

## FROM THE CHAIR

Mark Cave, The Historic New Orleans Collection



The simple act of listening can acknowledge the dignity of those around us. But too often we don't listen, perhaps because our attentions are consumed by our own routines, but frequently because we find what others are saying disturbing, or a

challenge to our own perspective. The Oral History Section applauds SAA's creation of a Human Rights Roundtable and looks forward to a long partnership with this group to help give voice to those whose life experiences have traditionally not found a place in archival collections.

Vice Chair, Joel Minor has put together an excellent program for our section meeting in Washington devoted to the issue of oral history and human rights, which will be held on Friday, August 13. Both

section members and members of the newly created roundtable are strongly encouraged to attend. In addition both Oral History Section members and Human Rights Roundtable members are invited to a mixer sponsored by the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress on Tuesday, August 10 from 5pm to 8pm (see Oral History Calendar).

At the Washington Conference section members will be taking some time to listen and record the experiences of some of those individuals who have helped shape SAA and our profession, as part of our 75th Anniversary Oral History project. This effort, lead by Lauren Kata, is being done in cooperation with SAA's 75th Anniversary Task Force and the Archival History Roundtable. I encourage all section members to find some way to get involved in this important work.

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## SPOTLIGHT: Human Rights

### **Speaking Truth to Power: The University of Texas Libraries Human Rights Documentation Initiative's Collaborative Partnerships Preserves Testimonies of Human Rights Abuses**

Submitted by T-Kay Sangwand, Human Rights Documentation Initiative

#### **About the project**

Through its collaborative partnerships with human rights organizations around the world, the University of Texas Libraries Human Rights Documentation Initiative (HRDI) preserves and provides access to documentation of human rights violations, including the testimonies of genocide survivors in Rwanda, internally displaced persons in Burma, families of persons executed under the death penalty in Texas, and combatants and survivors of the Salvadoran Civil War. The HRDI's current roster of partners include the Free Burma Rangers (Southeast Asia), Kigali Genocide Memorial (Rwanda), Museo de la Palabra y la Imagen / Museum of the Word and Image (El Salvador), and Texas After Violence Project (United States). The testimonies are stored on fragile media such as miniDV tapes and audio cassettes, and in some cases, produced in and smuggled out of conflict zones. Through partnerships with the HRDI, the original copies reside with their creating organization while digital surrogates are safely stored on University of Texas servers for preservation and access in perpetuity.

#### **About the collections**

The Kigali Genocide Memorial (KGM) Collection consists of hundreds of video tapes of individual survivor, rescuer, and elder oral histories conducted by the KGM in addition to survivor and perpetrator testimonies filmed in the Gacaca courts. The original recordings are in the Kinyarwanda language with accompanying Kinyarwanda transcripts; a portion of them have been transcribed into French and English and are subtitled in English. This collection comprises a portion of the Rwanda National Genocide Archive that will be publically available online in late 2010. The Texas After Violence Project Collection contains oral histories of those who have been affected by the death penalty in Texas, including family members and friends of executed and murdered persons, law

enforcement officials, lawyers, and clergy. Full videos, transcripts, and indexing of these oral histories will be publically available online in fall 2010. Due the ongoing conflict under the military dictatorship in Burma/Myanmar, the testimonies collected by the Free Burma Rangers will not be publically accessible until such a time that the safety of the testimony givers will not be compromised through public exposure. The HRDI's latest partner, the Museo de la Palabra y la Imagen (MUPI) holds the collection of Radio Venceremos / We Shall Overcome Radio recordings, produced by the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) who successfully fought against the U.S.-backed military government and were often the first and only media outlet to expose the human rights violations committed by the government. These recordings feature the voices and stories of ordinary people who witnessed and survived the war. The digitization of these recordings will begin in fall 2010 and the collection will publically launch online in 2012.

For more information on the HRDI and its projects, visit <http://lib.utexas.edu/hrdi>.

### **Spindleworks Art Center Works With Disabled Artists**

Submitted by Alyce Ornella, Artist Mentor at Spindleworks Art Center and Andrew Jawitz, Independent Oral Historian/Folklorist

Spindleworks Art Center in Brunswick, Maine has been providing studio and gallery space to artists with disabilities since 1978. Founded by an artisan weaver with a group of six clients from the Independence Association, it has grown to include more than 40 artists today working in painting, weaving, sculpture, writing, performance, and multimedia art. Recognized as one of the first programs of its kind in the United States, Spindleworks has evolved as a model of inclusion and equity for artists with disabilities.

In 2008, we began documenting the center's history and I talked with local oral historian, Andrew Jawitz. We wanted to involve the artists and talked with several to gauge their interest in joining in an oral history project. Because Spindleworks

