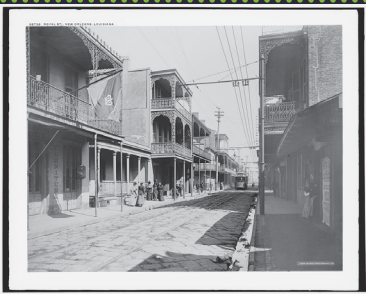




**2024** CONFERENCE ON  
AMERICAN HISTORY

# AWARDS PROGRAM



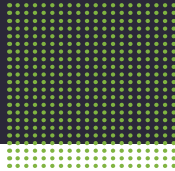
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**NEW ORLEANS**  
April 11-14, 2024

The Organization of American Historians thanks  
The HISTORY Channel, Oxford University Press, and the  
University of North Carolina Press for their continued financial  
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## 2024 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 2024 OAH award and prize recipients:

### ROY ROSENZWEIG DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

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

#### Award Committee

Philip J. Deloria, Harvard University, Chair  
Catherine Allgor, Massachusetts Historical Society  
Ashley D. Farmer, University of Texas, Austin  
Joanne Freeman, Yale University



**Earl Lewis**, University of Michigan

“The OAH must make the case for history and the common good . . . and we must never forget that what we do addresses the work of freedom. History teaches us our freedoms should not be taken for granted.” With these words, **Earl Lewis, Thomas C. Holt Distinguished University Professor of History, Afroamerican and African Studies, and Public Policy, and also the founding director of the University of Michigan Center for Social Solutions**, and 2018–2019 OAH President, launched the most ambitious fundraising campaign in the organization’s history,

donating \$50,000 to the OAH and promising another \$50,000 if the OAH could raise \$500,000 over the next 5 years.

Earl’s generosity capped a transformational OAH presidency. During Earl’s tenure, the OAH became a more forward-facing, deliberately inclusive organization. OAH initiatives supported by Earl and two successful Mellon grants underwrote much of this work. The “Public Voices” Mellon grant assisted OAH members in their efforts to become more publicly engaged, funding workshops on how to write op-eds, engage as public intellectuals on social media, and a host of other public

engagement strategies and skills. The second Mellon grant expanded access to the annual conference, funding travel grants for “underrepresented” groups such as contingent faculty, independent historians, graduate students, and K–12 educators, as well as panels and workshops specifically for these groups of historians and history educators. A prize fund created through this grant still funds up to 100 deeply discounted conference registrations for graduate students, independent historians, K–12 educators, and contingent faculty each year, as well as up to 5 travel assistance grants. Likewise, following on from the Public Voices initiative, Sunday of the conference weekend is now a day of professional development workshops and public-facing events such as the Community Conversation held at the Japanese American National Museum at the 2023 conference in Los Angeles.

In addition to his many contributions to the OAH, Earl Lewis is an esteemed leader in higher education, humanities scholarship, and is a leading scholar of the role of race in American history. He is the Thomas C. Holt Distinguished University Professor of History, Afroamerican and African Studies, and Public Policy at the University of Michigan, and the founding director of the University of Michigan Center for Social Solutions. He was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Joe Biden in March 2023. Upon receipt of the award, the University of Michigan Provost Laurie McCauley characterized Earl as “a living testament to the transformative power of the humanities. His uncanny understanding of complex systems is equaled by the force of his moral conviction.” Earl Lewis is President Emeritus of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a prolific scholar. He has examined and addressed critical questions for our society including the role of race in American history, diversity, equity and inclusion, graduate education, humanities scholarship, and universities and their larger communities. He has authored or edited 9 books, scores of essays, articles and comments, and along with Robin D. G. Kelley served as general editor of the eleven-volume Young Oxford History of African Americans. A member of numerous boards of directors or trustees, Lewis was an Obama administration appointee to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity.

## FRIEND OF HISTORY AWARD

*recognizes an institution or organization, or an individual working primarily outside college or university settings, for outstanding support of historical research, the public presentation of American history, or the work of the OAH*

### **Award Committee/OAH Executive Committee**

Anthea M. Hartig, National Museum of American History, President, Chair

David W. Blight, Yale University, President-Elect

Annette Gordon-Reed, Harvard University, Vice President

Jay S. Goodgold, Independent Investor, Treasurer

Erika Lee, Harvard University, Immediate Past President



NHD programs that engage of teachers, students, and the public in history and civics education. “History education matters,” NHD asserts. “History education is essential for participatory citizenship. Knowing where we came from helps us understand where we are going.” NHD’s programs reach over 500,000 students and K–12 teachers each year. Perhaps best known of the NHD programs, the Student History Contest engages

middle and high school students in the work of historical research and product creation. Through their projects, students choose and dive deeply into a historical topic, conduct research in libraries, archives, and museums, and then present their findings in papers, exhibits, performances, documentaries, and websites. These projects are evaluated in a series of contests by professional historians and educators. In the process of studying the past, students build empathy while honing research, writing, communication, and analytical skills.

Through its work, National History Day has engaged, educated, and inspired generations of historians, critical thinkers, and informed citizens. In this fraught moment when history and history educators are under attack, and censorship threatens the ability of educators to present and students to learn from an unvarnished telling of our national past in their classrooms, it is especially fitting to recognize National History Day as the 2024 OAH Friend of History.

The OAH is proud to present National History Day with the Organization’s Friend of History Award.

## FREDERICK JACKSON TURNER AWARD

Recognizing the author of a first scholarly book dealing with any aspect of American history.

### Award Committee

Erika Lee, Harvard University, Chair

Erika Bsumek, University of Texas at Austin

Annette Gordon-Reed, Harvard University



**Michael A. Blaakman**, Princeton University, *Speculation Nation: Land Mania in the Revolutionary American Republic* (University of Pennsylvania Press)

Following the American Revolution, patriot leaders engaged in a massive wave of reckless land speculation. In this important and revelatory study, Blaakman retells the story of the American founding as a nation built on the seizure and public sale of millions of acres of Native land stretching from Maine to the Mississippi and George to the Great Lakes. Focusing on both speculators and statesmen and the corruption and greed fueling

their schemes and policies, Blaakman shows how Indian removal was both a military campaign and an economic campaign. The resulting financialized frontier turned vast amounts of contested land into abstract commodities that was essential to American capitalist development. Blaakman makes the case that we cannot ignore the role that both settler-colonialism and speculative capitalism played in the founding of our nation. Well-written, deeply researched, persuasive, and exacting in its detail, *Speculation Nation* explains how property, finance, and racism developed in early America and compels us reconsider all aspects of early American history.

