

Students from Latona School concentrate on a drawing project in the Lummis Garden

HSSC Launches New Program to “Keep History Alive” in K-12 Schools of Los Angeles

HSSC reaches into the classrooms across Los Angeles to assist K-12 teachers of history and social science with grants up to \$1,000 and opportunities to bring their classes to the Lummis Home for an innovative educational experience.

“Keeping History Alive” has two parts to its outreach to K-12 teachers and is supported by a number of foundation grants.

Part One of “KHA” is a small grants program (\$250-\$1,000) to assist teachers in three areas where funding is in short supply today: (1) classroom supplies and resources to enrich the learning experience; (2) field trips to historical sites and museums to enlarge the learning experience, and (3) professional development opportunities for the teachers.

HSSC is working closely with school principals, teachers, and with Michelle Herczog of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) to promote the program and identify teachers who need additional resources to enrich their history instruction.

Part Two of “KHA” is designed to bring 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classes from neighboring schools and beyond to the Lummis Home for “living history” projects.

As of March 3rd 370 students from fourteen school classes have visited the Lummis Home including neighboring schools Aldama Elementary, Aragon Avenue School, Glassell Park School, and Latona Avenue School. Other schools visiting El Alisal include Eldridge Rice Elementary in Rosemead, Sequoyah in Pasadena, and Village Glen, a PACE gifted program in Sherman Oaks.

Under the direction of Michele Clark, assisted by Robert Montoya, Margaret Dickerson, and Tom Andrews, students study the life of Charles Lummis and his contributions to Los Angeles, learn about life at El Alisal and the rich cultural heritage of the Arroyo Seco, tour the waterwise garden in order to learn about native plants and water conservation, and draw and color in the “plein air” tradition of the area.

“Keeping History Alive” is planned as a three-year, \$175,000 program of educational outreach. To date \$100,000 of the total needed has been received.

“This is an exciting time to meet the needs of history teachers in the schools,” notes HSSC President Larry Burgess, “and HSSC is strengthening the much-needed partnership between historical societies and K-12 teachers of history within Los Angeles County.”

*It is crucial
that
historians
work with
[K-12]
teachers to
help them
keep
abreast of
the
expanding
research
within our
discipline.*

*Lawrence McBride
Illinois State University*



Bret Harte Preparatory Middle School Assistant Principal Carol Horn, 8th grade teacher John Papp, 6th grade teachers Thuy-Doan Nguyen and Jemila Pratt, Acting Principal Grace Stauffer and HSSC Executive Director Tom Andrews. Not pictured is 6th grade teacher, Julie Chan.

HSSC Supports History Teachers at Bret Harte Middle School in L.A.

RECENTLY, four teachers at Bret Harte Middle School (93rd and Hoover) were presented with grants from HSSC's "Keeping History Alive" outreach to the schools.

Sixth-grade teachers Julie Chan, Thuy-Doan Nguyen, and Jemila Pratt used the grants to purchase materials and supplies for hands-on activities related to the ancient civilizations of China, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. They also added music and documentaries on the ancient cultures and religions to enrich their teaching presentations. Posters, replica statues, and books for independent study rounded out their purchases.

John Papp used his grant to acquire a full year of "History Alive! The United States" that he shares with a colleague. He also added an extensive collection of color transparencies and photographs documenting United States history from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War.

HSSC's connection to Bret Harte goes back to 1998 when one of its teachers, Helen Booker, won the Society's O'Flaherty Teaching Award. After retiring from teaching, Mrs. Booker continued to mentor younger teachers, including the three in the photo above.

"It is important," Andrews reminds us, "that promising younger teachers do not become discouraged over the lack of resources and leave the teaching profession."

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PUBLIC EDUCATION IN California is facing enormous challenges. Budget crises, low literacy rates, achievement gaps, and rigorous accountability systems place greater and greater emphasis on literacy and math programs much to the demise of history instruction. The Historical Society of Southern California has filled a tremendous void when K-12 history teachers have needed it most.

