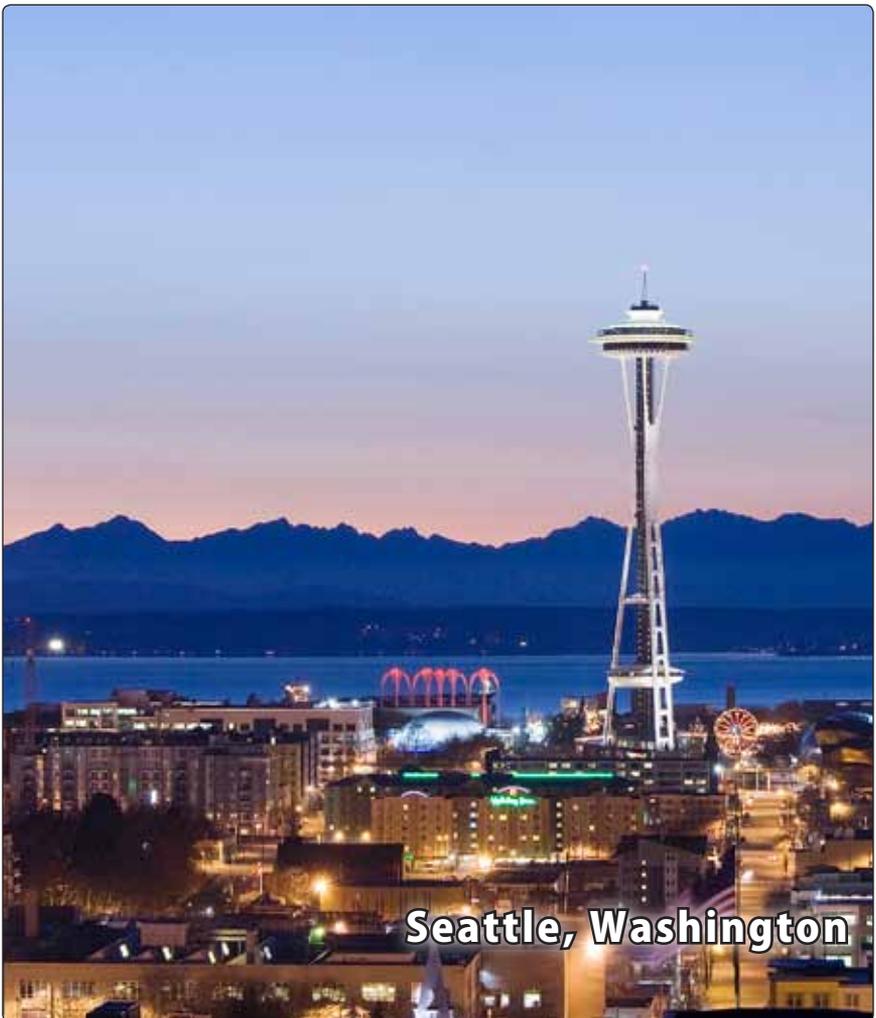


Organization of American Historians

# 2009 Awards Ceremony and Presidential Address

Saturday, March 28 • 4:00 PM



# 2009 OAH Awards Ceremony and Presidential Address

Saturday, March 28, 2009

Washington State Convention and Trade Center  
Seattle, Washington

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**4:00PM**

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**4:30PM**

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**8:00PM**

### **Presidential Reception**

The final conference reception will honor outgoing OAH President Pete Daniel. Enjoy dinner at one of the great restaurants in Seattle, and then return to the Metropolitan Ballroom in the Sheraton Seattle Hotel for dessert and drinks.

*The 2009 OAH Presidential Reception is cosponsored by the National Museum of American History, the NMAH Office of Curatorial Affairs, NMAH Division of Work and Industry, the University of North Carolina Press, and the Agricultural History Society.*

**On the cover:** Sunset Needle. Seattle's Capitol Hill at sunset, over the Olympic Mountains. (Jeffery Mode, 2009)

## OAH Awards and Prizes

The Organization of American Historians sponsors annual awards and prizes given in recognition of scholarly and professional achievements in the field of American history. Please join us in congratulating the following 2009 OAH award and prize winners.

### Roy Rosenzweig Distinguished Service Award

*for an individual or individuals whose contributions have significantly enriched our understanding and appreciation of American history*

*Award committee: Vicki L. Ruiz, University of California, Irvine, Chair; Linda Shopes, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (Retired); David S. Trask, Guilford Technical Community College (Retired); and David J. Weber, Southern Methodist University.*

This year the Executive Board of the Organization of American Historians confers its Roy Rosenzweig Distinguished Service Award on three individuals: **Joyce Appleby**, **Susan Armeny**, and **Stanley N. Katz**.

**Joyce Appleby**, professor emerita, University of California, Los Angeles, is one of America's foremost historians. She is best known for her work on the political ideology of the Early Republic, with titles such as *Capitalism and a New Social Order: The Jeffersonian Vision of the 1790s* (1984), *Liberalism and Republicanism in the Historical Imagination* (1992), and *Inheriting the Revolution: The First Generation of Americans* (2000). She has also spoken to controversial issues of interest to all historians in books such as *Telling the Truth about History* (1994) written with Lynn Hunt and Margaret Jacob, *Knowledge and Postmodernism in Historical Perspective* (1996), and *A Restless Past: History and the American Public* (2005).

