



Saturday, March 19, 2016

8:00 am – 10:00 am

Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel

Baltimore, Maryland

## 2016 NCPH Awards

### NCPH Founders Award

*The NCPH Council of Past Presidents developed the Founders Award in 2015 to recognize those individuals who were present at the creation of NCPH and who played critical roles in the organization's success. The 2016 recipients of this award are Philip L. Cantelon and Arnita A. Jones.*

#### **Philip L. Cantelon**

Philip L. Cantelon has been doing public history since before Robert Kelley coined the term. After receiving his doctorate in history from Indiana University in 1971, he taught at Williams College while exploring the burgeoning field of oral history and first engaging with policy history. A month after the Three Mile Island nuclear accident in 1979, future NCPH chair Jack Holl, then at the U.S. Department of Energy, asked him to write a history of the agency's response to the accident. In 1980 he incorporated History Associates, Inc. with Rodney Carlisle and Robert Williams, his co-author on the Three Mile Island study. Under Cantelon's presidency, the company thrived and today is a major force in the field of historical consulting.

Cantelon joined the effort to formally organize NCPH at the September 1979 meeting at the National Archives. He then wrote the Articles of Incorporation for NCPH and served as the new organization's first executive secretary and then first executive director. He was also the first executive secretary for the new Society for History in the Federal Government from 1979 to 1983 and, from 1995 to 1996, that organization's president. For four years he was the conduit through which flowed all communications, ideas, and initiatives. While not claiming "credit" for the idea, he was the one who moved, at the 1980 Pittsburgh meeting, that council members each pay \$100 annually to finance the organization. On his watch NCPH successfully sponsored a curriculum seminar that led to the establishment of several graduate public history programs, the publication of *The Craft of Public History* (Greenwood, 1983), and the development of a Code of Ethics for public historians. More importantly with nothing more than ingenuity and those \$100 contributions, Cantelon built a national reputation for NCPH by organizing forums, receptions, and sessions at the Organization of American Historians and American Historical Association conferences. As executive secretary, he helped formalize the relationship between *The Public Historian* and NCPH and served on the editorial board of the journal from 1983 to 1987. He later co-edited the summer 1999 issue with Barbara Howe that celebrated the twentieth anniversary of NCPH. With Arnita Jones, he co-edited *Corporate Archives and History: Making the Past Work* (Krieger, 1993) as part of NCPH's series with the Robert E. Krieger Publishing Co.

## **Arnita A. Jones**

This award recognizes those “present at the creation” of NCPH, but Arnita Jones was present *before* the creation. “She plowed the ground; she paved the way; she was a forerunner.” She was “really in charge of” what G. Wesley Johnson (the 2015 Founders Award Recipient) called the “pre-public history movement.”

Jones has devoted her career to advancing the profession and practice of history, beginning with her leadership in the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History (NCC, now the National Coalition for History). The connection to the public history movement began when Johnson met Jones at a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)-sponsored conference on careers for people with humanities Ph.D.s. She saw the “crisis” of the 1970s as less an obstacle than a challenge to think broadly about the public life of history and historians.

As the first director of the NCC, she was “one of the luminaries” at the April 1978 conference on Public History and the Community in Phoenix. Her banquet address, about the NCC, was published in the first issue of *The Public Historian*.

That fall, she released a survey showing that forty-eight universities offered some form of public history courses. This provided an impetus for the 1979 Montecito symposium. Jones was there and at the September meeting at the National Archives. She worked with Robert Pomeroy, Anna Nelson, and Philip Canteloni to establish our headquarters in Washington, D.C., and prepare the way for the 1980 Pittsburgh meeting. Jones was on the first board of directors and worked with Bob Pomeroy to edit and produce our first newsletter. She was on the first national board of editors of *The Public Historian*. While senior historian for History Associates, she served as chair of NCPH from 1987 to 1988.

Jones has been the “Great Liaison,” helping to establish NCPH in the mainstream of national history organizations. She built an early link with the Society for History in the Federal Government while she worked at NEH. As executive director of the Organization of American Historians, she brought the OAH and NCPH into closer alliance. Most recently, as interim corresponding secretary of the International Federation for Public History, she has taken bridge-building to the international level. She has played the role of “Great Liaison” with much aplomb and little fanfare. The agenda has always been about building and maintaining a strong alliance between academic and practicing historians.

