Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region



Fall 2006 Newsletter

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TWO VENUES FOR FALL 2006 WORKSHOPS

Two full days of OHMAR workshops — one on November 3,2006 at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, and the other on November 10,2006 at New York University in New York City — are planned for this fall.

In Washington, registrants will have a choice of morning sessions — either a Beginners Workshop or a session on Managing an Oral History Program — and a choice of afternoon activities, either a workshop focusing on oral history and the digital age, or one that will take an in-depth look at the Library of Congress's Veterans Oral History Project. OHMAR is fortunate to have former OHMAR president and oral historian Donita Moorhus teaching the beginner's session. Special access to the LOC project will make the session memorable.

In New York, because of strong demand last fall, OHMAR is sponsoring a Beginners Workshop, taught once again by Rachel Bernstein, historian at the Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives at New York University and teacher of oral history seminars at NYU. The afternoon session will focus on the benefits and challenges of placing oral history interviews on the Internet; attendees will enjoy the expert advice of oral historians Mary Marshall Clark, head of the Columbia University Oral History Research Office and former president of the Oral History Association, and Sandra Stewart Holyoak, director of Rutgers University's Oral History Archives and a former member of OHMAR's board of directors. Each workshop in New York is limited to 25 participants, and pre-registration is required. The day's program is organized in cooperation with the Tamiment Library and the Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives.

Registration forms for either or both of these workshop venues appear on pages 7–8 of this newsletter.

Please Note: Pre-registration at either venue is required. Payment MUST accompany your registration form in order to be assured a seat. For travel directions to either venue, consult: www.ohmar.org.

NEWS FROM THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION

WASHINGTON, DC

OHMAR joined with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project in presenting a lecture by Hilary Kaiser, oral historian, titled "The American Soldier and the Mademoiselle: Love and Marriage after World War I and II." The talk, which took place on February 10, 2006 at the Library of Congress, discussed political and social issues surrounding the immigration of these war brides to America.

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2006 POGUE AWARD GOES TO CHARLES "STU" KENNEDY FOR HIS ORAL HISTORY WORK WITH THE ASSOCIATION FOR DIPLOMATIC STUDIES

Charles "Stu" Kennedy, the recipient of the 2006 Pogue Award, was unable to attend presentation ceremonies in Baltimore. Here is an interview with Mr. Kennedy that was conducted by OHMAR President David Winkler.

OHMAR: First, give us a little background on "Charles S. Kennedy," including how you got into oral history?

KENNEDY: I was born in Chicago in 1928. Our family, hit by the Depression, moved first to California and then to Annapolis, MD, just before World War II. I was always a history buff. Living in Annapolis, with the Naval Academy around the corner and having access to its library's wonderful military history collection, was great. I learned a tremendous amount during the war years about military history.

I was educated first in the Pasadena school system, then at the Kent School in Connecticut, and at Williams College, from which I graduated in 1950 with a degree in history. I enlisted in the Air Force, studied Russian and served in Japan, Korea and West Germany. The Cold War dominated everything at that time. I took the Foreign Service exam and served for thirty years in West Germany, Saudi Arabia, Yugoslavia, South Vietnam, Greece, South Korea and Italy, almost exclusively as a consular officer. Shortly before my retirement in 1985, I attended the funeral of Burke Elbrick, my former ambassador in Yugoslavia and a man I greatly respected. As I sat there, I recalled the stories he used to tell about his early days in the Foreign Service, and I looked around at those fellow officers who had served with him and thought of all the stories they might have to tell. And that's how it started.

OHMAR: How did you obtain support for the program?

ENNEDY: Luckily, the idea of an oral history program did attract the attention of the history department of George Washington University. I and a colleague, Vic-



OHMAR Past President Roger Horowitz presents 2006 Pogue Award to Jack Zetkulic, Executive Director, The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training (ADST) who accepted it on behalf of Charles "Stu" Kennedy.

tor Wolf, were invited to set up a Foreign Affairs Oral History Center there. We were given some seed money for transcribing, but no salary. Unfortunately, Wolf was killed in a traffic accident, and I was able to raise exactly \$0.00.

Just as I was struggling to set up a program, the Association for Diplomatic Studies was created by a group of senior retired Foreign Service officers. It was designed to duplicate in some measure organizations such as the Naval Academy Naval Institute and to be a professional body that would help the New Foreign Affairs Training Center (formally the Foreign Service Institute of the State Department), which was being built at Arlington Hall in the Virginia suburbs. Among the Association's goals was to establish an on-going modest oral history program. As the only retired Foreign Service officer claiming to do oral history, I was recruited to do some interviews of retired diplomats born before 1918 who had been ambassadors. These were relatively short interviews at first, but as I gained confidence the interviews grew longer.