### Honorable Mentions

Wendell Nii Laryea Adjetej, *Cross-Border Cosmopolitans: The Making of Pan-African North America* (University of North Carolina Press)

Max Fraser, *Hillbilly Highway: The Transappalachian Migration and the Making of a White Working Class* (Princeton University Press)

Julia Ornelas-Higdon, *The Grapes of Conquest: Race, Labor, and the Industrialization of California Wine, 1769–1920* (University of Nebraska Press)

## MERLE CURTI INTELLECTUAL HISTORY AWARD

Recognizing the best book in American intellectual history.

### Award Committee

Russell Rickford, Cornell University, Chair

Nate Holdren, Drake University

Kirsten Swinth, Fordham University



**Sheyda F.A. Jahanbani**, University of Kansas, *The Poverty of the World: Discovering the Poor at Home and Abroad, 1935–1973* (Oxford University Press)

In *The Poverty of the World*, Sheyda F.A. Jahanbani, University of Kansas, unearths the “discovery” of global poverty by postwar American liberals, compellingly showing how belief in overcoming destitution on a world scale became a moral obligation that guided visions of an American “empire of affluence” and shaped attempts to mitigate “underdevelopment” in the era of decolonization. One of the book’s strengths is its focus on a collection of poverty “experts,”

including fresh-faced volunteers for the Peace Corps and its domestic equivalent, who brought “middle level manpower” to public and private antipoverty efforts. Jahanbani reveals the roots of the domestic War on Poverty in the attempts of these thinkers and policy makers to eradicate poverty abroad. *The Poverty of the World* demonstrates how economic, political, and military realities changed liberal understandings of poverty and development. The confidence of liberal humanitarians gradually declined as actual war undermined the antipoverty crusade. Jahanbani thus exposes some of the underexplored costs of militarism, a topic that remains troublingly salient today. By illuminating how domestic conceptions of poverty dovetailed with global imaginaries, *The Poverty of the World* opens new vistas to historians of the Cold War, decolonization, liberalism, and the War on Poverty.



## MERLE CURTI SOCIAL HISTORY AWARD

*Recognizing the best book in American social history.*

### Award Committee

Alice Baumgartner, University of Southern California, Chair

William Bauer, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Jesse Curtis, Valparaiso University



**Dylan Penningroth**, University of California, Berkeley, *Before the Movement: The Hidden History of Black Civil Rights* (Liveright)

Beautifully written, deeply researched, and brilliantly argued, *Before the Movement* shows how Black people used the law in everyday ways that shaped how they lived as people. Through painstaking research in county legal records, Dylan Penningroth, University of California, Berkeley, shows how Black litigants invoked the right to property and the right to contract to secure civil rights—a process that historians have overlooked because of modern conceptions of civil rights as distinct from private law. But not only did Black people engage with the law as an

act of resistance against white supremacy but they also used the law, sometimes against one another, to secure everyday gains. Penningroth urges us to see Black history as more than a story of resistance. This is an agenda-setting book that both transforms how we think and teach about slavery, segregation, and civil rights, and also provides a model for how to use legal sources in social history.

## ELLIS W. HAWLEY PRIZE

*Recognizing 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.*

### Award Committee

Kathryn Olmsted, University of California, Davis, Chair

Ernesto Chavez, University of Texas at El Paso

Samuel Erman, University of Michigan

Elizabeth Hinton, Yale University

Benjamin Hoy, University of Saskatchewan



**Dylan Penningroth**, University of California Berkeley, *Before the Movement: The Hidden History of Black Civil Rights* (Liveright)

In this beautifully written book, Dylan C. Penningroth shows how ordinary African Americans used the law in their everyday lives from the last decades of slavery to the 1970s. Even during the height of Jim Crow, indeed, even during slavery, Black people exercised a wide range of civil rights—what Penningroth calls “the rights of everyday use,” embedded in contract, property, marriage, and inheritance law. Through extensive archival research, conducted in courthouse basements, Penningroth unearths this neglected history of the movement. The book centers the

story of Black people who knew, understood, and used the law generations before the mass marches of the 1950s and 1960s. Penningroth also engages readers by weaving in the narrative of his own family. This extraordinary book shifts our focus from federal courts to county courts, and from iconic leaders to ordinary people. Its excavation of the long history of Black legal life will broaden and transform our understanding of African Americans’ fight for justice.

## RICHARD W. LEOPOLD PRIZE

*Recognizing historical scholarship that focuses on America and the world, military affairs, historical activities of the federal government, documentary histories, or biography created by a U.S. government historian or federal contract historian.*

### Award Committee

John Worsencroft, Louisiana Tech University, Chair

Chad Parker, University of Louisiana, Lafayette

Nicole Sackley, University of Richmond



**John H. Sprinkle Jr.**, *Heritage Conservation in the United States: Enhancing the Presence of the Past* (Routledge)

*Heritage Conservation in the United States: Enhancing the Presence of the Past* is an indispensable book about the work of historic preservation in the United States. John H. Sprinkle, a former National Park Service Bureau historian, offers a carefully researched insider's view into how federal law, mandates, and policies shaped conservation efforts. This is an institutional history of the "New Preservation" movement, which was spurred on by the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, leading to a dramatic expansion of

the official memory of the federal government. Grounding the transformations in how the state preserves and interprets the past within the broader social, political, and cultural context of the twentieth century, Sprinkle shows us that this is a complicated story that eschews simplistic progressive interpretations of how institutions change. In the pages of Sprinkle's book are the voices of African American activists and other minority groups who drove the profound transformations in thinking around what the United States should preserve, and on whose terms. The Leopold Prize seeks to recognize the important work being done by historians outside of the academy, and Sprinkle's *Heritage Conservation in the United States* is a shining example of those efforts.

## OAH CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION BOOK AWARD

Recognizing the most original book on the coming of the Civil War, the Civil War years, or the era of Reconstruction.

