Wuz Up at SLO?

As you can surely see from this year’s CCPH conference registration packet, which was mailed to all our members in mid-August, the CCPH Program Committee has assembled an exciting line-up for the 28th annual CCPH conference in San Luis Obispo, October 23-25. Below are some highlights.

The Thursday reception kicks off the conference at the beautiful Dallidet Adobe, followed by an evening on your own at the Farmer’s Market in downtown San Luis Obispo (see articles on page 2). In-hotel sessions meet Friday morning and all day Saturday. Friday afternoon features off-site, “rolling” sessions. Morning plenary and evening banquet speakers bookend Friday’s events. Our featured speakers are Jack O’Connell, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Victoria Kastner, the distinguished historian of Hearst Castle (see article on page 3).

This year, we have eleven in-hotel sessions that, taken together, present a richly textured montage of the conference theme, “Many Californias, Many Histories.” Some antipasto to whet your appetite:

● Local history in global context: The intriguing Central Coast French connection, and a Scots-Canadian family’s influence on late 19th and early 20th century Northern California history;
● Surprising revelations from only recently tapped San Luis Obispo city records;
● The Central California Black colony of Allensworth through the eyes of one of its last residents, and the story of how a chance encounter at a CCPH meeting led to a revelatory new book about this remarkable African-American community;
● The interplay of faith, race and labor among the often historically overlooked peoples of the southern San Joaquin Valley;
● Intentional communities, faith-based and secular: Why the Central Coast was such a magnet for intentional communities; how race, gender, religion and temperance converged in the 19th century Indian Reform movement; and how a child’s 1830s memoir offers new insights into California mission culture;
● Provocative examples of gender issues in California history through the diaries of a steamship stewardess, accounts of mother-daughter experiences in the San Luis Obispo red light district, and the relentless “guyness” of gold rush era San Francisco entrepreneurs;
● Micro-history with macro implications: The history of Thornton State Beach, a small place of extraordinary historical significance, offers cause for both celebration and concern;

(continued on page 3)
From Guns to Gold to Grapes: The Adventures of Pierre Dallidet

One of the special attractions of this year’s CCPH conference opening reception is the site itself, the historic Dallidet Adobe and Gardens in San Luis Obispo. The adobe is rich in local associations, and is a lovely and popular reception venue. Its history is a telling example of the often unexpected connections between nearby history and the wider world, in this case the story of how a French wannabe filibuster became the first commercial vintner on the Central Coast.

In 1851 Pierre Hypolite Dallidet (1823-1909), a former French soldier out for the main chance, landed in the California Mother Lode country. Two years of hardscrabble mining convinced him that fortune and adventure lay elsewhere, so he enlisted in one of the many Latin American filibustering expeditions then mustering in California. The Restauradura aimed at seizing the Mexican state of Sonora and proclaiming it an independent French colony. In 1853, as Dallidet passed through San Luis Obispo on his way south, he heard the venture had collapsed after Mexican authorities captured and shot its leader.

Dallidet evidently liked San Luis Obispo. He abandoned his dream of becoming a Sonoran grandee, married Gabriel Salazar (1840-1873), the daughter of a local landowner, and settled into the comfortable life of a carpenter, farmer, vintner, brandy distiller, and leading citizen. In 1859 he bought an orchard and vineyard tract on the then-outskirts of town and, soon thereafter, built a three room adobe, winery, and outbuildings. Later additions expanded the dwelling into a comfortable home, where Hypolite and Gabriel reared their ten children and hosted the occasional French-speaking visitor. One of the latter was Leon de Cessac, an early student of California Native American archaeology and culture, whom Dallidet helped gather a trove of Chumash artifacts still preserved in the Parisian Musée de l’Homme.

The adobe remained in Dallidet family hands for a century, then passed to the San Luis Obispo County Historical Society. Many original family furnishings still grace the dwelling. Its garden setting in a walled compound offers a quiet retreat from the bustle of nearby downtown San Luis Obispo. The grounds are also home to the relocated and restored 1889 Ramona Hotel Southern Pacific railroad station, a San Luis Street Railway car, and a small collection of carriages and wagons. By special arrangement, both the adobe and gardens will be open during the CCPH reception. Don’t miss this opportunity to visit one of the historic treasures of the Central Coast.

