said oral historians “have a great deal of education to do” in making the IRB process, which is framed in terms of biomedical research, work for oral historians.

“We need to work to make it work for us,” he said.

+ Tom King of the University of Nevada, Reno said his program has worked with Indian people in Nevada for more than 20 years and has developed an effective set of principles that guide its work with interviewees, whom he calls chroniclers.

Interviewers make sure people understand exactly what copyright interests they have and explain what the university intends to do with the interview. King said his program shares copyright with its chroniclers, allowing them to use their interviews

however they wish.

“We collaborate with people we’re doing interviews with,” King said. “We do not collect....We collaborate with tribes and individuals to document their lives.”

King said his program also does not patronize its chroniclers. “We don’t instruct people about their identity,” he said, noting that most Indian people call themselves Indians, not Native Americans.

King said his program gives chroniclers a “right of review to insure we got it right.” They also have the right to veto use of material. But only those who collaborate in an oral history have that right, he said, not tribal organizations.

Audience members raised a variety of concerns, including Joseph Granados, an independent scholar from Las Vegas, who said he is a trained therapist and is troubled about “oral historians moving into asking psychological questions.”

“You’re there to gather a story, what happened next, not to do therapy,” he said.

Rebecca Sharpless of Baylor University said interviewers always need to be aware that “sometimes you step into a situation where people are spring-loaded to tell you things.”

Rina Benmayor of California State University Monterey Bay noted that life interviews inevitably delve into people’s feelings.

“Does that mean we have to become trained psychologists?” she asked.

Conference co-chair Kathy Nasstrom asked the panel whether OHA guidelines needed revision.

“I have an opinion,” King replied. “No. I would hate to see further obstacles put in the path of people doing meaningful work.”

Shopes agreed.

“It’s very difficult to codify ethics,” she said. “Ethical principles are, at bottom, judgment calls.”



## From A Reporter's Notebook.....

An international panel of historians led a roundtable discussion of frequent OHA contributor Alessandro Portelli's book, "The Order Has Been Carried Out: History, Memory and Meaning of a Nazi Massacre in Rome." The book by the professor of American literature at the University of Rome examines "facts" and "memories" of a World War II Nazi massacre of Roman citizens.

"There has been a wrong memory created about it," Portelli said. "I love wrong memories."

In a democracy, he said, "it is good for memories to be competing."



Major W. Shane Story, U.S. Army historian documenting Operation Iraqi Freedom for the Center of Military History, said he is exploring how the Army planned, prepared and executed the invasion, how the invasion culminated in liberation and how liberation became occupation.

Story said he is relying on interviews and classified staff notes from meetings.

"I am not dealing with the past," he said. "I try to get my subjects to explain the situation today."

He said that in his attempts to assemble "a complex picture of the present," it seemed remarkable how little his subjects comprehend what's going on around them.

Their stories, he said, "suggest not one conflict but many conflicts with no clear solution."

Story, who formerly taught at West Point, said one colonel he interviewed described the challenges of working with Iraqis who wanted money for their neighborhoods and tribes but who resented U.S. efforts to give money to other neighbor-

hoods and tribes.

The colonel's rule for his troops, Story said, was simple: "Be polite, be professional, be prepared to kill them."

Story said he also plans to interview wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Story's work is like that of Army historians since the legendary Forrest C. Pogue documented the invasion of Normandy 60 years ago.

"I don't want to validate the war or question it," Story said. "I'm just trying to explain how we did it."



"I have the best job in the National Park Service," Lisa Bratton, who conducts interviews with Tuskegee Airmen, told an OHA session that explored the role of emotion in veterans' narratives.

The legendary African-American pilots, who never lost a bomber to enemy fire, are now mostly men in their 80s and are widely sought after as living legends, she said.

"To be a Tuskegee Airman is to be a superstar," Bratton said.

But the life interviews with about 150 pilots, enlisted men and wives reveal a depth of emotions that enriches the historical record.

One pilot who served overseas recalled how he couldn't get a job as a commercial airline pilot after the war was over.

He never got over the pain of being allowed to fly when it was in the country's interest, but not when it would help his family make a living, Bratton said.

Kate Scott, who directs the oral history program for the Women in Military Service for America Foundation, recounted her work with Vietnam nurses, who, she said, suffered the worst of the war.

"There is no standard narrative," she said. But women veterans virtually have been left out of the historical narrative of Vietnam.

About 7,500 women served in Vietnam, Scott said, many of them in combat under the cloak of civilian

job descriptions.

