Director's Column, February 2020

In Which We Highlight Interviews that Celebrate Black History

In honor of Black History Month, OHC Director Martin Meeker looks at our collection of interviews with African Americans whose living memories date to the early 20th century (at least) and offer first-person insights into the life of a Tuskegee airman, the contours of the West Coast jazz scene, the role of women in the Black Panthers, and much more.

Read more of Martin's look at our this collection of interviews on our blog.

From the Archives: Irvin Shiosee

This month, Miranda Jiang, an Undergraduate Research Apprentice at the Oral History Center, dug into our archives to explore Irvin Shiosee's interview.

In his 2005 interview for our Rosie the Riveter project, Shiosee recalls his childhood in Richmond's boxcar village: he describes rows of around sixty boxcars placed along the railway, each housing one or more families.

Read Miranda's post on our blog.

New Releases!

-Kathleen Dardes: My Years in
Advanced Summer Institute Applications are Now Open!

Join us for our **week-long oral history intensive** from August 10-14, 2020. For our annual Advanced Summer Institute, we will focus on the methodology, theory, and practice of oral history.

The institute is designed for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, university faculty, independent scholars, and museum and community-based historians who are engaged in oral history work. The goal of the institute is to strengthen the ability of its participants to conduct research-focused interviews and to consider special characteristics of interviews as historical evidence in a rigorous academic environment.

**Apply Now**
For more information, please visit our website or email Shanna Farrell at sfarrell@library.berkeley.edu.

Never Forget? UC Berkeley’s Oral History Center documents memories of the Holocaust for researchers and the public

In honor of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz on January 27, 2020, Jill Schlessinger surveyed our collection of interviews that reference the Holocaust (there’s over 200!). While there is no specific OHC project dedicated to documenting the Holocaust, interviews can be found within projects about food and wine, arts and letters, industry and
labor, philanthropy, and the Free Speech Movement. These oral histories document memories of the Holocaust from a multiplicity of perspectives, from the first-hand experiences of Jewish refugees who fled from Europe before it was too late, to Americans who first heard about the atrocities after the liberation of the camps. The Jewish narrators in particular talk about how the Holocaust was the driving factor in their careers, philanthropy, Israel advocacy, and political activism.

Read Jill’s blog post here.

Winter Book Club Pick: Voices from Chernobyl by Svetlana Alexievich

For our winter oral history book club, we’ll be reading *Voices from Chernobyl: The Oral History of a Nuclear Disaster* by Nobel Prize winner Svetlana Alexievich.

Check out our discussion questions on our blog in case you’d like to follow along with us!

Oral History Association 2020 Conference CFP

“The Quest for Democracy: One Hundred Years of Struggle”
2020 OHA Annual Meeting
October 21-24, 2020
Baltimore, Maryland

The submission portal for conference proposals is closing soon! The deadline is February 18, 2020. Please note that you will have to create a new account, even if you have submitted conference proposals in the past or are a member of the organization. Remember to refer to our Submission Guidelines page for more information about the submission process.

OHC on KQED’s “Forum”

Martin Meeker was recently on KQED talking about interviewing Governor Jerry Brown!

Listen Here.

"Extraordinarily detailed, thoughtful, self-critical, broad, sweeping" is how director Martin Meeker describes the 40-hour Jerry Brown oral history.

Access all resources, including the transcript, podcasts, and commentary.
Season 5 of the Berkeley Remix Podcast

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!

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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!