Where Free Music, Cheap Fresh Food, and Pedestrians Rule the Streets

The Los Angeles Times has likened the San Luis Obispo Farmer’s Market, held every Thursday evening since 1983, to a civic ritual, an exciting county fair without the carneys, a reason enough to visit the Central Coast. Internet reviewers—a Google search gets 140,000 hits—rave about the cream of the area’s seasonal crops, local restaurateur’s delicious food, both street and sit-down, the welcoming community atmosphere, and the rich array of vendors hawking their wares and promoting their causes. Over the years the Farmer’s Market has become a local signature event, a great weekly party for kids and grown-ups, residents and visitors. A special feature of the October 23 market will be a “Pumpkins on Parade” event in anticipation of Halloween. And it’s all right down the street from the Dallidet Adobe, the site of the CCPH conference opening reception. After the reception be sure to stroll down to the Farmer’s Market to enjoy some of the best sights, sounds, and eats in California.
Leading History Educator and Noted Hearst Castle Author and Interpreter
Top List of Conference Speakers

This year CCPH is pleased to feature two compelling speakers, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell and the internationally recognized historian of Hearst Castle, Victoria Kastner.

Central Coast resident Jack O’Connell, California’s educator-in-chief, was trained as a historian and taught social studies in Santa Barbara County schools before entering public life. Those of us who call ourselves public historians may like to think that we are the most influential purveyors of historical knowledge to the general public, but that honor really belongs to Superintendent O’Connell’s cadre of history/social science teachers, who every day make the past come alive to 6.3 million California students.

History education is especially challenging in these times, when the state’s history/social science curriculum framework is up for review, when state budgets are meager and delayed, and when federal No Child Left Behind mandates give historical understanding relatively short shrift. Superintendent O’Connell will reflect on these and other concerns in his conference plenary address, “The Place of History in California K-12 Education, Today and Tomorrow.”

A talk on William Randolph Hearst’s La Cuesta Encantada deserves an enchanting speaker. This year’s banquet speaker, Victoria Kastner, fills the bill. She is a Regional Interpretive Specialist at Hearst Castle and author of two beautifully written and illustrated histories published by Abrams, one of the nation’s leading art book publishers. Hearst Castle: The Biography of a Country House (2001) told the story of the structure, its owner, and its architect. Her forthcoming Hearst’s San Simeon: The Gardens and the Land (March 2009) situates the Castle in its historical landscape. Ms. Kastner holds an MA degree in Public History from UC Santa Barbara, and is currently completing another master’s in Museum Administration at George Washington University. She has lectured widely at such prestigious venues as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. She has appeared on CBS Sunday Morning, the Discovery Channel, National Public Radio, and Australian National Radio.

In keeping with this year’s conference theme, Ms. Kastner will also extend the Hearst’s historic reach by reminding us that the family was the catalyst, creator, and conservator of many Californias. The Hearsts were prime movers in some of the state’s most important landscape preservation movements and in the preservation of California ethnographies and antiquities; they influenced the architecture of both the University of California Berkeley campus and the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition. In more recent times the family has created a conservation easement protecting 80,000 acres of Hearst Ranch land from commercial development, and added thirteen miles of prime coastal property to California State Parks holdings, thus ensuring that this emblematic part of California’s landed heritage will remain dedicated to public use.

Welcome to the Board!

The CCPH Board of Directors is pleased to introduce a recently added member, our new Executive Secretary and Administrative Assistant, Heather Lavezzo.

Heather oversees daily operations at the CCPH office in Sacramento. She graduated summa cum laude from CSU Sacramento with a BA in Social Science and a minor in history, and is currently enrolled in the Public History MA program at CSU Sacramento.

Heather comes with impressive experience and expertise to the Board. Our organization is richer for it.

Simulated blacksmithing and living history storytelling offer fresh opportunities to interpret a wide variety of historical sites and themes to both kids and grownups in ways that help them relate California’s many pasts to their many presents.

Additionally, several presentations make California’s diverse landscapes central themes and subtexts, including the influence of the Butterfield stage on California and its peoples; the unexpected links between Riverside County’s San Timoteo Canyon and notable figures in 19th century California history; the radical transformation of Alameda from forest and wetland to maritime center of industry and recreation; ecological and historical perspectives on California deserts; and an assessment of San Luis Obispo County’s Santa Margarita Ranch as a historical landscape distinctively shaped by Native American, Spanish, Mexican, and Euro-American cultural traditions.

