



**ORAL HISTORY CENTER**  
of The Bancroft Library  
UC Berkeley

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## *From the Director...*

### **"Oral History, Free Speech & Listening"**

For the past five years, the Oral History Center at UC Berkeley has hosted an annual event in which we honor and express our gratitude to those individuals who donated their time and energy by agreeing to be interviewed. Held every spring, we run this event as a commencement ceremony. We read the names of each narrator whose interview was completed over the year (111 in 2016-2017!), [we show video clips from selected interviews](#), and then we offer our sincere congratulations



Martin Meeker with Class of 2017 interviewee Edward Howden (UC Berkeley Class of 1940)

to the "Oral History Class" of that year. This event has been amazingly successful, each year attracting nearly 100 individuals. Campus friends, community partners, donors, and, of course, our interviewees and often their families too. The event is equally special to the wide range of our interviewees, whether that be a retired Berkeley professor who has spent decades on

campus or to a woman who worked in the shipyards in World War II and despite living a few miles from Berkeley had never stepped foot on campus before this event... [[read more](#)]



Highlights from the Oral History Class of 2017

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## *Oral History in Action!*

### **[An Oral History of Oral History: The Many Lives of Malca Chall](#)**

We are delighted to introduce the oral history of our former colleague, Malca Chall. Malca is well known in the Oral History Center as a key staff member for thirty-three years. She came to the Regional Oral History Office, as we were then named, in 1967 and soon became an indispensable and respected interviewer, project director, and right-hand woman to director Willa Baum. Over the years she planned and carried out an impressive array of oral histories, most prominently in the fields of California water policy and politics and government. Her final volume of interviews was completed in 2000. Few of Malca's colleagues were aware of an earlier chapter in her life: her employment with the National War Labor Board in Seattle during World War II. [[read more](#)]



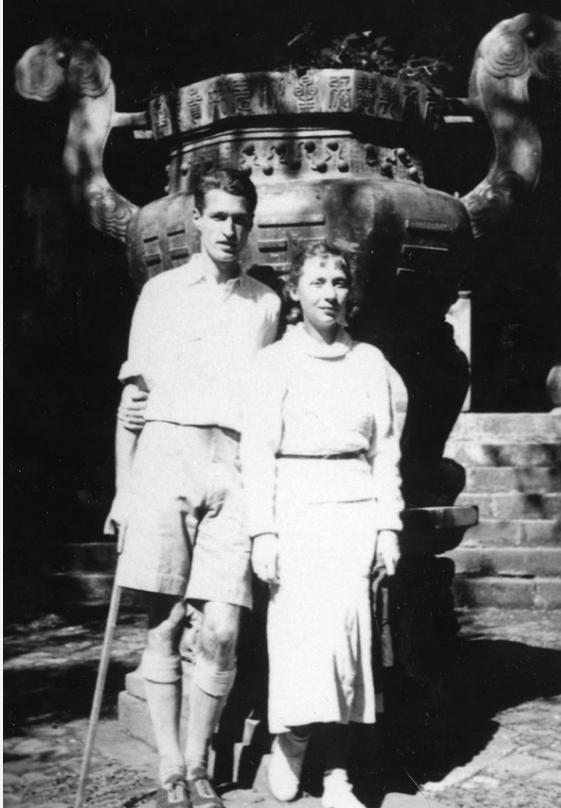
Malca Chall with her interviewer Ann Lage

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## *Out from the Archives*

**[Caroline Service, A State Department Spouse in China and Beyond](#)**

"I was tired of being silent." On December 13, 1951 Caroline Service marched into Senator Hiram Bingham's office because she "wanted to see the man at the top." Hours earlier, Bingham's Loyalty Review Board had determined that her husband, John S. "Jack" Service, would be fired from the State Department on charges of dubious loyalty to the United States. Bingham's office staff tried to put her off, but Caroline announced that she had nothing else to do and would wait all afternoon for the senator. They let her in. Caroline recalls on page 141 of her history, Bingham took her hand and greeted her, "What can I do for you, little lady?" "I could have screamed. 'Little lady.' Awful." [[read more](#)]



John and Caroline Service in China, 1934.