Beyond her scholarship, Professor Appleby has served the profession in a remarkable variety of ways. She chaired a history department (UCLA), worked on editorial boards (such as *The American Historical Review* and *The William and Mary Quarterly*), read her way through prize committees, and lavished attention on K-12 teachers of American History. She has occupied positions that are as time-intensive and demanding as they are honorific: presidencies of the Organization of American Historians (1991), the American Historical Association (1997), and the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (1999). Her service to the OAH alone has included chairing the program committee, chairing the budget review committee, chairing the ad hoc Committee on International Initiatives, volunteering for the lectureship program, and editing the inaugural volume of an annual OAH series, *The Best American History Essays* (2006). With James Banner she founded and continues to codirect the History News Service. This informal organization distributes



Appleby

op-ed pieces written by historians to over 300 newspapers a week. Many of the pieces that it distributes put public policy in historical context, as do the op-ed pieces that Professor Appleby herself has written for the HNS. Time may prove that this is among her greatest contributions to the profession.



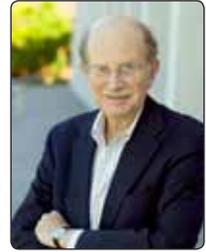
Armeny

**Susan Armeny**, Associate Editor of *The Journal of American History*, has had a profound impact on several generations of American historians. She has the well-deserved reputation as one of the best history editors in the United States. She has helped historians clarify their thinking and writing for more than two decades. Her editorial skills are legendary. Former *JAH* editor Joanne Meyerowitz observed that, “as an editor, she pays meticulous attention to every detail of writing, but she also keeps her keen eye on the larger points and historiographic interventions. She knows the formulas and conventions of historical writing, but she also encourages art, creativity, play, and innovation.” No doubt many *JAH* authors would agree with the sentiments expressed by one of their colleagues: “She is rigorous without being heavy-handed; precise but never pedantic. Working through the copy-edited text with Susan really felt like a collaborative enterprise.”

Susan Armeny received her Ph.D. in American history in 1983 from the University of Missouri, Columbia. She joined the staff of the *JAH* in 1986, a year after David Thelen assumed responsibilities as editor. “We needed a good copy editor, and I knew Susan when I was on the faculty at Missouri,” Thelen said. “She brought much more than just technical copy-editing skills, however. She has such a rich sense of history, of what historians do, and have done, that she was crucial to the work of opening the *JAH* to many voices. She helped me learn how to talk with authors about what they were trying to do. She helped make authors’ voices stronger and sharper through her feedback on the sculpting of manuscripts. Best of all, she brought wisdom to our work.”

Armeny developed many long-lasting professional friendships with authors, especially with young authors. David Nord, who over the years has served the *JAH* as acting editor, interim editor, and associate editor, recalls that “one of her habits has been to get together at the OAH convention with the winners of the Pelzer Award. I know this means a lot to these graduate students just entering the profession. It leaves them with a sense that the *JAH* is not just a word factory; it is a true community of scholars.” Through her professionalism, her kindness, her wonderful sense of humor, Susan has always nourished a sense of community with her colleagues at the *JAH* office in Bloomington. She has taught generations of graduate students and undergraduate interns how to write and edit history. She is a worthy recipient of the Roy Rosenzweig Distinguished Service Award.

**Stanley N. Katz**, Princeton University, has for nearly a half-century advanced the highest standards of scholarship, the values of a liberal education, and the ideal of a humane and just civil society. He is the consummate scholar-citizen, whose understanding of the world of ideas extends outward into the world.



Katz

A native of Chicago, Stanley Katz received both his undergraduate and graduate education at Harvard University, which awarded him the Ph.D. in American History in 1961. Affiliated with Princeton University for more than three decades, he is currently Lecturer with the rank of Professor at the university's Woodrow Wilson School and Director of its Center for Arts and Culture Policy Research. He is a recognized scholar of American legal and constitutional history and of philanthropy and nonprofit institutions. His most recent research focuses on the relationship of civil society and constitutionalism to democracy and the relationship of the United States to the international human rights regime. He is, at last count, the author or editor of fifteen books or book series, including the Oliver Wendell Holmes Devise *History of the Supreme Court of the United States* and the six-volume *Oxford International Encyclopedia of Legal History*; as well as the author or coauthor of nearly one hundred articles, book chapters, and essays. He has, in addition, served on no less than a dozen editorial boards. His frequent commentaries in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* help all of us think more clearly about current issues pressing upon the academy.

Stanley Katz has given extraordinary service to the historical profession, to scholarly inquiry, to higher education, and to public life. For the Organization of American Historians, he has served on the Program Committee (1969), Nominating Board (1972-1974), and Executive Board (1976-1979); as President (1987-1988); and most recently as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Access to Lawyers' Files (1991-1995) and the International Committee (1994-1998). Within academe, he is perhaps best known for his tenure as President of the American Council of Learned Societies (1986-1997), a position that gave full play to his belief in the value of humanistic inquiry within a democratic society, as well as to his command of a broad array of contemporary issues, his administrative savvy, and his personal decency.

He has played a leadership role within dozens of institutions, organizations, programs, and projects. Among his current positions, he is a Commissioner of the National Historic Publications and Records Commission; a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Cultural Property Society, the National History Center, Policy Development, the Newberry Library, and the Papers of the Founding Fathers; a member of the Board of Directors of the Copyright Clearance Center and Rice University Press; a gubernatorial appointee to the New Jersey Humanities Council; and a member of the Academic Freedom

Committee of Human Rights Watch. He is, in addition, widely sought after as a lecturer within the academy and among cultural institutions and professional organizations, where he continues to advocate for an informed public culture.

