

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN



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THE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF  
SOUTHERN  
CALIFORNIA  
1883

## MESSAGE FROM THE HSSC PRESIDENT

As we conclude one membership year and embark on the next, I'd like to take this opportunity to recap our accomplishments and fill you in on the Society's plans moving forward.

Most important, we accomplished one of our final tasks arising from the Society's move out of the Lummis House – finding a suitable home for the collection of documents and artifacts that had been amassed over many decades. With generous funding from the City of Industry, the collection was inventoried by former HSSC board member Paul Spitzerri, Museum Director of the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum and President of Historical Resources, Inc. At that point, the HSSC's Collections Committee recommended, and the Board of Directors adopted, a deaccession policy focused on making the archival materials available to the public, and worked to find homes for the collection. The materials were then moved to a climate-controlled storage facility where they were organized by Executive Director Amy Essington, along with her assistant, Christian Rodriguez, so that they could be evaluated by staff from local archival institutions.

Both the History Department at the Los Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and the Autry Museum of the American West agreed that portions of the collection would complement their existing holdings. In particular, the material donated to the Natural History Museum joins previous donations from HSSC that formed the basis for the History and Anthropology departments in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. And the Autry took materials related to Charles Lummis. A handful of additional items were donated to other local institutions. These materials are currently undergoing processing at the respective institutions, and when that step is completed they will be made available for public use. We are grateful to the Natural History Museum, the Autry, and other local repositories for providing homes for important papers, documents, and artifacts of California history, and to Collections Committee members Lara Godbille, Kim Walters, and Kristin Hayashi, whose museum expertise allowed us to complete this task expeditiously.

In October, in conjunction with the Institute for the Study of Los Angeles at Occidental College, the HSSC welcomed Michael Schumacher to

*(Continued on page 2)*

## HSSC 2019 CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTRATION



The HSSC conference will be Saturday, February 9, 2019, at California State University, Northridge. The conference is co-sponsored by the CSUN History Department with support from the Whitsett Endowment.

Pre-registration for the conference is available until January 15, 2019. Costs will be: HSSC Members \$25, CSUN Faculty and Staff \$25, Non-HSSC Members \$30, Graduate Student with ID \$10, Undergraduate Student with ID (Free), Awards Ceremony Only (No Lunch) (Free), Lunch Add-on \$20 (Optional), Parking, est. \$7, paid onsite.

Pre-registration is available through Eventbrite at <https://hsscconference2019.eventbrite.com/> or through mail. For paper registration forms available at <https://thehssc.org/>. Email [hssc@thehssc.org](mailto:hssc@thehssc.org) or call 323-222-0546 with any questions.

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

town to give the fall Dunning Lecture. Schumacher, the author of *The Contest*, spoke on the California presidential campaign and assassination of Robert Kennedy in June, 1968. And a few days earlier the HSSC participated once again in the Archives Bazaar at USC. This year, our table seemed to be the hot spot in Doheny Library, as we gave away extra copies of the *Southern California Quarterly* dating back to the 1930s. Eager readers combed through the stacks of journals while we used on-line tools to help locate specific issues covering topics of interest.

Although the Society was able to maintain its

array of activities along with publishing the *Quarterly* due to the generous donation from the Ahmanson Foundation last July, it became clear in early 2018 that the Board of Directors would need to rethink the Society's mission in light of financial and other realities. What sets us apart from other historically oriented organizations in Southern California is the publication of our scholarly journal, the *Southern California Quarterly*, and we have benefitted from the superb dedication of our long-time editor, Merry Ovnick, and book review editor, Allison Varzally. Thus, the HSSC Board of Directors voted at its annual meeting in November to redirect the Society's

resources, beginning in the second quarter of 2019, to the journal's publication and related activities, and to restore or add other activities as funds become available.

In the meantime, I hope that you can join the Society at its one-day conference to be held at California State University, Northridge, on February 9, 2019. Natalia Molina, Professor of History and Urban Studies will give our keynote Dunning Lecture, which will be followed by an array of interesting panel presentations focusing on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century California. In addition, the day will include the conferring of numerous HSSC awards. We are very grateful to Josh

Sides, Whitsett Professor of California History, for spearheading CSUN's sponsorship of our 2019 conference.