And unlike earlier generations of women veterans, these women are willing to talk openly about discrimination, a topic older generations tend not to confront except with laughter, she said.

Many used alcohol as a coping strategy, most wrote rosy letters home as a way to protect the people they loved and not one regretted their service, Scott said.

But even decades later, the emotions could be raw. Scott showed an excerpt from a videotaped interview with a nurse who tearfully described assembling dead soldiers' body parts so the skin color matched.



A panel of oral historians who have spent decades interviewing politicians mused about changes in public history and the peculiar characteristics of interviewing public officials.

John O'Donnell, who conducted interviews for a New Jersey state legislature oral history project, said the lawmakers all saw themselves as non-elites. But it was nearly impossible for them to speak unguardedly, he said.

Terry Birdwhistell of the University of Kentucky, whose interviewing experience has included countless state legislators and governors, said he has found that with many politicians, "you just wear them down" and they'll eventually tell their stories in a less guarded fashion.

"It's so much different if you interview someone who's out of office," Birdwhistell said.

"But maybe not just out of office," O'Donnell added. "If they're voted out, they're really sore."

Donald A. Ritchie of the U.S. Senate Historical Office noted that lawmakers "aren't objective observers of their own careers."

"There's nothing like quoting an enemy" to bring out people's stories, Ritchie added.



# Sharing Authority with Homeless People At Portland Conference Session

By Norma Smith, with Elizabeth Chur, Amanda Gardner, Marla Koch, Carl, Becky and Frank

“Homeless Voices, Home Truths: Stories from the Streets and the Long Road Home” broke new ground for the Oral History Association’s annual meeting. At least that’s what we heard from several veteran OHA members who attended our session on Oct. 2 in Portland.

Our panel was made up of oral historians and social researchers who interview homeless people. The discussants for our session were three representatives of our narrators, local homeless individuals, whom we invited to comment on and critique the session and join in discussion with the audience. Our hope was to demonstrate how the subjects of research can be an integral part of the analysis phase of a project as well as the data collection phase.

## The story of the panel

Elizabeth Chur and I met at the 2001 Oral History Summer Institute at the Regional Oral History Office in Berkeley, Calif. Elizabeth is communications manager of San Francisco’s St. Anthony Foundation, a large homeless services agency in San Francisco’s Tenderloin District. She has conducted a number of oral history interviews with homeless and formerly homeless people.

When we reconnected in December 2003, I encouraged her to propose a session for the OHA annual meeting and suggested a second panelist, Mandy Gardner, on whose doctoral committee I serve. Mandy has facilitated a creative writing workshop in a homeless shelter in Hoboken, N.J., for the past nine years. Recently, as part of her dissertation, she has been conducting interviews around the country with homeless men and women who consider themselves writers.

Elizabeth, Mandy and I agreed that it would be good to anchor the panel by including local Portland

people. Through Mandy’s contacts with homeless newspapers and Elizabeth’s contacts with homeless services agencies, we found the Sisters of the Road Café and its Crossroads Project. Crossroads recently has completed oral histories with 600 homeless people as part of a policy study for city agencies. Crossroads sees the project as two-pronged, having a research and a community-organizing aspect. The innovation they represent is that homeless people are asked directly about their experiences and their proposals for solutions to the social problem of homelessness. The narrators’ participation in the research serves as a base for developing leadership in the community. Marla Koch, our third panelist, is a volunteer research associate at Crossroads.

## From the proposal

One of the strengths of oral history is that it can give voice to populations that have been under-represented in the historical record: women, people of color, the working classes and sexual minorities.

One such marginalized group is homeless and formerly homeless people. The epidemic of visible homelessness in urban America is a relatively recent phenomenon and one that has generated much political and civic debate. Yet homeless individuals are often spoken for, either by politicians or advocates, and only rarely are called upon to speak for themselves. When they are, it is often in stories that overlook the complexity of homeless people’s circumstances and the multifaceted nature of their identities.

As the panel came together, we could see that our emphasis was that homeless people themselves should be heard. This belief, of course, is what draws oral historians to use oral history as a method. Each of the panelists’ presentations moved in that direction.

Elizabeth planned to play excerpts

from the tapes of her interviews; Mandy would quote at length from the transcripts of her interviews; and Marla would present preliminary findings of the research based on the Crossroads interviews.

Then we took it one step further. After a long telephone conversation with Marla about Crossroads and Portland’s homeless community, I asked her to invite some of the narrators to join us so that the panel, the audience and the narrators could have a conversation about homelessness from our respective standpoints.

