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Southwest Oral History Association Summer 2018 Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

Elevating Voices: SOHA 2018

by **Marcia Gallo & Juan Coronado**, Co-presidents

From the anticipation of Friday morning's how-to workshop at the Center for Oral and Public History, to the inspiration of Sunday's noon keynote speech by activist scholar Maylei Blackwell, the SOHA 2018 conference in Fullerton, California held on April 27-29 exceeded all expectations. It pulsed with energy, challenged assumptions, encouraged activism, imparted information, and shared wisdom, yet there also was time for reflection as well as drama. Overall, our themes of resilience and unity were front and center. With registration at an all-time high of 130 by the day before the conference, and people coming from a variety of states and regions, we knew that this year's gathering would be unique. And it was.

Among the highlights was the large number of students who participated. Last summer, when we began planning this year's conference, the SOHA board agreed that one of our main goals was to increase student participation. Without a doubt, our efforts succeeded. A record number of undergraduate and graduate students joined in the presentations at the conference. Some of them travelled to southern California from nearly three thousand miles away, others joined us from the California State University at Fullerton campus just across the street. One of the most significant moments for me (Marcie) was Our Histories/ Nuestras Historias, the Friday afternoon roundtable

discussion which was followed the next day by a film. Both centered on personal experiences of immigration and migration. Led by students Isabella Hulsizer, Alyssa Briana Ruiz, Lerman Montoya Hermosillo, and Edwin Valenti from Arizona State University, the presentations showcased the creativity and skill with which the students and their professor, Dr. Judith Perera, incorporated historical study and archival research with interviews of family members that they then made into a documentary film – all in one semester, yet! These were truly powerful stories to experience, not only because they were told so honestly and lovingly, but also because of the openness, generosity, and humility of the student researchers themselves. They reminded me that all of these qualities are essential to doing oral history that truly seeks to elevate unheard voices.

An amazing touch to this year's conference was the loving tribute to Claytee D. White. For over twenty-five years, Claytee has dedicated herself to amplifying and expanding the field of oral history. (continued)



L-R: Maylei Blackwell, Jennifer Keil, Stan Rodriguez, Dina Gilio-Whitaker, and Farina King

Reflections of the Conference

See page 4-7 for individual attendees' reflections on the 2018 SOHA conference hosted at California State Fullerton on April 27-29, 2018.



SOHA Mink Awardee, with Lawrence de Graaf, founder and namesake of COPH

Natalie Fousekis, 2018 Mink Awardee

Natalie Fousekis with Lawrence de Graaf, founder of Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. Read her speech on pages 8-10.

Today, she is the Director of the Oral History Research Center for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Libraries. Claytee continues to be a central figure within SOHA and this was a very deserving tribute. Co-President Marcie Gallo eloquently introduced the session formed by three colleagues who have worked close with Claytee. Marcie recalled her arrival at UNLV and meeting and learning from Claytee. Stefani Evans set the tone and had the entire room laughing over her beautiful comradery and learning experiences with Claytee. Julia Lee emphasized the importance of bringing Claytee into her classroom and sharing her knowledge on the field of oral history with the students. Finally, Peter Michel, the person responsible for hiring Claytee at UNLV, provided some touching words on her rich character. Claytee has touched the lives of so many people and we are fortunate for her dedication to SOHA. To the new friends we made and to the ones we were delighted to see again, it was truly a pleasure spending time with each one of you. Remember you are a part of SOHA and with you our organization is much sounder. Please continue with your contributions and endeavors to the field of oral history, stay the course during these times of trepidation as higher education and reason face overwhelming challenges and obstacles. At Fullerton, the SOHA Board and its members had important meetings and conversations on the future of SOHA. We are planning a few surprises for the future, so please stay tuned and connected to SOHA. Please visit our website and follow us on social media. SOHA will proudly be present at OHA 2018 in Montreal. See you soon!

Collaboration and Community Practice

by Jennifer Keil, 1st Vice President, 2018 Conference Chair

When oral historians gather, we share and collaborate on our projects. Our conference committee met regularly to ensure the success of this year's program. It was a privilege to chair this year's event. We had a stellar Program Committee chaired by Farina King and Juan Coronado. Marcie and Juan provided their faithful guidance as our Co-presidents. Friday was filled with workshops, a reception at Marriott Fullerton, and a performance. Our Saturday sessions were packed with community groups, independent researchers, and classes as they

showcased their work which concluded with an ASU produced documentary. Sunday ended with fantastic sessions and keynote presentation by Maylei Blackwell about her work that created ¡Chicana Power! and documented her transnational research. Stan Rodriguez shared powerful stories based off his life experiences as Kumeyaay Bird Singer.

This year we had the privilege of working with the Center for Oral and Public History faculty and staff to create a robust series of sessions. We undoubtedly could not have done this without Dr. Cora Granata and Sierra Sampson who helped us secure our site. Larry de Graff provided wonderful opening remarks for Natalie Fousekis the 2018 Mink Awardee who is the COPH Director and OHA Vice-President/President-Elect. I appreciated his comments of the campus' growth from orange groves to the bustling campus, as he served as the University Historian and is honored as the namesake for The Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History. Drs. Varzally, Granata, Fousekis have inspired me and helped me with my commitment to local history.

UNLV, our institutional home, had a fantastic panel titled "An Oral History Project for the Digital World of Now and the Future." Aaron Mayes, Special Collections & Archives Visual Materials Curator, for the UNLV Libraries shared his beautiful photography that captures a narrator at site specific spaces that visually demonstrate their life experiences and draws the viewer in closer to listen to their stories. Barbara Tabach, Project Manager of the Oral History Research Center, UNLV Libraries who also is our Secretary and Newsletter Editor, presented on "The Role of the Project Manager" who conducts these interviews and collects new archival materials for Special Collections. Emily Lapworth, Digital Collections Librarian, shared "The Role of the Digital Team" and how their information management system and website portal has been carefully crafted with the researcher in mind.

One of my most treasured moments was sharing the preservation work being done in the seaside village of Del Mar, CA. Suzi Resnik, Annie Duval, and Tensia Moriel Trejo celebrated their 20th SOHA conference at this year's meeting.