## **Robert Kelley Memorial Award**

*This award perpetuates the legacy and memory of a founder of the modern public history movement, Dr. Robert Kelley. It honors distinguished and outstanding achievements by individuals, institutions, nonprofit or corporate entities for having made significant inroads in making history relevant to individual lives of ordinary people outside of academia. Award committee members: Lindsey Reed (chair), Don Stevens, Emily Greenwald, Marianne Babal, and Victoria Harden*

## **Donald A. Ritchie**

The 2016 Robert Kelley Memorial Award winner is Donald A. Ritchie, who over his forty-year career in the Senate Historical Office exemplified the ideals of public history described in 1978 by Robert Kelley in the first issue of *The Public Historian*.

As Ritchie’s nominator explained, “His comprehensive knowledge of American history, his understanding of congressional practice, and his profound insight into the Senate and its unique institutional

development not only enhanced the work of the Historical Office but also informed countless scholars who sought his guidance and hundreds of senators who respected his expertise. Don Ritchie ‘often reminds us of our roots,’ commented Senator Patrick Leahy at the time of Don’s retirement, ‘and how the Senate, as a continuing body, has evolved, decade to decade, generation to generation.’ Don Ritchie ‘is the only one we turn to when we want to learn more about where the Senate has been so we can chart a better course for where it is going,’ chimed in Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. ‘His depth of knowledge really is something to behold.’”

Beyond the halls of the Senate, millions of Americans have been able to benefit from Ritchie’s expertise through his appearances on C-SPAN, the interpretive text he developed for the exhibition hall of the Capitol Visitor Center, and the numerous oral histories he conducted for the Senate Oral History Project. His book *Doing Oral History* established best practices for this essential field of public history that have been widely adopted both in the United States and abroad—the book has recently been translated into Chinese. In addition, throughout his career, he worked diligently to develop an archival process that facilitated public access to Senate records.

Ritchie has a long history of service to the professional organizations that promote public history, including the National Council on Public History, the Society for History in the Federal Government, the Oral History Association, the Organization of American Historians, and the American Historical Association.

The NCPH has been enriched by the contributions of Donald A. Ritchie, and is honored to present him with the 2016 Robert Kelley Memorial Award.

### **Outstanding Public History Project Award**

*This award is presented for work completed within the previous two calendar years that contributes to a broader public reflection and appreciation of the past or that serves as a model of professional public history practice. NCPH acknowledges the generous support of Stevie and Ted Wolf that makes this award possible. Award committee members: Robert Townsend (chair), Suzanne Fischer, Rebekah Dobrasko, and Andrea Burns*

#### ***The Philadelphia Public History Truck, Erin Bernard and Temple University Center for Public History***

The recipient of the 2016 Outstanding Public History Project Award is the Philadelphia Public History Truck (PPHT), which uses a former food truck as both a mobile museum and a staging ground for gathering local histories in city neighborhoods. The project is a model of collaborative co-curation—building relationships with communities, conducting oral histories and archival research in and with particular localities, and holding meetings—resulting in an exhibit about the neighborhood. The project then takes a version of the exhibit created about one neighborhood, and uses it in another neighborhood as the starting point for a conversation about a new exhibit. The PPHT is distinctive for working with members of the community to establish a vision of what is significant in their own history. Committee members were particularly impressed by the creativity and drive demonstrated by the project’s founder, Erin Bernard, who initiated the project as a graduate student in public history at Temple University. And we commend her recognition of the importance of sustainability for a project such as this by developing a partnership with Temple University’s Center for Public History to provide financial support and personnel. The Philadelphia Public History Truck provides an ideal model for similar community-based public history projects.

