



A  
STATE  
OF

# openMIND

A PUBLICATION OF CAL HUMANITIES



SPRING 2013

Searching for Democracy

California Reads

The Nancy Hatamiya Legacy

Science is Not Enough:  
Bringing the Humanities to our V.A. Hospitals

# investing in the COMMON GOOD

In recent months, ongoing wars, the housing crisis, and the double-dip recession have hit many of us hard. And yet I've noticed some unexpected bright spots amidst this darkness. Many friends have made drastic, positive changes in their lives, devoting themselves with passion and courage to what really matters.

Perhaps suffering hardship and loss reminds us of what's most beautiful and precious. Perhaps it is time to fundamentally re-examine how we've come to assign value as a society, and to work creatively in order to protect what matters from extinction.

In the U.S., value is increasingly based on simplistic estimations of market worth. In California, especially, the pressure to cut and abandon based on profit margins is high. This perspective is dangerous.

We decided long ago that the common good was of public concern (hence public universities, public libraries, public commitment to news access) and should not be sacrificed to market pressures. In order to ensure a healthy and vibrant society, we need to maintain our centers of community life; free exchanges of information and ideas; and our commitment to future generations of educated, engaged Californians. In difficult times, we must be stronger than ever in our support for essential pieces of democratic infrastructure. What we stand to lose simply cannot be replaced.

**“If your house were on fire, what would you save?”**

I know that each of us understands this instinctively on a personal level. If your house were on fire, what would you save?

The U.S. is arguably more polarized than it has been for some time. Now, more than ever, we need to have thought-provoking and productive conversations about the heart and soul of our democracy. In 2013 and beyond, how do we define and safeguard the common good?

At Cal Humanities, our response has been twofold: to seed, inspire, and create space for meaningful conversations about this topic; and to support and partner with institutions such as public libraries and schools.



As part of our *Searching for Democracy* initiative, we brought thousands of Californians from different backgrounds together to discuss the state of our democracy. I joined a standing-room-only crowd in Heber for one of our events this summer. Members of this community, which faces profound educational and employment challenges, came together on a weeknight with books in hand to talk with author Daniel Alarcón and each other about what we value as members of a democracy. Across the state, leading into and outlasting the national election, I witnessed passion, hunger, thoughtfulness, and commitment to this conversation beyond expectation, renewing my faith in our ability to overcome our current troubles.

In times of crisis, we have looked to the humanities—history, literature, philosophy—to teach us how to ask the right questions, learn from our past, and live better together.

The challenges we're facing can spur us towards brilliance. We must be both far-sighted and courageous in our thinking.

If our house were on fire, what would we save?

 **FIND MORE**

You can find the complete version of this essay on our website at [www.calhum.org/news/blog](http://www.calhum.org/news/blog).



Ralph Lewin

Cal Humanities President & CEO



## it's not you, it's us. we've CHANGED.

Names can carry a lot of weight.

A name communicates much more than the sum of its letters. The power of a name comes from its heritage, its associated experiences and expectations. Names define places, evoke memories, and stir emotions.

Our previous name, “California Council for the Humanities,” has presented a few challenges for us over the years. Many felt that it sounded stuffy, elitist, bureaucratic—and not particularly memorable. We want people to engage with the humanities and our work, to connect with meaningful cultural experiences on a personal level, and not to be put off by our name.

We explored many options for a new name. Some led to ideas that resonated more strongly than others, but ultimately we agreed that superfluous and haughty language wouldn't have a place in our new name.

**Welcome to Cal Humanities, A State of Open Mind.**

We think this short, straightforward representation grounds and defines our purpose to promote a free-thinking state engaged in the humanities. We've also chosen to represent this by using an iconic symbol that marks the start of a dialogue—the single open quotation mark.

When people talk to each other, they learn new things and begin to see different points of view. As Cal Humanities, we're working to start those conversations, those free exchanges of ideas and experiences that will lead to a state of open mind.

Check out our new website at [www.calhum.org](http://www.calhum.org) and let us know what you think of this first issue of our brand new magazine!

(above) photo by [www.juanluisgarcia.com](http://www.juanluisgarcia.com)

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Contact Regan Douglass,  
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# searching for DEMOCRACY

We keep hearing that the U.S. is more polarized now than it

has been for some time. This polarization has led to divisive rhetoric instead of meaningful discussion. In the long run, in order for our government and our nation to be successful, we need a populace that is informed, engaged, and interested in deeper understanding.

Consider, then, that only a third of American adults can name all three branches of government, and a third can't name any. Three out of four U.S. students lack a basic understanding of democracy, of how our political system works, and what it means to be a citizen of this country.

