

THE INSTITUTE FOR HISTORICAL STUDY

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NEWSLETTER

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THE INSTITUTE is affiliated with the National Coalition of Independent Scholars (NCIS), the American Historical Association (AHA), and the National Coalition for History (NCH).

The NEWSLETTER is sent to all Institute members, as well as college and university libraries and other interested scholars. The Institute appreciates all tax-deductible contributions made by non-members who wish to remain on its mailing list.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We held our annual membership meeting on February 26 in the community room of the Rockridge branch of the Oakland Public Library. I want to express a big thank you to all the people who organized it: Dick Herr booked the facility; Nancy Zinn arranged for the morning refreshments and catered lunch, with help from Joanne Lafler and Georgia Wright; Elise Ball at Peet's on Domingo Avenue in Berkeley kindly donated the coffee; Georgia brought (and washed!) Institute plates and flatware; and Mike Griffith coordinated the nominations and election of new board members.

I am very pleased to welcome Richard (Rob) Robbins and Sally Wages to the board and thank them for taking on the membership chair and secretary positions respectively. And of course we appreciate the years of service of outgoing board members Jules Becker and Richard (Dick) Herr.

We had a lively discussion of the Institute's website: some find it perfectly functional the way it is, while others would like it to have a more up-to-date look and feel. It was suggested that we try to build in easier access to content highlighting our contributions to the study of history, e.g. reports on talks and book reviews. We decided we could spend up to \$500 for some technical assistance with a redesign of the website. If you know of someone who might be willing to work with us on that basis, please put them in touch with webmaster Mike Griffith.

Some people felt a revamped website would be important in recruiting new members, but others emphasized the importance of personal invitations from current members reaching out to people they know. Let's try to do some of each this year, and possibly take advantage of a ready-made website template. We are also planning a small membership campaign by e-mail.

We are pleased to welcome five new members since the last newsletter: Jennifer Bator, Robert Chandler, Neil Dukas, Sharan Newman and Persia Woolley (see page 7). Continuing members, **don't forget to send in your membership renewal for 2011!** If we don't receive it by April 30, you will be dropped from the mailing list and won't receive the member roster or future newsletters.

Ann Harlow

ANNUAL MEETING

The program of the Annual Meeting featured readings-aloud of letters relating to the state of California from the Gold Rush to the Panama-Pacific Exhibition. Two correspondents were famous writers-to-be: Mark Twain and Laura Ingalls Wilder. Others occupied a more humble position in California history; yet their reportage is detailed and vivid, and they constitute primary sources for the California experience.

Monica Clyde read aloud from the letters of Mary Jane Megquier to her daughter, Angelina, in 1849 and 1850. This lady, who established a boarding house in San Francisco, chronicles the life around her as a housewife writ large; she keeps track of the market prices of the raw materials she must transform into provender for her guests. Monica also read from her translations of letters of Eva Gundlach. Eva found the German-speaking atmosphere of the Gundlach-Bundschu winery, where she settled, so congenial as to give her no incentive for learning English!

Jules Becker read aloud highlights from Mark Twain's career as a San Francisco journalist. Twain provides memorable descriptions of Lick House, a luxury hotel, and gives a word-picture of the Plaza, which survives today as Portsmouth Square. He makes reference to his friend, Bret Harte, mentions earning \$50 per month by writing one article per week "by fits and starts," and notes his twenty letters submitted to *The Territorial Enterprise*. He shows concern over how prestigious his weekly is, and he is attentive to the reception of "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County."

Ann Harlow's correspondent, Constance Frederica Gordon-Cumming, visited California in 1878, to find San Francisco, once a rowdy town, sporting splendid floral decorations at Easter at St. Mary's and Grace Cathedrals. She also reports on the superior electrical system, which turns the city into an "Arabian Nights,"

and the network of performative fire brigades. She gives us a glimpse in passing of a city coordinating itself.

Ellen Huppert read from letters translated from German by late Institute member Eleanor Alexander, of her father-in-law's trip to the US. Carl Alexander witnessed San Francisco after the earthquake, "in rubble," and narrated his own dire experience in a train wreck in southern California. His tour of East Coast places and cities was well-memorialized.

Maria Sakovich read a 1912 letter by a Russian Baptist pastor, N.E. Varonaev, who wrote of religious freedom and the good living to be had in San Francisco. Despite these conditions in the city, Maria noted that Varonaev felt called within a few years to return to Russia. There he managed to work as a Pentacostal missionary between 1921 and 1930, but was then arrested and spent nearly the rest of his life in prison.