Dr. Alison Varzally, Jennifer Keil, M.A., Dr. Cora Granata, Dr. Natalie Fousekis, Dr. Ben Cawthra at the Mink Award Luncheon

I was honored to co-present, "Community Voices and Collaboration" with newcomer Debi Salmon from Del Mar TV. We encouraged session attendees to connect with one another after annual meetings to provide efficacious curation. Currently, the Del Mar team is working on relocating the Alvarado House to the new city hall center while Cindy Keil and I defend the historic integrity of the Aliso Viejo Ranch project. We are including new oral histories of the Moulton family and workers who sustained the SoCal lifestyle of rural orange county pioneer families in the 20th century.

You can view additional conference photos on our blog, sohanews.wordpress.com, and #SOHA2018 on all our social media accounts. Follow us to see our next announcement for our 2019 conference and regional events!



Aaron Mayes, UNLV Special Collections & Archives Visual Materials Curator

Congratulations to the SOHA 2018 Scholarship and Mini-Grant Awardees

2018 Eva Tulene Watt Scholarship for Native American scholars

Neil Dodge (Navajo/Táchii'nii and Dibé Lizhini), Ph.D. student, UNLV

Project Description: He is researching the historical practices of Navajo witchcraft. Most oral historians and students of Navajo history emphasized the 1878 witch purge as a singular and tragic event. Dodge has uncovered other oral history references to practices of witchcraft dating back to the mid-eighteenth century to show that Navajo practices of witchcraft are well documented yet poorly understood in their historical and cultural contexts.

Dina Gilio Whitaker (Colville Confederated Tribes), Policy Director, Senior Research Associate, and Faculty, Center for World Indigenous Studies, San Clemente, CA

Project Description: Her research focuses on Indigenous nationalism, self-determination, environmental justice, and education. She is co-author with Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz of the Beacon Press book *"All the Real Indians Died Off"* and *20 Other Myths About Native Americans*. She is now working on a forthcoming book also for Beacon Press entitled *Defending Our Lands: Environmental Justice in Indian Country, from Colonization to Standing Rock*.

2018 General Scholarship

Nina Cole, Ph.D. candidate, University of California, Davis

Project Description: In "Keeping the Underground Alive: Creating and Sustaining Community in a Local Music Subculture" Cole explores

Los Angeles' vintage Jamaican music scene, a local, cross-cultural music community cohering around a shared affinity for the popular music of 1960s Jamaica (ska, rocksteady, and reggae).

Priscilla Martinez, Ph.D. student, University of California, Santa Cruz

Project Description: In "Chinese Tucson: Community, Identity, and Public Memory in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands" Martinez draws attention to how Chinese Americans and Chinese Mexicans were and remain an integral part of daily life in Southwest communities like Tucson. Her project has the potential to bring a broader regional awareness of the historical importance of Chinese peoples in borderland life. Currently, there is no collection of oral histories documenting the history of Chinese Americans in the Southwest.

2018 Joe and Ruth Chiriaco Student Scholarship

Gabrielle Peterson, Ph.D. student, University of Michigan

Project Description: Entitled "Using Oral Histories to Recount Neighborhood Change in Washtenaw County," the research presented by Peterson this weekend is a segment of a larger project on Black migration and structural integration processes in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, Michigan. This investigation describes how institutions were leveraged to establish equal access to formerly White neighborhoods and schools. While collecting preliminary data, she realized that the process of integration was also the precursor to gentrification of formerly Black neighborhoods

2018 Mini-Grant Award



L-R: Priscilla Martinez, Dina Gilio-Whitaker, Neil Dodge, Gabrielle Peterson, and Juan Coronado

José M. Aguilar-Hernández, Ph.D., Cal Poly Pomona

Project Description: "Student Activisms in the 1990s in California" will gather the oral histories of individuals who were students in high school and/or college and participated in student led efforts in the 1990s in the State of California. Specifically, this project aims to gather, archive, and document oral histories of students who protested Propositions 187 (1994), 209 (1996), and 227 (1998). The three propositions posed detrimental effects on the civil rights of immigrants, non-English speakers, and minoritized students in the schools. This project builds on historical efforts to claim the 1990s as historical, and as an important decade of analysis to make sense of the current political climate.



SOHA board members Midge Dellinger and Rachael Cassidy

APPLY FOR 2019 SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship recipients are announced at the annual SOHA Conference. To apply for 2019 go to the SOHA website for more information.

Reflections on SOHA conference

by **Dina Gilio-Whitaker**, Eva Tulene-Watt Awardee



I was delighted to attend this year's SOHA meeting on the campus of California State University at Fullerton. It

was the first time I've ever been to a SOHA event, thanks to the recruiting efforts of Farina King (who is a great recruiter!). And I was honored to have been awarded the Eva Tulene-Watt scholarship for Native Americans, for which I thank the SOHA scholarship committee warmly. I was so pleased to meet new people and flow into the river of conversations about oral history as a methodology for "doing" history.

While I consider myself a scholar of American Indian studies, I don't necessarily consider myself a historian (although engaging in American Indian studies is always about history in one way or another). I am also an "accidental" journalist, in that my background in journalism was forged by my work as an activist on Indian issues. People like me gave rise to the term "grassroots journalism." We are people who have no formal training in journalism but learned on the job. Our voices are often marginalized in mainstream media and we use journalism to be seen and heard, especially now in an era where digital social media has—for better or worse—opened platforms for pretty much anyone to write about issues they care about.

So I come to the world of oral history as a journalist who has conducted many interviews over the years as subjects of news stories, but also as a scholar who sometimes interviews people for research projects. The very first interview I ever did was for a project in a ninth grade English class when I interviewed a popular Los Angeles radio disc jockey who was kind enough to oblige a 14 year-

old's brazen request. That memory has branded itself indelibly into my identity as a writer and I draw upon it to make the connections between who I was as a curious but clueless teenager, to who I am now as a professional writer and scholar.

My interaction with SOHA has raised questions for me about the differences between journalism-style interviewing, ethnography, and oral history, and these questions are what I brought with me to the conference. I took the opportunity to openly ask, and the answers I received were consistent: the lines between these methodologies are blurry. The technique of photo voice adds another layer of complexity to the question of method. Whatever we call these techniques, I'm fascinated by the way scholars and public historians use oral history methods to record and document important histories and experiences, particularly of people whose perspectives or contributions to society are commonly marginalized.

