

# COPH

CENTER FOR  
ORAL AND  
PUBLIC HISTORY

CALIFORNIA STATE  
UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

WINTER 2017



BIENNIAL REPORT | 2016-2017



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**FULLERTON**

LAWRENCE DE GRAAF CENTER  
FOR ORAL AND PUBLIC HISTORY

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# From the Director

NATALIE FOUSEKIS



As 2017 comes to a close, we have many reasons to celebrate at the Center for Oral and Public History (COPH). As you may have noticed, we have a new name – the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History.

This name is in recognition of \$1 million in gifts and pledges from Cal State Fullerton emeritus history professor, Lawrence B. de Graaf. A founding faculty member of the university and the unofficial university historian, Dr. de Graaf pioneered and inspired oral and public history work on this campus. Moreover, Dr. de Graaf has continued to be a champion of the Center's work since his retirement in 2003, attending our events, supporting our efforts to expand our public history work, and promoting our initiative to renovate and relocate the Center to the 6th floor of Pollak Library South. To those of us involved with COPH, it means a great deal to have the Center named after one of the innovators and leaders of oral and public history work on our campus. With Dr. de Graaf's pledge and gifts, we are much closer to making our move to the 6th floor a reality.

In the pages that follow, you will be able to read about and see images of all the marvelous work the Center, our faculty, and our students have been involved with in the past two years. We have completed the interviews and have launched the website for the Women, Politics, and Activism Project, funded by a major research grant from the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation. My students, Project Manager, Abby Waldrop, and I have interviewed over 200 Southern California women engaged in politics and grassroots activism. Personally, I have had the pleasure of interviewing some of the region's most influential political women, hearing them reflect on their lives and contributions as well as comment on

the importance of having women's voices in politics. My colleague, Margie Brown-Coronel and I collaborated with our master's student Jael Müller and history graduate students on a spring 2017 exhibition, *Voces de Liberación: Latinas and Politics in Southern California*, in the Library's Salz-Pollak Atrium Gallery. Associate Director Cora Granata and her students helped stage well-established German public history project, the Lange Tafel (Long Table) in Southern California with the inaugural Long Table Los Angeles event held in Grand Park in spring 2016. Over 150 community members, elementary school students, Cal State Fullerton students, and a delegation from Berlin gathered over a meal to celebrate Southern California immigrant stories.

The Center has also committed itself to sharing its projects with an ever-widening public audience through its new podcast, a more dynamic website, and a strategy of using social media to promote our work. In spring 2016, under the guidance of producer, Carie Rael, the Center launched *Outspoken: A COPH podcast*, hosted by Associate Director Benjamin Cawthra. Please check out our website, listen to *Outspoken*, and follow us on social media to keep up with all our exciting new projects.

We continue to ensure that the de Graaf Center has a strong presence at our national professional organizations. In fall 2017 I became Vice-President of the Oral History Association (OHA) and will serve as its President in 2018. I am excited to be one of OHA's leaders as we continue to promote important oral



Flanking de Graaf are, from left, CSU Chancellor Timothy White, CSUF President Mildred García, and Rebecca Eisen, chair of the CSU Board of Trustees. They gathered at the March 21 session of the board's Committee on Institutional Advancement.

history work in academic and community settings across the nation and the globe. Associate Director Cora Granata helped shape the program at OHA's national meeting in Minneapolis this past October, continuing her efforts to ensure there are international voices at the yearly meeting. Associate Director, Benjamin Cawthra, remains an active member of the National Council for Public History, serving on its Finance Committee.

We are also delighted to announce the addition of two new history department faculty members in digital history, Dr. Jamila Moore-Pewu and Dr. Annelise Shrout. Dr. Moore Pewu received her PhD in Cultural Studies from the University of California, Davis and her work encompasses the diverse fields of Black Atlantic Studies, architectural history / theory, African and African American history, and cultural geography. Dr. Shrout received her PhD from New York University and specializes in American

and Atlantic History. Dr. Moore Pewu and Dr. Shrout have organized a Digital Humanities Colloquium for faculty and students in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. They are also training our students in the methods and approaches to presenting history in the digital realm. We look forward to sharing their work and projects with you in future years.

In these challenging times, we continue to gain strength from the diverse, powerful stories we record and preserve and the many publics we are able to share them with. We'd also like to thank our ever-growing community of generous funders who have helped us raise over \$2 million toward our renovation and expansion initiative, have supported COPH through donations at our *Celebrating Orange County's Political Legacy* event, and have provided general support for the oral and public history work we carry out with our students.

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# Hansen Lecture Series Inspires

BY DR. CORA GRANATA | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Now in its ninth year, the Hansen Lecture series continues to host inspiring speakers that strive to bring stories to light through a variety of media.



Saul Gonzalez, veteran producer and reporter for PBS and KCRW, shared his expertise in the art of interviewing for our 2016 Hansen Lecture.

We have been busy with our Hansen Lecture series, bringing important movers and shakers in the fields of oral and public history to campus in our acclaimed lecture series named after Art Hansen, one of COPH's founders and long-time director.

On Monday, April 11 2016, we brought radio journalist Saul Gonzalez to campus, known throughout the Southern California area for his groundbreaking work as a journalist and host for KCRW. Mr. Gonzalez impressed audiences with his discussion of the art of interviewing and his goal to bring voices from the margins to wider audiences through the medium of radio. Playing audio clips from some of his most impressive radio stories—including interviews with Vietnamese-American refugee families

and San Bernardino mosque attendees after the tragic mass shooting there—he showed how one can seek out surprising, often hidden stories armed just with an iPhone.



