Impromptu Concert at Lummis Home

At the Lummis Home, our headquarters since 1965, we welcome a constant stream of visitors every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoon. There's lively conversation, a bit of music, perhaps a surprise reunion of old friends and an enthusiastic exploration of the site led by our curator, Ariel Van Zandweghe. Many visitors say they've been driving past on the freeway for years and always wondered about the Lummis Home. Now, finally, they've found a moment to stop.

Nicole Ibarra and Joseph Garcia and their 14 year old daughter, Brianna, a sophomore at L. A. County High School for the Arts, paid us a visit last weekend. In the course of the tour, Brianna learned about the many visitors Lummis entertained who, in turn, sang or told stories for the other guests. Brianna, volunteered by her mother, then sang her own new song about the Land of Sunshine, Los Angeles.
New Addition to Board of Directors

Born and raised in California, Steve earned his B.A. at Stanford University and his Ph.D. in American History from Cornell University with specializations in early America and the American West. From 1994 to 1996 he was a post-doctoral fellow at the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture in Williamsburg, Virginia. From 1996 to 2007 he taught at Oregon State University in Corvallis. He is now in the Department of History at UC Riverside; his wife, Heidi Brayman Hackel, is a member of the Department of English at UCR. He lives in Pasadena and enjoys working in the collections of the Huntington Library.

Within the larger field of early American history, Hackel’s research specializes on the Spanish Borderlands, colonial California, and California Indians. He is especially interested in Indian responses to colonialism, the effects of disease on colonial encounters, and new ways of visualizing these processes through digital history.

He is completing a biography on Fray Junipero Serra, the principal founder of California’s mission system. He also is the general editor of the Early California Population Project and the Project Director for the Early California Cultural Atlas; both projects reflect his interest in using new technologies to expand our understanding of California’s past. His first book, Children of Coyote, Missionaries of Saint Francis: Indian-Spanish Relations in Colonial California, 1769-1850, was published by the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture (2005). An edited volume of essays, Alta California: People in Motion, Identities in Formation, has just been published by the Huntington Library Press and UC Press. He has published numerous essays in books and edited volumes as well as essays in the William and Mary Quarterly, Ethnohistory, California History, and Reviews in American History. He also serves on the Board of the California Missions Foundation.
Admission Day at The Old Mill

Members gathered at the Old Mill in San Marino to celebrate the anniversary of California’s admission to the union on September 9, 1850. Guests dined in the patio of one of California’s oldest commercial structures, El Molino Viejo, a grist mill built in 1816. Guest speaker Tom Sitton spoke about the Banning family and the development of the Port of Los Angeles and Catalina Island, an interesting tale of aggressive entrepreneurship and sibling rivalry. His book, *Grand Ventures: The Banning Family and the Shaping of Southern California* is available at the El Alisal bookstore or online at HSSC’s website. HSSC would like to thank Michele Clark for taking such wonderful pictures.
Volunteers from UCLA pose at Lummis Home after completing their morning of work

Volunteer Day

HSSC participated in the second annual Volunteer Day, a large-scale community service event organized by the UCLA Volunteer Center. This year over 5000 students, most of them incoming freshmen, went to 22 sites across Los Angeles and served in a myriad of ways, from landscaping to college-preparatory mentoring. Landscaping was the focus of the work contributed to the Historical Society by the 45 students who visited the Lummis Home. In a few hours, and under the guidance of team-leaders led by Nicholas Anduze of the UCLA Volunteer Center and HSSC Landscape Architect Barry Sattels, the volunteers were able to transform the garden. They pulled out weeds and shrubbery and resurfaced the pathways with decomposed granite.

An enthusiastic volunteer makes a hard landing on the grass
The volunteers also layered decomposed granite all over the grounds.

Councilmember Eric Garcetti's staff joins in on the fun.

Volunteers scooping up gravel and removing bumpers.
New documentary series produced by HSSC member Jon Wilkman

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KIM HERNANDEZ is a visiting instructor of U.S. history at Utah State University. Her dissertation (UCLA) is titled “Homeseekers’ Paradise’: Cross-Class Real Estate Speculation and the Promotion of Los Angeles, 1896–1913,” and is expected to be completed in March 2011.

WILLIAM J. BAUER, JR. (Wailacki-Concow) is an enrolled member of the Round Valley Indian Reservation and associate professor of history at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is the author of “We Were All Like Migrant Workers Here”: Labor, Community and Survival on California’s Round Valley Reservation, 1850–1941 (University of North Carolina Press, 2009). Willy has published essays in the Western Historical Quarterly and American Indian Quarterly.

BOOK REVIEWS
• Russell, From Serra To Sancho: Music and Pageantry in the California Missions
• Gersdorf, The Poetics and Politics of the Desert: Landscape and the Construction of America
• Elinson and Yogi, Wherever There's a Fight: How Runaway Slaves, Suffragists, Immigrants, Strikers, and Poets Shaped Civil Liberties in California.
• Sklar, Brown Acres: An Intimate History of the Los Angeles Sewers.
• Garcia, White But Not Equal: Mexican Americans, Jury Discrimination, and the Supreme Court
• Pawel, The Union of Their Dreams: Power, Hope, and Struggle in Cesar Chavez’s Farm Worker Movement
• Valle, City of Industry: Genealogies of Power in Southern California
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December 5
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On it you will find articles covering events and
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In addition you’ll find more information about:
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The redesign was underwritten partially
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