

Regional  
Oral  
History  
Office

# ROHO

Newsletter - Spring 2014

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Alice Lowe, interviewed as part of the Asian Art Museum Oral History Project, completed by ROHO early this year

## **From the Director**

### **From ROHO's Director: The Rough and Tumble Times of a Sacramento Lobbyist**

Lobbyist [Jay Michael](#) enjoyed an exemplary career in public administration, rising to become the University of California's chief lobbyist in Sacramento during the turbulent 1960s and 1970s. In that capacity Michael successfully built up an influential statewide grassroots citizen group to support the university's mandate, and perhaps most notably fought hard to protect the mission, independence, and finances of the university at a time when it was under fierce attack from many different corners, including from Governor Ronald Reagan. [[Read more](#)]



The presence of the University of California looms large in the state capitol

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## **ROHO in Action**

### **The History of Craft Cocktails on the West Coast: A New Oral History Project**



House-made bitters and tinctures used in craft cocktails at the East Bay Spice Company in Berkeley

ROHO is developing a new project on the legacy of the West Coast craft cocktail. The cocktail has a long and storied history since it was defined in 1806 as a "stimulating liquor composed of spirits of any kind, sugar, water, and bitters." The popularity of cocktails has ebbed and flowed since the Prohibition Era and much information about cocktail culture--particularly who was doing what and when--went undocumented. As a result, myths have evolved about drink inventions, drinking habits, popular trends, and training methods, which have been perpetuated in recent years. [[Read more](#)]

## [ROHO's Annual "Class of '31" Interview in University History](#)

We are pleased to announce the release the transcript of the 2013 "Class of '31" oral history interview in university history with Professor of Anthropology [Laura Nader](#).

For the 2014 "Class of '31" oral history interview in university history, ROHO has selected **Edith Kramer**, Emeritus Senior Film Curator and Director Pacific Film Archive. Kramer has been associated with the UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive since 1975 when she joined the staff as Assistant Film Curator. During her tenure at the Pacific Film Archive, she was named Officier dans l'Ordre des Artes et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, and Member First Class of the Royal Order of the Polar Star by His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, in recognition of her contribution to French and Swedish culture, respectively. In June 2003, the University of California, Berkeley, awarded Ms. Kramer The Chancellor's Distinguished Service Award. Ms. Kramer holds an M.A. in Art History from Harvard University, and a B.A. in Art History from the University of Michigan. She was Assistant Professor of Art History at the University of Oregon, Eugene 1962-66, during which time she initiated film history courses in the curriculum. Subsequently, she taught film history at UC Davis and the San Francisco Art Institute. Upon arriving in the Bay Area in 1967, she managed Canyon Cinema Cooperative and was instrumental in the founding of Canyon Cinematheque (now the San Francisco Cinematheque); and between 1970-73, she served as Film Curator of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.



Edith Kramer of the Pacific Film Archive (photo by [Penni Gladstone](#))

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## [From the Archives](#)

### [From the Archives: "Mormons, Missions, and Sleeve Knives: David Pierpont Gardner and Preparation for a Career in the University of California System"](#)



Oral histories have a way of justifying themselves. They reveal the variety, contingency, and texture of human experience as much as they show patterns and path dependence. This is true even of histories of university presidents. Although it is a foregone conclusion that the material discussed in these histories will touch on the world-changing events that happen in and around universities, what university administrators do in their "other lives" outside of the academy is often equally fascinating and of interest to historians and the public. Prior to his career in academia, UC President Emeritus **David Pierpont Gardner** had an early exposure to nerve-wracking challenges and international intrigue at the height of the Cold War. [[Read more](#)]

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## [News About ROHO](#)

### [Update on ROHO's 2014 Summer Institute](#)

We're gearing up for what promises to be an exciting and engaging Advanced Oral

History Summer Institute this year. We're happy to announce the guest panelists for two of our sessions. Tuesday's roundtable on "Oral History and Project Conceptualization" will feature **Robin Nagle**, our keynote speaker, **Robert Keith Collins** of San Francisco State University, and **Rina Benmayer** of Monterey Bay State University. Our Thursday roundtable on "Analysis and Presentation" will include **Mimi Lok** of Voice of Witness, **Louise Pubols** of the Oakland Museum of California, and **Isabel Zeigler** of the National Park Service. We look forward to the unique perspectives that each of our panelists will provide.

The Institute is almost full, so now is the time to get your applications in [here!](#) Please email Shanna Farrell at [sfarrell@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:sfarrell@library.berkeley.edu) with any questions.

### Recent ROHO Interviews...

In recent months ROHO has completed and released several interviews, which you have missed if you don't follow us on social media. These interviews include: the five interviews of the [Asian Art Museum Oral History Project](#); Cal Professor of Ethnic Studies [Carlos Munoz](#); biotech venture capital investor [Moshe Alafi](#); [Steve Arditti](#) and [Jay Michael](#), both former leaders at the UC Office of the President; the late cultural historian [Lawrence Levine](#); and four new interviews from our long-running [Portuguese in California Oral History Project](#).

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### Coming Up

#### And stay tuned for...

In the coming months, check back to the ROHO website for the release of our highly-anticipated interviews, including with:

- **George Halvorson**, recently retired as CEO of Kaiser Permanente, one of the largest providers of health care in the United States;
- **Randy Schekman**, 2013 Nobel Prize winner in Medicine;
- Canadian-born composer **Henry Brant**;
- Esteemed American historian **Leon Litwak**;
- A group of interviews looking at the life and legacy of biochemist **Daniel Koshland**;
- Renowned metallurgist **Roshan Bhappu**;
- **John Pritzker**, hotel developer and leader of the San Francisco Jewish community;
- And the several interviews of the **Omega Boys Club Oral History Project**.

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The Regional Oral History Office (ROHO), a division of The Bancroft Library, documents the history of California, the nation, and the interconnected global arena. ROHO produces carefully researched, audio/video-recorded and transcribed oral histories and interpretative historical materials for the widest possible use.

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