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From the Director...

"Oral History and the Berkeley Tradition"

On the evening of Thursday April 26th, the staff of the Oral History Center hosted our annual event in which we take the opportunity to express our gratitude to our remarkable narrators and our generous sponsors. I'll also usually say a few words about the center and provide an overview of the scale of the work that we do for the benefit of those who might only know it just from the vantage point of being interviewed. Preparing my remarks was easy this year because 2018 happens to be a pretty special year at Berkeley: it marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the university! What follows is an edited version of my remarks ... [[read more](#)]



Celebrating the oral history class of 2018!
Bancroft Library director Elaine Tennant, OHC
historian Roger Eardley-Pryor, and
interviewer Emeritus Lisa Rubens

What follows is an edited

Oral History in Action!

Checking-in with Summer Institute Alum Marc Robinson



Marc Robinson, Summer Institute alum and, as of fall 2018, CSU San Bernardino professor

When Marc Robinson traveled from Spokane, Washington to Berkeley, California in August 2017, it was in the name of narrative history. He came to the [Advanced Oral History Summer Institute](#) to work on his project about black student activism in the late 1960s, which was somewhere between dissertation and manuscript. He had done some interviews while earning a PhD in American Studies from Washington State University, but felt like he was just scratching the surface. Like many who understand the value of oral history in doing contemporary history, he wanted to talk to more people, get a broader range of narratives, and explore the way that some of the stories he was recording

contradicted archival documents. [[read more](#)]

Join us in Welcoming Two New Interviewers: Amanda Tewes and Roger Eardley-Pryor

In the second half of 2017 the Oral History Center staff diligently conducted a search for a new oral historian to join our team. As the search wore on, we realized two things: first, we had more work that one new interviewer could handle and, second, we had so many excellent candidates that it would be nearly impossible to select just one. So, we hired two. Amanda Tewes joined us in February and Roger Eardley-Pryor arrived in April. Both have hit the ground running and already have each completed their first oral histories (we don't mess around!). We're thrilled to welcome them to the Oral History Center. See below for a brief interview Shanna Farrell conducted with Amanda; check back in the next newsletter for an interview with Roger. In the meantime, [click through](#) to read their bios.



OHC's newest: Roger Eardley-Pryor and Amanda Tewes

Amanda Tewes interviewed by OHC historian Shanna Farrell

OHC historian Shanna Farrell sat down with Amanda Tewes recently to ask a few questions so that others might learn what we already know: that Amanda

is a thoughtful and experienced oral historian and a great addition to our team.

Q: When did you first encounter oral history?

A: I first encountered oral history almost ten years ago as a graduate student at Cal State Fullerton. Oral history was an important part of the coursework for the public history program. After I completed work on my first exhibit about Marine Corps Air Station El Toro and a changing mid-century Orange County, California, I realized how much the oral histories featured in the show resonated with visitors; the oral histories made history personal and understandable. Oral history has been part of my historical toolkit ever since. [[read more](#)]

Out from the Archives

Rosalind Wiener Wyman

"They couldn't believe that I could win," Rosalind Wiener Wyman remembered about her unexpected election to the Los Angeles City Council in 1953. Over the course of several interviews in 1977 and 1978, Wiener Wyman shared her personal and political triumphs and losses, which culminated in her oral history, *"It's a Girl": Three Terms on the Los Angeles City Council, 1953-1965; Three Decades in the Democratic Party, 1948-1978*. Wiener Wyman's memories as a woman politician at midcentury are part of the Oral History Center's California Women Political Leaders Oral History Project, which documented "California women who became active in politics during the years between the passage of the women's suffrage amendment and the...feminist movement." [[read more](#)]



Rosalind Wiener Wyman as the youngest member of the Los Angeles City Council

News About the Oral History Center

Upcoming Events

August 6-10: Advanced Summer Institute. [Applications open now.](#)

Catching Up with the Oral History Center...

Recently Completed Interviews

- [J. Michael Bishop](#), former UCSF chancellor and winner of the 1989 Nobel Prize in Medicine;
- A new interview from our on-going Economist Life Stories Project, [Lester Telser](#);
- [Michael Teitz](#), UC Berkeley Professor Emeritus of City and Regional Planning.

Coming Up

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

- Former ACLU of Northern California attorney **Marshall Krause**;
- A group of interviews with former Berkeley students who participated in the trailblazing campus political group **SLATE**;
- 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**;
- Former San Francisco mayor, **Willie Brown**;
- **Harvey Dong**, who played a key role in the establishment of Ethnic Studies at Berkeley;
- Noted businessman and philanthropist, **Herb Sandler**, along with several accomplished co-workers and collaborators;
- **MaryAnn Graf**, a pioneering woman in the California industry;
- Emmy-award winning journalist and broadcaster, **Belva Davis**;
- **Phil Freese**, an influential viticulturalist and "winegrower";
- Longtime leader of the Jim Joseph Foundation, **Al Levitt**;
- Several more interviews from 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.**;
- Former chair of the California Coastal Commission, **Mel Nutter**;
- California fruit grower **Lawrence Sambado**;
- Hippie courturier and noted herbalist, **Jeanne Rose**;
- Philanthropist and OHC friend, **Howard Friesen**;
- Plus many more!

[Supporting the Oral History Center](#)

Did you know that the Oral History Center receives precious little funding from the university and that all of our projects are supported by external sponsors? Because of institutional sponsors (such as the Getty Trust), government partners (including the National Park Service), and individuals (too many to list!), we are able to continue the work documenting histories large and small begun over 64 years ago. In 2017 we conducted over 350 hours of interviews, perhaps our most productive ever. Please help us continue this work by [making a tax-deductible donation](#) to cap off a great year for oral history at Berkeley!

Contact: **Martin Meeker**
Oral History Center
mmeeker (at) berkeley.edu
510-643-9733



Oral History Center, University of California, Berkeley,, CA 94720-6000

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