Michelle Herczog
History-Social Science Consultant
Los Angeles County Office of Education

Foundations Support “Keeping History Alive” with \$100,000 in Grants

BETWEEN APRIL 2004 and March 2005, seven foundations have invested in the launching of this new educational outreach to K-12 teachers of history in Los Angeles County

The Ahmanson Foundation (\$20,000), William C. Bannerman Foundation (\$12,500), Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation (\$10,000), The Ann Peppers Foundation (\$5,000), Sidney Stern Memorial Trust (\$2,500), The J.B. and Emily Van Nuys Charities (\$5,000), and Weingart Foundation (\$45,000).

These foundation grants support both part one, direct grants to teachers, and part two, field trips to the Lummis Home, in addition to the hiring of a grant writer and staffing support for the classroom visits to the Lummis Home.

Because history offers a wide range of materials to delight and engage the young learner, the Historical Society is grateful for the commitment these foundations have made to support this effort to enrich the teaching of history in the K-12 schools of Los Angeles.

44 Teachers Receive “Keeping History Alive” Grants Totaling \$30,000

AS OF MARCH 15 forty-four teachers have received \$30,000 in grants ranging from \$250 to \$1,000 for classroom resource materials, field trips, and professional development.

Sixty-five K-12 teachers sent in their requests totaling \$58,000 in this first full round of grant selection. A second round will begin in May or June. The requests covered Los Angeles County from Palmdale to Hermosa Beach and from Diamond Bar to Woodland Hills.

The top priority was classroom resource materials with twice as many requests as for field trips. Elementary schools provided more than twice the number of requests as middle schools with only two coming from high schools. Public, private and parochial or parish schools were all represented. Female teachers outnumbered their male counterparts 39 to 5.

Thanks to the assistance of Michelle Herczog of the L.A. County Office of Education, Michele Clark of HSSC, and the seven foundations who have supported this program, “Keeping History Alive” is off to an exciting and promising start. HSSC is delighted to be a partner in this collaborative effort.

A list of these teachers and their schools will be published later this year.

*All children
in a
democracy
—not just
the gifted
or the
college-
bound—
deserve the
knowledge
and under-
standing
that history
imparts.*

