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Hosting the launch of the new Voice of Witness book:
Palestine Speaks: Narratives of Life Under Occupation

From the Director

From the Director: Looking Back on 2014 and Ahead to the Future

As another year draws to a close, we have plenty to be thankful for and proud. We finished another batch of excellent oral histories on topics ranging from Earl Warren and his U.S. Supreme Court clerks, and the history of University of California state lobbying, to the life and times of the Omega Boys Club, a storied San Francisco social service organization that steers at-risk and marginalized Bay Area young people to college degrees and productive careers.

The year also saw us embark on a number of exciting new projects including interviews with former U.C. president Mark Yudof and former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown. In August, we relaunched our Summer Institute teaching advanced oral history methodology to more than 35 participants from around the world. Featuring first-rate presentations by our excellent staffers, the Institute was a roaring success. Just last month we held our first joint event with the Graduate School of Journalism where, before a rapt and packed house at North Gate Hall, oral historian Shanna Farrell interviewed Mateo Hoke and Cate Malek about their book of interviews featuring citizens of Palestine discussing their lives under Israeli occupation.



Remembering oral history benefactor, Barclay Simpson, 1921-2014

We also suffered a terrible loss this year with the death last month of our dear friend and supporter, Barclay Simpson, whose generous donations to our general fund in recent years has gone to support numerous new projects. [[read more](#)]

ROHO in Action

[First New Interviews in the Global Mining and Materials Research Project](#)



Dr. Roshan Bhappu, first interviewee for the new "Global Mining" project

For over twenty years, the Regional Oral History Office (ROHO) produced in-depth oral histories of members of the mining community under a project called "[Western Mining in the Twentieth Century](#)," which was overseen by Eleanor "Lee" and Langan "Lang" Swent, Doug Fuerstenau and others. The 104 interviews in the project covered the history of mining in the American Southwest, Mexico, South America, and Australia from the 1940s until the 1990s.

Along with the recent name change from ROHO to the Oral History Center of the Bancroft Library, we are proud to announce a new project entitled "[Global Mining and Materials Research](#)," which will focus on key transitions in technology, policy, and geopolitics that have brought mining to its current state worldwide. Much has changed in mining-related industries in the years since the Western Mining project was in full production, including the increased globalization of mining operations, the decreasing concentration of mineable minerals in ore, increasingly complicated regulatory environments, new systems of environmental remediation, new technology for exploration, extraction, and processing, and new stories of political conflict and resolution. [[read more](#)]

[Announcing a New 2-Day Oral History Workshop for Everyone](#)

We are proud to launch a new 2-day oral history workshop that is designed for the person who is interested in learning the practice from ground-up. This workshop is conceived of as a companion initiative to the more in-depth Advanced Oral History Summer Institute, which typically attracts scholars and professionals with specific research projects in mind. The new Spring Workshop will focus on the "nuts-and-bolts" of oral history interviewing, including project planning, interviewing techniques, transcription, recording equipment, and preservation. The workshop will include instruction from our seasoned oral historians but also plenty of hands-on practice exercises. Although space is strictly limited, everyone is welcome to attend the workshop, including community-based historians, teachers, genealogists, public historians, and students in college or grad school. The two-day workshop will be held on Friday March 13th and Saturday March 14th, 2015 on the UC Berkeley campus. The cost is \$225, which includes a take-home oral history manual. Registration is open now [here](#).

From the Archives

[From the Archives: Carl Pope, Executive Director of the Sierra Club from 1992 to 2010](#)

The oral history with [Carl Pope](#), executive director of the Sierra Club from 1992 to 2010 is the newest addition to our longstanding Sierra Club Oral History Series. In documenting his forty-year career with the club, his



Carl Pope, Sierra Club
Executive Director from 1992
to 2010

interviews illuminate the range of issues tackled, as well as the deftness and strategic thinking involved in leading what is one of the nation's oldest, most complex, and most influential environmental organizations. One of the themes running through the five interview sessions is Pope's early understanding of the potential power of the environmental movement to bring about progressive political change. [[read more](#)]

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News About ROHO

Save the Dates! New Spring Oral History "Starter" Workshop and Advanced Oral History Summer Institute

Our new two-day [Spring Workshop](#) designed for those just getting started in oral history is scheduled for Friday March 13th and Saturday March 14th 2015. The dates for our 2015 Advanced Oral History Summer Institute are Monday August 10th through Friday August 14th. Announcements about registration for both events coming soon!

Nominations Open: the 2015 "Class of 1931" Interview in University History

Nominations for the 2015 "Class of '31 Oral History Interviewee" are now open! We invite people to nominate a UC Berkeley faculty or staff person who has made a significant contribution to the life of the campus. The person selected will be invited to participate in an oral history interview conducted by our office. The 2014 "Class of '31" interviewee is Edith Kramer, former director of the Pacific Film Archive -- her interview transcript will be released early in 2015. Submit nominations [here](#).

Recent ROHO Interviews...

In recent months ROHO has completed and released several interviews, which you might have missed if you don't follow us on social media. These interviews include: financier, philanthropist, and founder of the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival [Warren Hellman](#); former UC Berkeley [Chancellor Robert Birgeneau](#) on university athletics; National Park Service Superintendent [Judy Hart](#); legendary West Coast bluesman [Jimmy McCracklin](#); sixteen interviews documenting [anti-apartheid protests](#) at Berkeley in 1985; and the several dozen interviews on Berkeley's [Free Speech Movement](#).

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Coming Up

And stay tuned for...

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

- Over 40 interviews with the **Law Clerks of Chief Justice Earl Warren**;
- **The University of California Athletics Oral History Project**, which features

interviews with 70 experts on the issues of university sports programs;

- The first five interviews documenting the history of **West Coast Cocktails**, including **Jorg Rupf, founder of St. George Spirits**;
- Famed James Beard award-winning winemaker **Zelma Long**;
- **Art Gensler**, founder of what is now the largest architecture and design firm in the United States;
- Former Berkeley assistant vice chancellor, **Dorothy Walker**;
- **Phyllis Cook**, a leader of San Francisco's Jewish community;
- **George Halvorson**, recently retired as CEO of Kaiser Permanente, one of the largest providers of health care in the United States;
- **Keith Yamamoto**, Professor of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology, and campus leader, at UC San Francisco;
- **Randy Schekman**, 2013 Nobel Prize winner in Medicine;
- Three more interviews from the **Portuguese in California** project;
- And the several interviews of the **Omega Boys Club Oral History Project**.

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THE BANCROFT LIBRARY

UC BERKELEY LIBRARY

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

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