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The Forrest C. Pogue Award is named for the military historian Dr. Forrest C. Pogue (1912-1996) who pioneered the use of oral history interviews to compile battlefield histories. Poque taught for several years before joining the historical section of the United States Army during World War II. He later was appointed director of the George C. Marshall Research Center and then directed the Marshall Library and Marshall Research Foundation. In 1974, he was named director of the newly established Eisenhower Institute for Military Research at the Smithsonian and continued in that position until his retirement in 1986.

about fifty interviews covering the 1920s to the 1990s. This book is given to all new American ambassadors and is sold commercially.

We are working with the Foreign Service Institute to use the oral history transcripts as "lessons learned." Also, the Association is preparing a website for new Foreign Service officers on all aspects of diplomatic practice and excerpts from the oral history program will be part of this.

OHMAR: How has OHMAR helped your program? KENNEDY: OHMAR was particularly helpful initially, as I suspect has been the case in many of the programs that have sought the advice of Don Ritchie and others. Without the encouragement of OHMAR members, we would have been floundering. We do keep up with the themes that OHMAR explores that will help us make the collection more valuable.

Since our program is dealing exclusively with the

experiences and perceptions of American diplomats there is concern that this is a one-sided presentation. I have worked with a colleague, Malcolm McBain, a former British ambassador for over 15 years as he has created a British Diplomatic Oral History Programme. It is housed at Churchill College, Cambridge University and has turned into a major collection. Together we have created a huge Anglo-American source for those interested in foreign policy. We have both worked with the Japanese and while there are cultural problems there may sometime be a Japanese oral history collection. I have contacted the foreign ministries of France and Germany but there was not much interest, but their absence is the Anglo-American gain.

OHMAR: Thank you for your time, and congratulations again!

KENNEDY: You are most welcome.

NEWS FROM THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

An updated Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-2005, recently published, provides biographical profiles of each of the nearly 12,000 individuals who have served in the Congress of the United States from 1789 through January 2, 2005, and of those who served in the Continental Congress between 1774 and 1789. The volume also contains rosters of the state congressional delegations, elected congressional officials, and cabinet officers from 1789 to 2005. It is a valuable resource for all those interested in the Congress. Copies are available from the Government Printing Office, www.bookstore.gpo.gov

NEW YORK

The Brooklyn Navy Yard, having recently launched an oral history project, is looking for people who have lived/worked at the Yard, or who know someone who did. Please contact the Yard archivist at 718-907-5993, or e-mail oralhistory@brooklynnavy

yard.com. Provide your name, current address, what you did at the Yard and when you did it, and how best to get in touch with you.

Visit www.pwpl.orgto view "Sand and City," a new electronic resource produced by the Port Washington Public Library's Oral History Department (click on "Local History"). Under the direction of Elly Shodell, this digital presentation traces the history of sand mining, an industry that flourished on Long Island from the 1870s to the 1980s. Based on the narrative of retired sand miners and their families, "Sand and City" contains photographs, indexed transcripts, audio-taped excerpts from oral history interviews, video clips and narrative text.

PENNSYLVANIA AND NEW JERSEY

The History Press is seeking historians, archivists and historical societies interested in publishing books that tell stories, through

oral history, about towns and regions in these states. For further information, contact Maureen. Benes@HistoryPress.net, or at 866-223-5778.

MARYLAND

OHMAR's own Harriet Lynn, producer/artistic director of the Heritage Theatre Artists' Consortium, organized "Anonymous Requiem II," a project about love, loss and remembrance, in May of 2006. Eleven older adults presented their original performance pieces in memory of loved ones in a meaningful and thoughtful program titled "Love Eternal/Loss Expressed."

The College of Southern Maryland's South Maryland Studies Center recently placed online the catalog of its archival collections, including manuscripts, rare books, oral histories, ephemera and photographs. For information on the online collection, visit www.csmd.edu/Library/SMSC, or phone 301-934-7262, ext. 7107.

OHMAR FALL 2006 WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2006

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

ROOM LJ 119, JEFFERSON BUILDING, WASHINGTON, DC

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

RECEPTION—DINE-AROUND SIGN-UP

8:30 am - 11:30 am
MORNING SESSIONS

(CHOOSE ONE)

BEGINNING ORAL HISTORY

_____Donita Moorhus, professional oral historian and former president of OHMAR, will lead this half-day workshop that will cover the basics of oral history interviewing. For those who have recently begun doing oral history or those contemplating becoming an interviewer.

OR

Managing an Oral History Program

Learn the basics of managing an organizational or community oral history project, including tips for working with volunteers, archiving the collection, and distribution possibilities for the end product. Stu Kennedy, director of the Foreign Service Oral History Project, and Bernadette McMahon, manager of the Ruth Ann Overbeck Capitol Hill History Project, will facilitate this workshop.

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM LUNCH

12:45 PM - 3:45 PM

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

(Choose One)

FROM DINOSAURS TO DIGITAL

____This hands-on session will be split into two 1 ½ hour rotating groups: one portion, led by John Lonnquest, oral historian for the Army Corps of Engineers, will focus on methods and equipment for digital audio; the other, facilitated by Fred Stielow, head of Virtual Libraries at the American Military University, will concentrate on the presentation and manipulation of digital recordings for the Web and other uses. All participants will have the opportunity to experiment with digital recorders and related computer software.

