
California Studies

The Newsletter of the California Studies Association

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Summer 2008

STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

We have an eclectic and energized steering committee this year. A wide array of perspectives, backgrounds, ages, interests and skills are represented among our ranks, thanks in part to the recruitments efforts of last year's "Diversity Committee" members. We are hoping to have similar success adding to our membership roster in the coming months.

Because the CSA is in a building phase, this year's election was non-competitive. Our bylaws require staggered, two-year terms for steering committee members. Since the committee was reconstituted just last year, approximately half of the members volunteered to stand for re-election. We asked current members simply to confirm or decline to confirm a slate of candidates. About one-third of members responded with their vote, and comments were very positive.

In the last steering committee meeting we also decided to increase the size of the committee to make room for an additional two members, as the bylaws allow. That brings the total membership of the steering committee to eighteen. A full list of steering committee members is available on our new website.

If you would like to attend a meeting, or to volunteer in any capacity, please contact the chair. We already have a small core of volunteers ready to help out. Hopefully, we will be able to keep them all busy as we expand our programs in the coming year.

--Louise Nelson Dyble, Steering Committee Chair

WELCOME TO NEW STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Four of steering committee nominees on this year's ballot are new to the organization this year.

Tom Izu is the Executive Director of the California History Center (CHC) at De Anza College in Cupertino, where he has worked for the past 14 years. Prior to his tenure with the CHC and De Anza College, he served as the Executive Director of the Yu-Ai Kai/Japanese American Community Senior Services of San Jose and as the Administrator/Fundraiser for the Cannery Workers Organizing Project with offices in San Jose and Watsonville.

Susan McWilliams is assistant professor of politics at Pomona College. In her current book project, she considers the place of travel literature in political thought, and she is more broadly interested in questions of place, placelessness, and political life.

Nari Rhee is a postdoctoral researcher at the UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education. She recently completed a Ph.D. dissertation in Geography on working class politics in Silicon Valley. She has also conducted local policy research on housing, poverty, and jobs in partnership with labor and community organizations in California. Her current research focuses on job improvement and union organizing in the care industries.

Tomas Summers Sandoval, who has been serving as secretary since last fall, holds a joint appointment in the Intercollegiate Department of Chicana/o ~ Latina/o Studies and the Department of History at Pomona College. His current research relates to the history of Latinos in San Francisco. He is the father to two wonderful children.

For a complete list of all Steering Committee members, see the new CSA website:

<http://californiastudiesassociation.berkeley.edu/>

2008 CONFERENCE REPORT

The 18th annual California Studies Conference was held April 11-13, 2008, at Berkeley City College in downtown Berkeley. The title of the conference was “**California’s Changing Climates: Class, Culture, and Politics in the Era of Global Warming.**” It featured a mix of panels on the implications of climate change for California’s economy and workers, along with discussions of art, literature, and politics in the state today.

Speakers included: **Matt Gonzalez**, Ralph Nader’s vice-presidential running mate; **Margaret Gordon**, Port of Oakland commissioner; **Ian Kim**, campaign director, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights; **David Beesley**, author of *Crow’s Range: An Environmental History of the Sierra Nevada*; **Rose Aguilar**, host of KALW’s “Your Call”; **Philip Fradkin**, author of *Wallace Stegner and the American West*; **Jackie Goldberg**, former member of the LA city council and state assembly; **Peter Schrag**, Sacramento Bee columnist and author of *California: America’s High-Stakes Experiment*; **Rick Wartzman**, New America Foundation fellow and author of *The King of California: J.G. Boswell and the Making of a Secret American Empire*; **David Bacon**, KPFA labor reporter and author of *Communities Without Borders: Images and Voices from the World of Migration*.

The conference was made possible by a grant from the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment at UC Berkeley. A contribution from Peter Wiley, a longtime CSA member, also helped fund the event. It drew about 120 people, participants and audience, down from last year’s 175, alas. The program is available on the CSA website.