Stanley Katz is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including honorary degrees from nine colleges and universities; and election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Society of American Historians, and the American Philosophical Society. The Organization of American Historians is pleased to add to his list of honors by awarding him its Roy Rosenzweig Distinguished Service Award for 2009. ■

### **Friend of History**

*The OAH Friend of History Award recognizes an individual, who is not a professional historian, or an institution or organization for outstanding support for the pursuit of historical research, for the public presentation of history, or for the work of the OAH. This year the OAH Executive Board recognizes an individual, **Brian P. Lamb**, founder and CEO of C-SPAN and host of *Booknotes*.*



Lamb

Born in Lafayette, Indiana, in 1941, Brian Lamb, the son of a tavern owner, attended Purdue University, graduating with a speech degree in 1963. Throughout high school and college, Lamb honed his speaking skills as a disc jockey, at one point hosting the locally produced popular television program “Dance Date.” He joined the Navy in 1964 and saw service in the Mediterranean. Lamb subsequently worked in the public affairs office of the Pentagon, and as a military aide in the Johnson White House. After stints in the Office of Telecommunications Policy under President Nixon and as press secretary for Senator Peter Dominick (R-CO), Lamb worked for *Cablevision*, a cable industry trade magazine. In 1979, Lamb founded C-SPAN, financed by the cable industry, and has served as its CEO ever since.

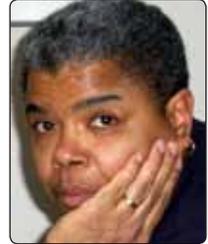
From 1989 to 2004, Brian Lamb hosted the interview program *Booknotes*, which showcased the work of contemporary nonfiction writers, a great many of whom were historians and others writing notable books on American history. Lamb is famous for delivering short, simple, and sometimes disarming questions in deadpan style, and for eliciting the best from his interview subjects. As host of *Booknotes*, Brian Lamb introduced recent historical scholarship to millions of television viewers. Edited versions of the interviews are available in four published volumes, including Brian Lamb, ed., *Booknotes: Stories from American History* (Penguin, 2002). Video and transcripts of some 800 interviews—in a searchable database—are available online at <http://www.booknotes.org/home/>. The OAH salutes Brian Lamb for his work in making scholarly work in U.S. history significantly more accessible to the American public. We are pleased to call him the OAH 2009 Friend of History. ■

## Frederick Jackson Turner Award

for an author's first book dealing with some significant phase of American history

Award committee: Nell Irvin Painter, Princeton University, Chair; David Montejano, University of California, Berkeley; and Stephanie J. Shaw, The Ohio State University.

**Leslie Brown**, Williams College, *Upbuilding Black Durham: Gender, Class, and Black Community Development in the Jim Crow South* (The University of North Carolina Press). Although *Upbuilding Black Durham* takes on a familiar topic—black life and development during the segregation era—it is clear from the start that this will not be a typical discussion of black business or urban development in a “progressive” city in a “New South” state. Nor will the discussions of “gender, class, and black community development” follow what have now become fairly typical paths. Brown’s study complicates all the usual tropes as it adds to southern, urban, African American and women’s history and historiography. First, and most obvious, the theme of “upbuilding,” itself, moves us away from the old, “uplift” matrix of African American, Progressive era history in which black elites typically (and paternalistically) assume some responsibility for transforming their presumably less respectable “brothers” and “sisters” into more acceptable citizens. While no small amount of “uplifting” occurred here, “upbuilding” was bigger, more dynamic, and engaged everyone. Neither is “community development” here limited to clubs, churches, schools, and the important black businesses that were founded in Durham. Community development here is also family history, as much rural as urban, and it is inseparable from local politics. The volume especially complicates traditional understandings of race, class, and gender. Members of the same family, presumably equally endowed for success, do not achieve equally. Connections (social and biological) to influential whites, a traditional predictor of success in most southern studies, become an albatross here. And, within “race” families, there are race deserters. *Upbuilding Black Durham* is a thorough study of black life in a southern city during the segregation era. As such, it is importantly about Durham’s business successes, its elite families, and its institutional development. But it is also about the tensions between and among men and women, blacks and whites, rich and poor, and especially within the race. Brown explores all those tensions and the small spaces within them where people worked, sometimes successfully but sometimes not, to create whole lives for themselves and others. ■



Brown

## Merle Curti Award

for the best book published in American social and/or intellectual history

Award committee: William Fitzhugh Brundage, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Chair; Fred Arthur Bailey, Abilene Christian University; Nancy F. Cott, Harvard University; Elna C. Green, Florida State University; and Moon-Ho Jung, University of Washington, Seattle.



Brown

**Vincent Brown**, Harvard University, *The Reaper's Garden: Death and Power in the World of Atlantic Slavery* (Harvard University Press). *The Reaper's Garden* brings the world of Atlantic slavery alive by asking, how did death shape the thoughts, actions, and power relations of the living? Focusing on Jamaica, where the sugarcane slave regime accelerated the omnipresent cycle of human deaths among both British settlers and enslaved Africans, Vincent Brown has unearthed a stunning array of "mortuary politics" barely seen by previous historians. Engaging and advancing multiple disciplines and fields of history—including British imperial, American colonial, and African diaspora—this original study of death as a generative and destructive force pervading both a particular slave society and imperial politics at large charts new, exciting ways to see and interpret Atlantic slavery. Through cogent arguments and lyrical prose, Brown links the sacred and the political, using unusual approaches (such as taking necromancy seriously) to produce revelatory readings of familiar themes and topics, including slave rebellions and British humanitarianism. At once a local and a global history, Brown's work challenges U.S. historians to reimagine how power was constituted in the Atlantic world, unmoored from the bounds of present-day nation-states.



