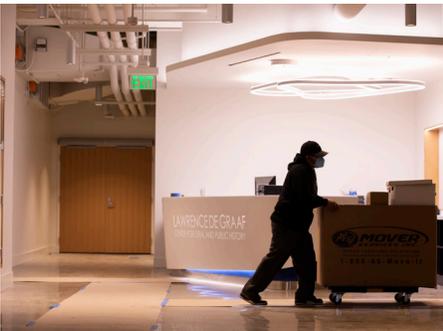
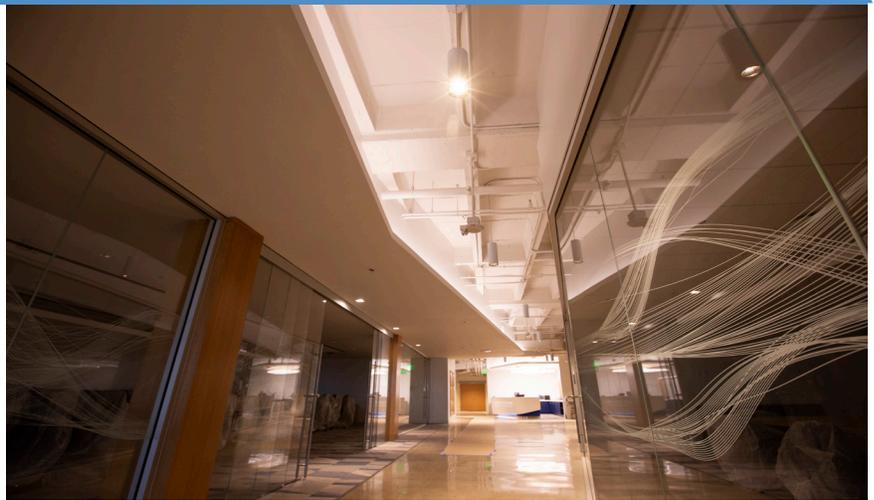


# COPH

CENTER FOR  
ORAL AND  
PUBLIC HISTORY

CALIFORNIA STATE  
UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

WINTER 2021



BIENNIAL REPORT | 2020-2021



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**FULLERTON**

LAWRENCE DE GRAAF CENTER  
FOR ORAL AND PUBLIC HISTORY

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# From the Director

DR. NATALIE FOUSEKIS



We've all been through a life-changing event since we published our Fall 2019 Biennial Report. Many in our communities have faced major challenges and losses since the COVID-19 pandemic began spreading across the United States and the globe in early 2020. In fact, the last pre-pandemic, big event I attended was our Celebrating Orange County's Political Legacy dinner on March 5, 2020 (see page 11). One week later, the university announced instruction would move online and, like all of you, the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH) continued our work and our lives remotely and isolated from each other and from family and friends. We hope as you read through these pages that you have persisted through the pandemic, recovered a small bit of normalcy, and escaped the worst ravages of the coronavirus. For those who got sick or had loved ones get sick, we want you to know we have you in our thoughts and hope healthier times are on the horizon.

While we all stayed home, miraculously construction continued on the de Graaf Center's new space on the sixth floor of Pollak Library South. Despite our initial fears that construction would be slow or halted, construction persisted throughout the spring, summer, and fall. While the construction folks worked their magic, we continued to meet remotely finalizing furniture selections, glass design details, and receiving bi-weekly updates from the campus project manager. On March 17, 2021 moving day arrived and with the help of professional movers experienced in relocating archival materials, the COPH staff, our reel-to-reel tapes, historic photographs, documents, and other precious materials moved in to our new, grand space (see photos on the cover and article on page 17). This past August when the university and library officially opened, we welcomed with delight students, faculty, and the public to the new de Graaf Center.

Since then, we have hosted the History Department's graduate student orientation, our freshman history major cohort, weekly oral history seminars, interns and graduate assistants, and VIPs touring campus with President Virjee (we love Fram's frequent visits). We look forward to welcoming even more students, faculty, and community members to the de Graaf Center in 2022 and beyond.

We could not have relocated to our new research, collaborative learning, and archival space without the support of many of you. And those who have been there since the very beginning know our efforts to create this new space began over a decade ago. In the interim the university has had three different Presidents, the college has had three different deans, and the history department has had four different chairs. Each has supported the project and helped us move it forward. We are excited to announce the recent naming of the Bette and Wylie A. Aitken Community Room with a generous pledge of \$500,000 to COPH, which has been matched by \$250,000 from the MacKenzie Scott gift to the university. As part of our official opening, we will debut our first exhibition, *The Iharas: A Typical Japanese American Family*, on display in the Asian American Showcase donated by the Ihara Family (see page 19). In addition to Lawrence de Graaf and the other individuals who have named spaces (see page 14), we would like to thank the National Endowment for the Humanities, members of the Cal State Fullerton Philanthropic Board, and many others for their generous support of our renovation and expansion initiative. While we have made significant progress toward our goal of \$4 million, we still have \$1.25 million to go. Please reach out if you know anyone who would be interested in supporting COPH or putting their name on one of our unnamed spaces.

When we abruptly shifted to remote work in spring 2020, all of our in-person oral history projects came to a screeching halt just as we were launching two new oral history projects and had multiple projects already underway. Despite our oral history work taking a pause and all of us working from home for fifteen months, as you will see in the pages of this biennial report the Center, our students, and our oral and public history work persisted. Dr. Cawthra's students created an online map of confederate monuments documenting their history from establishment to demise (see page 5); Margie Brown-Coronel's students created an Adobe Spark page, *Visions of Justice, Voices of Change* using interviews from the Women, Politics, and Activism Oral History project (<https://spark.adobe.com/page/4WITalAmlHUoQ/>); we processed the digital archive of former Congressman Ed Royce (see page 8); oral history students in my courses recorded stories of pandemic and protest in our Black Lives Matter/COVID-19 Oral History Project in fall 2020 and 2021 (see page 7); we launched a partnership project with the National Park Service focused on Mexican, Filipina, and Chicana women in the Farmworkers Movement (see page 9); interviewed former members of the California Legislative Women's Caucus as part of the revived State Government Oral History Program (see page 15); and recorded stories of Santa Barbara women activists and women who held elected office (see page 3).