### Award Committee

Barbara Gannon, University of Central Florida, Chair

Brandi C. Brimmer, University of North Carolina

Gregory Mixon, University of North Carolina at Charlotte



**Kidada E. Williams**, *I Saw Death Coming: A History of Terror and Survival in the War against Reconstruction* (Bloomsbury Publishing)

Dr. Williams's *I Saw Death Coming: A History of Terror and Survival in the War against Reconstruction* is a compelling narrative that places Black people and their family's humanity at the center of postwar freedom struggles. Beautifully written and meticulously researched, Williams's field-redefining study chronicles Black families' struggles for justice and survival under the assault of a well-organized "shadow army of [white] paramilitary gangs" that operated virtually

unchallenged by local, state, and federal governments. While the government failed to defend Black liberty and life during Reconstruction, Williams eloquently chronicles the stories of Black men, women, and children who personally witnessed, survived, and testified publicly about the white war against their families at the twilight of freedom. Using well-known collections in an innovative way, such as the Works Progress Administration interviews and Black citizens' testimonies in Congress's 1871–1872 Klan hearings, Williams traces Black families' struggle to reconstruct their families in the face of racial terror and violence. Her engrossing study allows this testimony to be heard in the twenty-first century as we continue to fight battles of memory over the Civil War and its legacy. As Williams explains, "Testifying about the war on freedom was survivor's defense against its erasure."

## JAMES A. RAWLEY PRIZE

Recognizing the best book dealing with the history of race relations in the United States.

### Award Committee

Margaret Newell, Ohio State University, Chair

Yuichiro Onishi, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Samantha Seeley, University of Richmond



**Kevin Kenny**, New York University, *The Problem of Immigration in a Slaveholding Republic: Policing Mobility in the Nineteenth-Century United States* (Oxford University Press)

From the Texas border to sanctuary cities, immigrants to the United States confront different local conditions. In *The Problem of Immigration in a Slaveholding Republic: Policing Mobility in the Nineteenth-Century United States*, Kevin Kenny reveals that today's policies are rooted in a patchwork of laws aimed at Native Americans and African Americans as well as immigrants.

The committee found this beautifully written book an exciting intervention in the histories of citizenship, race, immigration, and mobility, one that makes plain their interconnectedness. Prior to 1870, states rather than Congress controlled immigration policy and citizenship. Kenny powerfully elucidates how race informed decisions about who could enter, naturalize, and move freely in a state, and who would be removed. Southern states expelled free Black people and policed enslaved communities. In the North and West, some legislatures transformed “warning out” pauper laws into racialized codes designed to exclude Black Americans, while others sought to protect fugitives from recapture. When Congress finally claimed control of immigration, it was to exclude Chinese immigrants. In this complex, rich work, Professor Kenny shines light on a tangled past and explains the anomalies of current U.S. immigrant policy.

### Honorable Mentions

Jennifer Dominique Jones, *Ambivalent Affinities: A Political History of Blackness and Homosexuality after World War II* (University of North Carolina Press)

Stephen Kantrowitz, *Citizens of a Stolen Land: A Ho-Chunk History of the Nineteenth-Century United States* (University of North Carolina Press)

### LIBERTY LEGACY FOUNDATION AWARD

Recognizing the best book by a historian on the civil rights struggle from the beginnings of the nation to the present.

#### Award Committee

Max Krochmal, University of New Orleans, Chair

Mia Bay, University of Pennsylvania

Felipe Hinojosa, Baylor University



**Gordon K. Mantler**, *The Multiracial Promise: Harold Washington's Chicago and the Democratic Struggle in Reagan's America* (University of North Carolina Press)

Drawing on an impressive mix of archival materials and oral histories, Gordon Mantler's *The Multiracial Promise* brings to life the coalition behind Harold Washington's election as Chicago's historic first Black mayor in 1983. Examining a moment when the nation seemed to have shifted to the right, Mantler brilliantly demonstrates the enduring power that grassroots organizing and multiracial coalition building wielded on electoral

politics. Although Mantler celebrates Washington's victory, he does not shy from highlighting the coalition's pitfalls or the roadblocks that the administration encountered when it challenged the city's entrenched political culture. In recent years, historians have explored immigration, community formation, and politics in Latino/a/x Chicago as well as the city's long African American freedom struggle. Mantler's book is the first to connect these stories to each other, tracing the threads of multiracial civil rights organizing from the first rainbow coalition in 1969 to the grassroots activists who transformed the city's electoral politics and charted an alternative to the emerging neoliberal wing of the Democratic party. Deeply researched, beautifully written, and accessible to wide audiences, Mantler's book is especially timely in this election year, reminding readers of the intricacies of the bottom-up coalition building that undergird electoral victories.

## LAWRENCE W. LEVINE AWARD

*Recognizing the best book in American cultural history.*

### Award Committee

Erik Seeman, University at Buffalo, Chair

Cindy Ott, University of Delaware

Katrina Phillips, Macalester College

Laura Serna, University of Southern California

John Troutman, National Museum of American History



**Rob Goldberg**, Germantown Friends School,  
*Radical Play: Revolutionizing Children's Toys in  
1960s and 1970s America* (Duke University Press)

*Radical Play* accomplishes a central goal for many of the best cultural histories, which is to illuminate and even recast histories of social and political struggle and transformation, through the work of cultural arts production, or in this case, through material culture. Rob Goldberg brings to light the grassroots efforts, starting in the early 1960s, to advance the goals of a wide range of social movements by changing the kinds of toys children played with. He reveals the surprising

success of antiwar, civil rights, feminist, and Black Power advocates in bringing the toy industry to the table to redesign their offerings. The narrative plays out against a sweeping cultural vista, yet material culture anchors the analyses and makes vivid the intersection of multiple social movements. Activists understood the power of toys before cultural studies scholars theorized about the power of objects; Goldberg tells these activists' stories with sympathy and verve.