On Wednesday, April 5 2017, Oscar-nominated screenwriter Keir Pearson came to speak to a crowd of over 100 students, faculty, and community members on History and Hollywood. Mr. Pearson shared his thoughts on the power of film

to tell important historical stories and bring history to wider audiences. As a young student, Mr. Pearson had the vision to research the story of the genocide in Rwanda, traveling to Africa on borrowed frequent

flyer miles as a “kid with a backpack” to conduct oral histories with survivors of genocide. He described his challenges to get the film project funded and released, and encouraged students to follow their dreams. After achieving success with the film *Hotel Rwanda*, Mr. Pearson went on to produce and write another important historical drama, *Chavez*.



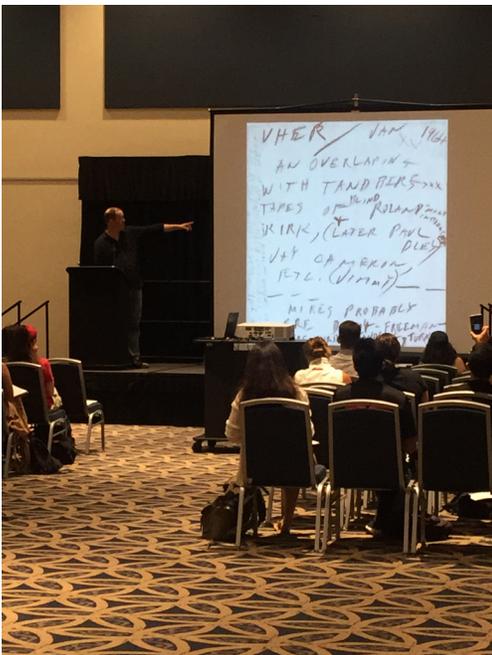
The most recent lecture in the Hansen series was given by author and documentarian, Sam Stephenson, on Wednesday, October 25, 2017. Stephenson’s talk focused on his research into the life and work of pioneering photographer W. Eugene Smith. He described the process of going through Smith’s vast archive, listening to countless hours of audio, and inspecting thousands of negatives. After examining these materials, Stephenson identified and interviewed hundreds of individuals



that visited or lived in Smith’s famed New York City loft. These interviews formed the basis of Stephenson’s most recent book, *Gene Smith’s Sink: A Wide-Angle View*, the culmination of two decades of research. Referencing the book’s title, Stephenson intrigued his audience by relating his interviewing style to a “wide angle view,” and explaining that his informal, conversational style often revealed more about his subject than a set of direct, scripted ques-

tions ever could.

Before each lecture, speakers met with students in small groups for Q and A, giving students a chance to interact with practitioners in a more intimate setting and exposing them to a variety of career possibilities.



Stephenson relied on Eugene Smith’s haphazard notes while sorting through the 4500 hours of audio tape in his archive. These notes were instrumental in identifying many of the individuals interviewed for Stephenson’s book.



Photograph by David Vestal

W. Eugene Smith, the focus of Stephenson’s research, was a longtime photographer for *Life* magazine and a pioneer of the photo-essay.

## PREVIOUS SPEAKERS

### 2008 INAUGURAL PANELS

Catherine Cole	Jacqueline Hall
David M. Kahn	Alecia P. Long
William Mittler	Della Pollock
Linda Shopes	J. Mark Souther

### 2010 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Robert Sutton

### 2011 USC SHOAH FOUNDATION

Dr. Stephen Smith

### 2012 SOCIAL ACTIVIST

Tom Hayden

### 2013 ORAL HISTORIAN, SCHOLAR

Alessandro Portelli

### 2014 PHOTOGRAPHER, ORAL HISTORIAN

Kathy Sloane

### 2016 PRODUCER, REPORTER

Saul Gonzalez

### 2017 SCREENWRITER, PRODUCER

Keir Pearson

### 2017 AUTHOR, DOCUMENTARIAN

Sam Stephenson

# Outspoken: A COPH Podcast

BY DR. BENJAMIN CAWTHRA | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



Dr. Benjamin Cawthra interviews Dr. Margie Brown-Coronel and history graduate students Mark Garcia, and Jael Müller for episode eight of *Outspoken*. In this episode the group discusses the 2017 exhibition *Voces de Liberación*, which examined the political lives of prominent southern California Latina activists.

In 2016, the Center launched a new project to share the voices from its archives and the university with the world. *Outspoken: A COPH Podcast* is an audio series featuring interviews, conversation, and archival excerpts. The roughly one-hour episodes are hosted by Dr. Benjamin Cawthra, a COPH associate director. Carie Rael produced and edited the show's first year, while Natalie Navar contributed archival segments for each podcast. All episodes are available on iTunes and SoundCloud.

The podcast concept is to make connections between the Center's research projects and archive and wider communities. Begun amid a controversial election year, *Outspoken* provides historically informed commentary and conversation highlighting the contemporary relevance of historical memory. "I like working on *Outspoken* because gives me a chance to showcase the unique oral histories we have here," Navar says. "They aren't just being preserved—they are being highlighted so people know what riches are to be found here and how relevant they are."

*Outspoken's* content lies at an intersection where oral and public history projects and current events meet. COPH Director Dr. Natalie Fousekis, for example, provides commentary on the 2016 elections with one episode devoted to the California primary and another to the general election. In an episode bringing together Black History and Women's History months, Fousekis and CSUF Women and Gender Studies professor Donna Nicol discuss the ways their research examines women in power. All three episodes highlight the Women, Politics and Activism oral history project, with Navar providing a selection of excerpts from the growing project archive. Another episode features Dr. Craig Ihara, CSUF emeritus professor of philosophy, discussing Japanese-American internment during World War II and the fate of civil liberties in today's society. Listeners hear highlights from the Center's extensive Japanese-American archive.