## NCPH Book Award

*The NCPH Book Award recognizes outstanding scholarship that addresses the theory and/or practice of public history or that includes the products of public history work. Award committee members: Pam Sanfilippo (chair), Rebecca Shrum, and Mary Battle*

Award Winner

***Interpreting LGBT History at Museums and Historic Sites***

(Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2014)

**Susan Ferentinos**, Independent Scholar

The 2016 National Council on Public History book award is presented to Susan Ferentinos for her groundbreaking work, *Interpreting LGBT History at Museums and Historic Sites*. This volume is published by Rowman and Littlefield as part of the new American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) series, *Interpreting History*. Ferentinos bases her work in sound scholarship, providing a concise history of the subject matter—quite an achievement when she clearly argues that there is not one lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) history, but many. Following the historical overview, Ferentinos introduces three well-chosen case studies, which are authored by practitioners in the field. The first case study by Jill Austin and Jennifer Brier focuses on LGBT exhibits; the second, by Kenneth C. Turino, on interpretation at LGBT-related sites; and the third, by Kyle Parsons and Stewart Van Cleve, on a museum education program for high school students. Each offers insight for public history practitioners and students on the ways to find and implement such programs at their sites and museums. Following these case studies, Ferentinos offers considerations and recommendations for those interested in interpreting LGBT history. Given the long history of denial, criminalization, and homophobia related to LGBT individuals, it is not surprising that most museums and historic sites ignored or lacked resources to address the topic in their collections and interpretation. Ferentinos demonstrates that these histories can be unearthed, explored, and presented to enrich our understanding of the past and fulfill the goal of inclusive, relevant, and valuable public history. The work serves not only as a history, but as a guidebook for archivists, curators, and interpreters, and a resource in academic public history programs.

Honorable Mention

***"History is Bunk": Assembling the Past at Henry Ford's Greenfield Village***

(The University of Massachusetts Press, 2014)

**Jessie Swigger**, Western Carolina University

## Excellence in Consulting Award

*Created in 2007, this award recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of public history through consulting or contract work. Award committee members: Jean-Pierre Morin (chair), Bruce Harvey, and Lila Teresa Church*

Group Award Winner

**Eric John Abrahamson and Lois Facer**, Vantage Point Historical Services, Inc., **Rockefeller Foundation Centennial Book Series**

In an era where an increasing amount of focus is being made on the "1%" of society, an historical examination of the charitable work of a member of this segment of society can be seen as disingenuous. Bringing a balanced and worthwhile perspective to such a study is one that requires tact, in-depth

research and a respectful approach. Vantage Point Historical Services, Inc., led by principal historian Eric John Abrahamson and chief financial officer Lois Facer, has shown a remarkable ability in doing just that. Commissioned by the Rockefeller Foundation for its centennial in 2013, Vantage Point Historical Services, Inc. produced a beautifully written and illustrated six-book series discussing the history of one of the world's most prolific philanthropic organizations. Working with a number of other specialists, and scholars, Abrahamson and Facer managed and produced this multi-volume series that shows not only a depth of historical analysis and methodology, but also style that makes it entirely approachable to specialist, scholars and the public at large. Only one of the many other projects examining charitable organizations, Vantage Point Historical Services, Inc. is showing not only how best to critically look at organizations like the Rockefeller Foundation, but also tell the public why the history of these organizations matter.

Individual Award Winner

**Morgen Young, Alder, LLC, "Uprooted: Japanese American Farm Labor Camps During WWII"**

As we move through the commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War II, new attention has been paid to the impact and the significance of this conflict. The work of Morgen Young, sole owner of Alder, LLC., shows us different and often overlooked faces of war. In her project, "Uprooted: Japanese American Farm Labor Camps During World War II," Young has brought together a largely unknown (least we say forgotten) aspect of the war: the internment of Japanese Americans. Based on a cache of photographs of the Farm Security Administration from 1942, Young developed a multi-faceted project that includes a traveling photography exhibit, an oral history program, two documentary films, and a comprehensive website. Through these products, she brought to life the experiences of those interned, many of whom were interviewed and featured in the exhibit itself. Since its first installation in 2014 to critical acclaim in Oregon, the exhibit is slated to reach new audiences such as those of the Japanese American Museum in Los Angeles, over the course of the next two years. Through her diligent work and careful hand, Young demonstrates not only the best way to work with stakeholders, but also the best public history practices to connect with her audience.