In my most recent experience with interviewing research subjects, I did a small informal survey to understand how conflict played out in a gendered way between Native and non-Native women in the resistance camps at Standing Rock. My interest was piqued after a news story revealed in September 2016 that many non-Native women came to camp without the proper attire. In Lakota tradition it is customary for women to wear skirts in ceremonial and other cultural contexts. Because most of the women did not come with skirts, many Native women pulled together a sewing brigade to make skirts for those who didn't have them. Not knowing Lakota tradition—in some cases blatantly refusing to abide by it—contributed to a pattern of conflict that arose between Native and non-Native people in the camps as the population swelled over the 10 month-long resistance with non-Native people eventually outnumbering the Native people in the camps.

I wrote a conference paper for last year's Western Historical Association's annual meeting in San Diego (another first, again thanks to Farina's invitation) about my survey, and have included it in a book

manuscript I am currently working on about environmental justice in Indian country. Although my interviews were not very many and not enough to make a scientific study of it, they did provide anecdotal evidence for a larger point I argue throughout the book, which is how racism and white supremacy often show up surreptitiously in activist circles, working in opposition to indigenous peoples' and their goals.

Racism can be very a difficult topic to talk about, particularly in the current historical moment, but it's necessary to confront the historical patterns that led to where we are at now. At the SOHA conference I chaired a panel titled "Un-erasing Voices of the Ethnic Communities in the US Mexico Borderlands." Priscilla Martinez shared her work on the history of the interactions between Chinese and Mexican peoples at the border, a history that I previously knew nothing about. José Aguilar-Hernandez shared his work which looked at Chicano activism in Los Angeles which I found especially interesting given that I grew up there and was influenced by some of the events he recounted. But perhaps not surprisingly, I was most intrigued with the plenary session on Saturday morning, "Developing Indigenous Community and Home-Based Oral Histories." It was obvious from the lively conversation that followed, the panel challenged some deeply-held but often troubling tropes about American Indians. As difficult as they can be, it's conversations like these that builds bridges of understanding in communities where these conversations might not otherwise happen.

I'm grateful to SOHA, and Farina in particular, and very glad that I attended the conference. I look forward to crossing paths again with some of the folks I met there, and congratulate you on the wonderful work you are all doing. ~Dina



Attendees at 2018 SOHA Awards Luncheon, CSU Fullerton



by **Neil Dodge**, Eva Tulene-Watt
Awardee

In April, I had the privilege of attending the annual Southwestern Oral History Association (SOHA) conference in Fullerton, California. At this conference, I had the opportunity to hear from and engage with other oral history practitioners. I attended several panel discussions and visited the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History which will be a research site going forward. This reflection will engage with a few panels that I attended and will also consider the questions and feedback from the panel I was on.

As a matter of course, there are many interesting panels at these conferences however I was unable to attend them all. The first panel I attended was “Teaching Perspective and Narrative through Oral History and Storytelling”. Two aspects of this panel were particularly useful. First was the structure that many stories take. When speaking to an audience, the presenter observed the most effective speakers told stories; often as a means to get at the point of their talk. When stories are structured as she presented, she found that audiences remembered the talk better. The second speaker had a particularly attention-grabbing perspective when he told the audience that stories are the vehicle to communicate values and meaning. The story makes it relatable and concrete for the audience as they are hearing it from a human speaker rather than reading it on a page.

The most memorable panel was “Voices from the March.” Students from the University of Florida drove to Washington, DC and conducted interviews with attendees at the

Inauguration of Donald Trump and the Women’s March the following day. I had expected a standard panel format yet was surprised by a large troupe of students. What followed was a dramatization of the oral interviews conducted at both events. This theatrical reenactment of those several amazed the audience and got me to think about other ways to implement oral history into a publicly accessible format. The question and answer session that followed was just as dynamic though two points concerned me. The first is the labelling of these interviews as oral histories. This may be due in large part to the functional fixedness of my own understanding of what constitutes an oral history. The second point was the statement from the students that they could take an oral history and turn it into a performance. I respect their enthusiasm though I would caution that the students first understand what oral histories they are being asked to interpret. Oral histories about ethnic cleansing or from genocide survivors require great care and sensitivity before any such show is put in front of the public.

The final panel was quite apropos to the NCPH *ofrenda* pop-up exhibit. The session was entitled “Remembering 1 October”. The focus of the panel was discussion about the variety of ways people remembered the tragedy. The first speaker spoke to the politics and logistics of remembering the event. The city, county, and state governments jostled with one another to claim ownership of the memorials at the ‘Welcome to Las Vegas’ sign whilst the country mourned. After a week and half of politicking, an agreement was reached where some objects would be preserved at the county museum and others at the state museum. The next speaker presented on digital ways of remembering; through photos but also with social media like Twitter and Instagram. The last speakers were collecting oral histories of first responders and survivors. Two things about this panel stood out. First was the transition from clearly defined and marked memorials to spontaneous memorials. How and where did this occur? It is difficult to say definitively. Second, the politics of memory and memorials are a contentious minefield.

My last reflection is about the panel I was on, “Developing Indigenous Community and Home-Based Oral Histories”. Each presenter had their own project they were working on but each had a concern for preserving their communities’ history. The Q&A part of the panel was both frustrating and rewarding. The panel was asked a rather loaded question about preserving indigenous oral histories and the continued survival of native people. Many panelists approached the topic with a variety of answers. I answered the question that we have to move away from a collecting or salvage mindset. The knowledge gained from these oral histories is a privilege, not a right. When we approach these stories with that mindset, it keeps the narrator front and center when owning these stories. ~Neil



Midge Dellinger, Juan Coronado, Carlos Lopez, and Franklin Howard

by **Midge Dellinger**, SOHA Board,
Student Representative

If I had to describe in one word the 2018 SOHA conference, it would be “wow!” What a fantastic weekend we had! The weather in Fullerton was beautiful, we all got a little exercise, and, most importantly, we were all there to share our stories and our work. I personally enjoyed every session I attended and found them all to be very stimulating and educational, and I hope everyone experienced the same. The student participation at this year’s conference was phenomenal, to say the least. I was honored to be a part of the roundtable plenary session, “Developing Indigenous Community and Home-Based Oral Histories.” It was great to meet and hear from other emerging Indigenous Scholars and to learn about the important work they are doing in their communities.