COPH directors, Dr. Natalie Fousekis and Dr. Benjamin Cawthra discuss the California Primary and the significance of the 2016 presidential nominees in episode two of *Outspoken*.

The podcasts also provide opportunities to spotlight public history projects involving CSUF students, faculty, and alumni. Dr. Margie Brown-Coronel is heard on two episodes, one in 2016 on *Taking a Stand: Legacies of Latina Activism in Southern California*, an exhibition hosted by the Heritage Museum of Orange County. Museum director Kevin Cabrera, a CSUF history graduate, also guests on that program. Brown-Coronel returned in 2017 with history graduate students Jael Müller and Mark Garcia to discuss *Voces de Liberación*, an exhibition at the Pollak Library examining the political lives of eight Southern California women.

In an episode highlighting the international reach of the Center's work, Dr. Cora Granata, joined by two of her students, Sarah Heim and Shaun Hughes, recall their time studying together in Germany and working on Granata's *Lange Tafel* project of intercultural exchange. Navar's archives segment draws on narrators from Granata's *From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State* oral history project.

*Outspoken* also features interviews with participants at the Oral History Association's Annual Meeting, held in Long Beach in fall 2016. New episodes will appear throughout the 2017-18 academic year.



## OUTSPOKEN: A COPH PODCAST

Outspoken: A COPH Podcast that incorporates current projects, oral histories, and archival material into monthly conversations.

Listen to us on SoundCloud  
<https://soundcloud.com/coph-csuf>

Visit our podcast website  
<http://coph.fullerton.edu/outspoken/index.php>

# Long Table LA

## A Berlin Tradition Sharing Stories Over Food Comes to Los Angeles

BY DR. CORA GRANATA | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



The first Long Table LA, March 2016 in Grand Park

In Spring 2016, COPH Associate Director Professor Cora Granata launched a unique collaboration with several non-profits in Berlin to bring a Berlin-based oral history public installation called Lange Tafel (Long Table) to Los Angeles for the first time. This project has now evolved into a long-term collaboration that has fostered international dialogue through mutual story telling.

The first-ever Long Table Los Angeles in the United States occurred in March, 2016, on a beautiful spring day at Grand Park, with picturesque LA City Hall as our back drop. The event was entirely organized by Professor Granata and a student team from her Community History class and focused on the theme “Celebrating Immigration Stories.” Working with visiting Berliners, including Lange Tafel founder and Berlin artist Isabella Mamatis, students learned oral history methods and then mentored fourth graders from a regional elementary school in collecting oral histories. Stories were then shared in a public, open-air festival where visitors could continue the dialogue at the “Long Table.” German Consul General Hans Jörg Neumann joined the festivities, as did Tom LaBonge, retired LA City Councilman and Chair Emeritus of Sister Cities LA. The highlight of the event was an oral history performance by several COPH students and alumni.



Oral history performance at Long Table Los Angeles

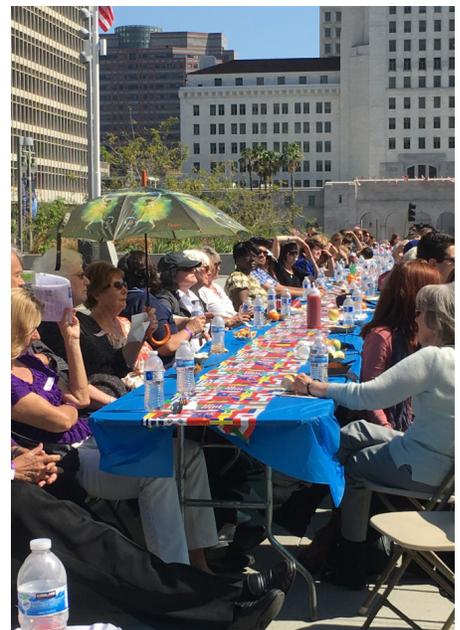


Above: Granata's Community History Students learn about Lange Tafel and community storytelling from visiting Berliners.  
Left: Granata's students mentoring fourth graders in oral history methods.

Energized and exhausted by putting on the very first Lange Tafel in the U.S., Granata and her students did not stop there. In summer, 2016, Granata and a team of students traveled to Berlin, where they spent five weeks studying immigration and refugees in Germany. Students met with refugee youth and participated in a Lange Tafel installation in the Berlin neighborhood of Kreuzberg, a working-class, immigrant, and artist district where Lange Tafel was founded 10 years earlier. Students were thrilled to be able to compare and contrast the ways Berliners and Angelenos relate to their urban settings, and also their different immigration stories. (See Photos) This collaboration continued the following summer, when History Prof. Volker Janssen took another student group to Berlin and participated in a Lange Tafel installation.



Cora Granata celebrating the success of the first Long Table LA with Isabella Marmatis, Lange Tafel founder and director, Tom LaBonge, retired LA City Councilman, Hans Jörg Neumann, German Consul General, Hans-Dieter Robel, Zeitzeugenbörse, Sonja Luther, 4th Grade Teacher, Gwenis Laura, Executive Director of the Goethe International Charter School.