Hämäläinen

**Pekka Hämäläinen**, University of California, Santa Barbara, *The Comanche Empire* (Yale University Press). Pekka Hämäläinen's uncommonly ambitious book traces how, during the high tide of imperial struggles in North America in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a powerful Comanche empire eclipsed its various European rivals in military prowess, political prestige, economic power, commercial reach, and cultural influence in the fiercely contested lands of the American Southwest, the southern Great Plains, and northern Mexico. In using the word "empire" to describe the Comanche social formation, built on mastery of horses, Hämäläinen has taken a bold step that will not be accepted by all. Although his terminology may remain controversial, his learned, vast, and brilliantly original documentation of the Comanches' centuries-long ability to thrive and grow by the strategy of "raid-and-trade," forces a reorientation of the study of the West. The Comanche Empire compels serious rethinking of the apparent inevitability of white domination of the North American continent and every feature of the standard history, from inter-group native American relations, to French and Spanish imperial successes and

failures, to the early history of Mexico, to American imperial ambitions and the efforts of the post-Civil War United States military, have been put in new perspective by Hämäläinen. ■

### **Ray Allen Billington Prize**

*for the best book in American frontier history, defined broadly so as to include the pioneer periods of all geographical areas and comparisons between American frontiers and others*

*Prize committee: Pedro Castillo, University of California, Santa Cruz, Chair; Andrew C. Isenberg, Temple University; and Patty Limerick, University of Colorado.*

**Matthew Klinge**, Bowdoin College, *Emerald City: An Environmental History of Seattle* (Yale University Press). Matthew Klinge's book explores the history of Seattle, Washington, and the importance of viewing nature, culture, cities and the environment, as they are interrelated. This submission was the most impressive book of the many that were submitted to the Billington Prize Committee. It is engagingly written; the research is comprehensive; and it is grounded in a broad understanding of several historiographies: western history, environmental history, urban history, and the history of consumerism and recreation, to name a few. One of the most significant aspects of the book is the author's critical engagement with power. He pays attention to the power of people to reshape the urban landscape (using hydraulic cannons to flatten hills, for instance); to the power of nature to thwart people's plans, but most of all to the power some people exercise over others. Another important part of the book is the way in which Klinge shows how the city advertised itself as a gateway to nearby recreation. Finally, the West has been a region of cities ever since the "frontier" period, and *Emerald City* is an outstanding contribution to the literature in the field. ■



Klinge

### **Avery O. Craven Award**

*for the most original book on the coming of the Civil War, the Civil War years, or the era of Reconstruction, with the exception of works of purely military history*

*Award committee: Wayne Durrill, University of Cincinnati, Chair; John C. Inscoe, University of Georgia; and Joan Waugh, University of California, Los Angeles.*

**Edward B. Rugemer**, Yale University, *The Problem of Emancipation: The Caribbean Roots of the American Civil War* (Louisiana State University Press). Edward Rugemer sheds significant new light on the American sectional crisis by vastly broadening the context in which it unfolded to that of the Atlantic World. By tracing the considerable impact of British abolitionism and Caribbean emancipations on Americans, north and south, black and white, Rugemer makes us see the social, political, and racial dynamics of mid-nineteenth-century America in previ-



Rugemer

ously unexplored and often eye-opening new terms. A bold contribution to our understanding of Civil War causation, the *Problem of Emancipation* is full of fresh insights and compelling arguments. ■

### **James A. Rawley Prize**

*for a book dealing with the history of race relations in the United States*

*Prize committee: Clare A. Lyons, University of Maryland, College Park, Chair; Karin A. Shapiro, Duke University; and Kenneth J. Winkle, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.*



Brown

**Vincent Brown**, Harvard University, *The Reaper's Garden: Death and Power in the World of Atlantic Slavery* (Harvard University Press). Brown has produced an analytically sophisticated, intellectually creative and artfully written study of early Jamaica that enriches our understanding of life within Atlantic slavery. He takes the one commonly known fact about early Jamaica – that death was pervasive – and turns it into a powerful analytical lens to reveal a new vision of power relations between the enslaved and their masters in early Jamaica. Death in this history was a generative process: a site for the creation of racial thought, assertions of power and resistance in daily life, and a tool in the antislavery arsenal that brought about slavery's demise. *The Reaper's Garden* combines conceptual breadth with impressive analytical rigor, drawing upon an expansive array of sources, from demographic to cultural, legal to personal writings. Situating this history of Jamaica in an Atlantic context that reaches into the history of west Africa and Europe allows Brown to highlight the transnational and multicultural dynamics at work. The book deftly balances analysis with narrative and demographics with the human and all-too-tragic faces of the antagonists to present a compelling and often moving story. ■

### **Willi Paul Adams Award**

*for the best book on American history published in a foreign language*

*Award committee: Anne L. Foster, Indiana State University, Chair; Manfred Berg, Universität Heidelberg; Kristin Hoganson, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Jörg Nagler, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität; and Nelson Ouellet, Université de Moncton.*



Greiner

**Bernd Greiner**, Hamburg Institute for Social Research, *War without Fronts: the USA in Vietnam* (Hamburger Edition). Greiner has written a truly impressive work exploring how both soldiers and the nature of fighting during the U.S. war in Vietnam were affected by the lack of clear front lines, even while U.S. official policy attempted to use military force to prompt ideological change. Greiner combines social history emphasis on the experience of ordinary soldiers with a theoretically grounded political analysis of both context and effects

of American violence on politics, culture and the military. A key contribution of this book is that Greiner investigates what happened in the war, rather than merely writing about how the war shaped and was shaped by the broader society of both Vietnam and the United States. This book is grounded in meticulous research in the archives, utilizing the records of the Vietnam War Crimes Working Group, among others. The committee unanimously selected this provocative book for the Willi Paul Adams Award, in recognition of its clear contribution to the vibrant historiography of the war in Vietnam among scholars from many countries. ■

### **Ellis W. Hawley Prize**

*for the best book-length historical study of the political economy, politics, or institutions of the United States, in its domestic or international affairs, from the Civil War to the present*

*Prize committee: Nelson Lichtenstein, University of California, Santa Barbara, Chair; Jennifer Mittelstadt, Pennsylvania State University; and Mary A. Yeager, University of California, Los Angeles.*

