

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN

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THE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
1883

MESSAGE FROM THE HSSC PRESIDENT



As we transition from summer to fall and another academic year for many of us, I am pleased to report that the Historical Society of Southern California has not been deterred by the record-breaking heat of the past few months; we have been full steam ahead on a number of fronts.

Under the leadership of our immediate past President, Ken Marcus, in 2016 the Society launched an initiative to endow our flagship journal, the *Southern California Quarterly*. To advance this goal, we requested that the Ahmanson Foundation, which had awarded two publication grants totaling \$300,000 to the Society about twenty years ago, amend the restriction on those endowment funds to allow us to apply the income to Society publications generally, including the *Quarterly*. We are pleased to report that the Foundation's Board of Trustees voted in July to do so. This revision allows the Society greater flexibility, not only to devote funds to the journal but also to explore emerging forms of digital publication platforms.

Yet the amendment of the grant restrictions was not the only good news from the Ahmanson Foundation.

Due in no small part to the additional efforts of former Executive Director Tom Andrews, the Ahmanson Foundation also awarded HSSC a grant of \$50,000 for general support. This unsolicited and unexpected gift is a testament to the heavy lifting undertaken by the Board of Directors in the past few years, especially under the leadership of Ken Marcus, as we have worked to streamline the Society's operations while continuing to maintain the high quality of our publications and programs. Yet the gift also represents a significant vote of confidence from one of Southern California's most established and respected philanthropic foundations.

We hope you were able to enjoy the myriad of programs, held around the region and beyond, that the Society sponsored during the spring and summer, including three talks. With the opening of the baseball season in April, HSSC presented its own match-up of interstate rivals, hosting experts on the history of major league baseball. Speaking at Whittier College, Andy McCue, who wrote *Mover and Shaker: Walter O'Malley, the Dodgers & Baseball's Westward Expansion*, and Robert Garratt, author of *Home Team: The Turbulent History*

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LA PLAZA BRINGS LA HISTORY TO LIFE

In a city deeply rooted in its Mexican past, Los Angeles had few historical references to its founding until the opening of LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes (LA Plaza) in 2011.

LA Plaza was established to focus on the city's Mexican and Mexican American history, art and culture and help add historic authenticity, creative documentary, and contemporary expressions to the El Pueblo Historic Monument area of downtown, commonly known as Olvera Street. The museum's mission is to "celebrate the past and inspire the future by sharing the untold stories of Mexicans, Mexican Americans and all Latinos in the founding and shaping of Los Angeles."

More than ten years in the making, LA Plaza is a culmination of the dedication and leadership of former Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina, who saw the need to create a museum dedicated to the city's deep Mexican roots. Through her efforts and that of countless others, funding was

secured for LA Plaza's founding, organization, and programming and restoration of the historic buildings where it is located.

LA Plaza operates today as a free museum/cultural center supported by the County of Los Angeles and operated by the LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes Foundation. LA Plaza is also a Smithsonian Institute affiliate.

LA Plaza is located in the historic heart of LA, directly across from the Olvera Street kiosk and adjacent to the city's first church, La Placita. After nearly three decades of vacancy, the Plaza House and Vickrey-Brunswig buildings, both constructed

in the 1880's, were restored over an almost 10-year period at a cost of \$27 million and brought back to life to comprise the LA Plaza campus.

Today, the museum is one of the most active spaces downtown with annual visitorship of approximately 100,000. The museum fills the void of a Latino cultural hub in the country's largest Latino city and encompasses 2.2 acres of office space, meeting rooms, exhibition galleries, a teaching garden, and a large outdoor lawn area with stage and patio. Coming soon is a historic walkway and \$160 million residential-retail development.

LA Plaza offers visitors unique insights into the city's storied history through a year-round series of exhibitions, programming and educational initiatives.

