

SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA ARCHIVISTS NEWSLETTER

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Towards Addressing Harm in Archives

Lambda Archives of San Diego (LASD) is proactively collecting, preserving, and sharing LGBTQ history through an intentional anti-racist, anti-oppressive lens to address harm in archives. Upon becoming the Head Archivist in August 2020, I was determined to build and nurture an archival environment (and culture) that intentionally works towards reducing or preventing the ways in which archives reproduce harm through policies, standardized archival practices, capitalist attitudes concerning life/work balance, and notions of “professionalism” rooted in unchecked cis whiteness¹. This work cannot be done unless an organization’s top decision-makers are engaged in meaningful, tangible action. At another time, I’ll discuss what this work entails as someone who holds power at LASD, but for now, Dana Wiegand², the CSL Project Manager, former LASD volunteer and intern, and recent MSLIS graduate (yea!), shares a sliver of our approach by highlighting our



San Diego Pride, L2013.63.

digitization and preservation project funded by the California State Library (CSL), which we’ve been working on since November 2020.

-Joyce Gabiola, Head Archivist, LASD

(continued on next page)

1. Joyce (they/them) is a queer, nonbinary archivist of color whose harm-reductive approach to archival work is informed, in part, by their lived experiences navigating predominantly white, cis, hetero, patriarchal, diversity-performative spaces.

2. Dana (she/they) is a queer, white archivist with educational privilege whose approach to archives is centered on anti-racism, accessibility, and confronting the harmful practices in fields and institutions that are predominantly white, hetero, patriarchal, and cisgender.

In This Issue

1

Feature

4

President's Message

6

Collections Spotlight

10

News and Announcements

15

Exclusives

20

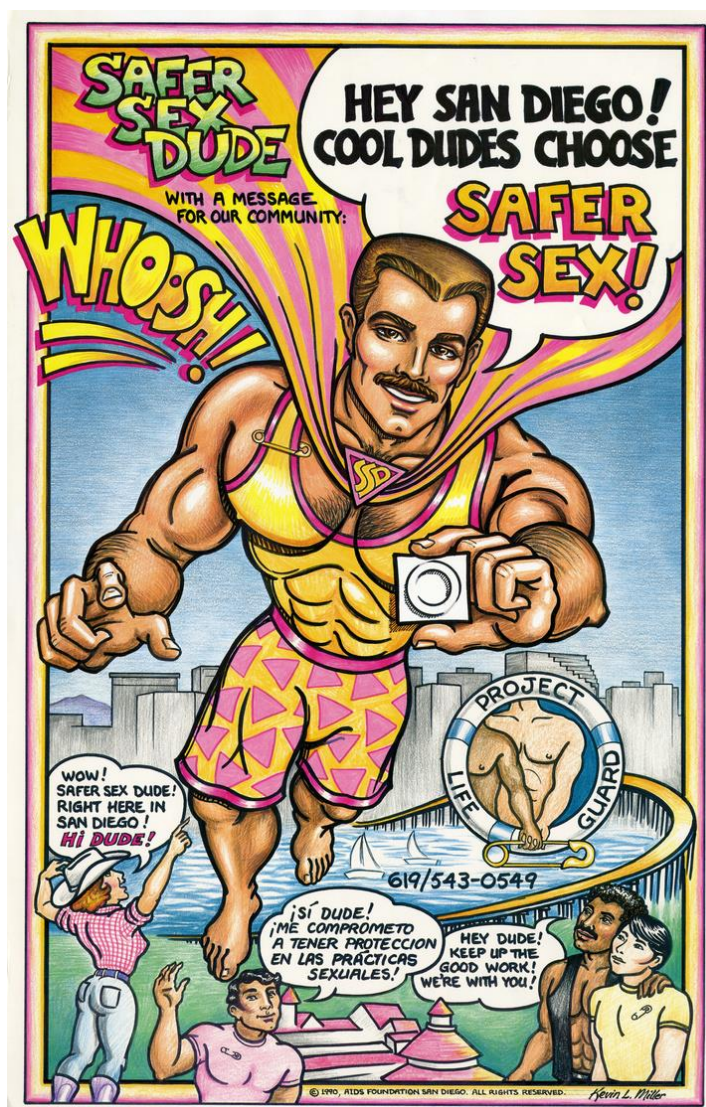
SCA Business

23

Calendar

Considering that the archival field has traditionally prioritized the histories of cisgender, heterosexual white men, it is unsurprising that the perspectives and narratives of Black and Indigenous people; people of color (BIPOC); and Trans individuals, activists, and organizations are largely underrepresented within Lambda Archives. However, we recognize that the provenance of Lambda Archives' early collections was that they were donated on behalf of (mostly) white, cisgender gay men who lost their lives to the AIDS epidemic, including activist and LASD's founder, Jess Jessop, who passed in February 1990. To counter exclusion or underrepresentation³ Joyce added a priority to the CSL project narrative to prioritize collections and materials that document histories of BIPOC LGBTQ+ communities. As part of our efforts, the project team decided to create a timeline of BIPOC-founded/led LGBTQ+ organizations. Among its endless uses, it will assist researchers who are studying racism and inequality within LGBTQ+ communities and the resulting disparities, as well as the power and lasting impact of these organizations.

Our team processed and created finding aids for 118 collections. In prioritizing BIPOC and Trans collections, we processed a wealth of materials in the Vertez Burks⁴ collection about local BIPOC organizations and activists who worked tirelessly through the AIDS epidemic to provide social support as well as health and social services to Black, Latinx, Asian/Pacific Islander, Indigenous, and Trans people with AIDS who felt that the larger community organizations—founded and operated by cis white gays and lesbians—did not understand the nuances of providing equitable services to BIPOC and Trans community members. Some of these organizations include Lesbians and Gays of



1990, AIDS Foundation San Diego (Artist: Kevin L. Miller).

African Descent United (LAGADU), Karibu Center for Social Support, and Asian Pacific Islander Community AIDS Project (APICAP). Additionally, we processed collections that revealed long sought-after items, including founding documents from Nations of the Four Directions, a self-described Native American LGBT community group primarily active in the 1990s/early 2000s. We also processed and digitized the rare photograph

3. LASD acknowledges that representation is complicated.

4. Vertez Burks came to San Diego in 1985, at the age of 43, and shortly thereafter came out to her family and friends, who accepted her whole-heartedly. Vertez became involved with Slightly Older Lesbians, the Names Project, and in 1989 took part in the founding of Lesbians and Gays of African Descent United (LAGADU) along with Marti Corrine Mackey, John Guinn, and others. In the 1990s, Vertez became involved with the San Diego Gay and Lesbian Pride Committee, served on Mayor Susan Golding's Gay and Lesbian Advisory Board, and hosted safer sex workshops for Lesbians.



