



ORAL HISTORY CENTER of The Bancroft Library UC Berkeley

Newsletter - December 2016

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2016 marked the 50th anniversary of the Oral History Association. Here is OHC's former and longtime director Willa Baum registering for the first annual meeting.

[From the Director](#)

[From the Director: Looking Back on 2016](#)

Reading through year-end reviews of 2016 is decidedly not a lighthearted pursuit. So many favorite musicians of my, and many other, generations have left us and though we have the gift of their music we also have sadness. Events on the world stage seem to descend only deeper into violence and chaos. And an ugly and contentious election cycle in our country -- not to mention the surprise result -- have left many fearing for the future of our democracy.

While remaining mindful of past disappointments and future challenges, I think that it is important to recognize achievements, successes, and positive outcomes too, for these sustain us and give us hope. We, at the Oral History



The Oral History Center's collection of transcripts

Center, want to revisit some of the new and exciting developments of the past year that give us -- give me -- great optimism going forward into 2017. [[Read more](#)]

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[Oral History in Action](#)

[Introduction to Oral History Spring Workshop: February 25th](#)



Attendees at the 2016 Spring Introductory Workshop

The Oral History Center (OHC) is pleased to announce that we will be holding our 3rd annual Spring Introductory Workshop on Saturday, February 25, 2017.

This workshop is a great opportunity for **anyone** who has ever wanted to learn more about oral history. In the past, participants have included

community-based historians, nonprofit and museum professionals, genealogist, teachers, community members, and students in graduate school and college. OHC's seasoned oral historians provide instruction on the "nuts-and-bolts" of oral history and facilitate hands-on practice exercises aimed at developing participants' interviewing skills. The workshop makes oral history more accessible and provides participants with the necessary tools to jump start their own projects.

The workshop will be held on February 25th on the UC Berkeley Campus in the new Martin Luther King Jr. Student Union. Tuition, which includes a catered lunch, is \$125. [Registration is now open here](#). We encourage you to apply early as space is limited.

[Call for Nominations: The 2017 "Class of 1931 Oral History in University History Prize"](#)

Nominations for the 2017 "Class of '31 Oral History Interviewee" are now open! We invite people to nominate a UC Berkeley faculty or staff person who has made a significant contribution to the life of the campus. The person selected will be invited to participate in an oral history interview conducted by our office. Selection criteria include: willingness of the nominee to participate, OHC interviewer expertise, uniqueness and rarity of the nominee's story and level of contribution to campus life, and the generation of the nominee. Past "Class of 1931" interviewees include: Anthropology Professor [Laura Nader](#); speechwriter for UC presidents Pat Pelfry; Director Emeritus of the Pacific Film Archive [Edith Kramer](#), and sociolinguist Susan Ervin-Tripp.

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[From the Archives](#)

[From the Archives: Fiona Thomson's Interview with former Black Panther Ericka Huggins](#)

This month, in conjunction with the ["All Power to the People: Black Panthers at 50"](#) exhibition at the Oakland Museum of California, we're highlighting Fiona Thomson's [oral history](#) of Ericka Huggins. In this interview, Huggins talks about her personal and spiritual history, her leadership role in the Black Panther Party, and her lifelong commitment to social justice.

In 1968, at age 18, Huggins became a leader in the Los Angeles chapter of the Black Panther Party with her husband John Huggins. Three weeks after the birth of their daughter, John Huggins was killed and Ericka Huggins was widowed. After returning to New Haven, Connecticut, to be with John's family, Ericka Huggins was invited by community members and students to open a party chapter there. She accepted the invitation. [[Read more](#)]



Ericka Huggins

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[News About OHC](#)

[Remembering Judith Dunning, Oral Historian of Richmond](#)



Oral historian Judith Dunning

Judith K. Dunning, an oral historian whose mission was to document the undocumented, passed away on September 25, 2016, after a long illness. Judith came to the Regional Oral History Office in 1982 with the idea for an ambitious oral history project. While taking a documentary photography class where she concentrated on the Richmond waterfront, she had begun to hear stories about Richmond's quiet prewar life, organized around its port, the Ford factory, and the Chevron refinery, and its remarkable transformation with the coming of

the Kaiser shipyards in World War II. She envisioned a project to document this history, drawing on her experience recording interviews with textile mill workers in Lowell, Massachusetts, and shipyard workers at the Charlestown Navy Yard for the National Park Service. [[Read more](#)]

In recent months...

The Oral History Center has completed several fascinating interviews that you might have missed. So, we'd like to help you catch up on our latest releases: the first two interviews from the Economist Life Stories Project, [George Shultz](#) and [Arnold Harberger](#); and former Chancellor of San Francisco City College, [Del Handy](#).



Educator Del Handy

[Coming Up](#)

And stay tuned for...

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

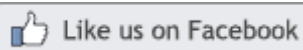
- The first group of interviews from the **Freedom to Marry Oral History Project**, including Evan Wolfson, Thalia Zepatos, and Marc Solomon;
- Several more interviews with women and men who worked on the home front in World War II as part of our long-running **Rosie the Riveter Oral History Project**;
- **Keith Yamamoto**, Professor of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology, and campus leader, at UC San Francisco;
- Former San Francisco mayor, **Willie Brown**;
- **Rick Laubscher**, founder of Market Street Railway;
- Renowned artist **Robert Irwin** along with **Jim Duggan**, master gardener of the Center Garden at the Getty Center;
- Several interviews documenting the **San Francisco Fire Department**;
- Berkeley campus leader and Professor Emeritus of Psychology, **Susan Ervin-Tripp**;
- **Jim Chappell** who served as Executive Director of SPUR for many years;
- Early civil rights leader and first head of the California Fair Employment Practices Commission, **Edward Howden**;
- Longtime president of Rotary International, **Cliff Dochterman**;
- Getty Trust leaders in the conservation of world artistic heritage, **Jim Druzik and Neville Agnew**;
- Former director of the Jewish Community Federation, **Wayne Feinstein**.

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



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