Director's Column, December 2019

Top Ten Moments at the OHC, 2019 Edition

With Thanksgiving falling late on the calendar this year, all of the sudden things are feeling very rushed in the lead up to 2020. Despite that feeling, your friends here at the Oral History Center set aside a few moments to reflect on some of the more memorable episodes of 2019.

OHC Director Martin Meeker put together a top ten list of those times that made us laugh, let us weep, and forced us to sit back in awe of the impactful research we do and the wonderful stories we are honored to record.

Remembering the First Response to the Epidemic on World AIDS Day

In 1988, the World Health Organization established World AIDS Day, one of eight major global health campaigns begun by the United Nations. It stands today as a reminder that, after forty years, tens of millions of people have died of HIV/AIDS, and approximately 37 million are currently living with the disease.

Last year, the Oral History Center released a 7-episode podcast about the first efforts to understand, track, and treat a mysterious new illness that was killing gay men in San Francisco, produced by Paul Burnett. Read about Paul's work making the podcast and why it's important to keeping tell these stories.

Giving Tuesday
Tuesday, December 3rd is Giving Tuesday. If you like the work we do, please consider supporting us. Bonus: all donations to us are tax deductible! A big thanks from us here at the OHC!

Announcing the 2020 Introductory Oral History Workshop!

Our annual introductory workshop will take place on Saturday, February 29th from 9am to 4pm on the UC Berkeley Campus. Lunch will be provided. Apply now to learn the nuts and bolts of oral history from us!

Summer Institute Alum Spotlight: Meagan Gough

Meagan Gough attended the Oral History Center’s Advanced Summer Institute in August 2017. We recently caught up with her to see how her time with us helped her develop her project around the indigenous people of Canada.

Shanna Farrell caught up with Meagan to see how her time at the Summer Institute helped inform her project, and where things are now.

A Not-So-Oral History of the OHC's Inaugural Book Club, featuring *Say Nothing* by Patrick Radden Keefe

As oral historians, we’ve heard a lot about the Belfast Project, which collected interviews with people who were on both sides of The Troubles in Northern Ireland, and the implications that it had for ethics, transparency, and best practices for our work. (For more details, this paper outlines the history of The Troubles and the case in detail.)

In the summer of 2019, Patrick Radden Keefe published *Say Nothing*, a book outlining the case and the use of oral history, challenging what many of us thought we knew.

For our inaugural book club, we read it and discussed. Find out what we thought about it on our blog.

Season 5 of the
The 5th season of our podcast, *The Berkeley Remix*, is now live! It dives into the long history of the *East Bay Regional Park District*, which was founded in 1934. Over the course of three episodes, we explore its integral role in fighting the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire, being on the forefront of gender equality in the workplace, and how its efforts to preserve land benefited the local equestrian community.

- Episode 1: You Really Love Your Land, Don't You?
- Episode 2: There's No Crying in Carpentry
- Episode 3: (Once in a) Career Fire

If you like our podcast, please rate us or leave a comment on our iTunes page!

**New Releases**

- George Miller: "Gamos" and Other Tales from Sam's Grill
Read Martin Meeker's reflections on their interview.

- Paula Kornell: A Lifetime in Napa Valley

- Beth Novak Milliken: The Pursuit of Environmental Sustainability in Napa Valley

- David Pearson: Napa Wine on the Global Stage

**Want More?**

Like what we're doing? Stay connected with us on social media, listen to our podcast (and don't forget to rate us on iTunes!), or consider a donation to support our work. See you next month!