Kenneth T. Jackson
Columbia University

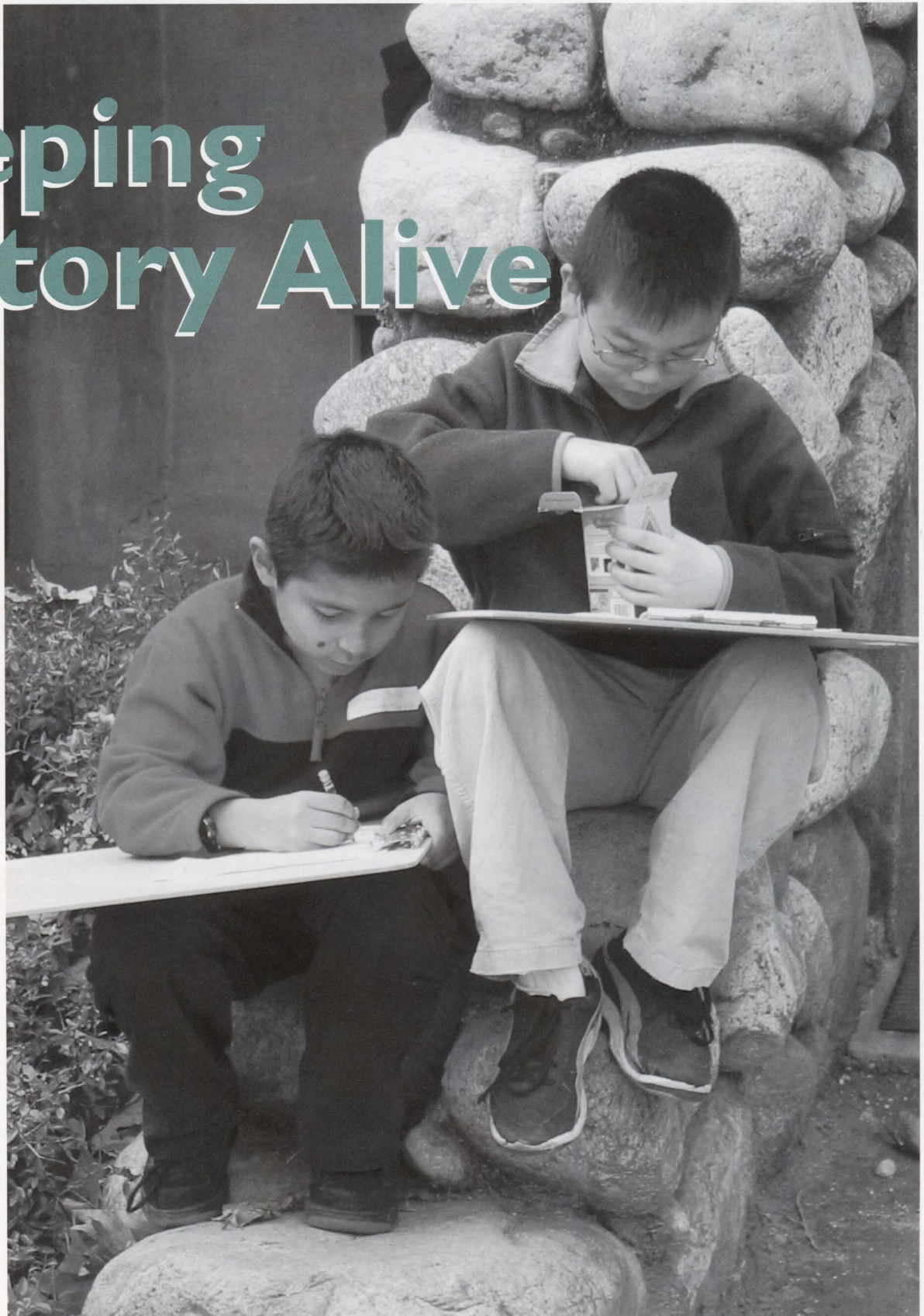
Keeping History Alive

The Historical Society's new program "Keeping History Alive" is comprised of two parts.