Joanne Lafler read from several letters by Laura Ingalls Wilder when she was staying with her daughter, Rose Wilder Lane, in San Francisco in 1915. Wilder describes her visits to the Panama-Pacific Exposition, including viewing a life-size replica of a Navaho village and a scale model of the Panama Canal. Wilder sampled Chinese food, but did not like it. One letter found Wilder standing on Telegraph Hill, near what would become the "Lafler compound," residence of Harry Lafler, father of Joanne's husband and the subject of her in-progress biography.

All the letters, by persons great and small, brought to life what early California, and, more particularly, the city of San Francisco, supplied by way of a new, evolving experience. In their vividness, they allow us to reconstruct the city and state as we might have lived in them ourselves.

Anne Richardson

WORK IN PROGRESS

What Did a Republic Mean in 1910?

On December 12, 2010, at the home of Georgia Wright, **Richard Herr** provided an account of how Portugal became a republic in 1910. This talk had been given at a celebration of the centennial of the founding of the Republic, to an audience drawn from the extensive Portuguese community of Northern California.

Dick posed the intriguing question of why Portugal should have become a republic in 1910, especially because European republican experiments in the previous century had had very bad results. The United States was the first modern republic, and Europeans looked here to see how well it worked. Alexis de Tocqueville was only the most famous of the writers who analyzed the new American state, in his classic *Democracy in America*. Without king or noble class and sovereignty based on the consent of the governed, the U.S. separated church and state and guaranteed property rights. The U.S. was unique in not having problematic relations between its various churches and secular authority.

In marked contrast, republican governments in France after 1789 repeatedly led to major popular uprisings and difficult relations with the Catholic Church. The first Constitution, adopted in 1791, kept the monarchy but eliminated the aristocracy and subjected the Catholic Church to state control. The King of France did not want to accept the limitations on his power, and conservatives believed that the monarchy was necessary to protect private property. The King's refusal to reconcile with the new order led to his trial and consequent execution, and the monarchy came to an end.

While the constitution of the First Republic protected property, nonetheless that Republic was identified with the Reign of Terror and the guillotine. Later French Republics seemed to

fulfill the expectation that rule by the people led to threats to civil order. The Second Republic, founded in 1848, suffered riots by workers in Paris. The more conservative provinces helped to elect Louis Napoleon Bonaparte to the presidency. In 1851, he overthrew the Republic and declared himself ruler of the Second Empire as Napoleon III (the First Empire being that of the first Bonaparte, Napoleon III's uncle).

When Napoleon III was defeated in his war against Prussia in 1871, the Second Empire was replaced by yet another republic. The conservative leaders of the new Third Republic made peace with Prussia, and the workers of Paris once again rose up. This time they took hostages and killed many, including the Archbishop of Paris. In turn, conservative forces in France, including the leaders of the Republic, eliminated the radical supporters of the Republic in a most violent way.

This time, however, the Republic prevailed. With stable control established, the Republic launched its campaign to weaken the social control of the Catholic Church by creating universal elementary education through state-financed secular schools.

Nineteenth century republican efforts in other countries were less successful. In 1848, a Roman republic threatened the safety of the Pope and was put down by French troops. The Spanish republic, created in 1868, led to separatist movements and the rise of anarchism, frightening many and resulting in a return to monarchy. Underlying political changes and a positive philosophy, first enunciated by August Comte in the 1830s, played a critical role. Positivism asserted that knowledge must be obtained through observation and the scientific method, instead of divine revelation and dogmatic theology. Despite Pope Pius IX's denunciation (or perhaps because of it) in the

GROUP REPORTS

Syllabus of Errors of 1864, positivism took hold among liberals and Freemasons. European liberals, including Spanish and Portuguese, were convinced that the Church's hold over their countries was responsible for their inability to modernize.

The Portuguese monarchy was dealt a blow in the 1890s as result of the European colonization of Africa. For many years in control of Mozambique in East Africa and Angola in the west, the king of Portugal claimed the area between the two to create the "Rose Colored Map," a block of territory clear across the continent. Unfortunately, Britain, under the leadership of Cecil Rhodes, was creating a similar continent-wide swath, in this case from north to south, "Africa British from the Cape to Cairo." The British demanded that Portugal rescind its claim. When the king acceded to this demand, he was discredited in the eyes of many Portuguese.