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## *News About the Oral History Center*

### **Comings-and-goings**

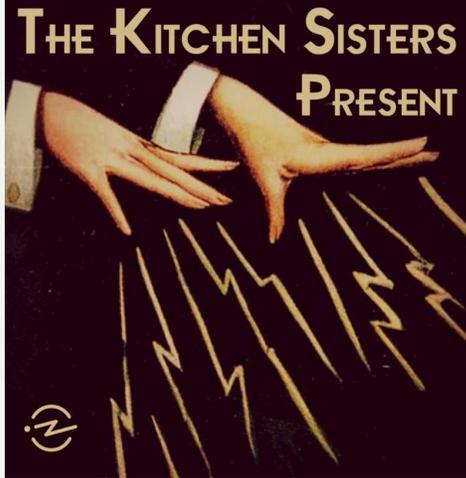
After spending a year with us as an historian/interviewer, Cristina Kim has accepted a position with Reveal news. We wish her luck in her new endeavor!

Because we are extremely busy these days at the Center, we aren't wasting any time in seeking to hire a new historian/interviewer. The official announcement will be posted soon (be sure to follow us on our social media feeds if you'd like to find out more) but we will be seeking an Americanist with experience in oral history interviewing. In particular, we are seeking an interviewer who can interview across a broad range of fields but also possesses expertise in some keys, including arts and arts administration or the history of science.

### **Upcoming Events**

August 7 - 12: Advanced Oral History Summer Institute (sold out)

August 8 @ 6pm: [Nikki Silva \(Kitchen](#)



Nikki Silva of the Kitchen Sisters will be speaking on August 8th

[Sisters\) in conversation with Shanna Farrell](#)

October 2 @ Noon: New Research in Oral History with Jacqueline Adams

October 16 @ Noon: New Research in Oral History with Vic Geraci

*Catching Up with the Oral History Center...*

## Recently Completed Interviews

- 23 interviews from [Freedom to Marry Oral History Project](#)
- [Rick Laubscher](#), founder of Market Street Railway
- Famed publisher [Malcolm Margolin](#)
- [Jim Chappell](#), who was the longterm executive director of SPUR
- Former Cantor of Temple Emanu-El [Roslyn Jhunever Barak](#)
- Civil rights icon [Edward Howden](#)
- Getty Museum expert in decorative arts, [Brian Considine](#)
- Forty-five interviews documenting [University Athletics and University Policy](#)
- The 14 interviews of the [University of California Museum of Paleontology / Bill Clemens](#) oral history project
- [Wayne Feinstein](#), former executive of the Jewish Community Federation
- Renowned [artist Robert Irwin and Master Gardener Jim Duggan](#)

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## Coming Up

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

- Several more interviews with women and men who worked on the home front in World War II as part of our long-running **Rosie the Riveter Oral History Project**;
- **Mike Bishop**, UC San Francisco Chancellor Emeritus and winner of the 1989 Nobel Prize in Medicine, with Harold Varmus;
- Former San Francisco mayor, **Willie Brown**;
- **Harvey Dong**, who played a key role in the establishment of Ethnic Studies at Berkeley;
- Several interviews documenting the **San Francisco Fire Department**, including former SF Fire Chief **Robert Demmons**;
- **MaryAnn Graf**, a pioneering woman in the California industry;
- Emmy-award winning journalist and broadcaster, **Belva Davis**;
- Longtime leader of the Jim Joseph Foundation, **Al Levitt**;

- The first group of interviews for our new project documenting the **East Bay Regional Park District**;
- More interviews in partnership with the **Getty Trust**, including four interviews with **Latino/Latin American artists**;
- The first set of interviews from our new **California Coastal Commission** project;
- Community leader **Paul Bissinger, Jr.**;
- California fruit grower **Lawrence Sambado**;
- Plus many more!

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