



NATIONAL COUNCIL
ON PUBLIC HISTORY

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Public History News

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Executive Director

JOINT NCPH AND OAH ANNUAL MEETING

by Robert Weible
rweible@state.pa.us



There are very few places I would rather be than in Washington, DC, in the springtime. So I am certainly very pleased that we will be holding our 2006 NCPH conference there on April 19-22.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

This year, of course, we will be meeting jointly with the Organization of American Historians. Joint meetings like this hold a number of advantages for NCPH members—nearly half of whom, interestingly, also belong to OAH. Quite a few people have told me that shrinking travel budgets and busy springtime schedules often force them to choose between attending one



The Jefferson Memorial is framed by the spring cherry blossoms. (Image courtesy of the Washington, DC Convention & Tourism Corporation)

conference or the other whenever our two organizations meet in different locations. Others, particularly those of you who don't get a chance to hear from our academy-based colleagues as

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SHARING THE FINDINGS OF HISTORY



by Daniel T. Miller
dan@historicalsolutions.com

What I do for a living might surprise you. I have a life-long love of all things historical. But I don't teach, at least not in the traditional sense, nor do I work at a museum, historic site, or historical society. Instead, I operate my own business with history as my product or, more accurately, service. What is more, clients pay for delivery of this service. Perhaps my story will encourage you to think anew about the place of history in your community.

Past as Prologue

I began my company, Historical Solutions LLC, in spring 2003. Its genesis was a six-week college

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Daniel T. Miller working with clients. (Photo courtesy of Lana Christian of CreateWrite)

SHARING THE FINDINGS OF HISTORY

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course I had developed as an adjunct lecturer in history. It pertained to leadership lessons from major leaders in American history. My students were working adults and they had consistently evaluated the course favorably. Their praise hinted to me that I could reconfigure the course into something the private market would value, would pay for. I would offer a seminar series to develop better leaders, using case studies from American history.

My new company reflected more than my knowledge and love of history. In addition to teaching occasionally as an adjunct lecturer, I had worked for ten years as a consultant in workforce development, helping communities and educational institutions collaborate on new training programs. During that decade I had risen to managing partner and interim CEO of the consulting firm. My experience in consulting exposed me to the concepts of "client" and "customer service," two crucial points for entering the marketplace, as well as demonstrating the "do's and don'ts" of leadership in an actual organization.

My experience as CEO taught me two additional points. First, my service must be defined as clearly as possible. I had to articulate why I was different from the hundreds of other leadership and management training vendors. My expertise in history was at the heart of my uniqueness. Second, it was imperative that I define my target customers or clients with the same clarity seen in my proffered service. On this point I was less sure. Again using a lesson learned in the private sector, I decided to rely on the personal network I had built up as a consultant. They constituted my pool of potential clients.

Almost three years later, Historical Solutions LLC has proven viable, even profitable. The initial offering of five historical case studies has grown to more than twenty. The focus on leadership broadened into new services for strategic planning and emergency management. A target client group has emerged—healthcare. The client list includes numerous repeat customers, some of whom have engaged my service for entire management teams and departments. The roster of my participants now features more than four hundred "alumni." Existing



Jane Addams is the historical figure in focus for the case study on "Organizing Tasks and Staff for a Vision." (Image courtesy of Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C.)

clients have referred my service to partner organizations. And not insignificantly, service prices have more than doubled without the loss of a single client. I followed my version of the "Oregon Trail" and found Historical Solutions LLC a good place to live.

The Findings of History

It has been fascinating to observe my participants interact with history. They come from all ranks of management. They have expressed their perception of history, what it means to them, and how they best connect to it. The findings that I will share may possess value for public historians as they consider new ways to attract visitors and donors, reexamine the appeal of their holdings, and craft outreach strategies for the public.

People have an inherent interest in history IF...

Most people love to talk about themselves. The reason is obvious: they value their own experiences. More than that, though, is the way in which they tend to talk about themselves. They formulate their experiences into stories. It is the story format that is central to my work at Historical Solutions LLC. I present history as a set of stories. By story I don't mean fabrication; I'm referring to something with a beginning, middle, and end, with each stage powered by the drama of real life. People will embrace history if it comes to them in story form. I've also noticed that many adults are interested in their



Martin Luther King, Jr., pictured here with Malcolm X, is the centerpiece of the author's leadership case study on "Communication and Dealing with Opponents, Rivals, and Enemies." (Image courtesy of Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C.)

own family's history. This reinforces the story aspect of history. A person who specializes in history will generate a ready audience if he or she helps others to know how the larger stories of history fit into the more particular ones from their family's past.

General interest is good but application pays better

Participants in my seminars often say how much they liked reading and talking about George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and other American figures. What keeps them most engaged—and more tellingly, what motivates clients to bring me back to do more work for them—is that they can use lessons from history in their day-to-day lives. People will pay money to enjoy history. They'll pay more money to enjoy and use the benefits of history, and for me that rests entirely on their ability to apply it in daily life. The challenge is finding credible topics that allow people to use historical lessons. I'm convinced that many "stakeholders" in a community (e.g. employers, community organizations, foundations, etc.) would respond favorably to a creative approach to history that emphasizes applied lessons, or what I call "takeaways," for the present and future.

The most likely sources of application are those topics, issues, and dynamics that involve people

I often tell participants that I use history to develop leaders because of the "perennials." Most leadership involves relationships, and history is a wonderful source of situations,

circumstances, and conditions that pertain to people. People had to vision in the American Revolution just like we have to vision now. Leadership includes other things, too (technology, equipment, and so forth) but one doesn't have to look far to find the role that people play in these inanimate factors. Another aspect of perennials is that my participants know they should not try to imitate Martin Luther King, Jr. as a communicator. All of us would look foolish doing such a thing. Instead, the better goal is to learn what King did and didn't do in communication and use these outcomes to broaden the choices and options available to us in any given situation. By the way, I'm not the first person to recognize the linkage between history and leadership—go to any of the bookstore chains and browse the "Management" bookshelves. You'll find dozens of books that pertain to leadership and Lincoln, King, Churchill, and on and on. I also know that I'm not that clever; countless other topics besides leadership offer an intriguing match between history

and application. Maybe the holdings of your public history organization suggest a unique niche in your community, be it leadership, a specific type of leadership, or something else.

