

Committee focuses on membership initiatives

By Stephen Sloan, Membership Committee Chair

SINCE THE CREATION of our new executive office in January 2013, the Oral History Association has realized many achievements in the development of our practices as an association. In January, another important step was taken forward, moving our membership management back under the control of the association. Overseeing membership opens up a host of benefits for the organization, and, more importantly, for the individual and institutional members of the OHA.

Access to current membership rolls will allow the OHA to track and develop retention and renewal rates and to keep members better informed of upcoming association events and activities. The improved communication will also facilitate networks among the general membership. Perhaps you have already had a chance to use the directory on the OHA member website (www.oralhistory.org/membership). At the member website, you can also renew your membership, see your list of benefits, track your OHA events and link to the *Oral History Review*.

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Oral historians encounter challenges documenting lives of ethnic minority Burmese in Iowa

By Katie Gaebel, Oregon State University, and Keith Yanner, Central College, Iowa

S, A YOUNG Chin refugee, arrived in Iowa in 2010 after surviving ethnic cleansing in her Burma homeland. But her ordeal was far from over. Due to issues of gender, culture and privilege, S lost legal custody of her two children in 2011. Iowa courts would take two years to acknowledge the problem was not S's parenting but intercultural clumsiness and translation errors by well-meaning case workers. In October 2013 an Iowa judge restored S's parental rights. She had been supported in the process by a local refugee organization (Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center—EMBARC). And the judge finally hired a West Coast interpreter with adequate proficiency in English and S's Chin language to work the case.

While S's Iowa ordeal unfolded, EMBARC asked us to organize an oral history project for their community. In fact, EMBARC asked us to interview S. The primary purpose was advocacy: to raise awareness among Iowans about the refugee experience as a way to help leverage resources for the struggling community. In

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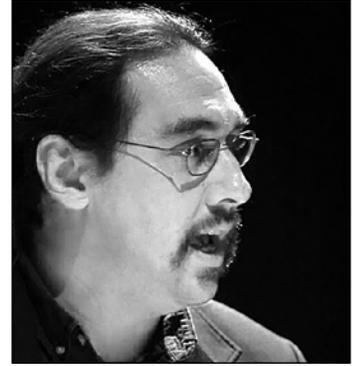
President's report

By Paul Ortiz, University of Florida

I AM WRITING this from the Southwestern Oral History Association 2015 conference in Del Mar, California. Founded in 1981, SOHA is a superb professional organization that is in the planning stages of celebrating its 35th anniversary. The panels and presentations at the conference place oral history in dialog with issues surrounding museum studies, archival preservation, community organizing, historical memory and the building of intercultural understanding between diverse peoples. SOHA members have created a vibrant intellectual space for reflection on the meaning of our craft; in one day of sessions I've taken nearly 10 pages of notes!

One of my responsibilities as president of the Oral History Association is to recruit chairs and members to OHA's national committees. These bodies serve vital functions. By recognizing excellence in oral history teaching, publishing and social justice—among other areas—OHA's awards committees help to define best practices in the field. Equally important, our standing committees provide indispensable leadership and guidance on a whole host of areas including diversity, K-12 education and international scholarship.

This year, OHA Council directed me to facilitate the process of creating a new group of members empowered to focus on preparing the Oral History Association to celebrate our upcoming golden anniversary: the 50th Anniversary Task Force. All told, I made 65 committee and task force appointments. In the course of scores of phone calls, emails and office visits I had the opportunity to witness the commitment of OHA members to service and to the integrity of oral history. The most inspirational part of this experience was the fact that every person I asked to serve on a committee or a task force accepted my request, with one exception. The sole person who declined service on one committee agreed to serve on a different group the following week.



Paul Ortiz, OHA president

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Executive Director's report

By Cliff Kuhn

EACH SEASON IN the OHA office has its own rhythm, its own seasonal array of concerns and initiatives. January marks the conference submission deadline and the start-up for the annual meeting in October. We had an excellent collection of submissions this year, and Program Committee chairs Martha Norkunas and Sharon Utakis, along with their committee members, have done a terrific job reviewing and consolidating proposals, along with developing outstanding keynote events. New features at this year's meeting include short mini-workshops and a poster session. We also plan to build upon last year's successful mentoring program and in other ways welcome emerging practitioners. Local Arrangements chair Barbara Lewis has already been attending to numerous details from dine-arounds to registration assistance to tours (two truly outstanding tours are planned). And overseeing the entire process with her customary thoroughness has been OHA Vice-President Anne Valk.

In February, the OHA Council held its mid-winter meeting in Tampa, which offered a wonderful respite from the bone-chilling weather that many of us have been experiencing. The conference hotel is right on the water (check out the photo on the OHA website) and a block from the Tampa Bay History Center where the presidential reception will be held. High on the list of agenda items were conversations about the forthcoming 50th anniversary year in 2016 and the overall development of the organization as OHA and the field more generally move into the next half century.



Cliff Kuhn, OHA executive director

PHOTO: MICHELLE LACOSS

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OHA Newsletter to be available electronically

The OHA will publish the newsletter electronically, beginning with the **Winter 2015** issue.

A move to electronic delivery is expected to significantly reduce the costs of printing and postage. It also is intended to accommodate members who prefer to rely on digitally delivered materials.