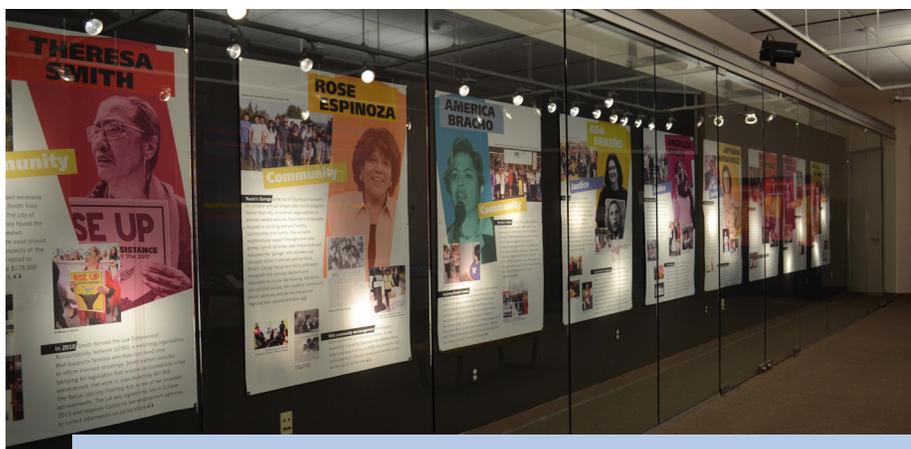
In October 2017, Lange Tafel came to LA for a second time, this time with the theme “Freedom Instead of Walls.” CSUF students joined the festivities and were honored as the founders of Long Table LA. We look forward to more international collaborations to come! For more information, photos, news stories, and a short documentary about Long Table LA, visit [www.longtablelosangeles.org](http://www.longtablelosangeles.org)

# Lending their Voices to Make the World a Better Place

BY JAEI MÜLLER | M.A. GRADUATE HISTORY, 2017

History graduate, Jael Müller, discusses her experience curating “Voces de Liberacion: Latinas and Politics in Southern California,” an exhibition recognizing the achievements of local Latina activists.

This article was originally published in *The Orange County Register*, May 10, 2017. Reprinted here with permission.



Last spring's exhibition focused on the oral histories of nine Latina activists: Theresa Smith, Rose Espinoza, America Bracho, Ada Briceño, Angelica Salas, Antonia Hernandez, Nury Martinez, Helen Torres, and Michele Martinez.

**T**wo years ago in a cafe shop in Atwater Village in Los Angeles, I told my history professor, Natalie Fousekis, that I wanted to take the oral histories I had conducted in her class regarding the immigration rights movement in Los Angeles and turn them into an exhibit. As I envisioned it, their oral histories would be exhibited alongside other Latina women who took a stand and were at the table, both in the community and politically.

To my surprise, she loved the idea, and we embarked on a journey that would be one of many joys and tears, much anxiety, stress and accomplishment. Due to the nature of the project, we both thought it was crucial to have a Latina historian on board, and there was no better candidate than Margie Brown-Coronel, assistant professor of history, who was a pupil of nationally acclaimed Latina historian Vicki Ruiz.

When I first began to pursue this project, the candidates for the presidential election were not yet determined, and I was able to record the oral histories without that bias or influence. The university's Center for Oral and Public History — now known as the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History, in honor of a founding faculty member and historian — approached the women featured to participate in the recording of their oral histories for the Women, Politics and Activism Project.

Every woman who was contacted was thrilled to be part of something so special and empowering for women of many generations to come. I had the honor of interviewing women on the front lines of the immigration movement, education reform, political inclusion for Latinas and the civil rights movement.

At the end of every interview, I let them know my ultimate goal was to develop and curate an exhibit that would highlight the roles that Latina activists and politicians played and continue to play in our regional history.

It was not until the primary election in November 2016, when the project team was moving forward with the development and execution of “Voces de Liberación: Latinas and Politics in Southern California” that I realized how important my project was for our time.

All women in the current exhibition, which opened in April in the university’s Pollak Library, are a product of their environment. Most importantly, their activism was born through necessity.

Rose Espinoza, who founded Rosie’s Garage, feared the gang violence in her neighborhood and wanted to provide a safe place for children to come after school to be children and not on the streets to fall victim of the local gangs.

the border. She now fights for the rights and protection of children who are making the same journey today.

Nury Martinez, whose mother was laid off from Price Pfister, where she was being paid \$15 an hour with full benefits, was to lose it all, due to the relocation of the plant to Mexico. Nury stood alongside her mother and was influenced by her mother’s drive to fight the move of the factory. Out of that necessity, Nury talks about how she became an advocate and continues to be an advocate through her role as a councilwoman for the city of Los Angeles.

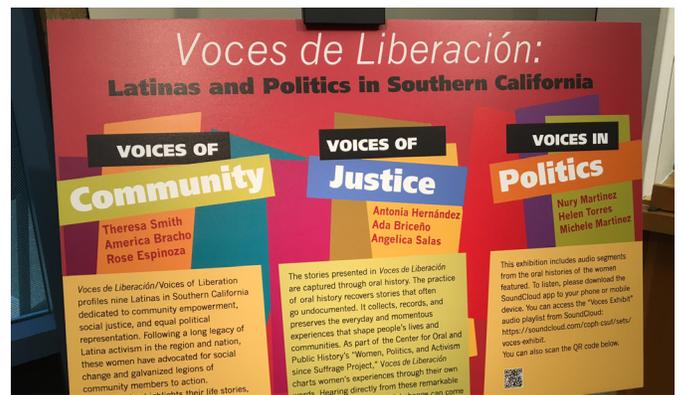
These stories are only a few of the ones visitors to the “Voces de Liberación” exhibit can learn about. These stories are not only about those being highlighted, but are symbolic of every citizen in the United States who has fought for something and, of course, of every immigrant.