History affects every organization

My approach to history succeeds because history impacts every organization, often in ways that surprise people. I have marveled at the examples of history intersecting with people's lives in the workplace. One CEO told about an inspirational speech that he made to staff; to this day, the employees there refer to it as the "Patrick Henry speech." Another participant discussed the difficulties that her organization was having with a particular group of employees. They had a powerful identity and often did things their own way—they were helicopter pilots that ran emergency routes for hospitals and the majority of them were former Huey pilots from the Vietnam War. Another organization faced serious financial trouble. The employees remembered that they had overcome similar challenges three years

before. They began to recount what had succeeded for them in the past to see if the same techniques might work again. A CEO was the fourth generation of his family to serve as executive leader of the same organization. He spoke with emotion about the implications of carrying on what he regarded as a cherished legacy. I could go on and on with examples. The point is that history affects the entirety of our lives. Tapping into that powerful presence may require an unconventional approach to how we view the past.

The influence of history lies all around us. I've been fortunate enough to learn that history has many entry points. You already know some of them. Be open to discovering others that may challenge you to re-think assumptions of how and why people value the past.

Daniel T. Miller, Ph.D., is the president and founder of Historical Solutions LLC, <http://www.historicalsolutions.com>

SPECIAL NCPH EVENTS AT THE 2006 ANNUAL MEETING

Public History Program Directors Breakfast

Friday, April 21, 7:30-9:00 a.m.

While you are at the 2006 Annual Meeting, sit down for breakfast and discussion with other directors of public history programs. Ann McCleary (State University of West Georgia) is the host of this year's event, at which participants will share ideas and cover issues that face those who are starting or running graduate and/or undergraduate programs in public history. Purchase tickets when you preregister for the conference.

Careers in Public History for the 21st Century: Issues, Challenges, and Opportunities

Friday, April 21, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Presenters: James Bailey, Historian, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and Jay Price, Director, Public History Program, Wichita State University

New Professionals Breakfast

Friday, April 21, Location and Time to be announced

Cochairs of the NCPH Membership Committee, Amy Wilson (Chemung Valley History Museum) and Dee Harris (Mid-America Arts Alliance), host this gathering of public historians who are in their first few years of a career. Come for the early morning energy and good conversation! Breakfast will be at a restaurant near the conference hotel. Please email us at ncph@iupui.edu to reserve a spot.

Presidential Luncheon, Business Meeting, and Awards Ceremony

Friday, April 21, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

NCPH President Robert Weible's address will be preceded by the annual Business Meeting and the Awards Ceremony. Purchase tickets for the luncheon when you preregister for the conference.

Poster Session

Friday, April 21, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Held in the book exhibit hall, the Poster Session is an opportunity to discuss new research and programming projects that use visual evidence. Stop by and meet the presenters.

The call for poster submissions is open until March 17.

Visit www.ncph.org

Endowment Dinner

Saturday, April 22, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Help support the future of public history and come to the Endowment Dinner at Teasim (400 8th Street, NW) a serene teahouse and restaurant in Washington's artsy Penn Quarter neighborhood. Join us for a buffet dinner accompanied by sake, beer, wine, and of course, tea. Proceeds from this event benefit the NCPH Endowment Fund. We are within sight of our goal to raise \$90,000 by July 2006 and thereby earn \$30,000 in additional support from a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant. Please reserve tickets using the preregistration form. A limited number of tickets will be available onsite. Cost: \$65 / \$30 students.

PREREGISTER FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING TODAY!

Take advantage of reduced rates by preregistering before March 29, 2006.

PRESERVE NEVADA AND PUBLIC HISTORY AT UNLV



Panoramic view of Reno, Nevada. 1908 (Photo courtesy of Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington D.C., LC-USZ62-19886)



Main Street, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1940. (Image courtesy of Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington D.C., LC-USF34-029820-D)

by Andy Kirk
akirk@ccmail.nevada.edu

How do you build a statewide preservation organization in a geographically large and economically diverse western state like Nevada? More importantly, what new model could you develop that would enable that organization to sustain itself through lean times and changing climates of opinion? Finally, could this organization become a vital part of a growing public history program? These were the questions that loomed large when a group of professors, National Trust representatives, students and preservation leaders met in the Spring of 2002 at Lake Tahoe to try and craft a model for a new type of preservation organization. All agreed that Nevada was a unique place and our organizational structure and mission needed to reflect this central fact. Another strong point of agreement was the need to bring young people into the mix in a meaningful way and place education on an equal footing with advocacy. From these discussions Preserve Nevada was born.

Now entering our fourth year as an educational experiment funded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Nevada State Office of Historic Preservation, and the University of Nevada-Las Vegas (UNLV), we have learned much about preservation and public history.

Although the goal of historic preservation is one common to all states, the diversity of Nevada's heritage, its historical boom-and-bust cycles, the current dynamism of its economy, and rapid growth all present unique challenges and opportunities. Preserve Nevada's board has spent three years of collective and individual effort to develop an effective and sustainable organization to identify and meet the special needs of Nevada's preservation community. During that time the organization has succeeded in its primary goal of changing public perception of historic preservation while providing educational opportunities for public history students.

One of Preserve Nevada's most important assets is its partnership with the Public History Program at UNLV. The Public History Program provides us with office space and administrative support, and Preserve Nevada benefits from the expertise and outreach opportunities available at a large university. Our model for this organizational partnership comes from the time-tested system of placing academic journals within academic departments. This relationship benefits both parties. The university gets access to new funding sources, new student funding lines are created, community ties are built or fostered, and positive press is generated for humanities research.

The benefits to the preservation organization are obvious—shelter from the economic storm of the nonprofit world and a built-in system for a constant flow of energized new participants in the cause. Preserve Nevada has been able to rely upon well-trained graduate students to perform many duties that would otherwise be the responsibility of organization staff while training a new generation of preservation professionals for the region.

The current deputy director of Preserve Nevada is Michelle Turk, a UNLV graduate student pursuing her PhD in American Cultural/ Intellectual History. The graduate students who run Preserve Nevada meet with National Trust leaders, attend meetings representing Preserve Nevada and work with state and local governments to resolve planning and development issues. The graduate students also work closely with a remarkable Board of Directors which provides access to high level government and business leaders. In turn board members, including board Chair, former U.S. Senator, and Nevada Governor Richard Bryan, get to bring their life experiences into the classroom. For the three students who have served as assistant directors in the organization's first four years the experience has proved invaluable and opened the door to career paths in preservation.



The Preserve Nevada board and Deputy Director Michelle A. Turk, third from right, on the porch of Lake Mansion in Reno. (Photo courtesy of Preserve Nevada.)



Former U.S. Senator Richard H. Bryan (D-NV) giving Mary Ellen Horan the Preserve Nevada annual "Nevada Heritage Award." (Photo courtesy of Preserve Nevada.)



The National Council on Public History makes the public aware of the value, uses, and pleasures of history; advises historians about their public responsibilities; helps students prepare for careers in public history; and provides a forum for historians engaged in historical activities in the public realm.