Members will still have the option to continue receiving a printed newsletter by mail. The OHA intends to survey members as to their preference beginning in August.

Panels, mini-workshops, warm weather, bayside views featured at fall conference

By Martha Norkunas and Sharon Utakis, 2015 Program Co-Chairs

STORIES OF SOCIAL Change and Social Justice, the theme of the 2015 OHA conference, has generated interest from oral historians from around the country and internationally. There will be more than 250 papers this year at the Oct. 14-18 event on topics as wide ranging as international feminism to civil rights to trauma in post-conflict societies to building community partnerships through oral history.

This year we added several new presentation formats to the Tampa, Florida, meeting. Mini-workshops are 90-minute how-to's on an array of technical issues. We have also added a poster session so that emerging and established oral historians can present their work to a large number of people at the conference. And we will continue with films, panels, roundtables and short performance pieces in the sessions.

We have three dynamic plenaries scheduled. One plenary will reflect on the Guantanamo Memory

Project, another will discuss Ferguson, Missouri, and a third assembles activists from labor, LGBT and immigration rights communities.

We have a series of workshops to kick off the conference on Wednesday covering a range of significant topics, including oral history and digital platforms. On Saturday there is a teacher workshop based on oral history and performance. Tours include an evening in Ybor City, a historic neighborhood near downtown Tampa, and an excursion to nearby Tarpon Springs, where Greek immigrants developed a prosperous sponge-diving industry.

Noted filmmaker Andrew Garrison will open the conference with a film showing and discussion of "Trash Dance." There will be two oral history keynote performances—one by Judith Sloan titled "Yo Miss! Teaching Inside the Cultural Divide" and a second called "Gator Tales" based on oral histories

about desegregating the University of Florida. Charles Cobb, author and civil rights activist, will be the featured speaker at the Friday luncheon. On Friday evening South Asian comedian and human rights activist Hari Kondabolu will present his story with humor centered on social justice.

The conference hotel, the Marriott Tampa Waterside, could not be nicer. A number of our events will take place on the balcony, overlooking the water. The weather promises to be perfect.

We would like to take a moment and commend our outstanding Program Committee members who have spent a great deal of time helping to review papers and panels and to shape the conference in a number of important ways: Amber Abbas, Tami Albin, Anthony Cherian, Carolyn Ellis, Roger Gatchet, Hanna Griff-Sleven, Andy Huse, Antoinette Jackson, Sarah Loose, Leslie McCartney, Juliana Nykolaiszyn, Anna Sheftel, Jill Strauss, Maris Thomsson, Cyra Wyker, Valerie Yow and Stacey Zembrzycki.

Stay tuned for more details. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in Tampa! ❖

Plans in the making for 50th anniversary celebration

By Mary Larson, Oklahoma State University

IN 2016, THE Oral History Association will be celebrating its 50th anniversary, marking half a century since the inaugural meetings were held at Lake Arrowhead, California. Starting out as the National Colloquium on Oral History, the first gathering brought together a wide range of practitioners from different disciplinary backgrounds and served as the first steps toward a national organization. As we prepare for the annual meetings in 2015 and 2016, we will be using this milestone celebration as an opportunity to start some initiatives, bolster others and intensify our focus on areas of interest.

The charge given to the anniversary planning group by the OHA Council reads as follows:

The purpose of the 50th Anniversary Task Force is to use OHA's 50th anniversary in 2016 to optimize OHA's outreach and impact, to strengthen its organizational and financial development, and to increase awareness and appreciation of OHA's history. Using the next two annual meetings as springboards, the task force will work with OHA Council and the general membership to find new ways to showcase OHA narratives of past and present achievements to scholarly audiences as well as to the general public.

The task force is composed of a diverse group of individuals who cut across disciplinary and geographic

boundaries, and it includes both younger members of the association as well as respected veterans. OHA President Paul Ortiz will serve as the Council's liaison to the task force, while Mary Larson will chair and Jennifer Abraham Cramer will act as the Program Committee Liaison in 2015 and 2016.

Other members of the task force include: Terry Birdwhistell (University of Kentucky), Sarah Blanc (University of Florida), Mary Marshall Clark (Columbia University), Rose Diaz (Indian Pueblo Cultural Center), Diana Dombrowski (University of Florida), Erica Fugger (Columbia University), Alphine Jefferson (Randolph-Macon College), Lu Ann Jones (National Park Service) and Joan Mandell (New Day Films).

Also on the task force are: Todd Moye (University of North Texas), Irene Reti (UC Santa Cruz), Anne Ritchie (National Gallery of Art), Anna Sheftel (St. Paul University), Jason Steinhauer (Library of Congress), Alva Moore Stevenson (UCLA), Sady Sullivan (Columbia University), Jessica Taylor (University of Florida), Claytee White (University of Nevada, Las Vegas), and Stacey Zembrzycki (Dawson College).

As the task force begins its meetings, members are being assigned to subcommittees to focus on specific parts of the charge, and online work spaces are being developed. Affiliated programming and other opportunities will be appearing throughout 2015 and 2016, so please keep an eye on this space and on the OHA website for some of the task force's initiatives as we approach this exciting milestone in the life of our organization. ❖

President's letter

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I am thrilled to report that former OHA president Mary Larson has agreed to chair the 50th Anniversary Task Force. This group is composed of a mix of veteran as well as brand new OHA members who possess a wonderful array of skills. To quote from the task force's charge, this group of colleagues will help us plan for a great 50th anniversary celebration by promoting "awareness and appreciation of OHA's history," as well as optimizing OHA's "outreach and impact" in the year leading up to our 2016 annual meeting in Long Beach, California.