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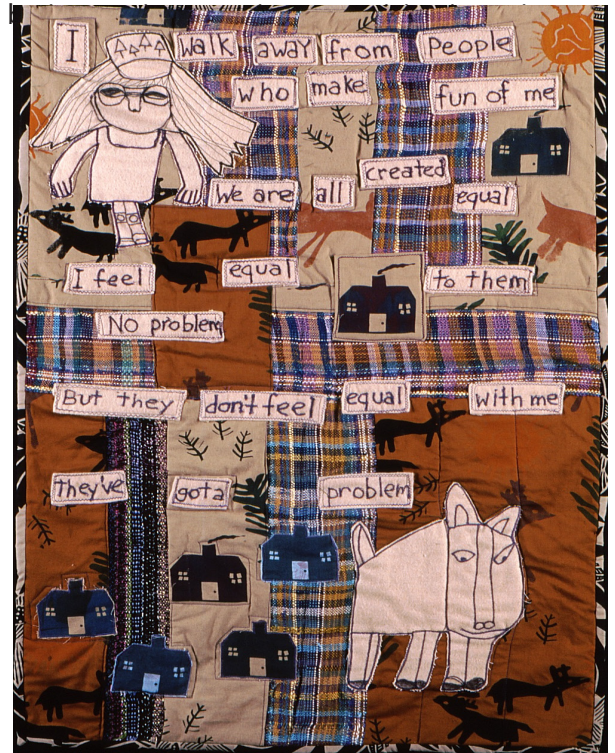
## Human Rights SPOTLIGHT (continued)

arose during a time in the 1970s when hundreds of people with disabilities in Maine were kept in relative isolation at the Pineland Institution, we felt it was important to involve the artists as both interviewers and interviewees. Rather than only participating in one role in the project, we felt it necessary to empower them with tools as community researchers as a further extension of Spindleworks' mission -- that people with disabilities are capable and qualified to be documentarians and participants in their cultures and communities.



Spindleworks artists.

With support from the Maine Humanities Council and Maine Arts Commission, we held a series of workshops with a group of six artists. Andrew introduced the concept and process of oral history by sharing examples, including *An Oral Historian's Work* by Sandy Ives, the audio series *I Can Almost See the Lights of Home* by Alessandro Portelli and Charles Hardy, and an excerpt from the film *Shoah* by Claude Lanzmann. He also showed the website of the *Artists with Disabilities* oral history project conducted by the Regional Oral History Office in Berkeley, California, which included subtitled video interviews with several performing artists. These sparked discussions among the Spindleworks artists about the value of oral history and what kind of oral history project would work best here. They decided on video documentation so that facial expressions and body language of the interviewees could be conveyed. The next phases of the workshops included using archival materials to review Spindleworks' history,



Quilt designed and constructed by a Spindleworks artist.

techniques, and learning to operate a camcorder and microphone. Participants selected fellow artists at Spindleworks to interview about their histories working at the center. Some challenges arose due to established relationships between interviewers and interviewee, which occasionally led to shorter interviews. The artists rarely discussed issues of disability with one another in the interviews, but when talking with staff members at Spindleworks (who do not have disabilities), the artist-interviewers sometimes chose to ask questions such as, "What is it like working with people like us?"

The work of the Spindleworks oral historians culminated in a community-wide presentation in February 2009, with excerpts from the video interviews and exhibition of archival materials and film footage from Spindleworks' earliest days. We will also be including oral history excerpts on our website ([www.spindleworks.org](http://www.spindleworks.org)) for wider dissemination.

## Human Rights SPOTLIGHT (continued)

### Day Laborers in Atlanta, 1980-2005

Submitted by Terry Easton, Gainesville State College

This collection of audio tapes, photographs, and ephemera was initiated in 2000, shortly after I began graduate studies at Emory University's Graduate Institute of Liberal Arts. After years of studying representations of working-class people in literature, I decided that I wanted to learn more directly the experiences of working people.

Tape-recorded oral history interviews were the primary method of data collection for this project. I conducted oral history interviews with thirty-three day laborers, twelve activists, and two homeowners who hired day laborers for yard work. The interviews ranged from roughly thirty minutes to six hours. Interviews with Spanish-speaking participants were conducted with a translator.



Waiting for Work. Canton, Georgia. Photo by Terry Easton, August 2004.

Through the interviews with day laborers I sought in-depth work histories, including knowledge, beliefs, and feelings about securing daily employment, encountering hazards at job sites, working alongside "regular" employees, living in homeless shelters and on the streets, migrating to Atlanta, and meeting daily living expenses. This information exists only sparsely in written documents, so I relied on day laborers' memories to piece together a semblance of both the broad sweep and the minutia of day laboring in Atlanta.

Because I aimed to document and understand the motivations, methods, and results of people who

sought to improve day laborers' lives and working conditions, I also conducted oral history interviews with activists such as attorneys, union organizers, hiring hall founders, religious leaders, and community organizers.



Day laborers who secured work at a catch-out corner. Decatur, Georgia. Photo by Terry Easton, July 2005.

I took over five hundred posed and random photographs of day laborers, people who worked to improve day laborers' lives, day labor agencies, hiring halls, and street-corner pickup sites. I also photographed marches and rallies throughout the metropolitan region.

The collection also contains digital and paper copies of contemporary and historical documents related to day laboring in Atlanta. These documents include fliers, protest announcements, meeting minutes, newsletters, job application forms, pay stubs, job tickets, and work orders.

I aim to give the collection to [Georgia State University's Southern Labor Archives](#). This collection brings attention to a segment of workers whose contributions to the transformations of Atlanta remain largely invisible and about whom little is known. This collection also expands our understanding of Southern labor history while providing a more complete portrait of day laborers in the United States. The collection has already been put to good use. In 2006 I completed an award-winning dissertation from the collection (*Temporary Work, Contingent Lives: Race, Immigration, and Transformations of Atlanta's*

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## Human Rights SPOTLIGHT (continued)

Daily Work, Daily Pay). In 2007 I published an [on-line article](#) that highlighted the oral history and multi-media components of the project.



Workers at a March. Doraville, Georgia. Photo by Terry Easton.