As the past-President of the Oral History Association and on the OHA Council, I volunteered to join the Association's Remote Interviewing Resources Task Force

as soon as we established it in April 2020. With archivists and oral historians more versed in remote interviewing than I, my hope was to learn first-hand the best practices for remote interviewing. The staff at COPH personally tested multiple video and audio remote interviewing methods, purchased Yeti microphones for higher quality sound when interviewing via Zoom, and a cell phone adapter to record audio remotely. In the end, the Task Force produced an extremely useful guide of Remote Interviewing Best Practices and COPH came up with our own policies and best practices based on their advice and our tests. Zoom became a valuable tool to allow us to record oral histories in fall 2020 and early spring 2021 while it was not safe to gather in person. While in-person recordings will continue to be preferable most of the time, the oral history community now realizes that remote interviews are here to stay.

For those who live near and far, we hope you will contact us if you plan to come to campus or are in the area so we can give you a tour of our new, improved, and expanded space. We look forward to generations of oral and public history students, researchers, and community members visiting the Lawrence de Graaf Center to learn oral and public history methodology, to record oral histories and work on exhibitions, to attend workshops, to spend time perusing our archival collections, and to gather for lectures and talks about the region, the nation, and the globe. We invite you to visit us soon!

## COPH STAFF

**DIRECTOR:**

NATALIE FOUSEKIS

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS:**

CORA GRANATA, BENJAMIN CAWTHRA, MARGIE BROWN-CORONEL

**ARCHIVIST:**

NATALIE GARCIA\*

**BINDERS:**

BENU BANSAL\*

**PROJECT MANAGER:**

ABBY WALDROP\*

**PROJECT ASSOCIATES:**

KATHLEEN FRAZEE\*, MICHELLE HESTER\*, KATIE HORSTMAN, BRIAN MASHBURN\*, CARL PRIVETTE\*, GERRIE RUE, BRENDA ST. HILAIRE\*, ROBIN WARNER, HELEN YOSHIDA\*

**ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT COORDINATOR:**

KERI MARKEN

**GRADUATE ASSISTANTS:**

CARL PRIVETTE, KATIE HORSTMAN

**INTERNS:**

THAI BUTTERFIELD, STEPHANIE DELATEUR\*, ELIZABETH LEMUS, KHIRA MISTRY, MIRELLA MONROY, AARON SAENZ

**VOLUNTEERS:**

MARTHA NAVAR

**\* CSUF GRADUATES**

## CONTACT US

**THE LAWRENCE DE GRAAF  
CENTER FOR ORAL AND PUBLIC HISTORY**

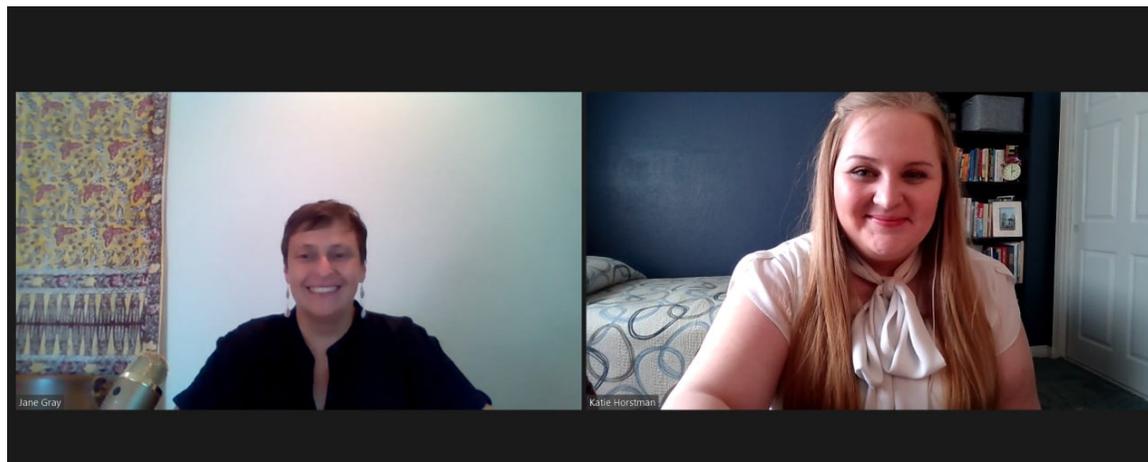
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON  
P.O. BOX 6846  
FULLERTON CA 92834-6846

E | COPH@FULLERTON.EDU  
P | 657-278-3580 F | 657-278-5069  
COPH.FULLERTON.EDU

 @COPH\_CSUF  
 @COPHFULLERTON  
 @COPHFULLERTON

# Remote Interviewing During a Global Pandemic

BY KATIE HORSTMAN-ARELLANO | PROJECT ASSOCIATE



Screenshot of Katie Horstman-Arellano interviewing Jane Gray for the Santa Barbara Women, Politics, and Activism oral history project, September 17, 2020.

In January 2020, Dr. Fousekis reached out to me and asked if I would help her with the Santa Barbara Women, Politics, and Activism Project—a smaller version of the WPA Project that included a list of about forty women to be interviewed about their involvement in politics and activism in Santa Barbara County. As a graduate student, I felt very fortunate to be able to gain experience conducting oral history interviews that I could later use for my public history master's project. And, as a young woman who had only recently moved to Southern California, I was elated to have the opportunity to explore Santa Barbara County as I traveled there to conduct interviews.

In February, I traveled to Santa Barbara to meet some of the women who I would later interview for the project, explore the archives at UCSB and a local women's organization for information about my narrators, and get a sense of what Santa Barbara County was like. Then, as the COVID-19 pandemic seized the world in March 2020, the Santa Barbara project came to a grinding halt.

As it became evident that we would not be able to safely travel to conduct in-person interviews with our narrators, we began exploring our options for remote interviewing. After testing several online recording platforms, Dr. Fousekis and her staff determined that Zoom's familiar user-interface made it the best option for recording our interviews. In the summer months, we discussed how conducting virtual interviews affected our methodology and our goals for the project. By fall, we were finally ready to begin our interviews.