**DARLENE CLARK HINE AWARD**

*Recognizing the best book in African American women's and gender history.*

**Award Committee**

Shennett Garrett-Scott, Tulane University, Chair  
 Siobhan Carter-David, Southern Connecticut State University  
 Cherisse Jones-Branch, Arkansas State University  
 Jessical Millward, University of California, Irvine  
 Traci Parker, Harvard University



**Barbara Savage**, *Merze Tate: The Global Odyssey of a Black Woman Scholar* (Yale University Press)

Barbara Savage's powerful biography of Merze Tate (1905–1996), a trailblazing Black woman scholar and intrepid world traveler, eloquently honors an extraordinary figure whose contributions to U.S. intellectual and political history have too long been overlooked. Through more than a decade of meticulous research and a compelling narrative, Savage presents Tate's remarkable journey as the first African American woman to attend the University of Oxford and earn a Ph.D. from Radcliffe College. Tate overcame

racial and gender barriers in academia and international diplomacy in her career as a scholar, educator, and peace advocate. The bold and irrepressible Tate refused to limit her intellectual ambitions in a Jim and Jane Crow world. Savage lucidly and skillfully renders Tate's life as a global traveler and her career as a diplomatic scholar, illuminating for readers a cosmopolitan intellectual whose scholarship in international relations and peace studies broke new ground. This biography helps address a crucial void in historical scholarship and offers a model for writing Black women's biography. It reframes the narrative on the contributions of African American women to the intellectual and cultural fabric of the twentieth century and challenges provincial approaches to African American and U.S. history, women's history, the history of education, diplomatic history, and international thought.

**Honorable Mention**

Tanisha Ford, *Our Secret Society: Mollie Moon and the Glamour, Money, and Power behind the Civil Rights Movement* (HarperCollins)



**DAVID MONTGOMERY AWARD**

*Recognizing the best book on a topic in American labor and working-class history.*

**Award Committee**

Veronica Martinez-Matsuda, University of California, San Diego, Chair

Jane Berger, Moravian University

Gabriel Winant, University of Chicago



**Joan Flores-Villalobos**, *The Silver Women: How Black Women’s Labor Made the Panama Canal* (University of Pennsylvania Press)

In *The Silver Women*, Joan Flores-Villalobos provides a powerful new understanding of the crucial role of Black West Indian women in the construction of the Panama Canal. Through brilliant use of multilingual, transnational sources and an expansive methodological approach, Flores-Villalobos reveals how U.S. imperial ambitions in the region rested on Black migrant women’s ingenuity and reproductive labor in housing, feeding, caring for, and defending

the canal’s Black West Indian labor force. West Indian women’s entrepreneurial activities and daily strategies for making life defied imperial authorities’ economic and legal schemes for advancing class exploitation and racial domination in the Canal Zone. They did more than just evade the racial binaries of the roll system—“Gold as white, Silver as Black”: they traversed the contradictions and violence of U.S. empire. And Black women continued to do this work as canal construction ended, Panama City’s economy plummeted, and they migrated to places such as Harlem, Cuba, and Costa Rica. *The Silver Women* represents an exciting direction in the study of working people and their history, masterfully linking social reproduction, U.S. empire, global Afro-Caribbean diaspora, and feminist studies. It points the field beyond the formal economy and beyond the nation-state.

### MARY NICLISS PRIZE IN U.S. WOMEN'S AND/OR GENDER HISTORY

*Recognizing the most original book by an academic historian in the field of U.S. women's and/or gender history.*

#### **Award Committee**

Marcia Gallo, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Chair

Rachel Jean-Baptiste, Stanford University

Veronica Tiller, Tiller Research, Inc.



**Alejandra Dubcovsky**, *Talking Back: Native Women and the Making of the Early South* (Yale University Press)

*Talking Back: Native Women and the Making of the Early South* is a pathbreaking, innovative, and generative book that reconfigures the empirical, conceptual, and methodological terrain of early American history. With intrepid archival and linguistic research, it dispels the myth of a lack of source material to narrate histories of Native American women. It weaves a social, cultural, and economic history of a multiracial early America, describing how women wove it. With a deft hand,

Alejandra Dubcovsky tells how individual Native American, Black, and Spanish women—of varied origins, lineages, language groups, socioeconomic statuses, slave or free—carved out domestic and public lives in the colonial era. In doing so, it recasts our understanding of women's roles in early U.S. history and the gendered dynamics that shaped it.

#### **Honorable Mention**

Grace Sanders Johnson, *White Gloves, Black Nation: Women, Citizenship, and Political Wayfaring in Haiti* (University of North Carolina Press)

## LERNER-SCOTT PRIZE

*Recognizing the best PhD dissertation in U.S. women's history.*

### Award Committee

Tiffany Gozález, University of Kansas, Chair  
Bridget Groat, University of Wyoming  
Kumiko Noguchi, Meijigakuin University



**Tiana Wilson**, “Revolution and Struggle: The Enduring Legacy of the Third World Women’s Alliance, 1968–2010” (completed at the University of Texas at Austin under the direction of Ashley D. Farmer)

Tiana Wilson’s dissertation, “Revolution and Struggle: The Enduring Legacy of the Third World Women’s Alliance, 1968–2010,” will make a highly acclaimed intervention to field of U.S. women’s history. Wilson’s project provides a fresh examination of the Third World Women’s Alliance, an often-overlooked organization, that held membership of not only Black women but also

Latinas and Asian and Native women. Wilson’s exceptional craft in incorporating original sources, such as articles, political speeches, oral histories, and untapped sources, has broadened historical debates on the organization and showcased the legacies of the global Black Power movement, Third World feminism, and Black women’s transnational networks in the late twentieth century. The dissertation is theoretically sound with its framework of “double jeopardy,” and it further enhances the current historiography on Black women’s activism to illustrate how Black feminists from New York to the Bay Area shaped conversations on liberation as well as how they confronted and challenged racial oppression in the United States, while also connecting their battles to other global liberation movements, to achieve their goals.

### Honorable Mention

Donna Delvin, “Women of the Great Plains and the ‘Disruption’ of Neighborhoods: Challenging Sexual Violence and Coercion through Local Courts of Law in Kansas and Nebraska, 1970–1900, with a Segue to the Present” (completed at the University of Nebraska under the direction of Katrina Jagodinsky)

## LOUIS PELZER MEMORIAL AWARD

Recognizing essays written by students pursuing graduate degrees.

### Award Committee

Stephen D. Andrews, Interim Executive Editor, *Journal of American History*, Chair  
Catherine J. Denial, Knox College  
Quincy Mills, University of Maryland, College Park  
Terry Anne Scott, Hood College



**Jordan Villegas-Verrone**, Columbia University, ““For the Girls’: Organizing Mexican American Girlhood in Depression-Era Texas.”