Before extending these invitations, I contacted OHA program co-chair Kathy Nasstrom so we could discuss the logistics of inviting non-OHA members who could not afford the conference fees. Kathy was enthusiastic about the idea and she and OHA Executive Secretary Madelyn Campbell were completely supportive.

Marla invited people who are experienced in speaking before the Portland City Council and other public meetings on homeless issues. As the session began, it became clear to me that the Crossroads narrators could serve as a panel of discussants. So I asked Marla to introduce our three guests to the audience and, after Elizabeth, Mandy and Marla had presented, we asked Carl, Becky and Frank to comment on our panel, to speak to its usefulness, its validity from their point of view, what we missed, what would have been more useful. They described what had brought them to their homeless status, how they negotiated the streets and social service offices and some details about what they thought it would take to address some of the day-to-day problems of homelessness.

Carl, Becky and Frank helped the audience get a taste of what Marla, Elizabeth and Mandy experienced as they sat with their narrators. At the





*Alan H. Stein, Mandy Gardner, Norma Smith and Jenny Love gather for lunch at Pioneer Square to continue their discussion of issues raised by a session on Portland's homeless community. Photo by Elizabeth Chur*

same time, our invitation and our act of listening put our principle of sharing authority into practice, at least symbolically, for those few moments.

To continue the discussion, we invited the audience to join us for lunch after the session. We brought sandwiches to Pioneer Square and continued our conversation for another hour or so, until Marla and Carl had to rush back to the Crossroads office to greet OHA members on their tour of Portland.

#### **Audience response**

This organic and more or less spontaneous shift in format left us with relatively little time for audience members to voice their responses during the session. Brother Blue pointed out eloquently and forcefully that we had not explicitly addressed race or racism in our presentation, although it was implicit in the voices of Elizabeth's narrators.

This criticism reminds us of two things (at least): we need to be explicit about the impact of race and racism whenever we do social research in this country; the fact that we heard the actual voices of Elizabeth's Asian- and African-American narrators meant that we at least had the opportunity to hear the voices—the accents—of the narrators as we recognized race, racism and other cultural factors as issues in homeless stories.

#### **Future of this concept**

Several seasoned OHA meeting-goers approached us after our session

to say that our inclusion of narrators was new and refreshing and that it would be a good thing to institutionalize.

In my experience attending academic and even community-based conferences, the findings of research are presented by the researchers. Sometimes these findings are simply read to the audience, who usually could read the papers for themselves.

Why not use the occasion of a conference to stage discussions between prospective narrators and prospective researchers? That way we could both hear the data and analyze it, with the two sets of experts in the room together—the “subject matter experts” and the researcher. In social research it is usually the researcher alone who asserts and maintains authority over the data once it is collected.

The overlapping principles at work in this session were:

- 1) to bring social justice-oriented researchers together with the communities they research;
- 2) to recognize the authority of the community in the analysis phase of the research as well as in the data collection phase; and
- 3) to hear the voices and engage with the narrators themselves.

The hope for this format is that it will remind oral historians—both on the panel and in the audience—of our accountability to the people and communities who share their stories with us.

## **Committee Seeks New Media Projects**

**By Cliff Kuhn, Chair  
Committee on Digital Technology  
and New Media**

To promote an exchange of ideas and to publicize innovative applications, the OHA Committee on Digital Technology and New Media seeks descriptions of projects that use oral history and new media. These initiatives could involve, but are not limited to, pedagogy, archives and indexing, storytelling, publishing and oral history as an integral part of larger Web sites.

They also could address legal and ethical questions, oral history theory and methodology, sound, technological or design issues, interactivity and experimental work and media art.

We encourage submissions not only from established oral history programs and academic institutions, but also from community-based projects and others making creative use of oral history in new media.

In not more than 500 words, descriptions should include the following information:

- + sponsorship and key personnel associated with the project;
- + a brief description of the project, including how oral history is employed in this particular format or medium;
- + technical specifications and needs;
- + ethical or legal considerations;
- + any other oral historical issues, concerns or ramifications raised by the project.

After review by the committee, some of these projects will be linked to the OHA Web site and featured in the **OHA Newsletter**.

Submissions should be sent to Cliff Kuhn at: [ckuhn@gsu.edu](mailto:ckuhn@gsu.edu).

