

Editors' Preface

All men dream: but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find that it was vanity: but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act their dreams with open eyes, to make it possible. – T. E. Lawrence (1888-1935)

It has been quite the year. As the world has changed considerably due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our dreams have been put on hold: we have been forced to be content with dreaming in the dark, waiting for the day when we can dream again with eyes wide open and see each other in the light of day rather than by the light of a screen. However, this year's *Welebaethan* is somewhat of an exception to these sentiments. It has been a special pleasure to work with a fantastic and dedicated team to put together a distinct and fascinating journal. Volume 48 (2021) of the *Welebaethan* could not have come at a more exceptional time. For better or worse, a fair number of the articles, editions, and oral histories in this issue have become ever so relevant in consequence of both domestic and global events. This journal highlights insightful works of interest to the field of history and the humanities from undergraduate and graduate scholars, produced at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF). In addition, this year's *Welebaethan* features an article by Renee Jean, a CSUF alumna who is now a graduate scholar at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, which we hope will encourage others to take advantage of our journal's open submission guidelines.

Volume 48 includes eighteen essays which cover a range of distinct periods and subject matters. From an alleged ancient prophecy about the foundation of Kiev, via an examination of Faroese folk metal lyrics concerning the defense of a domestic culture, to a critique of the handling of collective memory at a Japanese American incarceration site through photography, our journal attests to diversity. This volume also features eight editions of unpublished documents and oral histories from CSUF's University Archives and Special Collections (UA&SC) as well as the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public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 correspondence from the American Revolutionary War; a nineteenth-century album of engravings, poems, and letters dedicated to one Jennie Farr; and transcriptions of interviews with Peter Bailey, a colleague of Malcolm X and member of the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU), and Silvino Ramirez who experienced the 1947 *Mendez v. Westminster* case and the climate of segregation in Orange County, California. Lastly, this volume offers twenty-four thoughtful reviews of various media that touch upon historical inquiry, including books, films, online exhibitions, and games. The opinions communicated in these reviews do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of the editors.

This year's publication of the *Welebaethan* could not have been accomplished without the steadfast dedication and aid of CSUF's faculty members in the History Department and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Professor Jochen Burgtorf, our faculty advisor, has offered us words of encouragement throughout the production process, and we commend him for his dedication to our editing

efforts. This volume also benefited immensely from the generosity of our faculty readers, Professors Nancy Fitch, Aitana Guia, Stephen Neufeld, Stephen O'Connor, Jasamin Rostam-Kolayi, and Philippe Zacaïr. Their efforts have honed the quality of this journal, and—what is more—they have made a lasting contribution to the professional development of each and every author with whom they have worked. We extend our special thanks to the Chair of CSUF's History Department, Professor Jasamin Rostam-Kolayi, for her enthusiastic backing of the *Welebaethan*. Our profound appreciation also goes to Natalie Navar Garcia and Patrisia Prestinary, head archivists for COPH and UA&SC, respectively, for providing the materials for the editions. Finally, we owe a considerable debt of gratitude to Mariea Daniell Whittington, a distinguished alumna of the History Department, for her unwavering commitment to making our journal's online presence possible.

Lastly, we want to particularly thank and dedicate this volume to the late Nancy Fitch (1946-2020), Professor of History Emerita at CSUF, who was a dedicated advocate of the *Welebaethan* throughout her tenure at this institution—as Chair, professor, colleague, and kindhearted friend who, in her final weeks, was still reviewing works submitted to our journal. It is our wish that readers of past, present, and future volumes of the *Welebaethan* may sense Professor Fitch's lasting contribution and legacy in the development of this journal. We, the editors, hope that readers will appreciate and be engaged with this collaborative publication and become, as a result, "dreamers of the day."

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EMANUEL AYALA of Anaheim, California, earned his A.A. in History at Fullerton College (2018) and his B.A. in History "magna cum laude" at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) (2020). He is currently pursuing an M.A. in History at CSUF, where he is a member and the 2020/2021 president of the Theta-Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society).

LUCA AZUMA of Rancho Santa Margarita, California, earned his B.A. in History and Political Thought at Concordia University Irvine (2019) and his M.A. in History at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) (2021), where he is a member of the Theta-Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society).

MATTHEW KELLY of Buena Park, California, earned his A.A. in History at Cypress College (2020). He is currently pursuing a B.A. in History as well as a teaching credential at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), where he is a member of the Theta-Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society).