



PHOTO: Michele Clark

Newly appointed HSSC Executive Director Denise S. Spooner

## HSSC Welcomes New Executive Director Denise S. Spooner

Denise Spooner needs no introduction to HSSC members who have attended our annual History Conference. For the last three years, Denise has worked as a volunteer developing the theme of the conference and acquiring speakers. On July 10, 2005 the board of directors announced they chose Denise from a list of very competent applicants to become executive director of the Historical Society of Southern California, replacing Tom Andrews.

Denise says, "I want to maintain the continuity of the Historical Society, and be a part of its future as it grows. I see the Historical Society having the potential for being the most important cultural organization in southern California."

Denise received her bachelor's degree in history from the University of California, Berkeley and her master's and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Her Ph.D. dissertation about Iowa migrants and their political activity in southern California reflects her own background. Denise came to southern California from Cedar Rapids, Iowa when she was 11 years old. The move was pretty traumatic for a youngster and the stress may have led to *juvenile-onset diabetes that eventually caused the loss of vision in her right eye when she was*

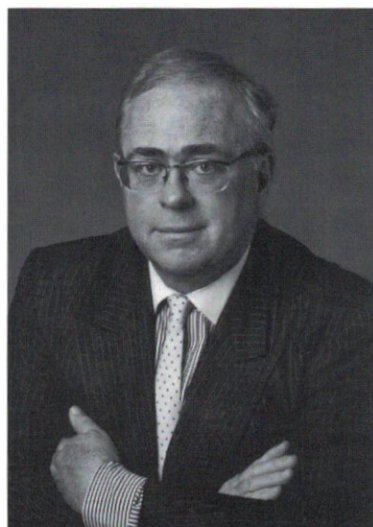
in her 20s. The loss doesn't hold Denise back. Though she watches what she eats, Denise lives a normal but energetic life. She is an avid cyclist, riding daily. She lives in a vintage house in Claremont with her husband of 22 years, Joseph Marino, a partner in the business consulting services division of IBM.

Before joining HSSC as executive director, Denise was most recently adjunct professor at UC Fullerton and earlier, at USC and CSU Northridge. She has been very active in the historical community, publishing, presenting papers and serving as panelist or chair for several groups including the Organization of American Historians.

The key areas Denise wants to concentrate on are bringing more people into the Historical Society by publicizing the wonderful programs HSSC already runs and by organizing events that appeal to young people and families—such as historic lectures on and the tasting of wines of southern California, and bike rides of historic neighborhoods. Creating a database of consultants to the entertainment industry for their historical projects is another goal. Finally, she *would like to develop a coalition of organizations to rehabilitate and preserve El Alisal, the Lummis Home.*



Save the  
Date:  
Dunning  
Lecture  
Saturday  
November 5  
12 noon  
Skirball  
Cultural  
Center  
Los Angeles



Kevin Starr

## Starr to Deliver the 2005 Dunning Lecture

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S sixth annual lecture on Los Angeles, underwritten by an endowment established by George A.V. Dunning, will be presented by HSSC FELLOW Kevin Starr, author of a seven-volume history on California. The title "Buffy, the Chief, and the Cardinal: Reflections on Los Angeles in the 1950s" hints at an intriguing alliance. But was it?

Starr will discuss how Los Angeles defined itself to itself in the 1950s and early 1960s through the arts, the police department, and religion by focusing upon the civic agendas being advanced by Buffy Chandler, Chief William Henry Parker, and James Francis Cardinal McIntyre. Each of these figures, in seeking to define Los Angeles, were at once building upon past formulations while probing new identities. By the mid-1960s, a new Los Angeles formula had been set in place.

## Nine Books Nominated for Pflueger Award

HISTORY IS HOT IN southern California. A search of the UC catalog illustrates this fact. More than 75 books were published on the history of southern California between 2003 and 2005 including 39 titles that had nothing whatsoever to do with Hollywood and the entertainment industry—always a popular topic.

