



Robert Erburu, Richard Koshalek, Carmen Zapata and Stan Chambers were honored by HSSC. See additional photos on pages 4 & 5.

Jack Smith Community Enrichment Award honors four Angelenos

On March 11, the Historical Society of Southern California honored four Southern Californians with the Jack Smith Community Enrichment Award at the Biltmore hotel in Los Angeles.

Recipients

The recipients were **Stan Chambers**, KTLA TV news reporter, who for more than 50 years has been bringing Angelenos local breaking news; **Robert Erburu**, former chairman of the board of Times Mirror, who has been a leader in shaping decisions that impact the future of Los Angeles; **Richard Koshalek**, director of the Museum of Contemporary Art, who has played a leading role in the emergence of Los Angeles as a great cultural center; and **Carmen Zapata**, artistic director of the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts, who saw a need for Hispanic artists to have a venue for their talents and made it a reality.

Executive Director **Tom Andrews** and HSSC President **Siegfried Demke** welcomed

members and guests before the luncheon in the Gold Room of the hotel.

The **Honorable George Deukmejian**, who served as honorary chairperson, said, "It is appropriate for the Historical Society—which has helped shape the history, memory and heritage of Los Angeles—to honor individuals whose talent, dedication, and longevity of service have enriched our community and brought it distinction."

Presenters

Each recipient was presented by a colleague who read a citation of his/her accomplishments. The presenters were **Jon Wilkman**, award-winning documentary filmmaker; **Robert Skotheim**, president of The Huntington Library; **Paul Karlstrom**, West Coast regional director of the Archives of American Art; and **Albert Greenstein**, former media relations manager at ARCO.

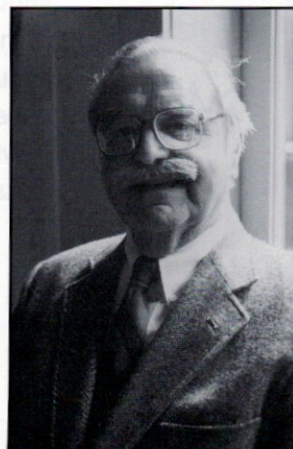
Sig Demke new HSSC president

Happily, Sig Demke said "yes" when a Westerner friend asked him to work on a project at the Lummis Home more than a decade ago. Today in 1999, Sig has been elected to serve as our last president of the twentieth century and our first of the twenty-first.

Sig came to the U.S. from East Prussia at the age of eight, eventually settled in Los Angeles and, like many of our young volunteers, attended Franklin High. He joined the army in 1943 hoping to use his German language skills, but was instead assigned to the 44th Infantry Division in France. In the Vosges Mountains, Sig's left arm was shattered by a bullet, leaving it almost useless. Through a self-directed physical therapy program he regained the use of his arm.

Sig spent the greatest part of his career working for Blue Cross, developing a catastrophic coverage plan and their first prescription plan. After retirement he was able to indulge his love of Western History, holding all the offices in the Westerners and devoting time unselfishly to HSSC.

by Michele Clark



Siegfried Demke

Photo: Suzanne Huddleson

Photo: Peter Mendenhall



HSSC
thanks
Gary
and
Bruce
Lloyd
who
reroofed
the guest
houses
on their
own
initiative

Gentle Reader

I WANT YOU to remember that history is meant to be inclusive, to bring people together. History is our collective memory, critically honed by both personal experience and the scholarship of historians.

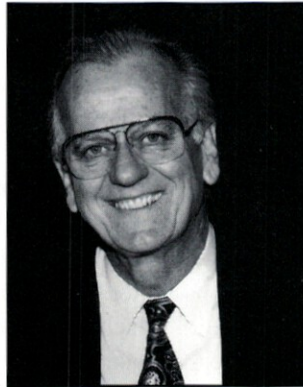
Because we live in an age of "selective memory and collective forgetting," what we do about our history matters. As we live our lives and tell our stories, the past becomes part of our present and therefore part of our future.

Our goal at HSSC is not just to bring the scholarship of history to the general public, but also to bring the questions and interest of the general public to the historians. History should meet the needs of both groups. I want to ensure that HSSC produces a stream of history to which both can contribute, and from which

both can be enriched.

In Southern California where rapid change, mobility and the disappearance of the past are commonplace, history and a sense of history are often lost in transit. All of us lose something valuable when that happens.

I also want you to remember that were it not



for the Historical Society of Southern California, you and I would have lost much more, because for 116 years

HSSC has been at work preserving as much of the memory, history and heritage of our past as humanly possible. It's an exciting record of achievement made possible by some very generous financial support. We will share that story with you in the next newsletter.

Tom Andrews

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The Lummis Home
is open to the public
Fri-Sun 12-4 pm

Group Tours
Fridays by appointment

The Roth Family Foundation gives to educational outreach

HSSC has received a \$3,000 grant from the Roth Family Foundation to assist its educational outreach this spring.

