

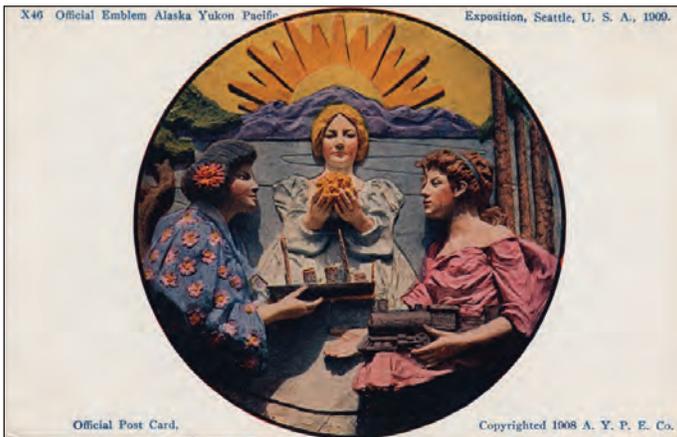
## Shared History, Nearby History

Lorraine McConaghy | [lorraine.mcconaghy@seattlehistory.org](mailto:lorraine.mcconaghy@seattlehistory.org)

Since 1998, Seattle's Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI) has offered Nearby History, a program that teaches the skills and introduces the tools and resources of doing history-from-scratch. Nearby History has trained thousands of "ordinary people" to conduct research, interpret evidence, develop a thesis, and present their ideas in public. Some Nearby Historians have needed videography or oral history interviewing skills; others have needed assistance in editing a collection of Vietnam War love letters or preserving their grandparents' snapshots of Coney Island. But each has benefited from Nearby History's careful grounding in research and interpretation. At MOHAI, program participants actually do history; they become Nearby Historians, agents in making historical meaning in their lives and their communities. As a public historian, it has seemed my professional responsibility to give away the skills that I acquired in graduate school. Doing history is not only a professional calling, but a personal pleasure and a civic expression.



Courtesy of Howard Giske/MOHAI



Official emblem of the 1909 Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition, which was the shared topic of the 2009 Nearby History program. Courtesy of Museum of History & Industry.

Susan Rennels, history librarian at Seattle Public Library, and I framed Nearby History in 1996 during a long series of coffeehouse conversations. We had both recently reread David Kyvig and Myron Marty's *Nearby History: Exploring the Past around You* (1982), and I mailed a "fan letter" to Kyvig and Marty, asking permission to borrow the name "Nearby History" for our program, which they kindly granted. We then crafted a proposal to the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and won funding to pilot Nearby History as a 1998 partnership between the library and the museum, in which the museum offered the program as an eight-part series at three library sites. We learned a lot that first year about what worked and what didn't work.

Fast forward. In following years, MOHAI offered Nearby History at other branches of Seattle Public Library and throughout the metro region, in King County Library System branches. In 2004, the program moved to the museum itself, and tested "virtual field trips" for the first time. Librarians and archivists from regional repositories would visit to

demonstrate their online catalogs and finding aids and to introduce their collections to participants. In addition to the basic program in Nearby History—now shortened to six sessions—MOHAI offered a day-long training in oral history interviewing. We shortly added a second oral history session in response to popular demand, and then day-long classes in archiving, family history research, videography, and personal collection management. In spring 2005, we introduced a ten-week writers' seminar to the program, which convened a dozen researchers to write history, whether an essay, chapter, exhibit storyline, memoir, curriculum or short story. Working side-by-side, Nearby Historians critiqued one another's writing, supported one another's research, and developed as strong a community as any graduate colloquium.

History-doing is so powerful and so satisfying that we shouldn't keep it to ourselves.

[continued on page 10 →](#)

### Now Appearing at NCPH.org

- Looking for a new position or advertising an opening? It's free to search or post public history related positions and internships in the "Jobs" section.
- A new Best Practices document, "Graduate Certificate Programs in Public History," is listed in the "Education" section.
- The 2011 Call for Proposals (see back cover of this issue) appears under "Conferences"; deadline is July 15.

# Portland — 2010 Annual Meeting



Speed Networking.



Poster Session.



Graduate Students from IUPUI enjoying dinner at Jake's Famous Crawfish. Courtesy of David Pfeiffer.



Joint NCPH/ASEH Graduate Student Reception. Courtesy of David Pfeiffer.



30th Anniversary Cake. Courtesy of Mary Bryans.



Portland Bike Tour Participants. Courtesy of Cathy Stanton.



Breakout Session—*The Heritage of the World in Trust: Conservation in a Changing Climate.* Courtesy of Cathy Stanton.



Speed Networking.

# Inside This Issue

A Quarterly Publication of the  
National Council on Public History

4  
2010 Award Winners

6  
Roundtable Discussion of  
*The Public Historian*

8  
Consulting Comments

9  
Introducing Students to Public  
History in the Borderlands

11  
President's Comments

12  
From the Executive Director

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## Portland, the Place to Be

More than 1,150 public- and environmentally-minded historians rubbed elbows in Portland, Oregon, for the joint annual meeting of NCPH and the American Society for Environmental History, March 10-13. It was a chance for professionals in the two closely related fields to share information and ideas and to connect with colleagues. Nearly 140 breakout sessions, 15 NCPH working group discussions, and 5 professional development workshops were presented during the four-day conference. Rainy weather did little to deter spirits on the Friday afternoon field trips in which some 400 people participated. Other highlights were a floating seminar on the Willamette River, a daylong National Park Service/ASEH workshop focusing on environmental history and the NPS, President Marianne Babal's address on "Sticky History" (see the NCPH conference blog for coverage), and the Public Plenary by award-winning author and journalist Adam Hochschild, which was covered by C-SPAN. (His presentation can be viewed online at <http://www.c-span.org/>.)

Thanks to all who participated for their patience in navigating the double-tracked printed program, multiple floors of the Hilton, crowded elevators, and overlapping ASEH and NCPH events. You can catch up on commentary about and photographs from the conference on the NCPH blog at <http://ncph2010.blogspot.com/>.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for April 6-10, 2011, for the NCPH annual meeting in Pensacola, Florida. The new "Call for Proposals" is on the NCPH website.



President Marianne Babal delivers the Presidential Address.  
Courtesy of Stephanie Roche.



Awards Luncheon and Business Meeting.  
Courtesy of Stephanie Roche.



Speed Networking Event.



## THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HISTORY

Given the essential value of historical understanding, the National Council on Public History promotes professionalism among history practitioners and their engagement with the public. *Public History News* is published in March, June, September, and December. Individual membership orders, changes of address, and business and editorial correspondence should be addressed to National Council on Public History, 327 Cavanaugh Hall – IUPUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140. E-mail: [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu). Tel: 317-274-2716. New members are welcome. Join online or renew at [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org). Institutional subscription orders, changes of address, and business correspondence should be addressed to Journals and Digital Publishing Division, University of California Press, 2000 Center St., Ste. 303, Berkeley, CA 94704-1223. Or visit [www.ucpress.edu](http://www.ucpress.edu). We welcome submissions to *Public History News* sent to John Dichtl, Editor, at the above address. Articles are 400-800 words in length; announcements and bulletin items are up to 75 words. NCPH reserves the right to reject material that is not consistent with the goals and purposes of the organization. Headquartered on the campus of Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, NCPH benefits greatly from the generous support of the IU School of Liberal Arts.

# → Congratulations 2010 Award Winners

Recipients of 2010 NCPH Annual Awards were honored at the luncheon, Saturday, March 13, during the Annual Meeting in Portland.



The 2010 NCPH Award winners. Courtesy of Stephanie Roche.

## Robert Kelley Memorial Award

*Recognizing distinguished achievements by individuals, institutions, or nonprofit or corporate entities for having made significant inroads in making history relevant to individual lives of ordinary people outside of academia*

### Richard Allan Baker, United States Senate Historical Office



Kelley Award winner and former U.S. Senate Historian Richard Baker receives congratulations from NCPH President Marianne Babal. Courtesy of Stephanie Roche.

During his 34 years as U.S. Senate Historian, Dick Baker contributed significantly to the field of public history. When appointed as the Senate's first historian in 1975, Senate leaders described his mission as simply "to promote the history of the Senate." Baker spent more than three decades defining that goal and establishing extensive archival, historical, and public outreach programs. These

programs have included preserving and providing access to Senate records, conducting oral histories, responding to research requests, and developing historical publications, commemorations, conferences, and museum exhibits. He turned the office into the institutional memory of the Senate, safeguarding and interpreting records that offer insights into the Senate and its role in making public policy.