This year’s thirty-four conference presenters are eager to share their research and exchange ideas with you. So consider this your engraved invitation, spread the word about this exceptional conference, and hike, bike, boat, drive, fly or take the train to San Luis Obispo. See you there!
New Round of “Connecting to Collections” Bookshelf - Applications Due January 5

Based on the enthusiastic response to the Connecting to Collections Bookshelf, the Institute of Museum and Library Services will offer a third round of the competition to distribute the Bookshelf to an additional 1,000 qualifying institutions. Applications can be submitted to the American Association for State and Local History between January 5 and March 9, 2009. Priority will be given to smaller institutions, but large museums and libraries with special collections are also eligible to apply. Please note that federally-operated and for-profit institutions and libraries that do not hold special collections are not eligible to receive the Bookshelf. For more information, visit www.aaslh.org/Bookshelf or contact Terry Jackson at jackson@aaslh.org.

Library of Congress Announces New “Learning From Katrina” Website

August 29 marked the third anniversary of Hurricane Katrina’s devastating impact to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. In commemoration, and in light of the current hurricane season, the Library of Congress announced a website titled “Learning from Katrina,” which provides insights for better responses to record and artifact damage by hurricanes. On this site, www.loc.gov/preserv/emergprep/katrinarespond.html, visitors can listen to seven interviews with professional conservators who helped salvage collections affected in August 2005. In the interviews, responders discuss the lessons learned, their motivations, expectations and preparations, and their experiences. The interviews were conducted in 2006 at the Library of Congress by the Preservation Directorate, in collaboration with the Federal Library and Information Center Committee and the American Folklife Center.

There are actions that can be taken to salvage collections of hurricane-damaged papers, prints, books and even audiovisual materials such as films, tapes, CDs and DVDs. The Library’s Preservation Directorate’s Emergency Preparedness webpage links to many helpful publications and organizations. The Family Treasures page on “Preserving Treasures After Disaster” includes information on drying wet materials and video clips on handling damaged objects. Other video clips can be found at the Heritage Preservation Foundation. Other experts can be found through the “Selecting a Conservator” page of the American Institute of Conservation. The Library’s collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution, National Archives, and National Park Service has created “A Primer on Disaster Preparedness, Management and Response: Paper-Based Materials.” Recommended links for flood-related emergencies are given at the Library’s Flood Response webpage, www.loc.gov/preserv/emergprep/flood.html.

Heritage Preservation Offers Free Streaming Video “Save Water-Damaged Art and Artifacts” from the California Association of Museum’s Enews

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has teamed with Heritage Preservation and the National Endowment for the Humanities to make this Field Guide chapter on water damage available as a streaming free video. The online video guide demonstrates how to rescue soaked photographs, books, documents, and other valued items. This 10-minute video provides step-by-step guidance on dealing with water damage at museums, libraries, and archives. Practical tips on safety, simple equipment, and salvage priorities also make the video a useful guide for home owners who want to rescue treasured family heirlooms. To view the free video, visit www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/WaterSegmentF3.htm.
State Legislation Related to Public History Issues
by Jordan Biro

Senate Concurrent Resolution 86, authored by Senator Jeff Denham (R-12th) was chaptered on June 13. This measure encourages all high school social studies teachers, as part of their required continuing education, to independently study at their local county historical society and to use the materials available there to instruct their pupils on local history. In addition, the bill encourages the California State Grange to work with historical societies throughout the state to collect local history information and make it available to educators.

Governor Schwarzenegger approved SB 1696 (Leland Yee, D-8th) on July 3, allowing greater public access to government contracts as well as audits and reviews of public agencies. The bill clarifies an existing law, the California Public Records Act, which requires each state and local agency to make its records available for public inspection, unless the records are exempt by law from disclosure. SB 1696 provides that a state or local agency may not allow another party to control the disclosure of information that is otherwise subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act. In addition, the bill specifies that regardless of any contract term to the contrary, a contract for the purpose of conducting a review, audit, or report between a private entity and a state or local agency is subject to the same disclosure requirements as other public records.

