

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN

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T·H·E  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF  
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CALIFORNIA

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Many of you have probably heard that the Society, which has been headquartered at the Lummis House since 1965, had to leave the venerable historic landmark in January due to the lack of a long-term lease with the City of Los Angeles. It was not a decision we took lightly, but it is a decision we had to make. It has been a distinct honor to have served the Highland Park community and the greater region of Southern California for many years from our headquarters at the Lummis House. At the same time, we have been around since 1883, and we plan to be around long into the future. It is precisely during this time of change that we reach out to our friends and members not only with gratitude for your past participation and generous support, but also with a keen interest in hearing what you have to say about the future of this great organization. Although a “bricks and mortar” headquarters remains an important subject of discussion, we are willing to consider all options as we plan our future with your input.

In brief, the substantial requirements by the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department to maintain the property, combined with the

lack of a long-term lease, made it financially irresponsible for us to remain at the Lummis House. As owner and landlord of the property, the City of Los Angeles had minimal financial participation in keeping the Lummis House open to the public and in making the structure earthquake-safe for public occupation. The inability of HSSC to obtain a lease agreement with the City since 1999 has hampered the Society’s ability to gain grant monies or enter into corporate partnerships to preserve the Lummis House. In other words, for almost 15 years we were existing on a lease that was renewed from month to month, with no certainty of being able to remain there. In addition, the commitment to staffing the house and other operating expenses was a financial drain on our organization, and the condition of the building and its contents proved to be a significant challenge.

It is our sincere hope that a new tenant will have a more successful relationship with the City and that the Lummis House will endure into the future, and we are happy to continue to serve as a liaison with other institutions to make that happen.

## HSSC CONFERENCE: RELIGION AND CULTURE IN THE COLONIAL SOUTHWEST



Welcome from Kenneth Marcus



Welcome from John Pohlmann



Robert Senkewicz, presenting the George A. V. Dunning Lecture and Conference Keynote

On Saturday, April 4, 2015, the Historical Society of Southern California (HSSC) held a conference at Occidental College on the theme of Religion and Culture in the Colonial Southwest, focusing on California's mission era. It marked the first time that the annual conference was held at Occidental College, thanks to the efforts of Oxy alumnus and longtime HSSC member and board president (2008-14), John Pohlmann, who made the necessary arrangements with University Librarian Bob Kieft and adjunct professor of history, Jem Axelrod.

The conference began with a greeting by HSSC board president Kenneth Marcus (2014-present), followed by Dr. Pohlmann's remarks to the audience. Occidental University professor of history Lisa Sousa then gave some welcoming comments, and HSSC board member Steven Hackel introduced noted mission-era scholar Dr. Robert Senkewicz (Santa Clara University), who delivered HSSC's annual George A. V. Dunning lecture as a keynote address. Professor Senkewicz pointed out that the Indians Fr. Serra encountered on his march northward through Baja California to San Diego were active participants, rather than passive observers as they're often portrayed. The Indians often decided how they would interact with the Spanish missionaries, and the missionaries interpreted what the Indians did through the construct of the world they came from.

Fr. Serra was excited to be meeting natives from the regions he visited, Senkewicz argued, and he expected that

they would be eager for conversion. The Indians' hospitality, however, seems to have been designed to get the Spaniards to move along, and their ceremonial dancing and warrior stances that the missionaries took as entertainments probably were a way for the Indians to warn off the Spaniards while getting close enough to figure out what they had and what they wanted. Relying primarily on Serra's own account, Senkewicz ingeniously "teased out" Indian motives and actions that Serra and his fellow Spaniards completely misunderstood. For example, an earlier party under Rivera had mistreated the Kumeyaay (also known as Diegueño). Six weeks later and now wary of Europeans, these same natives carried weapons as they approached Serra's party, which puzzled the Spanish. As Senkewicz interprets the encounter, the Indians were in fact signaling "don't stay here," although Serra continued to view them as eager for baptism and missionization. On another occasion, native women entered the Spanish camp and closely observed everything in sight before they disappeared. The Spaniards generally viewed these women as harmless, but Senkewicz plausibly argues they were spies! As evidence, he cites the fact that as soon as the able-bodied soldiers left San Diego in search of Monterey Bay to the north, the Kumeyaay attacked the remaining Spaniards, including Serra, who survived.

