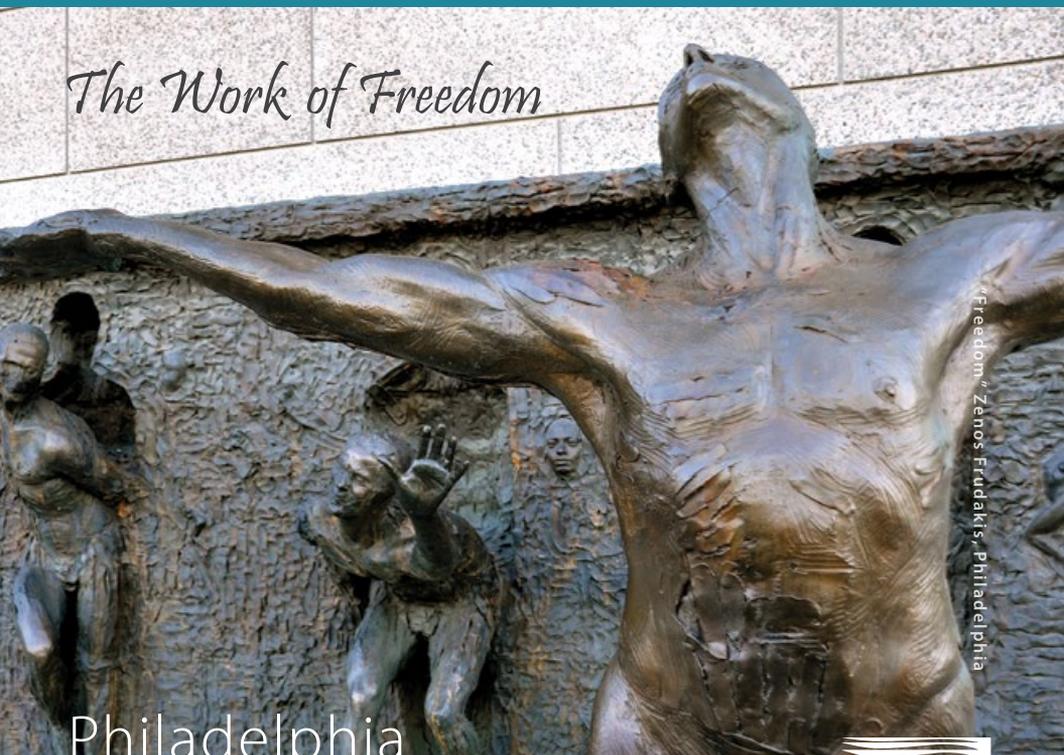


# 2019 OAH ANNUAL MEETING

CONFERENCE ON AMERICAN HISTORY

Saturday, April 6, 4:45 PM – 6:45 PM

*The Work of Freedom*



Freedom, Zenos Frudakis, Philadelphia

Philadelphia  
PENNSYLVANIA



## OAH Presidential Address and Annual Business Meeting Program

PHILADELPHIA DOWNTOWN  
MARRIOTT, SALON E

## 2019 OAH PRESIDENT



### Earl Lewis

Social historian, award-winning author, and educational leader Earl Lewis is the founding director of the University of Michigan Center for Social Solutions. A professor of history and Afroamerican and African Studies, Lewis is president emeritus of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



"Freedom" Zenos Frudakis, Philadelphia

# 2019 OAH BUSINESS MEETING

## AGENDA

- I. Confirmation of Quorum, OAH Parliamentarian,  
Jonathan Lurie
- II. Call to Order/Approval of Minutes from  
2018 Meeting, Earl Lewis (see pages 2–6)
- III. Report of the OAH President, Earl Lewis
- IV. Report of the OAH Executive Director,  
Katherine M. Finley
- V. Report of the OAH Treasurer, Jay S. Goodgold
- VI. Report of the OAH Executive Editor/Editor,  
*Journal of American History*, Benjamin H. Irvin
- VII. Report of the OAH Nominating Board,  
Anthea Hartig
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Welcome Incoming OAH President  
and Adjournment

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*Please silence your cell phones  
and mobile devices  
during the business meeting and  
presidential address.*

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## 2018 OAH BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

April 12, 2018, Sacramento, California

After OAH Parliamentarian Jonathan Lurie determined a quorum was present, OAH President Edward L. Ayers called the OAH Annual Business Meeting to order at 4:55 p.m. Twenty-seven OAH members were present at the beginning of the meeting.