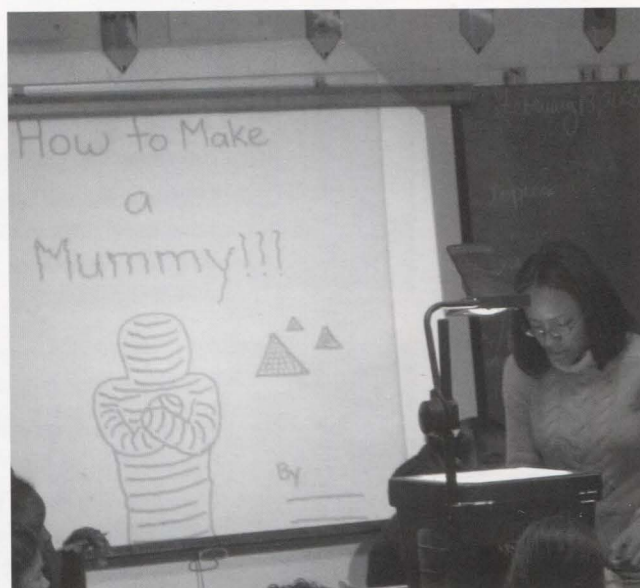
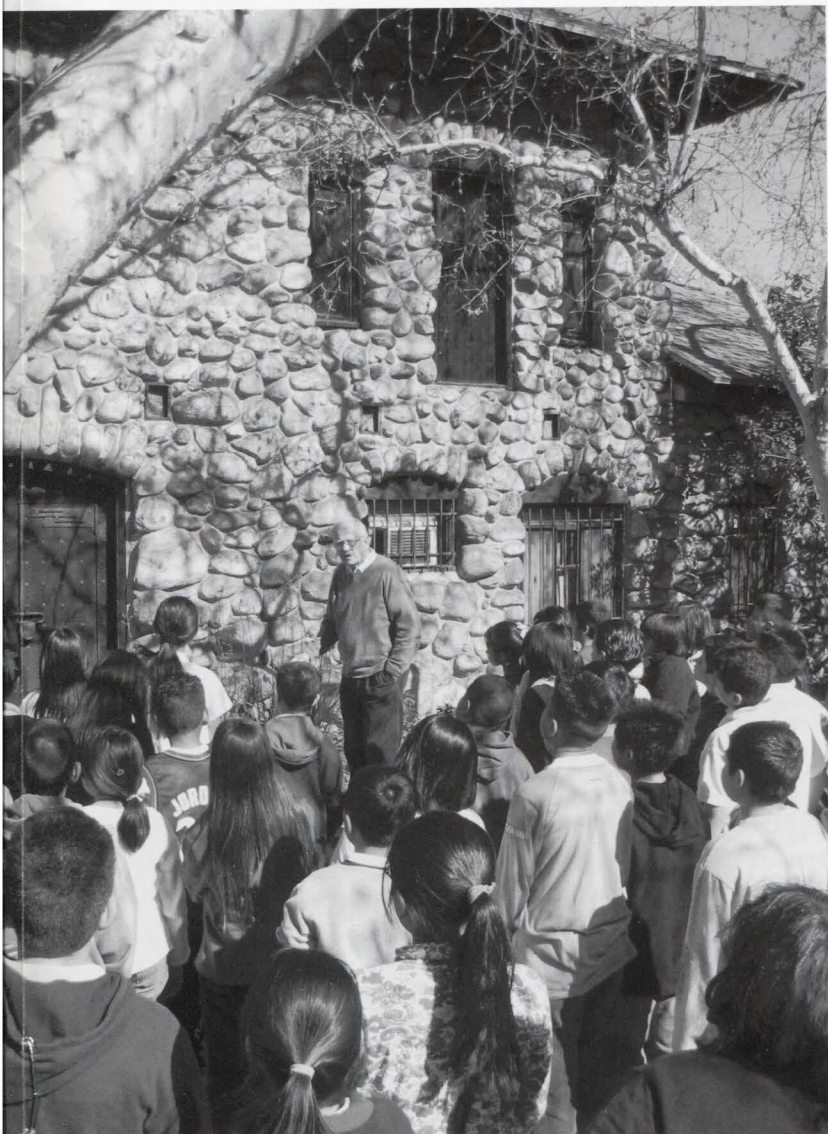
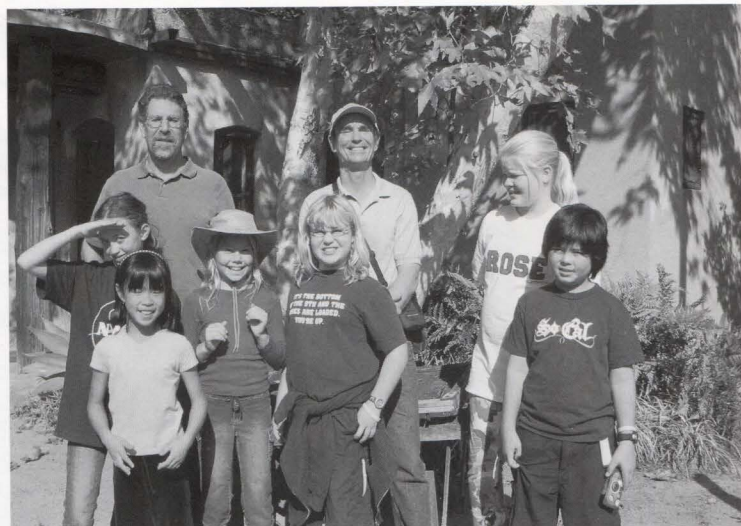
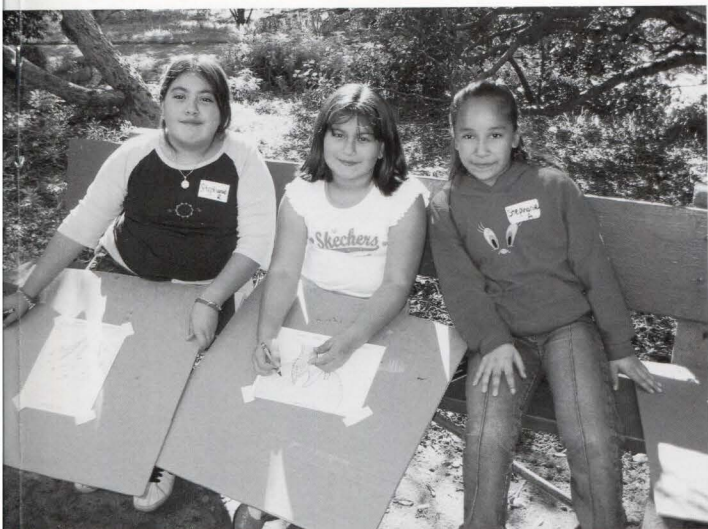
One part provides teachers with funds to buy classroom supplies, take field trips, or pay for teacher development.