Carla Coshow Collection, artist unknown, L1992.08.

collection of one of the Nations' co-founders, Karen Vigneault. Our collective work helped us create an exhibition—originally conceived by project assistant Gabrielle Garcia, aptly titled *We Will Not Rest In Peace!*—which explores the intersections of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the COVID-19 pandemic in regards to healthcare as

a human right; poor government response; and ways in which structural racism, classism, homophobia, transphobia, and other forms of oppression exacerbated unnecessary loss of life.

One major consideration for the project team is ensuring our metadata is accessible to as many people as possible. With that in mind, we wrote detailed descriptions of digital materials to work effectively with assistive technology and used Homosaurus (<https://homosaurus.org/>) and the Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia (A4BLiP): Anti-Racist Description Resources (https://archivesforblacklives.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/ardr_final.pdf) as guides to inform our descriptive practices. A4BLiP's anti-racist description resources (ARDR) was particularly helpful, as it asserts the need for using an active voice, recognizing existing power structures in archival descriptions, and placing the focus on an individual's humanity over their identity. Although the ARDR was created within a different context, it has helped us understand our collective responsibility to intervene in harmful descriptive practices.

Through an anti-racist, anti-oppressive lens, LASD has been building a practice and culture towards addressing harm, as this influences how people interact with materials as well as the extent to which they feel safe navigating our environment.

Dana Wiegand, CSL Project Manager

Joyce Gabiola, Head Archivist

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope this message finds you all in good health and spirits as the weather warms and our state and the rest of the country continue to move toward living in a different pandemic environment by dropping mask mandates and easing other pandemic-related restrictions. It's hard to believe that two years have passed since the pandemic began but hopefully a major chapter has ended and a new one is beginning as I write this column in late winter. Transitioning from the restrictions of the past two years will no doubt continue, and SCA is not immune to these inevitable shifts and modifications.

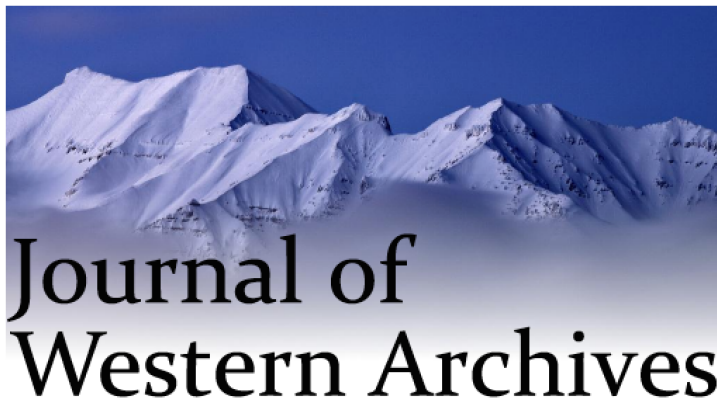
SCA's major professional event is the Annual General Meeting, and while there was some question as to how it would go this year, the members of the Local Arrangements and Program committees never faltered in their determination to make sure that it takes place in spite of the uncertainties around the pandemic. With the support and involvement of the Awards, Development, Education and Golden Anniversary committees, a robust and stimulating program has been developed for the meeting. I encourage you to join us in Palm Springs in May for our first in-person AGM in two years and help us ensure the AGM continues to serve a fundamental role in our professional development.

Although the work of the Task Force on Labor Issues within the Profession was completed last summer, its final report has been reviewed by the SCA Board of Directors and recently uploaded to the SCA website. The task force was broadly charged with reviewing labor issues within our profession between 2019 and 2021, a charge made more difficult by the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant disruption of and modifications in our professional lives, workplaces, responsibilities and administrative budgets. I would like to personally thank our colleagues who served on the task force for their research and recommendations on ways SCA can better advocate for our members in regards to these issues: Courtney Dean and George Thompson for serving as co-chairs, and Richard Boydon, Chris Doan, Erin Hurley, Anne Mar, Peggy Tran-Le, and Sue Tyson for serving as members of the task force. I invite you to read the [Final Report of the Task Force on Labor Issues in the Profession](#) when you have a chance, in order to gain a better understanding of labor issues in our profession and recommendations on ways that SCA can better serve its members in this respect.

SCA's Advocacy and Public Policy Committee, co-chaired by Lisa Mix and Marissa Friedman, has been tasked with implementing the majority of the recommendations made in the Labor Issues Task Force Final Report. Due to this committee's additional focus on labor issues in the profession, it has adopted a new name—the Labor, Advocacy, and Public Policy Committee—and it will be reviewing its charge. The committee is looking for more members as it prepares to explore the best ways to carry out the recommendations of the Labor Issues Task Force Final Report, so if you're interested please get in touch with Lisa or Marissa at advocacypublicpolicy@calarchivists.org.

This is the final newsletter column of my term and in closing, I'd like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve as president of SCA. Working with such dedicated members of SCA on the committees and on the SCA Board of Directors has truly been a highlight of my career. I look forward to continuing this work next year in the role of Immediate Past-President.

Leilani Marshall
SCA President



Journal of Western Archives

The *Journal of Western Archives* is a peer-reviewed, open access journal sponsored by Western regional archival organizations. The journal focuses on contemporary issues and developments in the archival and curatorial fields, particularly as they affect Western archives and manuscript repositories.

Journal Contents

The *Journal of Western Archives* gives archivists, manuscript curators, and graduate students in the American West a place to publish on topics of particular interest and relevance to them. The journal features research articles, case studies, and review essays on regional topics. These include:

- Important Western regional issues in archives and manuscript repositories;
- Unique archival developments in the western United States;
- Technological innovations and their effect on archival theory and practice;
- The history and development of the archival and curatorial professions in the American West;
- Collaborative efforts and projects between various cultural institutions.

Contributing to the Journal

If you are interested in contributing to the journal or serving as a peer reviewer for journal content, please contact the managing editor, John Murphy (john_m_murphy@byu.edu). Article submissions may also be made online at the journal website.

JWA

<http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/westernarchives/>

The Society of California Archivists, Inc.

The Society of California Archivists, Inc. exists to support and develop those who collect, care for, and provide access to the documentary heritage of California and adjoining areas. To this end it:

1. acts as a vehicle for dissemination of information about archival collections, issues, and methodology to the profession and the public;
2. provides a forum for the discussion of matters related to the creation, preservation, and use of historical documents;
3. develops, offers, and supports archival education programs;
4. cooperates with individuals and organizations on matters of common concern; and
5. advocates for the identification, collection, preservation, use, and appreciation of historical records and manuscripts.

The SCA Newsletter is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October. All submissions and advertisements for the newsletter should be directed to the Editors of the Newsletter:

Newsletter Editors
The Bancroft Library
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California 94720-6000
Email(s): newsletter@calarchivists.org

Copy deadlines: September 1, December 1, March 1, and June 1.

Format for Submissions: Articles and other items submitted for consideration should be sent via e-mail attachment.