On August 26, 2020, I conducted my first of about a dozen remote interviews for this project. The interview process was quite different than any other interview I had conducted before. Forms that we normally fill out in person were sent back and forth via email. Traditional in-person interviews are relatively low-tech, but virtual interviews require computers, webcams, and microphones that are all working properly. Technical issues—especially internet connectivity issues with my narrators living

“Women have always made a difference in politics. Women have a larger focus than just themselves. Women have a huge impact societally, both in their presence of being in political power, the message that that sends, and the broad issues they represent. I think that women are a huge force to be reckoned with—if they’re acting on the interests of feminism.”

– Jane Gray, member of the Santa Barbara Women’s Political Committee (SBWPC), interviewed on September 17, 2020.

in rural areas of Santa Barbara County—happened regularly. I was grateful for my background in information technology, because I often found myself troubleshooting technical issues over the phone with my narrators. “Zoom fatigue” split many of my interviews into multiple sessions. Meanwhile, noisy car horns, knocks on the door, and other unexpected interview interruptions doubled as they disrupted both my narrator’s environment and my own.

As I conducted more interviews over the following months, I noticed that the contents of these interviews were different than traditional interviews as well. Within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, my narrators seemed to think more globally as they reflected on their political involvement than other narrators who I had interviewed in-person. While they remained optimistic about the future of women in politics, they often spoke pessimistically about the current state of politics and worried about the impact that the pandemic would have on the world.

Knowing that it was important to document this moment in history, we asked our narrators questions that provided a glimpse at what life was like for them during the height of the pandemic. Some served in office and shared the challenges of developing COVID-related legislation. Others shared how their political organizations have adapted to fundraising and campaigning during the pandemic. Narrators shared how their families and communities had adapted to life in lockdown, mothers shared what it was like to raise children during a pandemic, and retirees reflected on feelings of isolation after months of quarantine. Two narrators discussed very personal experiences of losing loved ones during the pandemic. I shared many of these feelings about the pandemic with my narrators, and my own experiences of coping with the pandemic undoubtedly affected the interviews as well. These shared experiences between my narrators and myself had just as much of an impact on the interviews as did the process of remote interviewing.

Please visit the COPH website for resources and information regarding remote interviewing: <http://coph.fullerton.edu/resources/remotointerviewing.php>.



Lisa Guravitz at the Rally for Racial Justice with her husband, Fred Shaw, 2020.

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“We’ve been really fortunate that we’re both already retired, so financially we’re okay. In fact, we pretty much donated all of our stimulus checks to organizations that are helping those that are struggling. So, you know, that part’s okay. I don’t feel like we’re gonna lose our home or anything, which is good, but it’s just the people, the connections. You know, it’s been really hard.”

– Lisa Guravitz, member of the Santa Barbara Women’s Political Committee (SBWPC), on the pandemic. Interviewed on September 3, 2020.

# Mapping Confederate Monuments

BY DR. BENJAMIN CAWTHRA | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



Monument to Confederate General Robert E. Lee, shown here in 1890, when it was first erected, and in 2020, during the protests following George Floyd's murder.

The series of events followed one another as scabs torn from an unhealed national wound: the 2015 Charleston shooting, in which a neo-Confederate left nine African American parishioners dead; the 2017 “Unite the Right” rally of white supremacists in Charlottesville, in which one counterprotester died and dozens more were injured; and the 2020 murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, captured on smart phone for the horrified eyes of the world to see. Floyd’s murder became a national boiling point over police brutality against African Americans that had been building since the 2012 death of Trayvon Martin. Opposing the rise of white Christian nationalism that had supported Donald J. Trump’s political rise, the Black Lives Matter movement brought the issue of Confederate memory into contemporary focus.

Symbols of the Confederacy—battle flags flown at state houses and sporting events; statuary

monuments adorning U.S. town squares and cemeteries—had always been contested by those the symbols were meant to oppress, but the events culminating in the Floyd murder opened a new chapter in which protesters—frustrated by newly-passed laws intended to protect Confederate symbols in perpetuity—began taking matters into their own hands. Official removal efforts soon followed. By 2021, even the massive Robert E. Lee equestrian statue on Monument Avenue in Richmond had come down.

Students in Dr. Benjamin Cawthra’s class certainly got an “Introduction to Public History” in 2020 and 2021. Some had participated in the protests, and each one could see the contest over historical memory playing out in real time. They set about documenting the history of these monuments, from conception to demise, in a digital archive project called *Mapping Confederate Monuments*. Using the Omeka software



Pictured here in 2005, the 90-foot tall carving of Stonewall Jackson, Robert E. Lee, and Jefferson Davis, in Stone Mountain, Georgia, is the largest Confederate monument in the world. The site itself is linked to the Ku Klux Klan, as it was used to commemorate the second founding of the KKK, in November 1915.

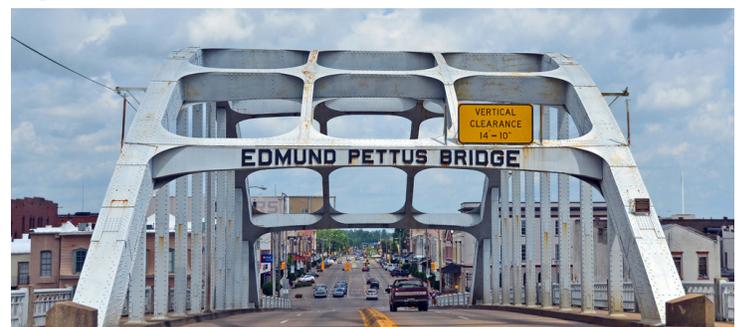
program, students learned how to conduct research for digital archives, as well as the ins and outs of the program itself. By the end of 2020 they had produced forty item entries on monuments large and small, from the massive Stone Mountain in Georgia to a cemetery memorial in Los Angeles.