Opposition to the monarchy culminated in the 1908 assassination of the king and his oldest son, leaving young Manuel II (known as the Unfortunate) as heir, but severely weakened. He fled into exile in London, and the Republicans took control. The newly established Republic followed the pattern of other Catholic states by pushing out the Jesuits and replacing Catholic education with secular state education on the French model. An earlier constitutional provision that declared all Portuguese to be Catholic was also eliminated. The Portuguese Republic was the most anti-clerical regime before the Russian Revolution of 1917.

Despite a long era of dictatorship under Antonio Salazar, Portugal has remained a republic for a century and, as part of the European Union, has made strides toward the modern, democratic state that liberals dreamed of.

Ellen Huppert

California Round Table

We gathered in the living room of Ellen Huppert on February 5, 2011 to listen to Jules Becker read the rewritten introduction and conclusion of his book, *The Course of Exclusion 1882-1924: San Francisco Newspaper Coverage of the Chinese and the Japanese in the United States* (1991). He rewrote these sections to take into account the scholarship that has been produced since the initial publication of the book. He also wanted to account for the rising fortunes and emergence of both Chinese and Japanese Americans—Asian Americans—on the center stages of political, social, and economic areas of American life since he had done his previous research. In his rewrites of these sections, Jules has chronicled the near complete reversal of the attitude of extreme rabid racism to an attitude of praise for a "model minority."

Jules cited various primary and secondary sources to account for this change, from the 2000/2010 census data to a sampling of newspaper coverage of these ethnic minorities up to today. He listed a sample of Asian American personalities who garner coverage in the newspapers and on the internet. He also spoke of continuing problems with rising backlashes against newer immigrants to the United States. These seem to rise and fall in step with the rise and fall of economic fortunes, just as they have in the past. Jules included coverage of Los Angeles and eastern newspapers on these topics that other scholars had published since his book came out. Negative reporting of "the other" in American society has not altogether disappeared but at least the vitriol of the late 19th century has been toned down considerably.

After his reading, the audience discussed various options for republishing the book with its new additions. Refreshments followed as the discussion continued.

Kathleen O'Conner

GROUP REPORTS

History-Play Reading Group

The Play Readers recently read Maxwell Anderson's *Barefoot in Athens*. The play was first produced in October 1951; then, more than a decade later, was performed as an Emmy-winning television movie. Maxwell Anderson was a prodigious writer with a long list of plays and movies to his credit including several set in Tudor England. Anderson was born in Pennsylvania in 1888, grew up in the Midwest, received an MA in literature from Stanford, taught for several years in California, then moved to New York City, where he began his decades-long career as a dramatist. He died in 1959.

The action of the play is set in Athens after the Peloponnesian War and the fall of Athens and its democracy. Anderson massages the dates by several years, having the walls of Athens, built by Pericles, demolished at the time of Socrates' trial in 399 B.C.E. rather than in 404 when the event actually took place. The play is an account of the last days of Socrates and attempts to give us some sense of what his life was like. The author includes the period shortly before Socrates' trial. Xantippe, his wife, often regarded as a shrew, is portrayed in a kinder, often touching manner. Unwashed and shoeless, hence the title of the play, Socrates had wandered the streets of Athens angering the powers of the state with his relentless inquisitiveness and non-stop questioning, a threat to the status quo, or so it was perceived. Socrates accepted nothing at face value. He had no answers, only endless questions.

Much of what we know about Socrates comes from the writings of his devoted pupil Plato. In Plato's "The Apology of Socrates," Socrates defends himself against the charges of corrupting the youth of Athens and not believing in the gods as defined by society. It is here that

he maintains, according to Plato's account, that the life which is unexamined is not worth living.

Socrates was tried, found guilty, and sentenced to death in 399 by the Council of 500. The audience at the play is treated as the jury at the trial. Pausanias, the King of Sparta, offers to bring him to his own capital which Socrates refuses if it means giving up his constant questioning and exchange of ideas. He chooses to give up his life rather than eschew the principles which have guided him and will drink the juice of the poison hemlock plant, by which act he has been immortalized for the past two and a half millennia.