I would like to thank *all* the students who participated in this year’s conference. Your presence and your work added immensely to our conference

weekend. It was exciting to witness firsthand the oral history accomplishments of those who came to Fullerton to share with us pieces of themselves, as they have engaged in personally important and meaningful projects. To the University of Florida students, keep raising your voices in advocacy of the many voices who are never heard, and to the University of Arizona students, keep searching for those stories that help to create and give meaning to the story of you. As the SOHA Student Representative, I would like to remind all the students who attended, and, or participated in this year's conference, that you now have a one-year SOHA membership. Please stay in touch and feel free to contact us at any time. We hope to see more of you and your work at future SOHA conferences! For now, I hope everyone has a fantastic summer. ~ Midge



by **Farina King**,
SOHA
Board, 2nd
Vice
President,
Program
Committee
Chair

#SOHA2018 rocked! We started with the SOHA board meeting, workshops about oral history (one hosted by the superb de Graaf oral history center at CSUF) and storytelling storyteller Kyle Mitchell who told about the North star and how it guided his cheii (grandfather) and him as veterans and his son. The first set of sessions included one about African American students and teachers' oral histories and stories that I attended. I wish that I could have attended all the sessions, but alas, we must always choose during concurrent meetings. Tongva elder Julia Bogany welcomed us to Tongva homelands, and we received a hearty welcome from our CSUF partners and supporters. The performance by the University of Florida students Voices from the March was incredible. It was based on

oral histories from the women's marches throughout the country. The graduate student mingle was also a great success, providing students and emerging scholars opportunities to interact and network. On the second day of the conference, we started with the plenary session that I moderated on developing Indigenous community and home-based oral histories with Rachael Cassidy, Midge Dellinger, Bridget Lee Groat, Mike Barthelmy, Neil Dodge, and Josh Little. Following sessions included conversations such as those about Remembering 1 October in Vegas, Recording the Voices of Dreamers, Community Voices and Collaboration, Postwar Immigration and Migration, and Southwestern Peoples and Politics. The 2018 James V. Mink Award was awarded to Natalie Fousekis, and other awardees included Dina Gilio-Whitaker and Neil Dodge for the Eva Tulene Watt Award and Nina Cole, Gabrielle Peterson, and José M. Aguilar-Hernández. The day concluded with a special tribute to oral historian Claytee White and then the showing and panel discussion with Judith Irangika Perera and students' film Our Stories, Nuestras Historias. The documentary and panel was so powerful and moving, tracing the journeys of undergraduate students discovering oral history and their family stories of immigration and migration. #SOHA2018 concluded but sparked many new beginnings. I could not hold back the tears on the last day of the conference, especially during the panel on unerasing histories with Dina Gilio-Whitaker, Priscilla Martinez, and José M. Aguilar-Hernández. Priscilla showed this fabulous film she made with a podcast about Chinese communities in Tucson. I was blown away by the sense of how much has been excluded in history and what oral history unerasers. 's presentation on student activism at UCLA added to those impressions on me. For the last event of the day, we heard Maylei Blackwell share The Story and the Gift: What working with Indigenous Migrants taught Me about Oral History Methods and Stanley Rodriguez talk stories and share a song inspiring us to forge our own paths. The Kumeyaay were already

reciting the message of The Road Not Taken before the poem, encouraging people to make and take their own roads. I never realized how much our stories intertwine and connect in ways I would have not imagined but then it makes sense as soon as you put on a lens to see what was invisibilized. And of course, there are the many moments of sharing stories and experiences with SOHA friends and people you just met but somehow connected with because you all love oral history especially in the Southwest. People spoke from their intellect but also from the heart. Stories are powerful and empowering. Next year, we hope to bring SOHA to Salt Lake City in collaboration with the Oral History Association so Utah calls me! I have many connections, family, and friends in Utah, so I would be happy to help plan SOHA 2019. Thank you to the many incredible people who made SOHA 2018 in Fullerton with CSUF and the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History possible—the board members, the program committee, the longtime and new members, students, learners, oral historians (whether you identify as a historian, nurse, sociologist, archivist, whatever), institutional sponsors like COPH and UNLV, Marriott Fullerton staff and employees... the list could continue on and on. We are so grateful for you all. These are new beginnings to share and live what we learn.

More Reflections

by **José M. Aguilar-Hernández**, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Ethnic and Women's Studies Dept. Cal Poly Pomona - College of Education & Integrative Studies

It was an absolute honor to share space with so many oral historians at SOHA 2018. Being selected as a mini-grant recipient by the Southwest Oral History Association is an absolute honor, and an important validation of the type of research I am doing as a scholar-activist. There are too few opportunities to reflect on the value of oral history, and SOHA was a timely opportunity for me. As an oral historian, I conduct oral

histories with students of color who were involved in activism during the 1990s in higher education institutions in California. In 2018, documenting this history is incredibly urgent, as we are currently seeing the ongoing value of student activism in contemporary times. Students are historically invested in changing their schools, communities, and society to one that is more equitable and socially conscious. My work attempts to do so, to center the experiences of student activists as historical actors that have brought change, despite challenges, to their communities and beyond. The 2018 SOHA conference was vital to my development as an oral historian. The panels, networking opportunities, and conversations connected me to a community that I deeply value. I felt welcomed to SOHA as a new member; SOHA truly values oral history similarly to the ways I do...oral history is an empowering way to document the experiences of diverse peoples whose narratives are often left out of textbooks, newspapers, and archives. Oral history is an opportunity to fill silences with voices. I left SOHA inspired, motivated, and re-energized to continue my research projects. I look forward to contributing and learning from SOHA in years to come. Thank you!"