Working at the intersection of youth, labor, and Latinx histories, Jordan Villegas-Verrone explores labor organizing in depression-era Houston, Texas. Young women activists “sought to construct a transnational, interracial network of girl workers on the basis of ‘girlhood solidarity,’” through CIO-affiliated Textile Workers Organizing Committee Local 270 and Club Cielito Lindo, advocating on behalf of “Mexican American and Black industrial laborers across both Mexico and the U.S. South.”

## BINKLEY-STEPHENSON AWARD

Recognizing the best article that appeared in the *Journal of American History*.

### Award Committee

Peter Martínez, Tarrant County College–Northeast Campus, Chair

Simon Newman, University of Wisconsin at Madison

Ji-Yeon Yuh, Northwestern University



**Daniel Immerwahr**, Northwestern University, “Burning Down the House: Slavery and Arson in America,” *Journal of American History*, December 2023

Daniel Immerwahr provides a fascinating look at arson in the antebellum South for the purpose of slave rebellions. Using environmental, urban, and intellectual history, Immerwahr points out that the United States was an unusually flammable nation, where homes and businesses alike were often made of readily available timber. While traditional slave revolts were generally crushed quickly and completely, the act of rebelling through arson created a mysterious, unpredictable, and chaotic climate. Moreover, the fact that arson was difficult to prove only added to the psychological terror experienced by slave owners and proponents of slavery alike in the antebellum South. By researching the volume of fires before and after the Civil War—particularly in major southern cities such as New Orleans and Charleston—while accounting for slave narratives and accusations posited by slave owners themselves, Immerwahr puts forth a convincing argument that the South was burning long before Union forces “scorched earth” through the Confederacy, and that Reconstruction was indeed a time when the South needed to be rebuilt after it quite literally burned to the ground.

## THE DAVID THELEN AWARD

Honoring the best article on American history written in a language other than English.

### Award Committee

Stephen D. Andrews, Interim Executive Editor, *Journal of American History*, Chair  
Max Paul Friedman, American University  
Monica Prasad, Johns Hopkins University  
Simone Selva, University of Naples L'Orientale



**Alexandre Guilherme da Cruz Alves Jr.**, Federal University of Amapá (Unifap). Macapá (AP), “A ocupação de Alcatraz e o movimento indígena nos Estados Unidos (1969–1971)” (The Alcatraz occupation and the American Indian movement (1969–1971), *Tempo* (Rio de Janeiro), December 2022

“The Alcatraz Occupation and the American Indian Movement,” analyzes the actions and proclamations of Indian activists who occupied the island of Alcatraz between November 1969 and June 1971. On that occasion the Indian students, calling themselves “Indians of all

Tribes,” arrived at the old federal prison and claimed the island as Indian territory to establish an Indian University and an Indian cultural center. By examining the public manifestos of the movement, Alexandre Guilherme da Cruz Alves Jr. helps us understand how the Indians viewed their own history both as an instrument to legitimize political demonstrations as well as an instrument for forging an interethnic political agenda. The article analyzes how the Indians who took control of Alcatraz believed their actions might ameliorate the harsh social conditions facing all Indian people in 1969, whether those Native Americans lived in urban areas or on reservations.

## HUGGINS-QUARLES AWARD

*To assist graduate students with expenses related to travel to research collections for the completion of their PhD dissertation.*

### Award Committee

Erika Perez, University of Arizona, Chair

Kami Fletcher, Albright College

Nicole Guidotti-Hernández, Northeastern University

Françoise Hamlin, Brown University

Derek Taira, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa



**Erica Duncan**, “Childish Freedoms: Black Children and the Making of Freedom in South Carolina and the Bahamas, 1715–1838”

Erica Duncan’s research deals with a timely topic that expands the fields of childhood studies, slavery, race, and gender in the pre- and post-revolutionary eras. She explores transnational networks of child trafficking and bondage in the Atlantic world, but rather than privileging the United Kingdom as metropole, she examines local conditions in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century South Carolina and the Bahamas to identify contestations in the broader Atlantic over the

meaning of Black childhood, slavery, freedom and revolutionary era ideologies. Her examination of Black childhood predates other studies and offers comparisons between enslaved and freed children of African descent. Her study further shows that larger ideas of belonging, home-making, and bodily sovereignty were just as influenced by children as by adults. Instead of flattening Black children’s experiences into a monolith under the category of “family,” her work shows the need for underscoring specific childhood experiences, place, and knowledge of kinship across vast distances and landscapes. Her methods are rooted in legal, social, and economic history with a strong influence by Black feminist praxis. Her application and letter of support by Dr. Jennifer Morgan demonstrated a clear need for her to consult international archives to complete the dissertation in a timely manner.

## JOHN D'EMILIO LGBTQ HISTORY DISSERTATION AWARD

*Recognizing the best PhD dissertation in U.S. LGBTQ history.*

### Award Committee

Ernesto Chavez, University of Texas at El Paso, Co-Chair

Evelyn Schlatter, Independent Scholar, Co-Chair

Kelsey Henry, Yale University

Paul Renfro, Florida State University

Cookie Woolner, University of Memphis



**Nora M. Kassner**, “Hard to Place: Gay and Lesbian Foster Families and the Remaking of U.S. Family Policy” (completed at the University of California, Santa Barbara, under the direction of Alice O’Connor)

With an incisive and personable voice, Nora Kassner makes a stunning intervention in scholarship on queer family formation and the historiography of U.S. family policy in the twentieth century. Spanning the 1970s through the 1990s, with a regional focus on foster care systems in Florida, New Jersey, and California, Kassner’s dissertation argues that foster parenting was an

essential and understudied catalyst for securing state recognition and protection for gay and lesbian parents. Kassner deftly braids together extensive archival research and oral history to craft a granular study of the day-to-day decisions of foster parents, social workers, and activists. In doing so, she accounts for the hyperlocal, idiosyncratic practices that gradually amounted to more inclusive parent licensing nationally. Kassner also captures the racial politics that fueled the selective liberalization of U.S. family policy in the late twentieth century. The committee was especially impressed by Kassner’s application of Black feminist theory to critique the sinister co-dependency between state divestment in Black families, which produced an influx of “hard to place” children in U.S. foster care, and state investment in the white gay and lesbian foster families who fostered and adopted them. We congratulate Kassner on this tremendous achievement.

