

2020 Year End Our Year In Review

From all of us at the Oral History Center, we are wishing you our best in these challenging times.

We hope that you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy.

Director's Column, December 2020

As 2020 comes to a close, OHC Director Martin Meeker reflects on the meaning of the word "resilience." The year began with optimism but also challenges — we knew we had our work cut out for us with a large docket of projects to complete alongside the ever-present pressure of being a self-funded research program. After the pandemic hit, we moved our operations online amidst a climate of uncertainty and found new rhythms and routines, all exhibiting different forms of resilience.

Meeker discusses how we stayed productive, and got creative, and stayed the course during a challenging year.



[Read his column here.](#)



Oral History Center Staff's Top Moments of 2020

The year 2020 has been challenging and tumultuous. However, there have been bright spots as the Oral History Center transitioned to working remotely and conducting interviews over Zoom. We wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has brought us joy and given us strength as we leave 2020 behind.

High School Blogger & OHC AIDS Curriculum

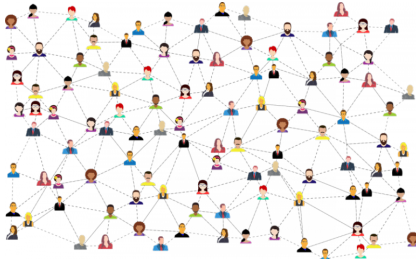
A guest high school blogger shows what high school students can do with our new AIDS curriculum. Tenth grader Ella Damty uses one of our assignments to write about obstacles in AIDS research and treatment in this three-part series:



Funding and Federal Authority: Obstacles in AIDS Research and Treatment

“The True Experience of Terror:” Fear in the Medical Community in AIDS Research and Treatment

High School Researcher on Social Biases: Obstacles in AIDS Research and Treatment



The Oral History Center Plans to Launch New Project on Contact Tracing

The COVID-19 crisis has ushered in a new era of world history, and continues to have a profound impact on daily life around the world, including the Bay Area. But the fight against this global pandemic also includes a regional public health tool: contact tracing. News outlets and public health officials often say that manual contact tracing is key to protecting the community. The Oral History Center hopes to launch a project about contact tracing that will document the historic nature of the work, as well as evaluate its effectiveness in this moment as it relates to public health, community, and politics.

Help us make this project a reality by making a tax-deductible donation here.

***Note: Please check “This Gift is in the Honor or Memory of Someone” when you make your donation. Please write “Contact” for the first name, and “Tracing” for the last name fields.**

New Transcript Releases:

Aaron Mair: Sierra Club President 2015-2017, on Heritage, Stewardship, and Environmental Justice

Aaron Mair is a pioneer in **environmental justice** and became the first African American president of the **Sierra Club** from 2015-2017. Mair, whose ancestors suffered enslavement, has dedicated much of his life to overturning the ongoing injustices experienced by Black Americans, including environmental racism. The Power of Place, Mutuality, and



Interconnection all arose as important themes throughout Mair's fifteen-hour oral history, which Roger Eardley-Pryor conducted over five interview sessions in November 2018, first in Pickens County, South Carolina, and then in Albany, New York, where Mair lives. **Roger shares his reflections on their interview on our blog.**

The Price of Place: Oral Histories of George S. Tolley and Howard R. Tolley

This **interview** with University of Chicago economist George S. Tolley is the latest in our series of interviews with Chicago economists as part of the Economist Life Stories project. However, along with this twenty-hour interview, we are also releasing online for the first time the **oral history with his father, Howard R. Tolley**, first head of UC Berkeley's Giannini Foundation, and chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics (USDA) during the New Deal and World War II. This interview, conducted by Dean Albertson in the early 1950s, comes to us from the archives of the Columbia Oral History Project, which graciously granted permission for us to publish these interviews together.

Read Paul Burnett's reflections on these interviews on our blog.

Kenneth Hamma: Antiquities and Technology at the Getty

Kenneth Hamma is a former employee of the J. Paul Getty Trust, where he held several positions, including associate curator of Antiquities and executive director



of Digital Policy and Initiatives. He attended Stanford University and Princeton University, specializing in art and archaeology. Hamma taught at the University of Southern California, and became associate curator of Antiquities at the Getty Museum in 1987. He then held several positions in information technology at the Getty from 1997 to 2008 before consulting in the same field.

Read Amanda Tewes's reflections on their interview [here](#).



Yvonne Szafran: Forty Years of Paintings Conservation at the J. Paul Getty Museum

Yvonne Szafran was the head of the Paintings Conservation Department from 2010 until her retirement in 2018. She joined the Getty Museum in 1976 through a work-study program in the Antiquities Conservation Department. In 1978, she became a conservator in the Paintings Conservation Department.