Under Baker's direction, the Senate Historical Office produced numerous books, articles, brochures, and pamphlets about Senate and Capitol history. Defining his mission as a public historian to reach public audiences as widely as possible, Baker helped teachers incorporate congressional history into the curricula. He appeared frequently on radio and television, most extensively on C-SPAN, to explain the Senate's history and practices, and regularly spoke to audiences of senators, staff, interns, scholars, and visitors from other governments. In recent years, Dick Baker became a steadfast advocate for a Capitol Visitors Center and devoted much attention to the center's exhibit hall, the first museum dedicated to the history of the U.S. Congress and Capitol. Upon his retirement on August 31, 2009, the Senate recognized his efforts to maintain a model public history program by adopting a resolution naming him the Senate's first Historian Emeritus.

## Outstanding Public History Project Award

### *Bracero History Archive*

**Matthew Garcia**, Brown University; **James Halabuk**, George Mason University; **Sharon Leon**, George Mason University; **Peter Liebhold**, National Museum of American History; **Kristine Navarro-McElhaney**, University of Texas El Paso, Institute of Oral History

## *Nevada Test Site Oral History Project*

**Robert Futrell, Andrew Kirk, and Mary Palevsky**, University of Nevada Las Vegas

The Nevada Test Site Oral History Project is a "comprehensive program dedicated to documenting, preserving, and disseminating the remembered past of persons affiliated and affected by the Nevada Test Site during the Cold War," and a University of Nevada Las Vegas, University Libraries and the Department of History partnership. The Bracero History Archive is a collaboration that includes, The Center for History and the New Media at George Mason University, the Smithsonian National Museum of American History Brown University and the Institute of Oral History at the University of Texas El Paso. The Bracero archive collects and makes available the oral histories and artifacts pertaining to the Bracero Program, a United States agricultural guest laborer program for Mexicans that spanned 1942-1964. Both projects create a memory bank of mid-20th century primary historical experiences based on living testimony, utilize digital media to broadly disseminate this history, and demonstrate passion and commitment to public history and pedagogy.

## Honorable Mention

- Allegany County, Maryland, African American History Project (Western Maryland Regional Library)
- 1779 Committee of Safety Meetings (Norwalk Historical Society)
- National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom (National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom)
- De la Pluma a la Imprenta: La Cultura Impresa en Puerto Rico, 1806-1906 (Museum of History, Anthropology, and Art, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus)
- Utah Indian Curriculum Guide (American West Center)
- District of Columbia Neighborhood Heritage Trails (Cultural Tourism DC and District Department of Transportation)

## NCPH Book Award



**Ronald Rudin, *Remembering and Forgetting in Acadie: A Historian's Journey through Public Memory*** (The University of Toronto Press, 2009)

In 2004 and 2005, Canadians commemorated two major historical events: the 400th anniversary of the birth of French Acadia and the 250th anniversary of the first British deportations of Acadians before the Seven Years War. As an "embedded" historian and participant/observer, Ronald Rudin witnessed and embraced these remembrances. He interviewed a broad range of stakeholders and mined the archives of commemorations past and present, in order to investigate how and why people recall and celebrate some past events but leave others in the shadows. In his journeys through landscapes of Acadian, Mi'kmaq, and Passamaquoddy historical memory, Rudin ranged over family lore, cherished sites, and community traditions. He also expertly navigated the contentious terrain occupied by local, provincial, First Nations, and federal governments. As a historian and as a reporter, Rudin always remained open to the unexpected discovery, including his recognition that his own family's memories of the Holocaust informed his understanding of Acadian cycles of remembrance of the tragic deportations of the 18th century. *Remembering and Forgetting in Acadie* is the book component of a broader project that includes a documentary film and an internet resource site. It is a model of participatory, collaborative public history practice.

# Congratulations 2010 Award Winners

## Excellence in Consulting Award

**Christine Baron**, Baron Consulting

Baron's work for the Old North Foundation is an excellent example of applying sound educational theory and innovative web design in the development of a digital history web site.

## Honorable Mention

Susan Kline, Independent Scholar and Preservation Consultant

## G. Wesley Johnson Award

Named in honor of the founding editor of *The Public Historian*, it recognizes the most outstanding article appearing in the journal during the previous volume year. NCPH acknowledges the generous support of Stan Hordes of HMS Associates in Santa Fe, NM, for underwriting this award.

## Lisa DiCaprio, "The Betrayal of Srebrenica: The Ten-Year Commemoration"

*The Public Historian* 31: 3 (2009)

Lisa DiCaprio's "The Betrayal of Srebrenica: The Ten-Year Commemoration" is a "Report from the Field" that expands our sense of public history and its possibilities. The article describes an exhibit project that documents the tenth-anniversary commemoration of the July 1995 massacre of 8,000 Muslims during the Bosnian war. The exhibit in part documents an absence—the thousands of "missing" victims. But more, the project focuses on enduring presences—of the victims in memory (30,000 people attended the commemoration) and of the international "campaign for truth and justice" that continues to press for information, redress, and memorialization of the massacre. The article, like the exhibit it details, breaks down boundaries between memory and history, past and present, the personal and political.

## NCPH New Professional Award

**Laura McDowell**

A recent graduate of Loyola University, McDowell is the Museum Resource and Development Coordinator at the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian.

## HRA New Professional Award



HRA New Professional Award recipient, Alisha Cromwell, a graduate of the University of South Carolina Public History Program, with Connie Schulz, USC professor emerita. Courtesy of Stephanie Roche.

NCPH acknowledges the generous support of Historical Research Associates, Inc., for underwriting this award.

## Alisha Cromwell

A 2008 graduate of the University of South Carolina, Cromwell formed her own consulting firm called Living City Preservation.

## Student Project Award

**Rachael Binning, Elizabeth Manekin, and Aliza Schiff**, Brown University

***Faces of Fox Point: A Community History Project***



Student Project award winners Elizabeth Manekin (2nd from left), Rachael Binning, and Aliza Schiff with their faculty advisor, Anne Valk (left), Associate Director for Programs at the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage, Brown University. Courtesy of Stephanie Roche.

The project exemplifies the role of public history with a strong community and neighborhood focus, innovative approaches, and a sound scholarly basis. It originated from a local historian's collection of photographs which had not been formally donated to a historical institution. A larger group of students first conducted oral history interviews in the neighborhood. These three students then conceptualized a most innovative extension of that initial effort, creating an annotated Flickr site presenting over 10,000 images of the neighborhood, both historic and present, where visitors can enter searchable comments onto the images. The awardees set up meetings for neighborhood residents, who could view the images and talk, and the students then recorded comments directly onto the Flickr site. Binning, Manekin, and Schiff then created a 6th-grade curriculum in a local school in which students learned how to take images of the neighborhood and act as their own "oral historian." The results of this work created the third section of an exhibit planned by the awardees: 6th-graders trained as docents for the exhibit.

## Honorable Mention

**Threads in Greensboro's Past**

Miriam Farris, Christopher Jordan, and Ethan Moore, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

## Service Award

Given this year for extraordinary service in video-recording and production and oral history interviewing in conjunction with three NCPH annual meetings and its 30th Anniversary commemoration.

**Tim Roberts**, University of West Florida

**Roy Oberto**, University of West Florida

## Graduate Student Travel Award

Provides assistance for conference travel costs for five graduate students who will present a session or poster or will participate in a working group at the annual meeting

**Susan Ashley**, York University

**Jennifer Carpenter**, University of Maryland, College Park

**Miriam Farris**, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

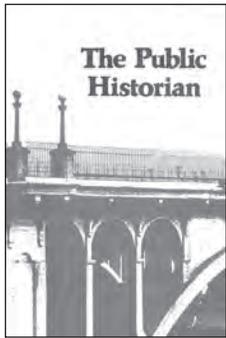
**Tyler DeWayne Moore**, Middle Tennessee State University

**Ashley Whitehead**, West Virginia University

# Roundtable Discussion of *The Public Historian*

Page Putnam Miller and Jann Warren-Findley

Even before the formal organization of the NCPH in 1980, the journal, *The Public Historian* (TPH), was taking shape under the auspices of the Graduate Program in Public Historical Studies at University of California, Santa Barbara. With its first issue in 1978, TPH welcomed contributions that addressed broad issues and questions within the field, regularly featured articles that discussed methodologies, and highlighted the application of historical interpretation in a variety of settings. In this 30th anniversary year, it seemed appropriate to take stock of the impact of our journal of record on the evolving field of public history and to create a forum for discussing the future of TPH. Building on the comments offered by Wes Johnson, the founding editor, in a session at the 2009 NCPH Annual Meeting, the 2010 roundtable discussion explored the journal's current status and brainstormed about its future, offering suggestions of new ways to engage with the evolving challenges and opportunities confronting public historians in the 21st century.