I hope that visitors to the collection will learn how day laborers' lives are connected to Human Rights issues such as wage violations and preventable injuries. Day laborers' working lives are formed through employment relations rooted in marginalization. Until affluent Americans fully comprehend the ways in which their lives are connected to those of day laborers, contingent workers at the margins will continue to experience wage abuse and hazardous conditions.

Work, even in its most tedious and grueling forms, should not degrade the human spirit. Work should be, in Studs Terkel's words, a search "for daily meaning as well as daily bread, for recognition as well as cash, for astonishment rather than torpor; in short, for a sort of life rather than a Monday through Friday sort of dying." A fifty-year-old African American day laborer echoes Terkel's sentiments: "I feel like if America would start paying these guys better money, better salaries, and let 'em live more decent than what they're livin', then they will see a better America." A Latino day laborer observes, "even though we're immigrants we're still human beings."

## Human Rights Archives Roundtable Established in SAA

Submitted by Valerie Love

In recent years, archival institutions and organizations have become increasingly concerned with issues regarding human rights records and archival collections. Questions of access, privacy, politics, trust, and ensuring the safety of those documenting abuses and potentially controversial records all impact archivists working with human rights collections. Furthermore, the difficult subject matter contained in records of human rights abuses may require additional support for processing archivists who must confront images and accounts of atrocities daily. Informal gatherings of archivists concerned with human rights issues have occurred at the SAA meetings in San Francisco in 2008 and Austin in 2009.

The Human Rights Archives Roundtable was established in 2010 to create a space for SAA members and other stakeholders (human rights advocates, scholars, government officials, and non-governmental organization workers) to increase dialogue and collaboration on issues related to the collection, preservation, disclosure, legal implications and ethics of human rights documentation.

The goals of the roundtable are:

1. To foster dialog between archivists working with human rights collections and other stakeholders on issues related to the management, preservation, and access to human rights archives.
2. To disseminate information to roundtable members and members of SAA, and to formalize grassroots efforts to organize around human rights issues within SAA and in conjunction with the International Council on Archives Human Rights Working Group
3. To establish a formal presence within SAA and create an official venue for the exchange ideas affecting human rights archival collections

The SAA Human Rights Archives Roundtable is open to everyone interested in human rights documentation, and will hold its first meeting at Washington DC on Wednesday, August 11, 2010. Contact [Valerie Love](#), or [T-Kay Sangwand](#) for more information.

## ORAL HISTORY NEWS

### Veterans History Project Commemorates 10th Year

Submitted by Lisa Taylor and Jason Steinhauer, Veterans History Project, Library of Congress

This year the Veterans History Project (VHP) of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress marks the 10th anniversary of its congressional mandate to collect, preserve and make accessible the personal accounts of wartime veterans of the U.S. military. Since its creation ten years ago, VHP has grown to be the largest oral history archive in the nation, with over 70,000 collections.



Launched on Veterans Day 2000, the Veterans History Project relies on volunteers to record the oral histories of veterans, as well as collect original photographs, diaries, letters, memoirs and other wartime documents. The project has organized hundreds of community engagement programs nationwide with the United States Congress; colleges, universities and schools; the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; civic organizations; faith-based groups; veteran-service organizations; and libraries.

To support these efforts, VHP produced new resources to help educate the public. A revised and updated Veterans History Project Field Kit was designed to provide step-by-step instructions on collecting and preserving veterans' stories and can be downloaded from VHP's website: [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets). Through its Field Kit as well as workshops, VHP has trained members of the public on how to conduct oral histories with veterans in their families and communities. Through a cooperative effort with the American Folklore Society, VHP has provided training for more than 7,000 volunteer participants through more than 300 workshops in 41 states since 2002. These workshops utilize the VHP process to bring concepts of oral history and folklore to local communities across the country.

During the last decade, VHP has hosted and sponsored many outreach efforts to the community. Last fall, VHP hosted a National Teach-in on Veterans

History which was held at the Library of Congress on October 21st, and webcast live to more than 2,000 schools. The program was hosted by VHP and the History cable network as part of the "Take a Veteran to School Day" initiative.

VHP has grown to be a diverse representation of all races, conflicts, types of service, and both genders. Among the collections in the VHP archive are nearly 39,000 World War II veterans, 10,000 Vietnam veterans, 8,000 Korean War veterans, 300 World War I veterans, 2,000 Persian Gulf War veterans, and 1,000 veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Each veteran receives a service history page on the VHP website, which gives a brief overview of their military experience and lists the materials and formats available in their collection. More than 8,000 of these collections are digitized and available to view via the VHP website. Any collection can be viewed in the American Folklife Center reading room at the Library of Congress by appointment. The stories have been used by authors, historians, educators, filmmakers and researchers. Included are the recollections of veterans from every Congressional District in all 50 states, the U.S. territories, and all branches of the U.S. military.

As part of its ever-growing online Experiencing War series, 29 web presentations feature the stories of the diverse veterans who served the nation in wartime. Thematic presentations highlight the military achievements of women, African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, Jewish Americans, Asian Americans and disabled veterans, among others. Presentations also feature specific conflicts such as the two World Wars and the Global War on Terror, and pivotal events like D-Day and December 7, 1941. The current Experiencing War feature highlights the stories of veterans who served during the Korean War.

To commemorate its first decade, VHP has hosted several special events and is in the process of launching new program initiatives. These include events to mark the 60th anniversary of the start of the Korean War and efforts to gather more stories of minority and women veterans. In addition, there will be book talks and new online presentations.