Mark Leonard: Building New Traditions in Paintings Conservation at the Getty, 1983-2010

Mark Leonard was the head of the Paintings Conservation Department from 1998 until his retirement in 2010. He worked as an assistant conservator of paintings at the Metropolitan Museum of Art before joining the Getty as an associate conservator of paintings in 1983.

Joyce Hill Stoner: My Life in Art Conservation and Intersections with

the Getty

Joyce Hill Stoner is a professor of material culture at the University of Delaware, Director of the University of Delaware Preservation Studies Doctoral Program, and painting conservator for the Winterthur/UD Program in Art Conservation. Dr. Stoner has a long history with the J. Paul Getty Trust, including as a visiting scholar to and traveling with the Paintings Conservation Department in the 1980s, working as the managing editor of *Art and Archaeology Technical Abstracts*, and serving on committees with the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI).



Read Amanda Tewes's reflection on her interviews with Szafran, Leonard, and Stoner on our blog. These interviews are part of the **J. Paul Getty Trust Oral History Project.**



From the Archives: Janet Daijogo

OHC undergraduate researcher Deborah Qu writes about **Janet Daijogo**, who was born on March 21, 1937 in San Francisco, California. At age five, she and her family were relocated to internment camps at

Tanforan Racetrack and Topaz, Utah, during WW2. Post incarceration, she followed in her mother's footsteps and attended UC Berkeley. Today, Daijogo is a veteran kindergarten teacher at Marin Country Day school, having taught children for 40-plus years. She incorporates Aikido, a noncompetitive form of martial art, in her teaching, and attributes her journey in teaching and Aikido as a mental practice where she found her space and purpose.

Read Deborah's piece on Daijogo's life journey over on our blog.



Oral History and Political Organizing

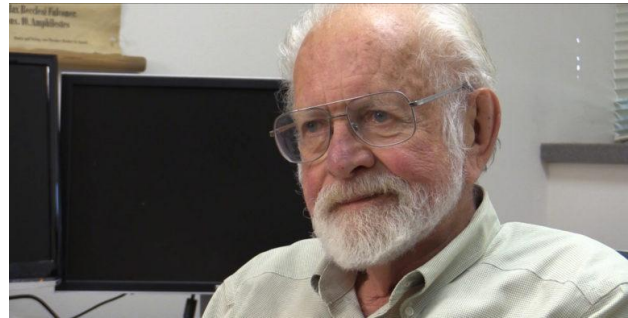
Eleanor Naiman, a recent graduate of Swarthmore College who was an intern for the OHC's **Bay Area Women in Politics Project** during the summer of 2019, worked as a field organizer for the Biden-Harris presidential campaign in the Nebraska Second Congressional District. She made

4,150 phone calls using a script that was designed to maximize efficiency. In the early days of her campaign work, she longed for the opportunity to sit down with each voter, as she had at the OHC, equipped with pages of notes of background research and confident in the strength of the relationship we'd built over pre-interviews and email correspondence.

Read about how she adapted and learned how to incorporate the skills she developed during her internship into speed interviewing for the campaign calls.

In Memory of Bill Clemens, 1932-2020

Bill Clemens died peacefully with his family by his side the week before Thanksgiving. Former director of the UC Museum of Paleontology, Bill was a towering figure in the field of mammalian paleontology, and of paleontology in general. The Oral History Center did a long interview with him in 2016, along with interviews with thirteen of his colleagues and former students. This project is a reminder, at a basic human level, of the value of oral history.



Read more about Bill Clemen's oral history on our blog.

Special Season of the Berkeley Remix Podcast

Lately, things have been challenging and uncertain. We're enduring an order to shelter-in-place, trying to read the news, but not too much,

and prioritize self-care. Like many of you, we, too, are in need of some relief.

So, we'd like to provide you with some, in the form of a podcast. Episodes in this series, which we're calling "Coronavirus Relief," may sound different from those we've produced in the past, that tell narrative stories drawing from our collection of oral histories. But like many of you, we, too, are in need of a break.



Seven episodes are now live.

Episode 1: Amanda Tewes on Interview Mishaps

Episode 2: Shanna Farrell Comments on Rebecca Solnit

Episode 3: Amanda Tewes Muses on Bowling Alone

Episode 4: Roger Eardley-Pryor on the First Earth Day

Episode 5: Shanna Farrell on the OHC June Book Club

Episode 6: Amanda Tewes Comments on Winds of Change Podcast

Episode 7: Miranda Jiang's Rice All the Time?

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