**I. Minutes of the previous OAH Annual Business Meeting were presented, duly seconded, and approved.**

### **II. Report of the OAH President**

President Ed Ayers turned the meeting over to OAH Executive Director Kathy Finley to give an update of activities at the OAH this past year.

### **III. Report of the OAH Executive Director**

OAH Executive Director Katherine Finley began her report by noting that the three “R’s” of the Organization of American Historians this past year were reinvigorate, reinvent, and reimagine.

In addition to carrying on business as usual, the OAH has reinvigorated and reinvented various programs and has begun the process of reimaging the OAH.

Before discussing the three R’s in depth, Finley thanked the OAH staff for helping to make this conference a success and the exhibitors and sponsors for supporting the conference. Finley also thanked the OAH Executive Board and all the volunteers not only for working hard to make this conference a success but also for their overall stewardship of the organization.

Finley noted that several years ago, the OAH’s membership was primarily tenure-track faculty. At one point, the OAH had over 10,000 members, but given the fact that more and more of its members are not on the tenure track and many are part-time or adjunct or work in public history outside the academy, the OAH today has a much smaller membership. At about the same time as membership declined, the OAH tried to broaden its membership base. Director of Membership Beth Marsh, as well as the rest of the staff, are trying to reinvigorate our membership and offer members benefits (both tangible and intangible) that provide value and a reason to join and stay with the OAH. Even though membership has stabilized to approximately 7,000 members, it is

increasingly difficult to attract and keep members not only for the OAH but for all associations.

Finley pointed out that this conference is the 111th OAH Annual Meeting, and every year the staff and Program and Local Resource Committee members add innovations to the meeting. This year the OAH received funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to allow it to record sessions and redistribute content to teachers, public historians, and others. For this “amplified initiative,” the OAH has recorded all but 39 of the 199 sessions as well as the Doing History Workshops and the plenary sessions. The OAH currently has five partners in this venture who are planning to use the combination of video and audio to create online projects and presentations to inform their audiences. At the close of the conference, the OAH will be working to post the recorded sessions where OAH members can stream them and partners can download them. Partners will also be able to use this platform to combine the audio with video, slides, bibliographies, articles, and other media. This is a learning experience for OAH, but we hope that the OAH can reinvigorate its conference, set a new standard for academic conferences, make available content to those who cannot attend, and make the content more beneficial for those who do attend. Finley noted that OAH Director of Meetings Hajni Selby worked tirelessly on this new initiative.

The Distinguished Lectureship Program (DLP) has seen the best year since the end of the Teaching American History grants in 2012. In fact, when that program ended, the OAH feared that this program would die. However, thanks to the hard work of Annette Windhorn, the DLP manager, the OAH has added more lecturers and offered lectures on timely topics. It has added 26 new lecturers this year and now has a total of slightly over 600 in the program. The OAH also has reinvigorated the program by introducing two webinar series—one by the National Humanities Center’s Humanities in Class Series and the other by the AASLH/OAH History Check-Ins (piloted in 2017 as “History Crash Courses”). Additionally, the association has added a special initiative—“Historians’ Perspectives on the Rise of Donald J. Trump,” and to date, 18 lectures have been presented on this topic.

The National Park Service Collaborative led by Public History Manager Aidan Smith is a long-standing program of the OAH. However, with a renewed interest in the national parks, a civil rights initiative started under President Barack Obama’s administration, and more money in the federal budget, the National Park Service program has likewise been reinvigorated. At present, OAH is managing more than 70 projects.

### III. Report of the OAH Executive Director, Cont.

For several years now, the OAH has provided travel funds for part-time/adjunct faculty who cannot attend the OAH Annual Meeting but need to be present at committee meetings. This money has been taken from small travel stipends that OAH Executive Board members receive for the fall board meeting. Finley noted that this fund is very limited. However, thanks again to the generosity of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which provided the OAH with a two-year, \$300,000 grant in honor of Earl Lewis, the OAH will be able to increase participation from underrepresented groups at the OAH Annual Meeting. This grant will allow the organization to establish a permanent travel fund for two of the groups, provide travel grants for two years, provide workshops specific to the needs of each group at the annual conference, and allow the OAH to market this program to these groups.