### Honorable Mention

Mori Reithmayr, “Community before Liberation: Theorizing Gay Resistance in San Francisco, 1953–1969” (Completed at the University of Oxford)



**JOHN HIGHAM RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

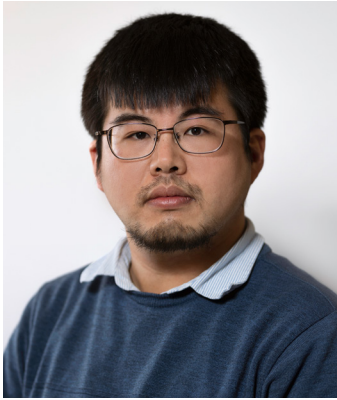
*Supporting graduate students writing doctoral dissertations for a PhD in American history.*

**Award Committee**

Andrew Jewett, Johns Hopkins University, Chair

Christopher Capozzola, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Joel Zapata, Oregon State University



**Yong Hyeon Kim**, Binghamton University,  
 “Contested Manhood: Masculinity, the Urban  
 Settlement House Movement, and Male  
 Reformers, 1891–1933”

“Contested Manhood: Masculinity, the Urban  
 Settlement House Movement, and Male  
 Reformers, 1891–1933” explores how historians’  
 understandings of Progressive Era settlement  
 houses might change if we centered male  
 participants and the distinctive masculinities they  
 sought to implement. Although Jane Addams and  
 other middle-class women powerfully shaped  
 the settlement house movement, we know

remarkably little about the many men who also played key roles. Yong Hyeon Kim argues that both the male reformers who helped guide settlement houses and the male social workers employed in them brought distinctive, gendered lenses to their work. These men understood questions of poverty and social difference in terms of idealized masculinities and sought to solve social problems by creating male breadwinners imbued with middle-class values. Yet these masculinities were subject to contestation by many other actors, including men from marginalized groups as well as women of all backgrounds. Kim explores how these contestations unfolded in and around the settlement houses, examining boys’ clubs and temperance programs as well as the social views and daily interactions of male social workers and settlement house leaders. The Higham Fellowship will fund research in settlement house archives at the University of Minnesota and elsewhere.

### JOHN HIGHAM RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (CONT.)



**Allie R. Lopez**, Baylor University, “The Injustice that Permeates: Jim Crow, Fear, and Dispossession in Rural Alabama, 1930–1985”

“The Injustice that Permeates: Jim Crow, Fear, and Dispossession in Rural Alabama, 1930–1985” answers the call to “make civil rights harder” by shifting the narrative focus from small groups of activists to the large majority of rural Black southerners who did not engage in active resistance and suffered under the yoke of white supremacy. Taking Alabama’s Black belt as a case study, Alice R. Lopez works to excavate the daily textures of life under Jim Crow for

this dispossessed majority, using a range of archival sources to describe “local iterations of white structural control and how Black women and men endured and engaged in their communities.” The dissertation describes the many and varied obstacles that the system of white domination placed in the way of rural Black residents, some of whom may have been tempted to join the civil rights struggle and others of whom wanted nothing at all to do with it. The project also explores how these dispossessed figures experienced and understood their circumstances. Lopez will use the Higham Fellowship funds to travel to the Auburn University Libraries and the Amistad Research Center in New Orleans.

## MARY K. BONSTEEL TACHAU TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

*In recognition of the contributions made by precollegiate teachers to improve history education within the field of American history.*

### Award Committee

James Seymour, Lone Star College–CyFair, Chair

Amy Trenkle, D.C. Public Schools/American University

Tiara Fourkiller, Fourkiller Films + Photography



**Lois MacMillan**, Grants Pass High School, Grants Pass, Oregon

Lois MacMillan possesses over thirty years of teaching experience in Oregon public schools. She has won multiple awards, including the Southern Oregon Teacher of the Year, the Jane Ortner Award, the Oregon Award for Service to Education, and the Oregon History Teacher of the Year. Moreover, Ms. MacMillan has worked diligently to expand the teaching of history. She served as a Senior Education Fellow for the Hamilton Education Program at the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York City, where she

focused on creating Founding Era curriculum for high school teachers across the nation. She has led Summer Seminars as a Master Teacher since 2009, covering topics such as the Age of Lincoln and the American Revolution. She oversaw One-Day Professional Development Opportunities, again as a Master Teacher, in various states, covering Women's Suffrage and Antonin Scalia's Originalism, among other topics. She serves on many history education advisory councils, won fellowships and grants, and has appeared on NPR and C-SPAN, among other media sites. For all these reasons, the committee members felt that Lois MacMillan should receive the Tachau Teaching Award for this year.

## ERIK BARNOUW AWARD

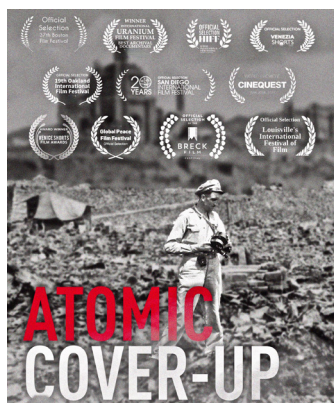
Recognizing outstanding programming on television, or in documentary film, concerned with American history, the study of American history, and/or the promotion of American history.

### Award Committee

Eduardo Pagán, Arizona State University

Anne Lewis, Independent Filmmaker

Malinda Lowery, Emory University



**Atomic Cover-Up**, Director **Greg Mitchell**, Producer **Suzanne Mitchell**, and Distributor, **The Video Project**

*Atomic Cover-Up* is a hauntingly powerful work that reveals the depth of devastation in Japan in the days that followed the dropping of atomic bombs in World War II. The combination of never-before-seen historical footage, eyewitness accounts, and compelling voice acting all combine to offer an artistically skilled story that humanizes a devastating world event so often understood only in the abstract. To hear and feel the horror of American filmmakers as they filmed the ruin made

of civilian lives is to begin to understand why so many who witnessed the aftermath of the bombing of Japan became among the most vocal supporters of peace in the postwar period.

### Honorable Mention

*The Busing Battleground: The Decades-Long Road to School Desegregation, American Experience*. Written by Sharon Grimberg. Produced and directed by Sharon Grimberg and Cyndee Readdean

## STANTON-HORTON AWARD

Recognizing excellence in National Park Service historical efforts that make the NPS a leader in promoting public understanding of and engagement with American history.