The missionaries, by contrast, saw the Indians not necessarily as savages but as child-like figures who were easily tempted by demons. Serra, who had participated in the Inquisition, mistrusted converts, so he

saw the Indians as vulnerable souls in need of close supervision. He saw keeping the Indians in the mission as a discipline problem, which introduced coercion into mission life, in part because he equated rationality with both agriculture and urbanization, which above all required discipline to be successful. The missionaries further recognized that in order to Christianize the Indians, they would have to find "gateway" features of Indian culture that they could adapt to Christianity, which created a new kind of Catholicism in the process. So while the missionaries reshaped Indian life, the Indians also



Steven Hackel introduces Andy Galvan and Vincent Medina

reshaped religious forms.

Following Senkewicz's presentation, Dr. Hackel introduced Andy Galvan and Vincent Medina, both descendants of Ohlone mission Indians, both curators at Mission Dolores in San Francisco, and both devoted to preserving their tribal heritage. Galvan spoke in favor and Medina argued against the forthcoming canonization of Fr. Serra. Galvan listed the virtues that Serra had heroically exemplified, and Medina argued that because Serra's missions had taken away the Indians' dignity, lands and freedom, Serra had not transcended his time, had irreparably harmed Indian life,

(Continued on page 4)

## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER: NICK CURRY

Nick Curry has lived in Southern California his whole life. He graduated from Woodbury College with a degree in Business Administration. While working as a loan agent, Nick served with the California Air National Guard for seven years. Nick has been a Reader at the Huntington Library for twenty-four years. He has been the archivist at San Marino High School for thirty years.

Nick has worked with Margaret Leslie Davis on multiple projects including *Rivers in the Desert: William Mulholland*

*and the Inventing of Los Angeles; Dark Side of Fortune: The Triumph and Scandal in the Life of Oil Tycoon of Edward L. Doheny; Childrens Hospital and the Leaders of Los Angeles: The First 100 Years; Bulls-ocks Wilshire, The Culture Broker: Franklin D. Murphy and the Transformation of Los Angeles ; and Mona Lisa in Camelot: How Jacqueline Kennedy and Da Vinci's Masterpiece Charmed and Captivated a Nation.*

He worked with Elizabeth Pomeroy on *San Marino: A*

*Centennial History* (San Marino Historical Society).

Nick has also worked on compiling biographical manuscripts of the following: Doheny family, Harry Chandler, Harrison Gray Otis, Bixby family, William Andrews Clark family, Spreckles family, William Randolph Hearst family, Henry E. Huntington family, J. Paul Getty family, E.J. "Lucky" Baldwin family, General Moses H. Sherman and Arnold Haskell families, and first families of pre-1880 Los Angeles.

## WELCOME NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: AMY ESSINGTON

Amy Essington is a historian of 20<sup>th</sup> century America with interests in social history, sport history, and women's history. Her research includes the integration of sport, particularly baseball, social movements, and race. She completed a B.A. and M.A. in History at California State University, Long Beach, and a Ph.D. at Claremont Graduate University. Amy completed an internship at the National Baseball Hall of Fame Library and the

Smithsonian's National American History Museum. She is currently a lecturer at California State University, Fullerton. She served on the executive board of the Western Association of Women Historians for fifteen years, including ten as executive director. Her book, *Race and Baseball in the West: The Integration of the Pacific Coast League*, will be published by the University of Nebraska Press in Spring 2017.



Executive Director Amy Essington

## MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS

With the recent changes in HSSC staffing, we have been transitioning to a new membership system. This transition has had a few bumps in the road. Apologies to anyone who had to contend with confusing or duplicate information. If you are a member at the regular level or above and think you have missed receiving copies of the *Southern California Quarterly* or if you have any questions or concerns about your membership, please contact Amy Essington, Executive Director, at [executivedirector@thehssc.org](mailto:executivedirector@thehssc.org) or call 323-222-0546.

## HSSC CONFERENCE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

and so did not deserve canonization.

Galvan and Medina agreed, however, that the missions are part of today's California Indian heritage, and instead of protesting the missions, they should turn to them into Indian houses of worship and treat them as places where the Indians' ancestors lived. Noting that today's restored missions typically mention Indians only as a group, minimally, and without attention to their tribal origins or the lives they led, both presenters urged that the missions remedy this by welcoming Indian activities such as dances, genealogical research, etc., by listing the names of deceased Indians on memorials, and by not charging Indians admission to the buildings their ancestors built. Both Galvan and Medina agreed that California missions should become places of discovery and reconciliation where the two cultures of Anglo and Indian can come together and discover their common heritage and mutual interests. Dr. Marcus invited Galvan and Medina to continue this discussion during lunch, which they kindly agreed to do, and attendees had the opportunity to ask them questions on the experiences of Ohlone Indians in California and on the Serra canonization.