SCA Newsletter editors
Marissa Friedman, Sue Luftschein, Alison Quirion, Shaula Stephenson, and Sue Tyson

COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

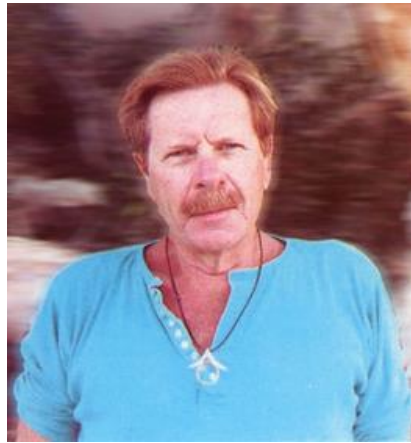
Bayard Stockton Radio Talk Show Awarded California Revealed Grant

The Gledhill Library at The Santa Barbara Historical Museum is pleased to have received a 2021-2022 California Revealed grant to digitize and preserve 107 recordings of Bayard Stockton's "Santa Barbara's Good Companions" radio broadcasts. Since 2010, California Revealed has been helping public libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and other heritage groups digitize, preserve, and provide online access to materials documenting the state's history, art, and cultures.

Bayard Stockton (1930-2006) was a CIA agent in the 1950s, a *Newsweek* foreign correspondent in the 1960s, and the author of two biographies. Well-traveled, Stockton settled in Santa Barbara in 1981 and established himself as a teacher, writer, lecturer, media hound, political watchdog, and staunch supporter of causes like Veterans for Peace.

From 1983 to 1986 he had a community affairs radio talk show on station KMGQ-FM Goleta called "Santa Barbara's Good Companions." On over 100 radio talk shows Stockton interviewed celebrities and local luminaries such as Robert Mitchum, Michael Douglas, Burl Ives, Larry Gelbart, Jim Messina, Ray Strong, Merv Corning, Christine Craft, Harry Ashmore, Michael Towbes, Robert Easton, Rod Lathim, and Stella Haverland Rouse. (A full list of Good Companions program guests and topics can be found at <https://bit.ly/3KOMYN6>.)

Stockton was first and foremost a writer. He spread his life's work across multiple cultural heritage institutions around the world. The Santa Barbara Historical Museum acquired Stockton's personal collection of "Good Companions" recordings in 1997. Over the past two years Head Archivist Chris Ervin has worked to identify, reformat, and make accessible the Museum's aging magnetic media. Their lively content makes these radio programs



Left: Bayard Stockton, 1989.



Right: Two examples of original audio cassette media from Bayard Stockton's radio program, "Good Companions."

especially good candidates for digitization, as they are on 35-year-old audio cassettes at the end of their useful lifespan.

In the not-too-distant future, the 1980s-era voices, thoughts, and opinions contained in the "Good Companions" interviews will become accessible to the community on both the Internet Archive and at the Gledhill Library.

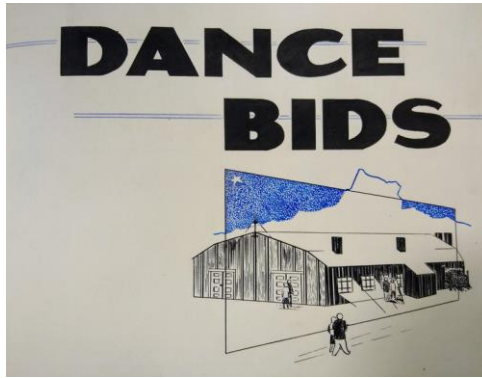
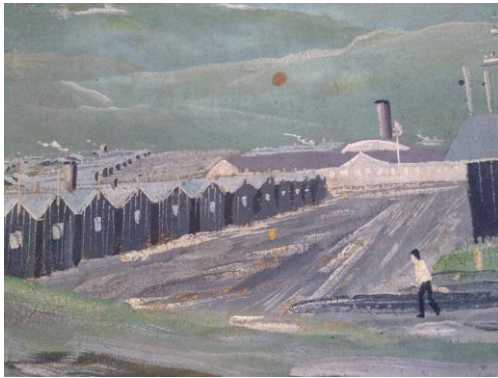
Chris S. Ervin, CA
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The California Revealed program has provided a decade of service on behalf of California cultural heritage organizations.

COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

Loyola Marymount University Acquires the Ichikawa Family Papers



Left: Close-up of Miyauchi's painting of Heart Mountain. Center: Page from a handmade scrapbook for events held during incarceration. Right: Ichikawa siblings and family in the late 1930s. MS 140 The Ichikawa Family Papers.

The Department of Archives and Special Collections in the William H. Hannon Library of Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles is pleased to announce the acquisition of The Ichikawa Family Papers. This collection documents the experience of a Japanese American family living in Los Angeles in the twentieth century. Parents Hideyuki Frances and Yayoi Maria immigrated to California from Japan in 1923. They went on to have four children: Agnes Yayoi, Marion Hideko, Ruth Kikuko, and David Tadatsugu. Growing up in the Los Angeles area, the children attended Maryknoll School in Little Tokyo while their parents ran a dry-cleaning business.

The family's lives were upended in August of 1942 when they were forcibly removed from their homes following the signing of Executive Order 9066 that detained residents of Japanese ancestry, including American citizens, and incarcerated them in camps across the United States. The Ichikawas were detained at the Pomona Fairgrounds and then sent to Heart Mountain, a concentration camp in Wyoming. Upon their return to Los Angeles, the Ichikawa family finished their education and worked throughout the city.

The Ichikawa Family Papers provide researchers with primary sources on the incarceration of people

of Japanese ancestry from the viewpoint of a student. The collection includes a Heart Mountain High School yearbook, a Heart Mountain Elementary report card, and a scrapbook featuring dance cards for events held in the concentration camp. The bulk of the collection features items owned by the family documenting their life in Los Angeles, including photo albums illustrating their many excursions and annual traditions such as attending the Tournament of Roses Parade or visiting Disneyland. Artwork that once hung in the family's home is also available to researchers, including two paintings of Heart Mountain, one by Japanese painter Jishiro Miyauchi.

Researchers looking to access the Ichikawa Family Papers and other collections housed in the William H. Hannon Library should contact special.collections@lmu.edu for up-to-date information on campus access for visitors. The finding aid is available in the [Online Archive of California](#).

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COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

Cal Poly Pomona Special Collections and Archives Acquires Fairplex Records

After several years of discussion, the Cal Poly Pomona Special Collections and Archives acquired the historical records of Fairplex—the Pomona complex that has staged the Los Angeles County Fair for the past 100 years. The Los Angeles County Fair is the largest and most attended county fair in California and the fourth-largest nationally. Since 1948 it has topped one million attendees in all but three years. Typically the fair has an annual economic impact of more than \$250 million, which is equivalent to hosting the Super Bowl.