SOHA's Bright Future



by Carlos Lopez, SOHA Board, AZ Delegate

Greetings from sunny and increasingly sweltering Arizona. I want to thank everyone who attended this year's SOHA conference in Fullerton. Every year, we are continually amazed by

the quality of the panels. This year was no exception. From the opening sessions all the way to the final plenary, every panel packed information that reminded the audience that oral historians are bringing out stories that can be left out of the official narrative. As part of the program committee, I would like to thank all of you who submitted and presented, for making the conference as successful as it was. Even though it makes our job harder, deciding which proposals to accept, when they are all as high-quality as this; I would say that is a good problem to have. Instead of recapping the highlights of this conference, which others already have in this newsletter, I would like to instead look forward as we devise our future events. While the plans are not set in stone just yet, know that the SOHA board is already working on the next three years of development for our conferences. Just as all of your work and oral history projects take time and lots of energy, so does putting together these conferences. For me, seeing the presentations and panels turn out so well makes this work all the more satisfying. So I hope that you all continue your great work, continue to support the organization, and continue to submit and present at our conferences. Without you all, there is no SOHA. So we invite you, the members, to spread the word about our organization. There were over 130 members registered for the Fullerton conference out of a membership of over 200, but there is still potential for growth. Myself, as Arizona representative, and the other delegates will be using the next few months to see where we can grow our membership and how we can better serve the needs of a growing organization. So if you know any other oral historians or oral history practitioners, let them know about SOHA, the people, and the conferences. If you have any ideas of areas where we can improve our membership, please let us know. The future looks bright for SOHA and a lot of that has to do with the enthusiasm that you, the members bring each and every year. I look forward to the next time I get to see all of your smiling faces.



Keri Marken and Lyonne Christman attend afternoon #SOHA2018 sessions.



Alexa Irizarry Moore & ASU Student



"Voices from the March" student performers from the University of Florida



Speech by SOHA 2018 James V. Mink Awardee

by Natalie M. Fousekis



Director, Lawrence de Graaf Center
for Oral and Public History at
California State University, Fullerton

April 28, 2018

Thank you Larry for that lovely introduction, to SOHA, and members of the James Mink Award committee for this very special honor. It feels a bit strange to be up here accepting this award as most of my work as an oral historian and as director of the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH) has been collaborative – with my narrators, with my colleagues in the history department, with my students, with my staff, and with our community partners. Many of those collaborators are here today and I'd like to acknowledge them. Oral history changed my life from the moment I conducted my first interview in 1994 as a graduate student in Chapel Hill, NC. Listening to people's stories, working on oral history projects in Chapel Hill and California, teaching oral history to students and community members, and working collaboratively with colleagues and students has enriched my life far more than I have given to the field of oral history thus far in my career. My personal journey as an oral historian has taken me places I could not have imagined, revealed new perspectives on well-known

moments in the nation's and the world's history, and brought me in to the homes and communities of people I would have never met otherwise. My narrators have been a diverse bunch -- a 98-year-old tenant farmer from North Carolina, the editor of a small-town Southern newspaper during the era of Jim Crow and Civil Rights; a woman involved in the Black Power Movement and who became an advocate for teen mothers after she became one herself; Marine and Army veterans from World War II and the Korean War, the first African American woman to serve in the California State Assembly; the first Latina to serve in the California State Assembly, on the Los Angeles City Council, and on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the daughter of a member of the Communist Party who became a day care activist in the 1960s; and the women who established a pro-choice, bi-partisan women's Political Action Committee in Orange County during the early 1990s. Each interview I've conducted in my almost 25 years as an oral historian has had a major impact on me. When I leave a narrator's house or the site where the interview took place, I feel like I can't really engage with the real world for a while because I'm acutely aware that I just experienced something unique and powerful. I consider myself fortunate to have been the person sitting in that room asking the questions and I feel a sense of responsibility for that person's story. What I've learned from these encounters has reinforced what I already knew --that individual stories matter to history. They matter to the families and people touched by an individual's life and story, but they collectively matter to our understanding of important social, cultural, and political events. [I remind my students of this all the time. While I'd love to see them use oral history in their research, more than anything I hope they go home and record the stories of their own families] Moreover, I know, as do my colleagues at the Center and as do many of you in this room, that we approach oral history with a sense of urgency. Many of the stories and historical memories we gather in oral

histories would not be preserved if we did not record them. When people pass away, their memories die with them. This has been both a personal and professional crusade for me. As some of you know, the year I conducted my first oral history was the same year my mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. I was young and so was she. I was 26 and she was 55. In the early stages of her disease, I could have interviewed her but it was too painful at the time. While her day-to-day memory was no longer strong, she still could remember many details about her childhood and early life. By the time I was ready, Alzheimer's had robbed her of her memory and us of much of our relationship as mother and daughter. There are unanswered questions and many stories I have forgotten because haven't been able to sit with her and talk for over 20 years. When I was pregnant with my son, Henry, who is here today, and as I've been raising him there have been many questions I would've like to ask my mom. And I have regret about not conducting an interview with her if for no other reason than 24 years later it would be wonderful to have her voice recorded so my son would be able to hear his grandmother. As I indicated earlier, I was first exposed to oral history as a graduate student working for the Southern Oral History Program [and what a fantastic place that was to learn the craft of oral history]. In those initial interviews I did not know as much as do now about the methodology of oral history, theories about narrative and memory, or even how to manage an interview, but I did know enough to let the narrator tell his or her story with minimal guidance from me. Those interviews made an impression. My second interview was with an 80-year-old, long-time editor of the Smithfield Herald newspaper. He recalled stories of being threatened by the Klan because of his editorials supporting equal education and the right to vote for blacks in the 1940s and 1950s. I spent a weekend in eastern Carolina conducting interviews as part of the Southern Oral History Program's World War II and Coastal North Carolina Project. I spent an afternoon with a husband and wife who had

met during the war when he was stationed Camp Davis, a base of 25,000 people which was plopped in the middle of Holly Ridge, NC, a town of a few hundred residents with one intersection during World War II. He came from Louisiana and never left. I sat in the trailer of a 98-year-old tenant farmer who had lived on the same plot of land for most her life. While her memory was fading, I will never forget her smile and her sense of contentment with a hard life, but a life well-lived. I spent the weekend eating local cuisine and sharing casual conversation with folks in this fishing and farming community. It proved to be an unforgettable experience for this young woman raised in an upper-middle class family in Berkeley, California. I conducted nine interviews in two days with men and women who had witnessed the transformation of the region, momentarily during World War II, and then return to a sleepy community that serves mostly as a pass through for North Carolinians on their way to the Topsail Island beaches. My Chapel Hill years also introduced to the concept of bringing stories to the public via oral history-based performance. At first, I was quite skeptical of this method. Most of my students know this as I've made them all read an article I published on my resistance and eventual embrace of oral history performance. I also have shared with them the promise I believe performance holds both to make original historical arguments, but also to share the moving, insightful memories of our narrators with a much larger public. It has also developed in to a wonderful teaching tool for me as I encourage my students to put their interviews in conversation with one another and to make larger arguments beyond their individual interviews and projects. My students have discussed the additional power and responsibility they feel when speaking their narrator's words. They found connections between the men and women they interviewed when they initially assumed there were none. They have experienced deep emotion performing their narrator's words, like the proud male student in one of my

earliest oral history courses who began weeping as he spoke the words of the Vietnam veteran he interviewed, crying in the same moment his narrator had cried in the interview. We have also integrated oral history-based performance more widely at the Center for Oral and Public History, having our students and staff create oral history-based performances to be delivered at exhibition openings and other public history events.