For details, contact
NCPH Executive Director,
John Dichtl
327 Cavanaugh Hall-IUPUI
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 274-2716
ncph@iupui.edu.

New members are welcome;
join at <www.ncph.org>.

For change of address, write UC
Press, 2000 Center St., Suite 303,
Berkeley, CA 94704-1223; (510)
643-7154; journals@ucpress.edu.
Or visit <www.ucpress.edu>

We welcome submissions to *Public History News* sent to John Dichtl, Editor, at the above address. Articles 500-1,000 words in length; announcements and bulletin items up to 120 words. NCPH reserves the right to reject material that is not consistent with the goals and purposes of the organization.

One of Preserve Nevada's most significant accomplishments has been to bring together people from different parts of the state who share a common interest in preservation. Because of its unique geography, the northern and southern parts of Nevada can seem like different worlds, with entirely different histories and historical concerns. Preserve Nevada's Board of Directors represents the full range of these concerns within the state, and has played an important role in shaping a common understanding of the state's preservation needs. In common with many "state-wides," Preserve Nevada's most visible accomplishments have been the issuing of the 11 Most Endangered Historic Places lists. They have served to make Nevadans throughout the state aware of their abundant historic resources, and in many cases have prompted action towards preserving these resources for future generations. Residents born in the state and even those who only recently arrived can see massive changes taking place in the natural and built environment of Nevada, and many clearly thought about what was being lost in the process. Preserve Nevada's activities during the past three years have helped to articulate these concerns and bring about a notable change in attitudes towards historic preservation.

Even in Las Vegas, a city that seems to operate exclusively in the present and future tense, attitudes about preservation have shifted in the nick of time to save some crucial surviving historic resources.

Local media coverage of historic preservation in Las Vegas has evolved from open ridicule of the concept and caricatures of preservationists as a few anti-development antiquarians to thoughtful and extensive coverage of preservation as a legitimate and expected aspect of civic planning and community life. Additionally, Nevada has become a focal point for debates about the state of preservation in general as the movement enters a new phase in the twenty-first century. The New York Times and San Francisco Chronicle have featured Preserve Nevada and our collective concerns as examples of an evolving preservation ethos that, out of necessity, is working to include postwar resources and cultural landscapes into our advocacy and research.

Several states are considering the Preserve Nevada model as a solution to their state-wide preservation needs or to save an existing organization that has fallen on hard times. Nevada is an unusual place and it remains to be seen how well our model will translate, but four years of work on this project has convinced me more than ever that building bridges between community and university, education and advocacy, and method and practice benefits all who participate.

Andy Kirk, Associate Professor, is the Public History Program Director at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



by John Dichl
ncph@ncph.org

Driving home from Louisville, Kentucky, recently I had a couple of hours to think about our next three annual meetings. I had spent the day in the largest city of the Bluegrass State, as the guest of NCPH board member Donna Neary, trying to determine which of several hotels would be the site of the 2008 Annual Meeting. Our most interesting hour was spent with the other four energetic members of what will become the 2008 Local Arrangements Committee. Already I could tell that these are the people and this is the kind of place that are going to make a great public history conference.

What pressed on my mind during my long, rainy drive north on I-65, however, was the planning for annual meetings in Washington, D.C., this April and in Santa Fé next year. As Bob Weible notes in his president's column, the joint annual conference with the Organization of American Historians this spring will bring NCPH members to sessions, tours, and receptions with nearly 3,000 other historians, teachers, publishers, and graduate students. All signs indicate it will be a big conference. Numerous public history

themes and presenters have been so integrated into the program for Washington, that NCPH members might want to use the special NCPH events—such as the Poster Session, Presidential Luncheon, and Endowment Dinner—to more easily locate each other.

That challenge, of course, is a huge opportunity to connect with colleagues who are not public historians, even to recruit them for public history projects or for NCPH membership. The Membership Committee and the Executive Office, for example, will be using a few hundred copies of the next issue of *The Public Historian* in a membership drive during the Washington conference. Coedited by Rebecca Conard and Shelley Bookspan, the issue looks at "Public History as Reflective Practice," a theme that is particularly timely and particularly useful in starting conversations about what it is that we public historians do.

A year from April, when we gather in sunny Santa Fé, this will still be a priority—this inward reflection about who we are and what we do, along with expansive outreach to individuals who might not think of themselves as public historians. Vice President Bill Bryans and 2007 Program Chair Rose Diaz have set a provocative theme, "Many Histories, Many Publics—Common Ground?" It encourages presenters to draw on the different types of history we produce for different audiences. The theme asks us to celebrate and to rigorously

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CHANGES IN H-PUBLIC



by Cathy Stanton
cstanton@tiac.net

When NCPH created its own list serve, H-Public, in 1994, it was still a novelty to be able to share information and

ideas instantly with colleagues around the world. Today, H-Public is just one among countless sources of email that flood our inboxes every time we turn on our computers. So how can we keep H-Public a lively and valuable forum for discussions about public history in this changed and crowded cyber-environment?

That's the question that I've been mulling over recently as the new editor of H-Public. On polling the list's more than 1,200 subscribers when I took over the job in September 2005, I got a sense that many people were enthusiastic about the list as a potential place of substantive

exchange and conversation, but that they were also leery of anything that would add too much more email to their daily dose. The changes that we hope to implement in H-Public, then, are designed to help us tread that fine line between liveliness and overload.

If you're a subscriber, you may have noticed some recent changes designed to make it easier for you to scan the many pieces of public-history-related information that come through the list each week. We'll be experimenting soon with a regular "forum" discussion on a focused topic of general interest in the field, with messages batched so that they don't generate too much additional email traffic. We will also be working to make the H-Public homepage <<http://www.h-net.org/~public/>> a more welcoming and informative portal in its own right.

Other future plans include the possibility of an optional list of subscriber profiles as

a way of getting a better sense of who's out there in the public history field, reinvigorating H-Public's advisory board, and recruiting more subscribers from outside the U.S. who can help us to make the list a more truly international network.

If you're not currently a subscriber, I hope you'll consider signing up by visiting the homepage. Subscriber or not, you can always send feedback, information to be posted, or suggestions for forum topics to me at cstanton@tiac.net. There will also be opportunities in the near future to become more actively involved in shaping H-Public, so if you have ideas, energy, or expertise to offer in this direction, I hope you'll let me know.

