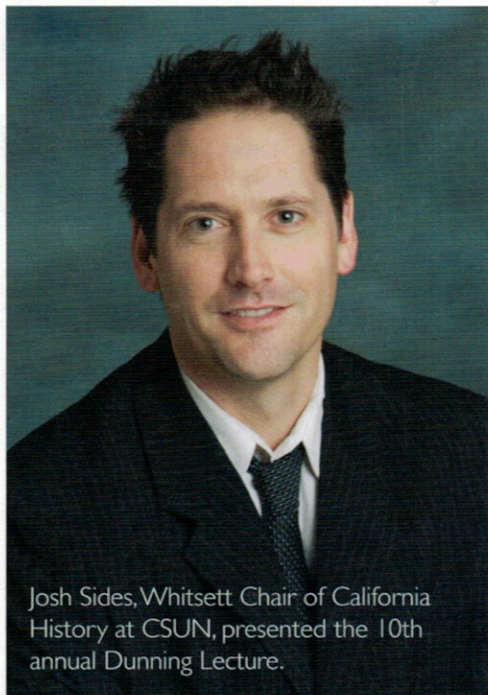




The Southern Californian

The Historical Society of Southern California Fall/Winter 2009 Volume 21 Numbers 3 and 4



Josh Sides, Whitsett Chair of California History at CSUN, presented the 10th annual Dunning Lecture.

10th ANNUAL DUNNING LECTURE

By John Pohlmann

JOSH SIDES, who occupies the prestigious Whitsett Chair of California History at CSUN, spoke for HSSC November 1 on the topic "The Unheralded Black Revolutionaries of Post War Los Angeles." The occasion was the 10th annual George A.V. Dunning Lecture at Cal Tech's Beckman Institute Auditorium. Professor Sides' animated and often humorous delivery deftly wove balanced and nuanced insights into an often controversial topic.

SIDES laid out a persuasive case that the quiet and often behind-the-scenes efforts of black businessmen, lawyers, homeowners and other members of the expanding African American middle class and blue collar workforce achieved more meaningful advances than did outspoken, militant, and radical agitators who were the main focus of much of the contemporary media and most later historians.

We in the audience were on the edge of our seats throughout. Sides laid out a persuasive case that the quiet and often behind-the-scenes efforts of black businessmen, lawyers, homeowners and other members of the expanding African American middle class and blue collar workforce achieved more meaningful advances than did outspoken, militant, and radical agitators who were the main focus of much of the contemporary media and most later historians. Among the many unsung heroes in the on-going civil rights struggle were attorney Loren Miller who led a successful fight to end restrictive covenants in the *Shelly v Kramer* case of 1948, Norman Hous-

ton, leader of a group of homeowners who opened up Sugar Hill in the West Adams district to blacks, and businessman LeRoy Connely, who with other middle class blacks armed with shotguns successfully protected their businesses from rioters and looters during the 1965 Watts riots. These three were joined by growing numbers of black teachers, salesmen, postal workers, and blue collar union members who, according to Sides, succeeded not because of the system but in spite of it. Interestingly enough, the principal differentiation between the black middle and lower classes

DUNNING continued on page 8

Photo: Michele Clark



Kenneth H. Marcus



Linda Mollno

First and Second Vice Presidents Elected

In November 2009 Board members Kenneth H. Marcus and Linda Mollno were elected first and second vice presidents respectively. Before coming on the board more than a year ago, each came to know the Historical Society of Southern California through their research.

Ken, who teaches European and American history at the University of La Verne, was a recipient of a Haynes grant. The grant helped further his research on his recent book, *Musical Metropolis: Los Angeles and the Creation of a Music Culture, 1880-1940*. The book focuses on the growth of diverse music venues and genres in Los Angeles and includes a section on Charles Lummis.

Ken wants to see HSSC improve our connection to the public and to scholars in various ways. He says, "Things we do very well include prizes for outstanding teachers and grants through the Haynes Foundation for academic and independent scholars. I would like to make the website as usable and useful as possible. I also see the continued organizing of events (talks, music, tours, etc.) as an important way of connecting with the public. By linking up with other historical organizations, and

getting the word out through the web, by surface mail, and word-of-mouth, we can publicize the fact of a unique historical society that cares deeply about preserving the past and making historical knowledge available for the future."

Linda teaches California history and U.S. history at Cal State L.A. and Cal Poly Pomona. She is a past recipient of a Haynes Grant that she used to further her efforts towards publishing her Ph.D. dissertation, "Deep Roots and Immigrant Dreams: A Social History of Viticulture in Southern California." Years of research on this project resulted in a heightened interest in local history that she takes to the classroom and beyond.