*The humanities have helped us to find better ways to think, live, and govern together.*

## What could be more essential?

The humanities are well positioned to respond to the gap of knowledge that's threatening the U.S. In order for the leaders of tomorrow to compete in a knowledge economy, they must be grounded in and elevated by the humanities. We believe that the humanities provide the best way to deeply

understand other societies and ourselves—through our histories and values. Having the tools to explore issues in depth can help us cut through rhetoric and across ideological lines to redefine the common good.

For all of these reasons, we at Cal Humanities chose to embark upon our *Searching for Democracy* initiative which, leading into the recent national election, brought Californians of different backgrounds and perspectives together. Through book discussions, webinars, conversations, educational curricula, film screenings, and hundreds of events around California, we have helped people deliberate and reflect on the nature and state of our democracy.

Our founding fathers may not have been able to envision smartphones or hybrid cars, but they knew we'd need to be well-informed and able to adapt in order for this great experiment in democracy to work. In their time of need, they turned to the humanities to create a framework to guide our nation.

Time and again, the humanities have helped us to find better ways to think, live, and govern together. What could be more essential?

Through the humanities—literature, history, philosophy, and more—we can see clearly not only what was and what is, but what *might be*.

## searching for DEMOCRACY initiative programs

**California Reads** Imagine if the whole state were reading the same thought-provoking books, learning about democracy, discussing critical issues, and finding ways to connect across difference? That vision for California Reads, our statewide reading and discussion program developed in partnership with the California Center for the Book and the California State Library, drew thousands of participants to events across the state last year—including 400 people who attended a single public library event on a weeknight in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley. They came out to talk with their neighbors and author Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston about her classic *Farewell to Manzanar* and about what we mean by “freedom” and “equality.”

**FIND MORE** Host a book club discussion around one of our selected books using our discussion guides, or use our curriculum guides in your classroom. Find these resources on the Programs/California Reads section of our website at [www.calhum.org](http://www.calhum.org).

**Community Stories** Giving expression to the extraordinary variety of histories and experiences of California's places and people moves us closer to finding our commonalities, appreciating our differences, and learning something new about how to live well together.

**FIND MORE** We continue to award funding for story-based projects through this competitive grant program. Check the Grants section of our website for information on how to apply as well as examples of funded projects—and check the Events section of our site for free Community Stories-related events.

**Public Conversations With Zócalo** These days, it's critically important for us to find spaces and ways to come together and talk about the issues that affect and divide us and the ideas that provoke and inspire us. We joined forces with Zócalo Public Square to bring community members and top public thinkers together to explore issues vital to our democracy in towns across California.

**FIND MORE** Explore such topics as “Is Social Isolation a Threat to Democracy?” with poet Philip Levine. Join policy analyst and speechwriter Eric Liu's thought experiment about how and what citizenship would be if all of us had to actively earn it. Videos of all our conversations are available on the Experiences section of our website.

**Teaching Democracy** How do we learn to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship? Do our schools teach us that the system works—or what to do if it doesn't? Teaching Democracy, our endeavor with the California History-Social Science Project, brought together teachers with such top scholars as Stanford's Jack Rakove and Caroline Winterer to find new ways to engage students in history and civics, discussing questions such as “Should America Have a King?” and “What did the Constitution Originally Mean?”

**FIND MORE** Find the recorded presentations, plus resources for teachers, on the Programs/Teaching Democracy section of our website.

**Wherever There's a Fight Exhibition** We know that we must understand our past in order to build a better future. *Wherever There's a Fight: A History of Civil Liberties* tells about the stories of unsung heroes and heroines throughout California who stood up for their rights—and ours—in the face of social hostility, physical violence, economic hardship, and political stonewalling.

**FIND MORE** Presented in partnership with Exhibit Envoy and based on the *Heyday* book by Elaine Elinson and Stan Yogi, you can find this traveling exhibition in a town near you by visiting the Events section of our website.



(above) Calisthenics at the Manzanar internment camp. Photo by Ansel Adams.

A protest against the persecution of the Hollywood Ten. Photo courtesy of Labor Archives and Research Center, SFSU.

## FIND MORE

For more information about the initiative, visit the *Searching for Democracy* section of our website or contact Vanessa Whang, Director of Programs, at [vwhang@calhum.org](mailto:vwhang@calhum.org).

# CALIFORNIA READS

authors weigh in on the state of our democracy



Sally Parry (above)  
Daniel Alarcón



In an effort to bring people together around great books and powerful ideas, we've been providing funding, assistance, resources, and guidance to libraries across the state through our California Reads program. See pages 5 and 15 for more information on California Reads, the selected books, and free, related resources.

Here, we asked the participating California Reads authors and scholars to share their thoughts on democracy and more.

