

September 2021

This month we're dedicating our newsletter to the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks

Director's Column from Martin Meeker

This month, we're dedicating our newsletter to the twentieth anniversary of 9/11. OHC Director Martin Meeker starts us off with his memories of September 11, 2001. He discusses how they come in flashes, known as "flashbulb memories," and highlights several of our interviews that discuss that day and its aftermath.



Read Martin's column here on experiencing that day in the Bay Area, flashbulb memories, and OHC interviews that discuss 9/11.

9/11: An Oral Historian's Personal Recollection

OHC Interviewer Shanna Farrell has vivid memories of Tuesday, September 11, 2001. Ten years later, she started a master's program in Oral History, where her studies centered on the attacks and its aftermath. And now, twenty years later, she uses the events of the past and experience being trained in trauma-informed interviewing as a way of relating to interviews of all kinds.



Read Shanna's piece here.



9/11 and Interviewing Around Collective Trauma

As we approach the twentieth anniversary of 9/11, OHC Interviewer Amanda Tewes has been reflecting on her memories of that fateful day in September, and its impact on how she interviews others about traumatic

events. In her piece, she discusses how deeply intertwined her thoughts

about 9/11 are with her oral history practice and grapples with why she doesn't often ask about the attacks during interviews.

Read Amanda's piece here.

On Being Raised in the Context of 9/11: Reflections of UC Berkeley Students



When coming up with ideas for a special newsletter commemorating the 20th anniversary of 9/11, we recognized a blind spot: as a history organization, we typically look backwards into the past to inquire about the memories of individuals, now older, about experiences when they were younger. But what about the young? How do they experience and recall events that might have happened even before they were born, yet are destined to impact their lives going forward? What are they told by their parents and taught by their schools to help them form opinions and make them grapple with events in which they can take no blame and accept no praise? How do they remember key, shared events that they did not experience as conscious, thinking adults?

Read about how our student employees Shannon White, Jordan Harris, Ashley Sangyou Kim, and Ricky Noel contend with the "experience" of 9/11.

Stars and Scars: A Historian's Lessons from 9/11

We asked Christine Shook, an independent historian with over a decade of experience in oral and public history, to contribute to our newsletter this month about what she learned from 9/11. In her piece, she connects her memories of the events of that day to Pearl Harbor, how individual narratives may differ from the national narrative, and how collective narratives can change over time.



Read Christine's piece here.

New Book from OHC Interviewer Shanna Farrell!

A Good Drink: In Pursuit of Sustainable Spirits is out on September 16, 2021.

"Insightful tour de force... Farrell's writing is as informative as it is intoxicating"
—Publishers Weekly



At farm-to-table restaurants and high-end bars across America, menus proudly feature locally sourced, sustainable ingredients and the stories of the people who grew them. But why is the eco-consciousness devoted to what we eat not extended to the spirits we drink? The short answer: we don't think of spirits as food, even though drinks are distilled from the same crops that end up on our tables.

In ***A Good Drink: In Pursuit of Sustainable Spirits*** (Publication Date: September 16, 2021), bartender and oral historian Shanna Farrell takes a global journey to discover the stories of the farmers, distillers, and bartenders driving the transformation to sustainable spirits. Along the way, she reveals the urgent need for a

sustainable spirits movement, as distilling requires huge volumes of water, bars generate mountains of trash, and crops for spirits are often grown with chemicals that are health hazards and environmental pollutants.

Order a copy from Island Press [here](#), and use the code: FARRELL for 20% off!

Shanna will also be speaking about the book and her use of oral history during the research process at The Bancroft Library Roundtable on October 21, 2021 at 12pm Pacific Time.

Register [here](#).

Request for Proposals: New Oral History Symposium

Assessing the Role of Race and Power in Oral History Theory and Practice Symposium

Call for Proposals, deadline of October 1, 2021.

Convened by the Ad Hoc Group for Transformative Oral History Practice in collaboration with the Oral History Association and the Oral History Center

The Ad Hoc Group for Transformative Oral History Practice is inviting proposals from oral historians and others involved in fieldwork-related interviewing practices, as well as critical race and Whiteness theorists, to submit proposals for symposium papers that pose major questions and offer precise assessments of racial constructs as a factor in all phases of oral history work: project design, research processes, financial and budgetary matters, fieldwork and community relations, interviewing, archival practices, and public presentation and interpretation of narrative materials.

[MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM AND THE RFP HERE](#)

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