OR

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

_____Visit the Library of Congress for a first-hand immersion in the Veterans History Project, the world's largest grassroots collection effort. Learn how these oral histories have been gathered, and how they are processed and then made available to researchers.

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES MORNING WORKSHOPS, LUNCH, AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS

\$50 OHMAR Member/ Student/VHP Partner

\$65 Non-Member rate

(You can become a member/renew your membership through December 2007. See the reverse side of this form.)

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2006

New York University

TAMIMENT LIBRARY CONFERENCE CENTER, BOBST LIBRARY
70 WASHINGTON SQUARE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

COFFEE

9:30 AM - 12:00 NOON

MORNING SESSION

BEGINNERS WORKSHOP

Let by Rachel Bernstein, NYU faculty member in the graduate program in Public History. An introduction to conducting oral history interviews, including methodology, interviewing techniques, locating interviewees, processing, and other aspects of oral history.

12:00 NOON - 1:30 P.M.

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

PLACING ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS ON THE INTERNET

Mary Marshall Clark, director of the Columbia University Oral History Research Office, and Sandra Steward Holyoak, director of the Rutgers University Oral History Archives, will lead participants through the philosophical and practical issues of making accessible on the Internet oral history interviews. The workshop will examine technical challenges of digitizing recorded interviews, making sound and text accessible online, legal issues, and decisions repositories must make in their choices of Internet-based resources.

MORNING "BEGINNERS WORKSHOP"

___\$25 OHMAR Member/Student ___\$35 Non-Member

AFTERNOON "PLACING INTERVIEWS ON THE INTERNET" WORKSHOP

____\$25 OHMAR Member/Student ____\$35 Non-Member

(You can become a member/renew your membership through December 2007. See the reverse side of this form.)

JEWISH WOMEN'S ARCHIVE PUBLISHES NEW INTERVIEWING GUIDE

The national Jewish Women's Archive recently published In Our Own Voices: A Guide to Conducting Life History Interviews with American Jewish Women. A unique compendium of essays by leading feminist scholars, the guide also includes informative excerpts from the Archives' own collection of oral histories. In Our Own Voices features hundreds of questions designed to help the interviewer appreciate the cultural and historical issues unique to interviewing Jewish women in order to produce professional interviews rich in historical material.

Two years ago, the Jewish Women's Archive put together an exhibit, "Weaving Women's Words: Baltimore Stories," drawing on its oral history interviews of Baltimore Jewish women, that shed light on their lives and on the forces that shaped them.

To obtain In Our Own Voices: A Guide to Conducting Life History Interviews with American Jewish Women, go to: www.jwa.org/guide. For more information about the Archives' oral history program, contact Ruth Pearlstein at rpearlstein@jwa.org.

ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION TO MEET IN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS OCTOBER 25–29, 2006

The 40th annual meeting of the Oral History Association will take place October 25-29 in Little Rock, Arkansas."Generational Links:Confronting the Past, Understanding the Present, Planning the Future," will focus special attention on oral history work with groups and individuals who risked their lives to confront injustice in its many forms, and oral history work within institutions and oral history projects that encourage a just and diverse future. Special emphasis will be on projects that illuminate intergenerational activities and actions. For further information and details, as they become available, consult the OHA website at www.dickinson.edu/oha.

OHMAR MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Membership is for one calendar year. Benefits include newsletters, advance notice of OHMAR events, and reduced fees to conferences and workshops. In addition, individual, student and life members may vote, hold office and serve on committees.

Individual (\$25)	Name:	
Student (\$10)	Address:	
Institutional (\$75)		
Life (\$1,000)	E-mail:	
	Phone:	

 $Please\ make\ check\ payable\ to: OHMAR, and\ mail\ to\ \textbf{OHMAR}, c/o\ Constance\ Strickland, Assistant\ Treasurer\\ 907\ 6th\ Street, SW\ \#206, Washington, DC\ 20024. Questions:\ cstrickland@navyhistory.org$

Membership through December 2007.

OHMAR

Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region

Established in 1976, OHMAR is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and improvement of oral history in the Mid-Atlantic region, and serves both professional and amateur oral historians, librarians. archivists, teachers, folklorists and independent researchers in Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

Each year, OHMAR sponsors two public forums — a fall workshop and spring conference — and produces two newsletters, one in the early fall, the other in the early spring. The deadlines for ads and submissions to its Spring 2007 newsletter is January 15, 2007. Send all information to the newsletter editor: sharonzane@earthlink.net.

Membership is for the calendar year. Benefits include newsletters, advance notice of, and reduced fees to, OHMAR events. For more information about membership, contact Constance Strickland at cstrickland@navyhistory.org.

OHMAR

c/o Constance Strickland Assistant Treasurer 907 6th Street, SW #206 Washington, DC 20024

For further information: www.ohmar.org

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