



E L E C T I O N
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



By Kelly Elaine Navies

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend a series of lectures given by actor and scholar Anna Deavere Smith at the National Gallery of Art. The McArthur Award recipient delved into her life and process of exploring the American identity by listening and repeating the words of Americans from all walks of life, as she turns their stories into performance art.

She summarized the first of these talks in a Washington Post article, "How I Learned to Listen for America." (May 16, 2024) Her work resonates for oral historians who often, likewise, listen to others to discover greater truths while highlighting the particular--and who, like her, learn more about ourselves along the way. Though I lack her theatrical skills for embodying the voices and characters of narrators, I do "try on" their perspectives as I seek to understand their memories and stories.

I also recently joined a group of oral historian seekers from around the country at the "Getting Word" Institute in Charlottesville, Virginia. Getting Word is an oral history project directed by Andrew M. Davenport and managed by Auriana Woods with the descendants of the hundreds of individuals who were enslaved at Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello. You can't get more American than that!

These descendants literally carry within their veins the DNA of a nation founded on slavery, settler colonialism and the idealistic notions of equality, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. As I listen to their stories, I can't help but think of Anna Deavere Smith and her process, her journey to discover the American character. This is all the more poignant as we find ourselves in that period between Juneteenth and July 4th reflecting on those ideals and on what it means to be free. Does our "freedom" rely upon the oppression of others, at home and abroad?

As oral historians, we not only listen to the spoken words of our narrators, we "listen" to the context in which in those words are spoken, we investigate the historical sites of memory from which those words come. As we move between the national commemoration of the end of legal slavery and the national celebration of our independence from colonial tyranny, take your oral historian's ear with you to the BBQ and listen to the many voices of America. Listen to the elders, listen to the children.

I leave you with the words of Walt Whitman:

"A child said What is the grass? Fetching it to me with
full hands;
How could I answer the child? I do not know what

it is any more than he.
I guess it must be the flag of my disposition, out of hopeful green stuff woven....

.....Or I guess it is a uniform hieroglyphic,
And it means, Sprouting alike in broad zones and
narrow zones,
Growing among black folks as among white,
Kanuck, Tuckahoe, Congressman, Cuff, I give
them the same, I receive them the same.
And now it seems to me the beautiful uncut hair of
graves.



DIRECTORS' COLUMN



Renew your Passports!

By Stephen Sloan

The great biennial experience (outside of the COVID-19 years) for oral historians around the globe is the convocation of practitioners at the International Oral History Association meeting. Next year, it promises to be a fantastic event in Kraków, Poland, from Sept. 16-19. This event will be hosted by the Polish Oral History Association at Jagiellonian University. The trip will include intriguing local outings and great panels, plenaries and workshops exploring the theme “Re-Thinking Oral History.”

Key events will feature some of our own – Mary Marshall Clark (keynote), Michael Frisch (masterclass lecture) and Fanny Julissa García (plenary discussant) – and I am sure our membership will be well represented throughout the conference sessions. OHA leadership has and will continue to send support to the IOHA to assist with their offering of scholarships for participants to attend.

There is still time to submit a proposal for the program with a deadline of July 31. All details for the conference can be found here - <https://ioha2025.conference.pl/>.

I have been attending the IOHA since my first meeting in Guadalajara in 2008. That meeting included presenters from over 30 countries and six continents, and I was overwhelmed and inspired by the efforts of international oral historians. Elinor Mazé, Tanya Finchum and I presented a panel on organizing oral history.

In 2010, I was off to Prague for the 16th International Oral History Conference that included compelling content scheduled between the opening ceremony at Charles University and the closing at Prague Crossroads. The session highlighted the growth of oral history in the heart of Europe, including the recent history of Czech Republic.