One of the reasons I was so excited to accept the position at Cal State Fullerton in 2002 was the long-time, well-regarded oral history program that was built by Larry de Graaf, Art Hansen, and other history faculty since the late 1960s. The year I arrived, the oral history program became the Center for Oral and Public History. A few years later Cora Granata, a colleague from graduate school and fellow oral historian who had been hired at CSUF the year before me, and I were joined by two public historians, one of whom is still an integral part of the CPH leadership. The four of us held meetings and conversations in which we decided that we would work to create a program that intentionally integrated the fields of oral and public history. Each oral history project we developed would have a public history component and vice-versa. The oral history projects we have developed at CPH over the past ten years have all had public history components and allowed me to collaborate with my students, colleagues, and members of the community. The first major grant funded project I took on emerged out of a meeting with the Orange County Great Park in Irvine that Cora Granata and I attended in 2006. One of the charges of the Great Park as they worked to transform the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station in to a regional park was to record and preserve the stories of the men and women who had served, worked, and lived on the base. We partnered with the Great Park to launch a major oral history project that eventually recorded the stories of 525 men and women Marines, family, and community members. From 2007-2013, I

supervised teams of students as they recorded stories beginning with those stationed at the base during World War II and moving forward through the Vietnam War. While I personally only recorded a few of these interviews, I listened to, watched, and read scores of these stories. The two interviews I conducted included an 88-year-old retired Marine pilot who at 6'3" was an imposing figure who shared with me his story of being the first Marine to land an airplane at the El Toro base in 1943. But what I remember most about this interview is following Major Carmichael from the business he still ran at almost 90 back to his house in my car. This octogenarian liked to drive his Mercedes fast. My little 4-cylinder Subaru had a hard time keeping up! Another narrator, Junamay Leatherby Coffey, shared stories about her excitement to be part of the first wave of women to enlist in the Marine Corps during World War II and her years working for Joe McCarthy on the El Toro base, just a few years before he launched his very famous political career. While I would certainly classify the El Toro Project as a military history project, these interviews also serve as a window in to the relationship between a military base and the community that surrounded it. My colleague, Ben Cawthra, engaged this theme when he curated and created an exhibit with his students based on this project, Farmers to Flyers, which examined the role of the El Toro base in the transformation of Orange County from a predominantly agricultural/rural area to a suburban/urban area. Cawthra and his students installed it on the Fullerton campus in 2009 and at the Orange County Great Park in 2012. The two exhibitions were seen by thousands of Orange County residents. In 2013, I launched the Women, Politics, and Activism Project with a goal of recording stories of Southern California women who have been engaged in politics and activism from the 1960s to today. Four and a half years later, the Women, Politics, and Activism Project (WPA) has recorded over 100 new oral histories and transcribed an additional 45 (conducted in my oral history courses)

with major research funds provided by the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation and by this summer all of these interviews will be available online (about 80 are available now). These interviews preserve the stories of centenarians too much, younger and more recent activists and elected officials engaged in politics today. The women talk in depth about their early lives and family background as well as their political activities. This collection includes oral histories with almost all the living women who served on the Los Angeles

City Council (a majority of whom had never been interviewed before); the first women mayors and city councilwomen of cities across Orange and Los Angeles counties; founders and presidents of local chapters of the National Organization for Women; founders of the Feminist Majority; Latina activists for immigration rights, access to health care, police brutality, and increased Latina participation in politics; peace advocates; as well as LGBTQ rights activists, founding members of the local Black Lives Matter movement, women engaged in environmental activism, union leaders, conservative women activists and women activists involved in local and statewide Republican and Democratic party organizations (see complete list of narrators at the end of this report). Their stories highlight the diversity of women's activities as well as how local women's demands and actions shaped public policies in the region, the state, and the nation. This project was inspired by two contemporary events – the questions raised about the declining presence of women in local politics during the Los Angeles City Council races in 2013 (with the prospect of no woman on the city council) and story after story surrounding the local political campaigns that year AND the approaching 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in 2019-2020. This project also grew out of a desire to create a new body of research on women before the upcoming commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of women's suffrage. I wanted to record interviews that demonstrate the myriad of ways

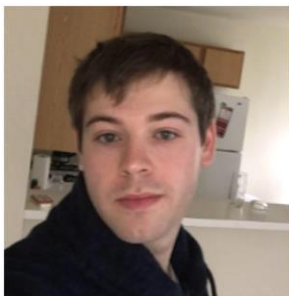
women have influenced and shaped regional politics in the modern era. This oral history project has also uncovered local stories that will change the way historians and others understand the political activities of women in the late 20th and in to the 21st Century. For example, scholars and the public associate the 1980s with Ronald Reagan, a backlash against feminism, and an attempt to reverse the gains made by the vibrant women's movement of the 1970s. While there is certainly plenty of evidence to support this – the defeat of the ratification of the ERA, the war on abortion clinics, and the rise of the New Right and Phyllis Schlafly -- based on the oral histories we recorded with Orange and Los Angeles County women, feminism was alive and well in the 1980s and early 1990s. The gains were smaller but feminists kept on fighting and made a difference in their communities. Our interviews with city councilwomen and activists who served or were advocating in the 1980s also contributes to a body of literature that suggests we rethink the idea that the US women's movement occurred in waves and instead focus on the continuities of feminist activity. Our interviews provide numerous examples of feminists' steady efforts throughout the 1980s. For instance, long-time labor leader, Cheryl Parisi; former LA Commission on Status of Women Executive Director, Susan Rose; and former LA City Councilwoman Joy Picus discuss their efforts to negotiate pay equity for the city's women workers in 1985. In 1989, behind the Orange Curtain Republican city councilwoman Ursula Kennedy took on pro-life city council colleagues in Tustin. Her male, pro-life colleagues had wanted the city council to take a stand on abortion and Kennedy firmly believed it was not the non-partisan city council's place to weigh in on such a controversial issue. Thankfully, so did some of her male colleagues! This project has also resulted in new, unique perspectives on national and regional stories. Yvonne Braithwaite Burke shares an eerie memory about standing on a balcony with Martin Luther King after he gave a speech at the Anaheim Convention Center in