My hope is that campus and community members will visit the exhibit and embark on a journey to see the strength of women, men, children, families of every race and culture and realize that everyone has a voice that can be used to make this world a better place for all. This project was a journey for me, as well, as I learned these very same lessons and now value the power and change a collective can make on our history.



Community activist, and City of La Habra Mayor, Rose Espinoza at the opening reception for “Voces de Liberación”

Angelica Salas, an immigrant herself who crossed the border with her 14-year-old aunt and 3-year-old sister to come to this country when she was 4 years old to be reunited with her parents, recalls the frightening nights she spent at an immigration detention center at



Director of the Center for Oral and Public History, Dr. Natalie Fousekis stands with assistant professor, Dr. Margie Brown-Coronel and curator, Jael Müller, to honor seven of the women featured in the exhibition at the “Voces de Liberación” opening on April 26, 2017.

# Women and Politics Project Looks at Southern California's Past

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



Los Angeles City Councilwoman, Nury Martinez discusses her decision to run for office and the importance of having women in politics during her interview with COPH director, Dr. Natalie Fousekis.

Over the past two years, under the direction of Dr. Natalie M. Fousekis, the “Women, Politics, and Activism since Suffrage Oral History Project” added over 100 new interviews to the COPH archive. These interviews were conducted by an array of participants, including undergraduate and graduate students, interns, volunteers, Fousekis herself, and me, the project’s manager. These new oral histories brought the collection’s total to over 200 and counting, thanks to a Major Research Grant awarded by the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation in late 2015. This provided two years of concentrated research that COPH hopes to continue.

Fousekis conceptualized the project after observing two factors. The first took place in 2013 when the elections for Los Angeles City Council—a dais

of fifteen members that once held as many as five women representatives—produced only *one* woman: Nury Martinez. (In 2017, she was joined by Monica Rodriguez, upping the number to two.) Los Angeles was a microcosm of what was happening statewide and nationally: a steady decline of women political representatives. A discovery that, in the age of the first woman presidential nominee, seemed rather remarkable. The second factor was a pertinent need to cultivate a modernized body of research before the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women’s Suffrage (2019-2020). In surveying oral history programs in California, Fousekis and COPH noticed a shortage of substantial collections that focused primarily on women politicians and activists, particularly during the eras of Reagan, Bush, and even Clinton, which kicked off with the “Year of the Woman” in 1992. Many of these

interviews reflect national issues of the time: choice, equal rights, sexual harassment, reproductive health care; as well as fallout from more localized events like the Northridge Earthquake, LA Riots, and the passage of Prop 13; to those directly affecting women: pay equity within the city of Los Angeles, a backlog processing of LAPD rape kits, and the establishment of free health clinics in underprivileged areas. As a result, in speaking with these various women, COPH managed to fill historical gaps from a time period previously understudied.

In managing this project I have learned, of course, that no two stories are alike. However, the plight of women in politics remains ongoing, and much of the circumstances faced in decades past stay relevant today. Women still answer yes—enthusiastically, humorously, reluctantly—when asked if they ever experienced sexism. They continue to eagerly point out the fundamental differences in how their leadership differs from men. And a majority continually

defend and identify with the unfair stigma of the word *feminist*. Moreover, this experience awakened a debate in my own view of women in politics, one that was often complacent when it came to gender rights and social equality. It led me to look deeper and further scrutinize issues that ultimately affect both women and girls. I have yet to leave an interview overwhelmingly inspired by these women's accomplishments, or engrossingly intrigued by new revelations.

These new oral histories will be searchable and made fully available to students and researchers by the end of 2017, through a project-dedicated web page. Visitors to the website will be able to access complete transcripts, photographs, audio and video files (if applicable). You may access the collection after December 15 at: [copharchives.fullerton.edu](http://copharchives.fullerton.edu).

“Women need to be treated equal. The respect should be equal, and those other issues are just a means to keep us as second class. They're used by men and the power, you know, the system to make us feel we're less in all kinds of ways, so I am absolutely a feminist, um, in everything that I do.”

- Maria Elena Durazo, Interviewed by Analia Cabral in July 2017



Left: Abby Waldrop, Maria Elena Durazo, and Analia Cabral in the offices of UNITE HERE, where Durazo serves as the Vice President of Immigration, Civil Rights, and Diversity.

Below: Ursula Kennedy, first woman mayor of Tustin, CA, with COPH archivist, Natalie Navar.

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The Honorable Lawrence A. Agran  
Janet and Leonard Ahtinen  
Jo E. Bandy  
Dr. Gayle K. Brunelle  
Philip Chasmar  
Henry and Patti Chikahisa  
Jason Flores  
Mary C. Fuhrman  
Theresa Harvey  
Healthcare Services

Daniel L. Jacobson  
Democratic Foundation of Orange County  
Barbara and Robert Johnson  
League of Women Voters Orange County  
Ruben Martinez  
George Matoian  
Michael J. Naughton  
Stan Oftelie  
Dr. Michael P. Onorato  
Joy Picus  
Jose J. Sandoval  
Dr. Michael and Mrs. Hilda Sugarman  
The Honorable David A. Thompson  
Ernest W. and Beverly Toy  
Jeanne T. Tran  
Edward Wallin  
Allison Wright  
Nancy E. Zeltzer

+Deceased

To make a gift to the  
Center for Oral and Public History's  
Renovation and Expansion Initiative  
or one of our other projects,  
please contact:  
Alina Mircea-Trotz  
at (657) 278-2559  
or [amircea-trotz@fullerton.edu](mailto:amircea-trotz@fullerton.edu)

# Uncovering Missing Jewels in the Archive

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



A peek into the COPH archives, home to over 6000 personal histories.