The project showed just how *national* Confederate memory—the Lost Cause—really is, and how pervasive. The Confederate states made clear in 1860-61 secession documents that they were leaving the U.S. to protect slavery. Postwar monuments to the Confederacy perpetuated the idea that slavery had not been a major cause of disunion, encouraging white Americans nationwide to venerate CSA leaders and common soldiers as noble warriors simply fighting to defend their homeland against an aggressive invader. Students uncovered the leading role played by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, a women's organization dedicated to perpetuating the Lost Cause in American memory through monuments. These symbols purported to memorialize the past, but their installation at the height of Jim Crow segregation and voter disfranchisement, along with their symbolic resistance to the ideals of the civil rights movement, made them anything but nostalgic memorials of a peaceful past in which African Americans were supposedly acquiescent. One student found a connection between the Confederacy and the ongoing struggle for equality by researching the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, named for a

Confederate officer and site of the notorious Bloody Sunday attack on John Lewis and other voting rights protesters in 1965.

Mississippi author William Faulkner, surrounded as he was by symbols of the Confederacy, famously wrote in *Requiem for a Nun* that “the past is never dead. It's not even past.” Public history students continue to update and add to the *Mapping Confederate Monuments* project even as so many of these symbols come down from their pedestals. They are doing so at a moment when the Confederate past may finally be placed where it belongs—in history, to be researched and studied, not to be venerated as a noble cause and visible argument for white supremacy in a contemporary society straining toward a more just and equal American era.

To view the *Mapping Confederate Monuments* project, please visit:  
<https://demo4hist402a2020fall.omeka.net/>



Named for a Confederate General, the Edmund Pettus bridge is now more recognizable for its connection to civil rights activist, John Lewis.

# Covid-19/BLM Oral History Project

BY DR. NATALIE FOUSEKIS | DIRECTOR

“When we were in the thick of it it felt like it wouldn’t end and it felt like--it felt debilitating. It felt like it was the only thing happening in the world”

–Kate Bayhan, DNP, RN, CCRN. CSUF faculty member and emergency nurse, interviewed on November 11, 2021.



As I prepared for my oral history course in the fall of 2020 and the pandemic continued to shape the way we lived, I changed the thematic focus of the class from interviewing women in politics to interviewing Southern Californians about their experience during the pandemic or as participants/observers of the May 2020 Black Lives Matter protests. I hoped it would allow my students to record stories that were relevant to their current lived experience and explore the different ways the pandemic was impacting our community. We joined an effort across the region, the nation, and the globe to document the pandemic with oral histories, journal entries, documents, and photographs. My oral history class has continued this work in fall 2021. Students have interviewed essential workers, health care workers, funeral home employees, university administrators, students at different stages in their education, elected officials, those who don’t believe in the vaccine or government policies dictating personal behavior, as well as participants and observers of the May 2020 Black Lives Matter protests. All of the interviews in Fall 2020 took place via Zoom. In fall 2021 my students are interviewing both in-person and remotely.

The stories they’ve recorded are as diverse as the communities in which we live. One student interviewed a grocery store employee who shared

her fears of working around the public early in the pandemic. Another interviewed a pharmacy employee who helped install a makeshift plastic barrier with shower curtains to separate the workers from the customers. A funeral home employee described what happened when funerals and burials paused abruptly in spring 2020. The university librarian detailed how the library transitioned from in-person to remote services to students and faculty. A young Black woman detailed being the only Black person at a suburban Black Lives Matter protest in May 2020. A photographer shared his memories and the photographs he took while documenting the Los Angeles BLM protests and the looting that followed. The interviews with nurses and physicians on the front lines of the pandemic have been particularly moving and heart wrenching. One recalled a shift where she wore PPE from head-to-toe for 13 hours straight not taking a single break to eat or go to the bathroom because so many hospital workers were out with COVID. Another recalled how she tried to support her patients and their families when it became clear the patient was going to die from COVID-19. That same nurse also talked about the hopeful and joyous moments as her hospital played the Beatles “Here Comes the Sun” every time a COVID patient recovered and went home. The COVID-19/BLM Project will continue, hopefully with funding, in 2022.

# Cataloging Ed Royce's Political Papers in Progress

BY ABBY WALDROP | PROJECT MANAGER | M.A. GRADUATE HISTORY, 2013

In 2019 retired U.S. Congressman—and CSUF alum—Ed Royce donated papers from his twenty-six-year tenure to CPH's digital archive. Over 800 digital documents and 20 gigabytes worth of material have been processed and catalogued in a nearly 300-page descriptive finding aid.

and implement anti-stalking legislation, a cause he continued to champion on a national level in Congress.

Throughout hundreds of correspondence and legislative documents, Royce's unyielding dedication to patriotism, human rights, preservation, safety and security remains evident.



Ed Royce signing subpoena on behalf of the Foreign Affairs Committee



Hilary Rodham Clinton on the day of her first testimony on Benghazi, appearing before the Senate Foreign Relations and the House Foreign Affairs Committees.

The majority of these documents pertain to Royce's chairmanship of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, during which he oversaw hearings on Benghazi, Iranian nuclear proliferation, Ukrainian sovereignty, and the ongoing war on terror. But it was also lesser-known issues that garnered the Chairman's international priority and focus, like his exhaustive work in African wildlife and natural resource preservation, the empowerment and education of women and girls, and the release of imprisoned human rights and political activists throughout the world.

Additionally, there is a smaller series related to Royce's ten years in the California State Senate (1983-1993) where he was the first to initiate

The second and final phase for the collection will include uploading folder and document descriptions onto the widely-used online platform, ArchivesSpace, making it more readily available to the public. Expected completion for the Edward R. Royce Collection is anticipated by mid to late 2022.



Ed Royce and the Dalai Lama during His Holiness's visit to Orange County in 2015.