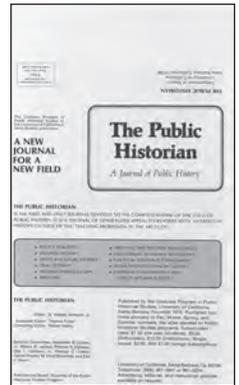


Following some preliminary remarks, Page Putnam Miller, the moderator of this session, asked for opening comments from four roundtable participants who included a former editor of TPH, a practicing public historian, a public history educator, and a current graduate student.

Otis L. Graham, who was editor of TPH from 1989 to 1997, noted that the journal has been constantly evolving and on his watch he was pleased to see the expansion of attention to museum exhibits and to gray literature. His question for the future dealt with how the journal would make use of “surging digital excitement” to enrich the publication. Daniel T. Killoren, a PhD student at Arizona State University, spoke first to the shallowness of research if one becomes too dependent on digital resources. He praised TPH for giving the field its identity. For him, the journal has been as a wonderful training manual,

one that he used in preparation for his comprehensive exams by reading the entire set of past issues. Betty K. Koed, the Association Historian in the Senate Historical Office, took the role of the friendly critic and made four recommendations: to give more attention to federal history, to help us explain what we do to the public, to be more inclusive of all types of public history products, and to get over a bias against commemorative history.

Jann Warren-Findley, Associate Professor at Arizona State University, said that she used the journal as a “flexible textbook.” She would like to see the journal reclaim policy history, for articles in this area have diminished significantly since the creation of a policy history journal. Warren-Findley then pointed to digital efforts being made by projects like Gutenberg-e, a joint effort of the American Historical Association and Columbia University Press funded by the Mellon Foundation. Through Gutenberg-e’s direction, postdocs turned their dissertations into digital publications, complete with a wide variety of links to media, primary documents, gray literature, etc. that were available. Warren-Findley thought that a similar adaptation for TPH might attract the attention of new and younger readers



A flyer mailed in 1979 to boost the subscription list for the new journal.

Following these brief opening presentations, Miller asked for comments and questions from the audience. A very lively discussion followed with the majority of the audience participating. Three topics that commanded the most interest were how to enrich the journal with expanded digital use, how to include more gray literature, and how to claim leadership in the international public history community. The closing words praised the editors and staff of *The Public Historian*, who over the years have created a publication invaluable to the advancement of the field.



## How Does Membership in NCPH Benefit You?

For thirty years, NCPH has been the leading advocate for history at work in the world. Through its awards, programs, publications, meetings, and other forms of professional development, NCPH recognizes and supports the work of individuals, like you, and the diverse institutions and organizations involved in public history.

Members of NCPH gain access to:

- Publications—Both print and online versions of *The Public Historian* and *Public History News*
- Professional Networking Opportunities—At the annual meeting and online communities
- Discounts—On Annual Meeting registration
- Resources—Job Listings, professional development offerings, conferences, and call lists
- Advocacy—On behalf of the profession
- Leadership Opportunities—Shape the field by serving on committees and task forces

### Membership Dues

Patron: \$500	Individual: \$70
Sponsor: \$300	New Professional: \$40
Sustaining: \$125	Student: \$30

Institutional subscriptions are available through University of California Press. Join or renew online at [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org).

# From the Editors of *The Public Historian*: How the NCPH Roundtable Did, and Our Readers Can, Help Us Do Our Job

The staff of *The Public Historian* found the roundtable on the journal organized by Page Putnam Miller for the conference in Portland to be enormously helpful. Hearing our work described by graduate student Daniel T. Killoren as the hub of the public history intellectual community that gives a sense of identity to new practitioners confirmed for us the value of what we do. And we will remember the suggestions of former *TPH* editor Otis L. Graham, Assistant Senate Historian Betty Koed, and Arizona State University Professor Jann Warren-Findley as we develop journal content for the coming volumes.

We are here to serve our profession, whose members are probably more diverse than those of any other history organization, though bound by their common desire to convey a sense of history to the public. It is precisely the broad reach of our field that makes the journal staff's job so challenging. We continually ask ourselves the same questions posed at the recent roundtable: How is the field evolving? What are or will be the most exciting new applications of our skills? What kinds of history need to be told right now, and by whom? What methodologies and techniques are most effective in the work we do?

We cannot answer these questions alone. We rely heavily on our editorial board, carefully selected for their expertise as well as their regional or international networks, to alert us to new developments in the field. But to do our job well, we must also rely on you.

How can you help?

- Tell us what sectors of the field you would like to see covered in our pages. Our editorial policy, published in each issue, outlines our general scope of work. But public history is forever widening its margins, and we count on those of you out in the field doing this work to bring new applications of the historian's craft to our attention.
- Tell us what genre features are most helpful to you. Reports from the Field? Viewpoints? Issues and Analysis? Traditional research articles? We recently published a special section centered on a public



history contractor's administrative history of a park. The contractor discussed the process of writing the history, and the client—the park superintendent who commissioned the study—discussed how the history was useful to him. Following that, we offered a review of the published version of the administrative history. Would you like more coverage like this detailing the process of doing public history work and how the work product served both the client and the public?

- Send us your own work product and alert us to the effort of others that you think is particularly noteworthy, so that we can review it. Readers have often told us that the review section is the first thing they turn to upon receipt of the journal. We aim to publish reviews not only of traditionally published books of interest to or by public historians, but also of their unpublished research work, often known as “gray literature.” Please send us review copies of your own work, whether in the form of brochures, exhibit text, booklets, reports, films, or monographs, and let us know whether you would be willing to work with us to feature your report, nomination, administrative history, corporate history, oral history, or other work as the centerpiece of the kind of special section described above.

We welcome your comments and suggestions about how we can best serve your needs. Please contact us via e-mail (LREED@history.ucsb.edu) or by telephone (805-893-3667).



## ACLS Humanities E-Book

NCPH is a part of the American Council of Learned Societies, and the ACLS offers individual annual subscriptions to ACLS Humanities E-Book to current NCPH members. By early 2010 HEB will be offering unlimited access to nearly 3,000 full-text, cross-searchable titles across the humanities and social sciences, from the 1880s through the present.

Individual subscriptions are an attractive option for those whose institutions don't already have a subscription to HEB or for NCPH members who might not be affiliated with a subscribing institution. Individual annual subscriptions are \$35.00. Please visit [www.humanitiesebook.org/subscribinginsts.html](http://www.humanitiesebook.org/subscribinginsts.html) to see if your institution subscribes.

**A new benefit of  
NCPH membership!**

You may purchase an individual subscription to HEB at [www.humanitiesebook.org/subscription\\_purchase.html](http://www.humanitiesebook.org/subscription_purchase.html). Please choose National Council on Public History from the “Society Affiliation” pull-down menu and, in the space that says “Society Membership Number,” provide your NCPH membership number. If you do not know this information, you may request it by writing to [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu). For inquiries about HEB, please e-mail [subscriptions@hebook.org](mailto:subscriptions@hebook.org).

# → Consulting Comments

NCPH is committed to promoting the interests of its members who provide historical services as consultants. This column seeks to highlight new developments and achievements in historical consulting and contract work.

## Professional Historians Association in New South Wales Virginia Macleod virginia.macleod@gmail.com

The Professional Historians Association (NSW) Inc., PHA (NSW), was formed in 1985 to represent practicing professional historians, sometimes known as public historians, in the state of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.



Captain Cook Monument, Norfolk Island National Park.  
Courtesy of Michael Nelson for Parks Australia.

Our hundred or so professional historian members are found in a variety of fields including: education, government bodies and museums, mass media, legal research, heritage, planning studies, writing corporate and local histories. We are also called on to advise allied professionals such as archaeologists, archivists, architects, and town planners. Some professional historians are on the staff of government agencies or private organizations. Others are independent consultants available to carry out commissions for historical research and presentation. PHA (NSW) members are trained and experienced in interpreting history for a range of media including: books, websites, exhibitions, walks, talks, tours, films, audio interviews, and other formats.

As professional historians we work to accepted standards to produce accurate, thorough and lively interpretation, located in a wider historical context. We are academically qualified and bring broad

historical knowledge, objectivity, and strong research and writing skills to a history project. Members of PHA (NSW) are accredited under the standards defined by the national body—The Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations Inc. (ACPHA). The standards of qualification, professional practice and ethics are established and maintained by PHA (NSW) together with ACPHA. The basic professional qualification is an honors degree or equivalent in the discipline of history from a tertiary institution. Most professional historians hold additional postgraduate qualifications. Some are also qualified in related fields of publishing, such as editing and indexing. Through the national body (ACPHA), PHA (NSW) also maintains links with Australian professional historians' associations in other states.

