



## *In This Issue...*

- [From the Director](#)
- [Oral History in Action!](#)
- [Out From the Archives](#)
- [News about the Oral History Center](#)
- [Coming Up](#)

## *From the Director...*

### **"History as a Retreat"**

The year 2017 is certainly off to a tumultuous start with the words uncertainty, acrimony, and conflict in regular circulation throughout the body politic. As such, there is good reason that so many of us are glued to our news feeds, anxiously awaiting what sensation story might come next. But there is also good reason, I think, to step back from the flurry of 'the now' and retreat a bit into the past. I've never been one to accept the notion that by studying history we can inoculate ourselves from repeating the mistakes of the past. I think that the present is not only a different time, but also a different place, so we would be asking too much of history to play such a preventative role. Still, as a historian, I am convinced that knowledge of the past can help us better understand the present and perhaps suggest a range of options... [[read more](#)]



Women newly elected to the US Senate in 1992

## *Oral History in Action!*

### **The Women Leaders of Berkeley Initiative**

One of the great joys of being an oral historian is getting to speak with many different people. We have the privilege of asking them about their lives and allowing them to put their experiences in the context of larger historical trends. We get this chance every year when we interview people for our "Class of '31" series in university history, which is funded through a small endowment. We have used the "Class of '31" series over the past four years to increase the representation of women interviewed because such a small percentage of Berkeley oral histories historically have been with women. [[read more](#)]



Professor Susan Ervin-Tripp

## *Out from the Archives*

### **Slaying the Dragon of Debt: OHC's Look Into the Politics of Deficits**

Debt and deficits, budget reconciliation, CBO scoring. These arcana have again appeared at the forefront of social media feeds and on the front pages of newspapers as Congress and the White House attempt to pass the new President's agenda while figuring out how to pay for it. Back in 2010, OHC director Martin Meeker and then-postdoc scholar Patrick Sharma embarked on a brief but intensive oral history project exploring the recent history of federal debt and deficits. [[read more](#)]



Alice Rivlin, then OMB director, with President Clinton.

## *News About the Oral History Center*

**Another Sold-Out Spring Oral History Workshop!**



A packed house at our annual Spring Introduction to Oral History Workshop

We are thrilled to continue to offer our expanded educational programs through our one-day introductory workshop. On February 25, 2017, the OHC hosted our third annual Spring Workshop at the MLK Student Union. Designed for anyone interested in learning more about how to bring oral history to their work, the workshop provides participants with the tools to plan their own oral history projects,

conduct and record interviews and preserve and share their interviews. [\[read more\]](#)

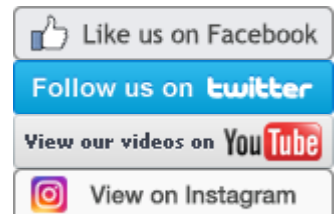
## Coming Up

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

- The **Freedom to Marry Oral History Project**, including Evan Wolfson, Thalia Zepatos, Kate Kendell, and James Esseks;
- 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**;
- Early civil rights leader and first head of the California Fair Employment Practices Commission, **Edward Howden**;
- Longtime leader of the Jim Joseph Foundation, **Al Levitt**;
- Former director of the Jewish Community Federation, **Wayne Feinstein**

Plus many more!

Contact: **Martin Meeker**  
**Oral History Center**  
mmeeker (at) berkeley.edu  
510-643-9733



Oral History Center, University of California, Berkeley,, CA 94720-6000

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [mmeeker@berkeley.edu](mailto:mmeeker@berkeley.edu) in collaboration with



Try it free today