LA Starts Here is the museum's permanent historical exhibit that traces the city's history from the time of the early Tongva/Gabrielino tribes and through Spanish, Mexican and U.S. flags. The exhibit features rare artifacts, photographs, video, costumes and other items that depict the era from the city's earliest residents to the 1960's. The museum's other primary permanent exhibit is *Calle Principal*, a re-creation of 1920's era Main Street when it was known by that name. The street features a block of storefronts built into the boarding rooms that existed when the building housed a hotel.

LA Plaza also curates temporary exhibits that explore historical and artistic themes. Past exhibits have focused on the founding of Boyle Heights, the his-

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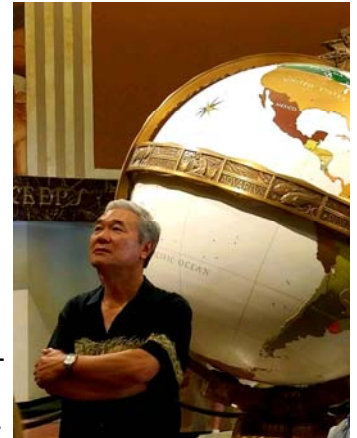
PREVIOUS HSSC EVENTS

HSSC Past President Kenneth Marcus spoke about “Lecture and Concert: Schoenberg and Hollywood,” at Villa Aurora, Pacific Palisades, on Saturday, May 26, 2018.

On Thursday, June 28, HSSC President Donna Schuele spoke about “Juan Avila, Rancho Niguel, and the Liberation of the Native Sons of the Pueblo of Los Angeles,” at an event co-sponsored by the Laguna Niguel Historical Society.

The HSSC offered the Last Chance Tour of the Los Angeles Times Building, Downtown Los Angeles on Wednesday, June 13, 2018. The tour included the Globe Lobby, historic displays, newsrooms, television sets and test kitchen, and will be given by *Los Angeles Times* tour guide Darrell Kunitomi.

The annual conference of the Pacific Coast Branch/American Historical Association, August 2-4, in Santa Clara, California, included a historiographical panel recruited by HSSC President Donna Schuele. Three graduate students -- Corey Blanchard (USC), Mary Corey (CSUN), and Yesenia Navarrete Hunter (USC) -- discussed the contributions and changing perspectives of articles published in the *Southern California Quarterly* since it began publication in 1884 (under this and earlier names).



UPCOMING EVENTS

George A.V. Dunning Lecture
Michael Schumacher
Co-sponsored by Institute for the
Study of Los Angeles
Occidental College
October 18, 2018

HSSC 135th Birthday Party
Saturday, November 3, 2018
2:00 pm-4:00 pm
LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes
Members-only Event

Details available on our website, thehssc.org.

LA PLAZA BRINGS LA HISTORY TO LIFE CONTINUED

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tory of local Mexican-American baseball, the disappearance of prominent Chicano murals, the history of local mariachi music, and other varied topics. Art shows have showcased the works of Latinx LGBTQ and women artists, as well as prominent Chicano artists such as Gilbert "Magu" Lujan and Ernesto Yerena.

LA Plaza presents a year-round schedule of robust, lively and informative programs that include concerts, outdoor film screenings, documentary films, cooking classes, discussions, family activities and other special programs, most of which are free. Many outside groups also program the facility with meetings, dinners, concerts, festivals and other activities.

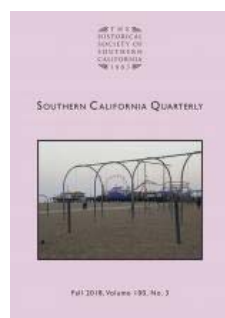
The museum's free educational programs include an on-site garden and culinary program that serves 6,000 students annually; a mobile garden and culinary program; and a library program that teaches children about their family heritage.

LA Plaza is a place of discovery and exploration that brings local history to life in the very neighborhood where Los Angeles was first born. LA Plaza is open every day except Tuesday from noon to 5 p.m., and 6 p.m. on weekends. For more information, visit our website at www.lapca.org, or Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube pages.