We collect and disseminate information of interest to our members, including a weekly email employment opportunity bulletin, a fortnightly newsletter covering professional development sessions and many other opportunities and news, and a bi-monthly publication, *Phanfare*, which contains articles and reviews contributed by members. Our website has a list of current members and a register of consultants: <http://www.phansw.org.au>

The practice of history is a professional skill. As historians we are trained and experienced to critically assess evidence and events of the past and place them into a broader social context. Good research and communication skills are essential. So we encourage PHA (NSW) historians to pursue ongoing professional development. We organize approximately eight sessions each year which include seminars given by experts in a field—often from amongst our members—and visits to museums and libraries to uncover their hidden resources.

We aim to provide general advice to both commissioning bodies and our members on contracts and commissions. We also publish an indication of the fees that may be charged, see: <http://www.phansw.org.au/feescale.html> Making the public, government bodies,

community organizations, and corporations aware of our specialist services as professionals and how they can best use a historian is a continuing activity. It is achieved through letters, publicity, and an annual social event at which we invite our members to mingle with representatives of research institutions, government departments, publishers, funding bodies, and academic historians.

We feel that historians interpret the significance of structures, buildings, institutions, people, and communities, and illuminate the past in relation to life today.

In essence historians invigorate the cultural life of NSW and Australian institutions, businesses, residents, and visitors.



This year, in celebration of our 25th anniversary, we are hosting a conference for professional historians from Australia, New Zealand, and further afield. “Islands of History” will be held on Norfolk Island from 18-25 July 2010. This will be on the eve of the World Heritage Convention’s decision to include Kingston and Arthurs Vale on Norfolk Island and 10 other Australian convict sites on the World Heritage List. Lectures will be presented by PHA members and local or visiting specialists. Topics cover: writing convict history, South Pacific maritime history, history for heritage, Polynesian migration, South Pacific history, Pacific missions, and issues and practice of public history. The conference will include site visits, island orientation, and free time to explore the diverse heritage of the island. <http://www.phansw.org.au/documents/conference2010.html>

*Virginia Macleod is the president of PHA (NSW). For further information about the organization see: <http://www.phansw.org.au>. For further information about the Australian Professional Historians Association see: <http://www.historians.org.au>.*

# Introducing Students to Public History in the Borderlands

Keith A. Erikson | [kaerekson@utep.edu](mailto:kaerekson@utep.edu)

During the fall 2009 semester, I taught an undergraduate introduction to public history course at the University of Texas at El Paso. As far as I can tell, it was only the second time in the history of the institution that such a course has been offered in our predominantly Hispanic community. The students finished the course by reflecting on their previous understanding of public history, their experiences in the course, and the value of history in public life. Cathy Stanton invited us to post the reflections on the H-Public listserv, where several members responded, and John Dichtl asked me to comment here on common threads, unusual perspectives, or burning questions.

The students responded very positively to public history. Several confessed that they previously had found history to be “not interesting” or “boring,” and that they “did not understand the concept of public history” before the course. After conducting oral history interviews and participating in a 30-hour project in the community, they reported a



Downtown El Paso.  
Courtesy of the Wikimedia Commons.

new understanding of history as “a part of our daily lives” that has a “relation to the real world.” One appreciated the “more intimate picture of everything and everybody.” Many commented that having the opportunity to actually practice history in public really opened their eyes. “Becoming knowledgeable on a subject that has already been organized and compiled is easy,” wrote one, but “until I worked on creating a historical marker for this class, I never realized how much work and effort goes into researching and creating a historical project.” Three who had typically completed their homework through Google quickly “realized that it would not be enough” and found “a goldmine” in a place they had never been before—the public library. In this way, “history unfolds before our eyes,” wrote another, through “the gradual, often unconscious, absorption of knowledge or ideas through continual exposure rather than via traditional, deliberate learning.”

But research was only the beginning, the audience still awaited. “Becoming an interpreter is not an easy task,” wrote one, because “you have to constantly learn to read your audience and adjust the tour to them, perhaps focusing on different aspect which you believe will engage your audience.”

For many, the journey led to the unexpected destination of their home town. “To my surprise, I learned a lot about El Paso that I didn’t know before,” wrote one. Another explained that the town’s history was “something I had really never thought about,” but thinking “made me look at El Paso at a whole new perspective.” “El Paso has so much history within itself, and I find it sad that of twenty years living in this city, I’m barely learning about it.” The students could not stop with learning, they wanted “to engage our community’s history,” to “keep local history alive [and] keep our cultures united,” to “go out in the real world and take part

in it.” One aptly noted that “history must be preserved but we cannot leave it up to the big timers to do so.”

After telling my students that history happens in public through collaboration with others, I was very grateful for the responses from members of H-Public who proved my point. One reminisced about “how much taking Barb Howe’s Introduction to Public



Plant quarantine inspectors examining packages brought over the bridge between Juarez, Mexico and El Paso, Texas, 1937.  
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USF34- 016686-C.

History course transformed my life 21 years ago.” Another wrote “I LOVE the fact that they now understand the importance and significance of history.” A recent public history graduate who is searching for a job contacted me privately to express her gratitude to hear about “early experiences” in the field because “the emphasis I usually see is on already established professionals.”

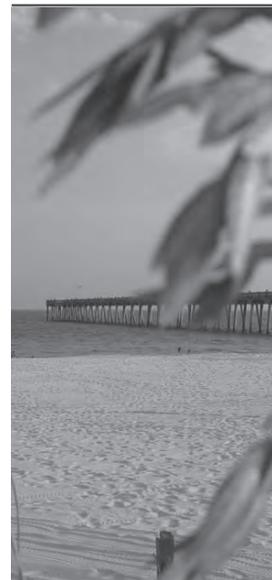
Based on these results I would recommend that every undergraduate have the opportunity to practice public history. The opportunity is recognizably life changing—both in the moment and after over two decades of reflection. I was surprised to see just how much the experience awakened student interest in the El Paso community and gratified to help the students participate in a conversation with fellow practitioners from across the country. It also seems that some form of early experience sharing could both welcome newcomers to the field and build bridges between novices and experts.

*Keith Erikson is an assistant professor of history at the University of Texas at El Paso where he directs the department’s teacher education program and its Center for History Teaching & Learning.*

## “Crossing Borders/Building Communities—Real and Imagined.”

2011 NCPH Annual Meeting,  
Pensacola, Florida

Proposals are due July 15 [See back cover.]



# Shared History, Nearby History (from page 1)

These people were quite “ordinary”: housewives, carpenters, software engineers, elementary school teachers, retirees—you name it. But from the start, spurred by Roy Rosenzweig and David Thelen’s 1998 *Presence of the Past: Popular Uses of History in American Life*, MOHAI has acted on the conviction that everyone has a history interest and that it’s the museum’s job to support that interest. Over the years, we’ve learned how to help each Nearby Historian make the most of a teasing curiosity about a neighborhood school or an inherited collection of glassware—how to transform a hobby into solid historical research and interpretation. We’ve developed a method that a graduate student would likely scorn but it is simple and powerful enough that any novice who follows it through the arc of the Nearby History program can achieve success.



Courtesy of Kathleen Kennedy Knies/MOHAI

We learned that successful work depends on the choice of a clearly-defined topic and development of research questions to “test-drive” the new approaches, skills and resources offered weekly during the introductory program. A Nearby Historian might research “Century 21, Seattle, 1962” as a topic, to provide context for family home movies shot at the fair. She must then develop a half-dozen research questions to initiate and guide her research. We train Nearby Historians to craft an initial broad, open-ended question that encourages wide reading in secondary sources. After that overview, researchers are ready to ask and answer more focused questions, each of which requires an appropriate research strategy, moving from secondary to primary material. Framing research as strategic inquiry to answer a set of guiding questions helps Nearby Historians stay in charge and in focus. And as each question is answered, a new one is developed to take its place until the questions grow fewer, and a clear and comprehensive narrative emerges, ready for interpretation.

Many Nearby Historians became overwhelmed by their research results, usually folders of undifferentiated notes, scans, photocopies and printouts. We suggest a simple, low-tech system of project organization, as well as the twin tactics of a bibliography/webliography and an annotated chronology: each tactic orders the research results in a different way. Nearby Historians actively research the answers to their own questions, using catalogs and search engines to build their resource list of secondary and primary sources. As researchers, they work through those sources, taking notes on the evidence that answers their own questions or suggests new questions. For most projects, that evidence can be sorted chronologically, organized in a timeline in which each event must be annotated by source—a simple, powerful tool that offers insight into historical cause and effect, motivation, and the unfolding story. Once the story has emerged, the Nearby Historian faces the issues of sense and significance, of interpretation. Each researcher becomes a historian in that interpretive act, making meaning from their own research, using argument and evidence to defend a thesis.