She is currently serving on a committee to save the Michael White Adobe, the oldest Adobe in the San Gabriel Valley and located on the campus of San Marino High School. Historic preservation holds a deep personal interest for both Linda and her husband Robert who, for over 30 years, have lived in a National Historic Landmark - The Edwin Powell Hubble House. She is also helping the San Marino Historical Society to produce a history of the city's centennial in 2013 by providing oral history training for local volunteers.

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THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN
is published quarterly by the
Historical Society
of Southern California,
a California non-profit
organization (501)(c)(3)

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Other HSSC/Haynes 2009 award recipients look on as Maurice Hodgen, Ed.D., an independent scholar, describes his work producing a blog on Frank Miller, developer of the Riverside Mission Inn. The Haynes Foundation generously provides the funds for grants administered by the Historical Society of Southern California which are awarded to scholars for use toward research on California history and culture.

HOT Scholars on a Hot Day by John Pohlmann

Since 1998, HSSC has enjoyed the privilege of working with the **John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation** to honor and financially support research into the history and culture of Southern California. This year thirty worthy historians—professors, independent scholars, and graduate students—received checks for \$400 per week up to a maximum of four weeks. In 2008, HSSC decided to host an event at the Lummis Home honoring not only the most recent winners but past recipients as well. A special benefit was bringing together Southern California scholars who are at the cutting edge of their field to share their ideas and help them get to know each other better. The initial event went so well that we decided to do it again in 2009, which we did on July 26. A highlight of the afternoon—which was definitely not the unseasonable heat—came when each of this year's thirty recipients shared with us something of the nature and scope of his or her research. Each received from Executive Director **Pat Adler-Ingram** a copy of *The Founding Documents of Los Angeles*, edited by **Doyce Nunis**, former editor of the *Southern California Quarterly*, and published by HSSC. **Merry Ovnick**, current editor of the *Quarterly*, then welcomed the winners to the growing company of historians and invited them to submit papers for possible publication in the *Southern California Quarterly*.

This year's selection committee for the HSSC/Haynes awards included **Bill Deverell** of the USC/Huntington Institute, **Becky Nicolaides** of UCLA, and board members **Ken Marcus**, **Paul Spitzer**, and **John Pohlmann**.

At the top of the long list of honored guests was **Bill Burke**, executive director of the **Haynes Foundation**, whose continued generous support make the HSSC/Haynes awards possible. In

his usual warm, sincere, and relaxed manner, Bill congratulated the recipients and conveyed the Haynes Foundation's pleasure in being able to help make these awards possible.

The afternoon's busy agenda also included presentations of two prestigious book awards, accompanied by \$500 checks. Former HSSC president, the late **Martin Ridge**, set up an award for a work dealing primarily with California history since 1850 and worthy of being considered a classic in its field. Current board member **Linda Mollno** presented this year's Ridge award to Bill Deverell for his *Whitewashed Adobe*, a ground-breaking account of how the reality of Southern California's Mexican heritage has too often been obscured behind a screen of myth and legend.

Noted mission restoration expert, the late **Norman Neuerburg**, left a large bequest to HSSC part of which was used to provide the funds to endow an award given for an outstanding historical study of California before 1850. Board member **Jim Sandos** presented this year's Neuerburg award to **Craig Russell** and **William J. Summers**, joint authors of *J.B. Sancho: Pioneer Composer of California*, a musicological and historical study of music in the missions of Southern California.

HSSC was also privileged to join with the **Jonathan Club** to support an especially promising investigation into the history and culture of our region. USC Ph.D. candidate **Jerry Gonzalez** received a \$500 check to support his study of the role of Mexican Americans in the suburbanization of Los Angeles.

Following the formal presentations—and despite the heat—members, honorees, and guests relaxed, networked, and enjoyed each other's company together with delicious Mexican food and refreshing lemonade, iced tea, and a varied selection of wines.