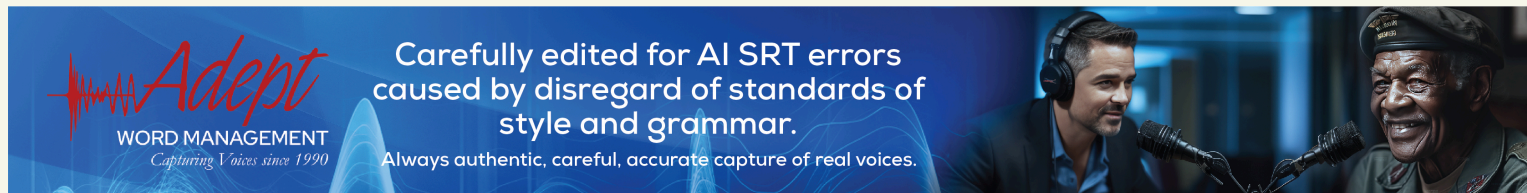
For the 2012 conference, attendees headed to South America to Buenos Aires for five days of activities including classes, working sessions and panels. A special memory was the fabulous closing ceremony in Usina de las Artes that featured traditional music, dances and food.

In Barcelona in 2014, the focus was on power and democracy. Examining the strength of democracy, as well as the obstacles it must overcome, was the main topic of several projects of oral history developed all over the world. Four hundred participants at the University of Barcelona were organized into 89 sessions and five plenaries. The sights and people of Catalonia were phenomenal.

I had to miss the Bangalore gathering in 2016, but the 2018 meeting in Jyväskylä, Finland, was truly a special event. The congress coincided with the centennial of the 1918 Finnish Civil War as well as the end of World War I. Many panels highlighted memories of war and conflict, coping with war and narratives of survival, intergenerational war memories and communities of commemoration. My wife presented with me at this conference and our daughter joined in on the trip as well. A highlight was a congress lakeside celebration as the Midsummer Celebration was approaching (see photo).

After a pivot to a virtual meeting in 2021 facilitated by colleagues in Singapore, the IOHA was back in person last summer in Rio de Janeiro. "Oral History in a Digital and Audiovisual World" offered great content from global practitioners and the conversations continued amid the cultural activities, restaurants and bars that the city had to offer. Special outings included the trip to the stunning Museum of Tomorrow and riding the cable car up to Sugarloaf Mountain. It was extra special to gather with colleagues once again after the COVID-19 shutdowns.

Every trip I have taken to the international meeting has had its numerous rewards, so many personal and professional highlights. I encourage each of you to begin to plan for your own IOHA story. Sign up to present and register to go – I will see you in Kraków!



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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



This month's OHA Volunteer Spotlight shines on the 17 OHA members listed below who have agreed to be nominated to serve as an officer, council member or committee member for the coming year. Please read the information they have provided and vote for your choices.

Serving in elected positions for a volunteer-based organization like the Oral History Association represents a willingness to offer time, energy and ideas to keep the organization vibrant. Thanks to all the nominees for being willing to serve.

Balloting ends Aug. 25. Click [here](#) to vote.

Fall Conference

OHA 2024 Annual Meeting Updates

[Registration is now open for the 2024 Annual Meeting](#) which will be held in Cincinnati, OH October 30-November 2, 2024. You can find all the information about the Meeting on [the OHA Annual Meeting page](#), including details about tours and pre-conference workshops. The preliminary program will be available in the coming weeks.

Questions about the upcoming meeting can be directed to Conference Committee Chair Ellen Brooks (ellen.b.brooks@gmail.com) or the OHA Office (oha@oralhistory.org).

Time to vote for OHA leadership

Here are the candidates who have been nominated for OHA's first vice president, OHA Council, Nominating Committee and Committee on Committees. They have submitted brief biographical information and statements about their interest in serving fellow oral historians, which you can read below. Go to <https://oha.memberclicks.net/election2024> to cast your ballot.

Introducing candidates for
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
VOTE FOR ONE



**Mark Cave, Historic New Orleans
Collection**

BIOGRAPHY Mark Cave is senior historian with the Historic New Orleans Collection. He created the oral history program at HNOC and developed oral history responses following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010 and the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 as well as the New Orleans Life Story Project and other smaller thematic projects. He has served on numerous OHA committees and is a past president of the International Oral History Association. He is co-editor of *Listening on the Edge: Oral History in*

the Aftermath of Crisis and Oral History and the Environment: Global Perspectives on Climate, Connection, and Catastrophe. He is currently co-editing the forthcoming *Global Handbook of Oral History*.