In 2009, MOHAI focused the Nearby History program on one shared topic: the centennial of Seattle’s first world’s fair, the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. During the year-long Discovering AYPE program, my colleague Helen Divjak and I visited 19 public libraries in Seattle and King County to present the basic Nearby History methods, an overview and introduction to the fair and its themes, and an array of provocative and ambiguous primary sources for participants to interpret. During the year, nearly 200 Nearby Historians chose topics as varied as Chicago Day, African-Americans at the AYPE, popular music of 1909, or their own ancestor’s visit to the fair. We presented widely throughout central Puget Sound, and our program then funneled Nearby Historians to a blog and to writers’ meet-ups and seminars. There, widely-distant researchers who shared, for instance, an interest in crime or clothing at the fair became colleagues.

Our most successful writers published articles in regional periodicals and at the city’s Centennial website, and we held a conference at the museum for dozens of researchers to present their work to one another and to the public. Throughout this process, Helen and I were very busy providing research strategy suggestions, editing articles, offering feedback for presentations, and simply listening. Many of our writers had not done this kind of work

since high school, if then. In fact, many Nearby Historians told us that they had “hated history in high school”; they couldn’t believe that they were enjoying the hard work of reading 1909 newspapers on microfilm, studying historic photos and maps, scanning folders of faded correspondence and arguing with each other about what it all meant—the work of historians.

Nearby History has changed lives, contributed to the building of community in Seattle and King County, and helped fulfill MOHAI’s public history mission to make history accessible and transformative. History-doing is so powerful and so satisfying that we shouldn’t keep it to ourselves. As a public historian in a history museum, I have had the wonderful experience of helping to build civic and historical literacy in metropolitan Seattle, and of seeing its benefits in exhibit storylines, family histories, published articles and books, walking tours, web features, curricula, historical fiction, oral history projects, and even new historical societies.

**View the two-part YouTube video “Shaking the Shelves,” as four Nearby Historians research the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcGao7Cp4bQ>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqECCbUihGw>

I am very eager to apply the methods of Nearby History to the sesquicentennial of the Civil War in Washington State, training hundreds—perhaps thousands!—of researchers to review the diaries, newspapers, correspondence and public records that will let us open up this little-known and poorly understood period. During the commemoration, the professional heritage community will present the national narrative and interpretation of the Civil War through exhibits, documentaries, debates, websites, seminars and lectures. In those settings, “ordinary people” become simply the audience, the consumers. I hope that public historians also encourage their participation as producers, confronting the challenges of doing good history to make sense of the war, its causes, and its outcomes. It is a national war and not just a war for scholars. It’s a war for us all, and we are all Nearby Historians.

*Dr. Lorraine McConaghy is the public historian at the Museum of History & Industry in Seattle, Washington. In 2008 she co-facilitated the very first NCPH annual meeting Working Group, “Public History and Civic Life.”*



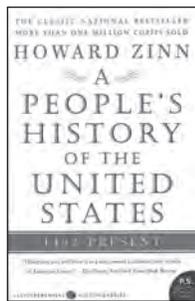
Marty Blatt  
marty\_blatt@nps.gov

## Howard Zinn—A Tribute

Howard Zinn died at the age of 87 on January 27, 2010. He served as the keynote speaker for the 1999 NCPH Annual Meeting at Lowell National Historical Park. Although he may not have self-identified as a public historian, Zinn did an extraordinary job of bringing history to a very wide public through his book, *A People's History of the United States*. First published in 1980, the book has sold nearly two million copies. In 2009, a documentary based on Zinn's companion volume, *Voices of a People's History of the United States*, aired on HistoryTM and was released on DVD. The actors Matt Damon and Ben Affleck were instrumental in helping to produce the documentary. In their 1997 Academy award winning film, "Good Will Hunting," the lead character, played by Damon, extols *A People's History*. Zinn taught at Spelman College in Atlanta between 1956 and 1964 and became very active in the civil rights movement, serving on the executive committee of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. In response, Spelman's president fired him for insubordination. In 1964, he began teaching at Boston University where he remained until his retirement in 1988. Subsequently, he authored three plays, including "Emma," about the anarchist Emma Goldman and "Marx in Soho."

I feel personally privileged to have known Howard Zinn. I first encountered him in the late 1960s when I was an undergraduate at Tufts University in the Boston area. I heard him and Noam Chomsky speak at many anti-Vietnam War rallies and teach-ins and participated in mass protests against the war with him. In the 1970s, I was part of the Black Rose Collective, an anarchist group in Boston, which produced a magazine and managed a lecture series. Howard was very sympathetic to anarchist ideas so we had him speak as part of our lecture series. That was the first time that I met him. Between 1977 and 1983, I was pursuing my PhD at Boston University. My topic was a biography of the nineteenth-century free love anarchist Ezra

Heywood, and Howard served on my thesis committee. While a graduate student, I joined with Howard and other progressive faculty and the clerical and technical workers union in a series of labor protests against the politically conservative Boston University president John Silber.



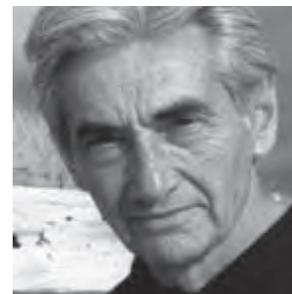
I currently serve as the board president of the Central Square Theater in Cambridge, Massachusetts, a partnership of two professional theater companies in residence. In 2008, the Central Square Theater collaborated with the Boston Playwrights' Theatre and Suffolk University to present ZinnFest, a citywide celebration of Howard's dramatic work. The Central Square Theater produced a reading of "Marx in Soho" and supported a reading of "Emma," the production of Howard's "Daughter of Venus," and a new play inspired by Howard's political activism, "Shouting Theatre in a Crowded Fire." Howard's generous participation in panels, classes, and discussions during the festival enabled students and the general public to explore themes and issues in his plays. In conjunction with ZinnFest, *American Theatre*, the premiere magazine covering the nation's professional nonprofit theatre, featured an article acclaiming the significance of Zinn's theatrical work. Howard was a supporter of and frequent visitor to the Central Square Theater. He attended a play in December and in January was part of the audience for another, "Harriet Jacobs," a play about the fugitive slave based on her memoir, *Incidents in the Life of A Slave Girl*.

Zinn is perhaps best known for *A People's History*. In an interview in the *New York Times* (quote in the *New York Times* obituary, January 28, 2010), Zinn recalled why he wrote the book, "Our nation had gone through an awful

lot—the Vietnam war, civil rights, Watergate—yet the textbooks offered the same fundamental nationalist glorification of

country. I got the sense that people were hungry for a different, more honest take." Some historians charge that Zinn's book is deeply biased. He would counter that there is no objectivity in history. Every historian has a bias that informs her or his writing. He was perhaps just more honest. Eric Foner, in the *New York Review of Books*, wrote: "Zinn writes with an enthusiasm rarely encountered in the leaden prose of academic history, and his text is studded with telling quotations from labor leaders, war resisters and fugitive slaves. There are vivid descriptions of events that are usually ignored, such as the great railroad strike of 1877 and the brutal suppression of the Philippine independence movement..."

Howard Zinn was an author, an activist, and a highly engaging speaker. He passionately articulated the immorality of United States foreign policy and the inequalities generated by the capitalist system. He made a vibrant case for history from below. The actors in history that captivated Howard were workers, slaves, the unemployed, gays and lesbians, and those advocates who organized for the rights of the oppressed. He felt no obligation to recount the triumphs and great deeds of presidents or leaders in industry. His critical examination of the United States, grounded in his intelligence, his commitment to social justice, and his wit and warmth, made him one of the most effective public intellectuals of our time.



Howard Zinn.

# From the Executive Director



John Dichtl  
jdichtl@iupui.edu

The following is adapted from the executive director's semi-annual report (March 2010) to the NCPH Board of Directors.

This being the 30th anniversary of the organization and the beginning of my fifth year as executive director, I am presenting my report within a longer-than-usual historical context. Overall, despite the bad economic climate, NCPH is financially healthy and expanding. As the reports and announcements in this issue of *Public History News* reflect, and the committee reports in the June issue will confirm, the organization and its volunteers are engaged in a wide range of activities to advance the profession and field of public history.

## Membership & Subscriptions

Individual membership numbers are steady. One component, graduate student memberships, continue to improve; they are up 65% from four years ago. In March 2005 there were 200, and in March 2006 there were about 150. Today we have 330 student members. Participation in the NCPH election, another measure of membership involvement, is improving: 16 percent of the members returned ballots in 2005 compared to 27 percent this year.