Cathy Stanton recently received her PhD from the Interdisciplinary Doctorate Program at Tufts University. She is currently an adjunct faculty member at Tufts and at Vermont College of Union Institute & University.



by Bruce Craig
rbccraig@historycoalition.org

The Devil in the Details

Public History and the President's FY 2007 Budget Proposal

In February the White House submitted to Congress its \$2.7-trillion budget proposal that will enable the federal government to operate throughout FY 2007. While defense and homeland security related agencies see modest increases, those increases are at the expense of domestic agencies, many of which face draconian cuts. Collectively, domestic agencies stand to take billions in reductions. A total of 141 federal programs are slotted to be sharply curtailed or eliminated entirely, and a third of them are in the Department of Education.

Unlike previous years, the Bush administration has not spared history and archives related programs, and, as a result, public history programs throughout the federal government are on the chopping block. For example, for the second year in a row the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) is zeroed out from the president's budget; there are no funds whatsoever for grants and only \$510,000 is requested for staffing and administration for the remaining ongoing grants. Once they are completed the program would be terminated.

Also zeroed out is all funding for Senator Lamar Alexander's (R-TN) Congressional and Presidential Academies, which this last year the Department of Education (ED) launched with awards of just under \$2 million to several organizations. If the president's proposal is embraced by Congress, the ED's popular "Teaching American History" (TAH) grant initiative would be cut in excess of 50 percent as the president has requested only \$50 million for this program in FY 2007.

The administration advanced a curious rationale for the cut in funding for the TAH grant program. In the budget proposal the president asserts that, "the number of quality applications for assistance under this program (TAH) in recent years does not justify the current level of funding (\$121 million)." Hence, the reduced request reflects "the anticipated number of high-scoring applicants" and would generate "about 52 new awards." According to departmental and Hill insiders and education advocates who monitor ED programs, the collective view is that the president's assertion that the number of "quality" applications has declined is of "questionable veracity."

Another big loser is the National Park Service. According to National Parks Conservation Association, a citizen watchdog

group, the president proposes a cut of \$100.4 million in the NPS budget. Last year's appropriation was \$2.25 billion and this year the budget request is scaled back to \$2.15 billion. Most of the cuts come in construction and land acquisition of which there is only one project recommended for funding—for the Flight 93 National Historic Site in Pennsylvania that commemorates the terrorist attack of 9/11. To the relief of many, the Historic Preservation Fund survived a potential hit and is level-funded at \$72 million.

For the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) the request is for \$140.95 million—level funding (actually a meager \$6,000 increase) for the agency as a whole. But according to the National Humanities Alliance, "the president's budget would cut funding for competitive program funds by \$1.32 million to help pay for administrative salary and overhead cost increases." Level funding—\$15.2 million—is proposed for the NEH signature "We the People" initiative, the NEH program that focuses funds on the teaching and learning of American history and culture. "We the People" funds cut across the breadth of the NEH's programmatic areas. Part of the funds would support the "Interpreting America's Historic Places" and "Family and Youth Programs in American History" initiatives; the purpose of the former is self evident while the latter supports inter-generational learning about significant topics in U.S. history and culture. There is also a major new matching fund initiative that seeks to transcribe, digitize, and post to the Internet the papers of the first four presidents (Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison). There are funds earmarked to help preserve and increase access to collections of papers of former members of Congress, and finally, the budget includes \$31.08 million for Federal/State partnership programs.

Also level funded is the Woodrow Wilson Center—\$9 million—and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation—\$6 million.

For the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) the request is for \$338 million, an increase of \$12.5 million over FY2006. Of this, \$45 million will go toward development of "basic preservation and access capabilities of the Electronic Records Archives." For the first time there is a funding request to support the operations of the Public Interest Declassification Board, a body authorized by Congress in 2001 that serves in an advisory capacity to the president and executive branch on federal record declassification. To the disappointment of many, the hoped-for initial funding for a new stateside archives formula grant program did not materialize. There is, however, a \$3.7 million set aside for the initial move of the records and for staffing, operation, and maintenance of the Nixon presidential library and an additional request of \$6.9 million toward construction of an archival storage addition to the Nixon facility. In total, over \$10 million is set to go to the Nixon Library.

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NCPH WORKSHOPS FOR THE 2006 ANNUAL MEETING

Genealogists and Historians: Partners in Preserving the Past

Wednesday, April 19, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Workshop fee: \$75

The field of American history is deeply rooted in collective personal histories. In this day-long workshop, genealogical researcher, author, and lecturer Lisa A. Alzo, M.F.A., will cover the fundamentals of genealogical research and methods of fusing it with the contextualizing frameworks of social history. Workshop participants will learn new ways of approaching local and community history by incorporating family histories and the wealth of other information generated by genealogical researchers. Participants will also explore the common ground between genealogists, historians, and other historical practitioners.

Many Hands Make Light Work: Developing a Successful Collaborative Project

Saturday, April 22, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Workshop fee: \$25

The Columbia County (NY) Museum Educators Forum will present a workshop for public history practitioners on partnership

and collaboration. CCMEF presenters will emphasize team building as well as developing, funding, and completing cooperative projects involving educators, historians, and museums at the local and state levels. Workshop participants will review the CCMEF history kit and web site, and then use as case studies several of the CCMEF's most successful projects, including a thematic educational kit for middle school children, which incorporates the New York State Learning Standards and the wealth of primary source materials available at Hudson Valley the historical sites and museums in Columbia County.

Presenters: Heidi Hill, Clermont State Historic Site; Ruth Ellen Berniger, Columbia County Historical Society; James McKay, Martin Van Buren National Historic Site; Geraldine Weidel, Olana State Historic Site; Keith Hitlin, web designer; and Anne Ackerson, organizational consultant

Register online <http://www.oah.org/meetings/2006/> by March 29.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Thomas Conroy
Worcester, MA

Elizabeth Margolis
Framingham, MA

Anita Danker
Framingham, MA

Paul Bookbinder
Dorchester, MA

Steven Lubar
Providence, RI

Judith Heberling
Alexandria, PA

Jennifer Fisher
Philadelphia, PA

Chris Naylor
College Park, MD

Blake Renfro
Knoxville, TN

Kim O'Donnell
Paducah, KY

Bryan Hill
Kent, OH

Gennifer Reiter
Kent, OH

Bethany Fleming
Evanston, IL

Nathan Witthom
Chicago, IL

Jim Malachowski
Enid, OK

Eleanor Jennings
San Francisco, CA

Teresa Bergman
Chico, CA

Cherisa Debolt
APO

Michelle Hamilton
Ontario, Canada

Neville Stanley
Nottingham, Great Britain

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Michael S. Binder has moved from the Department of Energy and is now a federal Records Declassification Specialist with the Air Force Declassification Office, still working "behind the glass" at the National Archives at College Park.

Deborah Schwartz is the new president of Brooklyn Historical Society. Schwartz comes to the Historical Society from the Museum of Modern Art, where she served since 2002 as deputy director for education.