Governor Schwarzenegger approved Senate Bill 1431 authored by Senator Pat Wiggins (D-2nd). The measure will help protect state parklands by enabling the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to expand the use of conservation easements. SB 1431 clarifies that DPR is allowed to acquire a conservation easement if it determines that it is necessary to protect a unit of the state park system from an incompatible use or to preserve and enhance the natural resource, cultural, or historic value of a state park unit.

State Park Access Pass
by Jordan Biro

The California State Park Access Pass, introduced by Assemblyman John Laird (D-27th), is a legislative proposal that would provide critical funding for the declining state park system and offer Californians free day-use access to their state parks. It would create a new funding stream for supporting California’s state parks by instituting a $10 surcharge on vehicle license fees of all non-commercial vehicles in California and some light commercial vehicles. The pass is projected to raise approximately $282 million annually in new funding for the state park system, which would be allocated toward maintenance, operations and public safety, and to reduce the current deferred maintenance deficit of $1.2 billion. Following its introduction in May, Governor Schwarzenegger opposed the pass, claiming he and other Republicans were wary of a tax increase, however, Republican support has come from former Secretary of State Bruce McPherson, who advocated for the passage of the State Park Access Pass in his Modesto Bee editorial. The proposal is strongly supported by the California State Parks Foundation and over two hundred other organizations, businesses, and local governments.

A private poll by the State Parks Foundation shows that seventy-four percent of Californians favor the proposal. Although there was a push to include the State Park Access Pass in the State’s budget, the proposal failed to make the final cut as the Legislator hurriedly passed a budget of $1.2 billion. Following its introduction in May, Governor Schwarzenegger opposed the pass, claiming he and other Republicans were wary of a tax increase, however, Republican support has come from former Secretary of State Bruce McPherson, who advocated for the passage of the State Park Access Pass in his Modesto Bee editorial. The proposal is strongly supported by the California State Parks Foundation and over two hundred other organizations, businesses, and local governments.

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Partnership Preserves Government Websites

The Library of Congress, the California Digital Library, the University of North Texas Libraries, the Internet Archive and the U.S. Government Printing Office have announced a collaborative project to preserve public United States Government websites at the end of the current presidential administration ending January 19, 2009. This harvest is intended to document federal agencies’ online archive during the transition of government and to enhance the existing collections of the five partner institutions.

As part of this collaboration, the Internet Archive will undertake a comprehensive crawl of the .gov domain. The Library of Congress has been preserving congressional websites on a monthly basis since December 2003 and will focus on development of this archive for the project. The University of North Texas and the California Digital Library will focus on in-depth crawls of specific government agencies. The project will also call upon government information specialists, including librarians, political and social science researchers, and academics, to assist in the selection and prioritization of websites to be included in the collection, as well as identifying the frequency and depth of the act of collecting. The Government Printing Office will lend expertise to the curation process, along with libraries in its Federal Depository Library Program. A tool has been designed by the project team and developed by the University of North Texas to facilitate the collaborative work of these specialists.

The Library of Congress, the world’s preeminent reservoir of knowledge, is leading a nationwide program to collect and preserve at-risk digital content of cultural and historical importance. The program, formally called the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (www.digitalpreservation.gov), is building a digital preservation network of partners. More information about the Library’s Web Capture program is available at www.loc.gov/webcapture.
In Memoriam

J. Jackson Walter, Former National Trust President and Federal Ethics Watchdog

J. Jackson Walter, a former federal ethics watchdog who made vital contributions to preserving heritage sites, including parks and shipwrecks, while running the National Trust for Historic Preservation for eight years, died July 18 at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Virginia after multiple strokes. He was 67. A real estate lawyer and public administrator, Walter became the first confirmed director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics in 1979. The office, which he led for three years, originated from a post-Watergate law to vet public figures for potential conflicts of interest. He grew increasingly combative about what he told Time magazine was the Reagan administration’s “anti-government rhetoric and mentality,” which resulted in a casual approach to following federal ethics guidelines. He tussled with several administration figures, most prominently First Lady Nancy Reagan for accepting clothing as loans and gifts from U.S. designers.

In 1984 Walter was appointed president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He said he wanted the organization “to be a major central figure in public debates about what our cities should look like, where tall building should go, and try to put historic preservation right in the middle of those debates instead of at the end.” Among his most vital contributions was saving historic preservation tax credits, which began in 1976 to encourage developers and municipalities to reuse historic structures instead of tearing them down. As part of its tax reform effort, the Reagan administration in the mid-1980s had threatened to eliminate the credits, considered one of the most important preservation tools.