A treasure-trove of information, the collection consists of over 200 linear feet of founding documents, annual programs, cookbooks, schedules, scrapbooks, building plans, financial records, subject files, promotional materials, commemorative merchandise, thousands of photographs, film reels of the fair and other events, blue ribbons and whimsical iterations of Thummer, the fair's orange porcine mascot since 1948. These materials really capture the fair's rich history and its impact on the development of the Pomona Valley.

Special Collections and Archives secured a Kellogg Legacy Endowment grant to hire a dedicated



Katie Richardson, Department Chair and Head of Special Collections and Archives, looks through materials from Fairplex records.

Project Archivist to organize, describe and create a finding aid for the collection. The collection is expected to be processed by early 2023. Once the collection is processed, the opportunities for future initiatives are endless. The department plans to pursue such avenues as instruction modules, exhibitions, oral history projects, lectures and other public programming to share this exciting collection with students, scholars, and local history enthusiasts.

Katie Richardson

Department Chair/Head of Special Collections and Archives

Cal Poly Pomona

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An aerial view of the LA County Fair from 1935.



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NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introducing New NEDCC Preservation Specialist in Western United States

Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) specializes in paper-based conservation, digital imaging, audio preservation, and preservation outreach and training. In February, Tara Puyat joined NEDCC as a Preservation Specialist. From her office near Eugene, Oregon, she provides preservation consultations, training programs, assessments, and disaster assistance to a variety of cultural heritage organizations nationwide, with a focus on the western United States.

In the upcoming year, Tara will present or co-present webinars on disaster planning, collections security, audiovisual collections, environmental monitoring, and renovation and moving projects, as well as NEDCC's popular Preservation 101 web course. She is scheduled to conduct customized training sessions for the Seattle Heritage Emergency Response Network, to present at the Northwest Archivists conference, and to participate in a number of preservation assessments.



Tara Puyat, NEDCC Preservation Specialist.

"Preserving access to our cultural heritage for future generations is what draws me to this field. I want to help institutions do this in an accessible and sustainable manner. Working at NEDCC gives me the opportunity to fulfill this mission and share my knowledge with those who need it."

Prior to her tenure at NEDCC, Tara worked or interned in museums with cultural and natural history collections in Oregon and Alaska and was a student employee in the Beach Conservation Lab of the University of Oregon Knight Library. She most recently served as Collections Manager at the Lane County History Museum in Eugene, Oregon, where her work included environmental monitoring, integrated pest management, cataloging, and artifact housing initiatives. Tara formerly volunteered with the Oregon Heritage MentorCorps, providing preservation advice to institutions throughout Oregon. She also has extensive experience as a math, science, and music teacher.

Tara holds an MA in Preventive Conservation from Northumbria University in the United Kingdom as well as a Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies and an MA in Musicology from the University of Oregon. She has earned additional degrees in music performance and chemical engineering. She is bilingual in English and Filipino. Reach out with questions to tpuyat@nedcc.org.

Ryn Marchese

Marketing and Social Media Coordinator

NEDCC | Northeast Document Conservation Center
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NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Ways to Access Huntington Library Collections!

Over the course of the last two pandemic years, The Huntington Library has opened significant new pathways for access to the library's collections. Since July 1, 2021, reading room access can be granted to any individual age 18+ upon establishing a research need that requires the use of The Huntington's collections, identifying specific materials, and presenting the required form(s) of identification at orientation.

Reading room appointments are available Monday through Friday, 9:00 am-12:00 pm and 1:00 pm-4:00 pm. Effective January of this year, the Ahmanson Reading Room is open on Saturdays from 9:00 am-12:00 pm for viewing rare materials only. The library is closed on Sundays, major holidays, and other planned closures throughout the year.

Here is the link to our new reservation calendar: <https://huntingtonlibrary.libcal.com/>; please check out the [Using the Library](#) page for the latest information on access.

An appointment is required to enter the Library, and readers must present proof of up-to-date vaccination upon entering the Munger Research Center. The Huntington requires all researchers to be fully vaccinated and have received a booster dose or be fully vaccinated but not yet booster-eligible by the date of their appointment.

Readers may request an appointment to consult rare materials in the Ahmanson Reading Room or reserve a seat in the Rothenberg Reading Room to consult the general collections. Appointments are mediated by Reader Services staff who also manage issuing and renewing library cards when confirming appointments.

However, often the biggest barrier to access is physically traveling to the library. Since 2020 we have offered a [Virtual Reading Room](#) (VRR) service. The VRR provides a high-quality, one-hour virtual research visit viewing rare materials through a high-resolution document camera. We've received overwhelmingly positive feedback from those who have used the service.

Thank you to the Reader Services team for all their tireless work over the past 18 months designing new avenues for access and, most importantly, creating a welcoming and sustainable new policy that will add more voices to the research conversation.

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NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donald R. Gerth, Supporter of Archives

Donald R. Gerth, former President of both California State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) and California State University Sacramento (CSUS), passed away on December 6, 2021, at the age of 93. He was one of the most important figures in the success and growth of the California State University (CSU) system, serving from 1958 until his retirement in 2003.

Gerth wrote numerous influential articles and papers on public policies affecting higher education and became the most prominent historian of the CSU system. He was co-author and editor of *An Invisible Giant*, a 1971 book about the formative years of the system. In 2010, Gerth published *The People's University: A History of the California State University*.

Dr. Gerth is the only person to have two CSU Archives named for him. The Donald R. & Beverly H. Gerth Archives and Special Collections at CSUDH was named in 2013, and the Donald & Beverly Gerth Special Collections & University Archives (SCUA) at CSUS was named in 2019.

"Few individuals are as inextricably tied to the CSU—and have so wonderfully lived out the university's highest ideals—as Donald R. Gerth," said former CSU Chancellor Joseph I. Castro. "He deeply loved the CSU, as reflected in his definitive work, *The People's University: A History of the California State University*. Don's was a life well-lived, and his positive impact on Cal State faculty, staff, and alumni has [spanned] and will continue to span generations."

His interest in preserving history made him a champion of university archives, both at CSUDH and Sacramento State. In addition, he helped establish the CSU System-wide Archives, a collection of



Donald Gerth and his wife Beverly Gerth, ca 1980s.

system records that is housed at CSUDH. During his research for *The People's University: A History of the California State University*, Dr. Gerth conducted oral histories and interviews throughout the state about the creation and progress of the CSU. The book is the definitive account of the genesis, growth, and success of the CSU. His archival collections are housed at CSUDH and CSUS.

Greg Williams, director of the Gerth Archives and Special Collections at CSUDH, said, "Dr. Gerth was an active member of the CSU community for over 50 years. He was a great advocate for the archives and supported our efforts to document the history of both CSUDH and the CSU. To me, he was the epitome of an academic, in the best sense."

"It was under Don's leadership that we took special collections and really turned it into a highly effective research center," says James Fox, director of the Gerth SCUA. "Don and Bev saw the impact of special collections and university archives at a major university. There are no two people more fitting to have our special collections named for than Don and Bev."