NCPH STAFF NEWS

Dana Ward, who has been with NCPH since November 2000, has accepted another position within the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis system and will be moving to a new job at Riley Hospital at the end of February. Dana has served as the organization's first fulltime administrative assistant and helped maintain the smooth flow of the expanding operations and programs over the years. She has worked closely with the board and the committees, provided membership services, handled registration and logistics at the annual meeting, kept up the website, maintained the financial accounts, and handled many other responsibilities. Her wide experience and deep commitment to NCPH made the transition between executive directors at the

beginning of January an easy one. We wish her all the best in her new job!

Alison Smith has joined NCPH as the graduate intern for the 2005-2006 spring semester. She is a first-year graduate student pursuing a dual Masters Degree in Public History and Library Science. She is a 2003 graduate of Indiana University South Bend where she received her BA in History. Her main tasks with NCPH include working on the quarterly issues of Public History News, assisting with the annual meeting, and helping with various administrative functions in the Executive Offices. Alison's career goals include working in an area of Historic Preservation or an academic archive.

PLACE MATTERS AT THE CREATING LIVABLE COMMUNITIES NEW YORK SYMPOSIUM

by Marci Reaven
mreaven@citylore.org

In 2003, when the factory building in Greenwich Village notorious for the 1911 Triangle fire was officially landmarked by the City of New York, it was the first of the city's landmarks to commemorate the history of organized labor. In 2001, when tiny but historic Casa Amadeo Record Store in The Bronx was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it was one of the only listings to commemorate mainland Puerto Rican history. Our project, Place Matters, prompted both recognitions as part of its mission to promote and protect sites in New York City that connect us to the past and keep our city vibrant and distinctive. Historic preservation is one among many strategies we employ.

City Lore and the Municipal Art Society started Place Matters in 1998 out of concern that our history and also our ability to gather and sustain cultural and community traditions were being threatened by the widespread loss of historic and valuable places. Interdisciplinary from the start—we are practitioners of public history as well as public sector folklore and historic preservation—we were pleased when Lynn Josse and Kay Gasen of the Public Policy Research Center at University of Missouri-St. Louis asked us to deliver the plenary address at their May 2005 Creating Livable Communities Symposium. Their quest to link public history to community revitalization is what we, too, have been trying to achieve. Examples of interdisciplinary practice dominated the symposium. What follows are some excerpts from Place Matters's contribution.

Place Matters looks at New York as a treasure-house of sites that are assets in all kinds of human and community development. Yet the role of place in promoting historical memory and public life is often undervalued. Our aim is to



Bohemian Hall's gracious, enclosed plaza hosts NYC's last beer garden and the cultural activities of its Czech founders and other ethnic groups. (Photo courtesy of Martha Cooper.)

Our commitment to historian Michael Frisch's notion of "shared authority," calling upon humanities professionals and others to share interpretive power with relevant publics, is revealed in our citywide survey of places—the Census of Places that Matter.

draw attention to historically and culturally significant locations and buildings so that they can be learned from and, when necessary, protected, and thus continue to perform their many productive functions.

Our commitment to historian Michael Frisch's notion of "shared authority," calling upon humanities professionals and others to share interpretive power with relevant publics, is revealed in our citywide survey

of places—the Census of Places that Matter. We decided early on that we didn't know enough about what sites mattered to people or why they mattered. Nor could we assume that all users or enthusiasts of a particular spot would share the same perspectives. We realized that to understand such things we would have to go out and ask, and ask widely.

We collect and publish nominations of places to the Census through our public programs and our website. As we receive nominations, we look for patterns and try to identify the principal categories of value that people assign to places they care about.

Many nominations to our Census of Places that Matter are for places where history happened. They are valued for providing evidence and touchstones that sustain or reignite historical memory and that sometimes bear directly on contemporary

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NCPH ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTORS FOR 2005

NCPH wishes to acknowledge and thank the following individuals and institutions who contributed to the NCPH Endowment Fund during the calendar year 2005.

A & P Historical Resources,	Michael Duchemin	Linda Norris
Kathy Penningroth and Lee	Laura Feller	Gordon Olson
Anderson	Lee Formwalt	Alan Paterson
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Christy Coleman	Diane Laffin	Amy Wilson
Michael Devine	Randall Miller	Joan Zenzen
Rose Diaz	Greg Mobley	Michael Zuckerman
John Dichtl	Elizabeth Monroe	

Special thanks to the following who provided exceptional support in 2005.

Shelley Bookspan	Noel Stowe
Hester Davis	Marie Tyler-McGraw
Constance Schulz	The History Channel

If we have overlooked your name, please contact the NCPH Executive Office.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK > continued from page 6

test the internal connectedness of the public history field.

The vitality of the annual meeting, ultimately, comes from its capacity to focus attention on such existential concerns, while simultaneously not letting us forget more pragmatic needs, such as networking and exchanging new ideas for projects, approaches, jobs, or courses. Energy at the annual meeting also arises from being in proximity to so many fellow public historians as well as among the historical treasures of an unfamiliar city. For those of us who do not work directly with broad cross sections of the public, the annual conference can provide fresh perspective when we attend events, such as plenary sessions or special workshops, to which local audiences have been invited. We can share parts of the meeting with the general public so that our

presence in a given city or region creatively draws attention to public history. After all, NCPH's mission statement declares that the organization "aspires to make the public aware of the value, uses, and pleasures of history."

My long drive home on the interstate highway that day, like most of my cold, gray car trips this winter, left me longing for springtime. I know I will be in Washington, D.C., this April, probably soon after the cherry blossoms have peaked. Next year I will head for the blue sky and sun of northern New Mexico. In spring of 2008, three weeks before the Kentucky Derby, I will be in Louisville with a few hundred other public historians. But spring 2009? Those annual meeting plans will have to await the initiative of an NCPH member who answers the CFP and proposes a site for the 2009 conference.

CALL FOR ANNUAL MEETING SITE PROPOSALS

The National Council on Public History seeks site proposals for its annual meetings, beginning in the year 2009.

Proposals should include the following information:

- A statement of why the site is appropriate for the NCPH annual meeting.
- Information regarding support from local individuals, institutions, and agencies that could work together to plan a successful conference. Letters of intent would strengthen the proposal.
- Potential arrangements for meeting facilities, hotels, and transportation, with approximate costs.
- Proposed dates for the meeting, generally between 15 March and 1 May.
- Any other details that might strengthen the proposal.

Since the NCPH Board of Directors considers proposals at its spring and fall meetings, a representative or representatives of the host institution(s) should plan to present and discuss the site proposal.