When I first started working at COPH, I thought the archive was a place where unlabeled boxes held endless possibilities. When I began as a graduate assistant, I was assigned to work on certain projects and could not explore the stacks as I wished due to budget and time constraints. This would change with time.

As many of our patrons know, we are running out of space in the archive. Once I was hired as the archivist, I knew the first project I had to tackle was the lack of space for the incoming oral histories. As blossoming graduate students completed oral history projects, new oral history students started their interviews for their classes, and staff members continued to conduct oral histories for our current oral history projects, I had to make sure these unique materials were going to have a home in the archive.

Even though I had a list of projects I needed to tend to, I knew re-organizing the archive must be my first priority. I could not put this off until the new space was built on the 6th floor of the library. These

oral histories needed to be maintained properly and waiting was not an option. I decided that Fridays would be my “archive day.” Revamping the archive was a big deal so I knew that I had to break it up in stages. The first stage was to take an inventory. Before moving everything around, I had to make sure nothing would get lost in limbo.

The first Friday I worked on this plan I felt like a kid in a candy store. I had previously spent hours and hours in the archive working on other projects, but this day I allowed myself to get lost in our past. Once I inventoried everything I created a plan of attack. For me, knowing what was in our unidentified boxes was essential to moving forward.

As the Fridays passed, I opened a handful of unlabeled boxes and found random reels, cassettes, and transcripts. Some of these materials had narrator and interviewer names and some did not. I put these items—reels, cassettes, transcripts and administrative paperwork—in new boxes and set aside for my next stage.

Once I cleared a section of shelves for incoming materials, I was free to put on my archival detective hat. Many of the items I found were items that had been missing for years. It felt so great to say that I found missing parts of oral histories! Not only did I find completely missing interviews, I found interviews that patrons had previously requested. One oral history in particular was with a woman from our Southeastern Utah Oral History Project. I will call her Jane for privacy concerns.

Jane's granddaughter had called me around six months before I started this reorganization effort. She found her grandmother's

name on our website. I disappointed her because we only had a transcript available. The reel-to-reel was missing, and she wanted to hear her grandmother's voice. Once I saw the narrator's name six months after, I connected the dots and was able to digitize the audio for Jane's granddaughter. Hearing this patron's joy over the phone reminded me of the importance of oral history. It also affirmed for me why archivists need to be vigilant about the materials they safeguard. We must try to always honor and take care of the irreplaceable jewels in our collections.

## Japanese American Digitization Project Continues

As stated in our previous Biennial Report, COPH was awarded two grants to digitize more of our Japanese American oral histories and ephemera. The imagined "single website" is now up and running. Like before, CSU Dominguez Hills is leading this important work and has included COPH in its new grants for 2018. We have now digitized 56 oral histories through the \$30,000 National Park Service (NPS) grant. Currently, we are almost finished processing 16 more interviews through another National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant. The next step of this grant process is digitizing 400 ephemeral objects—images, yearbooks, newspaper clippings, and letters. For this grant, we were awarded \$18,000. These grants have allowed us to make our Japanese American interviews digitally available—making it so we can send these important oral histories to anyone who needs them in the world.

Once we finish the work for the NEH grant, we will continue to work with two additional grants we have received alongside CSU Dominguez Hills and other CSU's. One grant is from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) and the other is from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). In total, these two new grants have awarded COPH \$15,000 to continue processing and making

our unique Japanese American interviews digitally available. Specifically, these grants will enable us to digitize and process our two most unique Japanese American projects—the Japanese Argentinean Diaspora Oral History Project and the Japanese Peruvian Diaspora Oral History Project.

These new grants will continue to let us showcase our Japanese American narrators and their irreplaceable stories. All of these digitized materials have been uploaded (along with appropriate metadata) to this website: <http://csujad.com/>



Latest remodeling of Masunaga-Takayama Market, before WWII, in Stanton, CA.

# Preserving the Region's Political Legacy

BY NATALIE FOUSEKIS | DIRECTOR

“Public servants are people who have a strong passion about making a difference, leaving a legacy that’s not so much about them, but a legacy that’s left because it’s good governance, good leadership.” - Gaddi Vasquez



Close to 200 community members and elected officials gathered at the Summit House in Fullerton to recognize the 2017 project honorees.

2017 marked the fourth year of the Orange County Politics Oral History Project. Since we launched the project in 2013 we have recorded the voices of men and women who have shaped and influenced the region's politics since the 1960s. These narrators have told stories about leading the region's major political parties, representing the region in the legislature, pushing for ethics reform, starting political action committees, serving in local office, and the critical role of women in regional and state politics. While these interviews are by no means a comprehensive picture of the County's politics, they tell a broader and more nuanced version of the region's political past.

Each year we have recognized our honorees at *Preserving Orange County's Political Legacy* event,

a dinner and fundraiser for the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History. In an era in which dialogue across the aisle is less frequent and less productive, this event stands out for its bi-partisan crowd and for providing an opportunity for dialogue and friendly banter as well as acknowledging the important public service of men and women on both sides of the aisle. In February 2017 we honored Frank Barbaro, Shirley Grindle, and Gaddi Vasquez. The event was attended by close to 200 community members, elected officials, passionate partisans, and members of the campus. Barbaro spoke of his accidental entry in to the Democratic party's leadership and the moment in December 1978 when registered Democrats briefly outnumbered registered Republicans in the county.