# Documenting the Experiences of Mexican, Filipina, and Chicana Women in California Agriculture

BY NATALIE GARCIA | ARCHIVIST | M.A. GRADUATE HISTORY, 2015



In 2020, the César E. Chávez National Monument reached out to COPH to see if there could be a partnership in collecting and preserving the voices of female farm workers in California. The monument is located northeast of the town of Keene, and is operated by the National Park Service and the National Chavez Center. The NPS wanted to mark and reflect on the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which prohibited discrimination in voting based on gender. According to the NPS, “This nationwide effort seeks to honor the full diversity of women’s experiences, including their pivotal roles in movements for Civil Rights and economic justice.” The determination to unionize California farm workers during the 1960s and 1970s represents one of the most important social movements of the twentieth century. Mexican, Chicana, and Filipina women during this time made up a significant portion of the state’s agricultural labor force. These women non-violently marched, cooked, cleaned, protested, organized, and held critical positions in the United Farm Workers union. Women did the difficult work of harvesting crops, maintaining family (and community), and nurturing a transformative movement. Yet, most scholarship on farmworker organizing has largely centered around male voices and perspectives.

“I don’t want to be responsible for making the world a little worse. If anything, I want to be responsible for making it a little better, and at least impacting somebody’s life to where it’s better for them.”

–Barbara Macri-Ortiz, interviewed on October 29, 2021.



Juanita Valdez-Cox speaking at podium during La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE) protest rally, 2021

This project highlights and documents the critical contributions made to American history by women farm workers. Through collaboration, our primary goal is to preserve firsthand accounts of farm work and labor organizing through in-person interviews. The second goal is the organization of a virtual public forum. According to the NPS, “During this event, interviewees, oral historians, scholars, park staff, and relevant experts will discuss the findings and their significance to women’s history, and in contrast to the history of agricultural labor in the United States. The forum will be recorded, archived, and also be available for viewing.” Lastly, the third component of this project is to include its contents on NPS. Gov, which will highlight key segments of the oral histories. An essay will also be drafted to contextualize the interviews with an added annotated bibliography of scholarly literature on gender and agricultural labor in the United States.

# Archiving During the Covid-19 Pandemic

BY NATALIE GARCIA | ARCHIVIST | M.A. GRADUATE HISTORY, 2015

**M**arch 2020. The week after I helped my colleagues set up and work our annual O.C. Politics event, we were told to gather our belongings and to take what we needed to work from home. I thought to myself, “I need our entire server and the archive.” I receive frequent requests for materials and they range from various topics. With around 300 projects in our collection, some days I don’t know what oral histories I have to investigate. I felt helpless. As I thought of a game plan, I tried to push my stresses away and I copied our most requested projects to my 1TB external hard drive.



The Daily Titan announced that classes were going online on March 16, 2020. By March 17, staff were told to work from home, as well.

I know what some of you might be thinking right now – Why didn’t you use a VPN and connect to your desktop from home? At that point, IT hadn’t set that option up for me nor do I think they thought this situation would last long enough. They also told me I needed to restart my computer every week with a VPN, and we hadn’t been granted access to the Center yet. Thankfully, the copied projects sustained me for a while. In retrospect, I’m glad I copied all these files because as everyone else’s work dwindled, mine got busier. The flood of requests I received was intense. Pre-pandemic on average, I fulfilled at least two to three requests per week. I handled five to ten requests per week at the height of the pandemic. Since our patrons were now working from home, they had more

time to conduct their research and also publish. I spent a lot of time fixing audio and video files as well as approving publishing requests. On the days where I felt upset about COVID-19, seeing so many projects flourish made me feel better. I completed many of my other job duties, but my guiding light was seeing the impact COPH’s oral histories had on our patrons. During a regular semester, I usually receive five to ten publishing requests. During Fall 2020, I received around 30 publishing requests. As time progressed, we were granted temporary access to our materials and I was given VPN access. But, I won’t forget the time when I worked from home during the pandemic. Thank you to all our patrons for caring about and using our precious oral histories during such a tumultuous time. You kept me busy and filled me with hope.



Archivist, Natalie Garcia, is able to work with COPH's physical materials once again, after more than a year away from them.

# Orange County Politics Event Shines Brightest on Eve of Pandemic

BY ABBY WALDROP | PROJECT MANAGER | M.A. GRADUATE HISTORY, 2013



Guests mingle on the Summit House patio just before for our annual Orange County Politics event, on March 5, 2020.

**O**n March 5, 2020, COPH held its largest and most successful O.C. Politics fundraiser event to date. We recognized retired California State Senator Joe Dunn, Assemblyman Curt Pringle, and former Orange County Supervisor Harriett Weider (posthumously).

Over 200 guests celebrated the county's political history in a bipartisan gathering that supported our Center's future. In good humor, and like the formidable orators they are, Dunn and Pringle competed for the evening's longest acceptance speech, while Weider's daughter graciously accepted her mother's recognition by recalling her unyielding call to action. The banter and drinks flowed through the evening, and at its close we expressed our thanks to guests with countless handshakes and hugs (you see where I'm going with this). Staff departed the Summit House with pats on the back and hearts full, basking in the afterglow of a momentous, record-breaking event, one for the books.

A week later, our entire staff—along with the rest of the world—left the office for the last time. What we thought would be two weeks became sixteen turbulent months of at-home everything; “the new normal” was well upon us. And when we finally returned to campus, we were armed with vaccines, masks, and distance. But I digress, this is what happened *before* all that.

Twenty-twenty started out like most years at COPH: scrambling for last minute interviews with honorees, producing their highlight videos for the event, securing guest lists and donors, and checking off last-minute tasks. It's an annual, organized chaos we at COPH were all too familiar with.

The Joe Dunn and Curt Pringle interviews were complete, and their highlight videos were almost there. Our work further compounded with the memory of Harriett Weider, condensing five interviews—in which her daughter and close colleagues retold tales

“Never stop being a student. As soon as a politician believes they know better on any issue, on any question, time to leave politics. Forever be a student: a hunger to learn, a hunger to learn from people that you’ve never encountered in life, a hunger to learn from people that vehemently disagree with your political views, always pull those lessons in and learn from them.” – Joe Dunn, interviewed on January 15, 2020.

of her flamboyance, energy and charisma—into one shortened segment. In all three scenarios, co-producer Brian Mashburn and I agreed we’d hit the jackpot and actually faced a good problem: too much good material. We carefully whittled down the hours-long histories into their presentable seven-minute vignettes.

The work can best be described as disordered fun. Little did we know the back-and-forth emails and texts, the *change-this, change-that, add-this, remove-that*, would be our last for nearly two years. (Yes, in the wake of the continuing pandemic, the 2021 Politics event would be cancelled.) The joyful chaos would be, and has been, greatly missed.