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## ORAL HISTORY NEWS (continued)

SAA Conference attendees are invited to attend VHP's Open House on Tuesday, August 10th from 3:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. in the VHP Information Center, which is located on the first floor of the Library of Congress James Madison Memorial Building, Room LM-109. During that time, VHP staff will highlight stories from the collections and answer questions regarding guidelines and participation.

For more information on the Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, call 1-888-371-5848 or email [vohp@loc.gov](mailto:vohp@loc.gov). Sign up for news, tips, techniques and more through VHP's RSS at <http://www.loc.gov/rss/vhp/vhp.xml>.

### **Goliad Center for Texas History Awarded the 2010 Baylor University Community Oral History Grant**

Submitted by Melissa G. Gonzales

The Goliad Center for Texas History is pleased to announce their acceptance of The Baylor University Institute for Oral History's 2010 Community Oral History Grant. The Center is located in the Texas History Room of the Goliad County Library in Goliad, Texas. The Baylor Institute for Oral History selected this project for the grant from more than twenty worthy applicants, and we are proud to have been honored by their choice.

With the Institute's help, the Goliad Center for Texas History's Oral History Project will mark the beginning of a permanent oral history program to collect, preserve, and make accessible oral interview recordings and transcripts that will supplement the rich collections documenting the community's history and heritage. Goliad is one of the oldest and most historically significant towns in Texas. Founded in 1836, Goliad County was one of the original thirteen counties established in Texas, and not only has a rich past going back to Spanish and Mexican occupation, but was also pivotal during the Texas Revolution. Its role in the Texas Revolution is well known, although the battle lives in the shadow of the Alamo's fame. Although there are plenty of materials recording the town's role in Texas history, the stories that live in human memory lack documentation. We have identified potential interviewees representing a diverse cross-section of

the community, including citizens descended from African, German, Tejano, Mexican, and Anglo families, some of which have had ancestors present in Goliad for over two hundred years. The memories available from these community members will cover topics relevant to the area's history: ranching, agriculture, the revival of the longhorn breed, the 1902 tornado, preservation of the town's major historical sites, and the development of businesses, services, and social organizations. Their stories will also touch on the major events of the twentieth-century (the Great Depression, the world wars, Korean and Vietnam wars, the 1950s oil boom, and the desegregation of schools) and their impact on south Texas life.



Goliad County Library's Texas History Room—home of the Goliad Center for Texas History.

Training for community volunteer interviewers began in February, and the initial project will culminate with an exhibit of audio selections of oral history interviews paired with historical photographs. It is the goal of the program's administrators to hold the display at the Market House Museum the weekend of December 3-4, 2010, during the annual Christmas in Goliad event.

### **FORGOTTEN: The Arkansas Korean War Project**

Submitted by Stephanie Bayless, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

In 2008, the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, a department of the Central Arkansas Library System, initiated FORGOTTEN: The Arkansas Korean War Project to document and preserve information about this forgotten war, an important part of American—and Arkansas—history. In addition to collecting documents, photographs, and memorabilia, we conduct oral history interviews with veterans who have an Arkansas connection.

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## ORAL HISTORY NEWS (continued)

Ronald VanBuren shared his story with the Butler Center as one of the first veterans contacted as part of FORGOTTEN. VanBuren enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1948 because, like so many others, he needed help funding his education. When North Korea invaded South Korea, VanBuren was sent into combat with the 99th Field Artillery Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division.

While in Korea, VanBuren served as an outpost gunner and medic and took part in the disastrous retreat from North Korea following Chinese entry into the war. His duties as medic ensured that he was also the official battery barber. As recounted in his interview, he did the best he could with a pair of dull squeeze clippers. Sadly, VanBuren passed away in 2009, but his unique story is preserved for future generations because of FORGOTTEN.



Wire Section of the 936th Field Artillery Battalion, an Arkansas Army National Guard unit, in Korea, ca. 1951.

The project has been an incredible success. Thus far we have made contact with 100+ veterans, accessioned over 50 collections containing numerous documents and more than 2500 photographs, and conducted 33 oral history interviews. Audio and video versions of 29 interviews are currently available online with new interviews added as they are processed. These oral history interviews are invaluable. The words of Arkansas veterans give personal insight into the lives of soldiers in Korea, something lacking in most traditional history books.

Recently, clips from our veteran interviews—along with photos, documents, and video footage from our collections and NARA—were used in the production of a Butler Center documentary called *Uncle Sam Desired Our Presence: Arkansans in the Korean War*. At its premiere, the documentary was well-received by veterans, scholars, and the general public.

To learn more about FORGOTTEN or to view the available oral history interviews and selections from the collections visit <http://www.butlercenter.org/korean-warproject>.

### **Dole Institute of Politics, The University of Kansas**

Submitted by Morgan Davis

C-SPAN3 has begun airing portions of oral histories from the collection of the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas. The first programs aired in late November and featured hour long interviews with Senator Bob Dole, Vice President Walter Mondale, Senator Howard Baker and former California Governor Pete Wilson.

The broadcasts continued in January with interview with Senator George Mitchell and Secretary James Baker. This summer interviews with Dole staff members Kerry Tymchuck and Walt Riker were aired.

The Dole Archive plans to continue airing more interviews throughout 2010 as well as partnering with C-SPAN Radio to broadcast many of our audio-only interviews.