**Peggy Pascoe**, University of Oregon, *What Comes Naturally: Miscegenation Law and the Making of Race in America* (Oxford University Press). Pascoe's elegantly written and superbly researched book traces the origins, spread, and demise of miscegenation laws in the United States. Beginning in the Reconstruction era, when the term miscegenation was first coined, Pascoe demonstrates how these statutes bolstered white supremacy, not only in terms of black-white relations, but for the complex, multiracial society that was emerging in the American West. The laws acted as a kind of legal factory for the definition and reproduction of racial categories, and by linking bans on interracial marriage to the issuance of marriage licenses, early twentieth-century officials turned state health and welfare bureaucracies into a set of powerful, state-building gatekeepers that sustained white supremacy in the Progressive era and afterwards. Yet Pascoe insightfully shows that because of the ambivalence with which the NAACP and other civil rights organizations approached issues of gender and sexuality, the fight to legalize inter-racial marriage did not always run parallel to that of the larger civil rights struggle. A subtle and provocative study, her book reshapes our understanding of the ways in which legal definitions of race, gender, and state naturalized some bedrock social relationships and stigmatized others. ■



Pascoe

## Liberty Legacy Foundation Award

*for the best book on any aspect of the struggle for civil rights in the United States, from the nation's founding to the present*

*Award committee: Constance Curry, Emory University, Chair; Tiya A. Miles, University of Michigan; and Jerry Thornbery, Gilman School (MD).*



Asch

**Chris Myers Asch**, U.S. Public Service Academy, *The Senator and the Sharecropper: The Freedom Struggles of James O. Eastland and Fannie Lou Hamer* (The New Press). As a Mississippi-based alumnus of Teach for America and founder of the Sunflower County Freedom Project nonprofit organization, Chris Myers Asch built upon his personal observations and commitment to social justice and has produced a work of history that explains the social dynamics of this region to a broad readership. Rather than simply championing the heroism of sharecropper and civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer or vilifying the racism of plantation owner and senator James Eastland, Asch demonstrates the ways in which these two people's lives intertwined in a rural area mired by a violently policed black/white divide. Asch illustrates in powerfully emotional terms the pervasive force of white supremacy and black suffering in rural Mississippi, even as he humanizes historical actors who stood on the wrong side of human rights progress. After detailing Hamer's failed attempts to run for public office and launch a self-sustaining agricultural collective for struggling black farmers, Asch convincingly argues that even in the wake of a powerful social movement that captured the attention of a nation, the division between white and black, rich and poor, was never fully overturned. *The Senator and the Sharecropper* leaves readers with the haunting knowledge that black educational access and economic advancement is still for many an unattainable dream. We may indeed ask if this is not true for the rest of the country. ■

## Lawrence W. Levine Award

*for the best book in American cultural history*

*Award committee: James N. Gregory, University of Washington, Seattle, Chair; Eric Avila, University of California, Los Angeles; Lynn Dumenil, Occidental College; Michael Kazin, Georgetown University; and Teresa Murphy, The George Washington University.*



Pascoe

**Peggy Pascoe**, University of Oregon, *What Comes Naturally: Miscegenation Law and the Making of Race in America* (Oxford University Press). In this eye-opening reevaluation of law, race, and marriage, *What Comes Naturally* develops a far-reaching argument about the way that miscegenation law interacted with ideas about nature, race, and sex in American culture. Peggy Pascoe's book explores in rich detail the origins, transformations, and repeal of miscegenation laws across a broad sweep of American history. Covering two centuries and showing the bewildering variety of laws enacted by different states, the

book is a triumph of exhaustive research, careful and creative analysis, and powerful argumentation. Its scope and multidimensionality are especially impressive. While tracing generations of lawmaking, legal reasoning, and court decisions across multiple jurisdictions, Peggy Pascoe never loses sight of the women and men who were determined to defy and destroy the barriers to interracial relationships, often employing clever strategies of “geographic evasion.” The concepts of natural and unnatural marriage key her analysis. She shows legal changes unfolding amidst an interactive context of ideological struggles over what sorts of marriages are “unnatural.” That makes *What Comes Naturally* a timely book. It is also likely to be an enduring book. This study of miscegenation law and the reconstitutions of race and sex in American history will be a must read for years to come. ■

### **Lerner-Scott Prize**

*for the best doctoral dissertation in U.S. women’s history*

*Prize committee: Kari Frederickson, University of Alabama, Chair; Greta de Jong, University of Nevada, Reno; and Stephanie Gilmore, Dickinson College.*

**Jane Alexandra Berger**, Cornell University, “When Hard Work Doesn’t Pay: Gender and the Urban Crisis in Baltimore, 1945-1985.” Written under the direction of Professor Kevin Boyle at The Ohio State University, Berger’s dissertation explores the roots of the post-World War II urban crisis by placing African American women’s paid and unpaid labor at the center of the narrative. Using Baltimore as a case study, Berger argues that public sector, not industrial, employment served as the foundation of the city’s African American middle and working classes, and that women held the bulk of these jobs. Through their positions in social welfare agencies, black women helped the city’s most impoverished by shifting to the government some of the responsibility for health, child, and elder care, services women earlier provided in the private sphere. The conservative ascendancy in the 1970s and 1980s and a decline in the country’s status in the global economy prompted policy makers to implement decisions that resulted in extensive public sector retrenchment and cuts to social programs. The result was not only significant job losses for African American women, but the elimination of much-needed services to the city’s poor. Exhaustively researched, boldly conceptualized and contextualized, Berger’s dissertation brilliantly refashions the tale of America’s urban decline. ■



Berger

**EBSCOhost: America: History and Life Award**

*for scholarship in American history in the journal literature advancing new perspectives on accepted interpretations or previously unconsidered topics*

*Award committee: Earl Lewis, Emory University, Chair; Mary Bagne, America: History and Life - ABC-CLIO, Inc., ex officio; Khalil G. Muhammad, Indiana University, Bloomington; Barbara M. Posadas, Northern Illinois University; and Joe W. Trotter, Carnegie Mellon University.*



Cha-Jua

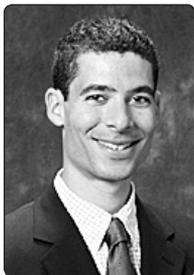
**Sundiata Keita Cha-Jua and Clarence Lang**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, “The ‘Long Movement’ as Vampire: Temporal and Spatial Fallacies in Recent Black Freedom Studies,” *The Journal of African American History* (Spring 2007).