For more information, contact the NCPH Executive Offices at 317.274.2716 or by email: ncph@iupui.edu

Send completed proposals to:
NCPH Executive Office
327 Cavanaugh Hall—IUPUI
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140



NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HISTORY

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*For information about becoming a Patron or Sponsor, please contact NCPH Executive Director,
John Dichtl at 317.274.2718 or email him at ncph@iupui.edu*

Thank You For Your Support

AWARDS, GRANTS AND INTERNSHIPS

Internship Opportunity, **Waukegan Park District**, Cultural Arts Division \$125 weekly, plus housing. Haines Museum/Raymond Research Library offers an excellent opportunity for students to develop professional behavior and skills, apply academic knowledge, and acquire experience appropriate for a position/career student may ultimately seek, such as curator, educator, registrar, collections manager, administrator, exhibit designer/fabricator, development officer, museum director, etc. Qualifications: Must be college major or recent graduate in history, anthropology, art history, material culture studies, or museum studies. Candidate must have transportation. Send a letter of interest and resume to: Claudia A. Petrusky, Superintendent of Cultural Arts, Waukegan Park District, Jack Benny Center for the Arts, 39 Jack Benny Drive, Waukegan, IL 60087. Phone: 847-360-4740 Fax: 847-662-0592 Email: cpetrusky@waukeganparks.org Position open until filled.

National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Fellowship Opportunities in Aerospace History, 2006-2007. Four residential fellowships to support research in aerospace history: Guggenheim Fellowship for predoctoral and recent postdoctoral scholars; A. Verville Fellowship, open to academic and non-academic historians; Ramsey Fellowship in Naval Aviation History, which is similarly open; and, Charles A. Lindbergh Chair in Aerospace History, a one-year appointment to a senior scholar who is researching and writing a topic in aerospace history. Application deadline is January 15, 2006; successful applicants notified mid-April. The Guggenheims (3 months to a year), Verville, and Ramsey are open for the 2006-2007 academic year; Lindbergh is open for the 2007-2008 academic year. See <http://web1.si.edu/ofg/> and <http://www.nasm.si.edu/getinvolved/internfellow.cfm>

CALLS FOR PAPERS, ARTICLES, PROPOSALS AND PRESENTATIONS

The **National Council on Public History** invites you to submit articles for its quarterly newsletter, *Public History News*. We welcome stories concerning innovative public programs, project updates, important issues concerning public history, interesting collaborations, and new approaches being used to bring history to the public. Article submissions for *Public History News* should be 500 to 1,000 words in length; illustrations accepted as appropriate. Send submissions or questions to: ncph@iupui.edu or NCPH, 327 Cavanaugh Hall-IUPUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202.

CONFERENCES AND LECTURE SERIES

Pioneer America Society, 38th Annual Conference, Springfield, Ohio October 5-7, 2006. Our 38th annual conference, "On the Rebound: Landscape Revitalization in a Historic, Industrial Midwestern Town," is sponsored by Wittenberg University, the Heritage Center of Clark County, and the Turner Foundation. Opening reception in the Heritage Center of Clark County, housed in the huge, Romanesque historic market building that was once City Hall and is ranked as one of the top local museums in the country. Saturday field trip on urban revitalization, extant industrial artifacts, and the historic nature of Springfield in regards to its ethnic settlement. Paper, special session, and panel discussions proposals relating to the theme or other topics related to material culture and of interest to the society are welcome by **August 7, 2006**. Contact Artimus Keiffer, Dept. of Geography, 110 Carnegie Hall, Wittenberg University, Springfield, OH 45501; Phone: 937-327-7304 Email: akeiffer@wittenberg.edu, or visit <http://www.pioneeramerica.org>

INTERNET

The Farmers' Museum launches **Harvest of History**, an interactive website and fourth-grade curriculum dedicated to agriculture and rural life in New York State. The website <http://www.harvestofhistory.org/> features printable version of the interdisciplinary curriculum, interactive virtual tour of The Farmers' Museum, database of primary sources including museum objects and documents, and links to resources. Few schoolchildren today understand how food travels from farm to table or the importance of agriculture in the history of New York State. Harvest of History will help students understand their rural roots, while meeting state and national education standards for social studies and science.

Beyond the Book: Mass Reading Events and Contemporary Cultures of Reading in the UK, USA and Canada is a collaborative, interdisciplinary, transnational study which investigates selected mass reading events using methodologies drawn from the social sciences and the humanities. Mass reading events encourage people of the same city, region or nation-state to read the same book through programs of themed activities and the mass media. Our main objectives are to determine why and how people come together to share reading through a comparative study of selected events, such as "Canada Reads" and "One Book, One Chicago." We ask: do these events attract marginalized communities, foster new reading practices, enable social change? Visit our website: www.beyondthebookproject.org

Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM) introduces the blog, Eye Level, an extraordinary collaboration among curators, historians, conservators, enthusiasts, critics, designers, and of course bloggers—all participants in the story of American art. When SAAM reopens its renovated historic main building in July 2006, it will be a showcase for art that celebrates this nation's

vision and creativity. Eye Level is part of a continuing effort to explore stories central to the American experience and to search for what connects Americans today.

Join us at SAAM's blog: Eye Level:

<www.eyelevel.si.edu>

JOBS AND POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum seeks a Projects Assistant for its History of Astronomy Research Center to provide administrative, research, collections, and editorial support to the History of Astronomy department and to serve as liaison to other Adler departments and institutions. BA or equivalent in history, astronomy, art history, or museum studies required; additional graduate coursework or training in a related field preferred. One to two years experience in a museum, library, or cultural institution required; one to two years administrative assistant or related additional experience preferred. Experience with databases helpful. Email cover letter, salary history, and resume to Marguerite E. Dawson, Director of Human Resources, mdawson@adlerplanetarium.org

One to two-year Digital Historian position at rank of Research Assistant Professor at the **Center for History and New Media**, <<http://chnm.gmu.edu>> PhD or advanced ABD in history or closely related field required. These credentials preferred but not required: 1. experience in digital history or digital libraries; 2. strong technical background in new technology and new media; 3. administrative and organizational experience; 4. background in the history of science, technology, and industry, broadly defined. Send letter of application, c.v. or resume, and three letters of recommendation (or dossier) to chnm@gmu.edu or Center for History and New Media, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive MS 1E7, Fairfax, VA 22030. Use subject line "Digital Historian." We will begin considering applications **April 1, 2006**.

Executive Director, **West Overton Museums**, works closely with board and is responsible for running all museum activities and programs including recruitment and maintenance of volunteer staff as needed for programs, special events, staffing of the museum during the season, fund raising, grant writing and reporting, overseeing capital projects, publicity, marketing, and quarterly newsletter. BA/BS in history, museum studies, or business; MA preferred. Three-year contract with starting salary of \$30,000 plus benefits, a flexible schedule, and vacation time.