Reserve your tickets for this year's annual OHA meeting Tampa, Florida, Oct. 14-18. Vice-President Anne Valk and

annual meeting co-chairs Martha Norkunas and Sharon Utakis are doing a superb job in organizing this year's conference.

At our recently concluded midwinter council meeting we spent a productive amount of time on issues of development, funding and outreach. We will soon have exciting news to report on new grant writing initiatives. I challenge all past OHA presidents who have not already done so to join me in becoming lifetime members of the Oral History Association. I also urge all OHA members reading this to recruit at least one new member to our association by the end of April. ❖

Executive Director's report

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For this is an important, transitional year for OHA. Much of the first two years under the new executive structure was spent upgrading existing systems, including membership and conference management and registration. This process has continued over the past few months, as we launched the new membership site (for which OHA program associate Gayle Knight deserves huge credit), rolled out a new brochure and improved the OHA website. Last year we also finalized the strategic plan, which will serve as an organizational blueprint through 2017, and developed a protocol for entering into partnerships and special initiatives.

All of which positions OHA well to move to a new level of outreach. In 2015 we have already sponsored a session at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association, strengthened our relationship with the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress, and will cosponsor a series of oral history conservation workshops developed by the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia. Our upcoming 50th anniversary in 2016 further offers an opportunity to significantly enhance OHA's impact and overall health as we move into our next half century of excellence. ❖

Colorful, new brochure available to promote OHA



OHA MEMBERS CAN spread the word about the leading organization of oral history practitioners with a new membership brochure now available from the executive office.

The narrow-format, four-color brochure includes varied photos of people conducting and listening to oral histories and describes the benefits of membership, including: professional development opportunities, issues of the *Oral*

History Review and *OHA Newsletter*, discounted registration to the OHA annual meetings and a 20 percent discount on online book orders from Oxford University Press.

If you want copies of the brochure to distribute to students, colleagues, workshop participants or anyone else you know who should become an OHA member, let Gayle Knight at the OHA executive office know. You can reach the office at 404-413-5751 or at oha@gsu.edu. ❖

Kenyon College welcomes oral history practitioners



THE RURAL LIFE Center at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, in collaboration with the Ohio Humanities Council, invites volunteers or staff from local history organizations, libraries, schools and colleges to apply for its 2015 Oral History Institute scheduled for June 2-4.

The three-day, hands-on workshop focuses on oral history interviewing techniques, transcribing and archiving, and creating public programs based on oral history, among other topics. Institute faculty members include professors of history, sociology, archiving and journalism.

Admission is competitive and limited to 30 people. Tuition is \$400, which includes lodging, workshop materials and some meals. For more information, contact James Calder at 800-293-9774 or jimc@ohiohumanities.org. ❖

Membership initiative

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To further develop our member services, OHA has created a new membership committee. The committee is tasked with a variety of tasks related to membership, including recruitment, retention, benefits and communication for each category of OHA membership. For 2015, the committee includes myself, Lois Myers, Lu Ann Jones and Ellen Brooks. At the midwinter business meeting, the association's council charged the committee with developing a new partners category for membership that will allow us to better serve the organizations and institutions that support OHA. This work will include developing a rate and benefit structure for these partners as well as developing a plan for how they will be recognized and highlighted in print and digital media.

Another project that council has charged to come under the aegis of the membership committee is the new OHA Mentorship Program, which was inaugurated at the annual meeting this past fall. Designed and launched by Ellen Brooks, Erica Fugger and Kristen La Follette, this initiative received high marks from the 47 pairs of mentors and mentees who met together in Madison, Wisconsin. A 2015 expanded offering is in the works for this fall in Tampa. Please be on the lookout for the opportunity to participate in this exciting program.

As a committee, we look forward to working for you, the OHA membership, to refine, enhance and expand our services to our current and future members. ❖

Ethnic minority Burmese in Iowa

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In addition, EMBARC wanted to preserve refugee memories of home, displacement and resettlement to Iowa.

We never would have initiated this project. Though both of us had recorded oral histories with immigrants and refugees in their languages, neither of us had the language skills or knowledge of Myanmar/Burma this project required. Like S's case workers, we were underprepared. We only agreed to help because EMBARC asked and no one else we knew was in a better position.

Our first goal was to train a few refugees with some English proficiency to do the interviews. That way EMBARC could start to build an oral history archive that would improve over time. In July 2013 we led our first workshop and soon discovered it was an epic failure. The refugee interviewers were too busy trying to survive and adapt to conduct interviews. We had no funds to pay them.

Plan B was two-fold: first, interview in English the handful of refugees with enough proficiency to tell their stories to us. Second, work with EMBARC to find money to pay refugee interviewers. We now have a small archive of eight life histories in English that have helped in grant-writing projects for basic services. And EMBARC acquired limited funds to pay community members to interview, transcribe and translate.