This bounty of scholarship is also reflected in the large number of books under consideration for the Donald H. Pflueger Local History Award honoring outstanding works on Los Angeles and southern California local history. As the list of the nine nominees demonstrates, there is something for everyone in terms of topics: Eric Avila, *Popular Culture in the Age of White Flight: Fear and Fantasy in Suburban Los Angeles*; William Deverell, *Whitewashed Adobe: The Rise of Los Angeles and the Remaking of its Mexican Past*; Steven P. Erie, *Globalizing L.A.: Trade, Infrastructure, and Regional Development*; Douglas Flamming, *Bound for Freedom: Black Los Angeles in Jim Crow America*; Kenneth H. Marcus, *Musical Metropolis: Los Angeles and the Creation of a Music Culture, 1880-1940*, (which comes with a CD containing a number of the musical selections discussed in the text); Jared Orsi, *Hazardous Metropolis: Flooding and Urban Ecology in Los Angeles*; Josh Sides, *L.A. City Limits: African American Los Angeles from the Great Depression to the Present*; Raphael J. Sonenshein, *The City at Stake: Secession, Reform, and the Battle for Los Angeles*; and Michelle Zack, *Altadena: Between Wilderness and City*.

Denise Spooner

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Office Hours Mon-Fri 9-5

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

Group Tours  
Fridays by appointment





Members of the Mt. Washington Plein Aire Painters, John Byram and Ann Dudrow, share techniques for Lummis Home visitors.

## MOTA Day 2005

ON A SUNNY, SPRING Sunday in May, the five Museums of the Arroyo (The Lummis Home, Southwest Museum, Heritage Square, The Gamble House, and the Pasadena Museum of History) joined to celebrate the sixteenth annual Museums of the Arroyo Day. Free shuttles ferried the many visitors from location to location, allowing them to take in as many programs as they wished.

Each museum offered special programs reflecting the unique spirit of each site. More than 1,400 visitors came to the Lummis Home to see Dan Lewis's Chautauqua presentation of Charles Lummis, as well as folksingers Gigi and Mike who entertained young and old with a folk music sing-along including some songs composed by Charles Lummis himself!

The Plein Aire Painters of Mt. Washington worked on paintings in the garden throughout the afternoon for attendees to observe. Art work created by classes who have participated in the Historical Society's "Keeping History Alive" program was mounted and on display. These drawings have been made by students of Highland Park area schools who have come to the Lummis Home for house and garden tours. On the tours the children explore southern California history, learn about Arroyo culture and their neighborhood resources.

It was a wonderful way to celebrate the area's diverse cultural, artistic and architectural legacy.

Photos and text: Michele Clark



Mary Hackney, winner of an orchid.

## Look, Sip and Groove: 2005 History Conference

DENISE SPOONER, HSSC's new executive director who coordinated the last three history conferences HSSC presented at the Autry National Center, found yet another unique way of looking at southern California history. It was Denise who suggested the concept and title of the tenth annual conference: "Look, Sip, and Groove: Sensory Paths to L.A. History."

John Gray, President and CEO of the Autry National Center, welcomed the audience and HSSC Executive Director Tom Andrews spoke about what they could expect during the day. Dr. Janet Fireman, editor of *California History*, gave a keynote address on "Sensational L.A." She was followed by Naomi Hirahara, independent scholar and novelist, who spoke about the history and cultural influence of the Los Angeles Flower Market. Naomi brought flowers from the market to present to everyone. Ernest Siva, cultural director of the Morongo Band, spoke about American Indian music and played his flutes. Before lunch, Tom Andrews presented the O'Flaherty Teaching Award to Aldama Elementary School teacher Robin Frazier. It was Robin's fifth-grade class who participated in the student-led tour of the Lummis Home filmed last year in both English and Spanish.

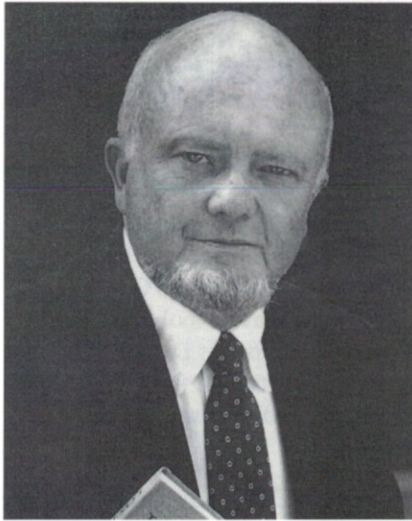
Following the lunch break, Dr. Victor Valle, director of the American Communities Program, CSU Los Angeles, and author of "A Curse of Tea and Potatoes" in *Encarnacion's Kitchen: Mexican Cooking in Nineteenth-Century California*, spoke on "Mexican Cuisine as Cultural Text: Interpreting the Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Literature of Los Angeles." And Dr. Jacqueline Cogdell-DjeDje of UCLA presented "We've Come This Far by Faith: African American Gospel Music in Los Angeles."