## cal humanities: in what ways is your book about democracy?

REBECCA SOLNIT: My book (*A Paradise Built in Hell*) is about how people behave in the aftermath of overwhelming disasters. The assumption has been that we revert to our original nature, and that original nature is chaotic, selfish, panicky, opportunistic. But the actual evidence, over and over again, is that we are orderly, calm, generous, even selfless, creative, and resourceful. The communities people build in emergencies are often utopian. They don't last, but they suggest both what we most desire and that it might be possible. And these self-organized communities are also direct democracies, where decisions are made by the group, where everyone matters.

DANIEL ALARCÓN: A novel is always about a lot of things at once. I think one of the basic questions *Lost City Radio* poses is what it means to be a citizen. What responsibilities does a citizen have? At what point do people renounce those responsibilities, and why? Do those responsibilities change if the society is fundamentally unjust? Violent? Unstable?

SALLY PARRY: In some ways, Sinclair Lewis's *It Can't Happen Here* is a cautionary tale about what happens

when citizens do not take their part in a democracy. In essence, democracy is hard work. It requires citizens to be responsible for paying attention and calling into question those things that they think are wrong. Democracy is messy. People don't always agree about issues, but they need to be able to talk about them rationally and with evidence, rather than shouting or accusing those who disagree of lack of patriotism.

## ch: what relationship do the humanities have to democracy?

REBECCA SOLNIT: A democracy is first of all an idea, and we have to be able to imagine it, understand it, value it, and think about how it could be better. For that we need to know our history, be able to think critically, and live within a big dialogue about what matters, who we want to be, what's possible, and what the causes and solutions of our problems are.

DANIEL ALARCÓN: The promise of great literature is that you can, by reading, enter the worldview or consciousness of another person, someone who may be nothing like you, and in the process broaden your own vision of the world. In a diverse and complex society, different groups of people must share their stories. We have to know where our neighbors come from, what they believe, and why. We must get inside their stories, and be prepared to accept the validity of their narratives. I don't see this as a luxury anymore—if it ever was—but an absolute necessity.



Richard Beeman



Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston

## ch: the books ask, in different ways, "who are we the people? who is really american?"

RICHARD BEEMAN: In the late eighteenth century, the phrase "We the People" in the preamble to the Constitution did not include all Americans. But over the course of the more than two hundred years since the framing of the Constitution, the definition of "We the People" has expanded to include an ever-growing number of Americans.

JEANNE WAKATSUKI HOUSTON: Being "American" is not a question of race, tribe, or physical attributes. It is a non-physical identity—a state of mind that values freedom and governance by the people for the people. It values individuality, and hopefully will extend to cultural diversity, making the tapestry of varied cultures in American society a truly American value. Our differences are our strength and our power.

“Our differences are our strength and our power.”

## ch: can you speak to the role of dissent in a democracy?

SALLY PARRY: A quote that has become attributed to (Sinclair Lewis) and which is paraphrased from his work is that "When fascism comes to America it will come wrapped in a flag and carrying a Bible." He was very afraid of politicians who would use symbols that Americans hold dear in order to carry out nefarious activities. In his mind, those true patriots were the ones that asked questions and did not accept everything that was told to them by others.

## ch: why is it important for americans to read and discuss our "core documents?"

RICHARD BEEMAN: As the political debate in our nation has become more acrimonious, as one group denounces another for being "un-American" or for "undermining the Constitution," the need for Americans to come together and

understand the underlying meaning of the documents on which our nation was founded is ever more pressing—even essential. Although we Americans still have many miles to travel before we fulfill completely the Declaration's promise of equality and of the protection of certain "unalienable rights," the language and logic of Thomas Jefferson's document can continue to inspire us to attempt to meet the challenge.

## ch: why is it important that democracies remember their history?

JEANNE WAKATSUKI HOUSTON: It was an incredible violation of American values and the Constitution to round up 120,000 people, 70% native born Americans, and put them into an internment camp simply because of their race and that they might be "potentially dangerous." (In *Farewell to Manzanar*), I'm telling the story of how we violated democratic values and how important it is that we walk the talk. Understand that these things can happen and this is how they do. See the danger signs. It could be any group, for any reason.

DANIEL ALARCÓN: In an autocracy, it doesn't matter what the story is, or how it's told—the story is imposed by force. In a democracy, all political battles, no matter the details, are about narrative: who tells the story of how we got here, and how do they shape it? The story itself is the battlefield.

Please note: The California Reads authors and scholars were interviewed separately. Their comments are presented in this format to save space.

