Greetings to all SOHA members! And what a busy Spring it has been! Our April 3-5th Annual all earned a well-deserved break!

Danette Turner, and Sarah Moorhead. You have work of the newsletter in the past: JJ Lamb, publishing the SOHA newsletter to the university. We are turning over the work of formatting and needed stability moving forward.

The support of the university gives SOHA long- SOHA. They have made our new home possible!

You!” to Dean Chris Hudgins and Dean Patty conference next year?” In true collegial spirit, Sarah Moorhead and Anna Coor for coordinating Our thanks again to conference planning co-chairs

The 2014 Annual Conference article on page 3. variety of topics, presenters and attendees and Conference in Tempe, Arizona showcased a wide trends, and look ahead into the ever shifting oral history landscape of the future.”

A number of SOHA members will be presenting during the conference. There also is a special intensive half-day workshop on Saturday led by Virginia Espino, “In the Presence of the Past: An Introduction to Oral History Tools, Techniques and Methodology.” Workshop topics include drawing up interview outlines and questions, effective interviewing techniques, legal and ethical concerns, and access and preservation. This is a great deal at $40 for folks who are just getting started or those who want to sharpen their skills.

Over the summer, SOHA will announce special conference activities for our members. Be sure to check our website for updates: http://www.southwestoralhistory.org

Hello everyone! The summer months are upon us, which means everyone is about to head in to avoid the incoming heatwave. As we all retreat into the comfort of our air conditioning, it gives us all a chance to plan ahead for the fall. For SOHA and its members, this fall will bring our annual conference, in conjunction with the Oral History Association. This is the first time that the two organizations will host a joint conference, and this year promises to be a fantastic one. The program committee has peppered the conference with SOHA-dedicated panels throughout, which will highlight local and regional topics that impact our membership. Outside of SOHA-specific sessions, the conference promises to hold plenty for our members to enjoy.

This year will include OHA 50th Anniversary related panels, devoted to seminal points in the oral history field and looking at how these points have shaped the course of our organizations. The keynote address and plenaries will also look at the past 50 years as a guide to the future of oral history. Our keynote speaker is Stephen D. Smith, Executive Director of the USC Shoah Foundation. His speech will present oral history work that pushes boundaries in content, audience, and technology. We will have two plenary sessions at this conference, Methodology through Interdisciplinary Work (moderated by Don Ritchie) and Oral History, Now and Tomorrow (moderated by Troy Reeves). Both of these panels will explore and discuss the current major developments and issues facing oral history, as well as looking forward to our future.

Aside from these presentations, the conference will include many opportunities for SOHA members to hone their skills as oral historians. The program committee has included throughout the conference schedule 90-minute mini-workshops to help oral historians deal with issues such as web-site building and preservation. More traditional pre-conference workshops will focus on popular topics such as Oral History 101 and Oral History and the Law, as well as new subjects such as Podcasting and Oral History. In addition to all this, the committee has added a Saturday teacher’s workshop lead by Voices of Witness, which will include an Introductory Oral History component. This course will be open to the general public.

For those that are still wanting to present at the conference, this will be the first year we will include a poster session in the conference. Look for the call in mid-June to present a poster. The conference will also dedicate time for documentary screenings, as well as live performances. As always, there will be affinity group meet-ups available for members to gather with others from around the globe who share their interests.

On behalf of the SOHA board, as well as the OHA program committee, we hope to see you at the conference. Registration can be found at http://www.event.com/events/oral-history-association-2016-annual-meeting/event-summary-5e32028124c04b03bd7e936452f3ebc.aspx and includes a SOHA member price.
OHA Board Addresses Union Concerns
By Claytee White, SOHA Past President & Nevada Delegate

When I was elected to the Trustee Board of the Oral History Association (OHA), I didn’t feel anything. You know that little ripple when something good happens in your life or that hidden smile that flows out beyond your ability to control it. No, I felt nothing until I remembered that this is a SOHA seat. So I buckled down and began to participate in conference calls. I am beginning to learn my job and the names of my colleagues. I am taking precious time away from my job where my plate is already overflowing to do this because seemingly for many years, OHA has been an east-of-the-Mississippi type organization.

Now we have another voice added to a few others like Natalie Fousekis. So I need your help. As you read developments on the OHA website, let me know how you’re feeling about those decisions. And I promise that I will remain in touch with the governing body of SOHA updating the officers on all decisions that I can talk about while adhering to all confidential mandates.