After lunch Dr. Marcus emceed the awards ceremony, in conjunction with HSSC board members Dr. Linda Mollno and Ann Walnum, who recognized several authors of books and Southern California Quarterly articles that significantly furthered scholarship on California and the West. Dr. Hackel's recent book, *Junípero*

*Serra: California's Founding Father* (Hill and Wang, 2013), which was one of the main reasons for the theme of this year's conference, received the Neuerburg Award, which annually goes to the author with the best book on pre-Gold Rush California. Dr. Josh Sides received the Ridge Award for his now-classic text, *LA City Limits: African American Los Angeles from the Great Depression to the Present* (University of California Press, 2003); the Donald H. Pflueger Local History Award for 2014 went to Elizabeth Pomeroy for her book, *San Marino: A Centennial History* (San Marino Historical Society, 2012); and the Pflueger Local History Award for 2015 went to Paul Bryan Gray for *A Clamor for Equality: Emergence and Exile of California Activist Francisco P. Ramírez* (Texas Tech University Press, 2012).

Southern California Quarterly editor Merry Ovnick then introduced the winners of the two awards for SCQ articles: James Tejani, winner of the Doyce B. Nunis, Jr. Award, who wrote "Dredging the Future: The Destruction of Coastal Estuaries and the Creation of Metropolitan Los Angeles, 1858-1908," *Southern California Quarterly* 96, no. 1 (2014); and Lon Kurashige (USC), who won the Carl I. Wheat Award for his article, "Re-Thinking Anti-Immigrant

Racism: Lessons from the Los Angeles Vote on the 1920 Alien Land Law," *Southern California Quarterly* 95, no. 3 (2013).

Finally, Ann Walnum introduced the last awardee, journalist Steve Lopez (*Los Angeles Times*), who won the Jack Smith Community Enrichment Award for his admirable articles on Skid Row, mental health, and many other themes that have greatly enriched the lives of many Angelinos and Times readers. Since Mr. Lopez was traveling out of the state at the time of the conference, one of Jack Smith's sons, Doug Smith, who also is a long



Linda Mollno presents the Martin Ridge Award to Josh Sides



Linda Mollno presents the 2014 Donald H. Pflueger Local History Award to Elizabeth Pomeroy



Kenneth Marcus presents the 2015 Donald H. Pflueger Local History Award to Paul Bryan Gray



Ann Walnum presents the Jack Smith Community Enrichment Award to Steve Lopez, accepted on his behalf by Doug Smith.

-time journalist at the *Los Angeles Times*, kindly agreed to accept it in his honor and gave some brief remarks about his colleague.

Dr. Marcus then introduced the afternoon panel, which focused on music in the missions. The first presenters, former HSSC board member James Sandos (Redlands University) and his wife Patricia Sandos pointed out that mission music reached a high level of sophistication and served the missions' Christianizing program. The priests



Merry Ovnick presents the Doyce B. Nunis, Jr. Award to James Tejani.

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## FROM THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY (DECEMBER 1938)

The Indians of Los Angeles, As Revealed by the Los Angeles City Archives, by W.W. Robinson

This seventeen page article details actions in the years 1833 to 1850. The recurring theme is the cultural conflict between “white” and Indian ways, with requests for action, including the destruction of Indian villages. Weekend drunkenness and non-European sexual practices were most often cited.

The use of Indian prison labor (jailed for drunkenness) conscripted by public projects – widening the zanja (waterway) and repairing the church roof – was frequent. Also adopted were hours of liquor sale, segregation at church, and division of the cemetery.

In 1836 the assigned Indian village area had been moved downstream to stop Indians bathing and washing clothes and dirtying the city water source. That location at Alameda and Commercial streets (now the location of the Metro-

politan Detention Center) was changed in 1845 to what is now Boyle Heights.

In February, 1846, Francisco Figueroa and Luis Vignes petitioned for themselves and 24 others:

When the “Indian Rancheria” was removed to the “Pueblito” we thought that the isolation of these aborigines would prevent the committing of excesses and thefts and also believing that this unfortunate generation would find the means to prolong their existence, but we are sorry to say that it has proven to the contrary... and Saturdays (they) celebrate and become intoxicated to an unbearable degree, thereby resulting in all manner of venereal diseases, which in a few years will exterminate this race, that could be beneficial for this city.