The day ended with a wine and cheese reception, sponsored by CSUN, during which many happy attendees received door prizes. Our thanks to Denise and the presenters who shared their insights on Los Angeles.

*The  
Ahmanson  
Foundation  
will fund  
"Keeping  
History Alive"  
for a second  
year. Look for  
more on this  
program in  
the winter  
newsletter*



# The Fellows Gala Is



Judson A. Grenier



Nancy Dustin Wall Mouré

**T**HE FELLOWS AWARD will be presented to four distinguished individuals at a dinner on Tuesday evening, October 4, 2005, at The Huntington Library. This flagship of HSSC awards and the highest honor the Society bestows is certainly true for the four recipients—Judson A. Grenier, Nancy Dustin Wall Mouré, and published widely, and served the greater Los Angeles Community

**JUDSON A. GRENIER** TAUGHT AT CSU Dominguez Hills for 27 years, beginning in 1966, and served as the founding chair of the Department of History. Recipient of several awards for his articles and books, Grenier also co-directed the California State University Oral History Project and has participated in the historical affairs of Los Angeles. In 1987 he wrote *California Legacy: The Watson-Dominguez Family* and in 1999 HSSC published his *Golden Odyssey: John Stroud Houston, California's First Controller*. He is currently at work on a biography of George Carson, Los Angeles pioneer/administrator after whom the city of Carson is named.

INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR **NANCY DUSTIN WALL MOURÉ** pioneered the careful study of art history in southern California and the state. Her 1975 publication, *Dictionary of Art and Artists in Southern California* laid the foundation for future studies. She has energized L.A. art studies with two books: *Painting and Sculpture in Los Angeles, 1900-1945* (1980), and *Loners, Mavericks, and Dreamers: Art in Los Angeles Before 1900* (1993). Mouré served as assistant curator of American Art at LACMA for 15 years and recently culminated her life's work with the publication of *California Art: 450 Years of Painting and Other Media*, an impressive 550-page volume.

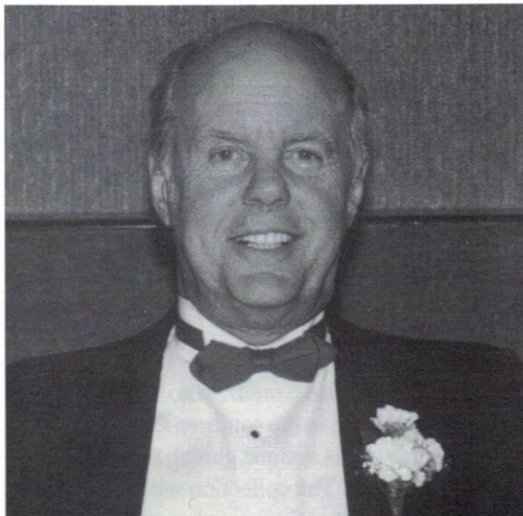
The Historical Society invites you to meet the recipients of the FELLOWS Medallion with us at the Gala on October 4.



# Coming to The Huntington



Gary B. Nash



John W. Robinson

Save the  
Date:  
**FELLOWS**  
**Gala**  
**Tuesday**  
**October 4**  
**The**  
**Huntington**  
**Library**  
**San Marino**

Individuals for their uncommon lifetime achievements in the pursuit of history at a gala in the Friends' Hall. The FELLOWS Award Medallion, inaugurated in 1988, is the theme of the evening, "Weaving Together the Rich Tapestry of History," is on Wall Mouré, Gary B. Nash, and John W. Robinson—who have taught, researched in a great many ways.

**GARY B. NASH** HAS TAUGHT AT UCLA since 1966 where he has won awards for both teaching and research and where he also directs the National Center for History in the Schools. HSSC's "Keeping History Alive" program is a beneficiary of Nash's work at the National Center. A prolific author and editor of more than 20 books, including this year's title, *The Unknown American Revolution*, Nash was president of the Organization of American Historians in 1995 and also took on the assignment of co-chairing the National History Standards Project, 1992 to 1996. His 1974 publication, *Red, White, and Black: The Peoples of Early America* opened up new approaches to colonial history and is still in print today.

INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR **JOHN W. ROBINSON** has proven to be a "man to match our mountains" with his impressive output of regional histories, trail guides, and local site studies. His widely read trio of books, *The San Bernardinos* (1989), *The San Gabriels* (1991), and *The San Jacintos*, with Bruce Risher and Elna Bakker (1993) command the field. The first two have received HSSC's Donald Pflueger Local History Award. Robinson is no armchair guide to our mountains, but knows them firsthand from years of hiking their trails. In addition to his histories of the mines of these mountains, he published an attractive and important volume on *Los Angeles in Civil War Days, 1860-65* (1977).