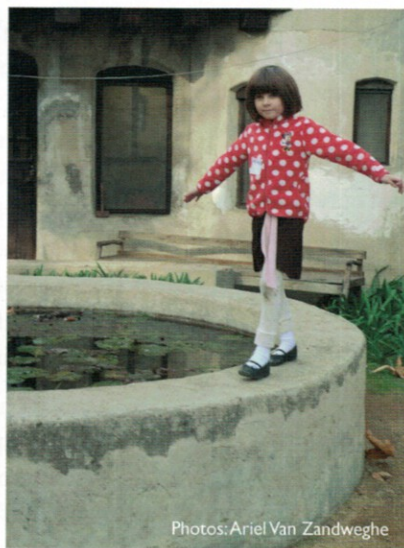
PHOTOS CLOCKWISE:

HSSC President John Pohlmann and Executive Director Pat Adler-Ingram flank a holiday tree that pays tribute to Charles Lummis. Lummis decorated branches of pepper trees with natural materials.

A youngster enjoys Lummis' fish pond

Julian Van Zandweghe, a recent UCLA graduate in literature, provides holiday music.

A bountiful buffet.



Photos: Ariel Van Zandweghe

Holiday Open House

The annual Holiday Open House once again kicked off the holiday season for HSSC members and their guests in early December.

This year the spirit of Charles Lummis was abundantly in evidence. Besides a branch of a pepper tree decorated *à la* Lummis, there was a hearty early California buffet, a guitar softly strumming in the background and for additional ambience our recently acquired upright piano in the same spot Lummis had his—right next to the muséo fireplace in the alcove.

Lummis was a great host and loved entertaining. We know that although he was not a master of the guitar, he would cheerfully play for guests. And though he was not a wealthy man, his parties or 'noises' as he called them were festive affairs and attended by many of Los Angeles' artistic elite.

On Saturday, January 10, 2010, the Lummis House hosted a Cub Scout troop from Pack 1, Den 2 in Altadena.

Kenneth Marcus, a board member of the Historical Society of Southern California, invited his son David's Wolf pack to visit the gardens and house, with the tour magnificently done by Ariel van Zandweghe. The boys had a wonderful time learning about gardening and the environment, Charles Lummis and his house-building skills with his Native American colleagues, and even walking down into the basement and hearing about "ghosts." In short, Ariel provided a tour they will remember for a long time to come, and the trip by common consensus was a huge success.

By Kenneth Marcus

Top: Kenneth Marcus surrounded by Cubs at the circa 1895 upright piano

Ariel van Zandweghe has the rapt attention of the Cubs in the coridor.

Altadena Cub Scout troop, Pack 1, Den 2 and their leaders after a memorable tour of the Lummis Home and Garden.





keeping History alive!



Michelle Herczog, Los Angeles County Office of Education; Patricia Vega-Jeter, Carmela Elementary School; and Pam Chirichigno, Buchanan Elementary School enjoy a day at the Lummis Home. In 2002 Michelle saw that teachers needed small grants to help them enhance the teaching of history and informed HSSC. Patricia and Pam are 2009 grant recipients.

This year's *Keeping History Alive!* awards—to Southern California K-12 History teachers for the enrichment of the teaching of History—were presented at an event at the Lummis Home on January 24. Teachers came from all over Southern California to receive their grants, meet their fellow recipients, and learn how the grants will be used to enliven the classroom experience of thousands of children.

In 2002, Michelle Herczog, of the Los Angeles County Office of Education, came to HSSC concerned that the federal no-child-left-behind mandate would have a disastrous effect on the K-12 teaching of History and other Social Studies. Dr. Tom Andrews, then HSSC Executive Director, responded with the creation of the *Keeping History Alive!* program.

Since 2003, *Keeping History Alive!* has enhanced the learning experience of thousands of children through small grants that make a big difference, and continues to grow with support from the **Sidney B. Stern Memorial Trust**, the **Kenneth B. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation**, and the **Wells Fargo Foundation**.

This year also marks the first year that HSSC appealed directly to its members for funding for the *Keeping History Alive!* program, an appeal to which its members responded generously. HSSC congratulates and thanks its members for their generosity and their dedication to *Keeping History Alive!*

Photo circa 1947 by Ebby Haverlander



Remembering Julius Shulman

by Tom Andrews

JULIUS SHULMAN, one of the premier architectural photographers in the world, was honored by HSSC with its Fellows Award Medallion in 1992 for his lifetime achievements as the visual historian of the built environment in southern California. He was fond of saying that his career began with a 1933 birthday gift—an Eastman Vest Pocket camera. Three years later, his snapshots of a Richard Neutra house in Hollywood so pleased Neutra that he asked Shulman to photograph other work. That launched his career and it happened to coincide with a period of tremendous creative energy in southern California residential architecture. Other architects sought his encompassing eye and his reputation was quickly made.