## FIND MORE

Visit our website, [www.calhum.org](http://www.calhum.org), to watch video interviews with all the California Reads authors and scholars and to find discussion guides and other resources related to the books. For more information about this program, please contact our Senior Program Officer, Felicia Kelley, who leads our California Reads work, at [fkelly@calhum.org](mailto:fkelly@calhum.org). Stay tuned for our next California Reads program!

Nancy Takahashi Hatamiya  
(1960-2012)



It is with profound sadness that we mark the passing of former Cal Humanities Board Chair Nancy Takahashi Hatamiya, who died May 15, 2012.

Nancy displayed a passion and enthusiasm for public service, an abiding devotion to her community, and boundless energy that inspired everyone around her. Gracious, thoughtful, and smart, she dedicated her life to public service as a champion of children, civil rights, and education. In recognition of her extraordinary service to Cal Humanities, we have recently established a memorial fund to honor her inspiring legacy.

Making a gift is simple. Please use the enclosed return envelope or go online via [www.calhum.org/give](http://www.calhum.org/give). Please note on your envelope or in the comments section online that your gift is in memory of Nancy Hatamiya.

Nancy provided extraordinary leadership to ensure a greater future for our organization. The memorial fund honors her legacy and recognizes the contributions of others who share Nancy's commitment to our vision of promoting ideas, connecting Californians, and ultimately creating *A State of Open Mind*.

**Gifts received as of December 2012**

Lon, George, and Jon Hatamiya  
Claire Hatamiya  
Joseph Takahashi

Kenneth Brown  
Michelle Weiss and  
David Bunch  
Jon Carroll  
Yoga Chelliah  
Elaine Chen  
George M. and Regina L. Chu  
Marleen de Groot  
Kathryn Doi  
Junmei Fan  
Mark L. Friedman and  
Marjorie Solomon Friedman  
Peng Gao

Carla Green  
Guocun Huang  
Hung-Chung Huang  
Mariko Izumo  
Chryshanthi Joseph  
Norman and Diana Kado  
Ann Karperos  
Kyungin Kim  
Nobuya Koike  
Shihoko Kojima  
Chie Kondo  
Izabela Kornblum  
Neha Kumar  
Vivek Kumar  
Ralph Lewin  
Yan Li  
Jennifer Mohawk

Cornelius Moore  
Joanie Murakami  
Nancy P., Charles R.  
and Erik W. Ostrom  
Lucia Pagani  
Gavin Payne  
Clark Rosensweig  
Mary Anne Sayler  
Robert C. Tse and Yumi L. Sera  
Yongli Shan  
Charlene Wear Simmons and  
Dan Simmons  
Jeremy Stubblefield  
Andrea Wooten  
Shuzhang Yang  
Seung-Hee Yoo  
Ann Yoshinaga

# Cal Humanities establishes the Nancy Takahashi Hatamiya MEMORIAL FUND

## we couldn't do it WITHOUT YOU

Did you know that last year, our work with libraries, veterans' hospitals, media makers, and others reached over a million people in communities throughout California, from the mountains to the coast and points north to south? We've brought new insights, perspectives, and histories to light as we shared our stories and learned more about how to connect with each other.

**But we can't do it alone.**

Your generous gift, coupled with the support of foundations, corporations, and other donors, makes our work possible.

Your gift allows us to continue:

- *California Reads: Supporting library programs designed to foster dialogue in communities throughout the state*
- *Literature & Medicine: Improving the quality of care to our veterans through work with their health providers*
- *Now We're Talking: Training librarians to create spaces for reflection and discussion of issues affecting their communities*
- *Community Stories: Sharing the history and experiences of California's places and peoples*
- *The California Documentary Project: Supporting film, radio, and new media productions designed to inspire lively conversation, quiet reflection, and surprising epiphanies*

We need your help to keep these conversations going. Your generosity will allow us to provide innovative, high-quality, and thoughtful programs now and into the future. Please send your gift today and become part of our journey to create a state of open mind.

## why not consider a LEGACY GIFT?

We are extremely grateful to those who have remembered Cal Humanities in their estate plans through a documented planned gift, whether by bequest or any other estate plan.

Leaving a gift is easy. Bequests from a will or trust are the most common way to leave a gift, either through a specific dollar amount, or as a percentage of the estate or assets remaining after providing for family members. Others instruments might include making Cal Humanities the beneficiary of 401(k)/IRA plans or insurance policies, or establishing a Charitable Remainder Trust. Any of these will qualify for membership recognition in our Legacy Society.

Your gift will be completely confidential. We will not ask what amount you plan to leave Cal Humanities. You are, however, encouraged to discuss your gift intentions with us to make sure we may comply with your wishes.

Upon notification of your intentions, we will send you a Bequest Notification Form for you to complete regarding the confidential wishes of your bequest. The agreement is non-binding and will not constitute a legal promise of any future donation to Cal Humanities.