Tom Andrews

and honor these historians—as well as past  
your presence at the FELLOWS Award





# Celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lummis Home Garden

Save the  
Date:  
Garden  
Anniversary  
Day  
October 23  
12-4 pm  
Lummis  
Garden  
Highland  
Park

ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, HSSC will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the Lummis Home waterwise garden. The Garden Anniversary Day will feature two brief talks on gardening including one by the original garden designer, Robert Perry, and one by Rick Fisher, one of the original students who helped design the garden. Plan to visit the many booths that will have information on organizations with expertise on drought-tolerant techniques. Organizations will also promote other eco-friendly landscape and environment concepts.

LA Times writer, Robert Smaus, who writes about gardens and gardening in the southern California area, will exhibit some of his antique garden tool collection at the Lummis Home. The collection will be fascinating to both the expert and lay garden enthusiast.

There will be garden demonstrations by the Lummis Home gardeners to show how to make waterwise gardens at home, and, as always, there will be drought-tolerant plants for sale to help get started.

Come and learn how to make Los Angeles a more water-friendly place to live. Remember—even at times when rain is as abundant as it was this past winter—Los Angeles is a semiarid desert that receives its water supply from far and disparate areas. We must conserve our supply for the future. The event will take place between 12 pm and 4pm.

Robert Montoya

## VROMAN'S Gives Back

REGISTER AS A SUPPORTER of HSSC and VROMAN'S Bookstore will give back one percent of your purchases directly to the Historical Society. At the time of purchase make sure to let the cashier know you want to support HSSC.

VROMAN'S Bookstore, a Pasadena landmark founded in 1894, has long been an active location for author events, lectures, book discussions, workshops, and, with its vast book selection, a book browser's dream.

VROMAN'S  
695 E Colorado Blvd  
or  
Hastings Ranch Shopping Center  
3729 E Foothill Blvd



2004-2005 Student Fellows: Left to right, Jerry Gonzalez, USC; Jarrod X Kellogg, CSUN; Daniel Lorme, Claremont McKenna College; Sean McLynn, CSUN; Andrea Cohen, CSUN; Keara Duggan, Claremont McKenna College.

## Student Fellows Meet to Discuss Public History

THIS PAST FEBRUARY, our HSSC/Whitsett Student Fellows met at the Lummis Home to discuss how HSSC has become such an important voice in public history. These Fellows workshops are meant to acquaint the students with the role and outlook of a nonprofit historical society within an ever-changing and diverse area such as southern California. What is the difference between the two titles: Historical Society of Southern California and the Southern California Historical Society? It is the answer to questions such as these that lie at the heart of what HSSC's mission has become today. The workshop provided an avenue to discuss how effective HSSC has become in its outreach programs, and also was an opportunity to expound on what can be done to make the Society more effective, engaging, and appealing to a broader audience.

This round of Fellows is a diverse group representing institutions new to the Student Fellows program. The universities and colleges that participated in 2004-2005 were CSU Northridge, CSU Long Beach, Claremont McKenna College, and USC. The Historical Society is proud to partner with the W.P. Whitsett Foundation at CSU Northridge for such an important aspect of outreach to students and teachers of the southern California area.

Photo and text: Robert Montoya





Standing left to right are Tribal Elder John D. Jojola, Lt. Governor Max Zuni, Tribal Elder Ben Lucero behind Isleta Council Member Barbara Jiron, Frank Lujan, and Isleta Elder Frank Abeita.

## HSSC Welcomes Isleta Pueblo Visitors

EARLY IN MAY, HSSC staff was treated to a visit from members of the Isleta Pueblo of New Mexico who had come to the Southwest Museum to the Braun Library for research. They are formulating a concept for an implementation grant they hope to receive from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Members of the tribe are developing a photo exhibit called "A Year in the Life of Isleta Pueblo." Since the Pueblo and its people played such a prominent role in the life of Charles Lummis, they were delighted to have a tour of "El Alisal."