Also, I am staying abreast of the labor situation in Long Beach — another conference call. If any of you have worked with labor unions in any capacity, would you like to write a letter to our conference hotel – Renaissance Long Beach? During our last conference call on Friday, June 10, 2016 we decided upon the following:
1) Keep our national letter campaign expressing concern to the Renaissance Long Beach moving forward; solicit letters, ensure letters sent to the hotel management.
2) Ramp up our Facebook/Tweet campaign with concise message to Renaissance management expressing concern over labor conditions at the hotel. Sherna Berger Gluck will share her draft message which we will send out to members.
3) Karen Harper will help organize local delegations and face-to-face meetings with Renaissance management this summer expressing our concern over labor conditions at hotel. (Karen will confer with Carly Kirchen about critical talking points to cover with managers, including issues of rebates, discounts, etc.).
4) OHA members will be encouraged to wear UNITE-HERE buttons, t-shirts and hats at the OHA annual meeting. (We will confer with OHA Council about this beforehand.)
5) We will encourage OHA members to join Renaissance workers at a local picket and/or rally during the annual meeting.
6) We will encourage OHA members to organize delegation meetings and face-to-face visits with Renaissance management during OHA annual meeting to express our concerns. We will confer with Carly about critical talking points to cover in these meetings.
7) OHA will reserve table space at our annual meeting display room in the hotel with UNITE-HERE information. (We will confer with OHA Council about this beforehand)
8) OHA will confirm that our association’s site and hotel selection policy going forward includes contractual language including a so-called escape clause should the hotel engage in discriminatory and/or unfair labor practices.
9) In November, 2016, OHA will initiate the process of joining the Fair Hotel Alliance. (Will confer with OHA Council about this possibility).
10) Kristine Navarro-McElhaney will send our action items & concise message to OHA web site as well as H-Net list serve once we receive approval from OHA President Annie Valk.

I am voting ‘yes’ for all of these. Do you agree? Will you help?

It is sincerely my great pleasure to represent you and the Southwest Oral History Association at OHA’s table. Think of me as your representative voting as I think SOHA members would like whenever there are issues of national consequence.

REMEMBERING WHERE WE CAME FROM AS WE MOVE FORWARD
Juan Coronado, SOHA 2nd Vice President

As we embark to the 2016 OHA Annual Meeting in October in Long Beach to commemorate SOHA’s 35th Anniversary and OHA’s 50th Anniversary, we navigate in a thought-provoking time in our existence. Naturally, it is not only the state of SOHA that impacts or motivates us, but it is also the present political and social atmosphere that influences and provokes our work to move forward. For one, I am proud of being a part of SOHA, an organization with which I deeply identify: an organization that much like myself has had to overcome challenges and barriers. SOHA has provided an avenue where working-class oral historians can develop and unfold the once hidden oral histories that are dying to be disseminated and preserved.

Aside from striving for inclusion, our SOHA board has worked diligently on behalf of its members to obtain OHA membership rates to the conference regardless of membership. SOHA members also have special ribbons to attach to our conference nametags that will help us identify one another and convene for impromptu gatherings at sessions, events, and the receptions that are being planned. Perhaps SOHA members will join one another at mealtimes; we can also schedule time to discuss our April 27-29, 2017 SOHA Conference in Tempe, Arizona.

By now most of our members may be aware of the labor situation at the conference hotel in Long Beach. While the working conditions of the hotel staff are of huge concern, the wellbeing of our brothers and sisters at OHA is worrisome as well. I consider SOHA a working people’s organization as we often attempt to record the stories of those individuals who for various reasons have been ignored by the historical narrative. That is why many of us take pride in embracing the role of the “working-peoples’ historian.” I propose that if conceivable we approach any protests or picket lines from this perspective and if at all possible attempt to record some oral histories with those willing to participate. Let us not forget their struggle!

Lastly, SOHA is planning an independent fundraising event during the OHA conference at a venue nearby, with proceeds going to the SOHA Scholarship Fund. As a previous SOHA scholarship recipient, I am humbled to have obtained necessary funding in the past. The funding I received came at a time in my professional career when I had extremely limited financial capital. Fortunately, SOHA and donors like Mr. Wayne Pomeroy (see Moorhead article on page 4) were extremely generous and allowed my work to be shared. Now it is our time to give back to SOHA and lend a hand or two to rising scholars. We hope you can join us for a wonderful event and even better cause! See you in Long Beach.
Jennifer Keil, California Delegate

The Center for Oral and Public History (COPH) hosted its seventh annual Hansen Lecture at CSU, Fullerton on April 11th, 2016. Saul Gonzalez, a public radio journalist, delivered this year’s presentation to a captivated audience. He focused on the cross-disciplinary techniques used by both fields such as interviewing with a purpose by breaking away from everyday concerns. He recently captured contemporary history such as the Porter Ranch catastrophe and San Bernardino shooting. His presentation used SoundCloud to sample these interviews. He specified that he often relies on his iPhone to capture current stories and preserve future history. This equipment is incredibly portable and Saul can record interviews on the go. He is a self-described urban wanderer in coffee shops. He explained the natural curiosity in the field of Humanities. He explained the need to know your community’s language, especially when dealing with sensitive matters. This instinct to get an honest story has earned him awards. He inspired me to seek narrators in everyday encounters.