The Plan B process gave us time to reflect. Obviously, the EMBARC experience highlights a dilemma in advocacy-based oral history: communities most in need often lack the resources to carry it out. Oral historians have long understood this. In *Listening for a Change*, Hugo Slim and Paul Thompson identify best practices for advocacy projects. And in *Displaced: The Human Cost of Development and Resettlement*, Olivia Bennett and Christopher McDowell set the gold standard with a project that privileged narrators' native languages and paid community members to train, interview, transcribe and work with translators. Our problem was not lack of information about what to do, but the sudden urgent request to do a project with no prior planning or resources.

The attempted interview with S exposed almost all of the problems with our approach. Because of language barriers, we had to engage in the interview process a community member who was able to speak both English and a language S also understood. This community member was a male pastor in



Karenni refugee Htay Mo, 38, and her son David Soe, 18 months, are among an estimated 7,000 ethnic minority refugees from Burma who now call Iowa home.

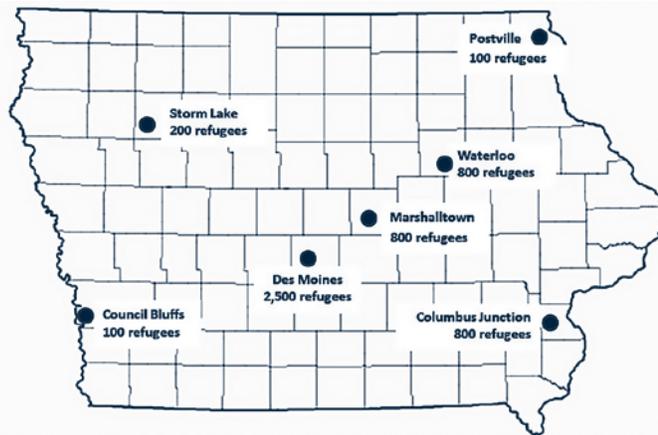
the Des Moines Chin community, a position requiring him to serve the refugee community in a multitude of ways, including greeting newly-arrived refugees at the airport and assisting with translating mail and other important documents.

While the pastor served as a translator for our interview, he himself did not speak S's native language. The lack of available translation services in the Des Moines community meant that our interview filtered through three different languages. It also meant that S did not have an adequate legal translator to represent her case in court. The purpose of our interview with S was to arm her with an English transcript she could use to advocate for the return of her children; as

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Ethnic minority Burmese in Iowa

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This map of Iowa shows the communities where a significant number of ethnic minority refugees from Burma have settled. Many towns offer jobs in meat packing plants where people with limited English proficiency can find employment. Courtesy EMBARC

such, it was crucial for S to disclose specific details about her identity as a mother and her trauma as a refugee.

The use of a male translator who served as the community's pastor made the attempt to gather gender-specific information impossible. Not only did S not provide details about her life in Burma or as an undocumented worker in Malaysia, she was clearly uneasy disclosing any specifics related to her children being removed from her home. The limited translation resources forced us to use a male in a

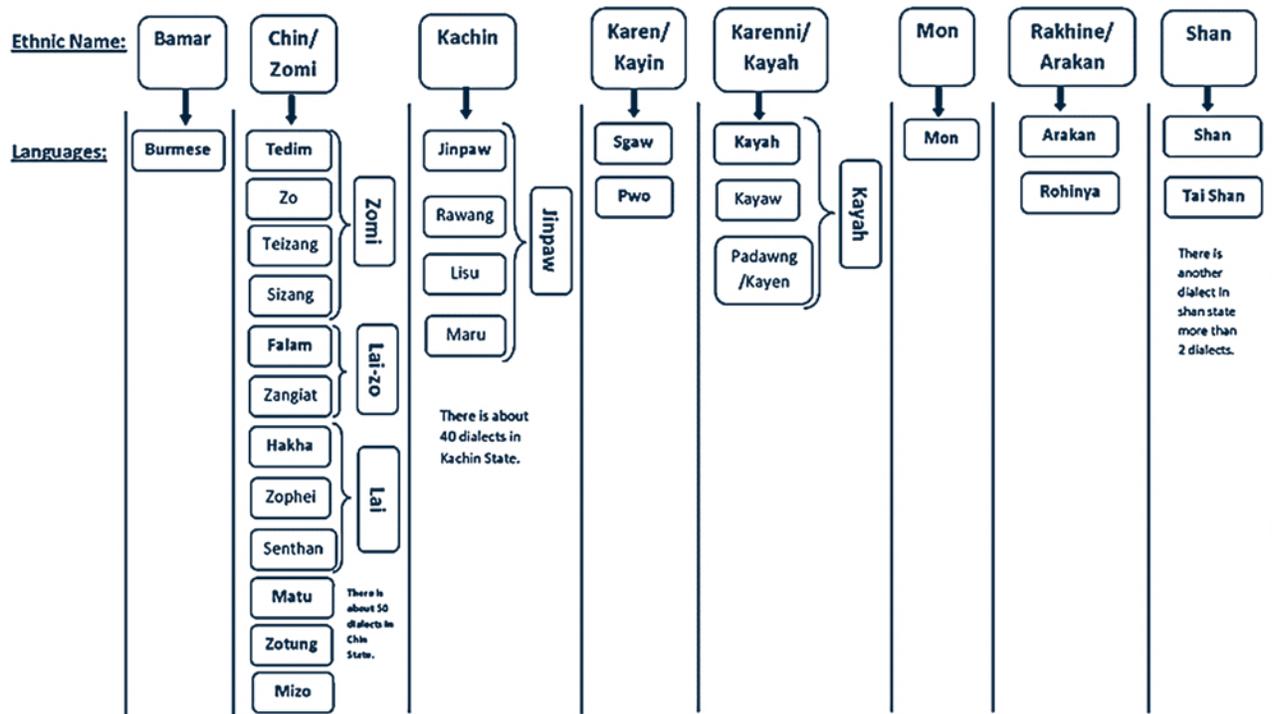
position of power; however, this choice also greatly limited the information S disclosed to us.

