

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT you knew everything about California history, our authors come along to surprise you: there is always more.

In this issue of *California History*, Adam Romero masterfully reconstructs the chemicalization of California gold mining in the late 1880s, weaving together geological, environmental, and economic histories in a highly original interpretation of the state's mining history. Bernhard Rohrbacher finds a rich and dark history at Southern California's Crescenta Valley Park, originally called Hindenburg Park by the German-American League, which sponsored Nazi rallies there in the 1930s. In our new *Essay* section, Julia Bricklin recounts the colorful career of Georgia Ann Hill Robinson, the first African American woman hired by the Los Angeles Police Department, and one of the first hired by a formal police force in the United States.

After book reviews by Laura Alice Watt and Natale Zappia, you will find a *Spotlight* section by Shelly Kale, her last. Kale has authored the *Spotlight* section for five years and served as Managing Editor for the journal between 2007 and 2013. We will miss her keen eye and sage wisdom.

JOSH SIDES, LOS ANGELES