PERSONAL STATEMENT Perhaps our greatest strength as oral historians is the capacity to open our hearts and minds to people outside our own worldview and see and appreciate who they are. As political and social division deepens, both globally and within our own communities, what we do has never been more important. As minds close and hate seeks to dehumanize the other, our role is to humanize. This mission is at the core of who we are, and what OHA does to provide a multiplicity of worldviews at our conferences and to educate us on evolving methods to capture, present and archive the perspective and experience of others.

Introducing candidates for
OHA COUNCIL
VOTE FOR TWO



BIOGRAPHY My name is Jeff D. Corrigan, and I am an academic science librarian and the outreach coordinator at California State University Monterey Bay. Previously, I was the oral historian for the State Historical Society of Missouri at the University of Missouri-Columbia for over nine years, where I collected oral histories on the environment, rural education, veterans, politics and civil rights. My education includes degrees in agriculture & environmental communication and education, history, and library science. Since 2008, when I attended my first OHA Annual Meeting, I have served in a variety of roles, including being elected to the Nominating Committee and serving as the Annual Meeting Workshop Chair several times. Currently, I am serving my second year on the OHA Book Awards

Committee, and I will be teaching the Introduction to Oral History workshop at the upcoming Annual Meeting.

PERSONAL STATEMENT I am honored to be nominated for election to the OHA Council. I have been attending the OHA Annual Meeting and been involved in various roles the past 16 years, and being elected to council would be a great way for me to give back to the organization. OHA has been such a warm and welcoming group of people to me, and that helped me so much as an early oral historian back in 2008. It has been a pleasure to be part of this organization for so long both professionally and personally. If elected, I would proudly serve bringing a librarian's perspective to the table, along with that of an oral historian, which is a nice complement since so many oral history interviews end up in libraries and archives. I look forward to potentially serving the diverse OHA membership in this capacity. Thank you for your consideration.





Jajuan Johnson, William & Mary

BIOGRAPHY Jajuan Johnson is the public historian for research and programs and the lead researcher for the Lemon Project: A Journey of Reconciliation William & Mary. As an affiliate faculty in the Harrison Ruffin Tyler Department of History, he is dedicated to training the next generation of historians and public humanities professionals.

PERSONAL STATEMENT As a Council member, I plan to extend our organization's commitment to diversity and inclusivity. Collaborating and engaging with thinkers of diverse backgrounds is critical in our current social and political crises, whereby histories of marginalized people are being further maligned. As an

academician and citizen-historian, I've demonstrated a commitment to amplifying voices in oppressed communities. My vision is to further collaborate with colleagues who will continue the organization's tradition of interrupting dominant narratives with the power method of oral history.



Abby Perkiss, Kean University

BIOGRAPHY Abigail Perkiss is a professor of history at Kean University, where her research and teaching focus on oral history, historical memory and the recent past. She is the author of several books, including *Hurricane Sandy on New Jersey's Forgotten Shore* and *Making Good Neighbors: Civil Rights, Liberalism, and Integration in Post-WWII Philadelphia*. Currently, she is working on a book and podcast about the memory of the 1985 MOVE bombing in Philadelphia. To date, she has collected more than 30 oral history interviews with the journalists, photographers, editors and media makers who covered MOVE. From 2015-2020, she served as vice president of Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region; from 2015-2023, she was a member

of the editorial team of the *Oral History Review*, in roles ranging from pedagogy editor to managing editor to co-editor.