"I had the highest admiration for President Gerth," stated Julie Thomas, Instruction & Electronic Records Archivist at CSUS. "He was not only an extremely effective university president, but he was also a scholar dedicated to academic excellence. Indeed, I am the beneficiary of his approach to leadership when he created three tenured-faculty positions 19 years ago in the Sac State Archives and Special Collections and I was one of the archivists he hired."

He completed his Ph.D. studies at the University of Chicago in 1958. In 1958, Gerth joined the California State Colleges (CSC) system when he was appointed associate dean of students at San Francisco State College. He became an active proponent of California's Master Plan for Higher Education and provided support on admissions issues for the group that shaped the Master Plan in 1959-1960. His doctoral dissertation, "The Government of Public Higher Education in California," was completed in 1963.

In 1976, he became the second president of the then-California State College, Dominguez Hills. Just one year into his tenure, he led the institution's transition from a four-year college to university status. During his eight years at CSUDH, Gerth oversaw everything from curriculum expansion to the completion of the campus' physical core.

In 1984, Gerth was appointed president of CSUS, a position he held until 2003. There, he established the Center for California Studies and worked to gain Sacramento State more visibility as the university in the state capitol. By the time of his retirement, he was highly respected internationally and nationally as the "Dean of CSU Presidents." Gerth is survived by his wife of 66 years, Beverly; their daughters, Annette Schofield and Deborah Ann Hougham; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Gregory L. Williams

Director, Gerth Archives and Special Collections

University Library

California State University, Dominguez Hills

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EXCLUSIVES

Black Spartans (1907-1948)

Lucy Turner (Johnson) in 1907, the first Black graduate of SJSU when it was known as the San José State Normal School.

We invite you to explore San José State University's (SJSU) new exhibit "[Black Spartans \(1907-1948\)](#)," a first look at an ongoing research project in [SJSU Special Collections & Archives](#) to discover documentation of Black experiences in the university's history. Learn the stories of the earliest Black SJSU students through 19 individual portraits that grace the covers of digital scrapbooks containing clippings and photographs that illuminate the students' lives.

Black students have been a central part of SJSU's history—as scholars, athletes, artists, and activists—yet there has not been enough intentional effort to document these experiences and accomplishments and make them available to researchers. "Black Spartans" serves to highlight some of these obscured stories and to identify the people, organizations, and events about which we hope to seek more information and records.

Much of the information we have comes from the *Spartan Daily* student newspaper and the La Torre yearbooks. This means that, with too few exceptions, Black Spartans' stories are not told in their own words but from the perspectives of their majority white classmates. Seeking resources that reflect the perspectives of Black students, faculty, and staff is an ongoing effort.

The Black Spartans featured in this exhibit pursued their educational goals while contending with institutionalized racism and other major crises of the 20th century: two World Wars, the influenza pandemic of 1918, and polio.

Locally, "the deed to virtually every home in San José" included restrictions, known as "restrictive covenants," against Black and Asian residents (*Spartan Daily*, February 16, 1948, page 2). On campus, blackface and minstrel shows were a regular part of student events. We chose to center the students' stories instead of images depicting these realities, but this context is necessary to begin to understand what everyday life may have been like.

This project responds to frequent questions posed by visitors to the Reading Room seeking documentation of Black experiences on campus—documentation that is often difficult to find due to traditional archival arrangement practices. This exhibit is one way of making the information easier to find and invites community partners, especially descendants of the students featured, to contribute to the ongoing research.

Though the "Black Spartans" project began in response to researcher questions, it really took flight when an ad hoc group of California State University archivists began meeting regularly to discuss strategies for surfacing Black histories on our campuses. The generous sharing of ideas, questions, challenges, and successes formed the foundation of what became this exhibit.

"Black Spartans (1907-1948)" is an invitation to the community to join us in this work, ensuring these histories are preserved and presented in a way that honors these students' lives. We invite community members within and beyond SJSU to participate in surfacing these stories, sharing information, and ensuring these histories are preserved and accessible. We also hope this project can serve as a model for uncovering underdocumented stories of other communities on campus. Contact us at special.collections@sjsu.edu to participate.

The physical exhibit closes on April 1, 2022, but you can still see it [virtually](#).

Carli V. Lowe and Kate Steffens
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EXCLUSIVES

Documenting the Voices of Environmental Justice at Sierra Club's Colby Library

The [Sierra Club's William E. Colby Memorial Library](#) is committed to preserving the Sierra Club's legacy (in partnership with its [official archive at the Bancroft Library](#)) so that writers, researchers, and historians, as well as Sierra Club staff and stakeholders, can accurately tell the organization's story. Responsibly preserving the Club's legacy and making it accessible beyond the Sierra Club's national office is a priority of the Colby Library. Critical to this commitment is the equitable advancement of [environmental justice \(EJ\)](#) history and its intersection with [Sierra Club's work](#).

In 2021, librarian Therese Dunn and archivist Joanna Black at the Colby Library proposed a new library program to the Sierra Club Board of Directors, with a focus on the Club's EJ history. The program, called "Documenting the Voices of Environmental Justice," or DVEJ, aims to preserve the work of the Sierra Club's EJ leaders, organizers, and activists, while simultaneously serving as a resource for this community to actively engage in the documentation, preservation, and dissemination of its own history. The DVEJ program was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors later in 2021, and the library has been working hard to establish this important initiative since.

The DVEJ program has two main goals: to expand Colby Library's in-house oral history program, with a focus on including more EJ leader/organizer voices in the roster of narrators; and to help facilitate donations of EJ-related primary and secondary sources to outside collecting repositories, such as universities or public libraries. Because Colby Library does not actively collect archival collections, the DVEJ program harnesses the existing expertise of Colby Library staff to help guide EJ leaders/organizers toward the preservation of their own history. Such efforts include:

- Collaborating with a guidance group of self-identifying EJ leaders/organizers to compile a list of individuals who may benefit from engaging with the DVEJ program;

- Expanding the library's existing in-house oral history program by creating more informal, shorter, subject focused interviews to be conducted by Colby Library staff;
- Acting as a primary liaison between EJ leaders/organizers and collecting repositories;
- Identifying and creating a public list of existing EJ archives in the United States to serve as a resource for EJ leaders/organizers, chapter leaders, and individuals; and
- Providing professional guidance and assistance around archival best practices to Sierra Club EJ leaders/organizers, chapter leaders, and individuals who are still accumulating and/or working with their own records.

The DVEJ program is overseen by librarian Therese Dunn, with archivist Joanna Black leading the archival-related initiatives. To support the increase in oral history production, two new team members have been added to the Colby Library staff: senior oral history associate Tom Valtin, previously a writer for Sierra Club for more than 20 years, and oral history associate Cailee Beltran, who is new to the Sierra Club organization.

The DVEJ program is an ongoing initiative of Colby Library. It will expand upon the library's current role as a reference library and strengthen its standing as an information center upon which EJ leaders/organizers, chapter leaders, and individuals can rely. Learning from the past—including past mistakes—is an important part of progressing on equity, inclusion, and justice in our present. Through the implementation of the DVEJ program, Colby Library hopes to use its position as an information resource to lift up the vital history of the EJ movement.