While *The Public Historian* (TPH) is becoming more widely accessible online, institutional subscriptions to our journal continue on a long arc of decline, a trend experienced across the dozens of scholarly journals in the humanities over the last ten or fifteen years. Subscriptions to TPH were 698 in 2000, 632 in 2006, 539 in 2008, and 496 in 2009—representing a 29 percent decline in the past decade and an 8 percent drop in the last year. Not only have library budgets been pinched, but many libraries and other institutions, such as large universities, which formerly had multiple print subscriptions, are getting by with one digital subscription that numerous users can access at the same time. The University of California Press, which co-publishes TPH with NCPH, notes

the additional economic challenges of the past year in its March 2010 "Sales, Marketing, & Circulation Report" to the NCPH Board:

With the significant downturn in the economy, many journal titles have been impacted by increased attrition, particularly due to significant cutbacks in institutional and state spending. Titles like *The Public Historian* have been more significantly impacted because of their diversified subscriber bases—higher education, museums, interpretive history organizations—all sectors that have seen their budgets slashed. Some of the specific aspects of this report, particularly circulation numbers, reflect these circumstances.



The press's report concludes that we have good reason to be hopeful about circulation increasing for the journal, however. UC Press has announced a partnership with JSTOR, the digital preservation archive and research platform for the academic community, "to invest in a shared online platform and outreach services that promise to create a more seamless, rich online work environment...and promote a more cost-effective publishing environment." This first-of-its-kind collaboration promises to "open up an entirely new, and quite extensive, network of sales and marketing channels, particularly to NCPH's core markets." Beginning in 2011, TPH and other UC Press journal content will be published on a re-designed JSTOR platform, which will replace the existing Caliber platform that the press uses.

## Memoranda of Agreement Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)

Subsequent to the fall board meeting, NCPH and the IUPUI School of Liberal Arts and its Department of History signed a new five-year Memorandum of Agreement (July 2010-June 2015). NCPH will pay a larger share of the executive office and staff expenses and will become more involved in public history and civic engagement programming with IUPUI. The university will release me from teaching and has committed to negotiating larger office space for NCPH, and an increase to full-time for the half-time membership assistant position. Carrie Dowdy, NCPH program director, and I are working with Phil Scarpino to revive a "Careers in History Day" which the IUPUI Public History Program offered

annually until several years ago. This will be a good chance for the executive office to strengthen the relationship with the History Department and School of Liberal Arts, as well as raise the profile of NCPH and public history within the state. We will aim to have a careers day event this fall, hopefully attracting undergraduate and graduate students within a two-hour radius.

## University of California, Santa Barbara

The current agreement for the editorial offices at the University of California Santa Barbara, which expired in July 2009, went into a one-year automatic renewal, and must be renewed before July 1, 2010. California's severe budget crisis is putting enormous pressure on the dean with whom TPH Editor Randy Bergstrom and the NCPH Executive Committee have been negotiating.

## Annual Meeting

In my first report to the board, April 2006, I stressed my belief that the annual meeting was key to expanding membership and strengthening the organization. The conference now has real momentum, I think, and helps drive the work of our many committee volunteers and this office. Hopefully it is aiding the professional needs of members as well as the efforts of the journal staff and board.

Our conference these days involves many more hands in the planning. Alongside the program and local arrangements committees, the office staff is increasingly involved, year-round, in planning the upcoming and subsequent one or two annual meetings. Moreover, the other standing and ad hoc committees of the organization play a greater role in the conference program. The Graduate Student, Consultants, and Curriculum and Training Committees are involved, as well as the Membership Committee and the International Task Force. Even the Book Award Committee created a session this year.

Due to a greater number of sessions and interest, annual meeting participation has grown from an average of 200-340 a decade ago, to about 600. Panel sessions, tours, workshops, and the poster session are augmented now by more than a dozen working groups for focused, seminar-like discussions. The Public Plenary, in which a keynote address is opened to interested locals, helps anchor the conference in the local community. Speed-Networking, created last year by Melissa Bingmann (West

Virginia University) and Denise Meringolo (University of Maryland, Baltimore County), is a tremendous asset, and again brought dozens of students and new professionals in pairs to talk with more established public historians. We also are still working to improve the representative mix of participants and continue to use the board-authorized portion of earnings on the endowment to increase racial/ethnic, national, and other types of diversity. Two sessions used Skype video conferencing to include a participant from overseas who otherwise could not have attended. The conference blog ran for its third year, and, with assistance from the University of West Florida public history program, we will be posting video clips of key sessions on the web for the third year in a row.

### 2011, Pensacola



Old Christ Church,  
Historic Pensacola Village.  
Courtesy of West Florida  
Historic Preservation, Inc.

Next year's meeting will be another exciting departure for NCPH. Most sessions and events will take place in Historic Pensacola Village, which consists of 27 properties in the Pensacola National Register Historic District. The village is managed by West

Florida Historic Preservation Inc., a non-profit institution and a direct support organization of the University of West Florida. Executive Director Richard Brosnahan is opening many buildings and providing generous support in other ways. Our conference hotel is the Crowne Plaza, a fifteen-minute walk from the village. Roger Launius (National Air and Space Museum) is the program chair and Patrick Moore is the local arrangements chair. The latter will be attempting to draw in 50-150 new professionals from across the Gulf South region in addition to regular attendance. The meeting's theme is "Crossing Borders/Building Communities—Real and Imagined."

### 2012, Milwaukee

In 2012, we will meet with the Organization of American Historians for the first time in six years. The joint program committee is headed by Kathy Franz (American University) for NCPH and Nancy MacLean for OAH. We will work hard to highlight public history in all aspects of this meeting.

### 2013 and Beyond

I will postpone making recommendations at this time because the board will return to the site selection question at the fall board meeting. We need more time to investigate other potential sites and to figure out the some options that take into account where NCPH has met recently, where other associations such as AASLH and OAH will be meeting, geographic diversity, cost of hotel rooms, potential local arrangements chairs, and several other factors.

### Committees Development

The board recently approved the committee's planned giving Legacy Circle, which recognizes individuals who include substantial gifts to NCPH as part of estate planning. During the annual meeting in Portland, committee chair Shelley Bookspan (LifeStory Productions, Inc.) and Alan Newell (Historical Research Associates, Inc.), announced that the committee already has pledged from eight individuals totaling nearly \$150,000. The annual fundraising campaign, launched in October, so far has brought in \$8,895 (October 20, 2009 to February 26, 2010). Comparative figures are \$4,830 for 2008-2009 and \$3,375 for 2007-2008.

### Working Group on Evaluating Public History

The final report is on the OAH Executive Board's agenda for consideration at the OAH's April meeting. The group has lined up an impressive array of endorsements and statements of support from eminent historians, many of whom are past presidents of AHA or OAH. When we know the report's

fate with the OAH board, our group will make a decision about approaching the NCPH board and AHA council formally for consideration. The draft report and its recommendations are already being referenced by faculty members in the promotion and tenure process.

### U.S. Civil War Sesquicentennial ad hoc Committee

Created last fall, this committee includes several members of the working group on the sesquicentennial which met at the 2009 Providence annual meeting and met again as a working group in Portland. The committee is helping to keep NCPH apprised of sesquicentennial planning and involved in the AASLH-led Coalition for the Civil War Sesquicentennial, an ad-hoc group of fifteen national organizations. The coalition has approached Congress about creating a presidential commission for the 150th anniversary. Our committee will be considering additional ways to connect NCPH's 2011-2015 annual meetings to the sesquicentennial.

### Strategic Planning

"Long Range Plan 2007" was meant to take NCPH through 2011. During the 2009 fall board meeting in Indianapolis we began talking about how to structure a strategic planning process for late 2010 and into 2011. The Executive Committee will continue long range planning discussions this spring and summer, seek ideas and feedback from members this fall, and prepare for board discussion in October. As announced at various points during the Portland annual meeting, we encourage members to share with the board and the executive office their ideas, questions, and concerns about the public history profession and the direction of NCPH.

## Thank You 2010 Conference Sponsors!

### Conference Sponsor

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### Event Sponsor

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John Nicholas Brown Center, Brown University — Public History Educators Breakfast Cosponsor  
Littlefield Historical Research — Consultants Reception Cosponsor  
National Park Service — ASEH/NPS Workshop Sponsor  
University of Washington Press—Thursday Morning Coffee Break Cosponsor



Jim Conway at the concluding plenary during the 2007 NCPH Annual Meeting in Santa Fe.

# In Memoriam: Jim Conway

Jim Conway, NCPH member and a regular at our annual meetings, passed away at home in Salinas, California, March 21, 2010. Jim adopted public history as his third career, after serving as a Vietnam-era Marine Corps officer, and superintendent of the Spreckels Sugar Company plant in Monterey County. While managing the historic Spreckels factory, Jim translated his life-long interest in history into a professional pursuit. He earned a graduate degree in history at San Jose State University, and became museum and cultural arts manager for the city of Monterey in 2000.