HSSC encountered Shulman in his retirement years when he presided over the many thousands of photographs at home in his well-organized archive, busier than ever handling the increased international demand for his work from a new generation eager for images from the past to inform their work. Trips to his house, where he would point out the redwood tree

Shulman was generous with his time, with donations of his photographs for fundraising purposes, and with his ideas for broadening the work and outreach of HSSC.

he planted years ago, were delightful and educational visits for the director and the staff of the Historical Society. Shulman was generous with his time, with donations of his photographs for fundraising purposes, and with his ideas for broadening the work and outreach of HSSC. His enthusiasm, his energy, and his laughter made the welcome of his presence a special occasion.

Shulman saw how light blessed a building, and his black and white photographs took the message of California architecture to the East Coast and beyond. In the process he taught us how experience can interact with ideas through images. Certainly his images were art—the Kaufmann House in Palm Springs (1947), Chuey House in Los Angeles (1958), Case Study

House #23 in La Jolla (1960), and Case Study House #22 in Los Angeles (1960)—but his photography was also a form of reasoning in which perceiving and thinking are indivisibly intertwined. This was his gift to us: the opportunity to see ourselves—as individuals, as neighborhoods and communities, as a society—in terms of what we should value and preserve in his art.

SPRING 2010 Quarterly Articles

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY SPRING 2010 (vol. 92, no. 1)

A Preview

CASTE, RACE, AND CLASS IN SPANISH CALIFORNIA

by Vladimir Guerrero

A CITY OF PICTURE BUYERS: ART, IDENTITY, AND ASPIRATION IN LOS ANGELES AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, 1891-1914

by Jasper G. Schad

EDWARD R. ROYBAL AND THE POLITICS OF MULTIRACIALISM

by George J. Sanchez

CONTRIBUTORS

VLADIMIR GUERRERO, an independent scholar in Spanish California history, was the recipient of a Historical Society of Southern California Haynes Research stipend in 2007 and the 2008 Maynard J. Geiger Memorial Fellowship from the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library. He earned a Ph.D. in Spanish from the University of California, Davis in 1999 with a dissertation on the oral/aural Castilian epic. He received his M.A. equivalent from the University of Oslo and completed his undergraduate work at the universities of Pennsylvania and Oslo. His most recent publication is *The Anza Trail and the Settling of California* (Heyday Books, 2006).

JASPER G. SCHAD is Dean of Libraries, Emeritus, at Wichita State University. Prior to that, he was at California State University, Northridge, where he also taught U.S. history. He is currently working on the contentious encounter between established landscape painting and modernism in Los Angeles during the 1920s.

GEORGE J. SANCHEZ, Professor of History and American studies at the University of Southern California, is also Director of the Center for American Studies and Ethnicity, Director of the Center for Diversity and Democracy, and Director of College Diversity at USC. He is the author of *Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945* (Oxford, 1993), co-editor with Raúl Homero Villa of *Los Angeles and the Future of Urban Cultures* (Johns Hopkins, 2005) and author of the forthcoming *Bridging Borders, Remaking Community: Racial Interaction in Boyle Heights, California in the 20th Century* (University of California Press).

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On it you will find articles covering events and people that marked the history of the area.

In addition you'll find more information about:

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- the Lummis Home
- our awards program
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- and historical resources.

The redesign was underwritten partially with funds from the Dorothy Dumke Elliot Endowment.

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DUNNING continued from page 1

seems to have been the extra income working women brought to middle class families.

Because of their efforts, African Americans were gradually able to move away from the narrow confines along Central Avenue into areas like Compton, Crenshaw and Baldwin Hills, and parts of the San Fernando Valley. Unfortunately, despite the eventual victory over de jure or legally permissible segregation, residential mobility for blacks continued to meet determined resistance. Among the myriad of machinations crafted to keep blacks out of communities such as Canoga Park were "racial steering" by unscrupulous real estate agents—mostly white—, racist graffiti, bomb threats, arson and actual bombings such as the one thrown during 1952 into the home of William Bailey, World War II veteran and head of a local junior high science department.

At the conclusion of his prepared remarks, Professor Sides invited questions and comments from what quickly proved to be an appreciative, articulate, and well informed audience. One individual vividly recounted how she personally had experienced many of the things Josh had just described, including having her cat's leg deliberately broken by someone who apparently wanted to drive her and her black family out of the neighborhood. Following the spirited and informative Q & A session, Professor Sides graciously hung around for another 45 minutes outside at the coffee table, sharing his knowledge and infectious enthusiasm with those of us who seemingly didn't want the event to end.