SOHA held a poster session on April 30th at COPH. Presentations were given by project directors and coordinators. We had lively discussions on narrators, methodology, and how we exhibit our collections to the public.

Tammy Chang (left) and Anna Gee presented a poster focused on “Paper Sons, ABCs, and War Brides” for the Chinese.

Naturally, we collaborated with other institutions and learned how we could support each other’s research. We hope you would consider submitting a poster of your own for the 50th Anniversary OHA conference, which will be held in Long Beach on October 12th-16th. The call for posters will begin in June. Please see www.oralhistory.org/annual-meeting for more details.

UCI Stories has captured over one hundred perspectives from community leaders to commemorate their 50th anniversary. These university pioneers discuss early and contemporary history. The exhibit opened on May 23rd and is now available for public viewing at the University Langson Library Muriel Ansley Reynolds Gallery during regular business hours. Please view the library’s newsletter article to learn more about the project: http://partners.lib.uci.edu/sites/all/publications/newsletter/16_spring/04.html.

Finally, SOHA now has a blog that shares news from our interstate community. You can use the link on our website or go to it directly: sohanews.wordpress.com. Please consider submitting book reviews, exhibit openings, and project updates with photos to jennifer@balboaislandmuseum.org. I look forward to hearing from you!

Northern Arizona Sheep & Wool Industries
Duffie Westheimer

Working with curator Joe Meehan, as part of an exhibit on wool growing at the Pioneer Museum in Flagstaff, we installed a complementary exhibit on oral histories of sheep ranching in the area. It includes a twenty-minute compilation of oral history clips from nine interviews in the Arizona Historical Society and Northern Arizona University Special Collections and Archives.

Sheep and wool growing was an important early industry in Northern Arizona. The Navajo obtained sheep from the US Government when they were released from internment at Ft. Sumner, New Mexico in 1868. They were able to provide year-round range within the reservation boundaries. Sheep provided meat, wool and other products as well as access to goods at trading posts scattered throughout the reservation.

Around the same time Americans of European descent obtained sheep of Australian stock. They walked the animals from California to Arizona because the train was not yet an option. Their herds included thousands of animals. Sheep have been moved between cooler summer high-country range on top of the Mogollon Rim and on the San Francisco Peaks to warmer winter lower elevation range as far south as the Phoenix area. In the early years animals were walked back and forth during a year. Later with diminished mobility due to development the animals have been moved by rail and most recently with trucks.

Most of the Flagstaff sheepmen have left the business. There are only three families (of Basque descent) still running sheep. While many Navajos still have sheep they are mostly for their own use (wool and meat) while the animals sold at trading posts are now cattle and people often shop in off reservation communities.

SOHA sponsored the Flag Wool and Fiber Festival in Flagstaff June 4-5, 2016.
Many Thanks from the SOHA Board to Duffie Westheimer

We offer our appreciation and gratitude to Duffie Westheimer, Arizona State Delegate, who stepped down from her positions on the Board of Directors as of April 29, 2016. Duffie has served our association well, assuming the position of Arizona State Delegate in 2014 at the Annual Conference in Tempe, Arizona. She helped to insure that the voices of the constituencies in her area were heard through regular reports to the board as well as articles in the SOHA Newsletter three times each year. Please join us in thanking Duffie for her leadership; if you would like to send her a note, please do so via soha@unlv.edu

N. B. We are seeking applicants for the positions of Arizona State Delegate as well as New Mexico State Delegate. Please contact Marcia M. Gallo at soha@unlv.edu if you are interested in learning more about filling one of these positions.

A Tribute to Wayne Pomeroy
Sarah Moorhead, SOHA Past President

Wayne Pomeroy has been a much-appreciated benefactor of SOHA. For example, for the 2014 SOHA conference in Tempe, he not only made a generous donation but also sponsored a scholarship to bring an outstanding presenter, one who otherwise would not have been able to attend.

The Pomeroy family was one of the four leaders of the original pioneers to Mesa, Arizona in 1878. Since that time, the family has contributed to the community in business, as non-profit board members, and by serving in elected and governmental offices.