During his tenure, Walter achieved several victories. He oversaw the restoration and public opening of James Madison’s Monticello estate north of Charlottesville, Virginia. And he succeeded in preventing proposed development on New York’s Ellis Island and protecting several Civil War sites from encroaching development. In what he called a much-overlooked need, he worked to pass a federal bill in 1988 that protected historic shipwrecks by giving states more authority to supervise salvage efforts. He also engineered arrangements to open landmark private properties to the public, including the Philip Johnson Glass House in New Canaan, Connecticut, and the John D. Rockefeller estate Kykuit in Westchester County, New York. To gain media attention, Walter devised the National Trust’s annual list of 11 most endangered historic places.

Mary Anna Weiss Vocelka, Well-Known Yosemite Librarian

Long time resident of the Sierra, Mary Anna Weiss Vocelka, passed away June 1, 2008. Mary was born on December 11, 1947 to Eugene and B. Weiss in Burlington, Wisconsin. As a young child, often in her favorite red cowboy hat and boots, Mary would travel west with her parents where she would become enchanted with the landscapes she found there. She made the move west in 1967, where she took a summer job in Yosemite National Park at Wawona. Although she held many jobs, she was known most for her work as the Research Librarian for the National Park Service as well as the school librarian at Yosemite Elementary School. She is mentioned in hundreds of publications for her diligent research, and even after leaving the library, it wasn’t unusual to receive an envelope full of clippings and a note saying “I thought you’d find this interesting, Mary”. She met the love of her life, Derrick Vocelka, in Yosemite and they married on June 10, 1968. They had a daughter, Sarah and lived in the park for 30 years.

A natural artist, autodidact and bibliophile, her interests ranged from Lewis and Clark and the Western Expansion, John Muir, Vietnam, to Wisconsin natural history. She read multitudes of biographies that often lead to more extensive reading on anything she might find interesting—with the mind of a researcher, a feel for the language, and an empathetic heart. She was always on the lookout for outstanding children’s literature, and hosted a children’s book club in Yosemite for many years. Her love of books was passed on to her daughter and grandchildren. Although she read mostly non-fiction, she took great pleasure that she could experience Harry Potter and The Golden Compass with her grandsons. They would have phone discussions to no end and lament the details left out of the movies.

Mary and Derrick moved to Bishop, California, in 1998 after a short stay in Auburn, where she worked at Odyssey Books in Grass Valley. In Bishop she quickly became involved in Audubon, the Native Plant Society, and the Manzanar Historical Site. She worked at the Bishop Nursery where she perfected her green thumb. Mary was full of grace and kindness. The consummate letter writer, she corresponded with her many friends with beautifully handwritten letters, full of news, observances and good wishes.

She is survived by her husband of 40 years, Derrick of Bishop; daughter Sarah and adored son-in-law Mitch Hendrickson and beloved grandsons Caspar Vik and Duncan Muir of Grass Valley. Memorial services were held in Yosemite National Park. Memorial contributions can be made to The Yosemite Fund or Manzanar Historical Site in her memory.
It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to a man who served both the interests of public history and CCPH as an organization, David Byrd, who passed away in Sacramento on August 25, 2008, at the age of 46.

David served on the CCPH board of directors for a number of years, often serving as a leading voice in many of the board’s discussions over policy and direction. His service on the board prepared David to take on the challenge of serving as CCPH president in 2000 and 2001, during which he helped forge the partnership with CSU Sacramento that allowed for our organization to establish office space on campus and fund an administrative assistant position.

In the spring of 2001, David wrote a short article introducing himself to our membership in this newsletter. Rather than try to write a biography for him, it seemed fitting, therefore, to let David tell his story in his own words:

“I am a native of northern California. I was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 1986 I moved to Sacramento to attend CSUS. At that time, I was planning to teach high school history. However, in my senior year I chanced to enroll in Ken Owens’ undergraduate public history course and learned you could do more with a history degree than teach high school. (It is odd, looking back, that as a child my parents took me to visit museums and historic sites all through California and the West, but it never occurred to me that people actually work at those places.)