<<http://www.westovertonmuseum.org/>>

Send resume (no email, hard copy only) and three letters of reference to: Dr. Mary Ann Mogus, President, Board of Directors West Overton Museums, West Overton Village, Scottsdale, PA 15683-1168.

Questions may be directed to director's office at womuseums@westol.com

The History Department at the **Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County** seeks a curator of California and American History to provide leadership to staff, volunteers, scholars, and the general public. Curator is expected to make significant contributions to exhibitions and special projects; to enhance and promote the collection; and to seek and administer support through grants and other funding opportunities. PhD in American History with specialization in California and the West, plus significant direct experience with historical materials in a museum, research library, historical society, or archives setting, preferably with supervisory or team leadership experience; proven record with fundraising and connections to the scholarly community; familiarity with electronic cataloguing and collections management tools; understanding of conservation standards and treatments. Position will be filled when the ideal candidate has been identified; the start date is July 1, 2006. Full job description and application information available at <<http://www.nhm.org/jobs/>>

The History Department at the **Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County** seeks a curator for the Seaver Center for Western History Research to provide leadership to staff, volunteers, scholars, and the general public. Curator is expected to make significant contributions to exhibitions and special projects; to enhance, organize, evaluate, and publicize the collection; and to seek and administer support through grants and other funding opportunities. PhD, or MLS, or MA in American History or equivalent, plus five years direct experience with historical materials in a museum, research library, historical society, or archives setting, preferably with supervisory or team leadership experience; proven knowledge of electronic cataloguing and collections management tools; understanding of conservation standards and treatments. Review of applications begins as soon as they are received. Full job description and application information available at <<http://www.nhm.org/jobs/>>

New York State Museum, Senior Historian, Curator African American History. Conducts independent collections-based research in the African-American history of New York State; seeks funding for research and collections programs; builds relationships with African-American communities to facilitate research and collections efforts; contributes to the curation of other history collections; and prepares research results for presentation at professional conferences, public programming events, peer-reviewed publication, and exhibitions. MA in American history or closely related field and three years fulltime experience in historical research or college/university level history teaching, or PhD in American history and one year of the fulltime experience above. Salary \$53,080 leading to a maximum of \$65,502 based on annual performance advances. Contact: Ms. Gayle Bowden; Director, Human Resources Management; New York State Education Department; Box NC-118, 89 Washington Ave., Room 528 EB; Albany, NY 12234. <<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/>>

NCH WASHINGTON UPDATE

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By contrast, for the NHPRC—once again, zero funds for grants. The budget document states: “The Budget proposes no new grants funding...so that NARA can focus its resources on its essential Federal records management mission.” The official NARA press release, however, subtly takes issue with the president’s recommendation by publicly stating that “over the past four decades, NHPRC has awarded more than \$153 million to more than 4,000 state and local government archives, colleges and universities and individuals to preserve and publish important historical records that document American history.” Last year, due to the collective efforts of the history and archives communities, Congress restored \$7.5 million for the NHPRC, and efforts

are already underway to once again restore funding for the commission.

For the 18 museums that comprise the Smithsonian Institution—\$644.4 million—a surprise increase up from the FY 2006 appropriation of \$615 million. Funds are present for renovations for several of the Smithsonian’s deteriorating museums, including \$14.5 million for the National Museum of American History.

The one area that the president has demonstrated continued support for is the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Hill insiders attribute this to Laura Bush’s continued advocacy on behalf of the nation’s libraries. The president’s request is for a total of \$262.2 million

(an increase of just over \$15 million) of which \$39.89 million (an increase of \$2.5 million) is for assistance to museums and \$220 million for assistance to libraries. There is set aside \$25 million for the “Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program” as well as some \$17.9 million for Museums for America and \$3 million for Museum Professionals for the 21st Century programs.

Now that the president has submitted his budget proposal it is up to Congress to revise and approve funding for the government’s operations.

Bruce Craig is the Director of the National Coalition for History.

PLACE MATTERS

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concerns. One example is St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church on the Lower East Side where the congregation is preserving evidence of racially segregated seating in the years following slavery’s abolition in New York. Not until recently has there been public discussion about slavery in our city, so the congregation’s brave stance was not always popular. While Place Matters tends to focus on sites that play positive roles in their communities, such examples show that places that contribute to our well-being don’t have to be bearers of feel-good history.

People also value places that support forms of community life. These can be informal and formal gathering spots, economic anchors, or symbols of history and identity. They may or may not resonate beyond their immediate community, but their loss can provoke deep mourning and in some cases real consequences for that community’s well being. The ethnic social club Bohemian Hall in Astoria, Queens, is this kind of spot. For over a century it has supported the cultural and social life of Czech-New Yorkers—hosting traditional Sokol gymnastics, for example—and is now the last of its breed. Threatened with bankruptcy, its supporters realized that



On the anniversary of the terrible 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist fire, NYC garment unions still gather to keep the memory alive. (Photo courtesy of Martha Cooper.)

the Hall’s outdoor beer garden could attract non-Czechs as well, and the profits now keep the cultural pursuits afloat. Another important gathering place is CBGB, the legendary punk rock club that started in the 1970s on the Bowery. One special thing about the club was that everybody was welcome on stage as long as they played their own music. CBGB’s likely eviction

from its long-time home has attracted support not only from music lovers but also from public officials who recognize that it is now part of the city’s identity and a draw for tourists

Place Matters conducts follow-up research on many of the sites nominated to the Census of Places that Matter and we integrate some into interpretive, educational, and preservation initiatives. With over 500 nominations, the Census is creating a new bank of knowledge about the history of New York and the interaction between its people and places. We have long wanted to explore the applicability of our project to settings outside of New York City, and welcome contact. Find us at <www.placematters.net>.

Public Historian Marci Reaven is Managing Director of City Lore where she directs the Place Matters project. City Lore was founded in 1986 to document, interpret and present the living cultural heritage of New York City. The Municipal Art Society, cosponsor of Place Matters, was founded in 1896 and is active in preservation and planning for a more livable city.