Grindle talked of her years working in the space industry, her important work on campaign reform, and her efforts to get an ethics commission established in Orange County. Vasquez recalled his years of growing up in poverty as a child of migrant workers, serving as the first person of color on the Orange County Board of Supervisors, and serving as the director of the Peace Corps and U.S. Ambassador under George W. Bush.

As we move forward with the project, we will continue to record oral histories with those whose careers have influenced policy and politics in the region. We hope to expand the number of interviews we complete each year beyond just the three or four we honor at our yearly event in an effort to capture important stories of public service before they disappear. Please join us on March 1, 2018 for the *Preserving Orange County's Political Legacy* dinner at the Summit House in Fullerton. Excerpts from the interviews with our previous

“I really believe that bi-partisanship should be the answer to all of our ills.” - Frank Barbaro



Project honorees, Gaddi Vasquez, Shirley Grindle, and Frank Barbaro at the *Preserving Orange County's Political Legacy* event.

honorees can be viewed on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/coph>. The complete audio, video, and transcription of our interviews between 2013 and 2017 can be found in CPH's archive. Please contact our archivist, Natalie Navar, for more information: nnavar@fullerton.edu.

“I was totally caught up in the legislative process, and I loved legislating. I loved fighting for my bills, you know, the back and forth and the repartee of presenting and convincing others.” - Marilyn Brewer

## PROJECT HONOREES 2014-2017

**Howard Adler**, Chairman Emeritus, Democratic Party of Orange County\*

**Frank Barbaro**, Chairman Emeritus, Democratic Party of Orange County

**Marian Bergeson**, Former CA State Senator and CA State Assemblywoman+

**Marilyn Brewer**, Former CA State Assemblywoman

**Lynn Daucher**, Former CA State Assemblywoman

**Shirley Grindle**, Environmental and Political Activist

**Lois Lundberg**, Chairman Emeritus, Republican Party of Orange County

**James Morrissey**, Former CA State Assemblyman

**Jerry Patterson**, Former US Congressman

**Gaddi Vasquez**, Former Orange County Supervisor and United States Ambassador (ret.)

\*Posthumous honoree

+Deceased

# Professional and Personal Reflections

## From My Two Years as a Graduate Assistant

BY SKYE GOMEZ | M.A. GRADUATE HISTORY, 2017

“I did not realize that my initial interest in COPH would lead me to find my ‘graduate home.’”



From an early age, I gravitated towards my family’s matriarchs to listen to their memories and experiences of growing up in El Paso, Texas and San Pedro, California. During these gatherings, I heard stories about my family challenging and overcoming social, racial, and gender barriers. I learned about my fifth and fourth great-grandmothers’ migration to America from Mexico in the 1870s, my great-grandmother trying to make a living during the Great Depression as a laundress, and my grandmother losing her high school friends and neighbors during the Japanese-American Internment. However, I also heard joyous recollections. These ranged from my grandmothers’ dancing to the jitterbug, “stealing” candies from their father’s bakeries, and the deep connections they held with their mothers and *tía*s.

My family’s narratives and others like them, never found a place in my curriculum or in local public history venues. It was not until I took courses on rethinking history as an undergraduate student, that I came to understand how much power my family’s stories held. I also became aware of my connection to a wider collective history of Mexican and Indigenous narratives. I felt compelled to challenge the lack of differing historical, social, and cultural perspectives in United States history. As I began to dismantle the harmful stereotypes and demonization of my *culturas*, I learned that I could utilize the stories of the “everyday” individual to empower traditionally marginalized communities and folks who may never see themselves in history books or public history spaces.

My desire to challenge how history has been traditionally archived, researched, and displayed, led me to apply for a graduate career with the History Department at California State University, Fullerton. I specifically chose this university because of the Oral and Public History program’s connection to the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH). However, I did not realize that my initial interest in COPH would lead me to find my “graduate home.” As a first-generation college student of color grappling with intergenerational trauma, I not only felt welcomed by the staff but also found solace in the life histories of Latina/o academics and activists who came before me.

My journey as a graduate assistant for COPH started in the Fall of 2015 and lasted until the Spring of 2017. During this time, I had the fortunate opportunity to gain hands-on experience and widen my knowledge of digital and administrative archival work. I have worked on several local digital history projects such as the Orange County History Project, Children’s Village, and Mexican American Veterans Project. My tasks and skills learned include: digitizing older media formats, abstracting, inventory and processing of backlogged and incoming materials, file management, and collaborating with outside organizations on community projects.

The two most meaningful oral history projects that I have had the privilege to work on are the “Women, Politics, and Activism Since Suffrage” Oral History Project (WPA) and Mexican American Oral History



Archivist, Natalie Navar, and graduate assistant, Skye Gomez representing the Center for Oral and Public History at the 2016 Archives Bazaar, an annual event where archives from all over the region share their collections with the public.

Project. I was first introduced to the WPA in the Fall of 2014 when I took History 493A with Dr. Natalie Fousekis. I had the opportunity to interview three inspiring women who advocate against domestic violence in underprivileged communities. I learned that their perspectives and experiences created a shared authority and provided a platform for them to deconstruct traditional stereotypes about women in politics and grassroots organizations. As a graduate assistant, I experienced the “behind the scenes” production of the WPA project. I focused on making the content accessible to researchers, students, and the community by archiving, abstracting, creating metadata, and processing incoming interview materials. During this process, I was exposed to most of the oral histories within this collection and personally felt impacted by the stories of Latina activists whose stories were like my own.