Another part brings 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students to the Lummis Home to learn more about Charles Lummis.

Photos: Michele Clark



Two students from Shelly Lee and Jeff Thompson's 5th grade class at Latona Elementary School are completely focused on their work.



Clockwise this page: Students from Glassell Park Elementary take a break from working on their drawings in the Lummis Garden. Teacher Art Pfiffer and his students from Sequoyah School pose in the courtyard of the Charles Lummis Home. Students at Bret Harte Middle School learn about mummies. Bret Harte teacher, Julie Chan, shows the plaster rosetta stone bought with Keeping History Alive funds. HSSC Executive Director Tom Andrews welcomes students from Eldridge Rice Elementary School.

Worse
than no
memory at
all is a
memory
that cannot
differentiate
between
important
and incon-
sequential
experiences.

Michael Kammen
Cornell University

Look at What's New in the El Alisal Bookshop

El Alisal Bookshop, located in the Lummis Home, is open Friday through Sunday from noon to 4 o'clock. Members receive a 10 percent discount. You may also phone in your order: (323) 222-0546



L.A. City Limits: African American Los Angeles from the Great Depression to the Present

Josh Sides, Assistant Professor of History at Cal Poly Pomona

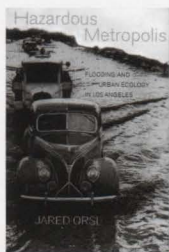
In 1964 a survey ranked Los Angeles as the most desirable city for African Americans to live in. In 1965 the city burst into flames in one of the worst race riots in the nation's history. How the city came to such a pass is the story told for the first time in this history of modern black Los Angeles, refocusing the debate on racial and urban crisis.



Converting California: Indians and Franciscans in the Missions

James A. Sandos, Farquhar Professor of the Southwest at the University of Redlands

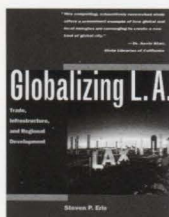
With clarity and elegance Sandos not only describes what happened in the California missions but shows why this episode in American history turned out the way it did.



Hazardous Metropolis: Flooding and Urban Ecology in Los Angeles

Jared Orsi, Assistant Professor of History at Colorado State University

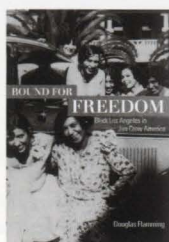
The author's lively history unravels the strange and often hazardous ways that engineering, politics, and nature have come together to alter the flow of water in Los Angeles.



Globalizing L.A.: Trade, Infrastructure, and Regional Development

Steven P. Erie, Professor of Political Science at UC San Diego

This is the compelling account of the improbable rise of Los Angeles. The book explains how a region with no natural harbor and a metropolis situated 20 miles from the coast managed to become the world's ninth largest economy and a leading trade and transportation center.



Bound for Freedom: Black Los Angeles in Jim Crow America

Douglas Flamming, Associate Professor of History at the Georgia Institute of Technology

This splendid book is the first full account of Los Angeles's black community in the half century before World War II.

HSSC Increases Membership Dues

Nonprofits are being financially challenged across the country and especially here in southern California.

The cost of supplies, services, and equipment has been rising, as have insurance and publishing costs.

In response to these increasing operating costs, HSSC is forced to increase membership dues. It has been twelve years since membership dues were last increased—from \$35 to \$50. Then, the cost to serve each member was \$46; now it costs \$65-\$70.

Starting with the April 2005 renewals, the Board has authorized an increase in membership rates as shown in the membership form on the next page.

We will continue to operate with low overhead and lean staff while we produce a quality product. This is an exciting time for history in Los Angeles and we want to bring an even higher level of programs, publications, and engagement to our members.