S's case is emblematic. Gaps in culture and privilege undermine any oral history undertaken at this time in the EMBARC community, because aspects of any story could heighten risks for loved ones back home or in displaced person camps, or, if full disclosure were made, threaten a narrator's refugee status here. Even the loudest, most-privileged voices in the EMBARC community self-censor.

The scope of these problems in Iowa is surprisingly broad. Thousands of refugees from Myanmar/Burma have resettled here since 2008. Their displacement is rooted in Burma's civil war, the world's longest-running, beginning at independence in 1948 (Kenny & Lockwood-Kenny, 2011). Relatively recent waves of refugees from Burma began fleeing widespread human rights violations inflicted by the country's military regime in 1984, when the Burmese State Peace and Development Council instituted a policy of cleansing the nation of non-Burman ethnic groups (Kenny & Lockwood-Kenny, 2011). Those who could do so fled to Thailand, while many others dispersed to Malaysia or Bangladesh or became internally displaced within Burma, hiding in the jungles and constantly moving to avoid the military.

By 2014, refugees in Thai camps numbered 110,483 (Oh & van der Stouwe, 2008; The Border Consortium, 2014). Displacement continues within Burma's ethnic minority states, where Internally Displaced Persons and Stateless Persons total 1.2 million (UNHCR, 2015). Human Rights

Ethnic Languages of Myanmar use in Des Moines, Iowa



This chart shows distinct languages spoken by refugees from Burma who live in Des Moines, Iowa. Each language is distinct, meaning that if you speak one, you do not automatically have proficiency in any of the others.

Architecture grad students make buildings talk

STUDYING ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY usually involves examining physical structures themselves, documenting design, materials, workmanship and the like. But buildings are meant for people, and two architecture students told an OHA audience that they discovered oral history is a tool by which buildings can tell stories about the people who lived there and even about what a neighborhood smelled like.

Hongyan Yang of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee used oral history to learn about the lives of domestic servants in elegant residences built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in Milwaukee's Historic Water Tower Neighborhood.

Floor plans of the homes illustrate how servants lived behind the scenes, with separate entrances or separate wings, with back entrances, doors and hallways positioned to allow the domestic help to disappear. And even within the servants' quarters, a hierarchy was observed, with different-sized bedrooms for servants of different ranks.

Relatives of those who had worked or lived in the homes were able to shed light on day-to-day life in the servants' quarters, which the dwellings alone cannot do, Yang said, suggesting that oral historians should engage in joint efforts with architectural historians to better understand the history of buildings.

Yuko Nakamura, also from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, employed oral history as well in her study of the city's historic North Downer Avenue commercial district on Lake Michigan.

Nakamura said there is an important distinction between a place with its cultural meanings versus the properties or buildings themselves. She said she wanted to explore how people experience built environments in different ways and used oral history to focus on olfactory experiences, what she called "smell memories."

Interviewees recalled the smell of "real butter" from a street-corner popcorn wagon and the fragrance of "exotic fruits" at a local grocery store known for selling fresh produce. But Nakamura discovered that sensory perspectives may be different for children and adults, and they change over time. The popcorn smell, for example, was only a summertime phenomenon, and fruits once considered exotic can now be found in every supermarket.

She said auditory memories of places also can be revealing, with interviewees recalling what the neighborhood was like before buildings were air conditioned and windows were always open.

Nakamura said sensory experiences are what French author Marcel Proust called "involuntary memory." But, she said, "Not everyone is capable of providing good sensory narratives." ❖

Watch World Report 2014 noted that while the Burmese government has made significant progress in some sectors, serious problems continue throughout the country, including ethnic cleansing of the Muslim Rohingya population and continuing conflicts with ethnic Shan and Kachin populations. The number of refugees arriving in the United States from Burma is consistently one of the highest. With almost 17,000 entering in 2011 and 16,300 in 2013, the total is second only to refugees from Iraq (Department of State Refugee Admissions Statistics).

For the past four years, refugees from Burma have been the single largest group resettled in Iowa. According to EMBARC, once refugees arrive in Iowa they face continuing obstacles. Most arrive with travel debt accumulated through the relocation itself and are given 90 days of limited assistance before being cut off from financial help. During these 90 days, refugees (many of whom have limited or no English language proficiency) must register their children for school, secure employment and adjust to life in pre-determined housing (often sub-standard). Many refugees find employment in meat-packing towns like Columbus Junction, Waterloo and Postville; these small towns often lack interpreters and other key resources vital to their success. Yet, they are filled with ethnic minority refugees from Burma like S.

