

## *Editors' Preface*

*The Welebaethan* serves as a reminder of the expertise and devotion of the faculty and student body at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), to understanding the past. Over the past half century, it has served as a wellspring of unique and innovative research, become a starting point for additional study, and fostered lasting collegial relationships between students and faculty. In its own way, the voice of *The Welebaethan* has been woven into the fabric of the people and history of the university.

Vanessa Gunther (former faculty advisor to *The Welebaethan*)

For fifty years, *The Welebaethan* has been a bastion of the CSUF community, a record of the faculty and student-scholars who have roamed CSUF's sprawling campus and those who still traverse its hallowed corridors. For fifty years, the scholarship of budding historians has found a home in its pages, providing opportunities. For fifty years, the spark of innovation has inspired research and study, encouraging the further education of its participants and readers. For fifty years, the journal has been lovingly perused by authors, editors, and faculty, forging new relationships.

Continuing this long tradition, we are ecstatic to present Volume 50 (2023) of *The Welebaethan*. Once more, as it has done so many times before, the journal offers a variety of articles, essays, editions, and reviews that, we hope, will interest our readers. We embarked upon this journey with the knowledge of what the year 2023 meant for the journal, and we are excited to celebrate such a significant anniversary. On this, the golden jubilee of *The Welebaethan*, we would like to take the opportunity to reflect on the past year and the longer impact of the journal. The legacy of the journal is reflected in the volume's cover art, which was meticulously created by James Marshall Novak, an esteemed alumnus of our History program. The artwork features four multi-colored variations of an early-1970s portrait of Shirley A. Weleba, a scholar of African history at CSUF and the namesake of *The Welebaethan*.

As has been the standard since its inception, *The Welebaethan* contains a myriad of articles and essays by our fellow graduate and undergraduate historians at CSUF, but also—as a testament that the journal accepts submissions from scholars elsewhere—an article from a scholar at Rowan University in New Jersey. Spanning an extensive range of time periods and subject matters, the fourteen articles and essays focus on such topics as the Rus' expression of *Romanitas* between the tenth and fifteenth centuries; eighteenth-century sermons for soldiers in Great Britain; race, religion, and the development of slavery in colonial Virginia; the activism of women, lesbians, and people of color during the HIV/AIDS epidemic in San Francisco, California; improving Holocaust education through digitized culture; the "Lost Cause" movement and the debate over Confederate monuments; and the emergence of Hip Hop Studies in

America and its historical relevance. Such scholarship is evidence of the very expertise and devotion spoken of by Vanessa Gunther, a former faculty advisor to the journal.

In addition to celebrating fifty years of *The Welebaethan*, 2023 also corresponds with the fifth year of the journal as a purely digital enterprise. Since moving to an online format, the journal has been able to include editions and reviews, many of which are transcribed and composed by members of CSUF's "History and Editing" seminar (HIST406A). This volume in particular features seven editions of unpublished documents and oral histories from CSUF's University Archives and Special Collections (UA&SC) as well as the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH), including an English land indenture from 1826; a Civil War diary from 1863; letters in Spanish that reveal early California history from the Mexican period and early years of statehood (1845–1876); and our first ever postcard collection, which contains twenty-three century-old cards with images from across southern California. Also included are three transcriptions of interviews: one with Nellie Pando Rocha who lived in an original Orange County *colonia*; one with Joseph Milton regarding his recollections of Vietnam and the Civil Rights movement in the United States; and one with Joseph Cordova about the Sephardic Jewish community in Los Angeles. Finally, this volume presents twenty-four reviews of items that are of interest to scholars in the humanities and social sciences, including books, museums, exhibitions, films, television series, podcasts, and games. It must be noted that the opinions expressed in this volume's articles, essays, editions, and reviews belong, of course, to the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the journal's editors.

The publication of the fiftieth volume of *The Welebaethan* could not have been accomplished without the staunch dedication and constant support of the faculty in CSUF's Department of History and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. We must first extend our gratitude to Jochen Burgtorf, our faculty advisor, whose seemingly endless wisdom and knowledge about all things having to do with language and grammar, Baylor Guide and Chicago Manual of Style formatting, and keyboard shortcuts has guided us through the editing and publication process: our thanks for all you have done cannot be fully expressed in words alone. We sincerely thank all those involved in our triple-blind review process—from CSUF faculty, staff, students, and alumni to "external" members of the historical community—for their time and effort in offering comments, insights, and suggestions. On that note, we would like to thank CSUF's Theta-Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta for its backing of the journal. We give special thanks to Lisa Tran, the Chair of CSUF's Department of History, for her support of *The Welebaethan*. Our profound appreciation also goes to Natalie Garcia and Patrisia Prestinary, head archivists of COPH and UA&SC respectively, for providing

access to the manuscripts and oral histories transcribed in the enclosed editions. And we are so incredibly grateful to Mariea Daniell Whittington, a distinguished alumna of CSUF's Department of History and our illustrious website administrator, whose commitment makes the journal's online presence possible. Finally, we must thank you, dear reader. As you peruse the articles, essays, editions, and reviews, you bear witness to the culmination of but a single journey in a larger tradition. We offer our thanks to those who came before us and extend our well-wishes to those who will come afterward. Here is to fifty more years, at least, of *The Welebaethan*!

Fullerton, June 11, 2023

RACHEL JENSEN of Buena Park, California, earned a B.A. in History and English (2015) at Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, where she was a member of the Iota-Epsilon Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society) and the Nu-Phi Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta (English Honor Society). She earned a Single Subject Teaching Credential in Social Science and English (2017) at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF). She is currently pursuing an M.A. in History at CSUF, where she is a member of the Theta-Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society).

ERIC MORALES of Anaheim, California, earned a B.A. in Communication Studies (2015) at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF). He is currently pursuing an M.A. in History at CSUF, where he is a member of the Theta-Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society).

JACOB NIKOLSON of San Marcos, California, earned a B.S. in Business Administration (2020) at California State University, San Marcos. He is currently pursuing an M.A. in History at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), where he is a member of the History Student Association (HSA) and the Theta-Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society).

ISAIAH COLTON THOMPSON of Cleveland, Ohio, earned two A.A. degrees in Liberal Arts (2018) at Victor Valley College in Victorville, California, a B.A. in Religious Studies and History (2021) and an M.A. in History (2023) at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), where he is a former member of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, the McNair Scholars Program, and the Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Program, as well as a member of the Theta-Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society).