During World War II, Wayne received a Silver Star for extraordinary valor as a gunman in a bomber, shooting down German planes that had attacked his plane, and continuing as he went in and out of consciousness.

His business has been men’s apparel and, for the last decades, he has specialized in missionary clothing for Latter Day Saints missionaries. It is now in its 65th year of operation. Until recently, Wayne, in his 93rd year, continued to come daily to his second floor office.

Wayne ran for Mesa City Council and won in the 1960’s, when he saw the needs of first responders were not being met. He was a conciliator, bringing together groups who previously had met each other with suspicion. He was Mayor of Mesa in 1976-1980, including the centennial year, and again in the late 1990’s. While he was Mayor, a civic center was built to hold conferences whereas previously they had to be held at the high school. In addition, a senior center and facility for frail elderly were established as was a museum for youth. He also worked with the local NAACP to ensure that employment opportunities for racial minorities were opened in City of Mesa positions. He has been an advocate for Mesa’s downtown area, incorporating popular statues in the historic area. His family has also been a philanthropic force for other organizations such as the Mesa Arts Center.

*An oral history of Wayne Pomeroy is in the Mesa Room of the Mesa Public Library.*
SOHA’s STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Angela Moor has done a wonderful job on the SOHA board of directors for past several years. She first took on the position of Nevada Delegate in 2012 and then became Student Representative in 2012. Thanks to her hard work, we have now a significant increase in our student members. Angela is a polished multi-tasker with an active little girl, another soon-to-arrive, and that darned dissertation to finally finish! Given all that is currently on her plate, Angela has decided to turn over the role of SOHA Student Representative to another talented individual. While stepping down as Student Representative, Angela will nonetheless remain an active member of SOHA. Angela, we thank you for all your hard work and look forward to welcoming SOHA’s newest little mascot!

MEET JOHN GRYGO

Our new Student Representative is John Grygo, who is currently in the graduate program at UNLV pursuing his Masters in History with a Minor in Public History. As both an undergraduate and a graduate student at UNLV, John conducted over twenty-five oral histories ranging in topics from the African American Experience in Las Vegas to the historic Las Vegas Huntridge Theater and the Nevada Test Site. He has been a member of SOHA since 2013 and presented at the SOHA conference in Del Mar, California. He also is a member of the Oral History Association and has been accepted to present at their 2016 Conference in Long Beach, CA. John hopes to develop new oral history projects at UNLV that will not only engage current UNLV graduate and undergraduate students but also serve to expand SOHA’s student membership. John is a great addition to the SOHA Team!

SOHA’S 2016-2017 GRADUATE ASSISTANT

We wish to extend a hearty Thank You to Stefani Evans who has served as SOHA’s Graduate Assistant for the past two academic years. Stefani’s hard work has helped us organize our institutional home, expand our membership base, and even enter into the world of social media. While leaving her post as SOHA’s Graduate Assistant, Stefani nonetheless will remain active as a lifetime member of SOHA. She will also continue working in oral history as project coordinator for the new Building Las Vegas Oral History Project at the Oral History Research Center at UNLV. Stefani, we thank you for your contributions to SOHA and wish you the best with your new oral history pursuits!

We are pleased to announce that Franklin Howard is joining SOHA as our 2016-2017 Graduate Assistant. Franklin is a recent transplant to Las Vegas, having moved from Richfield, Ohio two years ago. Franklin is currently a graduate student in History at UNLV pursuing his Master’s degree. His academic interests explore sex, sexuality, and race in America in the 20th Century, specifically in LGBT communities. Franklin recognizes the impact of oral history for his own research and looks forward to learning more in his interactions with SOHA. We welcome Franklin on board and feel confident that he will be making exceptional contributions to our organization.

SAVE THE DATE:
April 27 – 29, 2017
Doubletree Hilton Hotel Tempe, Arizona
SOHA 2017 Annual Conference
Look for our Call for Proposals in October!
Morrison Honored at 2016 Scripps College Foundation

Gayle L. Morrison, a longtime SOHA member, was recently honored at the Scripps College Convocation as the 2016 Distinguished Alumna for her decades of oral history work documenting the lives of Hmong refugees. We have included excerpts from her address below:

“ Forty-one years ago my life changed. April 30, 1975 was the Fall of Saigon and the end of the Vietnam War. Two weeks later was the Fall of Laos, which became the focus of my passion. From my start as an ESL teacher, I eventually became an oral historian; determined to capture the harrowing stories of the Hmong refugees from Laos. In their interviews, the Hmong talked about a misty mountain top with an American CIA airbase and the evacuation of 2,500 Hmong soldiers and their families on May 14, 1975. I was quickly hooked on both the Hmong and on oral history.