Joanna Black (she/her)

Archivist

William E. Colby Memorial Library, Sierra Club
joanna.black@sierraclub.org

EXCLUSIVES

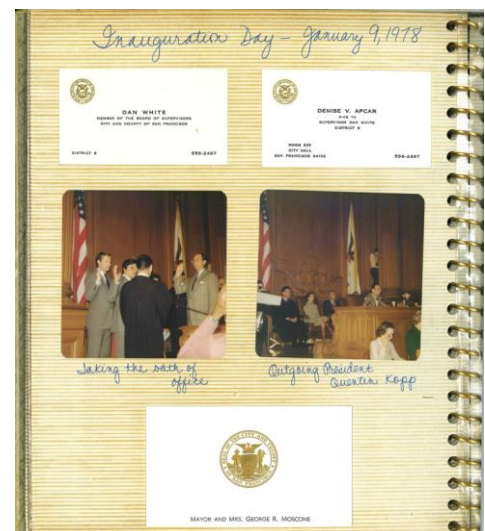
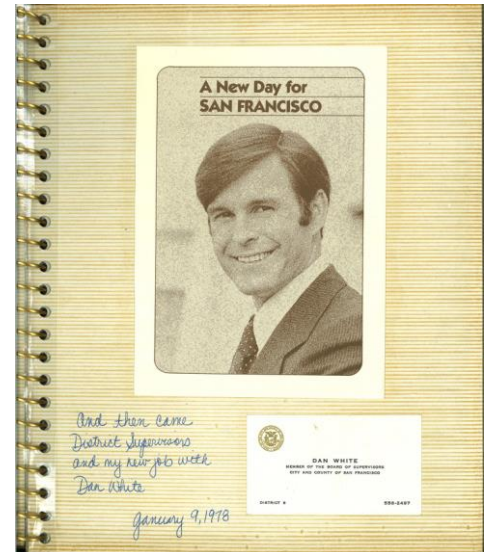
New Collection Provides Insight into Dan White's Life and Personality

San Francisco Supervisor Dan White was convicted of manslaughter for the assassinations of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk on November 27, 1978. Denise Varak Aparcar, an aide to White, was a key witness in the trial.

The Denise Aparcar Papers on Dan White (SFH 625, 3 boxes) were donated to the San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library, by Aparcar's estate. The collection contains statements to police following the assassinations; Aparcar's journal-like statement describing the days leading up to the killings; correspondence with White while imprisoned; photos of a jailhouse visit with White; an incomplete manuscript of Aparcar's memoir; news clips and news audio; and material on related theatrical and screen productions. The collection guide is available at <https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8k64rf9/>.

In a 1979 book proposal letter, Aparcar reflected on her life, noting that she had landed the "'job of her dreams' right out of college and me[t] this young, idealistic, 'Kennedy-like' political newcomer, who instantly captivate[d] her with his wit, Irish charm, and intelligence, and with grandiose ideas to unify a divided San Francisco." She communicated that her book would offer "a rare glimpse into the personality of a young man...who inspired tremendous loyalty in his staff, constituents and family members...." Her story would extend beyond White's actions, providing a "slice of life—mine, Dan White's, George Moscone's and Harvey Milk's—which happens to have a very tragic ending." She intimated that she was not able to put the horror of the tragedies behind her and shared that two years later, she still felt burdened by all she knew. She did not receive a book deal.

Regarding White's confession, Aparcar recalled that "the keys he got from me were for the private entry door to the Supervisor's [sic] offices. This means he planned ahead to see Harvey Milk—which is not what he said in his confession." In a letter to Anne [possibly Kronenberg, Milk's aide], Aparcar stated, "A lot has been written about Dan that just isn't true...I know that it was only that Harvey and Dan



Pages from photo album including swearing-in of Supervisor Dan White, January 9, 1978; Denise Aparcar Papers on Dan White (SFH 625), San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

differed in 'approach' on that subject [the gay freedom movement] than anything else, and because of their common trait of stubbornness."

Correspondence with White includes a note of support during the trial in 1979. In a letter

PREFACE

The best way to start out this statement, is to begin with Dan's dreams and aspirations when he first began his term as Supervisor of District 8. Slowly, you will be able to see how each one of these dreams were taken from him in various ways--and many times through his own fault of taking things all too personally. Dan just tried too hard to succeed at everything he did, and in politics, the wins are few and far in-between in the beginning.

Dan felt that he was going to organize and educate the constituents of D-8 into understanding government and how they could be directly involved. He wanted to have a series of newsletters distributed throughout the district, and also a series of town-hall meetings. His campaign was very grass roots, and he had a huge crowd of volunteers to draw from whenever he said the word "go". Dan was always able to draw huge groups of people to work for him, and he knew this. Dan always prided himself on how many people he actually knew--and the numbers came from the fire and police departments. As a note here--we never did have a single town hall meeting and I was always asking Dan when we were going to have ours because all the other Supervisors were having theirs--and he always said he just wasn't ready yet. We also never did the newsletter because Dan never said go on that either. He needed motivation sometimes, and other times you couldn't stop his energy--but he never had motivation to do either of these things he so desperately wanted in the beginning.

Dan also wanted to run for Mayor. This decision was never actually realized, but he always went hot and cold on the idea. Dan said that he was not cut out for the legislating side of politics, and he had a fierce desire to "run" the city his way. He saw the very real limiting side to being a Supervisor all too soon, and became incredibly frustrated. He wanted his philosophy to prevail, and saw early on that you didn't get this through being a Supervisor (his opinion), and therefore set his sights on the Mayor's job. He then started to neglect his district for other reasons too, and couldn't understand how people relied upon him personally to solve all their problems.

Dan felt the conservative philosophy of life was still the "hidden majority" in San Francisco, and he was the man to represent that untapped vote. He felt that the Barbagelata-Moscone race in 1976 was not a real test of the conservative-liberal factions in SF because he could reach more people than Barbagelata--especially the youth. Dan had grandiose plans to register every high school senior throughout the city in the spring before they graduate, and save their names and addresses, and build an army of workers through this plan. He, at one time, had prepared to go out to all of these schools and was almost going to do this in the spring of '78, but felt the spring of '79 was closer to the election.

PROLOGUE

Realizing that you are a part of history is difficult to comprehend. So, for me it's far easier to describe this memoir as a real life story of events and circumstances that occurred at the beginning of a young woman's life, as told from that same woman's perspective at middle age. I am that woman.

I believe that some of us live two distinct lives within one lifetime -- that is, the life we learn from and the life we lead after that. My young life as I knew it, changed completely on an overcast day in November 1978. I believe the life I have led since is, in large part, made from the horrific events that took place that day. The lessons learned from those experiences have taken more than a lifetime for me to fully absorb and understand. It's as if this story needed to wait until I was more than twice my age on that day, in order to put those painful experiences into a perspective that would be meaningful, not only to me, but to those of you reading this today.