In an able and provocative historiographical essay, Sundiata Keita Cha-Jua and Clarence Lang take on an emergent “long movement” thesis about the civil rights movement. “Long movement” advocates, in a rich literature carefully studying a range of locales, have reperiodized African American liberation efforts backward from the traditional 1954-1974 to stress earlier origins, a continuity between civil rights and Black Power advocates, and a lack of southern distinctiveness. Cha-Jua and Lang contend that these works, while often individually persuasive, add up to a confused picture of a complex era. Exceptionally clear summaries, sharp analytic distinctions, and fair characterization enhance Cha-Jua’s and Lang’s own arguments: “antecedents” are not the same as “origins”; “civil rights” backers sought advancement through incorporation in a liberalizing society while “Black Power” forces identified with overseas radicalism and battled for autonomy in a repressive era; a southern war against apartheid did not closely resemble the ethnic struggles of black northerners. Along the way, the authors remind that if history is to be instructive, conceptual clarity and a sense of historical contingency and context are paramount.



Lang

**Dylan Craig Penningroth**, Northwestern University and American Bar Foundation, “The Claims of Slaves and Ex-Slaves to Family and Property: A Transatlantic Comparison,” *The American Historical Review* (October 2007).



Penningroth

Why should we compare slavery and its aftermath in the American South and the Gold Coast of West Africa? Focusing on beliefs about property and kinship, Dylan Penningroth shows that similarities and differences in each illuminate aspects of both societies in this model comparative study, elegantly constructed, clearly written, and well-illustrated. Careful attention

to the African example brings that continent's experience to the forefront, something rarely so well done in comparative work. Key to Penningroth's argument is the question of "belonging," which the structure of slavery in both societies left surprisingly unclear. Using court records in both societies, he documents how "customary" rights to property ownership and family membership varied significantly and changed over time. In a racialized setting, American masters used a paternalist familial ideology to justify their rule but refused to incorporate slave offspring into their actual kin networks, whereas African masters sometimes did. Yet postemancipation judicial systems entertained claims to collective property ownership that recognized traditional practices and family patterns at the expense of more abstractly drawn individual rights that challenged them. ■

### **Louis Pelzer Memorial Award**

*for the best essay in American history by a graduate student*

*Award committee: Edward T. Linenthal, Editor, The Journal of American History, Chair; John M. Belohlavek, University of South Florida; Martha Saxton, Amherst College; Stephen Kercher, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh; and John T. Schlotterbeck, DePaul University.*

**Joseph L. Yannielli**, Yale University, "George Thompson among the Africans: Empathy, Authority, and Insanity in the Age of Abolition." This essay focuses on the life and career of a forgotten missionary and abolitionist named George Thompson. After detailing how Thompson committed himself to the antislavery cause in the 1840s, the author relates how Thompson transplanted himself to a mission in Sierra Leone in 1848. Here he proselytized for Christianity, agitated against the slave trade that thrived in the interior, and struggled mightily to control the lives of Africans. What distinguishes this account is the way the author engages debates about whites' empathic bonds with blacks. This essay expands the "global geographies of abolition" by focusing on the time Thompson spent on the West African coast. ■



Yannielli

### **Binkley-Stephenson Award**

*for the best scholarly article published in The Journal of American History during the preceding calendar year*

*Award committee: Thavolia Glymph, Duke University, Chair; Susan Lee Johnson, University of Wisconsin, Madison; and Claire Strom, Rollins College.*

**Tami J. Friedman**, Brock University, "Exploiting the North-South Differential: Corporate Power, Southern Politics and the Decline of Organized Labor after World War II" (September 2008). In this deeply researched, historiographically engaged, and gracefully written article, Tami J. Friedman explores pro-



Friedman

foundly important questions about post-World War II political culture that remain at issue down to the present. Working across the fields of civil rights studies, and labor, business, and social history, she documents in this tightly-woven argument how capital flight to the South helped weaken unions—North and South—maintain racial inequities, and strengthen conservative politics. Lured by the promise of cheap, nonunion labor, tax-exempt revenue bonds and, not least, whites-only country clubs and segregated schools and other public facilities, and fleeing rising labor and material costs, northern companies turned to the friendlier business and social climate of right-to-work states where they eagerly joined hands with southern Democrats to preserve the racial status quo and wage differentials between the North and South and between black and white citizens. This article examines the process by which this happened and reminds us that the history of racial equality and labor rights is a national story in which even northern labor sometimes played a not so heroic part. ■

### **Huggins-Quarles Award**

*for graduate students of color at the dissertation research stage of their Ph.D. program*

*Award committee: Lionel Kimble Jr., Chicago State University, Chair; Amrita Chakrabarti Myers, Indiana University, Bloomington; Lydia R. Otero, University of Arizona; Adrienne Petty, The City College of New York, CUNY; and George J. Sánchez, University of Southern California.*