“In my final semester as an undergraduate, I got an internship working with Mike Tucker, the curator at Sutter’s Fort, and that sealed the deal—I was fully hooked on pursuing a career doing something in public history. After a couple of years as a medical technician in the Air Force, I returned to school and enrolled in the Capital Campus Public History Graduate Program at CSUS. During my years as a graduate student, I was fortunate to have worked as an archives assistant for the California State Archives and as a seasonal historian at both the Tahoe and El Dorado National Forests. My thesis project brought me back to Sutter’s Fort where I acted as guest curator for an exhibit interpreting the role of John C. Frémont and the California Battalion in the Mexican War in California. Entitled, “Conquered Ground: Frémont’s Battalion and the Taking of California,” the exhibit of period artifacts was on display for five years. Shortly after I received my MA in 1994, I went to work for JRP Historical Consulting Services . . .

“Through it all I have had the constant support of my wife, Suzi. That she agreed to marry me eight years ago is something that still amazes me. In October 1996 our daughter Catie was born. Although she can be a real pill at times, I still think she is the best thing I have ever done.”

After leaving JRP in 2001, David served as a historian at Jones & Stokes Historical Consulting until 2005, when he was hired as a State Historian by the Office of Historic Preservation.

When David ended his CCPH presidency, he penned a “farewell” article for this newsletter that in many ways speaks to us today, both in terms of showing us the kind of person David was and how he viewed the importance of public history. In it, he stated, “Many have said that the world changed after September 11; some have said that the date marks the ‘end of history.’ I’ve never quite known what that phrase means, but I do know that my personal priorities have changed. Family, home, and stability are most important now. Yet we cannot allow recent events to overshadow the power of history and the value of what we do.”

David is survived by his wife, Suzi, and two young daughters, Catie and Fiona. David’s memorial service was held in Sacramento on August 29. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made on behalf of Dave’s daughters. Donations can be sent to Catie and/or Fiona Byrd, c/o Golden One Credit Union, PO Box 15249, Sacramento CA 95851-0249. Please write account numbers on checks: Catie – 946587; Fiona – 946583.
Preserve America Presidential Awards
Nominations Being Accepted

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) is accepting nominations for the 2009 Preserve America Presidential Awards to honor exemplary achievements in historic preservation and heritage tourism efforts involving natural and cultural historic resources. The deadline for submitting nominations for the highest federal awards honoring historic preservation achievement is November 1, 2008. The Preserve America Presidential Awards are part of an initiative established by President Bush that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy our nation’s cultural and natural heritage assets. Mrs. Laura Bush, First Lady of the United States, is Honorary Chair of Preserve America. Four Preserve America Presidential Awards are given each year. The Preserve America Presidential Awards are given to organizations, businesses, and government entities for: Exemplary accomplishments in the sustainable use and preservation of cultural or natural heritage assets; demonstrated commitment to the protection and interpretation of America’s cultural or natural heritage assets; and, the integration of these assets into contemporary community life, and combination of innovative, creative, and responsible approaches to showcasing historic resources in communities. The only California recipient of the Preserve America Presidential Award to date is the USS Midway Museum in San Diego. The nomination form and guidelines, as well as information on past winners and the overall Preserve America initiative, are available at www.PreserveAmerica.gov.

Digital Directions
Spring/Summer Issue
Now Available

The Spring/Summer 2008 issue of Digital Directions, with the latest in educational technology, is now available online and subscription is free of charge. This free monthly e-newsletter features the articles on news developments, trends, and practical advice in the world of educational technology. For additional information, visit www.digitaldirections.org.

Best Practices for Public History Training

The National Council for Public History’s Curriculum and Training Committee is developing “best practices” documents for several key aspects of public history curriculum and program development. The goal is not to provide strict guidelines or to create an accreditation process for public history. Rather, the committee offers a set of “recommended” practices, recognizing that each graduate or undergraduate program has its own goals, resources, and needs and will thus develop its own distinct personality. They also hope these documents will highlight some of the core elements to which every program should aspire. Throughout the summer, NCPH accepted comments on the first four of these documents: The M.A. program in public history; graduate certificates related to public history; the public history internship; and, undergraduate programs in public history. A draft reflecting changes made as a result of those comments will be presented at the upcoming NCPH board meeting. All comments will be posted on the web unless it is indicated that they should only be shared with the Curriculum and Training Committee. As a first step toward developing a set of “best practices,” the NCPH Curriculum and Training Committee surveyed public history programs at the MA level. For more information on the best practices documents and the survey, visit www.ncph.org/Education/GraduateandUndergraduate/tabid/323/Default.aspx.