### G. Wesley Johnson Award

*Named in honor of the founding editor of The Public Historian, this award 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, New Mexico, and many of his friends for underwriting this award. Award committee members: Donna DeBlasio (chair), Ed Roach, Julie Davis, and Kelly Spradley-Kurowski*

Award Winner

**"'Plan or Be Planned For': Temple Contemporary's Funeral for a Home and the Politics of Engagement,"** *The Public Historian* Vol 37, No 2  
**Patrick Grossi**

This article was chosen as the best 2015 article in *The Public Historian* for its intriguing topic, highly engaging writing style, and entertaining narrative. Grossi successfully demonstrates a positive, relevant, community-based approach to making history and historic preservation interesting to local residents. The "funeral" held for one of the city of Philadelphia's vacant properties before its demolition gives us a dynamic way to appreciate an area's history and have a collective celebration of it, even as the area and its residents face inevitable change.

Honorable Mention

**"Playing Victorian: Heritage, Authenticity, and Make-Believe in Blists Hill Victorian Town, the Ironbridge Gorge,"** *The Public Historian* Vol 37, No 3  
**Lara Rutherford-Morrison**

## Student Project Award

*This award is given to an outstanding public history student project initiated as academic coursework and implemented and recognized beyond the classroom for its contribution to the field of public history. Award committee members: Ella Howard (chair), Eric Nystrom, Martha Tye, and Erin McLeary*

Award Winner

**"Wearing Gay History," Eric Nolan Gonzaba,** George Mason University

The NCPH Student Project Award goes to Eric Nolan Gonzaba, doctoral student in George Mason University's Department of History and Art History, for his project Wearing Gay History. His online digital archive of historical lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender t-shirts utilizes material culture artifacts to interpret the history of activism. Gonzaba began by digitizing the t-shirt collection of the Chris Gonzalez Library and Archives, then partnered with organizations across the country to bring to light their collections. His project makes excellent use of technology to present various interpretations that make the collections meaningful to website visitors. In this project, Gonzaba uses history to bring a deeper level of understanding to this important and often under-represented piece of modern history.

Honorable Mention

**"Black at Bryn Mawr," Emma Kioko and Grace Pusey,** Bryn Mawr College

## New Professional Travel Awards

*New Professional travel awards are for individuals who are new to the field and practice of public history. These two grants assist new professionals in attending the conference, helping them become more connected with other members of the profession early in their careers. NCPH acknowledges the generous support of Historical Research Associates, Inc., for underwriting one of these awards. Award committee members: Joel Ralph (chair), Amy Williams, Kristin Ahlberg, and Jeff Sellers*

HRA New Professional Travel Award

**Erendina A. Delgadillo,** LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes

Erendina A. Delgadillo is the curator and registrar at the LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes, a museum that presents the Mexican American history of Los Angeles. As a young Latina curator, Delgadillo is passionate about developing exhibitions that privilege the teaching of emotional intelligence and empathy as an essential way to healing community divisions. At the museum she is focused on using the social power of the museum as an institution to challenge the colonial legacy and to privilege untold stories. Her work is an exceptional example of a new professional challenging the exclusive past.

NCPH New Professional Travel Award

**William F. Stoutamire**, The Frank House, University of Nebraska at Kearney

William Stoutamire is a recent graduate of the Ph.D. in Public History program from Arizona State University and is now the Director of the UNK Frank House, a historic house museum on the campus of the University of Nebraska at Kearney. As the director of the museum, Stoutamire is seeking to create a new relationship between the museum and students from the University, including a wholesale rebranding of the institution and its reinvention as a “History Lab,” where students from all levels are engaged in a variety of public history projects. In addition to his role at the museum he is also a graduate lecturer in UNK’s new public history program.

Honorable Mention

**Angela Sirna**, Middle Tennessee State University

### Graduate Student Travel Awards

*The 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. Award committee members: Ella Howard (chair), Eric Nystrom, Martha Tye, and Erin McLeary*

Congratulations this year go to the following:

**Pamela Y. Curtin** – West Virginia University

**Hannah Givens** – University of West Georgia

**Julie Peterson** – University of Massachusetts, Amherst

**Kristen Rund** – Arizona State University

**Cane West** – University of Carolina-Columbia

**Congratulations to the 2016 award recipients, and thank you award selection committees!**

**Submissions for the 2017 NCPH Book and Robert Kelley Memorial awards are due November 1, 2016, and all other award submissions are due December 1, 2016. Please see [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org) for details.**