***Year-end contributions to the OHA Endowment Fund are welcomed!***



# International Oral History Association Welcomes New Members, Essays, Travelers to Australia

## Words and Silences

The International Oral History Association (IOHA) is seeking articles for the 2005 issue of its annual journal, *Words and Silences*, particularly pieces relating to practical problems with research, publication and conservation of oral sources. Each issue is thematic, so for other article ideas, please see the IOHA Web site: [www.ioha.fgv.br](http://www.ioha.fgv.br). You also may contact the editors: Gerardo Necochea ([gnecochea.deh@deh.inah.gob.mx](mailto:gnecochea.deh@deh.inah.gob.mx)) or Paula Hamilton ([Paula.Hamilton@uts.edu.au](mailto:Paula.Hamilton@uts.edu.au)).

Essays may be written in English or Spanish, or both, and should not exceed 500 words. References (author, title, place, publisher and date) should be included in the text and not as footnotes. Contributions should be mailed as an attachment in Word or RTF format to Necochea. The deadline for the 2005 issue is Feb. 28, 2005.

## How to Join IOHA

The International Oral History Association (IOHA) provides a forum for oral historians around the world to foster international communication and cooperation and a better understanding of the nature and value of oral history.

The association meets every two years in a different region or continent. Benefits of membership include:

- + discounted rates for the biennial international oral history conferences;
- + copies of *Words and Silences*, the annual bilingual (English and Spanish) journal containing oral history articles, an index of oral history journals worldwide and commentaries on oral history issues;
- + voting rights in the association's general meetings and council elections.

Any individual or institution supporting the aims of the association is welcome. Membership forms are on the IOHA Web site: [www.ioha.fgv.br](http://www.ioha.fgv.br). For inquiries, e-mail Treasurer Almut Leh ([almut.leh@fernuni-hagen.de](mailto:almut.leh@fernuni-hagen.de)).

Fees for two-year membership (July 2004-June 2006) are: 46 Euros for individuals, 92 Euros for institutions and 23 Euros for students.

## Proposals Sought for IOHA Meeting in Sydney

Papers are invited from around the world for contributions to the XIVth International Oral History Conference hosted by the International Oral History Association (IOHA) in collaboration with the Oral History Association of Australia, State Library of New South Wales, University of Technology Sydney and University of New England, July 12-16, 2006, in Sydney.

For the first time, the conference will include master classes, workshops, special interest gatherings and special plenaries marking the IOHA's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a formal association, IOHA President Rina Benmayor said, urging anyone interested to submit proposals.

Proposals may be for a conference paper, a thematic panel or a workshop session. Offers to convene a special interest group session, to establish contacts and share ideas, also are sought. Proposals will be evaluated according to their oral history focus, relevance to the conference theme—"Dancing with Memory: Oral History and its Audiences"—and its sub-themes: methodology, environment, health work, island nations, communities, trauma, places and buildings, pleasure of memory, political pasts, land claims, sharing/passing on beliefs, diaspora, teaching and learning, and the history of oral history.

Please send a single-page proposal including an outline of your paper and the following details: name (with your family name in CAPITAL letters); affiliation; postal address; e-mail address; phone and fax numbers; relevant sub-theme; whether an individual paper, thematic panel or workshop proposal; suggestions for special interest groups.

Proposals and papers must be written in English or Spanish with a summary in the other language. Contact the association for assistance in preparing translations. Papers should, as much as possible, allow the conference audiences to hear the voices of narrators.

The deadline is May 30, 2005. E-mail to [IOHA@uts.edu.au](mailto:IOHA@uts.edu.au). Or mail to Paula Hamilton, Faculty of Humanities, University of Technology Sydney, P.O. Box 123, Broadway, NSW 2007, Australia.

For more details, check the IOHA Web site: [www.ioha.fgv.br](http://www.ioha.fgv.br). The site also contains the biannual newsletter, edited by Don Ritchie and Pilar Dominguez. The next issue will be posted in early January.



*Plan now for a visit to Australia, where wallabies like these make their home. The IOHA will welcome you in Sydney in 2006.*



# Call for Papers

## “Voices of Dissent, Voices of Hope”

### Oral History Association Annual Meeting Providence, R.I. Nov. 2-6, 2005

The Oral History Association invites proposals for papers and presentations for its 2005 annual meeting Nov. 2-6 at the Providence Marriott, Providence, R.I.

The program committee welcomes proposals on a variety of topics. However, in keeping with the historic role of the city of Providence in welcoming religious dissenters, the 2005 annual meeting will focus special attention on oral history work with persons who have sought freedom of expression, freedom from coercion and freedom of conscience. Presentations may deal with religious freedom and the ways people have resisted oppression based on religious identity or have dissented from the coercive intentions of powerful figures and institutions, religious and secular. We anticipate that the stories of political protestors, labor organizers and reformers advocating various causes will be an important part of the meeting.