Her interview was fraught with problems of privilege involving gender, language, ethnicity, and class. Still, if Plan B of the EMBARC oral history project moves forward, it may be possible to, in Slim's term, reverse at least some of those problems of privilege. We may be able to train and pay a refugee woman who speaks S's native language like a native to record the fullness of her memory. Then it will be up to us to work with the interviewer to translate S's experience into English. Unfortunately, we will be too late to help S get her children back. Thankfully, that has already happened. ❖

For more information...

OHA members interested in more information about Burmese ethnic minority refugees in the United States might be interested in the following sources, cited by Gaebel and Yanner:

Bennett, O. & McDowell, C. (2012). *Displaced: The Human Cost of Development and Resettlement*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Kenny, P. & Lockwood-Kenny, K. (2011). A mixed blessing: Karen Resettlement to the United States. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 24(2).

Oh, S. & van der Stouwe, M. (2008). Education, diversity, and inclusion in Burmese refugee camps in Thailand. *Comparative Education Review*, 52(4).

Slim, H. & Thompson, P. (1995). *Listening for a Change: Oral Testimony and Community Development*. London: Panos Publications.

The Border Consortium (2014). Program report January – June 2014. Retrieved from www.theborderconsortium.org/resources/key-resources/

United Nations High Commission on Refugees (2015). 2015 UNHCR country operations profile. Retrieved from www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/page?page=49e4877d6&submit=GO

Editor's note: Katie Gaebel is experiential learning coordinator, College of Agricultural Sciences, Oregon State University, and Keith Yanner is professor of political science at Central College in Pella, Iowa. Gaebel was at Central College when the work with ethnic minority Burmese refugees began.

OHA Nominations 2015



OHA leadership elections coming up

OHA MEMBERS WILL choose a new first vice president, two new OHA Council members and three nominating committee members during online voting this summer. Members will receive an email link in July that will permit online voting until early September. A ballot also will be posted that members can print and mail if they prefer. Paper ballots will not be mailed to members this year.

The nominees for first vice president and Council positions are:

FOR FIRST VICE PRESIDENT



TODD MOYER
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS,
AND DIRECTOR OF THE UNT
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Biographical Information

Todd Moyer is a professor of history at the University of North Texas and the director of the UNT Oral History Program, which celebrates its own 50th anniversary in 2015. The author of numerous books and articles on the American civil rights movement, Moyer is also a series editor for the Oxford Oral History Series. He previously directed the National Park Service's Tuskegee Airmen Oral History Project, which OHA honored with the 2006 Elizabeth B. Mason Project Award, and was a postdoctoral fellow at the College of Charleston's Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture. Moyer has served on OHA's nominating, program and awards committees and co-chaired the program committee for the 2013 annual meeting.

Candidate Statement

I have been involved with OHA for nearly 20 years now—as a graduate student who taught himself how to do oral history by reaching out to OHA members for guidance; as a public historian who found and cherished a community of fellow travelers in the OHA; as an academic who appreciates the intellectual nourishment OHA annual meetings offer; and as an oral history program administrator who depends heavily on fellow members for information on best practices. I have gained much more from the organization and its members than I could ever possibly give back, but I look forward to trying. Throughout its first 50 years OHA has prided itself on being an organization that welcomes people from all walks of life and all points of view. The diversity of its rank-and-file membership has always been its greatest strength, but the more I have seen of its administration in recent years, the more I have been impressed by the quality of the leaders who have been called on to serve OHA. I look forward to joining them, and I hope to do my part to help OHA become an even more vibrant and even more essential organization in its next 50 years. ❖

FOR OHA COUNCIL (POSITION ONE)

TOMAS SANDOVAL
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CHICANA/O~LATINA/O
STUDIES AND HISTORY

POMONA COLLEGE, CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA



Biographical Information

Tomás Summers Sandoval is an associate professor of history and Chicana/o~Latina/o Studies at Pomona College, Claremont, California, where he also serves as chair of the history department. He teaches classes on Latina/o histories, oral history, social movements and community engagement, making particular efforts to blur the lines between the academy and the local communities of which we are a part.

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CLAYTEE WHITE
DIRECTOR, ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA,
LAS VEGAS LIBRARIES



Biographical Information

Claytee D. White is the inaugural director of the Oral History Research Center at UNLV Libraries, established in 2003. In this position, she collects the history of Las Vegas and the surrounding area by gathering memories of events and experiences from long-time residents. Some of the current projects include The Boyer Early Las Vegas Project, West-Charleston / Ward One neighborhoods, and Documenting the

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OHA Nominations 2015

OHA MEMBERS WILL vote for one person in each of the following pairs of candidates for the OHA Nominating Committee.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (ONE VACANCY PER POSITION)

POSITION 1

MARY MARSHALL CLARK is the director of the Columbia Center for Oral History Research and co-founder and director of Columbia's Oral History Master of Arts degree program. Formerly, she was an oral historian and filmmaker at the New York Times. She has been involved in the oral history movement since 1991, was OHA president from 2001-2002 and has served on the Executive Council of the International Oral History Association.

She was the co-principal investigator, with Peter Bearman, of the September 11, 2001, Oral History Narrative and Memory Project, a longitudinal oral history project through which more than 1,000 hours of interviews were taken with eye-witnesses and immigrants and others who suffered in the aftermath of the events. She has directed numerous other projects and interviewed leading figures in the media, human rights, women's movements and the arts.