--Peter Richardson, Conference Committee Chair

CAREY MCWILLIAMS AWARD

The Carey McWilliams Award is given to a writer, scholar or artist who lives up to the best tradition of McWilliams’ work. That is, someone whose artistic vision, moral force and intellectual clarity give voice to the people of California, their needs and desires, sufferings, struggles and triumphs.

This year, Richard Walker was chosen for the honor. Walker was one of the founders of the CSA, and has been engaged in Bay Area and California politics as an intellectual, a teacher, and an activist.

Walker’s latest book, *The Country in the City: The Greening of the San Francisco Bay Area*, came out in 2007 and in paperback in 2008 with the University of Washington Press. He also has an article in the July issues of AMCE: Online Journal of Geography titled “San Francisco’s Haymarket: a redemptive tale of class struggle.”

REDESIGNED WEBSITE AND BLOG

The California Studies Association is now running an active blog to promote and report on events, conferences, exhibits, and talks, and books. It also features original commentary and interviews.

We invite you to visit the site and contribute content of all sorts. We hope to build the blog into a valuable resource and reference. Send submissions or suggestions to the blog editor Aaron Wilcher: aaronwilcher@gmail.com.

You can subscribe using RSS feed technology or via email by sending a request to Aaron. The blog address is:

<http://californiastudiesblog.wordpress.com>

2009 CONFERENCE PLANNING

The 2009 conference will be located at De Anza College, with a theme related to technological change and the implications of the internet. CHC is a collaboration between a private, nonprofit, the California History Center Foundation and the Foothill-De Anza Community College District. The center hosts exhibits, workshops, and local history courses as well as acts as the sponsor of the Louis E. Stocklmeir Regional History Library and Archives.

We are certainly open to suggestions and ideas from members at this early stage in the planning process, so don’t hesitate to get involved. We are planning to choose a theme and conference chair at the July 20 steering committee meeting in Berkeley. We will send out an announcement and call for participants in the fall.

CALIFORNIA STUDIES DINNERS

CSA monthly dinner lectures are moving this year to the roomier UC Berkeley Institute for Research on Labor and Employment. The Institute has been a strong supporter of the CSA, and thanks to their contribution, this year the dinners will be free of charge.

September 24: **Gray Brechin**, director of the Living New Deal Project

October 23: **Frances Dinkelspiel**, author of *Towers of Gold: How One Jewish Immigrant Named Isaias Hellman Created California*

November 11: **Rick Wartzman**, director of the Drucker Institute at Claremont Graduate University

The Institute is located at 2521 Channing St., two blocks south of campus. There's a UC parking lot open to the public across the street. There is a special email announcement list for the dinners, and if you would like to receive them, please send an email to Dolores Dillard, deloresd@berkeley.edu. Dinner is served at 7 p.m., and please be sure to RSVP to Dolores. For other inquiries, including suggestions for future speakers, please contact Chuck Wollenberg cwolle@yahoo.com.

BUILDING OUR MEMBERSHIP & CARRYING ON THE CSA TRADITION

Our primary goals for the upcoming year include improving communication and expanding membership. The CSA has an ambitious mission that remains critically important in its eighteenth year. It seeks to build connections, facilitate communication, and promote "better ways to live and work in California and more enlightened public policies that serve the broadest definition of the people of the state." Help us connect people in this time of fragmentation, to fulfill our purpose as an "umbrella organization" designed to bring together institutions, ideas, and individuals.

Please add your name to our roster of members and making a small (or large!) financial contribution. As an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, we are striving to make the most of our resources. Your help means a lot. Send in the membership form below, and or download one from the CSA website:

Thank you for your support! Viva la CSA!

--Louise Dyble, CSA Steering Committee Chair
louise.dyble@gmail.com

CALIFORNIA STUDIES ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM 2008

Institutional \$50	Regular \$35	Student \$15	Sustainer \$250
High income\$50	Low income\$15	Retired \$15	Angel \$500

Make check payable to CSA.

Institutional, sustainer, and angel members will be recognized on the CSA website, unless anonymity is requested.

Name: _____	Affiliation: _____
Address: _____	Email: _____

Send form & check to:

CSA, c/o Richard Walker, Treasurer
1248 Rose Street, Berkeley, CA 94702

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