For further information on planned giving please contact Ann Yoshinaga, Development Officer, at 415.391.1474 ext. 313 or via email at [ayoshinaga@calhum.org](mailto:ayoshinaga@calhum.org).

Your support makes our work possible. **Thank you** to our major funders:

*BayTree Fund California State Library National Endowment for the Humanities Seedlings Foundation The Whitman Institute*



Luis Herrera

## cal humanities board of directors selects NEW CHAIR

In 2012, the Cal Humanities board of directors elected Luis Herrera to serve as its new chair.

“The board and staff have worked diligently over the last few years on our strategic direction and our re-branding efforts,” said Herrera. “I am honored to serve as chair of the Cal Humanities board of directors in this pivotal and exciting time.”

Mr. Herrera is the city librarian of the San Francisco Public Library, where he is responsible for the administration of the city’s 28 libraries including a main library and 27 neighborhood branches. He has also served as president of both the Public Library Association and the California Library Association.

In January 2012, the *Library Journal* named Mr. Herrera Librarian of the Year, noting “his joyous spirit and infectious optimism about libraries and his willingness to communicate that optimism to all those involved, especially the citizens of San Francisco.” Mr. Herrera was also recently nominated by President Barack Obama to serve on the Board of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

As Cal Humanities embarks upon this new and exciting chapter of growth, our board of directors has added **SEVEN NEW MEMBERS** to its governing body. Along with an enthusiasm for the humanities, these new members provide further geographic representation to our statewide board of professionals and bring additional experience and expertise in business, arts, academia, and philanthropy to our ranks.



**AÍDA ÁLVAREZ** Ms. Álvarez is an award-winning journalist, a successful investment banker, and a former member of President Clinton’s Cabinet. Ms. Álvarez currently serves on the boards of Wal-Mart, Union Bank, and Progress Financial Corporation. She also chairs the Latino Community Foundation, serves on the Board of the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, DC, and is a trustee emeritus of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Appointed by President Clinton to head the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Ms. Álvarez was the first Hispanic woman to serve in a presidential cabinet. During her tenure, she presided over record activity of \$61.5 billion in guaranteed loans and venture capital financing over a four-year period, with marked increases in lending to women and minorities. She also expanded SBA’s international role by establishing an SBA office in Cairo, Egypt, and led U.S. small business trade missions to Mexico, Canada, Ireland, and Egypt. A Harvard graduate, Ms. Álvarez also holds honorary doctorates from Bethany College, Iona College, Mercy College, and the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico.



**DAMON HOROWITZ** Mr. Horowitz is a professor of philosophy and a serial entrepreneur. His work explores what is possible at the boundaries of technology and the humanities. Horowitz currently serves as “In-House Philosopher” and director of engineering at Google, where he leads initiatives involving personalization and privacy.

Mr. Horowitz is a successful entrepreneur and helped build several companies around applications of intelligent language processing, including Aardvark (acquired by Google), Perspecta (acquired by Excite), Novation Biosciences (acquired by Agilent), and NewsDB (now Daylife).

Mr. Horowitz’s academic work pursues myriad approaches to the topic of meaning in language, with a focus on questions of truth and normativity. He has taught philosophy and cognitive science at Columbia, Stanford, NYU, University of Pennsylvania, and San Quentin State Prison; and particularly enjoys teaching his freshman seminar, “The Life and Limits of Reason.” He earned his BA from Columbia, MS from the MIT Media Lab, and PhD from Stanford.

### JOHN KRASZNEKEWICZ

Mr. Krasznekewicz is the founder and managing partner of Rustic Partners, Inc., a financial consulting and investment firm that assists its client organizations with financial, structural, operating, and investment alternatives.

A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Business School, he also has held senior management positions at Goldman Sachs and Montgomery Securities and serves on the IXI board.



**JOHN LESCROART** Mr. Lescroart is a *New York Times* Bestselling author of twenty-three novels, including most recently *The Hunter* (January 2012), his latest novel in the San Francisco-based Wyatt Hunt series. Libraries Unlimited has included Mr. Lescroart in its publication “The 100 Most Popular Thriller and Suspense

Authors,” his short stories appear in many anthologies, and his books have been translated into twenty different languages in more than seventy-five countries.

Outside of the book world, Mr. Lescroart loves to cook and his original recipes have appeared in *Gourmet Magazine* and in the cookbook “A Taste of Murder.” He also wrote the forward to Francine Brevetti’s *The Fabulous Fior: 100 Years in an Italian Kitchen*, a paean to the famous San Francisco eatery Fior d’Italia.