The third “R” discussed by Finley was “reimagine.” Finley reported that, thanks to a chairman’s grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the OAH would be engaging a marketing firm not only to produce a communications audit and to look closely at what kind of association the OAH can be and how it can continue to be an academic society (still providing a forum for the presentation and publication of the most current scholarship) but also to investigate how the OAH can be a catalyst for a more educated and informed society. Expanding on the idea of the OAH as a hub for information, the OAH began asking how it can best serve our existing and prospective membership audience, and how it can assume an expanded role in the civic life of the nation and generally in the teaching and presentation of American history. The OAH at present does not have the resources to expand into this larger arena, although expansion is necessary for the ultimate survival of both the association and the history profession in general. Although the OAH has been judicious with its resources, it simply does not have funds to expand, and therefore, as it reinvigorates, reinvents, and reimagines itself, it will need a major infusion of philanthropy to start these initiatives. Finley expressed confidence that once these initiatives begin, the OAH will be reinvigorated, reinvented, and reimagined.

#### IV. Report of the OAH Treasurer

OAH Treasurer Jay Goodgold thanked the staff who worked on the OAH budget. He welcomed OAH Executive Editor Ben Irvin and thanked him for working with everyone to produce a balanced budget. Goodgold noted that the OAH is financially on track and will probably have a very small net surplus this year. The OAH renegotiated its budget with Oxford University Press (OUP) and has a very symbiotic relationship with them. The OAH Annual Meeting is doing very well. Next year and the following years, the annual meeting will be held in larger cities. Goodgold also noted that the membership has stabilized. The OAH sends multiple dues notices to members who have not renewed. The National Park Service program and the Distinguished Lectureship program also are doing very well.

The OAH holds its reserve funds at the Indiana University Foundation and received 11.3% on returns. The Mellon grant that the OAH recently received will be held in a separate account. There is an awareness among the board members that the organization has to focus on “digital” to remain relevant and financially stable.

#### V. Report of the OAH Executive Editor

Benjamin Irvin, the new Executive Editor of the OAH, noted that the past year has been one of change and transformation. The past year saw the retirement of Ed Linenthal and hiring of Steve Andrews as Interim Editor. The publications office has been able to produce excellent scholarship on time. Irvin thanked the publications staff, editorial boards, the national office staff, and members who served as writers and reviewers.

Irvin noted that he was pleased to announce the renewal of the publishing contract with Oxford University Press and is grateful to Trish Thomas for all her help over the past years and during the current renegotiation of the contract. He thanked and bid farewell to the two *Journal of American History* contributing editors who will not be returning next year: Brian Horrigan and Scott E. Casper. Horrigan served as contributing co-editor of the Exhibition Reviews, and Casper served as contributing co-editor of Textbooks and Teaching. Exhibition Reviews is undergoing an exciting makeover and will be re-released as Public History Reviews in June 2018. Horrigan’s colleague Kathleen Franz will continue to serve as its co-editor, and they will be looking for contributors to that section of the *JAH*. Laura Westhoff will continue as contributing co-editor of the Textbooks and Teaching portion of the *JAH*.

## V. Report of the OAH Executive Editor, Cont.

Irvin noted that the publications office plans on building on the already-existent public platforms: *Process*, *The American Historian (TAH)*, and its podcast series. *Process* had a record-setting year. Upcoming themes, and themes now in development for *Process* and *TAH* include disasters and catastrophes, Caribbean history, the fiftieth anniversary of 1968, and international relations in the era of cyber warfare. Recently, the publications office finished the latest installment of the podcast on Guam and martial freedom.

## VI. Report of the OAH Nominating Board

OAH Executive Director Katherine Finley gave the report of the Nominating Board (on behalf of the Chair, Margot Canaday). She noted that they have nominated Phil Deloria as Vice President (who will take office after the 2019 OAH Annual Meeting). Finley explained that after serving one year as Vice President, Deloria will become the President-Elect and then President. Deloria will become OAH President after the 2021 OAH Annual Meeting.

## VII. Old Business—None

## VIII. New Business—None

President Edward L. Ayers adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m. and passed the gavel to incoming OAH President Earl Lewis.



## 2019 OAH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

5:15 PM–6:45 PM

SALON E, PHILADELPHIA MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN

### History and the Common Good: Scholarship in the Public Eye

#### Earl Lewis

*Professor of History and Afroamerican and African Studies; Director, Center for Social Solutions, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*

*President Emeritus, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation*

It is my privilege and pleasure to introduce our OAH President, Earl Lewis, who is currently Professor of History, Professor of Afroamerican and African Studies, and the founding director of the Center for Social Solutions at the University of Michigan.