Libraries and Schools Encouraged to Apply for Picturing America

Libraries and schools have a second opportunity to apply for a wonderful, free teaching tool called Picturing America. Picturing America, presented by the National Endowment for the Humanities in partnership with the Institute for Museum and Library Services, provides high-quality reproductions of great American art to public libraries and K-12 schools to enhance the study of history, social studies, language arts, literature, and civics. Application information can be found at the Picturing America website, PicturingAmerica.neh.gov. The deadline for applications is October 31, 2008.
Conferences and Other Educational Opportunities

The National Trust for Historic Preservation’s National Preservation Conference will take place in Tulsa, Oklahoma, October 21-25, 2008. For more information, visit www.nthpconference.org.

On October 22-25, 2008, the Western History Association will gather in Salt Lake City for its 48th annual conference. For more information, visit www.ums.edu/~wha.

The California Council for the Promotion of History will hold its annual conference October, 23-25, 2008, in San Luis Obispo. For more information, see the cover of this newsletter or visit www.csus.edu/oc/cph.

On November 6, 2008, the American Association for Museums will present Excellence and Equity—Then, Now, Next: Education and the Public Dimension of Museums, a two-part web conference that explores the important public dimension of museums through the lens of AAM’s newly reprinted publication, Excellence and Equity: Education and the Public Dimension of Museums. For more information, visit www.aam-us.org.

A Race Against Time: Preserving Our Audio Visual Media, a professional education program, will be cosponsored by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco, November 6-7, 2008. Session topics include: Overview of Machine-Based AV Media Identification and Preservation; Reformattting Options for AV Media; Contracting for AV Preservation Services; Surveying and Selecting AV Media Materials for Preservation and Access; Copyright Considerations for AV Media Reformattting; Case Studies and Round Table Discussions. For more information, visit www.ccaha.org/education/program-calendar.

The National Interpreters’ Workshop, with the theme “Sustaining the Circle,” will take place November 11-15, 2008, in Portland, Oregon. Deadline for session proposals is March 31. For more information, visit inter.net/workshop/.

The 123rd annual meeting of the American Historical Association will be held January 2-5, 2009, in New York City. The theme for the 2009 Annual Meeting, described in detail on their website is “Globalizing Historiography.” For more information, visit www.historians.org/annual/next.htm.

The California Association of Museums will hold its annual conference in San Francisco, February 25-27, 2009 at the Hotel Kabuki. This conference will bring together a diverse group of museum professionals from across California for a stimulating and enjoyable exchange of ideas, perspectives and resources. For more information, visit www.calmuseums.org.

The National Council on History Education will hold its annual conference March 12-14, 2009, in Boston, Massachussetts. The conference will have the theme “Revolutions in History.” For more information, visit, www.nche.net.

The Society for California Archaeology will hold its annual meeting in Modesto on March 12-15, 2009. For more information as it becomes available, visit www.scarch.org.

The Organization of American Historians will hold its annual meeting March 26-29, 2009, in Seattle, Washington. With the theme of “History Without Boundaries,” the 2009 Organization of American Historians program committee seeks an eclectic program that will highlight the creative use of history in research, education, the media, and public presentations. For more information, visit http://www.oah.org/.

The Southwest Oral History Association Annual Meeting, “New Destinations in Oral History,” will take place March 27-29, 2009, in Los Angeles at the University of Southern California and the California African American Museum. Paper topics and sessions may deal with any aspect of oral history work including interviewing, processing, digital and archival collection methods, and the use of oral history in publications, exhibits, films, and readers’ theatre. The deadline for proposals is Nov 7, 2008. For more information, visit www.southwestoralhistory.org.

The National Council on Public History will hold its annual meeting, with the theme “Toward Broader Horizons,” in Providence, Rhode Island at the Biltmore Hotel, April 2-5, 2009. Proposals for sessions and presentations are being accepted until September 3. For more information, visit www.ncph.org.

The 34th annual California Preservation Conference will take place April 16-19, 2009, in Palm Springs. The conference will have the theme “The Culture of Leisure: Rethinking the California Dream” and proposals for sessions are being accepted until the end of June. For more information, visit www.californiapreservation.org.