By John Echeveste
CEO LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY VOLUME 100, ISSUE 3



The Fall 2018 issue of the *Southern California Quarterly* is an international production: in one author teaches in British Columbia, another in Paris, and the third, while teaching in Montana, was born and raised in Japan. Yet it is our region, California and the West, that has been the focus of their research. Andrea Geiger's article, "Disentangling Law and History: Nikkei Challenges to Race-Based Exclusion from British Columbia's Coastal Fisheries, 1920-2007," looks at the legal history of indigenous fishing rights and other group's challenges to them. Michihiro Ama, in "A Jewish Buddhist Priest: The Curious Case of Julius A. Goldwater and the Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in 1930s-1940s Los Angeles," investigates the case of the white Buddhist priest who served as the temple's caretaker during the wartime incarceration of its members. And Elsa Devienne's article, "The Life, Death, and Rebirth of Muscle Beach: Reassessing the Muscular Physique in Postwar America, 1940s-1980s," unveils the gender issues associated with the display of male bodies at Santa Monica's Muscle Beach.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY

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Articles

“Disentangling Law and History: Nikkei Challenges to Race-Based Exclusion from British Columbia’s Coastal Fisheries, 1920–2007”

By Andrea Geiger

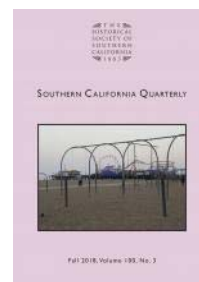
“A Jewish Buddhist Priest: The Curious Case of Julius A. Goldwater and the Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in 1930s–1940s Los Angeles”

By Michihiro Ama

“The Life, Death, and Rebirth of Muscle Beach: Reassessing the Muscular Physique in Postwar America, 1940s–1980s”

By Elsa Devienne

The Historian’s Eye



Book Reviews

Review of *Colonial Intimacies: Interethnic Kinship, Sexuality, and Marriage in Southern California 1769–1885* by Erika Pérez

By David Torres-Rouff

Review of *Hawaiian by Birth: Missionary Children, Bicultural Identity, and U.S. Colonialism in the Pacific* by Joy Schulz

By Sara Fieldston

Review of *Coastal Sage: Peter Douglas and the Fight to Save California’s Shore* by Thomas J. Osborne

By Sara Fingal

The *Southern California Quarterly* is a benefit of membership at the Scholar level and above. Members who join at the Scholar level or above will receive a printed copy as well as access to the full run of the journal online. If you do not currently receive the journal, consider upgrading your membership to receive the premier vehicle for historical studies and scholarship about Southern California since the Society's first annual publication in 1884.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN CONTINUED

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ry of the *San Francisco Giants*, joined forces for a discussion of the franchises' moves from New York, the construction of Dodger Stadium and Candlestick Park, and how the teams became embedded in their new communities. Moving from sports to music, and ballparks to Tinseltown, Past President Ken Marcus delivered a talk on composer Arnold Schoenberg's relationship with Hollywood, in May in the Pacific Palisades. Then, in June, the HSSC ventured to Orange County, where I gave a talk co-sponsored by the Laguna Niguel Historical Society, focusing on the grants of former San Juan Capistrano Mission lands to second-generation Californios born and raised in the Pueblo of Los Angeles. These new grants, evidencing the next generation's desire to escape the scrutiny of parents and establish themselves as respected rancheros and community leaders, may have essentially established the new Pueblo of San Juan Capistrano, a day's horse ride from Los Angeles, as the first "suburb" in the region.

Meanwhile, in mid-June the Society took advantage of a unique opportunity for a last-chance tour of the iconic downtown headquarters of the *Los Angeles Times*, as the city's newspaper prepared to decamp to new offices in El Segundo. Darrell Kunitomi, a forty-year veteran of the *Times*, held nothing back as he led us through the art deco Globe Lobby, past front-page displays of twentieth-century history, and into the newsrooms, providing views of the test kitchen and television sets. If you missed the tour, you can get a flavor of what the Times building had to offer from columnist Chris Erskine at <http://www.latimes.com/home/la-hm-erskine-column-20180630-story.html>.