Photo and text: Michele Clark

## Haynes Foundation Provides \$28,000 in Grants

EACH YEAR THE HSSC/HAYNES small grant program for research on southern California and Los Angeles attracts more attention. This year was no different. With 108 applications, it took a major effort to narrow the applications down to the eventual 30 recipients. The demographics of the applicant pool were far-ranging and diverse: 47 institutions from across the country, spanning the gamut from Ph.D. candidates, established scholars, and independent researchers. Topics from the 56 women and 56 men were just as varied and refreshing, illustrating both the degree to which our local area has become a hotbed of interest within the academic field, and how that interest has become equally distributed across gender lines. From early freeway construction, to the LAPD since 1945, to Meyer Lissner, the broad interest in southern California gives promise to the upcoming writers who wish to expand on the ever-growing discourse that has reverberated so intensely in recent years. These awards represent more than monetary support, they issue a sense of community, a vote of confidence, and a gesture of thanks to those who make it their mission to understand our history in a more profound way. To date, these small grants have supported 151 scholars with funding of nearly \$160,000. HSSC would like to thank The John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation for recognizing the need for this important program.

Robert Montoya

For a  
complete  
list of  
grant  
winners  
and topics,  
contact  
HSSC  
and we  
will gladly  
provide  
you with  
information.

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#### \$75 Regular Members

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All of the benefits above plus...  
One special publication  
Membership in *North American Reciprocal Museum* program

#### \$300 Patron Members

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Two special publications

#### ADDITIONAL BENEFITS FOR:

##### \$600 Benefactors

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



## Admission Day 2005



Joseph Stoddard,  
Admission Day speaker

ON FRIDAY EVENING, September 9, The Old Mill Foundation and the Historical Society of Southern California will celebrate the 155<sup>th</sup> anniversary of California's admission to the Union with a dinner and program on the Pomegranate Patio at El Molino Viejo in San Marino.

Celebrate  
the  
anniversary  
of  
California's  
admission  
to the union  
September 9  
El Molino  
Viejo  
San Marino

This year, prominent Pasadena artist Joseph Stoddard will present a visual celebration of California in sketches and paintings entitled "The Artist as Historian." Joseph has worked for most of the leading design firms in Los Angeles and is currently co-owner and one of the principals at SKA Design in South Pasadena. He taught at Art Center College of Design for 13 years.

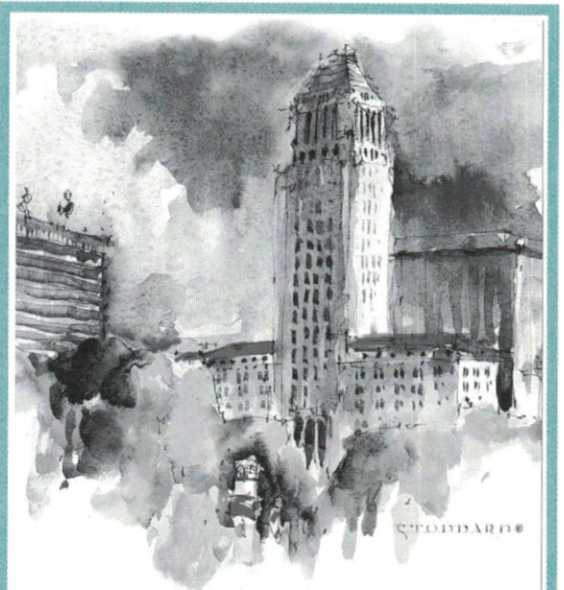
Joseph took up sketching and painting in 1986 to record the ever-changing southern California area. What began as a hobby became a serious vocation. He has produced paintings for a number of publications, posters, and books about local history. His watercolors have graced the covers of many of the books published by HSSC including an entire volume of his paintings and sketches of Pasadena.

If you have never spent a balmy summer evening on the patio at the Old Mill dining well and being entertained and educated, you have missed a truly delightful experience. For reservations call Cathy at the Old Mill at (626) 449-5458.

Michele Clark

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## Los Angeles 2006

Paintings by Joseph Stoddard



## 2006 HSSC Los Angeles Landmarks Calendar

HSSC IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE the September release of its first full-color calendar illustrating some of the most important and memorable buildings erected on our Los Angeles landscape. The paintings by Joseph Stoddard will allow you to tour these cultural icons with a mere flip of each page—buildings such as: the Richard J. Riordan Central Library, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Philippe's, MOCA, Union Station, and the Dorothy Chandler Pavillion. This fine-printed gift will continue to please throughout the year. Great as a gift and great to grace your own wall, keep your eye out in September for its release. The calendar is dedicated to the memory of Siegfried G. Demke for his unfailing support of the Historical Society of Southern California.