The Dole Institute oral history program began in 2006 and collected interviews with American politicians and political aides who helped to shape Senator Dole's career. Historians Richard Norton Smith and Brien Williams conducted 72 interviews, most of which were captured on both audio and video.

Following the broadcasts the interviews are also available on-line through the C-SPAN video library. To locate the oral histories from the collection of the Dole Institute simply use the search phrase "Dole Institute" in the video library search located here: <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/videoLibrary/>



## ORAL HISTORY NEWS (continued)

### American Folklore Society Surveys Civil Rights Movement Oral History Collections

Submitted by Timothy Lloyd, PhD, Executive Director, American Folklore Society, and Mershon Center, The Ohio State University

Revised by Guha Shankar, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress

The American Folklore Society is conducting a seven-month survey of existing archival collections of oral histories of participants in the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S. during the 1950s and 1960s, on behalf of the American Folklife Center (AFC) at the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC).

Four scholars from the fields of archives and library science, folklore, and history (Danille Christensen, Bloomington, Indiana; Will Griffin, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Elizabeth Gritter, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and Andrew Salinas, New Orleans, Louisiana) are presently undertaking this survey work.

This project is an outgrowth of the Civil Rights History Project Act (PL 111-19) passed by the U.S. Congress in 2009. The public law instructs the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution to work together to "create a new Federally sponsored project that will coordinate at a national level the collection of video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonies of individuals who participated in the American Civil Rights movement. The AFC and the NMAAHC are jointly coordinating the survey and recording new interviews with Movement veterans. The survey results and selected interviews will eventually be made available through an online portal that will provide open-access resources for scholars and members of the public.

### Reflections on Georgia Politics

Submitted by Craig Breaden, Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, University of Georgia

The Richard B. Russell Library at the University of Georgia is proud to announce the opening of *Reflections on Georgia Politics*. *Reflections on Georgia Politics* began in the fall of 2006 at Young Harris College, as a lecture and discussion program hosted by Georgia political veteran Bob Short, who former Georgia Secretary of State Cathy Cox called "the most effective politician I've ever known who was never elected to office." In late 2007, the Richard B. Russell Library began producing the program, with Mr. Short as its interviewer, as a video oral history series. The series illuminates and personalizes the tectonic shifts that occurred in Georgia politics in the mid and late twentieth century: desegregation and the Civil Rights Movement, the impact of Baker v. Carr, and Georgia's evolution as a two-party state. Former governors, constitutional officers, congressmen and senators, state legislators, political organizers, and journalists have strengthened the broad net cast by *Reflections on Georgia Politics*. At 120 programs and counting, and almost five days of video footage, *Reflections on Georgia Politics* represents a tremendous historical resource. The Russell Library serves as the repository for the series, making decades of political history, strategy, and stories of back-room politics accessible to the public.



Bob Short interviews former Congressman Bill Stuckey with Craig Breaden in foreground, 2008.

Creating digitally born video oral histories has enabled us to heighten our profile and presence online, as streaming video tools have grown both more

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## ORAL HISTORY NEWS (continued)

sophisticated and easier to use. Even before we were able to stream the interviews in their entirety on our webpage and in iTunesU, we took advantage of YouTube and the Russell Library blog to showcase highlights and advertise the program. This has resulted in drawing development dollars, and recently we have been able to upgrade to high definition video and invest in professional lighting, which has grown more affordable with the advent of more powerful compact fluorescent lighting. *Reflections on Georgia Politics*, including finding aid and full streaming video, is accessible via its webpage on the Russell Library website (<http://www.libs.uga.edu/russell/collections/reflections.shtml>) and iTunesU at UGA (<http://www.itunes.uga.edu/>). The interviews have been transcribed and are currently being audited. When they are completed they will be added to the webpage and to iTunes.



Video still from interview with Lonnie King, founder of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee.

### All Things Both Great and Small: Oral History Project

Submitted by Mark Cave,  
Historic New Orleans Collection

All Things Both Great and Small is an oral history project created and funded by The Historic New Orleans Collection to document the impact of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on the wildlife of southeastern Louisiana.

Wildlife has been central to our region's identity for centuries, from the journals of colonial naturalists to the adoption of the pelican as the symbol of our state. The Deepwater Horizon oil spill represents one of the greatest threats ever presented to our region's wildlife. The effort to defend and rescue wildlife speaks not only to how dependent we are on these "resources" but also to the respect and empathy that we should show all living things.

The objective of the project is to interview individuals regarding their involvement in the wildlife rescue operations—and to collect ephemera, photographs, and other materials that supplement the interviews in documenting the response to the spill. The interviews will be transcribed, cataloged, and made available to the public at The Collection's Williams Research Center so that future generations can benefit from the lessons learned.

For information regarding the project, please contact [Mark Cave](#) at The Historic New Orleans Collection by email, or by phone at (504) 598-7132.



Photograph by Keely Merritt.

## ORAL HISTORY SECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Society of American Archivists 75th Anniversary Oral History Project**

Submitted by Lauren Kata, SAA Oral History Section Project Leader for 75th Anniversary Oral History Project

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

##### ***Why Volunteer?***

- Learn about the history of your chosen profession and make connections within it that will serve a lifetime.
- Gain experience in oral history, all work will be tracked and your volunteer hours may be added to your resume.
- We need you!