Clark is a distinguished lecturer for the Organization of American Historians and holds two master's degrees from Union Theological Seminary.

SARAH MILLIGAN is a native of Oklahoma who returned home in 2014 as the head of the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at the Oklahoma State University library after working as the administrator of the Kentucky Oral History Commission at the Kentucky Historical Society (2007-2014) and as a folklife specialist for the Kentucky Folklife Program (2005-2007). She has worked extensively in oral history outreach, including providing training for new interview production as well as offering technical assistance to oral history collection holders.

Her areas of interest lie in cultural ethnography, digital preservation and the intersection of oral history and digital humanities. In 2012, Milligan became part of the Library of Congress Digital Preservation Outreach Trainer Network and is a member of the 2011 class of the Developing History Leaders @ the Seminar for Historical Administrators and the 2015 class of Harvard's Library Leadership in a Digital Age. ❖

POSITION 2

CHARLES HARDY III, a history professor at West Chester University, began his work in oral history in the late 1970s. The producer of award-winning radio, video and web-based documentaries, he received the OHA Biennial Nonprint Media award in 1999 and Forrest C. Pogue award in 2001.

A regular participant in OHA national meetings since the 1980s, he has served on the publications, new technologies, awards and program committees; national council; and as OHA president in 2008-2009. He also served on the Advisory Board and Collecting working group for *Oral History in the Digital Age*. His print publications include articles and interviews in the *Oral History Review* and *Oral History*, and chapters in *The Oral History Reader*, 2nd ed. (2006), *Handbook of Oral History* (2006); *Oral History: The Challenges of Dialogue* (2009), and *Oral History and Digital Humanities* (2014).

MARJORIE MCLELLAN is a longtime activist in the Oral History Association and an associate professor at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. She holds a joint appointment in the Department of Urban Affairs and Geography and Department of History.

Her scholarship includes oral history and museum studies as well as social studies education and public humanities. She is the author of *Six Generations Here: a Wisconsin Farm Family Remembers* (Wisconsin Historical Society, 1997, 2013) and *Hunting for Everyday History: a Field Guide for Teachers* (2003). She also served on the board of Ohio Humanities, the state humanities council, for seven years. She served on the board of Cityfolk, a folk, jazz and traditional arts presenting organization, and on the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board. She has written grants funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute for Museums and Library Services and other organizations. ❖

POSITION 3

CHRISTIAN LOPEZ is the lead oral history and media archivist at the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies at the University of Georgia Special Collections Libraries. He leads a modern, digital video and audio oral history program that documents and archives the politics, culture and society of modern Georgia. He also is responsible for the curation and preservation of analog and digital audiovisual collections, including media and documentary production for gallery kiosks and online oral history exhibition.

He is an active member of OHA, participating as a presenter, panelist and workshop leader at the annual meeting and serves on OHA's Oral History in a Nonprint Format Award Committee.

STEVEN SIELAFF is a member of the faculty at Baylor University as senior editor & collection manager for the Baylor University Institute for Oral History (BUIOH). A graduate of Baylor's Museum Studies master's program, he directs the ongoing digitization of BUIOH's analog collection, manages the BUIOH website and social media news feeds and spearheads the migration of transcript and audio files to the institute's searchable online database, ContentDM.

Sielaff's primary professional foci are the value of institutional histories and the use of oral histories in the digital age, and his research includes museological surveys of Texas institutions and integration of the University of Kentucky's Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS) software among educational entities. He serves on the board of the Heart of Texas Regional History Fair, is vice president of the Texas Oral History Association, is technical advisor/editor for the H-OralHist listserv, and recently joined the OHA Metadata Task Force. ❖

OHA Nominations 2015

Sandoval

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Trained as a modern U.S. historian, he earned an M.A. and Ph.D., from the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of *Latinos at the Golden Gate: Creating Community and Identity in San Francisco* (The University of North Carolina Press, 2013), a historical examination of the ways diverse Latin American migrants and their descendants coalesced into a visible, pan-ethnic community in the “city by the bay.” He is working on a book detailing the impact of the Vietnam War on Chicano/Latino communities, based on oral histories with Chicano/Latino veterans and their families.

Candidate Statement

I am grateful to be nominated for a seat on Council and excited at the opportunity to serve the OHA in a more involved way. Over the years, the OHA has meant a lot to me and my professional development. Our diverse community of scholars/practitioners has been a consistent resource for me to test new work, a creative and supportive environment that has made that work better. I have similarly grown from participating in the rich community of our annual conferences, gatherings that have always made me feel part of an intellectual community. I was honored to work with past OHA President Rina Benmayor when David Reichard and I served as the program co-chairs for the 2010 annual meeting. I also served one term on the OHA Nominating Committee. Those roles exposed me to the real strength of our association—the selfless dedication of scores of people who keep it going and growing in both small and big ways. As an oral historian whose focus is on the historical experiences of Latina/Latino communities, I hope to contribute my own perspective to this continuing period of growth for the OHA. I firmly believe oral history is fundamental to our collective ability to retrieve and narrate the historical experiences of Latinas and Latinos in the United States. Similarly, our collective ability to understand that history is inseparable from the formation of a truly inclusive and democratic 21st-century United States. I can think of no more exciting place to be than at the forefront of this effort, contributing to the leadership of the OHA. ❖

White

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AfAm Experience in Las Vegas. Her published writings include three book chapters, several articles and online and print encyclopedia entries. White received her B.A. from California State University Los Angeles, M.A. in history from the University of Nevada Las Vegas and has done additional graduate work at the College of William and Mary. She serves on the Historic Preservation Commission for the City of Las Vegas, the boards of Nevada Humanities and the Southwest Oral History Association and is an active member of the OHA.