### Award Committee

Edward Hagerty, American Public University System, Chair

Andrea DeKoter, National Park Service

Lori Kuechler, Kuechler Nonprofit Consulting

Ray Rast, Gonzaga University



## Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument (BICR)

In September 2023, BICR launched a website, “The Watsons Go To Birmingham—1963,” in conjunction with in-person events reaching thousands of students, hundreds of teachers, and dozens of community partners, commemorating the 60th

anniversary of the September 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church that claimed the lives of four little girls. The project uses Christopher Paul Curtis’s Newbery award–winning historical novel *The Watsons Go To Birmingham—1963* to enrich students’ understanding of the civil rights movement’s dramatic events and help inspire participation in efforts to dismantle racism and secure social justice. Chapter summaries follow the story of an African American family from Michigan driving to visit relatives in Alabama. All become involved in the civil rights movement and the church bombing. Fact checks clarify issues and connect fiction to actual historical settings, presenting primary sources and oral histories that facilitate students’ research and deepen their understanding of the civil rights movement and the issue of systemic racism in America. Lesson plans for each chapter help teachers guide students in digesting the historical content and processing the emotional weight of traumatic events. Finally, the “Voices From the Field” section expertly expands on the book’s themes, exposing students to current academic scholarship.

## OAH/JAAS JAPAN RESIDENCIES PROGRAM

*Supporting American scholars' short-term residencies in Japan. This program is supported by funding from the Japan-US Friendship Commission.*



### Residencies Committee (OAH/JAAS Japan Historians' Collaborative Committee)

#### **Members from the United States**

Judy Wu, University of California, Irvine, Chair  
Madeline Hsu, University of Texas  
Lon Kurashige, University of Southern California  
Renee Romano, Oberlin College  
Derek Taira, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

#### **Members from Japan**

Shuichi Takebayashi, Tohoku University, Chair  
Yuki Oda, Chuo University



**Carl J. Bon Tempo**, University at Albany  
Kyoritsu Women's University



**Sam Lebovic**, George Mason University  
Kyoto University of Foreign Studies Program

Three Japanese students studying in the United States were selected to receive funding to attend this year's OAH conference.

**Shinya Yoshida**, University of Minnesota  
**Hiroko Saito**, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
**Genki Komori**, University of Nevada, Reno

## GERMANY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

*Thanks to a generous grant from the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, the OAH is pleased to continue the Germany Residency Program in American history at the University of Tübingen. The resident scholar will offer a seminar on a U.S. history topic of his or her design.*

### Award Committee

- Chantel Rodriguez, Minnesota Historical Society, Chair
- Alvita Akiboh, Yale University
- Anne-Marie Angelo, University of Sussex
- Gretchen Heefner, Northeastern University
- Ai Hisano, University of Tokyo
- Russell Kazal, University of Toronto
- Rachel Nolan, Boston University
- Elliott Young, Lewis & Clark College
- Georg Schild, University of Tübingen, *Ex Officio*
- Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson, University of Augsburg, *Ex Officio*



**Benjamin H. Johnson**, Loyola University Chicago

## ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS VISITING ROOM RESEARCH GRANTS

Through the generous support of The Visiting Room Project, a fiscally sponsored project of the Proteus Fund, the **Visiting Room Research Grants** support research in The Visiting Room archive, a collection of over 100 filmed interviews with incarcerated individuals at the Louisiana State Penitentiary Angola who are serving life sentences without the possibility of parole. The grants support research being undertaken by one advanced Ph.D. student or early-career scholar, and one mid/ later-career scholar.

### Award Committee

Simon Balto, University of Wisconsin

Jen Manion, Amherst College

Melanie Newport, University of Connecticut

Heather A. Thompson, University of Michigan

Beth English, OAH Executive Director, ex officio



**Gabrielle Corona**, Princeton University



**Natalie J. Ring**, University of Texas, Dallas



## OAH PRESIDENTS' TRAVEL FUND FOR EMERGING HISTORIANS

*The fund provides travel stipends for up to five graduate students and recent Ph.D.'s in history (no more than four years from the date of degree) whose papers or panels/sessions have been accepted by the OAH Program Committee for inclusion on the conference program.*

### **Award Committee**

David Blight, Yale University, Chair  
Annette Gordon-Reed, Harvard University  
Marc Stein, San Francisco State University

**Monique Flores Ulysses**, Dartmouth University

**Emily Hawk**, Columbia University

**Seokweon Jeon**, Harvard University

**Alexis N. Meza**, University of California, San Diego

**Shay Ryan Olmstead**, University of Massachusetts Amherst

## SAMUEL AND MARION MERRILL GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS

*The grants, supported by a bequest from the Merrill Trust, help sponsor the travel-related costs of graduate students who are confirmed as participants on the OAH conference program and who incur expenses traveling to the conference.*

### **Award Committee**

David Blight, Yale University, Chair  
Annette Gordon-Reed, Harvard University  
Marc Stein, San Francisco State University

**Elio Colavito**, University of Toronto

**Ellie Kaplan**, University of California, Davis

**Jacob Morrow-Spitzer**, Yale University

**Jennifer W. Reiss**, University of Pennsylvania

# 2023 OAH AWARDS AND PRIZES

## Members Attaining 50 Years in 2024

Michele L. Aldrich  
Natsuki Aruga  
Annette Atkins  
Jeanie Attie  
Michael K. Averbach  
Michael J. Birkner  
Peter J. Blodgett  
Shelley Bookspan  
Elaine G. Breslaw  
Olivio B. Conti  
Robert Emmett Curran  
James H. Ducker  
Claude Curtis Erb  
Norman B. Ferris  
Robert Wallace Filby  
John C. Gogliettino  
Michael Dennis Griffith  
Jeffrey R. Gunderson  
Robert W. Haddon  
Robert L. Harris Jr.  
James F. Hawk  
Douglas Helms  
James Alan Hijiya  
Darlene Clark Hine  
Suellen Hoy  
Gary L. Huey  
Ray Douglas Hurt  
Heather A. Huyck  
Ronald Dale Karr  
Anne M. Klejment  
Ralph B. Levering  
David E. Luellen  
David I. Macleod