For Love of History Tributes

Members and friends
may remember
or honor friends and loved ones
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to the honoree
or family of departed.

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by
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William Newbro
by
Mr. & Mrs. William Escherich

IN MEMORY OF
Roger Bixby Smith
by
Barbara Smith

In Memoriam

NADINE ISHITANI HATA, a long-time member of the Historical Society, who worked to include both sexes and all races and ethnic groups in the teaching of history has died at 63 at her home in Redondo Beach.

A fourth-generation Japanese American born in Hawaii, Nadine was motivated to improve history education because of "omissions and distortions that made American history irrelevant to me...."

Nadine effected change not only through her teaching and writing, but also in her work on a state advisory committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and as the only Asian American on the 12-member governing council of the American Historical Association.

Nadine taught at Cal State Dominguez Hills and Cal State Long Beach before joining the El Camino faculty in 1970 and later becoming college vice president.

From the LA Times

MUIR DAWSON, one of the Dawsons who ran Los Angeles' oldest continuously operating bookstore, has died. He was 83.

A partner in the booksore since 1947, Muir specialized in rare books on the history of printing. He also led several projects in the family's publishing business.

Muir, who retired in 1995, worked many years in partnership with Glen, his older brother. It was the brothers who moved the shop to its current Larchmont Village address in 1968 after four downtown Los Angeles locations.

The bookshop also became known for its catalogs, indexed for years at the UCLA Powell Library and considered a valuable tool for bibliographers and librarians.

Muir was a former local and national president of the Anti-quarian Booksellers Assn. of America and former president of the Book Club of California.

From an article in the LA Times
by Myrna Oliver

In a world
in which
personal
contact
with
different
generations
is often
severed,
history can
link people
to past
generations
and root
them in the
continuity
of the
human
enterprise.

Gerda Lerner
University of
Wisconsin

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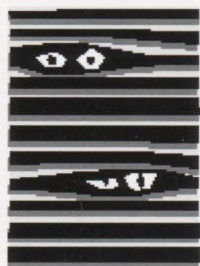
All of the above plus...
A Docent-led tour of the
Lummis Home and Garden

\$1,250 President's Circle

All of the above plus...
Lectures and receptions
featuring noted historians

Membership contributions are tax-deductible within the limits allowed by law. For further information call HSSC at (323) 222-0546

LOOK



and Groove



History
Conference
Saturday
April 9
9am-3:30pm
Autry
National
Center

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Southern California presents its Tenth Annual History Conference on Saturday, April 9, 2005 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at the Autry National Center.

Designed for teachers, students, academic historians and the lay public, HSSC's history conferences have explored the theme "Los Angeles: The Essence of a Community," and have presented an exciting array of speakers and subjects over the past decade.

This year's conference is entitled "Look, Sip, and Groove: Sensory Paths to L.A. History." Five creative scholars will present Los Angeles history in a unique way. Sight and smell, taste and sound,

represent new avenues through which scholars have traveled in their quests to understand the cultures of southern California. This conference will allow them an opportunity to explore and share the history of our communities in a whole new light.

John Gray, president and CEO, Autry National Center, and Thomas Andrews, HSSC executive director, will welcome participants. The keynote address by Dr. Janet Fireman, editor of *California History*, follows. During the day talks will include an examination of the history and cultural influence of southern California's Flower Market by independent scholar and novelist, Naomi Hirahara; a presentation entitled, "Voices of the Flute," by Ernest Siva, cultural director of the Morango Band; a talk relating Mexican cuisine to cultural text by Victor Valle, director of the American Communities program at CSULA; and a talk on African American gospel music in Los Angeles by Jacqueline Cogdell DjeDje of the department of ethnomusicology at UCLA.

The 2005 O'Flaherty Teaching Award for excellence in the teaching of history in grades K-12 in the schools of Los Angeles will be presented mid-day.

The conference has again been skillfully coordinated by Denise Spooner. Denise has lectured at USC and CSUN and currently teaches about California in the Department of American Studies at CSU Fullerton. Denise also researches and writes on the transformation of the experience of community in southern California.

For reservations or information, please call Michele Clark at (323) 222-0546.

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