PERSONAL STATEMENT One of my favorite things about serving as co-editor of the *Oral History Review* was the continual push from authors and reviewers to think critically about our field. From best practices to equity and access to ethics of care, we as editors were constantly reflecting on the trends in oral history and considering how the journal could serve as both a reflection of and an engine for the evolution of the field. As a member of Council, I would welcome the opportunity to apply that same rigor to the OHA as an organization -- reflecting on where we have been, where we are and where we are going. I also hope to work with the current editorial team as the OHA continues to develop and refine the relationship between the journal and the association, ensuring that the two entities are best serving the interests of oral history and oral historians.



Anna Sheftel, Concordia University

BIOGRAPHY Anna Sheftel is principal and associate professor in the School of Community and Public Affairs at Concordia University. She has done oral history projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina, with Holocaust survivors in Montreal, with student activists, and she is currently working on a project about a strange but significant little Jewish cemetery in Montreal. She co-created *Refugee Boulevard: Making Montreal Home After the Holocaust*, a collaborative audio tour which won both the 2020 Oral History Association (OHA) and Canadian Historical Association (CHA) Digital and Public History prizes. She has also published extensively on oral history practice, ethics and pedagogy, most notably *Oral History*

Off the Record: Toward an Ethnography of Practice (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), co-edited with Stacey Zembrzycki, which won the OHA's 2014 Book Award, and her article, "Talking and Not Talking about Violence: Challenges in Interviewing Survivors of Atrocity as Whole People," won the OHA's 2019 Article Award.

PERSONAL STATEMENT I would be honored to serve on Council because OHA is my intellectual home and I am committed to it. I have spent the past three years co-chairing the Advocacy Committee, which came out of work I did to found [Oral Historians at Risk](#), a project to support oral historians (including narrators) who experience legal or political repercussions for their work. I have also worked with amazing colleagues at OHA to think about how we can act in solidarity with organizing around academic freedom and "anti-woke" legislation; oral historians have so much to offer in this realm. OHA is a diverse organization in many ways, which is one of our great strengths. There are so many perspectives, experiences and, of course, stories, among our membership. I would love to keep thinking together about how all this can shape the role of our organization in oral history and in society more broadly.

Introducing candidates for
NOMINATING COMMITTEE
VOTE FOR UP TO THREE



Debbie Ardemendo, Apollo Theater

Debbie Ardemendo is the director of school programs at The Apollo Theater. An American cultural treasure, The Apollo creates and presents work that centers Black arts and voices from the African diaspora. As director, she oversees the development and implementation of programming and resources for pre-K through college classrooms. Apollo Education functions as a catalyst for opportunity, understanding, and change while engaging students, young creatives and educators in the legacy of The Apollo and the power of the performing arts. OHA is an important touchstone in her work at The Apollo, where students collect oral histories and curate them into art projects. Having served as the OHA Education Committee chairperson, she believes in the power of oral history interviewing and curation to enliven students' learning.

Crystal Baik, University of California, Riverside



Crystal Mun-hye Baik (she/her, OHMA 2010; USC PhD 2014) is associate professor of gender and sexuality studies at UC Riverside and the pedagogical lead of the Memory & Resistance Laboratory. She is the author of *Reencounters: On the Korean War & Diasporic Memory Critique* (2020) and an *Oral History Review* article (2022) that challenges the concept of “best practices” in oral history. Baik teaches a community-engaged feminist oral history class at UCR and advises an oral history project spearheaded by [Viet Rainbow of Orange County](#). Baik is the co-PI of a UC-wide initiative, Reparative Memories: Communities in Crisis and Archival Care, which consists of academics, archivists, librarians and artists engaging with memory workers who live in war zones or are under state surveillance.



Dan Kerr, American University

Dan Kerr, an associate professor of history, directs American University's public history program, and founded and directs the Humanities Truck project. He is past president of the Oral History Association and has served on OHA Council and the editorial board of *OHR*. Since his earliest work with the Cleveland Homeless Oral History Project (CHOHP), Kerr has explored the possibilities for using oral history as a community and movement building tool. The CHOHP project shaped the themes woven throughout *Derelict Paradise: Homelessness and Urban Development in Cleveland, Ohio*. The book answers the question, "Who benefits from homelessness?"