JOINT NCPH AND OAH ANNUAL MEETING

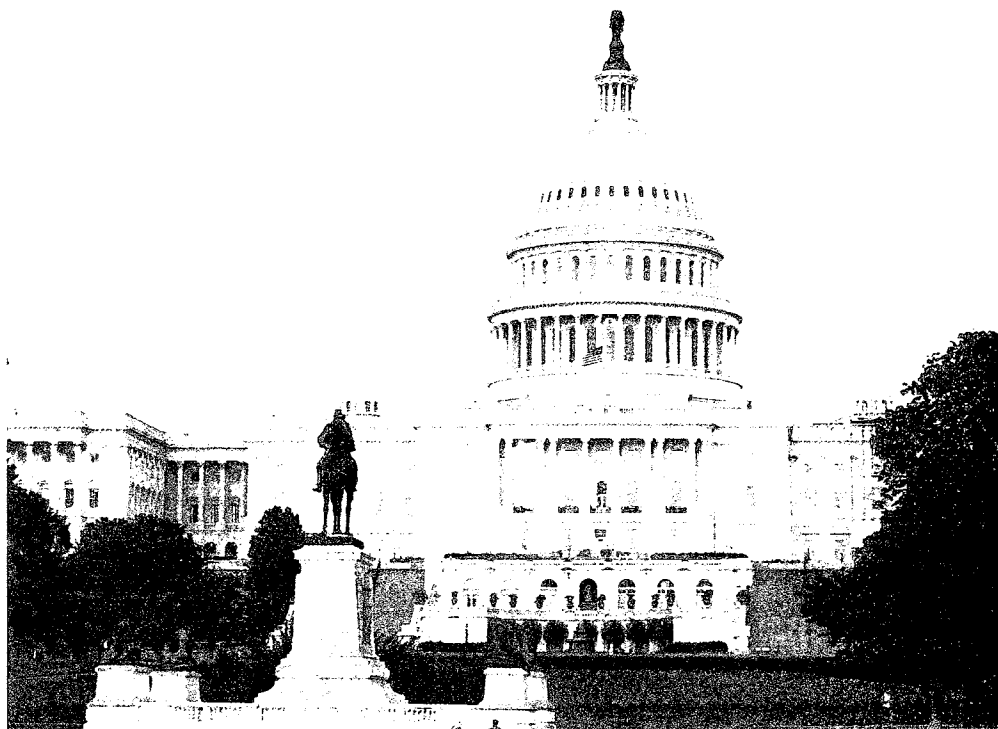
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much as you would like, welcome the opportunity to catch up on the latest scholarship. Much of what we learn from such exposure has substantial application back in our various work places.

Perhaps more importantly, joint meetings provide our academic friends with an opportunity to listen to us talk about the practice of history, its methods and audiences. I like to think that this will help them improve the quality of their scholarship. I also like to think that meetings like this provide a good venue for recruiting new members.

Still, I hear from members who feel overwhelmed whenever we get together with OAH. These conferences are, after all, about ten times as large as the meetings we hold on our own. It's clear that some of us would like to take advantage of any chance we might get to meet with OAH and other like-minded professional groups (as we did with the American Society of Environmental Historians two years ago in Victoria, for example). Others like to meet separately and would prefer less frequent meetings. My guess is that these differences will continue for some time, and I would encourage any of you who have thoughts on this subject to get in touch with our Executive Director, John Dichtl, our Vice President, Bill Bryans, or me. Opinions change over time, and we'd like to keep track of what you are thinking.

My own opinion is that this year's program offers something for everyone. There are over two-hundred sessions available to conference goers—29 of them devoted explicitly to public history and another 14 to teaching—and I'm sure many of us will experience the usual frustrations trying to choose among great sessions that happen to be scheduled concurrently. It's interesting to note, incidentally, that there were 33 sessions at last year's NCPH conference in Kansas City and 35 in Houston in 2003. In Washington this April, besides the dedicated public history sessions (marked with special icons on the electronic and printed programs), public historians will be participating in numerous other panels and roundtables over the course of our four days together.



Capitol Building (Photo courtesy of the Washington, DC Convention & Tourism Corporation)

Overall, our NCPH representatives on the Program Committee—Marty Blatt, Steve Lubar, and Jann Warren-Findley—did a great job of ensuring that public history would be featured prominently throughout the program. All of the plenary sessions—which range from a panel discussion among Smithsonian museum directors, to a debate on U.S. immigration policy, to a discussion on presidential assassinations (the conference hotel was the site of the attempt on Ronald Reagan's life 25 years ago), to a panel on the impact of AIDS on society, to an evening with acclaimed folksinger Tom Paxton—should be of special interest to public historians. Thanks to an outstanding Local Arrangements Committee, co-chaired by Richard McCulley, there are also 10 offsite sessions and 12 tours in and around Washington (including one bicycle tour).

We will be holding our presidential address/annual luncheon together with our awards ceremonies and business meeting on Friday afternoon, April 21. And we'll host our annual Endowment Dinner the following evening at a distinctive teahouse and restaurant in Washington's fashionable Penn Quarter neighborhood. Don't forget to preregister for both events. The program

also features a breakfast for those of you who direct undergraduate or graduate public history programs, a careers workshop, a new professionals breakfast, a poster session, and much more.

I am happy to report, meanwhile, that plans are well underway for our 2007 meeting in Santa Fé, New Mexico. Program chair Rose Diaz and Local Arrangements chair Jon Hunner promise an especially memorable experience. Donna Neary is also hard at work laying plans for the 2008 meeting to be held in Louisville, Kentucky. We're open to suggestions for 2009, so if you have any thoughts, let us know.

Finally, let me take moment to thank Dana Ward for her years of outstanding service as the NCPH administrative assistant and offer congratulations on her new job. I also would like to welcome our newest intern, Alison Smith, to the NCPH family and to thank Liz Monroe, IUPUI's internship coordinator, for her valuable and never-ending support. Alison is joining our Executive Office at an especially exciting time, and we all wish her the best.

See you in Washington.

National Council on Public History Annual Meeting

April 12-15, 2007
Santa Fé, New Mexico

Many Histories, Many Publics— Common Ground?

Visit www.ncph.org for information
about submitting a proposal.

Proposal deadline is September 1, 2006.

Santa Fé stands as a place celebrated for its recognition of distinctive communities rooted in traditional societies and ancestral landscapes with the intended purpose of maintaining a continuity of cultures. Such commitment to continuity has often been at odds with the growth and progressive nature of both Santa Fé and much of the continental United States where issues are framed by conflict, negotiation, and adaptation. This place fittingly provides a unique environment to consider the theme "Many Histories, Many Publics—Common Ground?" As public historians we support the belief that there is value in the discipline of History and in the application of the discipline for a wide range of audiences. Our members come from a variety of places and 'practice' in a multiplicity of venues. The 2007 meeting invites exploration of the work generated by the full variety of public historians and welcomes presentations that challenge or support this idea of 'common ground.'

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327 Cavanaugh Hall-IUPUI
425 University Blvd
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140

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Editorial Assistant: Alison Smith