At the age of 23, I was a participant and witness to a major part of San Francisco's political history in the late 1970s. I was the Legislative Aide to Supervisor Dan White, the man who committed double murder on November 27, 1978, of both Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk -- just a few hundred feet from where I worked. The close physical proximity that separated me from the crimes committed in that building on that fateful November day, is not what only connects me to this story, however. I was the last person of Dan White's "inner circle" to talk with him before, and the first person he went to directly after he committed the crimes.

It is a remarkable and yet poignant and personally difficult story to tell. Looking back these past 25 years, I am surprised at how still vivid the memories remain -- as if etched in my mind forever. I can still clearly hear the sounds of the principal characters' voices, and recall facial expressions and body language from that time. As I unearth memories from the deep recesses of my mind, it is as if the people in this story were right here in the room with me today.

My journey in writing this story has taken more than two decades to accomplish.

Page 1 of 6
© 2003, Denise V. Apcar
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Dan White in prison, [By Denise Apcar? August 1979?].

from White to Apcar, dated September 5, 1979, he remained upbeat and appreciative, although he noted, "Prison is such an unfriendly environment...I have never been in such an unfriendly environment." In a lengthy letter to White dated February 21, 1980, Apcar referred to being close friends with him in 1978, describing how she wanted to be honest, and how she now understood his mental illness and other problems. She also told him about how long she agonized over what she could have done, presumably to help him and prevent the tragedies.

In October of 1999, Apcar wrote to a magazine editor, "Until now, I have never spoken publicly about my views...because...I did not believe my story or point of view would ever be treated with equal respect." A few years later, she drafted five chapters of a memoir. However, she did not publish either an article or book. After leaving City Hall in 1978, Apcar worked in marketing and public relations. She died in March of 2020.

Related collections include the Mike Weiss *Double Play* Collection (SFH 34), accessible at <https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c83t9jjx/>; and the Harvey Milk Archives--Scott Smith Collection (GLC 35), at <https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8x63q17/>.

Tami J. Suzuki
San Francisco History Center
San Francisco Public Library
tami.suzuki@sfpl.org

Top: Preface to unpublished statement by Denise Apcar, [1979?].

Bottom: Prologue to draft memoir by Denise Apcar, ©2003.

EXCLUSIVES

Project Spotlight: Nevada State Archives & State Land Patent Access

The switch to working from home during much of 2020 and into 2021 provided the staff of the Nevada State Archives the chance to tackle an interesting project in collaboration with the Nevada Division of State Lands. The original state land patents housed at the State Archives are some of our most-requested records. Over time, we've digitized these patents and provided online access to them, with a patent search on the Nevada State Lands website linking to the images on our digital portal. Staff members of our two agencies have talked for several years about a "dream project" of providing access to the patents in a new way: by creating a GIS layer on an online map of Nevada. A list of unique URLs for each land patent image on the Nevada State Archives digital portal needed to be provided to Nevada State Lands staff in order to create the GIS layer, and compiling this list turned out to be the perfect project for Archives staff to work on from home. A URL column was added to an existing Excel spreadsheet of metadata, which gave us the opportunity to not only create the necessary list, but to also double-check the metadata and images and to correct any problems we found. The

completed spreadsheet was then sent to Nevada State Lands, who handled the creation of the GIS layer on the map.

The result of this project can be found at: <http://lands.nv.gov/patent-search-tool>. Clicking on one of the blue areas of the map will bring up the details of a patent and a link to the digital image. Patents can also be searched by name or number using the drop-down found by clicking on the magnifying glass icon in the upper right corner of the map. Staff of the Nevada State Archives who worked on this project include Archivists Josh Owens and Liz Moore and Archives Assistant Natacha Faillers. Grahame Ross, IT/GIS Supervisor at Nevada State Lands, put the map together. The Nevada State Archives Research Room is open to the public from 10:00am-2:00pm Monday-Friday. More information about the Nevada State Archives can be found at: nsa.nv.gov/archives.

The Nevada State Archives also welcomed its new State Archivist/Assistant Administrator for Archives and Records, Cyndi Shein, on January 31, 2022.

Before taking her place with the State Archives, Cyndi served for eight years as Head of Special Collections and Archives Technical Services at University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). Prior to UNLV, Cyndi worked at the J. Paul Getty Trust; the University of California, Irvine; and the University of California, Santa Barbara. She was very successful in her leadership role at UNLV and has a wide array of archives and library experience.

Cynthia Laframboise
State Archives Manager
Nevada State Archives
claframboise@admin.nv.gov

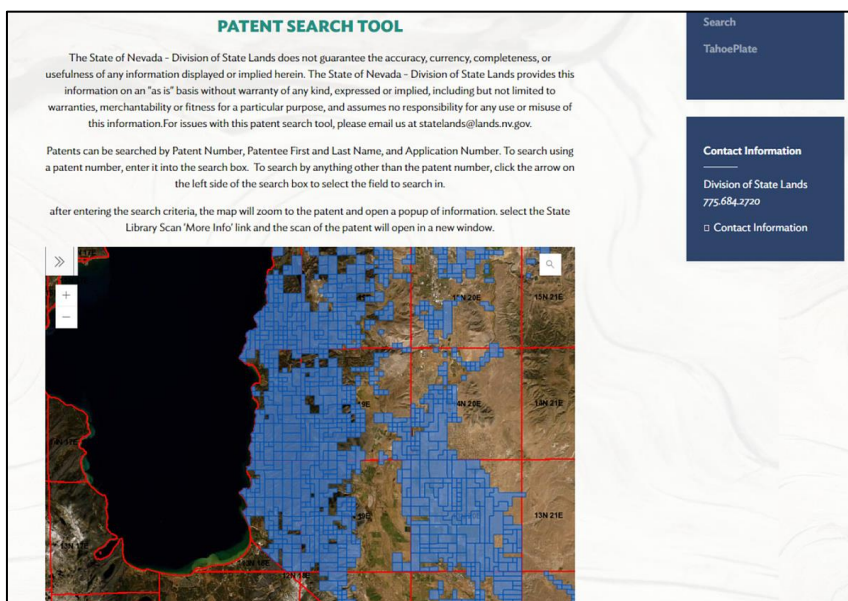


Image showing Nevada State Lands Patent Search page at lands.nv.gov/patent-search-tool.

SCA BUSINESS



2022 SCA Election Announcement

Greetings! This is reminder to all Society of California Archivists Members:

If you have not already voted, please submit your vote for the Society of California Archivists 2022 Election. Polling will close at 11:45 pm on Thursday, April 28. Ballots were sent via email from invitations@mail.electionbuddy.com and candidate statements are available through your personalized voting link and on the SCA website. Thank you.