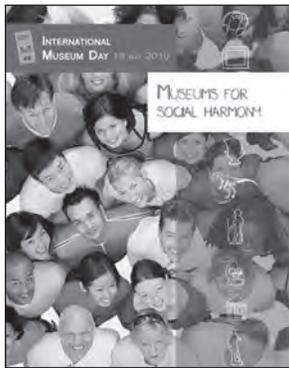
In 2003 he published a popular local history *Monterey: Presidio, Pueblo and Port*. He managed two local museums at the Presidio of Monterey and Colton Hall, site of the signing of California's first constitution in 1849. Jim recently located several original documents from the 1849 constitutional convention and succeeded in acquiring them for the museum collection. Shortly before his death, Jim presided over a civic celebration and unveiling of these documents on display in Colton Hall.

Jim's earnest and easy-going manner won him many friends in Monterey and beyond. We will miss him at NCPH.

—Marianne Babal, NCPH Past President

## Museums for Social Harmony

Caitlyn Stypa | [cstypa@iupui.edu](mailto:cstypa@iupui.edu)



Established by the International Council of Museums (ICOM) in 1977, International Museum Day is celebrated on and around May 18 to give museum professionals an opportunity to talk with the public about how museums affect the development of society.

Museum Day is also a

vehicle highlighting the difficulties that museums face. Museums celebrate for a day, weekend, or a whole week, as long as they remain focused on ICOM's motto that museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures, and development of mutual understanding, cooperation, and peace among peoples. This year's theme is "Museums for Social Harmony," which will carry over as the premise of ICOM's General Conference, in Shanghai, China, November 7-12, 2010. Visit [http://icom.museum/doc/imd2010\\_links.html](http://icom.museum/doc/imd2010_links.html) to download this year's International Museum Day poster, access a six-page bibliography of articles and books, and resources for museums planning to host their own Museum Day events.

## NCPH Board of Directors Spring Meeting

On Thursday, March 11, 2010, the NCPH Board of Directors convened during the Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon, and took the following actions:

- Approved the Minutes of the Fall 2009 Board Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Continued discussing negotiations with the dean's office at UC Santa Barbara about the current agreement for hosting *The Public Historian* editorial offices. The previous five-year memorandum of agreement expired in July 2009 and went into a one-year automatic renewal.
- Tabled until fall a proposal to create a Secretary-Treasurer-elect position. The proposal's rationale is to improve continuity by electing the Secretary-Treasurer's successor a year earlier so that s/he can begin learning her/his responsibilities alongside the incumbent.
- Agreed to consider in the fall a detailed proposal for converting some NCPH investments into Socially Responsible Investment funds.
- Refined the wording of a Conflict of Interest Statement and policy for board members, which had been proposed by the executive office.
- Heard a report from Shelley Bookspan (chair) and Alan Newell of the Development Committee about the launch of the NCPH Planned Giving program, which the committee launched with pledges totaling nearly \$150,000.
- Heard a report from Editor Randy Bergstrom and Managing Editor Lindsey Reed about upcoming articles, special editions and focuses, and expanding the review function of *The Public Historian*.
- Heard a report from Cathy Stanton (chair) about the Digital Media Group's activities

and recommendations. (See "Off the Wall" project below.)

- Decided to consider annual meeting site proposals for 2013-2016 in the fall after more information about geographic rotation, commemorative activities, local public history programs and institutions, and other variables are gathered this summer.
- Thanked Lee White, executive director of the National Coalition for History, for his work representing the interests of public historians and heard his report about advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C.
- Met with Rebekah Darksmith and Spencer Perry of the University of California Press Journals and Digital Publishing Division to discuss the Press's new collaborative relationship with JSTOR.
- Voted to adopt a fourth set of best practices created by the Curriculum and Training Committee: "Graduate Certificate Programs in Public History." (These are now available on the NCPH web site.)

Prior to the Spring 2010 Board Meetings, the board took the following actions:

- Approved the recommendation of the Development Committee to provide the needed funds for a planned giving/charitable bequest event at the Portland meeting.
- Approved the wording for the Legacy Circle brochure drafted by Shelley Bookspan and the Development Committee.
- Approved the Digital Media Group, H-Public listserv, and *The Public Historian* editorial staff's proposal to launch an online exhibit review blog, "Off the Wall."

# 2010 Election Results

## President-elect:

Robert Weyeneth, University of South Carolina

## Board of Directors:

Benjamin Filene, University of North Carolina Greensboro

Michelle A. Hamilton, University of Western Ontario

Cynthia Koch, FDR Library and Museum

## Nominating Committee:

Kathy Corbett, Independent Historian

Elizabeth Fraterrigo, Loyola University Chicago

*The election closed in January, 2010, and terms for these positions began at the conclusion of the 2010 Annual Meeting.*

## Welcome New Members!

Lois Allis Avon, IN	Abby Chandler Bangor, ME	Sarah Gordon New York, NY	Doug Jones Ypsilanti, MI	Sean Mccort Pensacola, FL	Caitlyn A.O. Perry Kalamazoo, MI	Jennifer Stevens Boise, ID
Christina Alvarez Rio Rancho, NM	Julie Coco Stone Mountain, GA	Lillian Green Indianapolis, IN	Sharon Kelley Sacramento, CA	Emily Mcewen Riverside, CA	Mandi Pitt Nashville, TN	Jenna Steward Ruston, LA
Tom Ancona Portland, OR	Grant Czubinski Pensacola, FL	Craig Grybowski Warwick, NY	Alison Kelly Castleton, VA	Kathleen Mcguinness Pensacola, FL	Ruth Reichard Indianapolis, IN	Emily Stuckman Portland, OR
Caitlin Anderson Cambridge, MA	Tristan Danner Pensacola, FL	Paul Gunter Tallahassee, FL	Bethany Kennedy Wichita, KS	Lindsay Merritt Frankfort, KY	Sara Reid Seattle, WA	Orlan Svingen Pullman, WA
Andy Anderson San Francisco, CA	Wesley Decker Harrisonville, PA	Susan Hall Irvine, CA	Dulce Kersting McMinnville, OR	Stacy Meyers Kenner, LA	Linda Richards Corvallis, OR	Joanna Tabony New Orleans, LA
Richard Anderson Easthampton, MA	Lauri Dorrance New Orleans, LA	Charles Halvorson Saint Paul, MN	Natasha Keyt Pensacola, FL	Heather Miller Seattle, WA	Ashley Rogers Fort Collins, CO	Sandy Taunton Las Vegas, NV
Barbara Bair Washington, DC	Jerry Drake Washington, DC	Laura Hannon Riverside, CA	Joshua Knudson Chico, CA	Brian Moran Lombard, IL	Catherine Roth Seattle, WA	Patrick Taylor Death Valley, CA
Elizabeth Banks Brooklyn, NY	Rebecca Duke Murfreesboro, TN	Roberta Harlan Bishop, CA	Jessica Kratz Washington, DC	Naoki Morishita Kyoto, Japan	Cecilia Rusnak Centre Hall, PA	Ioana Teodorescu Ottawa, Ontario
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For weekly updated information on jobs, fellowships, internships, awards, conferences, and calls, please visit [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org).

## AWARDS, GRANTS, & INTERNSHIPS

**Office of Historic Preservation of California State Parks** is accepting applications for the Governor's Historic Preservation Award <[http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=24513](http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24513)> Deadline is May 24, 2010.

**George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens** offers many internships throughout the school term and during the summer, including ones focusing on public outreach, field excavation, and collections management. Send resume, cover letter detailing your interest, and two references to Esther White at [ewhite@mountvernon.org](mailto:ewhite@mountvernon.org). <[http://www.mountvernon.org/learn/pres\\_arch/index.cfm/sss/90/](http://www.mountvernon.org/learn/pres_arch/index.cfm/sss/90/)>

**President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site in Plymouth, Vermont**, is offering a collections internship the summer of 2010. Send cover letter, resume, and list of three references to Amy Mincher, Collections Manager of the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site Morrill Mountain Consulting at [amymincher@yahoo.com](mailto:amymincher@yahoo.com).

## WORKSHOPS

**The Basics of Archives.** May 24-June 11, 2010. Learn about archives and archivists, acquiring your collections, processing collections, housing your collections, and access and outreach in this 15-20 hour webinar. <<http://aash.org/basicsofarchives.htm>>

**Collections Management & Practices.** June 24-25, 2010. Hosted by the Connecticut Humanities council, this workshop will teach about an institution's responsibility toward its collection, the necessary policies and procedures, and the best practices of collection management. <<http://aash.org/collwork.htm>>

**Colonial American Times.** November 1-3, 2010, April 27-29, 2011, or May 2-4, 2011. This three-day living history workshop will educate you on the customs, economics, agrarian lifestyles, religion, and self-government all played a role in laying the foundation for the Revolutionary War. <[http://www.livinghistoryassn.org/%E2%80%94teacher\\_workshops](http://www.livinghistoryassn.org/%E2%80%94teacher_workshops)>

## CALLS FOR PAPERS, ARTICLES, PROPOSALS, & PRESENTATIONS

**The Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts** seeks papers for their conference on American Material Culture, October 28-30, 2010, Madison, Georgia. <<http://www.MESDA.org/conference>> Deadline is May 15, 2010.