To which the Police Commission replied: “The said “Rancheria” .. was surveyed and assigned to them ... its present site ... is the only place wherein they can be kept, to occasion the least harm to the

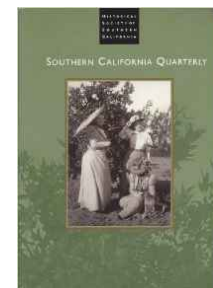
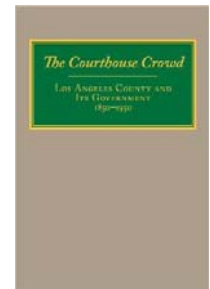
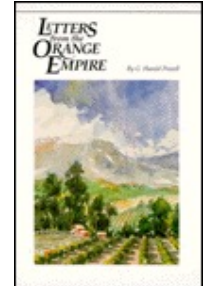
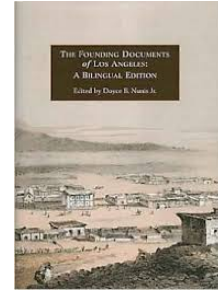
community being in close proximity to the river, they can use the water out of same at a point a great distance below that from which the water for this community is obtained.”

Despite this defense of the Indian village, in a few months there were persistent requests for removal. On November 8, 1847, orders for its destruction were issued. On November 20, 1847, it was reported that the village had been razed and its inhabitants relocated to the suburbs.

W. W. Robinson (William Wilcox) Robinson, a member of the Editorial Board of H.S.S.C. at the time of this writing later expanded his knowledge and interest in the local Indians with *The Indians of Los Angeles: Story of the Liquidation of a People* (Los Angeles: Glen Dawson, 1952.).

Our website for HSSC members to access past quarterlies is [socialhistory.org](http://socialhistory.org).

By Ann Walnum, HSSC Board Member



## HSSC BOOKS AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLIES FOR SALE

The HSSC is offering books published by the organization and individual issues of the *Southern California Quarterly* for sale through our website. Go to [thehssc.org](http://thehssc.org) and select “Publications” from the menu bar.

Book titles include the most recent HSSC publications of *George Carson: Los Angeles Pioneer* (2014) and *The Courthouse Crowd: Los Angeles County and Its Government, 1850-1950* (2013). Many other titles are available.

The HSSC is also offering for sale individual issues of the *Southern California Quarterly*. The HSSC has most issues from Volume 32, no. 1 (March 1950) to Volume 94, no. 4 (Winter 2012) for sale. Individual issues from Volume 95, no. 1 (Spring 2013) can be purchased through University of California Press on their website, <http://scq.ucpress.edu/>

The full list of available books and quarterlies for sale and PDF order forms are available on our website.

## HSSC CONFERENCE, CONTINUED



Jim Sandos and Tish Sandos



Craig Russell

created elite musical communities of talented boys who sang and in some cases played musical instruments, and through them the priests unknowingly formed a link with Indian music. Significantly, the Indian musicians, or *mucicos*, tended to live longer on average than other Indians at the missions, which suggests that they were better fed and had positions of status that ensured their place at the missions.

The next presenter, Dr. Craig Russell (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo) began reading a learned paper, but soon put it down, saying, "Hey, let me just talk to you!" which clearly suited his very animated pedagogical style. Plainchant, he explained, would have been hard for mission Indians to master, but the musical and verbal repetition in "goigs" (pronounced "gotsh") would have been much easier for them. He compared the simple, iterative structure of a goig to Bob Dylan's "Blowing in the Wind." Goigs, he said, were common in the California missions, but totally absent from cathedral music. He colorfully likened their structure to a pastrami sandwich, then played a DVD of the male vocal group Chanticleer singing one, with Dr. Russell performing the lute.

The final presenter, musicologist Dr. John Koegel (Cal

State Fullerton), told us about Hispanic culture centered on the Los Angeles Plaza from 1840 to 1880. The small city then included communities of Chinese, Indians, newly-arrived Mexicans, Europeans, and, increasingly, Anglos. These groups of people both collaborated and competed with one another, and music, theater, and dance performances served both to unify each group but also to separate them from each other. Hispanic culture remained dominant until the 1870s, when an increasingly Anglo population began to marginalize it. Dr. Koegel's slides included views of the early Los Angeles Plaza area, its public buildings, theaters and dance halls, and multilingual advertisements for performances and music lessons.