Anderson wrote the play at the height of the McCarthy era, a time when demagogues, loyalty oaths, and the House Un-American Activities Committee posed threats to democracy and freedom of expression. The revival of the play as a TV movie in 1966 followed on the heels of the Free Speech Movement at Berkeley and similar student protests elsewhere. *Barefoot in Athens* unflinchingly addresses the issue of free speech in a democratic society. We mourn the martyrdom of Socrates and, hopefully, harken to its timeless lesson.

The Play Readers' next reading will be a play about Francis Biddle, an American lawyer and judge who served as U.S. Attorney General during World War II and as the primary American judge during the Nuremberg trials. For more information, contact Joanne Lafler.

Edith L. Piness

MEMBER NEWS

Steven C. Levi writes: "Though I did not receive a minigrant this year, I would like to thank the IHS for the minigrants I have received in the past. Because of those minigrants I was *finally* able to find a long-lost Alaskan historical nugget. For ninety years Alaskan historians have wondered what happened to the 'Father of Alaska Journalism,' George Hinton Henry. He published six papers in four Alaska Gold Rush communities between 1900 and 1919 and was the most sued editor in Alaska history. After 20 years of searching Alaskan archives—and three minigrants to search California archives—I discovered that George Hinton Henry had been killed in an automobile accident in 1926 in Los Angeles. On a trip to Los Angeles this past Christmas I was able to find Henry's burial plot in Forest Lawn in Glendale where I had my picture taken along with his great-grand niece. Thank you very much IHS for your support!!! (For a complete portrait of Henry, see the chapter on Alaska Gold Rush journalism in my book *Boom and Bust in the Alaska Gold Fields*, Greenwood, 2008)."

For African American History Month and Women's History Month **David Rosen** wrote about Emlen Tunnell, World War II Coastguard hero and Captains Dorothy Stratton and Patti McFetridge. A new national security cutter is being named after Stratton, first female in the Coast Guard (1942); McFetridge was the first female aviator to be awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (1990). See "Coast Guard Compass," the official blog for the US Coast Guard: <http://coastguard.dodlive.mil/>.

Peter Stansky reports: "My main activity has been the completion of the revision and expansion of half of a book, *Journey to the Frontier*, that William Abrahams and I published in 1966. This Fall Stanford University Press will publish *Julian Bell: From Bloomsbury to the Spanish Civil War*, the result of that effort. Otherwise I've given some talks,

published some reviews and attended conferences, including the AHA in Boston where I received an award for Scholarly Distinction."

Jeanne Farr McDonnell will speak on "Broad Themes within the California Woman Suffrage Movement," May 1 at 1:00 at the Odd Fellows Grand Hall at 14414 Oak Street in Saratoga. She is also working to save the Juana Briones house and land in Palo Alto. The structure, built in 1844, is threatened by the owner who "has made every effort to demolish in recent years."

The book *Working with Limestone* has just been published (Ashgate Press) with a chapter by **Georgia Wright** titled "Orphan Heads: Notre-Dame and Saint-Jacques-aux-Pèlerins in Paris and Saint-Pierre at Jumieèges."

Ann Richardson reports the publication of several articles for *The Tyndale Society Journal*: "Tyndale Meets Goliath: St. John Fisher's 1521 Sermon in *The Obedience of a Christian Man*" (No. 38, Spring 2010); a book review of *Burning to Read: English Fundamentalism and its Reformation Opponents* by James Simpson (Cambridge, MA: Harvard, 2007) (also No. 38, Spring 2010); and "Remembering Don Millus, Tyndale Scholar" (No. 39, Autumn 2010). In January she submitted "Thomas Arundel, 'Hammer of Heresy,' and What He Did to the English Fifteenth Century" for issue No. 40.

For March 2011 **Karen Offen** was named Routledge History Author of the Month. Routledge, founded in 1836, is a global publisher of academic books, journals and online resources in the humanities and social sciences.

Fred Isaac's *Jews of Oakland and Berkeley* was published by Arcadia Press in 2009, and *A Road of our own Choosing: A History of Reform*

MEMBER NEWS

Judaism in America will be out later this spring from the Union for Reform Judaism Press.

Judith Offer and Alan Leon, artist, have just finished her newest book of poetry, *Double Crossing*. "The poems, 'set' on two streets in Oakland, Webster Street and MacArthur Boulevard, feature many subjects, but readers will find a heavy influence of history." Available at Laurel Book Store and at Walden Pond Books.