“If everything is viewed in black-and-white, you’re on one side of beliefs or the other, I just think that’s a terrible place to be. Because nothing happens without bipartisan support.”

– Curt Pringle, interviewed on November 18, 2019.

So, too, have the times recalled by Dunn, Pringle, and those close to Weider. Times in which bipartisan dialogue radiated through our legislature, and effective policy was the hard-earned result. Pringle, a Republican Speaker of the Assembly, spoke at length about his regu-

lar lunches with Democrat of legend Willie Brown, how they came together on process, not party. Democrat Joe Dunn echoed similar sentiments when he shared about cofounding the UCI law school. Much credit, he said, was owed to his dear friend (and Republican) Senator Dick Ackerman, because the law school was a result of a political fight they’d had years prior. Harriett Weider, who’d been affiliated with both political parties, operated under those standardized principles, supporting issues that affected everyone—waste management, water, land use—well before they were today’s main headlines. All three of these stories supplied much food for political thought, and we invite readers to learn more about them, and others, on our Vimeo page: [Vimeo.com/coph](https://vimeo.com/coph)

As the next O.C. Politics event peaks on the horizon and we move into (hopefully) a post-pandemic period, we’ll see how easily we can return to that routine chaos we once knew so well. As Joe Dunn said, “It’s really us who need to change, and politics will always reflect that.” Something tells me we might be a little more deliberate and nostalgic in our efforts this time around.

In March 2022 we look forward to recognizing Chris Cox, Jean Pasco, and Miguel Pulido.



From left: Emcee, Dick Ackerman; Curt Pringle (2020 honoree); Gayle Tauber, accepting for Harriett Weider (2020 honoree, posthumous); CSUF President, Fram Virjee; COPH Director, Dr. Natalie Fousekis; Joe Dunn (2020 honoree)

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We'd like to acknowledge the recent generous pledge and named gift by Bette and Wylie A. Aitken to establish the Bette and Wylie A. Aitken Community Room.

The Aitkens join our other generous namings:

The Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History  
Kay Sanford Van Harte Student Collaboration Room  
The William Lyon Family Reading Room  
The Gordon M. Bakken Processing Room  
Asian American Showcase sponsored by the Ihara Family  
The Art and Debbie Hansen Archivist Office  
The Fousekis Family Office  
The Rosso Family Office

# State Government Oral History Program Begins Anew

BY DR. NATALIE FOUSEKIS | DIRECTOR



CSUF History graduate, Brenda St. Hilaire, interviews former CA State Senator, Carol Liu, for the California State Politics Oral History project.

As COVID-19 caused the region and the nation to stay at home in Spring 2020, the de Graaf Center received funding from the California State Archives to interview founding and early members of the California Legislative Women's Caucus as well as other former state legislators from Southern California. While the intention had been to record in-person, high-definition video oral histories, it became clear the pandemic would not be short lived. As with all of our oral history projects in spring 2020, we paused, waited, and then developed a strategy to proceed. We began conducting interviews remotely via Zoom in fall 2020, fearing we might lose valuable stories if we waited too long. Our lead interviewer on the project, Brenda St. Hilaire (CSUF MA, 2020), began recording interviews via Zoom in November 2020. We continued via Zoom through the winter, transitioning back to in-person interviews once we were all vaccinated in the late spring/summer 2021. During this period,

St. Hilaire interviewed 93-year-old Sally Tanner in three November 2020 interview sessions. They talked about her fourteen years in the state assembly, her role in passage of the California Lemon Law, and the founding of the Women's Caucus just ten months before Tanner passed away in August 2021.

*"I want women to run for office. I want women to be active politically. It is a very healthy, exciting kind of work to do. And I would be willing to help any woman who wants help."*

—Sally Tanner 1926-2021, former CA State Assemblywoman, interviewed on November 2, 2020.

Launched in 1985, the original State Government Oral History Program recorded oral histories to tell the legislative and executive history of the state. For my book, *Demanding Child Care*, and like many scholars who studied California politics and policy

“I think the women did work together pretty effectively and there were lots of friendships that were across the aisle... I was close to Bev [Hansen]. We figured out if you had a bill that was Hansen and Eastin or Eastin and Hansen, a Democrat and a Republican, you’d probably get a signature regardless of who the Governor was.”

–Delaine Eastin, former CA Assemblywoman and Superintendent of Public Instruction, interviewed on November 4, 2021.

in the middle of the 20th Century, I turned to these interviews to provide the first-hand perspective of male legislators about child-care legislation debated between World War II and the mid-1960s. This oral history program was a partnership between the California State Archives and university-based oral history programs across the state. During these years the partners included Cal State Fullerton, UCLA, UC Davis, Sacramento State, and UC Berkeley. This program lasted from 1985 until funding was cut in 2003 because of state budget constraints. By then the project had recorded close to 200 interviews with mostly white men as they dominated the state’s legislative branch during its first 150 years. Larry de Graaf, a founding university faculty member and for whom our center is named, served as an interviewer for the initial project.

Thanks to the efforts of some persistent historians and librarians, California reestablished the program in 2018 and provided its first funding in 2019-2020. The Regional Oral History Center at UC Berkeley officially launched this new phase of funding with its 40 plus hours of interview with former two-time Governor, Jerry Brown. In 2021 the revitalized State Government Oral History Program has awarded funding for the next three years to three institutions – the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History at CSUF, the Center for Public and Oral History at San Diego State, and the Oral History Center at UC Berkeley. In addition to focusing on the Legislative Women’s Caucus, the larger project will focus on the increasing diversity of the California Legislature by recording interviews with early and founding members of the Latino Legislative Caucus, the LGBT Caucus, the Black Caucus, and others. Despite COVID, COPH completed interviews with nine former founding and early members of the Legislative Women’s Caucus. These women talked about the importance of bipartisanship during the Caucus’ early years and the collaboration and friendship it helped promote among the 12 women legislators during the year surrounding its founding. They spoke of being leaders on issues of importance to women and children – childcare, pay equity, and

family leave. These former legislators also highlight their accomplishments beyond issues of concern to women and children such as laws to protect the consumer, the disabled and elderly, the environment as well as reducing class size in the state’s public schools and establishing recycling standards.