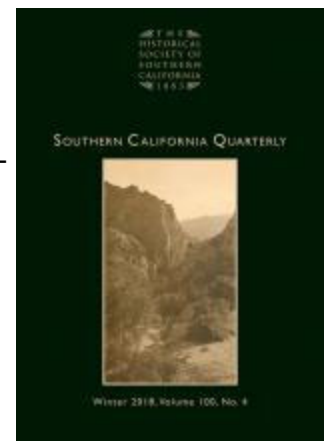
As the Historical Society of Southern California moves into a new era, with an increased commitment to publishing the *Southern California Quarterly*, we hope that you will renew your membership at the Scholar level or above, in order to receive the printed version of the journal. And we urge those of you who are actively researching and writing about the history of Southern California, California, and the West to consider submitting your work for publication in the *Quarterly*.

## HSSC 2019 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:30 am - 9:00 am	Coffee, registration
9:00 am - 9:15 am	Welcome
9:15 am - 10:15 am	Keynote/2019 Dunning Featured Speaker, Natalia Molina, University of California, San Diego
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Panel 1: “California Utopias and Dystopias: Contested Communities and Dreams Defined” Panel 2: “Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo and the Marianopedia”
12:00 pm - 1:15 pm	Lunch and Awards Ceremony
1:15 pm - 2:30 pm	Panel 3: “Experiencing Internment: Incarceration in World War II” Panel 4: “Latina Women and the Public Use of the Spanish Language in Nineteenth-Century Southern California”
3:00 pm - 4:15 pm	Panel 5: “Institution Building in Progressive California” Panel 6: “Transforming California: Culture and Change in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century”

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY VOLUME 100, ISSUE 4

The *Southern California Quarterly*'s Winter 2018 issue, covering a long span of this region's past, from thousands of years ago to the 1960s, includes the following articles:” “Indigenous Food Frontiers in the Early American West,” by Natale Zappia, based on his presentation as the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual W. P. Whitsett Lecturer at California State University, Northridge, looks at Native American foodways—production, consumption, exchange, and ecological adaptation—over the course of centuries from before European colonization to the present. “The Crags Country Club: The Origins of Malibu Creek State Park, A Community of Civic-Minded Leaders, and Visionary Conservation,” by Gary Liss, a mapmaker for the park's docent organization, uncovers the role of a long-forgotten country club that assembled the core land holdings that would later serve as the 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Fox movie ranch before acquisition by California State Parks. He highlights some of the original members of the exclusive organization, providing future researchers with a useful table of members. As well, the article provides a first-person account of the easy sociability among these Los Angeles political, cultural, and economic leaders who, in other settings, might be at odds with each other.” The recent Woolsey fire makes the article's celebration of the history and natural beauty of the park seem more like an epitaph, but Liss points out that brush fires are endemic to California's mountains, including the Santa Monica Mountains, and that there will be regrowth. And although some structures burned, the historic Hunt house, dating from the Crags Country Club era, appears to have survived.” “A Respectable Militancy: Reverend J. Raymond Henderson and the Civil Rights Struggle in Los Angeles, 1941-1963,” by David J. Neumann, traces the personal struggle of the pastor of the historic African American Second Baptist Church over the course of his twenty-two-year service there. His advice and personal example called for dignity and self-restraint in the face of racial prejudice as a means of winning respect. When the 1960s Civil Rights movement began to include public rallies, resistance, and eventually militancy, Henderson embraced its goal of racial equality, but not its methods. His leadership in the community reflected both his internal conflicts and the Cold War political context.



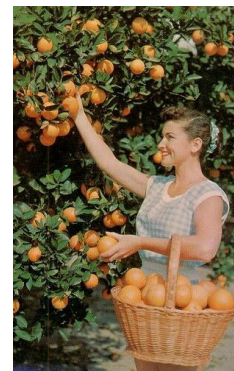
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Upcoming Events

HSSC 2019 Conference  
CSU Northridge  
February 9, 2019

Check [thehssc.org](http://thehssc.org) for event details.



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