We welcome **five new members** to the Institute. **Jennifer Bator** has degrees in history (Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington) and Library and Information Science, with a specialization in Archival Studies (University of Pittsburgh). She has held positions at the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, the Carnegie Mellon University Archives, and the Water Resources Archives, UC Berkeley. Her research interests include the collaboration of society and cultural institutions (museums, libraries, archives) in the creation of public memory and more generally medieval/early modern Europe.

Robert J. Chandler (Ph.D. from UC Riverside) was historian at Wells Fargo Bank from 1978 to 2010. His list of publications numbers over fifty and includes: *California: An Illustrated History* (2004) and *Black and White: Lithographer and Painter Grafton Tyler Brown* (forthcoming, Book Club of California). He has written extensively on California and the civil war.

Neil B. Dukas comes to us as a member of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars. After a B.A. in Political Studies, an M.A. in Humanities, and a career in the Canadian Armed Forces (active and reserve), he joined the faculty of Heald Business College in Honolulu, Hawaii (finishing as dean of instruction). He recently retired as public information assistant at the

Marin Municipal Water District. He has published *A Military History of Sovereign Hawai'i* (2004) and *A Pocket Guide to the Battle of Nuuanu, 1795* (2010), which has been nominated for a Ka Palapala Po'okela Award, which is presented annually by the Hawaii Book Publishers Association honoring the best books from Hawaii published during the previous year. His current interests include Pre-annexation Hawaiian military history and the life of Volney V. Ashford.

Sharan Newman (brought to us by Georgia Wright) is a medieval historian and author who has an M.A. in medieval literature from Michigan State University and doctoral work at UCSB in medieval studies. She has written a series of medieval mysteries (nine titles), several of which have won awards, and another mystery set in more recent times (*The Shanghai Tunnel*, Oregon in 1868). She writes nonfiction as well: *The Real History Behind the Da Vinci Code* (2005) and *The Real History Behind the Templars* (2008). *The Real History of the End of the World* comes out this April. Sharan is a member of the Medieval Academy and the Medieval Association of the Pacific.

Persia Woolley is a published author of both fiction and nonfiction. Her Guinevere trilogy, a fictional account of the King Arthur legend through Guinevere's eyes, was originally published by Poseidon Press and now, twenty years later, is being reissued by Sourcebooks. It has been translated into seven languages. Persia's nonfiction includes *How to Write and Sell Historical Fiction*. Currently she is researching the Trojan War for her next book.

SPECIAL REPORT

Tour of Oakland's Temple Sinai

On January 23, a group of Institute members gathered for a tour and history of Temple Sinai in Oakland by **Fred Isaac**, who is also a member of the Temple and its archivist. Although it was Sunday, the chapel and auditorium buzzed with rehearsals of the Purim play, loosely based on the Book of Esther, interpreted each year according to the ideas of the playwrights. The large activity room was full of fifth graders whooping it up. We wandered through, invisible as old folks are to the young, to visit the sanctuary, the large domed structure erected in 1913-1914. How did they do that? In my neighborhood it takes three to four years, with people hammering six days a week, to rebuild or simply modify!

The Temple proper is suffused with light from stained glass windows. All but the doors before the Torah scrolls is original. The dome, supported on an unusual polygonal drum, has been reinforced. Nothing in this vast structure struck me as derivative, as if in this new margin of the country all must be re-imagined. (Temple Emmanuel in San Francisco, though, is based upon a truncated version of the Hagia Sophia in Constantinople.)

The other parts of the building were completed last year, again in a miraculously short time. Their exteriors are clad in vertical metal panels of a dull grey brown hue, convexly curved with a gently curved roof over the chapel. All the new spaces are generously lit—chapel, activity room, auditorium and halls and offices. Running through the new wing, end to end, is a wall comprised of very small square limestone blocks from Jerusalem, varied in color and texture.

The Temple and the new parts cannot be seen together from the exteriors, preventing them from clashing—the new metal with the old, yellow tile cladding, nor the modern forms from

the more traditional. Surrounding the new building on this generous lot are play yards and gardens and a parking lot, the latter with a wonderful view of the new part.

Fred sat us down in his domain, the library. As historian he spoke about the many people who had supported the project and the list of rabbis who had served since 1881. The congregation, first assembled in 1876, was Orthodox, but it turned Reform around 1905. Still, there was no acrimonious schism, and today the East Bay Committee of Rabbis, including Orthodox, Reformed, and the more recent Conservative, meets harmoniously.