He is currently working on the Mobilizing Against Homelessness project, which seeks to document and amplify the voices, perspectives, and analysis of those experiencing homelessness in Washington, D.C.



Douglas Lambert, University at Buffalo

An active member of OHA for two decades, Douglas Lambert is a cross-disciplinary expert in direct-to-timecode thematic indexing for oral history collection access. He developed content management methods for a variety of audio/video projects with Michael Frisch at Randforce Associates in Buffalo, New York, and adapted the a/v qualitative analysis approaches for recorded interviews to the field of environmental engineering for his 2018 dissertation. Lambert is currently project manager for a multidisciplinary urban water quality study at the University at Buffalo, SUNY. He

continues to pursue collaborations and project work involving the ever-changing theory and practice of oral history indexing (OHI). OHI was the topic of his 2023 article in the *Oral History Review*, which inventoried institutional practices in that field from the 1990's - 2023.

Virginia Millington, StoryCorps



Virginia Millington is the managing director of program operations at StoryCorps. In her previous position, she oversaw the annual archiving and long-term preservation of up to 3,000 born-digital recorded conversations annually. She maintains national archive partnerships with the National September 11 Museum & Memorial, the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture. In 2020, she was part of a team to introduce virtual recording platforms to StoryCorps' operations as a way to support interview collection at the advent of the pandemic. She currently is the chair of the SAA Spotlight Award Committee, with prior service on the SAA Committee on Public Policy. She has presented extensively on issues related to ethics and copyright in oral history collections.

Sach Takayasu, Columbia University



Sach Takayasu is an award-winning oral historian who has also led and grown an advocacy organization for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. She received the Jeffrey H. Brodsky Award for Creative Collaboration from Columbia University in recognition of the unique methodology she developed that incorporates art with bilingual engagements to more deeply understand her narrators' experiences. She has presented at the OHA annual meetings since 2020 and currently serves on its Diversity Committee. Her clients include WWII survivors, the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art,

the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, New York University, and INCITE's Obama Presidency Oral History project where she also served as a fellow. As Carnegie Mellon University's Distinguished Alumna, she serves on its Board of Advisors.

Introducing candidates for
COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES
VOTE FOR UP TO THREE



**Adelle Banks, Asbury United
Methodist Church, Washington,
D.C.**

Adelle Banks is an award-winning veteran journalist and freelance oral history videographer who has conducted oral history interviews since 2011. As a freelance oral historian, she has primarily interviewed narrators about African American history and African American religious history. She has spearheaded or contributed to collections of oral histories featuring United Methodist retired bishops and [bishops' spouses](#); [retired presidents of historically Black colleges and universities](#) and [historic Black churches in Philadelphia](#). She created an oral history project for her Washington, D.C., church that now includes dozens of interviews, some of which are featured on a [D.C. Public Library website](#), and produced the [Asbury UMC DC Oral Histories podcast](#). She also is a volunteer at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture.



**Lu Ann Jones, National Park
Service**

For the past 40 years Lu Ann Jones has worked in a variety of public history and academic settings, and oral history has always been central to her work. She has directed projects related to farmers, factory workers and the processes of industrialization in the U.S. South. As an OHA life member, she has served on Council, as program committee co-chair and on a host of committees. She recently retired from the National Park Service, where since 2009 she built an oral history program focused on training, building archival collections and making interviews accessible. Her projects included "Telling Our Own Untold Stories: Civil Rights in the National Park Service." She co-produced a podcast series "A Sense of Place: Stories of Stewardship from the National Park Service."



James Karmel, Harford Community College, Bel Air, Maryland

James Karmel holds a Ph.D. in history from the University at Buffalo. He is a professor of history at Harford Community College (HCC) in Maryland. Karmel has been a professional oral historian for over two decades. He has directed independent oral history projects including “30 Years, 30 Voices” about the casino era for the Atlantic City Free Public Library and the “Harford Voices” project, a student digital oral history project, and has mentored numerous students in oral history. Since 2019, Karmel has directed the Harford Civil Rights Project (HCRP) at HCC. The

HCRP has engaged many students in civil rights oral history and produced a digital application to capture and share stories from the era. He has served as chair and member of OHA’s Education Committee.