**NATALIA MOLINA** Ms. Molina is the associate dean for faculty equity, Division of Arts and Humanities and associate professor in the Department of History and Urban Studies Program at the University of California, San Diego. Her first book, *Fit to be Citizens? Public Health and Race in Los Angeles, 1879-1939*,

received the Norris and Carol Hundley Award from the American Historical Association in 2007. Her current book project, *Immigration as a Process of Racial Formation: Mexican Immigration to the United States, 1924-1942*, uses an array of archival sources and a comparative approach to examine a different set of institutions and practices to deepen our understanding of race in the United States.

Ms. Molina is on the managing editorial board for the *American Quarterly*, a council member of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, and a speaker for the Organization of American Historians’ Distinguished Lectureship Program.



**JUDY SALTER** Ms. Salter is the former president and CEO of Turtle Bay Exploration Park, a \$70 million educational and cultural complex along the Sacramento River in Redding, California. A graduate of George Washington University with a degree in Political Science, Ms.

Salter has a professional background in business, government, and non-profit management. She previously served on the Washington staffs of Congressman Graham Purcell, Senator Lloyd Bentsen, and the Jimmy Carter Presidential Campaign. She was first administrative director of Fort Mason Center in San Francisco and subsequently served as the director of corporate and government relations for two major natural resource based companies.

Ms. Salter has also served widely on numerous arts, literacy, social policy, and environmental boards and continues to consult with community organizations on fundraising, board development and strategic planning. She and her husband, Lee, share four children and five grandchildren.



**SANDRA SERRANO** Ms. Serrano is chancellor of Kern Community College District, the largest geographic community college service area in California. Her district includes the state’s Southern San Joaquin Valley and the eastern Sierra Mountains from Mammoth to Tehachapi.

She is the former president of Bakersfield College, and her previous educational experience includes serving as the director of Student Affirmative Action at California State University, Bakersfield. Ms. Serrano is national president of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities and a member of the Advisory Council to the California Community College Collaborative, a policy center established jointly by the University of California Office of the President and the Chancellor’s Office of the California Community Colleges.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from University of California, Berkeley and a juris doctorate from Hastings College of the Law.



## SCIENCE IS NOT ENOUGH: bringing the humanities to our V.A. hospitals

Healing has as much to do with the soul as the body. How can we leverage the power of the humanities in support of our healthcare providers—and some of their most vulnerable patients? Our answer has been to bring the Literature & Medicine program to Veterans Affairs (V.A.) hospitals in California. The program aims to improve the quality of patient care by leading hospital workers in facilitated, humanities-based discussions. The insights provided by engaging with poetry, fiction, films, and more help uncover realities as no x-ray can.

**Dr. Denise Henderson, MD shared with us how the Literature & Medicine program has impacted her practice.**

**Q: what type of work do you do with veterans?**

A: I supervise providers on PTSD teams [in California V.A. hospitals]. I help patients with evaluations and educate them on treatment options. I founded and facilitate the Military Minority Matters group. It helps veterans who have suffered cultural disparities in the military.

**Q: what are some of the challenges faced by healthcare professionals working with veterans?**

A: Realizing how brave they are for seeking treatment and how much they have given to deserve it. I pay attention to the losses they have experienced that are not readily detected. For recovery, they need more than a pill or procedure.

**Q: how would you describe the literature & medicine program?**

A: The program is a group of providers from diverse disciplines led by an informed guide to share thoughts on multiple subjects resulting in improved compassion and understanding for each other and our veterans. It helps with the development of new relationships and the sharing of varied perspectives.

**Q: was there a passage in the literature provided which shifted your understanding of your patients or the care you provide?**

A: In “The Enduring Chill,” by Flannery O’Connor, Blacks were called Negroes [and] their role in the story was reflective of a time that some people try to forget. I saw parallels to today’s society. I tried twice to get a discussion going about how some Blacks feel marginalized and dismissed today [...] and the topic was quickly dismissed. I realized I was experiencing what some of the minorities I treat experience, and that talking about the role of “Negroes” is something I should share with those who can barely stand the mentioning of our racial history as relevant today.

**Q: have you called upon what you learned in the lit & med program?**

A: I recently joined the group. [So far], it has had a positive impact on my awareness. In my approach to treatment before, I thought my colleagues were aware of their interactions with minorities and consciously chose how to treat some patients based on race, sex, or sexual identity. Now I know that many are simply uncomfortable with the reality of certain relationships stemming from our collective American history. It is difficult to grow fruit where the sun does not shine. It is difficult if not impossible to develop cultural competency without open discussion.