Field

**Kendra Taira Field**, New York University, “Growing Up with the Country”: African American Migrants in Indian Territory, 1870-1920.” The recipient of the 2009 OAH Huggins-Quarles Award demonstrates a commitment to unearthing the history of both African and Native Americans on the postemancipation era frontier. It was during this period when a number of African American migrants began to move from areas in the Deep South and sought farming, landowning, and other such opportunities in Indian Territory. While doing this, Field argues, migrants initiated a process that not only helped them to define the meaning of freedom but also, as she argues, unintentionally helped lay the foundation for the expanding of the American political and economic empire westward. At the center of Field’s work are the stories of two African American men (each a distant relative of the author). The study not only explores the very personal lives of these two individuals but focuses squarely on the relationship between capital, corporate interests, and community. In the end, Field’s examination of the lives of these men and their families will not only add to the rich literature dealing with African American migration patterns but also reimagines the current state of Native American, African American, and U.S. history. ■

## Tachau Teacher of the Year Award

*for contributions made by precollegiate teachers to improve history education*

*Award committee: Gloria Sesso, Patchogue-Medford Schools (NY), Chair; Bob Bain, University of Michigan; and Don Falls, Southeast High School (FL).*

**Patricia J. Morris**, Ballard High School, Louisville, Kentucky. Patricia Morris is highly regarded by colleagues and students as a great teacher of history. The letter that opens her portfolio of submission compliments Morris for “promoting historical inquiry” and offers examples of her lessons that engage students in reconstruction of the Constitutional Convention or putting on all school trials of Truman and FDR or her urban walk to “research historical landmarks to study . . . their own city’s development over time.” One of her students, Benjamin Levitan, writes that Morris “had little interest in settled questions . . . It was that no single approach was sufficient, no individual clue held all the answers . . . we cannot rest as we work to piece everything together.” That sums up outstanding history teaching. Additionally, Morris won Kentucky’s Preservice American History Teacher of the Year Award for her mentoring of novice teachers in history meeting the criteria of “building bridges between school and university.” Her syllabus is also replete with good examples of engaging students in the work of history. Finally, there is something fitting in honoring a student of Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau with an award in her honor. ■



Morris

## Erik Barnouw Award

*for outstanding reporting or programming on network or cable television, or in documentary film, concerned with American history, the study of American history, and/or the promotion of history*

*Award committee: Lary May, University of Minnesota, Chair; Stephen Aron, University of California, Los Angeles, and Autry National Center; and Elspeth H. Brown, University of Toronto.*

*Wings of Defeat*, Edgewood Pictures, Inc., Risa Morimoto and Linda Hoaglund, Filmmakers. *Wings of Defeat* is told through the eyes of a Japanese American who discovers that her uncle was one of the Kamikaze pilots who attacked American ships in the last stages of World War II. Trying to understand why the subject has remained underexplored in both countries, she returns to Japan to discover the truth about her uncle and the other men who served in the Kamikaze corps. Weaving together personal stories of Japanese and American military personnel, including powerful interviews with former Kamikaze pilots who survived the war, we discover that these pilots were not “fanatics,” as they have been portrayed. The reality was very different. As the narrator, whose quest to find the truth drives forward the story, through interviews with participants on both sides of the conflict, we learn that the Japanese



Hoaglund



Morimoto

pilots were reluctant “volunteers” who saw their acts as the only way to save the Japanese homeland from the U.S. invasion. The film also explores the context in which the decision to deploy the Kamikaze pilots unfolded, the motives for this disastrous strategy and the desperation the Japanese felt in the last days of the war. The film includes the words of American Navy veterans whose ship was attacked and sunk by Kamikaze attacks, who, with remarkable empathy, say that if Americans had been ordered to go on suicide missions to save the country, they would have done the same. With dramatic historical footage and deeply moving interviews, this film uncovers a side of World War II history that has long remained shrouded in myth.



Williams

*Banished*, a film produced and directed by Marco Williams and a coproduction of Two Tone Productions, the Center for Investigative Reporting, the Independent Television Service (ITVS), and the National Black Programming Consortium, with major funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Sally Jo Fifer, Executive Producer for ITVS. *Banished* focuses on a subject of American race relations that has received little attention. In addition to the horrible history of lynchings, many towns in the United States drove away entire black communities and seized their land without payment. The narrative tension in this documentary revolves around the search of the filmmaker and several black families today to track down what happened to their relatives and their land that was seized in the wake of mob violence. The film follows their quest from town to town and library to library, where they interview mayors and other officials and current residents of the towns. The white residents of these towns insist that they know nothing about it and claim that they are innocent because all this happened before they were born. The film illuminates this shameful episode of racial cleansing on American soil, and the legacy of loss and wounds that remain.

#### **Honorable Mention**

*The Lobotomist*, produced and directed by Barak Goodman and John Maggio for the PBS series American Experience. An examination of a now discredited surgical treatment for mental illness, this film brings us into the mind of the man, Dr. Walter Freeman, who built his career lobotomizing patients and extolling the benefits of his practices. It also brings us into the mindset of a medical establishment that long went along with Freeman’s operation and of a society that into the 1950s embraced what is now seen as a barbaric procedure. Riveting, if horrific, footage of the lobotomist at work make this documentary an eye-opening (literally) experience, which ensures that viewers will not forget the important lessons about recent medical history that this film offers. ■

## OAH Fellowships and Grants

### OAH-JAAS Short Term Residencies

*The OAH and the Japanese Association of American Studies, with the generous support of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, select two U.S. historians to spend two weeks at Japanese universities giving lectures, seminars, advising students and researchers interested in the American past, and joining in the collegiality of the host institution. It is part of an exchange program that also brings Japanese graduate students to the OAH annual meeting.*

*Residencies committee: G. Kurt Piehler, University of Tennessee, Chair; Juri Abe, Rikkyo University; Andrea Geiger, Simon Fraser University; Christopher Jespersen, North Georgia College & State University; Kohei Kawashima, Musashi University; Robert McMahon, The Ohio State University; Kim E. Nielsen, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay; and Naoki Onishi, International Christian University.*

