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A Journal of History

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Voices of a Silenced Communal Library. Digital illustration, painted in Photoshop, by Dominic Cervantes (BFA Program, CSUF; domcervantes.art@gmail.com; www.domcervantes.art), based on an idea by Elizabeth Macias. Painting of a bookshelf featuring, on the books' spines, the themes of works published in Volume 51 (2024) of *The Welebaethan: A Journal of History*, but wrapped in "Banned Books / Do Not Read" tape. In light of conversations about censorship and book banning, it becomes ever more vital to recognize the indispensable role that reading and books play in fostering critical thinking, empathy, and the preservation of the diverse perspectives that are essential for society to thrive.

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First published in 1974, *The Welebaethan: A Journal of History* is named after Shirley A. Weleba (1930-1972), a faculty member in CSUF's Department of History. Weleba, a scholar of African history, had received her Ph.D. from the University of Southern California in 1969 for her dissertation "Trial by Jury in Southern Rhodesia, 1900-1912."