Sixty students from Franklin High School and a Fourth Grade class of GATE students from Arroyo Vista Elementary School will come to the Lummis Home and interpret it artistically. Prizes will be given and the students' work displayed at the Lummis Home on Museums of the Arroyo Day, May 16.

Also this spring, HSSC is working with the Los Angeles County School District and Azusa Pacific University in setting up a workshop for fourth grade teachers that will focus on California's growth and diversity after 1880.

The Society is grateful to the Roth Family Foundation for this support.



The Haynes and Weingart Foundations make grants to scholars and schools

Scholars often struggle financially while doing research.

In a vote of confidence, the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation has matched the two \$10,000 grants it made to HSSC last year for scholars doing research on Los Angeles and Southern California.

As a result, HSSC will distribute \$20,000 in research support in 1999. Last year a total of 91 scholars applied for support and 28 received grants ranging from \$250 for one week to \$1,000 for one month.

Because interest in Los Angeles history is at an all-time high, with younger scholars nationally pouring their energies into writing about L.A., this investment by the Haynes Foundation is timely and most welcome.



Photos: Peter Mendenhall

Phyllis Fick, above, a teacher at Ocean View Elementary in Whittier, and Helen Booker, left, Bret Harte Middle School, Los Angeles, with their students. Their schools are two of the four recipients of a Weingart grant. Each school received a check for \$2,500 at the February 18 HSSC board meeting. The other two are Arroyo Vista Elementary in South Pasadena, and Vail High School in Montebello.

Teachers often reach into their own pockets to pay for necessary school supplies.

After hearing this a number of times from O'Flaherty Teaching Award recipients, Tom Andrews and the board of HSSC decided to do something about it. They approached the Weingart Foundation with a request for a grant to HSSC which would be distributed to schools to help defray these expenses.

Weingart listens

The board of the Weingart Foundation listened. The idea fell within their basic giving guidelines which focus on health and education—especially among at-risk populations. And so a new program and partnership was born.

Weingart then made \$10,000 available to HSSC to distribute to the four schools of the 1998 O'Flaherty Award winners.

Recipients

Recently, Catherine Sumpter, principal at Bret Harte School, reported that her school had purchased two Legacy 2000S Multimedia computers replete with special features that include a 3 year warranty, Epson 400 color jet printer with cable and network package, and delivery and installation.

HSSC looks forward to the projects and interactive global learning that will take place in Helen Booker's classroom thanks to this new equipment made possible by the Weingart grant.



THE COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT AWARD was inaugurated in 1993 when it was presented at the DoubleTree hotel in Pasadena. The following year Jack Smith was one of the recipients at the Los Angeles Athletic Club. In 1997, after his death, the award was presented at the Biltmore and named for Jack.

Besides being recognized by colleagues and the community, recipients receive a water color painted by Pasadena artist Joseph Stoddard of a site having special meaning to them.

Stan Chambers chose the chapel at Loyola Marymount University; Robert Erburu, the Getty; Richard Koshalek, the Museum of Contemporary Art; and Carmen Zapata, the kiosk at The Plaza.

It is appropriate
that we confer this honor
in the name of one
who tirelessly pursued
the essence of our community—
Jack Smith.
If we had a single voice interpreting
our community,
it was Jack's
wry and insightful daily column
in the Los Angeles Times.
He was truly the bard of Los Angeles.

Governor George Deukmejian



Richard
Koshalek

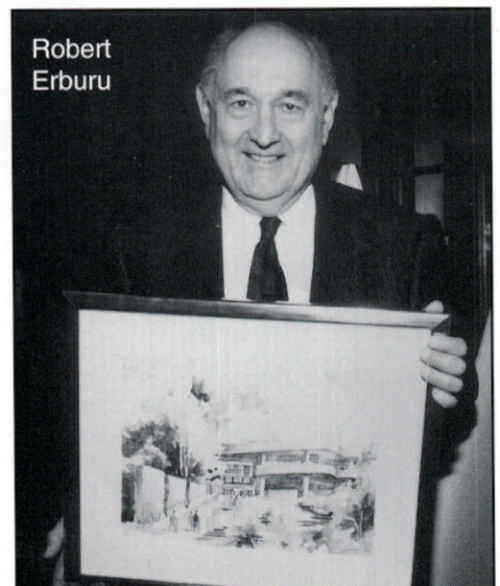
I doubt
there are more than
a handful of art professionals
who could have achieved
what Richard Koshalek did,
especially in a city
where various attempts
to establish museums of modern
and contemporary art
had invariably failed
for lack of support.

*Paul Karlstrom
West Coast regional director
of the Archives of American Art*

1999 Jack Smith Community Enrichment Award Luncheon

During four decades
with The Times Mirror Corporation,
Robert Erburu
became the pre-eminent volunteer
among Los Angeles
corporate leadership.
Like his mentor, Franklin Murphy,
Bob made the name of Times Mirror
synonymous with
community responsibility.