Over the next three years, COPH staff and CSUF students will complete approximately 45 interviews to add to this collection. We look forward to recording and preserving the increasingly diverse influential voices in California politics and policy.



Photo of the 1988 issue of *California Journal* featuring (clockwise from left) Jackie Speier, Becky Morgan, Delaine Eastin, Marian Bergeson, and Bev Hansen.

# Moving Day for the COPH Archives

BY CARL PRIVETTE | PROJECT ASSOCIATE | M.A. GRADUATE HISTORY, 2020



Chipman Movers were contracted by CSUF to transport our collection materials from their original location on the third floor of Pollak Library South, to their new home on the sixth floor.

Months before we officially moved our collection materials into our new, larger, archive space on the sixth floor of the Pollak Library, we set to work planning and preparing. First, COPH staff mapped out and predetermined shelf locations for each box, media recording, and physical object. However, we soon discovered that many of our shelves would need to be removed or repositioned at different height levels to accommodate various sizes of boxes and historical objects. To our chagrin, our new metal shelves proved to be more difficult to adjust than we had initially thought. After a couple weeks of loudly pounding and adjusting the shelves into place, the stacks were ready to receive our collection materials from the third floor of Pollak Library.

Moving day arrived on March 17, 2021, and our new stacks and reading room shelves gradually filled up with books, audio and video recordings, document boxes, and historical objects. Once everything was successfully moved, it was time to organize our materials. My first job involved arranging our supplemental and retail book collections. Located in the cabinets underneath the oral histories in the reading room, I stored the supplemental books in the same bookcase column as their oral history project's placement on the shelves. This way, students and researchers could easily find secondary sources on their topic of choice without having to search in every cabinet for related reading material. As far as our books for sale, I situated them alphabetically in the archives for easy access for the COPH staff.

After categorizing the books, our extensive collection of cassette tapes, containing original recordings of oral history interviews, needed to be reorganized and stored in their new archive section. Back on the third floor, we had stored our original cassette tapes inside card catalog cabinets. However, our new archival space was not designed to accommodate the cabinets due to fire and safety regulations. As a result, we conducted a cost analysis to determine precisely how many archival boxes would be needed for the cassette tapes. Once we received the new boxes, I distributed the cassette tapes in numerical order inside the boxes and placed them onto a few of our shorter shelf stacks. With boxes and books stored on shelves, the next phase involved the longest and most critical part of the move.



Carl Privette shelves oral history transcripts in the new reading room.

An extensive inventory of the archives needed to be conducted to finalize the location and placement of our collection holdings. After labeling each archive stack with an identifiable range, I created spreadsheets for each range, with each row representing a shelf along each stack range, and an additional heading outlining the general description of archival material on each shelf. Most boxes included labels with sufficient, general oral history project information to use in the spreadsheet. However, I needed to search through some boxes to provide more detailed descriptions of what materials were inside. The more detail I included in the general inventory, the easier it would be for COPH staff to locate records, recordings, and objects in the archive.

Part of the inventory phase also involved processing and inventorying a large amount of backlog material. From reel-to-reels and cassettes, to books, photographs and negatives, to other ephemera, our backlog material needed to be inventoried and described onto spreadsheets. Miscellaneous reel-to-reels and cassette tapes needed to be tagged and identified for COPH staff. Once processed and inventoried, the majority of the backlog boxes were relocated to their new locations in the archive, placed alongside existing material within given projects.

After months of extensive processing, organizing, and inventorying, the archive has now reached its next, continuous stage: the reorganization of material to best utilize archive space. Like other archival repositories, we want to best utilize the space for current and future archival records and materials. At times, that requires adjusting shelves to accommodate boxes and objects of different sizes, as well as moving existing collection material around to create room for more material. The boxes containing oral history recordings on compact discs were the first materials to be relocated. At the start of the move, they were spread out across multiple ranges away from other media mediums. Now, the CDs are located on the ranges alongside the cassette tapes. Even though the official move is now complete, we will continue to analyze how best to reconfigure and use our new archive space to accommodate our existing and future collection material.



Project Manager, Abby Waldrop, and Archivist, Natalie Garcia organize materials in the archive.

# A New Exhibit Spotlights Interviews in the Japanese American Oral History Project

BY HELEN YOSHIDA | PROJECT ASSOCIATE | M.A. GRADUATE HISTORY, 2019

“...we’re not just talking about the great men of history. We’re talking about all of the other people who were involved and contributed, suffered and persevered through all of that.”

– Dr. Craig Ihara, emeritus professor of Philosophy at CSUF

The first or second year that I was at Cal State [Fullerton] I was interviewed for the oral history program,” said Dr. Craig Ihara, emeritus professor of Philosophy at California State University Fullerton (CSUF). “I was always very impressed with it because it had such a focus back then on the Japanese American relocation experience, so I was happy to contribute.”

Ihara and his cousins, Toni Ihara and Jeri Jo Yokoi Lee, were interviewed for the Japanese American Oral History Project at the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH). Now, their contributions are culminating in a new exhibit entitled *The Iharas: A Typical (Japanese) American Family*. It will feature historical photographs and oral history excerpts that tell the story of their family’s origins in Los Angeles, their recovery from wartime incarceration, and inclusion in the American melting pot.

“My idea was to be able to highlight the Asian experience in America, and so I hope people come into the oral history program will see that and will realize that there are a lot of important and interesting things to be found there,” said Ihara.

Ihara’s grandparents settled in Los Angeles in 1922. Born in 1888, his grandfather immigrated to Seattle in 1907. He became a bookkeeper for the Southwest Berry Exchange in Los Angeles. Born in 1894 and educated in Japan, Miyoko immigrated to San Francisco for an arranged marriage to Teiso in 1919. She was

a skilled seamstress who occasionally worked with Hollywood stars. Together they had three children: Toshiro, Peter, and Mary. All of them were incarcerated at the Rohwer camp in Arkansas during World War II, where Ihara was born. The Iharas eventually returned to Los Angeles to raise their families, who now live in and beyond southern California. Years later, Ihara co-founded the Asian American Studies Department at CSUF.