**“It is difficult to grow fruit where the sun does not shine. It is difficult if not impossible to develop cultural competency without open discussion.”**

**Q: would you share an excerpt from a lit & med reading that impacted you?**

A: There was a passage in “What Remains” by Emma Donoghue about two famous octogenarian sculptors who worked and lived together. They took a day trip to see one’s sculpture.

*“I reach over to take her hand. But she has her head down again; she seems to be examining an egg stain on her lapel. A dreadful thought occurs to me. I let go of her hand and wave my fingers in front of her face. She doesn’t flinch.”*

‘Queenie?’

(right)  
From Mrs. Judo: *Be Strong, Be Gentle, Be Beautiful*  
Photo courtesy of Yuriko Gamo Romer.

(below)  
“Migrant Mother”  
Photo by Dorothea Lange.



## NEW california documentary projects



What do Dorothea Lange’s iconic photographs, epic poetry at San Quentin prison, the highest-ranked woman in judo’s history, an Oscar-winning Khmer Rouge survivor, recycling, and the blues all have in common?

They’re just a few of the stories told by the latest set of film, radio, and new media productions we’ve supported through our California Documentary Project (CDP), which encourages documentarians to explore issues and stories of critical importance to our state. Each adds a new layer to a complex and growing portrait. Together,

they help us better understand who we are and where we live.

Through our CDP program, we recently awarded \$400,000 in Production and Research and Development funding for 17 new projects. The Production projects comprise a broad range of topics and approaches—from a biography of photographer Dorothea Lange to a radio series exploring socio-economic issues facing rural California; from the struggle of recyclers in Oakland to the fight by Northern California’s Yurok tribe to preserve its cultural practices. The Research and Development grants also include a diverse array of subjects, such as the changing role of the public library; the histories of LGBT Californians; and a look at the rise and fall of the American Communist Party. Both categories include projects that take an in-depth look at artists and leaders whose lives and work have shaped our own.

We at Cal Humanities have a long history of supporting documentaries that have won Emmys, been nominated for Academy Awards, and garnered Peabodys—documentaries that inspire conversation, reflection, and engagement. Since 2003, we have awarded nearly \$3 million in grant awards to media makers who are capturing California in all its complexity.

**FIND MORE** For complete descriptions of the projects, please visit the Programs/California Documentary Project section of our website. Sign up for our e-newsletter at [www.calhum.org](http://www.calhum.org) to receive information about the next grant opportunity and tell us—what’s your California experience?

*She looks in my direction. Her eyes are calm and milky. She can’t see a thing. I should have guessed. I should have remembered her eyes were getting worse; I would have, if I’d half a brain left myself.”*

This impacted me. No one thing, including love, is enough to understand each other. Great love was shared between these two women. We have to keep shifting our thinking to be more aware of who we care for. Science is not enough by itself; love is not enough by itself. We must practice mindfulness in our daily affairs, should we want to see the reality of our circumstances. As clinicians, loved ones, or caregivers, we are liable to miss something important, until we try something new.

Since 2009, Cal Humanities has been working with V.A. hospitals—now including Fresno, Palo Alto, and Sacramento. Our involvement in Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care® is part of a national effort initiated by the Maine Humanities Council.

**FIND MORE**

To watch a video about Literature & Medicine, including interviews with participants, visit [www.calhum.org/experiences](http://www.calhum.org/experiences). To read the complete version of this interview, go to [www.calhum.org/news/blog](http://www.calhum.org/news/blog). For more information, please contact our Senior Program Officer, Felicia Kelley, who leads our Literature & Medicine work, at [fkelly@calhum.org](mailto:fkelly@calhum.org).

## NEW community stories projects

How are wars abroad impacting our local communities? What were the Watts riots really like—according to those who were there? How have some of our most treasured and unique landmarks been saved from destruction? How have our immigrant and refugee neighbors adapted to life in a new homeland—and what does democracy look like to them? What's the relationship between democracy and baseball? How can we open up a larger dialogue about higher education in California today?

The experiences, places, communities, cultures, and histories that make up our state are as diverse and ever-changing as Californians themselves. Through our Community Stories program (formerly the California Story Fund), we're supporting the expression of stories that can help us all find our commonalities, appreciate our differences, and learn something new about how to live together well.

### “What’s your story, California?”

In 2012, we awarded 40 grants—to libraries, museums, cultural and arts centers, institutions of higher education, and more—throughout the state for community-focused story projects encompassing a wide range of subjects. These include: the challenges faced by a displaced group of Native Californians seeking tribal recognition; students involved in the DREAM movement; the culture of low-riding in San Diego; the histories and traditions of the historic Mission town of San Juan Bautista; Sacramento’s contemporary “foodscape;” the issues that divide and unite Angelenos; and the challenges and successes of first-generation college students whose parents are migrant farm workers.