1968, just two weeks before his assassination (a story I'd never heard before). Jackie Goldberg recalls a story about her Free Speech Movement days at UC Berkeley when she borrowed her sorority sister's car to go pick up Malcolm X at SFO in October 1963. When I launched the WPA project I could not have anticipated the important ways Hillary Clinton's campaign for President would shape the context in which we conducted our interviews, especially from late 2015 in to the Trump era. Her campaign, its challenges, and its historic nature inspired scores of articles, Op-Ed pieces, and conversations about women in politics. Because of this, narrators would frequently provide answers to questions with Hillary's nomination, campaign, and loss in the back drop (whether we asked directly about her or not). With this contemporary context in mind, we developed questions that asked explicitly about Hillary. In late 2015 and early 2016 many narrators shared feelings of hope and optimism about her campaign. Even Republican women spoke to the importance of Hillary's candidacy. The tone and conversation shifted after November 8, 2016, as many narrators grappled with Hillary's loss as well as the fear and uncertainty that came with Donald Trump's election. These comments were made not just by former elected officials, but also women involved in the local Black Lives Matter movement and other local grassroots efforts. For example, life-long Republican, former Huntington Park City Councilwoman and US Treasury Secretary, Rosario Marin, delivered an emotional response on how Donald Trump's candidacy led her to vote for and publicly endorse a Democrat for the first time in her political career. Like some of the women interviewed for the WPA I've had to grapple with my own disappointment and dismay at the results of the 2016 election. One thing is clear: interviewing strong women who have been politically engaged for years while overcoming barriers and political opposition, yet still advocating for the issues they believe in, has lifted my spirits on more than one occasion. Those of us in this room who both conduct oral

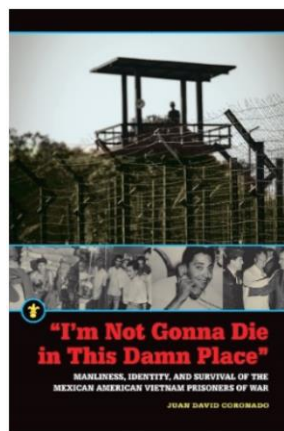
histories and have the privilege of teaching students and community members how to do this kind of work know how fortunate we are. We have the responsibility and the honor to ensure that original, individual stories be preserved for future generations and assist scholars today and in the future write new histories of the past. We also have a duty to not just preserve these stories, but to share them with the public in as many diverse methods as possible. Finally, it is our job to pass this on to a new generation of oral historians who can take up the task of telling new stories about our communities, the nation, and world themselves. Thank you very much for this special honor.

Thank You

by Franklin Howard, SOHA Grad Assistant



Farewell and See You Next Year! It has been an absolute honor to work for and with all of you these past two years. Working for SOHA has been one of the most wonderful experiences I have ever had and it's because of all of you. If you don't know, I have just graduated from UNLV and am seeking greener pastures (literally and metaphorically) with my partner in Ann Arbor, Michigan. As such, I am no longer going to be able to work for the organization. Let me say that every second has been a pleasure. I'm grateful to have met all of you and served this valuable organization. Of course, this really isn't a good-bye. I have every intention of coming to next year's conference and many more in the future. And, this time, I'll be able to spend more time talking and seeing the amazing oral history work being done! I guess what I'm trying to say is: Thank you. Thank you for the opportunity and the wonderful conversations. See you all next year!



Book Review

Congratulations to Juan Coronado, SOHA Co-President, for his recent book publication! His book, *I'm Not Gonna Die in This Damn Place: Manliness, Identity, and Survival of the Mexican American Vietnam Prisoners of War (Latinos in the United States)*, was officially published by Michigan State University in March 2018. Learn more about the book and order your copy at

<http://msupress.org/books/book/?id=50-1Do-446B#.WwSzKO4vzIV>. Check out the positive review of the book in Publishers Weekly. Others have also praised his work that features oral histories of Mexican American POWs and Chicano Vietnam War experiences and stories:

From the start, and by design, the story of America's Vietnam prisoners of war was disciplined into an official version. By focusing attention on the Mexican American Vietnam POWs, Juan David Coronado not only identifies how their shared cultural heritage affected their lives before, during, and after captivity, but also shows us just how diverse even a small group of prisoners could actually be. A welcome contribution to our understanding of American POW history.

--Craig Howes, Director, Center for Biographical Research, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and author, *Voices of the Vietnam POWs: Witnesses to Their Fight*

Juan David Coronado has written a superb and important examination of Chicano prisoners of war in Vietnam; the first-account experiences reflected in the work add to this enlightening academic read.

--Charley Trujillo, author of *Dogs from Illusion*, American Book Award winner for *Soldados*, and codirector of the companion documentary *Soldados: Chicanos in Việt Nam*



The Influence and Resilience of Women in Politics and Activism panel with Jessica Buckle, Sierra Sampson, Katelyn York, Helen Yoshida with moderator Marcie Gallo.



L-R: Carlos Lopez, Marcie Gallo, Juan Coronado, Franklin Howard, Jennifer Keil

BOOK INFORMATION

Michigan State University Press

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Nevada News

by Stefani Evens, NV Delegate

Imagine opening this email: "Our African Americans documentary was nominated for three Emmy awards! It received nominations for Historical/Cultural – Program/Special; Editor (No Time Limit) Program (Non News), and Writer-Program (Non News)." The email references the newly Emmy-nominated documentary film, *African Americans: The Las Vegas Experience*. In 2016 UNLV University Libraries and the UNLV Oral History Research Center joined forces with Vegas PBS, and with grant funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Commission for the Las Vegas Centennial, premiered the film February 20, 2017, during Black History Month. The UNLV University Libraries launched the Documenting the African American Experience in Las Vegas project in 2012 with the community Partners of the African American Collaborative. The documentary features Claytee White, director of the UNLV University Libraries Oral History Research Center, and it builds on hundreds oral histories collected at the direction of or by Claytee for more than twenty-two years. If the documentary is the final act of the UNLV University Libraries "Documenting the African American Experience in Las Vegas" project, then the Emmy nominations are the coda. Or the cherry on top. Or even the curl on the Tastee Freeze. That is because only superlatives can describe the web portal, the oral history and material collections, and the Emmy-nominated documentary—what happens when Vegas PBS, UNLV University Libraries, the UNLV Oral History Research Center, and Claytee and her advisory board and institutional partners document the history of Las Vegas African Americans. Winners will be announced June 16. See it for yourself at <http://www.pbs.org/video/vegas-pbs-african-americans-las-vegas-experience-promo>