For the next twenty years, I gathered their stories and eventually published my first book, Sky is Falling. As an oral-based culture, the unique story of the secret Hmong-American alliance during the Vietnam War could have been lost forever. My interviews with Hmong refugees also introduced me to the important role played by Jerry Daniels, who had been the mysterious CIA handler for the Hmong in Laos. I chased his story for another ten years and wrote my second book, Hogs Exit. Over the course of three decades, I was able to interview Generals, CIA agents, Air American pilots, and hundreds of Hmong leaders and refugees...from North Carolina to Sacramento to Bangkok.

As I work on book #3, I realize how fortunate I am to be able to apply the skills I learned at Scripps in order to capture the Hmong peoples’ history. As one Hmong woman put it: The only reason I remember this much is because you asked me so many questions!”

Our congratulations to Gayle Morrison for this most-deserving honor!
NEWS FROM SOHA MEMBERS

UNLV History doctoral student Ian Baldwin successfully defended his dissertation, entitled “Family, Housing, and the Political Geography of Gay Liberation in Los Angeles County, 1960-1986” in March, 2016. He relied on oral histories that he conducted with Angeleno gay activists as well as archival sources; currently two university presses have expressed interest in publishing his work.

Elizabeth Ann Berton-Reilly gave a presentation on May 29, 2016 to the Jewish Genealogical Society of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico on “How to Do an Oral History Project with Your Relatives.” She discussed the ways in which talking with narrators about food can open up about family traditions. She also is publishing an article in the Fall 2016 issue of Digest: A Journal of Foodways and Culture titled “Christmas Eve at a Refugee Camp” based on an oral history interview that she conducted with an Estonian American woman. She has submitted a paper entitled, “It’s a Living Thing: An Estonian Tradition Bearer and the Haldja” with the online scholarly journal Estonian Folklore: Electronic Journal of Folklore, due out in 2017.

Congratulations to SOHA President Marcia M. Gallo, whose book “No One Helped”: Kitty Genovese, New York City, and the Myth of Urban Apathy (Cornell), won two prestigious awards this spring: the 2015 Publishing Triangle Judy Grahn Award for Lesbian Nonfiction as well as the 2015 Lambda Literary Award for LGBT Nonfiction.

Natalie D. Navar, Archivist for the Center for Oral and Public History at California State University, Fullerton, reports that the COPH has started “Outspoken: A COPH Podcast.” Check it out at http://coph.fullerton.edu/outspoken/index.php

The Getty has made available online more than 200 oral histories of post-World War II LA artists. Videos are available for Vija Celmins, Judy Chicago, Ed Ruscha, and Betye Saar, among others. See the Oral History Collections page. For more information, read “Dozens of Artists’ Oral Histories Now Online” at The Getty Iris blog. Thanks to Maureen Doallas, Writing Without Paper, http://writingwithoutpaper.blogspot.com

Former SOHA President Karen Harper of Long Beach and a member of OHA Local Arrangements Committee, dons a stunning fascinator at Made in Long Beach, where OHA conference attendees will find fun locally made items.

Looking Back
By Joyce Moore

It is hard to believe that the Southwest Oral History Association is 35 years old. We have been a part of many great conferences, met wonderful people, and we never cease to be amazed by the outstanding work being done in the field of oral history. Browsing through past conference brochures, membership lists, meetings, and events, I noticed that we lack photographs. The oldest photos found are from the 1996 conference. The other photos in the collection are sporadic and don’t cover all years.

I’d like to put out an appeal to all long time members (and new ones) to copy and donate photos you have from previous years. I would be eager to add them to the SOHA collection. It would also be fun to post some newly acquired pictures from years past on our posters at the OHA conference. The richness of a collection is defined by the diversity of its sources. As an organization we have been diligent in preserving our history, so let’s take the next step and give researchers the opportunity to put a face to a name.

Looking forward to Long Beach and hope to see you there.
The SOHA newsletter is issued three times a year. It welcomes submissions regarding regional news, articles by oral historians about oral history, reviews, and other items related to oral history. Due dates are:
- Spring: February 1
- Summer: June 1
- Fall/Winter: October 1

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John Grygo

*We are seeking applicants to fill the positions of Arizona Delegate and New Mexico Delegate. Interested SOHA members, please contact Marcia Gallo at soha@unlv.edu

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO SOHA!

TO JOIN SOHA OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE GO TO http://www.southwestoralhistory.org/mission.html

Our newsletter is published three times a year: Spring, Summer & Winter. We welcome submissions regarding regional news, articles by oral historians about oral history, reviews, and other items related to oral history.

Please send submissions to:
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