Finally, in early August, the HSSC traveled to Santa Clara University, sponsoring a panel at the annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Society, celebrating the 100th volume of the *Southern California Quarterly*. Led by *SCQ* editor Merry Ovnick, three graduate students from CSUN and USC presented historiographical essays, masterfully ex-

ploring the evolution of various topics within the pages of the *Quarterly*. Mary Casey surveyed scholarship focusing early California, particularly the evolution of treatment of the mission period; Corey Blanchard looked at the depiction of Native Peoples' history; and Yesenia Hunter focused more broadly on race and ethnicity in the *Quarterly*'s pages. These essays serve to launch a larger historiographical project, where additional graduate history students recruited from across the U.S. will survey other fields of California and Western history that have been developed over the years in the *SCQ*. Look for print and online publication of these historiographical essays over the next year.

On another front, the Society has moved forward regarding its collection of archival material and ephemera. Upon vacating the Lummis House, we moved into storage many items that had been collected and accumulated over the years, including those donated to the Society as well as the Society's historical records. After weighing all op-

tions, the Board of Directors concluded that we lacked the resources to maintain this collection. Yet we realized the importance of preserving the material in an appropriate location, making sure that the materials could be used and displayed and not merely kept in storage. As a result, the Board adopted a deaccession policy and is now in conversation with archival repositories in Southern California whose collections could be enhanced by the addition of the Society's materials. We will provide updates as this project moves towards completion.

Finally, the Board of Directors is hard at work planning events for 2018-19. This year marks the Society's 135 birthday, and we will be celebrating on Saturday, November 3rd, at the LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes. You can read more about LA Plaza in this newsletter issue. In addition, we will continue with our annual conference and award ceremony, to be held at California State University, Northridge, in February, as well as Dunning Lectures, tours, and other member

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN CONTINUED

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events. Stay tuned for details!

In closing, as we approach the time for annual renewal of your membership in the Historical Society of Southern California, I urge you to join the Ahmanson Foundation by adding your own vote of confidence in our

mission to preserve, interpret, and promote the rich history of Southern California and the West. The Foundation's grant will fund half of our operating expenses for the coming year, so we ask you, our members, to match this grant with renewals and donations that will allow us to continue our top-notch programs and publications. Due to

rising production costs for the *Southern California Quarterly*, the Scholar-level membership will increase to \$125. We strongly encourage those of you who enjoy receiving the print edition of the *Quarterly* to renew at this level. And we invite all of you to consider increasing your membership level, or

making a separate donation to the Historical Society of Southern California, to allow us to reach our goal of matching the Ahmanson Foundation's \$50,000 grant.

RENEW NOW FOR 2018-2019 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

For 135 years, the Historical Society of Southern California has preserved, interpreted, and promoted the diverse history of Southern California and the West. Your support has been critical to our ability to continue to publish the *Southern California Quarterly*, the premier vehicle for historical studies and scholarship about the region since the Society's first annual publication in 1884.

Membership renewal information for the 2018-2019 membership year will be mailed in September. Please consider renewing your membership now to save the organization resources. The membership renewal form is available at <https://thehssc.org/support/joinorrenew/> You can send a check, use a credit card, or pay by PayPal.

We have a variety of upcoming events planned including our annual conference, Dunning Lectures, a gathering to commemorate the 135th birthday of the Society, and intriguing tours. Renew your membership today so as not to miss these and other upcoming activities.

The board voted to increase the fees for the Scholar level from \$100 to \$125 a year. This increase is due to the cost of the *Southern California Quarterly*. The HSSC pays UC Press \$25 per issue per member or \$100 a year. A fee of \$100 meant that the HSSC received no funds for operational or other expenses. The increased fee of \$125 will provide the HSSC with some funding beyond the cost of the journal.

Thank you for your continued support of the HSSC.

THE
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Telephone
323-222-0546

Website:
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Email:
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Upcoming Events

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HSSC 2019 Conference
CSU Northridge
February 9, 2019

Check thehssc.org for event details or call 323-222-0546.

HSSC
PO Box 50019
Long Beach, CA 90815