The Western Association of Women Historians will hold its 40th anniversary conference April 30-May 3, 2009, at Santa Clara University. Paper proposals are currently being accepted (until October 15). For more information, visit www.wawh.org.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society of California Archivists will be held May 7-9, 2009, in Riverside. For more information, visit www.calarchivists.org.

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CCPH encourages the reprinting of articles published in this newsletter. To do so, use the credit line - “Reprinted from California History Action, the newsletter of the California Council for the Promotion of History.” To inquire about using photographs, contact the CHA editor.

California History Action Editorial Information

California History Action is the official publication of the California Council for the Promotion of History. Its purpose is to disseminate news to the membership. The organization’s numerous committee chairs provide much of the information herein. It is the responsibility of the general membership to provide input to the newsletter. This sharing of information is critical to the well-being of the organization.

Issues will be produced quarterly in January, April, July, and October. Deadlines are the first of the month of publication. This late deadline is designed to provide information to the membership in the most timely manner. Material must be received prior to the deadline to be printed in the current issue and should be submitted directly to the editor at the address below.

It is preferred that articles and other material be submitted electronically by email (either in the text of the message or as an attachment). However, typewritten printed material is also accepted via fax or mail.

Views expressed herein are solely those of their authors. Their publication does not constitute an endorsement by CCPH.

Jenan Saunders, Editor
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californiashistoryaction@hotmail.com
The **Society of American Archivists** will hold a joint annual meeting with the Council of State Archivists **August 11-16, 2009**, in Austin. “Sustainable Archives / Austin 2009” is an opportunity to explore the concept of sufficiency across all aspects of archival practice, theory, and visioning. For more information, visit www.archivists.org/conference.

The **American Association for State and Local History** will present its 2009 annual meeting in Indianapolis, **August 26-29, 2009**. The theme for the meeting is “Making History a 21st-Century Enterprise.” The 2009 AASLH Annual Meeting will explore the place of entrepreneurship within the field, marrying fresh concepts with our mission as stewards of the past. The deadline to submit session proposals is November 17, 2008. For more information, visit www.aaslh.org/anmeeting.htm

The 49th annual conference of the **Western History Association** will be held **October 7-10, 2009**, in Denver, with the theme, “Wired West.” For more information, visit www.umsl.edu/~wha.

The **Western Museums Association** will hold its annual conference **October 25-29, 2009**, in San Diego, at the Catamaran Resort Hotel and Spa. For more information, visit www.westmuse.org.

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**CCPH Committees**

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**Join the California Council for the Promotion of History**

All members receive issues of **California History Action**, the CCPH newsletter for history advocacy, notices of CCPH conferences and workshops, and other CCPH publications. Corporate and Institutional members also receive membership rates for two individuals at conferences and other events. Annual dues are due January 1; those received from new members after August 1 will be credited to the next year.

Name___________________ Affiliation__________________ Position________________

Address________________________ City________________ State_____ Zip__________

Phone (h)________________ (w)__________________ Email_______________________

Areas of Historical Interest __________________________________________________

Membership Categories:  ____ Patron/Corporate $100  ____ Colleague $75

____ Institutional $45  ____ Individual $35  ____ Student*/Senior $20

All dues and contributions are tax-deductible. Send this form and payment to CCPH, CSU Sacramento, Department of History, 6000 J St, Sacramento CA 95819-6059. For more information contact 916 278-4295, ccph@csus.edu, www.csus.edu/org/ccph.

*Include copy of current student ID.  

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SLO Time Traveling

What has more than ten thousand years of human history, the American Serengeti, monstrous elephant seals, vast pastoral vistas, two historic lighthouses, a notably big rock, an over-the-top Castle, more missions and adobes than you can easily visit in a day, communities rich in local lore and eager to share, what’s left of the nation’s first motel, and wineries galore?

The Central Coast has all of these attractions and more. There’s too much of historical interest to see in a short visit, so this year’s CCPH conference bus and van “rolling sessions” will offer conference attendees several tours of some of the historic sites and landscapes that give the Central Coast its special historical texture and tone. On-board and site-specific interpreters will help explain what you see and why it matters. Get on the bus! The past awaits you at every turn.

For more information, see your conference registration packet (mailed to all members in mid-August) or the CCPH website at www.csus.edu/org/ccph.