Miyoko, Teiso, Toshiro, Mary, and Peter Ihara, 1928



The birth announcement of Dr. Craig Ihara in the March 31, 1943 issue of *The Rohwer Outpost*. Courtesy, Library of Congress.



Toshiro Ihara, Harris and Mary Yokoi, and Peter Ihara circa 1945-1946

Throughout his career at CSUE, Ihara has focused most of his efforts on supporting the Philosophy and Asian American Studies departments. Along the way, he developed an interest in oral history and robust relationship with COPH.

“To me, it’s the fact that they’re collecting first-hand experiences, primarily from ordinary people who have lived through experiences of note,” he said. “I think that’s really important so we’re not just talking about the great men of history. We’re talking about all of the other people who were involved and contributed, suffered and persevered through all of that.”

“One of the reasons why I got interested in the Asian American Studies program was because I knew firsthand what it was like not having a place to go when you wanted to study about your own ethnic background,” he said. “Asian American Studies spends a lot of time talking about the immigrant experience. How people came over and why they came over, and what they had to struggle with when they came over. I thought this was something that my family, especially my grandmother who was very much a cultured lady, would want me to promote. So that’s how I got involved.”

# Creating Access to California History

BY JENNIFER L. KEIL | M.A. GRADUATE HISTORY, 2014

When I earned a Masters of History in 2014, I had the opportunity to be trained in oral and public history methods. The Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH) facilitated internships with museums, which created many meaningful learning opportunities. My interests in local history developed as an intern at the Nixon Museum, Brea Museum, and Balboa Island Museum. As a graduate student, I centered my research on creating community collections and I began participating at Oral History Association (OHA), Southwest Oral History Association (SOHA), and National Council for Public History (NCPH) conferences. When I attended these annual meetings, I realized the impact that COPH has on these professional networks—professors often organize student conference panels, and presenting your research as a graduate student helps one network and prepare for a career in history.



Today, I am an active committee member of OHA and Past President of SOHA. COPH supported my role as a conference chair for the SOHA conference at CSUF in 2018. The SOHA at OHA 2021 virtual meeting commemorated the 40th anniversary of the organization. We will have our next in-person SOHA conference at UNLV April 1-3, 2022, and the next OHA conference will be held in Los Angeles from October 19-22, 2022. We hope you will consider being a presenter and submit your ideas to our forthcoming call for submissions.



SOHA at OHA 2019 in Salt Lake City, Utah



Aliso Viejo Ranch historians and curators, Jennifer and Cindy Keil

CSUF is also a co-partner with students who intern with my business, 70 Degrees. We are currently developing the Moulton Museum in Laguna Hills, which is set to open in 2022. We have partnered with Aliso Viejo Ranch, Casa Romantica, California Rangeland Trust, OC Parks, Soka University, Laguna Woods History Center, Laguna Playhouse, and Laguna College of Art + Design. Our goal is to provide historical resources to communities by providing access to digital collections—from implementing QR codes in our exhibition designs to curating digital history at our sites. Please follow our journey at [70degrees.org](http://70degrees.org).

# In Memoriam

BY KERI MARKEN | ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT COORDINATOR



Over the past two years we've witnessed the loss of several people close to Cal State Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. We want to dedicate this page to these remarkable individuals and the significant contributions they have made to our community and to the field of history.

In November 2020 and May 2021, the Department of History lost professors emeriti: Dr. Nancy Fitch and Dr. William "Bill" Haddad. Dr. Fitch, who taught at Cal State Fullerton for 32 years, was known for her commitment to her students, as well as her tireless service to the university. Dr. Haddad, who became a member of the CSUF faculty in 1987, taught Middle Eastern and Japanese history and served as chair of the department until he retired in 2011. He was also instrumental in transforming the oral history program into a university-recognized Center in 2003.



Dr. Nancy Fitch and Dr. William "Bill" Haddad, longtime professors in the Department of History

In addition to history faculty, we also saw the loss of sociology professor, Dr. John (Jack) Bedell, who served the university for 40 years, and English professor, Dr. Pauline June Salz Pollak, who taught for 33 years. In 2018 both professors were interviewed for the Center's Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty oral history project and reflected on their time at CSUF.

Professor of sociology, Gerald P. "Jerry" Rosen, will be remembered for his Chicano Students in Los Angeles oral history project, which includes inter-

views with student activists involved in the Chicano movement and the walkouts of 1968. His collection of interviews is housed in the Center and has become an invaluable resource for researchers.

Beyond CSUF, Bob Johnson, former head of the Fair Housing Council and scholar on Black history in Orange County, passed away in April 2021. Johnson was the co-editor of *A Different Shade of Orange: Voices of Orange County, California, Black Pioneers*. This compilation of interviews, taken from the Center's collections, highlighted the experience of Black migration into Orange County and brought our oral histories to a broader audience.

Lastly, we want to recognize the oral history narrators who generously contributed their stories to our collections. We are deeply grateful that we had the opportunity to record their stories before they passed.



**From left to right:** Rita Walters (WPA project, 2017); Sally Tanner (CA State Politics project, 2020); Emilia Castaneda de Valenciana (Mexican American project, 1971); General William Lyon (OC History project, 2014); Genevieve Huizar (WPA project, 2013); Carmen Valencia (WPA project, 2013); Sandra Hutchens (OC Politics project, 2018).

## CALENDAR

For additional activities and events, please visit [coph.fullerton.edu](http://coph.fullerton.edu)

### **FEBRUARY 26, 2022**

#### **CAPTURING THE SPOKEN WORD: AN INTRODUCTORY ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP**

COPH will lead this introductory workshop, ideal for students, independent researchers, and community members seeking to learn the methodology, preparation, recording, and transcription of oral histories.

For more information please email: [coph@fullerton.edu](mailto:coph@fullerton.edu)

### **MARCH 3, 2022**

#### **CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF ORANGE COUNTY'S POLITICAL HISTORY**

Please join us for dinner and a public program at the Summit House in Fullerton. Invitations will be mailed in early 2022