This past December UNLV Special Collections and Archives was thrilled to receive a \$100,000 grant from the National Endowment for Humanities to document the contributions of Latino Communities to Southern Nevada's development. The grant came with a challenge: to receive the grant funding

UNLV Special Collections and Archives had to raise matching monies. Mission almost accomplished! On May 14, 2017, the Las Vegas Centennial Commission unanimously approved a \$50,000 grant to support the proposed Latinx Voices project of UNLV University Libraries. When combined with a \$25,000 donation from MGM Resorts and donations from several generous groups and individuals, Latinx Voices is less than \$25,000 from its goal.

The below is verbatim from Dana Bullinger, Digital Projects Librarian at Henderson Libraries
dbullinger@hendersonlibraries.com.

I asked for information so I could feature Henderson Libraries, and she composed the entire thing for me. Oral history collection in Henderson, Nevada began in 2003 with the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Henderson's incorporation. The City of Henderson conducted a number of video interviews with Henderson officials and cherished local business people, such as Clark County Commissioner and original Councilman Lou La Porta, who founded the Henderson Historical Society, and the first woman bank manager in Nevada, Selma Bartlett. Since then, the Henderson Historical Society and the Henderson Libraries have teamed up to create the Henderson Oral History Project Collection, an ongoing oral history collection project capturing early life in Henderson. It is comprised of full-length video oral histories with transcripts that can be freely accessed online worldwide through the Henderson Libraries Digital Collections. There are now over 120 oral histories that are accessible online including interviews with local veterans for the Veterans Oral History Project. Production, preservation, and access to the Henderson Oral History Project Collection has been aided by collaboration from our community partners. The Henderson Historical Society provides the oral history leads, conducts the interviews, and provides introductions to other organizations in the community. Henderson Libraries provides the recording space, equipment, and transcripts for the oral histories, as well as hosts the videos online via the Henderson Libraries Digital Collections. Henderson Libraries also hosts the Henderson Oral History Consortium, a community of collaboration in Southern Nevada that includes representatives from University of Nevada—Las Vegas' Oral

History Research Center, Nevada State College, University of Nevada—Las Vegas' Digital Collections, Neon Museum, Clark County Museum, Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, Henderson Libraries, and Henderson Historical Society. While each of the stakeholders in the Consortium has their own goals and projects, they share an interest in promoting the unique heritage of Henderson, Nevada, and building oral history collections to preserve that heritage for generations to come. They often trade ideas with each other and extend outreach by sharing contacts and resources. Henderson Historical Society hosts a bimonthly event called "Henderson Speaks" that features a panel of community members sharing their stories about growing up in Henderson. Each event features a different theme with different guests. The Historical Society is also actively seeking community members to contribute their stories to the Henderson Oral History Project. The stories of Old Henderson help fulfill the Society's mission and provide teaching/learning resources for generations of newcomers and schoolchildren. Such resources are invaluable in preserving history and for welcoming new residents and their children into the life of the community. Henderson has seen many changes over the years, but several of the families who arrived to build Hoover Dam and produce magnesium for the war effort later have remained, preserving a culture of solidarity and pride in their history, which is what you need to grow an oral history collection.



UNLV Barbara Tabach and Claytee White

California News



Virginia Espino and Héctor Tobar were honored for their "sustained and exemplary contributions to society" with the 2018 UC Santa Cruz Social Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award during a public reception on Friday, April 27, 2018. An award-winning journalist, Héctor Tobar is perhaps best known for his bestselling account of 33 Chilean miners who were buried alive for 69 days. Virginia Espino is an oral historian and filmmaker who has documented the civil rights struggles of California's Latinx community. She serves on the board of the Southwest Oral History Association. As noted in UCSC press releases, "These two talented storytellers, known for their dedication to telling the stories of those whose voices are muted, met at UCSC, are married and the parents of three children." SOHA congratulations them both!



Lerman Montoya Hermosillo, Alyssa Briana Ruiz, Dr. Judith Perera, Edwin Valenti, Alexa Irvary Moore, Isabella Hulsizer from Arizona State University

Reflections

by Priscilla Martinez

I would like to begin this report by thanking the Southwest Oral History Association's scholarship committee for affording me the opportunity to attend my very first SOHA conference. I would also like to thank Dr. Farina King for encouraging me to present my work and organizing the panel on which I presented. I had a wonderful time at the luncheon and the final breakfast, where I was able to not only catch up with old friends, but was also able to forge new conference circuit friendships. I had the pleasure of meeting so many passionate scholars and peers who wielded such a deep knowledge of the southwest and the west. I was able to make connections with various oral historians and archivist in my current state of Arizona. I was excited to find that we had overlapping interests and approaches to oral history that has the potential for some interesting collaborations in the future. I also had the privilege of presenting my work and, due to the supportive nature of oral history, was able to showcase an experimental form of presentation by presenting a podcast in progress. I was able to frame and contextualize a handful of oral histories I have collected for my project concerning the Chinese community of Tucson, Arizona. Unfortunately, two of my co-panelists were unable to attend, but it did provide a wonderful space for my co-presenter and I to delve deeper into our own work and have candid conversations about un-erasing voices of difference from larger meta histories that even we as historians tell ourselves. By the end of our panel, we were once again reminded of the unique power oral history holds in the humanization of the past. Thank you once again for this amazing opportunity. I hope that I can frequent SOHA for many years to come.

SOHA SOCIAL MEDIA

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sohanews.wordpress.com



L-R: Farina King, Julia Bogany, Mike Barthelemy, and Rachael Cassidy



Jennifer Keil, Marcie Gallo, Cora Granata at the Friday Reception



Stan Rodriguez closes the conference on Sunday

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Thank you to our institutional partners!