Candidate Statement

I would like to serve on the OHA Council because I have ideas for support needed in the oral history trenches. Many oral history centers are small with tiny staffs that are overworked. I want to bring some relief. What ideas do they have in Chapel Hill that can be shared with Las Vegas? What successes can I copy to use my students and volunteers in a more effective manner? Since my center is small, I consult with well-established groups and train them to collect their own history. How can I do this better? Is this an idea that another center would like to model and enhance? Some seasoned members can consult in idea sharing, mistakes to avoid and how to integrate the community historian with the academic campus is a more robust way. This is the time to use all assets and to share them in exciting, innovative ways. I look forward to learning, growing and serving the oral history community. I want to use my active-listening skills to serve OHA members. ❖

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ALLISON TRACY
ORAL HISTORIAN

STANFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Biographical Information

Allison Tracy began her work in oral history in 2002 at the University of Nevada Oral History Program (UNOHP), eventually interviewing for a multi-year project on the history of women's athletics at the University of Nevada. Returning to the UNOHP in 2009, she served as an editor for the resulting book *We Were All Athletes: Title IX and Women's Athletics at the University of Nevada*. In 2008 Tracy joined the first cohort of students at Columbia University's

Oral History Master of Arts Program. Her research culminated in her master's thesis titled "I began marching: Reclaiming Narrative with the Voices of Women Organizing Project." Since April 2012 Tracy has served as the oral historian for the Stanford Historical Society, working on a three-year project to document Stanford University's history through the stories of prominent faculty members and administrators. Tracy has served as a member of the OHA Education Committee since 2010 and served on the Program Committee for the 2012 and 2013 conferences. She also moderated the Oral History and Archives interest group at the 2013 conference. From 2011 to 2013, she served on the Southwest Oral History Association's scholarship committee. In addition to an M.A. in oral history from Columbia University, Tracy holds a B.A. in English literature and sociology from the University of Nevada.

Candidate Statement

The Oral History Association has long been an organization through which practitioners can share their work and converse about how to do oral history better. Today, as the technology and resources available to oral historians continues to expand our opportunities and change how we do oral history, conversations about best practices in the digital age are indispensable. As a member of the Council, I would like to utilize the wisdom of the OHA's membership to explore these issues so together we can set the right course. A vibrant and dynamic dialogue is essential to this process, and I would like to build a diverse membership by reaching out to community-based oral historians, K-12 teachers and practitioners in related fields and professions and by providing low-cost opportunities at the annual conference and beyond for people to learn about oral history and how to integrate it into their work. Finally, I would like to invest further in providing resources and support to the OHA membership, beginning with curating resources via the OHA's website and partnering with organizations to identify and develop content useful to our membership and beyond. ❖

TERESA BERGEN
FREELANCE WRITER, EDITOR AND TRANSCRIPTIONIST

PORTLAND, OREGON



Biographical Information

Teresa Bergen is a Portland-based freelance writer, editor and transcriptionist who has worked with oral history since 1996. In the late 1990s, she was an oral history editor at the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History at Louisiana State University and a historical researcher for Louisiana Public Broadcasting. When she moved to Oregon in 2000, nobody was impressed by her

extensive knowledge of Louisiana history. She did freelance transcription while looking for a real job. Instead, her transcription business grew. She's since worked on an astounding variety of oral history and qualitative research projects for universities, historical societies, government entities, doctoral students and private organizations all over the U.S. Bergen has served as secretary, vice president and president of the Northwest Oral History Association and on the scholarships, nominating and publications committees of the Oral History Association. She's a long-time book reviewer for the *Oral History Review*. Bergen holds a B.A. in journalism and an MFA in fiction writing.

Candidate Statement

I've belonged to quite a few professional organizations over the last dozen years, but the Oral History Association is my favorite. Members are friendly and welcoming to the wide variety of people who join—academic historians, librarians, archivists, teachers, community historians, personal historians, graduate students and freelancers like me. As a transcriptionist, I've worked with all these categories of people. The OHA strives to make sure that people who serve different roles within oral history are represented on council. I can be a voice for the many independent people in our organization who, like me, do contract work involving oral history. Serving on council will give me a chance to give back to the OHA, which has done so much to educate me and introduce me to my colleagues in this fascinating discipline. ❖

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Do you have colleagues who use oral history in their classrooms? Or in their ongoing research projects?

Do you know of community groups exploring the use of oral history to document their work? Or local museums eager to engage area residents?

Chances are you do. And there's also a chance those people are not members of the Oral History Association. But you can fix that. Share this **Newsletter** with them. Brag about the *Oral History Review* online. Tell them about the workshops and thought-provoking sessions and like-minded new friends they'll find at an OHA conference.

And then encourage them to join OHA. They'll be glad they did.

Visit www.oralhistory.org for more information