##### ***What can you do?***

We need help in the following areas:

- On-site arrangements: if you plan to attend the SAA Annual Meeting in 2010 and/or 2011, the Oral History Section would welcome volunteers to serve as "handlers," that is, on-site assistants to work with interviewers and interviewees.
- Transcription: the project is an all-volunteer project, and we would welcome volunteers who can donate time to transcribe anniversary interviews.
- Interviewing: if you have experience conducting interviews, or would like the experience and have someone in mind whom you would like to interview, we will provide training.
- Media repurposing: originals and masters of all interviews will be added to the SAA Archives. A variety of multimedia products using excerpts from the SAA interviews are being envisioned. If you have interest or experience in processing audiovisual materials, we would love your help and participation.
- Or, if you have an idea of how you'd like to participate and contribute, please let us know!

### **The 2010 Section Meeting**

Submitted by Joel Minor, SAA Oral History Section Vice Chair/Chair Elect

We hope you can join us on Friday, August 13, 1:00-3:00, for our section meeting, which will start with Section Chair Mark Cave leading the business portion of the meeting, including election results for 2010/11. Discussion of the SAA 75th Anniversary Oral History Project will follow, led by Project Leader and Oral History Section Past-Chair Lauren Kata.

Then we have what no doubt will be a thought-provoking and eye-opening program lined up. Four speakers will talk about their involvement with oral history projects past, present and future, that aim in various ways to help make social justice for their subjects possible. Below are the titles and brief descriptions of the presentations, as submitted by the presenters themselves.

#### **The Struggle Continues: Expanding the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute's Archives and Oral History Project to Meet a Global Mission**

Building on a sixteen-year old oral history project documenting the Birmingham Movement, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute now seeks to expand that project and its archives to meet the BCRI mission: To promote civil and human rights worldwide through education. In order to grow in this direction, BCRI seeks to connect with other archives and oral history projects engaged in documentation of grassroots struggles for justice around the globe.

*Presented by Laura Caldwell Anderson, Archivist / International Oral History Project Administrator, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute*

#### **Preservation and Access for Survivor Testimonies at the Kigali Genocide Memorial in Rwanda**

Using a "non-custodial" archives model, the University of Texas Libraries Human Rights Documentation Initiative is partnering with the Kigali Genocide Memorial in Rwanda to digitally preserve and make accessible to Rwandan's and the international community KGM's collection of Rwanda Genocide survivor oral history testimonies. The project includes

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## ORAL HISTORY SECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

developing technical knowledge and technological infrastructure locally in Rwanda and providing an open resource for other organizations to preserve and share their own survivor testimonies.

*Presented by Christian Kelleher, Project Manager, Human Rights Documentation Initiative Archivist, and Nettie Lee Benson, Latin American Collection at The University of Texas Libraries*

### **Making the Hidden Transcript Public: The Cleveland Homeless Oral History Project**

In doing oral history work, universal accessibility is often seen both as a professional obligation and as closely intertwined with the broader goals of social justice. This perceived mandate, however, can put narrators at risk and threaten their own capacity to engage in critical dialogue. The Cleveland Homeless Oral History Project (CHOHP) took place in a hostile climate marked by a city campaign to arrest and drive the unhoused out of the downtown business district. The narrators also feared their words could be used against them at the day labor agencies they worked at and social services they depended upon. Nonetheless, the project successfully created largely unseen spaces where the unhoused could critically evaluate the institutions that shaped their lives. The decision of whether to make these “hidden transcripts” public was not made by the oral historian, rather it was made by the people who bore the serious and real risks of having their voices heard.

*Presented by Daniel Kerr, Assistant Professor of History, James Madison University*

### **Legacy of Liberation: The Oral Histories of Concentration Camp Liberators in the Veterans History Project**

Sixty-five years ago, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower toured liberated German concentration camps. The visual and verbal testimony, he wrote, were necessary for posterity, should anyone ever try to “charge these allegations to propaganda.” Sixty-five years later, nearly 1,000 WWII veterans die every day. What remains is their testimony of what they saw and experienced during the Second World War. The

Library of Congress Veterans History Project holds hundreds of liberator testimonies, and maintaining access to them for students, educators, historians, and researchers becomes ever more vital with each passing day. In the 65th anniversary of the liberation of concentration camps, and the 10th anniversary of the Veterans History Project, the importance of an individual’s story to contribute to broader understandings of history is never more apparent.

*Presented by Jason Steinhauer, Liaison Specialist, Veterans History Project, Library of Congress*

### **Oral History Section Election**

The Oral History Section wishes to congratulate the newest members of our Steering Committee! In our second online section election which ran from July 6-20th, the following candidates were elected.

#### **Vice-Chair/Chair Elect: Howard Levin**



Howard Levin (MA, Curriculum and Instruction, University of Washington; BA, Social Studies Education, Western Washington University) is currently the Director of Technology at The Urban School of San Francisco where he runs Telling Their Stories: Oral History Archives Project, [www.tellingstories.org](http://www.tellingstories.org). Howard taught high school history -- including oral history -- for 10 years prior to joining Urban in 1999. His interest and involvement in oral history grew from undergraduate work with the Jewish community in Bellingham, WA in 1983. His work continued as an interviewer for Survivors of the Shoah, the Steven Spielberg-funded Holocaust oral history project.