**Glenn T. Eskew**, Georgia State University, Keio University, Southern History and Culture.

**Anna Pegler-Gordon**, Michigan State University, Nagoya City University, U.S. Ethnic and Immigration History. ■

### OAH/Immigration and Ethnic History Society John Higham Travel Grants

*for graduate students to be used toward costs of attending the OAH/IEHS annual meeting*

*Grants committee: Cheryl Greenberg, Trinity College (CT), Chair; Elliott Barkan, California State University, San Bernardino; and Francille Rusan Wilson, University of Southern California.*

**Hidetaka Hirota**, Boston College. Hidetaka Hirota's well articulated project on nativism and citizenship is impressive. A student of Irish immigration history, Hirota's work has great breadth, reaching beyond one group to consider immigration politics and immigration restrictions more broadly. Since he is intending to engage actively in discussion on American history outside the United States, we also believe the long-term opportunities for international intellectual exchange will be substantial and exciting.

**Donald W. Maxwell**, Indiana University, Bloomington. Donald Maxwell's work is strong, and addresses an underexamined topic in migration history. Rather than focusing on those who migrate into the U.S., he has chosen to study emigrants from the U.S. He examines draft resisters and military deserters during the Vietnam war who left the U.S. for Canada, and the implications for migration, citizenship and belonging on both sides of the border. This project is nicely interdisciplinary,



Eskew



Pegler-Gordon



Hirota



Maxwell



Nelson

which sets it apart from many others. It also has the potential to offer instructive contrasts to the more frequently studied relations between the U.S. and its southern neighbor.

**Elaine M. Nelson**, University of New Mexico. Elaine Nelson's work on the Black Hills as both tourist destination and Native land is wonderfully conceptualized. Ultimately, and importantly, it suggests the ways in which Native Americans' self-advocacy also distorted or even fabricated their past connections to the land. The contradictions between nineteenth-century dispossession and twentieth-century repossession raise fascinating questions about how a people seeking to remember and communicate their past sometimes recreate a new one. ■

**OAH/Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission  
Abraham Lincoln Higher Education Award, Doctoral  
Fellowship**

*in recognition of and to promote significant research and scholarship  
on Abraham Lincoln and his era in United States history*

*Award committee: Thomas Mackey, University of Louisville, Chair; Darrel Bigham, Professor of History and Director of Historic Southern Indiana, Emeritus, University of Southern Indiana; Orville Vernon Burton, Coastal Carolina University; and Heather Cox Richardson, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.*



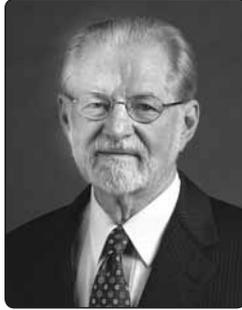
Peatman

**Jared Peatman**, Texas A & M University. Jared Peatman's dissertation, "The Gettysburg Address, 1863-1965," promises to be an important contribution to studies of Abraham Lincoln and Civil War America, and best fits the criteria of the Organization of American Historians/Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission's Doctoral Fellowship. Peatman's project assesses the role of memory in the maintenance of local identities in the United States by exploring regional differences in the reception and memory of the Gettysburg Address between 1863 and 1965. His work will contribute to the field of history and memory while at the same time expanding the literature on regional definitions, reconsidering how individuals who felt they held a stake in the continuation of distinct regions within the United States articulated the borders separating those regions through their appropriations of historical memory. His work will cast light on the enduring regionalism in American society. ■

Please join us in thanking the hardworking members of the OAH award and prize committees, who volunteered their time, expertise, and wisdom for the 2009 OAH awards and prizes.

## 2009 OAH Presidential Address

Elaine Tyler May, University of Minnesota  
OAH President-Elect, Presiding



PETE DANIEL  
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

### TOBACCO CULTURE: MARION POST WOLCOTT'S FSA PHOTOGRAPHS

Pete Daniel, an award-winning historian of the American South and distinguished curator, is the first full-time public historian to serve as President of the OAH. He is currently Curator, Division of Work and Industry, at the National Museum of American History. In 1970, the year he earned his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, he won the first of many prizes for his scholarship: The Louis Pelzer Memorial Award for his *JAH* article, "Up from Slavery and Down to Peonage: The Alonzo Bailey Case." During the 1970s he was a member of the faculty at the University of Tennessee, and since 1982 he has been a curator at the National Museum of American History. His many books include *The Shadow of Slavery: Peonage in the South, 1901-1969* (1972), *Breaking the Land: The Transformation of Cotton, Tobacco, and Rice Cultures since 1880* (1985), winner of the Herbert Feis Award of the American Historical Association and the Charles S. Sydnor Prize of the Southern Historical Association, *Deep'n as it Come: The 1927 Mississippi River Flood* (1977), *Standing at the Crossroads: Southern Life in the Twentieth Century* (1986), *Lost Revolutions: The South in the 1950s* (2000), winner of the Elliott Rudwick Prize of the OAH, and *Toxic Drift: Pesticides and Health in the Post-World War II South* (2005). He has served a number of professional organizations in leadership roles, including President of the Southern Historical Association in 2005-2006; his presidential address for that organization won the Wayne D. Rasmusen Award from the Agricultural History Society in 2008. He has curated a number of major exhibits on topics ranging from New Deal photography to the 1927 Mississippi River Flood. His landmark exhibits include *Science in American Life* in 1994, which led to his book on pesticides, *Toxic Drift*, and *Rock 'n' Soul*, an exhibit in Memphis in 2000. ■







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Please join OAH in thanking The History Channel for its generous support of portions of the 2009 OAH Annual Meeting.