Dr. Marcus closed the conference by thanking all of the presenters for their marvelous presentations as well as all those who helped make the event a success, especially HSSC Executive Director (2015-present) Amy Essington, assistant Christian Rodriguez, and our accountant Jose Granados, as well as Oxy Communications Director Jim Tranquada, Executive Assistant Gabriela Ortega, and IT technician John Drumright. It is significant that almost the entire HSSC board was in attendance and had helped plan or participated in the conference: Bill Barger, Paul Bryan Gray, Steve



John Koegel

Hackel, Andrew Karstins, Linda Mollno, John Pohlmann and Ann Walnum.

After the conference, presenters mingled with attendees at a convivial wine and cheese reception in the nearby Braun Room at the University Library, courtesy of John and Lyn Pohlmann. The event ran a half hour longer than originally planned, so the wife of one board member began taking wine glasses out of guests' hands, politely of course. Clearly, a good time was being had by all.

Written by A. C. W. Bethel, John Pohlmann, and Kenneth Marcus. Walt Bethel is professor emeritus at the philosophy department at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, where he taught for forty years. Former Board member John Pohlmann taught US and California history for over forty years at Cal Poly Pomona, and HSSC board president Kenneth Marcus is Professor of History at the University of La Verne.



Thank you Occidental College

## UPCOMING HSSC EVENT

### Tours of San Fernando Mission and Lopez Adobe

Saturday, November 7, 2015



Join the HSSC for special tours of two venerable San Fernando Valley historic landmarks, the San Fernando Mission and the Lopez Adobe, on Saturday, November 7 from 10 am to 1:30 p.m. The day includes visiting the library and archive at the mission as well as touring the 1883 adobe, recently reopened after several years of restoration. Following our tour, attendees will have the option to have lunch at Los Tres Hermanos, a Mexican restaurant down the street from the Lopez Adobe. Tour registration is \$10 for HSSC members and \$20 for non-members. (Members can use a discount code to receive the \$10 price. Email [hssc@thehssc.org](mailto:hssc@thehssc.org) for code.) Lunch is not included. There is a limit of 20 people for this event. Eventbrite will create a wait list. RSVP by October 29, 2015. Cancellations received by October 27, 2015, will be refunded.



## 2015 HSSC AWARD WINNERS

**The Donald H. Pflueger Local History Award** honors an outstanding publication on Southern California local history.

2014: Elizabeth Pomeroy, *San Marino: A Centennial History* (San Marino Historical Society, 2012)

2015: Paul Bryan Gray, *A Clamor for Equality: Emergence and Exile of California Activist Francisco P. Ramírez* (Texas Tech University Press, 2012)

**The Norman Neuerburg Award** honors the best book on pre-Gold Rush California.

Steve Hackel, *Junípero Serra: California's Founding Father* (Hill and Wang, 2013)

**The Martin Ridge Award** honors the best book on post-Hispanic (1848) California.

Josh Sides, *LA City Limits: African American Los Angeles from the Great Depression to the Present* (University of California Press, 2003)

**The Doyce B. Nunis, Jr. Award** honors the best demonstration of significant scholarship in the Southern California Quarterly by a rising historian.

James Tejani, "Dredging the Future: The Destruction of Coastal Estuaries and the Creation of Metropolitan Los Angeles, 1858-1908," *Southern California Quarterly* 96, 1 (2014): 5-39.

**The Carl I. Wheat Award** honors the best demonstration of significant scholarship in the Southern California Quarterly by an established historian.

Lon Kurashige, "Re-Thinking Anti-Immigrant Racism: Lessons from the Los Angeles Vote on the 1920 Alien Land Law," *Southern California Quarterly* 95, 3 (2013): 265-83.

**The Jack Smith Community Enrichment Award** honors an individual who has enriched the community of Los Angeles by their dedicated service and accomplishments.

Steve Lopez, *Los Angeles Times* columnist

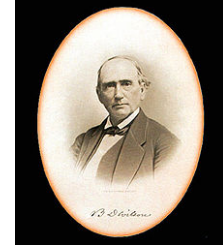
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### Upcoming HSSC Events

Saturday, November 7, 2015  
10am Tour of San Fernando Mission and Lopez Adobe

Sunday, November 15, 2015  
2pm George A.V. Dunning Lecture  
Nat Read speaking about "Don Benito Wilson"  
Homestead Museum, City of Industry



Spring 2016  
HSSC Conference  
"Journalism in Southern California"

Check thehssc.org for event details.

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