As Project Director of Telling Their Stories, Howard led the first known high school digital video-based oral history program in the country. Telling Their Stories is an award-winning website featuring high school student-produced interviews with elders who witnessed momentous historical events of the last century. Started as a project of The Urban

## ORAL HISTORY SECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

School, Telling Their Stories continues to expand its work, currently partnering with other high schools, most notably McComb High School in McComb, MS. Current topics include interviews with participants in the struggle to achieve voting rights for blacks in early 1960's Mississippi, survivors of the Holocaust, liberators and witnesses of the Nazi concentration camps, and Japanese Americans interned during World War II. Howard designed the project to serve as a model for schools across the nation, demonstrating that students can directly contribute to the global learning community by conducting and publishing oral histories.

Howard is an active proponent of oral history and modern methodologies of collection and distribution. He leads an annual week-long digital video oral history production workshop for educators from around the country ([www.centerforinnovativeteaching.org](http://www.centerforinnovativeteaching.org)). Other presentations include: Oral History Association Annual Meeting, "Oral History in the 21st Century Classroom" (full day workshop), Pittsburgh, 10/08; The Society of American Archivists, Oral History Section Annual Meeting, guest speaker, San Francisco, 8/08; Holocaust Forum, National Holocaust Memorial Museum and UCS Shoah Foundation Institute, "An Approach to the Use of Oral Testimonies," Los Angeles, 4/08; Oral History Association Annual Meeting, "Telling Their Stories: Producing Web-based Digital Video Interviews" (full-day workshop), "The Digital Video Generation: Practicality and Efficacy of Student Produced Oral Histories," Oakland, 10/07; Facing History and Ourselves, Holocaust and Human Behavior Institute, "Oral History in the Making," San Mateo, 8/06; International Oral History Association World Conference, "Using Digital Video to Produce & Publish Oral Histories on the Web," Sydney, Australia, 7/06; and numerous presentations at educational conferences throughout the country.

Howard has authored several articles about oral history and educational technology including: "Here & Now in the School of the Future," Independent School, National Association of Independent Schools, winter 2009; "Telling Their Stories: Student Production and Delivery of Digital Video Interviews via the Internet," International Oral History Association, 7/06, Sydney, AU, reprinted in On Tape, Oral History Association of Australia, April, 2008; "Making History Come Alive:

Students Interview Holocaust Survivors on Camera and Publish Their Stories on the Web," Learning and Leading with Technology, ISTE, 11/03. Howard brings to SAA a combination of focus on both 21st century technology in oral history and a commitment to expand collections by students throughout the country. His status as a nationally recognized leader in American independent school education will help forge new associations with SAA.

For more information, visit [www.howardlevin.com](http://www.howardlevin.com)



### Steering Committee: Carrie Daniels

I currently serve as interim director of the University of Louisville Archives and Records Center, and have served as co-director of University of Louisville's Oral History Center since 2003. Previously, I worked in Tuft's

Digital Collections and Archives. I hold an MSLIS from Simmons College in Boston, an EdM from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and a BBA from the University of Michigan. My work in University of Louisville's Oral History Center focuses on the curation of the Center's holdings, which date back to 1968 and continue to grow. I am primarily responsible for enhancing access as well as preservation, and it is in those areas that I can best serve the Oral History Section. Examples of my work include developing an approach for making oral histories available online using CONTENTdm, a digital asset management system developed with images and text rather than audio files in mind (<http://digital.library.louisville.edu/collections/afamoh/>). I have also been actively involved in University of Louisville's work as a founding member of the MetaArchive Cooperative, a relatively low-cost, collaborative digital preservation strategy employing LOCKSS ("Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe") software.

## ORAL HISTORY SECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)



### **Steering Committee: Chana R. Kotzin, Ph.D.**

As a newer member of the SAA I am very much looking forward to getting involved in the SAA through my twin interests of archives and oral history through the SAA Oral History Section. I am currently the coordinator of the Jewish Buffalo Archives Project in Buffalo, New York. In addition to developing a community archives, I am recording a range of oral histories as part of a program, "Voices of Jewish Buffalo and Niagara". Our project has partnered with the University Archives of the University at Buffalo, who are providing repository and access services to documentation and oral histories. I am particularly interested in oral history programs as part of community archives programs, not just as an adjunct or addendum to a documentation project, but as a core component.

I have been involved in oral history over the last 15 years in different formats, initially as part of completing a Ph.D. in History from the University of Southampton (UK). As part of my doctoral dissertation (on the ways in which European Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi antisemitism were received in Britain during the 1930s) I interviewed a number of former child Kindertransporte and refugee aid workers and their descendants. Since relocating to the United States, I have worked in public history and oral history, including work as a guest curator and researcher for the Jewish Museum of Maryland and the Jewish Women's Archives (JWA), an on-line resource for the history of Jewish women where I interviewed women who transformed their communities in medicine, social work and environmental activism. I am currently involved in an array of local and academic Jewish organizations as well as local archival organizations in WNY. I am very interested in the SAA 75th Oral History Program as a tool to educate members about the history and breadth of SAA activity itself and development of the profession as well as learning more about the new directions archives and oral history are taking.

## ORAL HISTORY CALENDAR

### AUGUST 2010

#### **Veterans History Project Open House & Mixer – SAA 2010**

The nation's largest oral history project, the Veterans History Project holds 70,000 first-hand accounts of veterans from World War I through Iraq and Afghanistan. Created by Congress in 2000, VHP resides within the Library's American Folklife Center, and works with folklorists, community organizations, Members of Congress and volunteers across the country to collect the oral histories, letters, photographs, artwork, and home movie footage of veterans. Hundreds of collections arrive each month.

As part of our tenth anniversary, VHP invites SAA attendees to join us for an Open House at our Information Center in the Library of Congress Madison Building. View collections, learn about our project, meet members of our processing and collections development teams, and watch excerpts of oral history.