Marlayna Christensen and Cesar Gallegos
SCA Election Committee

Register now! Upcoming Trainings for SCA Members

We're excited to announce that SCA has partnered with [Right To Be](#) (formerly known as Hollaback!) to bring our members two educational sessions on mitigating implicit biases and practicing bystander intervention.

These two sessions will take place on April 14th and May 3rd:

- **8 Strategies To Mitigate Implicit Bias, April 14, 2022 1:00 PM Pacific Time**
- **Bystander Intervention in Public Spaces, May 3, 2022 1:00 PM Pacific Time**

The first interactive training will focus on understanding our own implicit biases in order to begin to undo them. We'll reflect on how implicit bias can show up in our actions and the effect they can have on ourselves and those around us. Then we'll roll our sleeves up and get to work, practicing eight concrete ways to mitigate implicit bias. Attendees will leave more confident in their ability to successfully see and undo implicit bias in their own lives.

The second session will be customized to our SCA group and will focus on situations we may find ourselves in as archives workers. Many of us work in public service spaces, so this training will outline specific strategies we

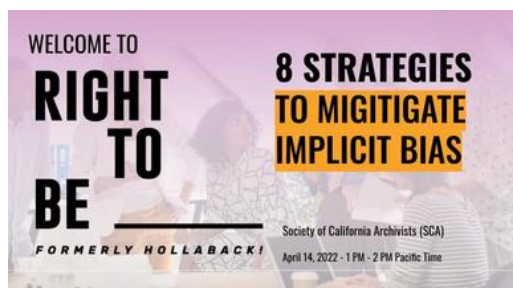


can use to intervene in professional conflicts when necessary. In this training our goal is to give participants the tools to intervene the next time they witness harassment in public spaces. The training will equip participants with information on how to be an effective bystander in the midst of public space harassment using Right To Be's proven 5D's methodology, five strategies for intervention. Then we will practice so participants leave our training feeling more prepared to successfully and safely intervene.

We welcome and encourage all members of SCA to attend these sessions, **free of charge**, in order to help create and help maintain affirming and inclusive environments in our organizations. At the end of each session, there will be a **raffle drawing for a free year of SCA membership**.

Please visit [SCA's website](#) for registration information. These sessions will **not** be recorded.

If you have any questions, please contact Alix Norton, SCA Membership Director, at membership@calarchivists.org. For more information about Right To Be, visit their website at righttobe.org.



Western Archives Institute 2022

It is with regret and disappointment that the SCA Board of Directors, in conjunction with the California State Archives, announces that the 2022 Western Archives Institute has been canceled. While SCA remains committed to WAI and its program, it has become apparent that a review of the program's organization and format is required. A necessary restructuring of the program, based primarily on recommendations from the 2021 WAI Management Committee, is being undertaken by SCA and the California State Archives during 2022. We hope to have a program and management committee structure in place for the 2023 program, and are working diligently toward that goal.

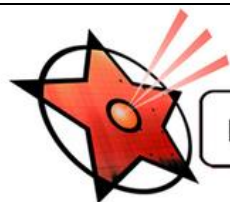
If you're interested in serving on the Western Archives Institute committee, we currently have the positions of Chair and Program Subcommittee member open, so please reach out to me at president@calarchivists.org.

Leilani Marshall
SCA President

BIPOC Mixer at the 2022 AGM

You are cordially invited to attend the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) Mixer at SCA's annual meeting in Palm Springs. The objective for this event is to gather in fellowship with new and seasoned BIPOC professionals to get to know one another and be in a safe space to discuss issues that pertain to us. Join us! This event is organized by the Ethics and Inclusion Committee. We're looking for professionals to join who are interested in the critical work of equity and inclusion. Let's get to know each other! Check the AGM program schedule for details on date, time and room.

Eva Martinez
Member, SCA Ethics and Inclusion Committee
evamartinez@sfsu.edu



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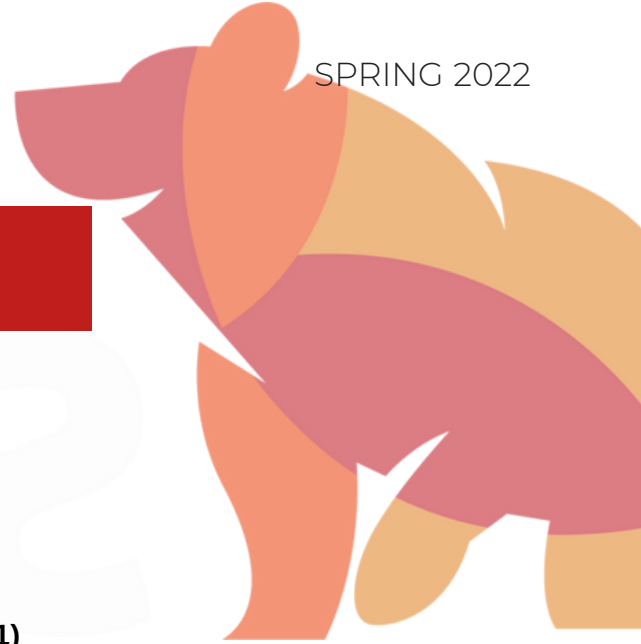
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Autry Museum of the American West
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Publications:

Amanda Mack, 2021-2024
UCLA Film & Television Archive
amanda.mack@cinema.ucla.edu

CALENDAR

**DEADLINES:****SCA 2022 Elections**

April 28, 2022

[Access elections and candidate information](#)

WORKSHOPS:**8 Strategies to Mitigate Implicit Bias (Right to Be and SCA Part 1)**

April 14, 1:00 pm-2:00 pm (webinar)

<https://calarchivists.org/event-4673652>

Bystander Intervention in Public Spaces (Right to Be and SCA Part 2)

May 3, 1:00 pm-2:30 pm (webinar)

<https://calarchivists.org/event-4696607>

EXHIBITIONS:**[Becoming Jane: The Evolution of Dr. Jane Goodall](#)**

Open through April 17, 2022

The Natural History Museum

[Hayao Miyazaki](#)

Open through June 5, 2022

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures

[Tupac Shakur. Wake Me When I'm Free](#)

Open through May 1, 2022

The Canvas @ L.A. Live

[Common Ground: The Heart of Community](#)

Ongoing

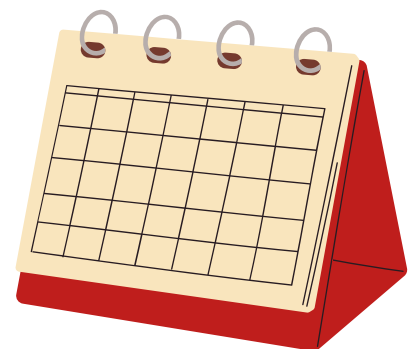
Japanese American National Museum

MEETINGS:**[SCA Annual General Meeting \(AGM\)](#)**

May 18-21, 2022

Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel

[REGISTRATION IS OPEN!](#)



Society of California Archivists
c/o California State Archives
1020 "O" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814