Carlos Lopez, Arizona State Archives, Library and Public Records

Carlos Lopez is the deputy state archivist and interim administrator for records management at the Arizona State Archives in Phoenix, Arizona. Carlos received his B.A. and M.A. at Baylor University, where he worked at the Baylor Institute for Oral History. He moved to Arizona in 2009 for the public history program at Arizona State University and began working at the state archives as an oral history intern in 2011. He was hired full time as an archivist in 2016. Throughout his tenure, he has been the project leader of Capturing Arizona’s Stories, partnering with libraries statewide to help them create community oral history projects as well as directing the Arizona Legislative Oral History Project, coordinating interviews with past state lawmakers.



Cyns Nelson, Boulder Public Library

Cyns Nelson (she/her) coordinates Boulder Public Library's oral history program and is the author of *Oral History in Your Library: Create Shelf Space for Community Voice*. Cyns is a professional librarian with experience leading, consulting on and contributing to oral history projects throughout Colorado. She has been a guest lecturer for San Jose State University and has taught regional and national oral history workshops, including for the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. Since 2007, Cyns has been a member of OHA, attended and assisted with annual conferences and

participated in sessions. She helped conceive the OHA Metadata Task Force. With Boulder Public Library, Cyns achieves high standards for community participation and maximum accessibility for all interviews, which are preserved in a local history collection.

Paul Ortiz, Cornell University



I am a professor of history and director of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida. I served as president of the Oral History Association in 2014-2015. My service with the OHA includes chairing the Nominating Committee as well as participation on other committees including Emerging Crisis, Website, Book Award, Stetson Kennedy, Advocacy, as well as several different annual meeting program committees. I am currently a member of the *Oral History Review's* editorial board. During my tenure as OHA president, I made 65 committee and task force appointments in preparation for our 50th anniversary celebration in Long Beach, California. Later this summer I begin an appointment as professor of labor history at Cornell University.

Indigenous Roots Productions links technology and cultural preservation



If you go to the Indigenous Roots Productions website, be prepared to learn what a nonprofit startup can do if it marries a passion for modern multimedia technology with a commitment to unearthing and preserving Indigenous people's stories of their lives today and long ago.

[IRP](#), an Oral History Association partner organization, is the brainchild of Samuel (Shmuel) Tamo, a former history teacher turned filmmaker and oral historian, who readily credits OHA resources related to research methods and ethical oral history practice to inform his work.

Tamo, who was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, is himself an Indigenous Assyrian, like well over a half-million others in the United States who are part of the larger stateless diaspora of Assyrians living their lives far from the region of ancient Mesopotamia that was their homeland.

Tamo's first foray into preserving Indigenous culture and traditions was documenting the lives of about a dozen Assyrians who live in Chicago and turning the oral history interviews into a 45-minute film, "Sights and Sounds of the Assyrian Diaspora: Art in Response to Statelessness." The film features interviews with Assyrians who have immigrated to the United States or who were born here and includes examples of their work as a poet, composer, visual artists and musicians.

His current project, "Watering Seeds in Mexico," for which funding is in process, is a partnership with the Náhuas del Alto Balsas Indigenous community in a dry, mountainous region in southern Mexico. The project is seeking funds to support production of two films and an immersive virtual reality experience with the aim of reconnecting Indigenous Náhuatl people with those who are removed from their native time and place, whether elsewhere in Mexico or abroad.

"Espíritu--Preludio," a 14-minute film available on the IRP website, offers a preview of the work, focusing on community preparations for commemorating Dia de los Muertos. Náhuatl narrators describe customs of preparing flowers and food as offerings at the graves of family members, including bread shaped as small dolls as gifts to deceased children. Ancestral foods and food traditions are an important focus of the project, Tamo said.