Following the Open House, join VHP and the SAA Oral History Section for a happy hour mixer at Capitol Lounge, a Capitol Hill fixture.

Interested participants are also encouraged to register for a tour of the American Folklife Center at either 3 or 4 p.m. in the Library's Jefferson building.

#### **Where:**

Library of Congress  
James Madison Memorial Building, Room 109  
101 Independence Ave. SE  
Washington, D.C. 20540-4615

#### **When:**

Tuesday, August 10, 2010  
3:30 – 5:00 p.m., Open House (Library of Congress Madison Building, Room 109)  
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Mixer (Capitol Lounge, on Capitol Hill)

## ORAL HISTORY CALENDAR

### Contact:

<http://www.loc.gov/vets>

[vohp@loc.gov](mailto:vohp@loc.gov)

(202) 707-4916 or (888) 371-5848

### Directions:

<http://www.loc.gov/visit/directions.html>

<http://www.capitolloungedc.com/location>

### Niels Bohr Library & Archives and the Center for the History of Physics Tour - SAA 2010

**Address:** One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740

**When:** August 11, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Details:** Tour; pre-registration not required

**Contact:** [nbl@aip.org](mailto:nbl@aip.org) or [www.aip.org/history/](http://www.aip.org/history/)

**About:** The Library & Archives serves as an international clearinghouse for information and an advocate for preserving the history of physics, astronomy, geophysics, and allied fields. In-house holdings include a collection of textbooks, monographs, biographies, and related publications, dating mostly from ca. 1850 to 1950. Also available are more than 30,000 photographs and other images; ca. 1,500 oral histories; and archival records of AIP and its member societies.

## OCTOBER 2010

### 2010 OHA Annual Meeting, Atlanta Georgia

"Times of Crisis, Times of Change: Human Stories on the Edge of Transformation."

October 27-31, 2010, Atlanta, Georgia

[Program of Events, Program Schedule, and Registration Information](#)

Focusing on the themes of civil rights, human rights, immigration, and LGBT history, this year's conference marks the 50th anniversary of the Atlanta Student Movement, the founding of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and the 5th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Keynote speakers include award-winning journalist, Maria Hinojosa, and Black Freedom Movement veterans, Connie Curry, Lonnie King, Bernard LaFayette, Jr., and Judy Richardson. The conference opens on Wednesday evening with film, songs, and recollections of the Depression Era and the Federal Writers' Project of

the 1930s. Three plenary sessions focus on Katrina, present day immigration, and oral history in LGBT communities. The Presidential Reception, in the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum, includes a memorial tribute to Brother Blue. Also featured are New Book Spotlights on some of the most vibrant examples of growth in the field of oral history.

## MARCH 2011

### Conference Workshop on Oral History and Human Rights Planned for March 2011 at the University of Connecticut

Planning is currently under way for a conference workshop on oral history and human rights to be held March 25-26 at the University of Connecticut, in Storrs, Connecticut. The conference is being sponsored by the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center and the Human Rights Institute at the University of Connecticut. The goal of the event is to provide a space for practitioners and scholars using contemporary forms of oral history that document human atrocities to participate in discussions with colleagues, as well as to present their work to a larger, public audience. The first day, Friday, March 25, 2011 will consist of a small workshop for oral historians, with invited participants giving brief papers on their work. The workshop will allow participants to discuss their projects, share successes and challenges, and learn from the experiences of colleagues working with different communities. The second day of the conference on Saturday, March 26, 2011 will consist of open sessions for an intended audience of students, faculty, archivists, librarians, and interested members of the public in order to raise awareness of the human rights issues which the oral histories uncover.

Confirmed speakers thus far include Lee Ann De Reus, Penn State Altoona, and 2009 recipient of the Genocide Intervention Network Carl Wilkens Fellowship; Steven High, Co-director of the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling, Concordia University; and Daniel Rothenberg, Managing Director of International Projects, International Human Rights Law Institute, DePaul University Law School.

For more information about the workshop, please contact [Valerie Love](#), Curator for Human Rights Collections at the University of Connecticut, 860-486-2384.



# Oral History Section

<http://www2.archivists.org/groups/sections/ohs>



SOCIETY OF  
American  
Archivists

## Purpose of the SAA Oral History Section

The Oral History Section of the Society of American Archivists is composed of members of the Society and others who are interested in or are actively engaged in conducting oral history interviews and/or teach oral history methodology. The Oral History Section provides a forum for news, for discussion of issues and developments, and for establishing and maintaining communication and cooperation with other professional organizations.

Read the rest of the Section's [By-laws](#)

## Steering Committee Members 2009-2010

### Section Chair

Mark Cave  
The Historic New Orleans Collection  
markc@hnoc.org

### Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

Joel Minor  
Texas State University-San Marcos  
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### Past Section Chair & Nominating Committee Chair

Al Stein  
Chicago State University  
astein@csu.edu

### Member (term 2008-2010)

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### Member (term 2008-2010)

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The National Press Club  
mjustsen@press.org

### Newsletter Editor/Ex-officio Member

Jennifer Eidson  
Library of Congress Veterans History Project  
jeid@loc.gov

### Project Leader for 75th Anniversary Oral History Project (term 2009-2010)

Lauren Kata  
Archives of the Episcopal Church  
Austin, TX  
lauren.kata@gmail.com

New leadership assumes office at the close of the annual meeting of the section.



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