Some projects focus on specialized communities or give voice to Californians whose stories are seldom heard: homeless youth; Native Americans; veterans and their families; incarcerated people; sex workers; commercial fishermen; farmers and ranchers; surfers; the LGBT community; and refugee and immigrant communities (Japanese, Cambodian, African, Filipino, Afghani, Latino).

In conjunction with our *Searching for Democracy* theme-based initiative, many of the grants we recently awarded through Community Stories were for projects that focused on civic engagement and democratic practice, past and present.

Cal Humanities has helped communities record and share hundreds of stories—many previously untold or little-known. Through video, photography, murals, zines, documentary theater, audio projects, and more, collected stories have come to life and to light.

### FIND MORE

For complete descriptions of projects, please visit the [Programs/Community Stories](#) section of our website. Sign up for our e-newsletter at [www.calhum.org](http://www.calhum.org) to receive information about how and when to apply for a grant.

*The latest Community Stories projects encompass a range of subjects, including: (top) students involved in the DREAM movement; (second photo, inset - courtesy C.R. Snyder) Beat artist Bernice Bing; (third photo) the Watts Riots/Rebellion; (fourth photo - courtesy Andrew Page) Cambodian communities and celebrations in California; and (fifth photo) Sacramento’s foodscape.*



## california reads GRANT AWARDS

What if the whole state were reading the same slate of inspiring, thought-provoking books, and gathering in their communities to talk with their neighbors about critical issues that affect us all? This vision inspired our statewide reading and discussion program, California Reads, developed in partnership with the California Center for the Book and the California State Library.

Through California Reads, we awarded over \$400,000 to 53 library systems to create and offer inventive public programming—including dozens of author events that drew thousands of participants—around these five book selections:


- *The Penguin Guide to the United States Constitution: A Fully Annotated Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and Amendments, and Selections from The Federalist Papers* by Richard Beeman
- *Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston
- *A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster* by Rebecca Solnit
- *It Can't Happen Here*, by Sinclair Lewis - represented for California Reads by scholar Sally Parry, executive director of the Sinclair Lewis society
- *Lost City Radio* by Daniel Alarcón

For 2012, California Reads was part of our *Searching for Democracy* initiative. Library programming encompassed a wide variety of activities, many planned with local schools and civic or cultural organizations, including: autobiographical presentations by Japanese American seniors who were interned during WWII; disaster and emergency preparedness workshops; pre-election forums; musical performances; voter registration; community discussions about civil rights; internment camp tours; photographic exhibitions; film screenings; “disaster chef” cooking workshops; presentations on Constitutional law; art and video-making contests for youth; poetry readings; author visits; and more.



### california reads participating libraries

Butte County Library • Camarena Memorial Library, Calexico • Camarillo Public Library/Friends of the Camarillo Library • Chula Vista Library/Friends of the Chula Vista Library • Contra Costa County Library • Corona Public Library • County of Los Angeles Public Library • El Dorado County Library/Friends of El Dorado County Library • Fresno County Public Library • Fullerton Public Library • Glendora Public Library/Glendora Public Library Friends Foundation • Hayward Public Library • Imperial County Free Library • Inglewood Public Library • Kern County Library • Lodi Public Library • Lompoc Public Library • Long Beach Public Library (in collaboration with Signal Hill Public Library) • Los Angeles Public Library • Mendocino County Library District • Mono County Library • Monrovia Public Library • Monterey County Free Libraries • Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library • Monterey Public Library • Moorpark City Library • Newport Beach Public Library • Orange County Public Libraries • Orland Free Library • Pasadena Public Library • Rancho Cucamonga Public Library • Riverside County Library System • Riverside Public Library • Sacramento Public Library • San Bernardino County Library System • San Bernardino Public Library • San Diego County Library • San Diego Public Library • San Francisco Public Library • San Leandro Public Library • Santa Clara County Library • Santa Clarita Public Library • Santa Monica Public Library • Shasta Public Libraries • Siskiyou County Library/Friends of the Mt. Shasta Branch Library, Inc. • Soboba Cultural Center and Library • South Pasadena Public Library • Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library Jurisdiction • Sunnyvale Public Library • Tehama County Library • Watsonville Public Library • Willows Public Library

 **FIND MORE** Go to the [Programs/California Reads](#) section of our website, [www.calhum.org](http://www.calhum.org), to read complete descriptions of the California Reads projects and to find discussion and curriculum guides for these books to use in your book group or classroom.

Sign up for our e-newsletter to receive information about the next grant opportunity.





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Grants are now available! Check [www.calhum.org](http://www.calhum.org) for more information.

**FIND MORE** Throughout the magazine, this icon will direct you to find more content online at [www.calhum.org](http://www.calhum.org)

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