*Robert Skotheim
president of The Huntington Library*



Robert
Erburu



HSSC Executive Director Tom Andrews and Denise Smith, Jack's widow, smile as they remember Jack paying close attention as Gloria Lothrop, the Whitsett Chair for California History at CSUN, read a citation presenting Jack with the Community Enrichment Award in 1994. Accepting the award, Jack graciously paid tribute to the Historical Society for its role in preserving the history of Los Angeles and California.



Stan
Chambers

It's been said that journalists
write the first draft of history.
If this is true, then
Stan Chambers
is one of Southern California's
preeminent historians.
He has not only lived through
more than seven decades
of Los Angeles history,
every night at 10 he helps write it.

*Jon Wilkman
documentary film maker*



Carmen
Zapata

The Bilingual Foundation of the Arts
presents plays that are
either classics of Spanish-language literature
or contemporary plays on Hispanic themes.
Each play is performed in Spanish and English.
And that's the measure of
Carmen Zapata's achievement.
She could have founded a Spanish-language
theater and made it successful.
But she didn't.
Her concept of community
was broader than that.

*Albert Greenstein
formerly ARCO media relations manager*

Photos: Suzanne Huddleson



New look draws raves for Quarterly

In 1998, the *Quarterly* became larger, with more photos and a cover that now sports a colorful new design featuring historic photos, posters and drawings. A more reader-friendly typeface has been chosen and editor Doyce Nunis is now able to place footnotes at the bottom of the page.

The Society's 116-year commitment to sound scholarship, engagingly written and attractively presented is now more fully realized. As Tom Andrews points out, however, this would not have been possible without the 37 years of pro-bono editorship that Nunis has given the *Quarterly*.

Conference focuses on Los Angeles 1900 - 1950

Once again, the Los Angeles History Conference, held at the Autry Museum of Western Heritage, January 23, 1999, was a success. This year's theme, "Los Angeles: City for the Future," focused on the forces that shaped the city during the first half of the twentieth century. Doyce Nunis opened the conference with his keynote speech tracing some of the major forces that created a model city for the future.

Although Los Angeles always has been an ethnically diverse community, many changes in its ethnic composition occurred before the 1950s. Lawrence DeGraaf, CSU, Fullerton, gave an overview of the changing African American community, and Bette Y. Cox traced the rise and fall of Central Avenue as a major musical force. Not only was Central Avenue the jazz center of the city, it also served as a place where the races intermingled. By the 1950s, changing policies in hiring black musicians and other factors led

to the decline of the Avenue as a major entertainment area.

A different point was made by George Sanchez, USC, who presented an interpretation of the 150th celebration of the "Founding of El Pueblo" as it changed to a major Anglo extravaganza.

Another group gaining strength through adversity and then losing it when other opportunities opened were women. Clark Davis discussed the development of the Friday Morning Club which was once the only access to the centers of power for women.

Scott Bottles traced the development of the automobile before World War II, followed by Matt Roth who discussed research and bibliography since Bottles' book *Los Angeles and the Automobile*.

To illustrate visual changes Michael Dawson discussed photographers who worked from 1900 to 1940.

by Robert W. Blew

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For further information call HSSC at (323) 222-0546.

Look for
three new
books from
HSSC in
1999:
on the
Rowland
Workman
families
the Haynes
Foundation
and
John Stroud
Houston



Julius Shulman



Frank Wheat signs for a friend.

Photos: Michele Clark

For Love of History Tributes

IN MEMORY OF
AL SHUMATE, M.D.
Doyce B. Nunis Jr.

ROBERT J. HARVEY, M.D.
Doyce B. Nunis Jr.
E. Peter Mauk Jr.

MARY O'FLAHERTY HORN
Jackie Wilson

JACK MOORE
Judith and Donald Moore

HSSC celebrates SoCal's natural and manmade landscapes at signings

Last fall HSSC held two book signings and author receptions at the Lummis Home for Frank Wheat and Julius Shulman. Both events were among the first of many signings for Wheat's *California Desert Miracle* and Shulman's *Julius Shulman: Architecture and its Photography*. An impressive number of HSSC members and others gathered to meet and have books signed by the authors.

Wheat discussed his book's dramatic story of the 20-year struggle of environmentalists to save and protect millions of acres of fragile desert wilderness through the creation of the Mo-

jave National Preserve and the National Parks of Death Valley and Joshua Tree. Shulman spoke on his extraordinary decades of interacting with and photographing the Southern California work of such masters of modern architecture as Richard Neutra, Rudolf Schindler, and Frank Lloyd Wright.

HSSC was honored to host these accomplished authors and thanks them for their participation and superb publications.

A few signed copies remain available. Call HSSC at (323) 222-0546.

by Peter Mendenhall

The Historical Society has established a program to honor and remember friends and relatives called "For Love of History."

Since its initiation in 1992, the Society has received numerous donations that have helped to underwrite our publications program.

After receiving donations, the Society sends letters to the honorees and families informing them of the tribute. The donors are also thanked both by letter and in this newsletter.

The city of
Los Angeles
commends
HSSC
for its
stewardship



of the
Lummis
Home
during its
100th
anniversary

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