The history of protest is often the history of hopefulness. Thus “voices of hope” will be important as well. Presentations based on interviews with persons who kept hope alive in the face of oppression and deprivation are welcome as are presentations on other forms of hopefulness. Because oral history often relies on interviews with elderly persons, presentations on the relationship of aging and hope would be of particular interest.

Regional historians and students of New England, Atlantic Coast and especially Providence history are encouraged to submit proposals, as are those whose work concerns international topics. The committee also invites proposals for presentations that reflect on the process of oral history and the role of theory in its practice. A variety of formats and presentation methods will be welcome, including traditional panels with chair and

discussant, workshops, poster sessions and media and performance-oriented sessions. The committee particularly hopes to build the program around presentations in which the audience may hear recordings of the actual voices of dissent and hope on which research is based.

Proposal format: submit five copies of the proposal. For full sessions, submit a title, a session abstract of not more than two pages and a one-page vita or resume for each participant. For individual proposals, submit a one-page abstract and a one-page vita or resume of the presenter. Each submission must be accompanied by a cover sheet, which can be printed from the OHA Web site: [www.dickinson.edu/oha](http://www.dickinson.edu/oha).

Proposals must be postmarked by Jan. 15, 2005. They may be submitted by mail or fax. No e-mail attachments will be accepted. Submit proposals directly to: Oral History Association, Dickinson College, P.O. Box 1773, Carlisle, PA 17013. Fax: 717-245-1046. For proposals sent by courier service, add: Holland Union Building, College and Louthier Streets.

Direct queries to the program co-chairs:

Pamela Dean  
[Pamela\\_Dean@umit.maine.edu](mailto:Pamela_Dean@umit.maine.edu)  
207-581-1881

or

David Stricklin  
[dstricklin@lyon.edu](mailto:dstricklin@lyon.edu)  
870-698-4210

**Deadline: Jan. 15, 2005**



# Endnotes...

## OHA Finances Sound

Executive Secretary Madelyn Campbell reported at the annual meeting that the Oral History Association is in sound financial shape. She reported an operating reserve of \$90,000. The OHA endowment totals \$124,000.

Financial stability enabled the OHA to give \$7,000 in scholarships for 24 people to attend the conference, scholarship chair Mehmed Ali reported.

## Award Deadline Posted

Awards will be presented next year for a book and non-print media as well as the Martha Ross Teaching Award for a pre-collegiate teacher. Deadline for nominations is April 1, 2005. For details, please check the OHA Web site: [www.dickinson.edu/oha](http://www.dickinson.edu/oha).

Send stories and photos for the *OHA Newsletter* by the March 1 deadline to: [ohaeditor@aol.com](mailto:ohaeditor@aol.com)

## OHA Pamphlets Available

Holiday shopping? Order John Neuenschwander's *Oral History and the Law*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, for \$15 from the OHA Web site: [www.dickinson.edu/oha](http://www.dickinson.edu/oha)

It's a must-read for any oral historian you know.

Other publications in the OHA pamphlet series are available, too.

## Canadians Plan Conference

The History Department and Chair in German-Canadian Studies at the University of Winnipeg invite proposals for a conference on the practice of oral history in Canada. The conference will be held at the university Aug. 18-20, 2005.

Suggested topics to be explored include interviewing techniques, interviewer-interviewee relationships, aboriginal oral history and tradition, narrative and story-telling.

For more details, please check the Web site:

<http://germancanadian.uwinnipeg.ca>

The proposal deadline is Dec. 31.

## Personals

Alan H. Stein is the new head of the Louisiana Division and City Archives Collection of the New Orleans Public Library. He worked last year as an oral historian for the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience and is currently conducting interviews in New Orleans for a video titled "The Jewish Children's Regional Service: 150 years of Southern Jewish Children."

Stein has been a member of OHA and the Chicago Oral History Roundtable since 1995 and edited the Northwest Oral History Association Newsletter for two years.

## Oral History Educators

The Consortium of Oral History Educators invites applications for its 2005 Betty Key Oral History Educator Award, recognizing exemplary use of oral history as an educational methodology in a school or community setting. Applications are due Jan. 1, 2005. For more information, e-mail Barry A. Lanman at: [Oralhistory@comcast.net](mailto:Oralhistory@comcast.net)

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