Georgia Wright

Remembering Jean Wilkinson

One of the earliest members of the Institute, and my friend and mentor, Jean Wilkinson died at age 96 in Berkeley in December. We met in the mid 1970s when she was an enthusiastic world history teacher at Berkeley High. She, like myself, was eager to integrate information about women's history into her courses. We subsequently worked together on Title IX-funded world history units, on a book of annotated history resources for the secondary student, and published an anthology of women's coming of age experiences throughout time. In retirement Jean continued traveling with study groups to explore social issues abroad while continuing her active political engagement at home.

Lyn Reese

Continued from page 9

However, FDR after being elected President during the Great Depression, was the darling of the huge majority of his fellow Americans, and *The Fireside Conversations* shows that again and again. Cornelia's latest book is highly recommended—you'll enjoy it.

BOOK REVIEW

The Fireside Conversations: America Responds to FDR during the Great Depression
Lawrence W. Levine and Cornelia R. Levine.
Berkeley (UC Press, 2010)

Almost a decade ago, Cornelia Levine and her husband, UC History Professor Lawrence Levine, produced a historical tour de force: an extensive sampling of the letters, cards, notes, and telegrams from people of all classes and economic levels throughout the country written in response to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "Fireside Chats" during his Presidency. This book was titled *The People and the President: America's Conversation with FDR*, and it is a marvelous read.

Now a new and abridged paperback edition of the book has appeared: *The Fireside Conversations: America Responds to FDR during the Great Depression*, with a new foreword by noted historian Michael Kazin, and a new epilogue. This paperback, essentially the first 265 pages of the original book, covers the first six years of FDR's Presidency. It features the issues giving rise to the Fireside Chats, the Chats themselves, and numerous responses from throughout the country during that time.

Americans in the twenty-first century can barely comprehend the world of communications as it existed when President Roosevelt was inaugurated in March 1933. There were newspapers and magazines. Radio as we know it was barely a decade old. FDR's first Fireside Chat, eight days after his Inauguration, dealt with the so-called bank holiday, in which the President acted to close all banks to prevent many if not most of them from collapsing. In explaining this severe and unprecedented step, a President of the United States was for the first time speaking directly to all the people. (*The Fireside Conversations* conservatively estimates that the radio audience for that talk was at least forty million people.) The positive response was "a

remarkable flood of letters and telegrams" from, among others, a wife in Dubuque, Iowa; a Justice of the New York Supreme Court, and the president of Standard Oil in San Francisco, and it demonstrated that radio was the perfect medium for FDR to communicate to Americans.

There were two more Chats in 1933 as FDR explained his New Deal to lift the country out of its worst Depression to that date. Eight months later, in mid-1934, he spoke to his constituents further about the New Deal, and later that year, just before the 1934 mid-term election, he went on radio again, resulting in overwhelming Congressional victories for his party.

The Fireside Conversations describes the one Fireside Chat in 1935, and one more the next year, before the 1936 Presidential election in which Republican opponent, Kansas Governor Alfred M. Landon, won the electoral votes of only two states. Then came the "Supreme Court Packing" effort, in which FDR sought to have the number of justices increased to more than the nine, which had been the norm since after the Civil War. FDR did three Fire-side Chats in 1937; but the country, supportive though it was, had no stomach for such a radical change. There was one more Chat, in 1938, seeking to combat the economic downturn of 1937-38.

A major attraction of *Fireside Conversations* is the enthusiastic response of FDR supporters. But there were also occasional negative comments, such as one in 1934 from a man from Virginia, who wrote, "... Your policies have added to our confusion by taking away our former standards of stability and giving us no future guide..." and another, a Massachusetts resident, who wrote, "My dear President, Your speech last night should go down in history, along with many of your previous acts, as a display of mental incompetency..."

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CALENDAR

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| March 20 | Discussion of Timothy Snyder's <i>Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin</i> |
| March 27 | Work-in-Progress – Sharan Newman |
| May 1 | Work-in-Progress – Neil Dukas |
| May 21 | California Round Table |

Members are encouraged to let us know all their news – a paper being given at a conference; a new job or position; the awarding of a grant or fellowship. Please send all material for the NEWSLETTER either by e-mail to msakovich@juno or to the Institute's postal address given below. Also, we welcome the opportunity to review members' newly published books. Contact **Autumn Stanley** at autumn_stanley@sbcglobal.net. The deadline for the next NEWSLETTER is **May 31, 2011**.

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