The project also focuses on the importance of the Río Las Balsas, the lifeblood of the Náhuatl community and the region where maize was first domesticated more than 8,000 years ago. Maize remains a dietary as well as cultural staple. Maize features prominently in the oral history interviews that deal with agricultural practices, cultural significance and culinary prominence, Tamo said.

The river is featured prominently in the project's planned virtual reality experience. The project also addresses the health of the river, including water sampling and testing for contaminants, Tamo said, noting the reciprocal nature of environmental and cultural preservation.

Tamo said the IRP's work is based on a Project Tree that emphasizes ethical considerations for narrator and community safety throughout, from the roots, which represent building strong community foundations and understanding of the oral history process, to the trunk, where matters like privacy and access agreements are established and strengthen the process, to the crown, which represents the preservation and diffusion of the community culture and knowledge that grow out of the process.

Tamo emphasized that oral history work in Indigenous communities must be based on respect for narrators' ownership of their own stories. To that end, he has developed a code of ethics whose elements may be familiar to OHA members: his oral history work is narrator centered, community owned, based on transparent communications throughout and respects confidentiality in which narrators determine what personal information may be published.

While Indigenous communities, particularly those displaced from their homelands, face challenges in maintaining centuries old cultures, to the point where their "sense of belongingness is gone," Tamo said, creative use of technology offers cutting edge tools for research and communication that will contribute to cultural preservation and community empowerment.

For more information about Indigenous Roots Productions, contact Tamo at:
stamo@indigenousrootsproductions.org.

In Memoriam
Valerie Raleigh Yow



Valerie Raleigh Yow, whose writings ranged from an award-winning oral history textbook to a play about the 1918 influenza pandemic, died Thursday, May 23, 2024, in Oxford, Mississippi. She was 89.

Valerie was born on June 29, 1934, in Greensboro, North Carolina, to Fletcher and Mae Moore Yow. She graduated with a B.A. in English in 1956 from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and received a Ph.D. in European history in 1967 at the University of Wisconsin where she met and married fellow student Richard Quinney. During their 30 years of marriage, they lived and worked in various locations and raised their family. Valerie later studied at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and received a master's degree in psychology from Boston College in the early 1980s.

Her passion for storytelling translated into a lifelong calling to record oral histories. Her first oral history project involved interviewing three generations of women mill workers in Carrboro, North Carolina, which she published as *Families of Carrboro* in 1974–1975. She trained interviewers and conducted interviews for a project on the history of clerical workers in Rhode Island, sponsored by 9to5, the National Association of Working Women.

Valerie taught history at the University of Rhode Island, Brooklyn College and Northern Illinois University. She also taught workshops on oral history for more than 50 years and consulted on numerous oral history projects. She served the Oral History Association as book review editor for the *Oral History Review* and as a member of the OHA Council. She was also a member of the International Oral History Association.

Her book, *Recording Oral History: A Guide for the Humanities and Social Sciences*, now in its third edition, was selected by the American Library Association for its Outstanding Academic Titles list for both the 2006 and 2015 editions, and several of her numerous articles have been re-published in *The Oral History Reader* and in *The Handbook of Oral History*. She researched extensively the lives of women writers of the South and wrote major biographies of two North Carolina women writers, *Bernice Kelly Harris: A Good Life Was Writing* and *Betty Smith: Life of the Author of A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*.

Besides her lifelong passion for history and oral history, Valerie also made time for painting and writing plays. Her play about the 1918 influenza pandemic, *In the Service of Others*, won first place in the Great Chicago Playwrights Exposition and was produced at the Body Politic Theater in 1987. Her play *Betty Smith Meets Carl Jung: Some Memories, Dreams, Reflections* was produced in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, in 2004 for the 20th anniversary of the Jung Society of the Triangle of which she was member. Valerie was a practicing psychotherapist in Chapel Hill for many years after she retired from her teaching career.

Survivors include two daughters, Anne Quinney (Bryan Smyth) of Oxford, Mississippi, and Laura Quinney (William Flesch) of Arlington, Massachusetts, and four grandchildren. A memorial service was held in Chapel Hill on May 31.

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