

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN

Published by the Historical Society of Southern California

Community Enrichment Award Named for Jack Smith

J ack Smith loved Los Angeles. He was fascinated by both its history and evolution. Jack shared his humanness with us in ways that helped us to better understand ourselves and our city. If we had a single voice interpreting our community, it was Jack's wry and insightful daily column in the Los Angeles *Times*.

Former recipient

In 1994 Jack himself was a recipient of HSSC's community enrichment award. Dr. Gloria Lothrop, Whitsett Chair of California History, CSUN, presented the award to our venerable bard:

We have come to treasure Jack Smith for many reasons—for deftly holding up a mirror to nature, for frankly facing the plastic side of our existence, and then going beyond to capture the humanity, for mocking our foibles—our loss of memory, our illnesses, our impatience



with garden blowers—but giving to all the redeeming common denominator of our endearing humanness, for adroitly reminding us of the protocol and elegance of our language, not through lectures but by sharing the grammatical criticisms of hectoring readers.

Jack Smith has been an involved participant and not simply an erudite tourist in our City of the Angels. Thus his images have provided us with the opportunity to see ourselves and to know and love our city—from Wilshire to the Sunset Strip, from the Hollywood Cemetery and Bowl to the Assyrian Rubber Factory. All have assumed vitality and dimension in his wry, sometimes wistful, and always insightful vignettes. Fall 1997 Volume 9 Number 3

Enduring legacy

The Historical Society of Southern California is proud to honor the enduring legacy of Jack Smith by naming its Community Enrichment Award for him. The Jack Smith Community Enrichment Award is presented to individuals whose community leadership has been exemplary. The recipients and their achievements are intended to represent the broadest possible spectrum of historical endeavor and the most creative contributions to the Southern California community.

Unique recognition

Each recipient is introduced at a luncheon with a citation especially written for the occasion by a colleague particularly qualified to define the significance of the honoree's achievements. Each is then presented with a framed watercolor by Pasadena artist Joseph Stoddard of a site or building representing the contribution the honoree has made to Southern California.

Jack Smith symbolized the best of Southern California, and with this award, HSSC says "thank you" in his name to others whose contributions help us better understand ourselves and our community.

> "His images have provided us with the opportunity to see ourselves and to know and love our city."

Gloria Lothrop

JACK SMITH COMMUN

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Vin Scully

Vin Scully— the voice of the Dodgers—is today's most recognizable personality in sports broadcasting. He holds the record for the longest consecutive service of any current major league broadcaster with one team, joining Red Barber and the Dodger broadcasting team one year after graduating from Fordham University.

Scully stamped his personality on the move of the Dodgers from Brooklyn to Los Angeles, giving that transition an enduring value. He provided the perspective through which the traditions of the former were passed on as a living legacy to the latter.

Like the best scholars doing historical research, he continues to be our memory (our history) when it comes to baseball. He continues to educate us activ about the contemporary game while providing important background on its history.

His views are trustworthy, valued and repeated long after each game is over. Most importantly, he provides his listeners with a discriminating memory that can prioritize and evaluate the steady stream of facts and comparisons necessary to understand the game of baseball and its history.

Recipient of numerous awards and honors, Vin Scully has covered some of baseball's greatest moments, from Johnny Podres' shutout of the Yankees in game 7 of the 1955 World Series to Kirk Gibson's dramatic homerun in game 1 of the 1988 World Series. We are the richer for his having done so.



MaryAnn Bonino

MaryAnn Bonino has brought classical music to life for audiences of all ages. Besides producing innovative concert experiences, as a teacher and radio and television host she speaks for classical music, introducing, interpreting and investing it with her contagious enthusiasm.

As the founding director of the DaCamera Society, MaryAnn Bonino developed the creative format for a new type of concert experience which gives music a sense of discovery and fun. Since 1980 these concerts—better known as Chamber Music in Historic Sites ®—explore the relationship between music and place with events presented in sites ranging from train stations, merry-go-rounds and planetariums to car dealerships, churches and temples, museums, lobbies and mansions. Music and place enhance one another.

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The children of Los Angeles have also been included in this odyssey of the learning and love of classical music. They enjoy concerts in historic sites at family programs presented at local museums, including the Museum of Television and Radio, the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium and the California Afro-American Museum.

Los Angeles is richer for MaryAnn Bonino's vision for making classical music more accessible, better understood and, consequently, well-loved.

ENRICHMENT AWARD

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Myrtle Harris

Granddaughter of both William Paul Whitsett and Guy F. Atkinson, Myrtle Harris has roots that go deep into Southern California history. It should come as no surprise then, that history—Southern California history is very important to her.

A graduate of Occidental College and Stanford University, Harris became manager and secretary/treasurer of the W.P. Whitsett Foundation in 1982. She directed the resources of the foundation to strengthen the history program and outreach at California State University, Northridge.

The leadership she has given to endow the Whitsett Chair of California History, the Whitsett Distinguished Lecture Series on California and the West, and the Valley Pioneer Lecture Series—all at California State University Northridge— is a model for investing in history and in higher education.

The largess of the Whitsett Foundation, under Harris's direction, has greatly stimulated the teaching and scholarship of history while enhancing the visibility of history throughout our community. History in the San Fernando Valley has been infused with a new vitality, and Myrtle Harris, of Valley pioneer stock, is responsible.



Jim Murray

Sports columnist Jim Murray has been a stalwart of the Los Angeles *Times* for over 35 years. During this time he has won numerous awards and honors, including induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1988 and the Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1990.

Murray also has been our memory (our history) when it comes to sports commentary. He has educated us about a wide variety of sports, always placing each within historical perspective. When turmoil comes to different sports, as it has to baseball and boxing, for example, it is Jim Murray who provides a deeper meaning, a clearer perspective, and a larger vision for the readers of his column. Jim Murray revels in tradition—USC versus Notre Dame, UCLA versus USC, the Kentucky Derby, the Masters, Yankees versus Dodgers, Lakers versus Celtics, the World Series, and the Rosebowl—and it is Jim Murray who reveals that tradition to us so that we may understand it more fully and become part of it. His column is eagerly awaited in each case.

Jim Murray writes the first draft of sports history with a sharp focus and keen insight that is solid, trustworthy and highly valued throughout the community. He has enriched Los Angeles by the welcome of his presence among us.



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Jack Smith Community Enrichment Award Luncheon

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COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT AWARD Previous Recipients

Margaret Bach Larry E. Burgess Peggy Funkhouser Irene Y. Hirano William T. Huston Albert C. Martin Christine F. V. Shirley Claire Bogaard Carolyn Kozo Cole Joanne D.Hale Preston B. Hotchkis Gloria R. Lothrop Jean Bruce Poole Jack Smith

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