Robert Glen Mangrum  
Alan I. Marcus  
Waldo Emerson Martin Jr.  
Robert M. Mennel  
Gregory Lamont Mixon  
John W. Partin  
Gale E. Peterson  
Christie Farnham Pope  
William J. Reese  
Tom P. Richter  
Roberta Rorke  
Alan Max Schroder  
Howard Smead  
Patricia Y. Stallard  
Duane A. Tananbaum  
Lowell E. Wenger  
Lillian Serece Williams  
Randall Bennett Woods  
Michael V. Woodward  
Ryo Yokoyama

## Members of 60 Years and More in 2024


C. Blythe Ahlstrom  
Thomas G. Alexander  
Peter H. Argersinger  
Clarence J. Attig  
Arthur H. Auten  
John W. Bailey Jr.  
James M. Banner Jr.  
Lois W. Banner  
David F. Barry  
Michael C. Batinski  
Ross W. Beales Jr.  
Henry F. Bedford

Philip J. Bergan  
William C. Berman  
David Bernstein  
Roger E. Bilstein  
John Porter Bloom  
James R. Boylan  
John H. Bracey Jr.  
Mary Ann Brady  
Roger D. Bridges  
David Brody  
Richard D. Brown  
Michael J. Brusin  
O. L. Burnette Jr.  
Desmond X. Butler  
Stanley Caine  
Ballard C. Campbell  
James E. Caskey  
Frank Chalk  
Stanley Coben  
Ronald D. Cohen  
Patrick T. Conley  
James L. Cooper  
Steven Cord  
Roger W. Corley  
Theodore R. Crane  
James B. Crooks  
Harl A. Dalstrom  
Roger Daniels  
Gerald Danzer  
Allen F. Davis  
Donald G. Davis Jr.  
Kenneth E. Davison  
Lawrence B. de Graaf  
Charles Burgess Dew  
Leonard Dinnerstein  
Justus Drew Doenecke

# 2023 OAH AWARDS AND PRIZES

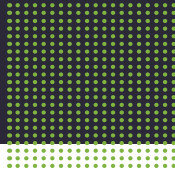
Melvyn Dubofsky	Jack M. Holl	John F. Marszalek
Michael H. Ebner	David A. Hollinger	William C. Marten
G. Thomas Edwards	Walter R. Houf	Robert N. Mathis
Owen Dudley Edwards	Robert S. Huston	William L. McCorkle
Richard N. Ellis	H. Larry Ingle	John J. McCusker
Carroll Engelhardt	Robert M. Ireland	Gerald W. McFarland
Stanley Lawrence Falk	Travis Beal Jacobs	Larry A. McFarlane
Roger Jerome Fechner	Richard Jensen	Christopher McKee
John J. Fitzpatrick	Dwight W. Jessup	James M. McPherson
William E. Foley	Dorothy E. Johnson	Ronald E. Mickel
Patrick J. Furlong	Jack J. Johnson	J. Paul Mitchell
Mary O. Furner	James E. Johnson	Roland M. Mueller
James P. Gaffey	Jacob Judd	Craig C. Murray
Frank Otto Gatell	John T. Juricek	Edward J. Muzik
Richard Allan Gerber	Steven Karges	Humbert S. Nelli
Larry R. Gerlach	Stanley N. Katz	Charles E. Neu
Gordon Gillson	Richard S. Kirkendall	Robert D. Neuleib
Harvey Goddard	Richard H. Kohn	John J. Newman
Martin K. Gordon	Harold E. Kolling	Roger L. Nichols
Alan Graebner	Aileen S. Kraditor	Paul H. Nieder
George D. Green	Carl Kramer	Margie Noel
David Grimsted	Armand Shelby La Potin	James P. O'Brien
Van Beck Hall	Bruce L. Larson	Patrick G. O'Brien
Alonzo L. Hamby	Catherine Grollman	Arnold A. Offner
James Hantula	Lauritsen	Keith W. Olson
Peter T. Harstad	Alan Lawson	Robert C. Olson
Willard M. Hays	Daniel Leab	Robert D. Parmet
William D. Hechler	John L. LeBrun	William E. Parrish
Nathaniel J. Henderson	R. Alton Lee	Justus F. Paul
James E. Hendrickson	William Edward	Loren E. Pennington
John W. Hillje	Leuchtenburg	Jon A. Peterson
Harwood P. Hinton	David L. Lightner	John Piper
Wayne K. Hinton	Charles A. Lofgren	Mark A. Plummer
Joan Hoff	Albert O. Louer	Edward J. Pluth
Abraham Hoffman	Frederick C. Luebke	Charles P. Poland Jr.
Paul S. Holbo	Gloria L. Main	Noel Harvey Pugach

### Members of 60 Years and More in 2024 (cont.)



Carroll W. Pursell  
Benjamin G. Rader  
Robert L. Reid  
David Morgan Reimers  
William C. Reuter  
William A. Riley  
A. Rogers  
Malcolm J. Rohrbough  
Dorothy Ross  
F. H. Schapsmeier  
Harry N. Scheiber  
Ingrid W. Scobie  
Ronald E. Seavoy  
Barbara Sicherman  
Paul Siff  
Roger D. Simon  
George H. Skau  
Melvin Small  
Paul H. Smith  
Richard W. Smith  
Wilson Smith  
John M. Spencer  
Raymond Starr  
Ivan D. Steen  
Harry H. Stein  
Ray Stephens  
Brit Allan Storey  
Richard W. Strattner  
David Thelen  
Bryant F. Tolles Jr.  
Eugene P. Trani  
Thomas R. Turner

William M. Tuttle Jr.  
Robert W. Unger  
Melvin I. Urofsky  
Alden T. Vaughan  
William O. Wagnon Jr.  
David A. Walker  
Frank A. Warren  
Sydney Stahl Weinberg  
Harold J. Weiss Jr.  
Richard Weiss  
Robert F. Wesser  
Frederic M. Williams  
Wayne Wilson  
William Henry Wilson  
Gordon S. Wood  
James A. Zimmerman



## FUTURE CONFERENCES

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**2025 OAH CONFERENCE ON AMERICAN HISTORY**  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
THURSDAY, APRIL 3 TO SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**2026 OAH CONFERENCE ON AMERICAN HISTORY**  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
THURSDAY, APRIL 16 TO SUNDAY, APRIL 19

**2027 OAH CONFERENCE ON AMERICAN HISTORY**  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA  
THURSDAY, APRIL 1 TO SUNDAY, APRIL 4





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