Lewis earned his PhD at the University of Minnesota and began his teaching career in 1985 at the University of California at Berkeley. Four years later, he moved to the University of Michigan, where within a year he came to direct the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies. Thereafter, his colleagues discovered his manifest talent for leadership and promoted him to Vice Provost and Dean of the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies (1998). In 2004, Emory University lured him away to serve as Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and as the Asa Griggs Candler Professor of History and African American Studies. At that point, Lewis was on the road, in the fast lane really, to becoming a university president, but in 2012, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation invited him to work as president there instead. He served as president of the Mellon Foundation from 2013 to 2018, then returned to Michigan last year.

Impressive as it is, this bare-bones outline of Lewis's career only hints at his accomplishments. Earl Lewis is an eminent scholar of African American history. His high school classmates in Virginia already saw his mind in gear when they voted him the "most intellectual" member of his senior class. His first book, *In Their Own Interests: Race, Class, and Power in Twentieth-Century Norfolk*, a rich social history published in 1991, told us how African Americans in a southern city sought justice and empowerment in the home and community as well as the workplace. In the years since, Lewis has written dozens of articles and co-authored three books, including *Love on Trial: An American Scandal in Black*

*and White*, a riveting tale of a 1920s interracial love affair that foundered publicly on the shoals of race and class. As an intellectual impresario, Lewis has co-edited numerous books, including the eleven-volume *Young Oxford History of African Americans* and the award-winning text *To Make Our World Anew: A History of African Americans*. In addition, he was one of the founding co-editors of the award winning *American Crossroads* book series with the University of California Press. And as an academic mentor, he has served on the dissertation committees of more than 30 lucky doctoral students.

Lewis is a visionary with his eyes trained on the future as well as the past. At the Mellon Foundation, he reconfigured programs, implemented a strategic plan, and oversaw more than \$1.2 billion in grants. He initiated (and still co-edits) a book series, *Our Compelling Interests*, that shows how diversity lies at the heart and soul of a healthy democracy. At Michigan, his new Center for Social Solutions focuses, as he puts it, “on the critical issues of today,” including the history of slavery and its ongoing legacies, the safe and just distribution of water, and the future of work and dignity of labor in the age of artificial intelligence.

In recognition of his extraordinary career, Lewis has received nine honorary degrees. He is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Antiquarian Society, and the Society of American Historians. He has served on the board of, among others, the Center for Research Libraries, the Educational Testing Service, and the American Council of Learned Societies. From 2010 to 2013, at the invitation of President Obama, he served as a member of the Department of Education’s National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity.

Lewis is a renowned leader in higher education, a distinguished scholar, a generous colleague and teacher, and an inspiring president of our organization. At the OAH, he pushes us to look to the future, to ask what a professional organization should look like and what it might accomplish in the twenty-first century. History, as he sees it, is our civic duty. “Tackling the history of race,” he writes, “is the only way to build a diverse, plural democracy. And collectively that remains our shared responsibility.” Indeed it does.

Please join me in thanking Earl Lewis for his wisdom, service, and scholarship, and please join me in welcoming him to the podium this afternoon.

**Joanne Meyerowitz**

*Yale University and OAH President-Elect*

## OAH PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 6:45 PM–8:00 PM

ROOM: SALON H

*Sponsored by University of Michigan, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts;  
University of Michigan, Department of Afroamerican and African Studies (DAAS);  
University of Michigan, History Department; University of Michigan, Office of the  
Provost; University of Michigan, Office of Research*

All attendees are cordially invited to the OAH President's Closing Reception in honor of OAH President Earl Lewis. Please join us in thanking him for his service to the organization and the history profession following the OAH Presidential Address.

## WORK OF FREEDOM SOUL JAM AT THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM IN PHILADELPHIA

*Sponsored by Natanya Duncan, Lehigh University and  
Randall Miller, Saint Joseph's University*

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 8:00 PM–10:00 PM

*Local Resource Committee Members will escort groups  
to the African American Museum at  
7:45 pm, 8:00 pm, 8:15 pm, and 8:30 pm.*

*Please meet at the front doors of the lobby facing Filbert St.*

*For those making their own way from the hotel:*

- Use the Filbert St. exit and go right toward 12th St.*
- Turn left on 12th St. to Arch St.*
- Turn right on Arch St. to 7th St.*
- The Museum is on the corner of 7th and Arch St.*
- Address: 701 Arch St., Philadelphia*
- Walking time is 15 minutes.*

You are cordially invited to the OAH President's Reception afterparty at the African American Museum in Philadelphia. With a special performance at 8:30 pm by spoken-word artist Trapeta B. Mayson and the musical talents of the Alfie Pollit All-Star Trio.





*Sponsor of the  
OAH PRESIDENT'S  
RECEPTION*