I decided to work on the Mexican American Oral History Project, when COPH’s archivist, Natalie Navar explained collections that I could manage. After she outlined the importance of each collection, I immediately knew this was the one I was meant to work on. The collection includes ninety oral histories, and I spent a little more than half a year managing the inventory, digitizing audio and materials, and creating a finding aid. Professionally, I developed more

independence to trouble-shoot difficult issues such as working with reel-to-reels, disorganized project folders, and searching for missing oral histories. This collection also helped me further understand the complexities my family faced regarding immigration, migrant farm working, cultural identity, and navigating institutional systems and spaces not originally created for them.

My two years at COPH as a graduate assistant proved to be extremely beneficial towards my professional goals of working towards creating more inclusive narratives in public history venues. Personally, hearing the words of pioneering Latina/o scholars and activists empowered me and often kept me going as I carved out my own space within the History program. Overall, I am incredibly humbled, honored, and thankful I was allowed the opportunity to preserve these individual’s histories for future generations.

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P.S. As a recent graduate, Skye Gomez now serves as the project staff on our Japanese American Digitization Project and the Women, Politics, and Activism Project.

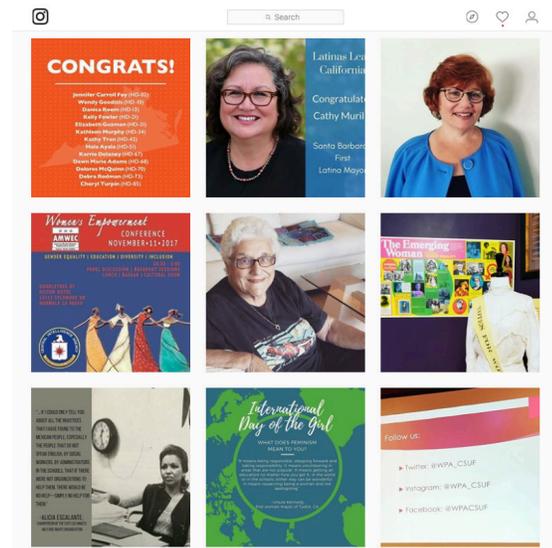
# #WPA Social Media

BY CRYSTAL WISHART | M.A. STUDENT, HISTORY

Bringing awareness to the political lives and actions of Southern California women from the 1960s to the present.



Interested in *Women, Politics, and Activism* (WPA)? Look no further than the #WPA project! Over the past year, the topic of women in politics, or lack of women in politics, has been at the forefront of gender discussions. Through Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook the WPA has joined the conversation by highlighting the oral histories of Southern Californian women from all walks of life and divergent political perspectives, who are making a difference in their communities by getting involved in government on some level. Not only has the project showcased amazing women, it has also served as a platform to provide statistics, and resource links for those who may want to run for office themselves. The work on the WPA project is far from over, and the social media accounts will continue to be a place to share the accomplishments of women who have signed up to serve, and encourage those who may want to follow in the footsteps of the courageous women who have come before them.



Follow us on social media:

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-  @wpa\_csuf



# A Fond Farewell

BY CARIE RAE | M.A. GRADUATE HISTORY, 2015

“I will still be using my oral history skills in my new endeavor and I know that my experiences here at COPH will greatly assist in the way I do research.”



During my final year of my History MA program here at CSUF I began to succumb to the usual feelings of pending fear, depression, and uncertainty that plagues many graduate students in today’s financial climate. The graduate student blues left me with feelings of panic on how I would be able to support myself. This was my mental state when Dr. Natalie Fousekis, my thesis advisor and mentor, encouraged me to apply for the newly open position as Administration Support Coordinator (official language for COPH’s office manager) at the Center for Oral and Public History. Despite knowing very little about how to manage an office, I jumped at the opportunity. I knew that this job would allow me to learn office skills while also enabling me to utilize and broaden my oral history skills.

After going through the interview process I got the job! It was a lot to learn in a short amount of time, but two years later I have learned so much through this process. This job served as a perfect transition position for a newly graduated student. In the time that I was here, I worked in an environment with many strong, intelligent, women which was very refreshing for me. It allowed me to rebuild my confidence in my work, expand my abilities to organize and manage, and learn the inner workings that go on in running an oral history center. I taught myself how to produce and edit a podcast which COPH launched last year. Stay tuned for more *Outspoken* episodes at <https://soundcloud.com/coph-csuf>! I learned how to utilize social media to promote the Center and all of the amazing materials, collections, and projects

that COPH is working on. I attended the Oral History Association’s annual conference and presented a paper on a panel about the oral histories I conducted. These are just a few of the opportunities I was presented with while working at COPH.

The skills I learned while working for COPH easily prepared me for work in the non-profit industry and the oral history field, but I decided to go a slightly different direction and applied to History PhD programs. In May of 2017 I was accepted at Rutgers University with a full scholarship. I am beginning the program in the Fall of 2017 and I am so excited. I will still be using my oral history skills in my new endeavor and I know that my experiences here at COPH will greatly assist in the way I do research. I’ve been working towards this goal for a long time now and I deeply appreciate the role that working at COPH played in assisting me to get into this PhD program. The relationships that I’ve made at COPH will last a lifetime and I will deeply miss my colleagues.



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## CALENDAR

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

### **FEBRUARY 24, 2018**

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

COPH Associate Director, Cora Granata, will teach this four-hour workshop that is ideal for students, independent researchers, and community members seeking to learn about the methodology, preparation, recording, and transcription of oral histories. For more information or to RSVP, please call (657) 278-3580.

### **MARCH 1, 2018**

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

Please join us for dinner and a public program at the Summit House in Fullerton. A save the date announcement with more details will be mailed in December.

### **FALL 2018**

#### **50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

2018 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Center for Oral and Public History. Look for more information concerning upcoming special events in spring of 2018.