**The Finnish Literature Society and the Finnish Oral History Network** "Oral History and Fieldwork: The (Re)use and Interpretation of Research Materials," December 2-3, 2010, Helsinki, Finland, are accepting paper proposals. Email a single-page proposal including the title of the presentation, and the following information: name (with your surname in CAPITAL letters), affiliation, postal address, e-mail address, and telephone and fax numbers in English to [fohn@finlit.fi](mailto:fohn@finlit.fi). Deadline is May 22, 2010.

**Buildings and Landscape, Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum** is seeking articles. Go to <http://www.vafweb.org> for guidelines.

The editors of **The Memory and Narrative Series** (Transaction, Rutgers University) invite proposals for contributions to an upcoming volume, *Evidence and Testimony in Life Story Narratives*, discussing conceptual and methodological issues related to memory, evidence, and testimony, based on oral sources and/or personal accounts. Send a 500-word abstract, along with a short c.v., to the editors of this proposed volume, Nanci Adler ([N.Adler@niod.knaw.nl](mailto:N.Adler@niod.knaw.nl)) and Selma Leydesdorff ([s.leydesdorff@uva.nl](mailto:s.leydesdorff@uva.nl)). Deadline is June 1, 2010.



## JOBS & POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**Chemung County Historical Society** in Elmira, NY, is seeking an energetic and hard-working individual to lead the Society and its AAM-accredited Chemung Valley History Museum and Library. Immediate challenges include oversight of a minor renovation project, direction of a strategic planning process, and reinstallation of the permanent exhibit. Interviews will commence by May 15. Submit resume with cover letter, including recent salary history or expectations, and three current recommenders to [president@chemungvalleymuseum.org](mailto:president@chemungvalleymuseum.org) or Director Search, CCHS, 415 E. Water, Elmira NY 14901. <[www.chemungvalleymuseum.org](http://www.chemungvalleymuseum.org)>

**Theodore Roosevelt Association** is searching for an **Executive Director**. The candidates should have at least 10 years of progressively responsible management experience, be an inspiring, energetic leader, will have exceptional communication

skills, have experience in using web-based and social marketing technologies to accomplish organizational objectives, and have an advanced degree in business, public or historical administration. <https://web.memberclicks.com/mc/quickForm/viewForm.do?orgId=tra&formId=73931>

**Weintraut & Associates, Inc.** is seeking a **Historic Preservation Specialist**. Candidates should have, at minimum an undergraduate degree in history, historic preservation, landscape architecture or related field; a master's degree in history, public history, or historic preservation preferred. Responsibilities include architectural survey, research, report writing, and occasional attendance at meetings. Position will be at least 30 hours per week, and will likely transition to 40 hours a week in short order. Employer will provide training in Cultural Resources Management. To apply email Linda Weintraut at [linda@weintrautinc.com](mailto:linda@weintrautinc.com).



**PHOTOS:** Hackberry General Store, Route 66 in Hackberry, AZ. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-highsm-04330. Girl Scout Troop in Washington, DC, 1919. Courtesy of Chicago Daily News negatives collection, Chicago History Museum.

**Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History** seeks a part-time **Outreach Coordinator**. The outreach coordinator is responsible for recruiting, training, and recognizing the efforts of, our volunteers and for the museum's ongoing presence in the media: maintenance of the website, posting to Facebook, and listing events in the online calendars of the local newspapers. This position is offered as part-time, 25-30 hours per week. Send resumé and cover letter via email only to [staff@santacruz museums.org](mailto:staff@santacruz museums.org).

**Princeton University Library** is hiring a **Project Archivist**. A successful candidate will have a master's degree from an ALA-accredited program with a concentration in archival management, or equivalent combination of education and experience, experience processing archival records, including large collections of institutional records, and demonstrated ability to appraise historical records. Review of applications will begin on April 30, 2010. <<https://jobs.princeton.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/frameset.jsp?time=1269964530619>>

**The Adams Papers** based at the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston will host a one-year **NHPRC Fellowship** in documentary editing beginning in the summer of 2010. Qualifications for the fellowship include a PhD in American history, preferably in the Revolutionary era or the Early Republic, with excellent writing and research skills. Start date will be between 1 June and 1 September 2010. Review of applications will begin immediately. Send cover letter, resume, and the names of three references to C. James Taylor, Editor in Chief, Adams Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society, 1154 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02215. For further information, email [jtaylor@masshist.org](mailto:jtaylor@masshist.org).

## → Thank You 2009 Endowment Contributors!

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*If we have overlooked your name or you would like information about contributing in 2010, please contact the NCPH Executive Office at [neph@iupui.edu](mailto:neph@iupui.edu) or (317)274-2716.*



## Introducing the Legacy Circle

While NCPH continues to grow as young historians bring their vision to the field, the first and second generations of public historians are retiring or entering the mature years of their professional lives. Many of the latter have experienced significant professional success and have benefitted from the consolidation of purpose the NCPH provides.

Joining the Legacy Circle of the NCPH returns the gift of permanency to an organization that has not only provided an intellectual foundation for professional development, but also a home for public history practitioners.

Joining the Legacy Circle now is timely. Having seen budget cuts in state governments across the country, we know we can do more to guarantee support for the editorial and executive offices. Also, NCPH is growing and will require more administrative support, not less.

The Legacy Circle invites donors who will pledge significant in-hand or deferred donations. NCPH already has received pledges totaling nearly \$150,000 in deferred gifts. More are needed to ensure the organization can continue to serve public historians for decades to come.

Please contact the executive director (317) 274-2716 or [jdichtl@iupui.edu](mailto:jdichtl@iupui.edu) or see the NCPH website for information about supplying NCPH with a letter of intent or to learn more about the Legacy Circle giving levels and their benefits.



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# Public History News

## National Council on Public History

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## Call for Proposals

### 2011 Annual Meeting

National Council on Public History

April 6-10, 2011

Historic Pensacola Village and the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Pensacola, Florida

The 2011 Program Committee invites panel, roundtable, workshop, working group, paper, and poster proposals for the NCPH conference at Historic Pensacola Village and the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Pensacola, Florida next spring.

Located on the Gulf of Mexico in western Florida, Pensacola, has long been identified with numerous cultures and diverse populations. Since 1559, Pensacola has been ruled by Spain, France, England, the Confederacy, and the United States, and the cultural diversity accruing to the city's architecture, cuisine, holidays, and varied races and social perspectives is everywhere apparent. At once a post-colonial city, a technological powerhouse, and a tourist destination Pensacola is an ideal place to consider issues and ideas structured around the theme of **"Crossing Borders/Building Communities—Real and Imagined."** These include the movement of peoples, ideas, technologies, and institutions across national boundaries; the interrelationships of divergent peoples, cultures, races, and ethnic groups one to another; and the memory of these themes in

many societies and nations. One area we wish to explore is intersectional identities and the ability to inhabit multiple communities.

Our intention is to broaden the discussion beyond the borders of the nation state to other kinds of borders and boundaries. We take as a starting point the statement of Darryl McIntyre and Kirsten Wehner in their introduction to *National Museums: Negotiating Histories* (2001)—that museums need to embrace "different geographics of reference" that "contest and shape the imagination." This theme recognizes that our frames of references are just as political as they are historical and sessions relating this current concerns, but with an historical focus, are also welcome.

Proposals may address any area of public history, but we especially welcome submissions which illustrate or explicate the theme of "Crossing Borders/Building Communities—Real and Imagined." The program committee prefers complete session proposals but will try to construct sessions from individual proposals. Sessions will be scheduled for 1.5 hours; significant time for audience discussion should be included in every session. The committee invites proposals for sessions in formats beyond the usual paper session, and encourages presenters in more traditional

sessions to dispense with the reading of papers. Participants may give only one formal presentation at the conference, but they may also engage in roundtable, chairing, or commenting duties. See the NCPH website at [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org) for details about submitting your proposal. Proposals are due by **July 15, 2010**.

Some Program Committee funds may be available to assist participants, such as individuals from outside the United States, who might not normally attend a public history conference and whose presence would increase the diversity of the program. Proposals must indicate if anyone on the panel will be requesting NCPH assistance from the committee.

Pensacola Beach, Florida  
Courtesy of the Pensacola Bay Area CVB

