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Mass Humanities

A Publication of the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities Spring 2006

FOUNDATION NEWS

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Foundation is actively seeking nominations of qualified individuals to serve on its board of directors. Candidates must work or reside in Massachusetts and believe in the importance of the humanities and their relevance to contemporary life. If you would like to nominate someone, or are interested yourself, please visit our website, www.mfh.org/foundation/wanted.htm, for more information and a description of board member responsibilities.

Recently-elected board member K. Scott Wong, Director of the American Studies and Asian American Studies Programs at Williams College, regretfully has resigned his position on the Foundation board because of professional responsibilities that were unanticipated at the time of his election.

CLEMENTE COURSE COMES TO NEW BEDFORD

The Clemente Course in the Humanities is being offered this year for the first time in New Bedford, through a three-way collaboration among MFH; the host agency, PACE, Inc. (People Acting in Community Endeavors); and UMass Dartmouth, which is providing major financial support to help expand educational opportunity in the region. The Foundation had long wanted to bring the course to New Bedford, one of the poorest cities in the Commonwealth, with an average household income 56 percent below the national average. Senator Mark Montigny played a critical role in bringing the partners together. MFH is deeply grateful to Senator Montigny, to PACE Executive Director Bruce Morell, and to the UMass administrators whose commitment to the course has resulted in this unique partnership: Chancellor Jean MacCormack; Provost Louis Esposito; and William Hogan, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The Academic Director of the New Bedford class is Mark Santow, who directed the Clemente Course in Spokane before coming to Massachusetts as Assistant Professor of History at UMass Dartmouth.

Foundation News continued on page 5.

Voting Rights and Voting Wrongs

An Interview with Lani Guinier

*Lani Guinier became the first black woman to be given tenure at Harvard Law School when she joined the faculty in July 1998. Her appointment was another milestone in a distinguished legal career. Guinier first came to public attention in 1993 when President Clinton nominated her to be the first black woman to head the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. Immediately after her name was put forward, opponents virulently attacked the views on democracy and voting that she discusses below, driving Clinton to withdraw her nomination without a confirmation hearing. That experience led Guinier to use her subsequent public platform to speak out on issues of race, gender and democratic decision making and to call for candid public discourse on these issues. Guinier has written extensively in both scholarly and popular publications about new ways of approaching old problems, including issues of affirmative action, the "testocracy," gender equity, and race-conscious political districting. Her books include *The Tyranny of the Majority* (1994), *Becoming Gentlemen: Women, Law Schools and Institutional Change* (1995), and *Lift Every Voice: Turning a Civil Rights Setback into a New Vision of Social Justice* (1998), a personal and political memoir in which she uses the nomination debacle as a window on the civil rights movement past, present, and future. Her most recent book, co-authored by Gerald Torres, is *The Miner's Canary: Rethinking Race and Power* (2002).*

Guinier was interviewed for Mass Humanities by Martin Newhouse, a member of the Foundation board.

MARTIN NEWHOUSE: I think a good place to start would be the 2000 presidential election and the Supreme Court's decision in *Bush v. Gore*. After both of those events, a lot of attention was focused throughout the country on problems with the way our elections are run. And in early 2001, you published an article in *The American Prospect* where you said, if I read correctly, that the election debacle and near constitutional crisis that followed might present an opportunity for mobilizing both political leaders and grassroots movements towards significant election reform – not just correcting problems with hanging chads and long lines at the polls, but significant reform in the way we elect our political representatives. Now, the 2004 presidential election has come and gone.



Did what you were hoping for happen in the wake of *Bush v. Gore*?

LANI GUINIER: In hindsight that hope does sound very naïve. And in some ways, my hope was the expression of a perennial optimist who believes that when people see a problem they want to fix it. Unfortunately, the problem with American democracy is structural; it is not about the particular individuals who happen to be on the

Supreme Court or the particular individuals who happen to be running for office. It is deeply situated in the democracy that the framers constructed in the eighteenth century. We're still operating with an eighteenth-century notion of democracy and with eighteenth-century technology in the twenty-first century.

So, for example, one of the premises of the framers in the drafting of the Constitution was the assumption that, in some ways, elections were not entirely competitive affairs. They didn't want to have ideological contests. They wanted the election to be an opportunity for the voters to ratify, to acclaim, the natural leaders of the community. And both the natural leaders as well as the voters, at that time, were white men who owned property. And because you don't want to insult anybody by questioning their right to be a leader, these elections were supposed to be, in some sense, more leisurely affairs, not partisan, not tempestuous, and not widely participatory.

Now, this was a clear advance over the European understanding at the time because it was an effort to create a natural as opposed to an inherited aristocracy. It was a challenge to rule by the king. This view of natural leaders, or natural aristocracy, is certainly a more populist view—there are more people who can participate—but it's still not entirely democratic.

I go through all this history because I think it's important to understand that the Constitution itself, as drafted by the framers, never explicitly granted the fundamental constitutional right to vote to anyone. The Constitution created no voters. Rather, it said that the voters would be the people that the states determined could vote. And then you had amendments to the Constitution, which simply state that the state or the United States cannot deny or abridge the right to vote on

Voting Rights and Voting Wrongs continued on page 3.

Tree of Life

by Alix Cantave

A right to the tree of life is a right to peace, personal safety, and security, a right to quality education, a right to a job that pays a living wage, a right to decent housing, a right to free expression, and a right to participate freely in the political process. A right to the tree of life is a right to liberty and justice. Today too many of the world's poor and disenfranchised are deprived of such rights and thus are denied liberty and justice.

Individuals cannot enjoy the fruits of liberty and justice when they do not have access to affordable housing, are afraid to walk in neighborhood parks for fear of violence, or cannot get a quality education for their children in their local public school. Even in a society as affluent as the United States, there are groups of people who find liberty and justice beyond their reach.

Nowhere in this hemisphere is the lack of liberty and justice more pervasive than in Haiti, a small country of eight million people about 700 miles across the Caribbean Sea from Florida. In Haiti, the average adult does not live past his 53rd birthday and about seven out every 100 infants die before their first birthday. Eighty percent of the population lives in poverty, and about half of the population is illiterate.

Since March 2004, when President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was forced out of office, the country has experienced a new level of insecurity; armed gangs control the streets and threaten to tip the country into civil war. In December 2005, there were 14 kidnappings reported every day. Yet, on February 7, 2006, the population overwhelmingly expressed its desire for liberty and justice by going to the polls en masse to elect a new president, members of parliament, and local representatives. Turnout on election day surpassed all expectations—well over 70 percent of the 3.5 million registered voters participated. People were not deterred by the lack of security, the long distances they had to walk to the polling places, or the long waits once they got there. Haitians are cognizant of the costs of liberty and justice.

Liberty and justice will remain out of reach for the average Haitian unless this election brings security, judicial reform, quality education, and economic development while building a framework to reduce the disparities that have paralyzed the society.

Haiti has long been marked by abundant wealth and desperate poverty. Haitians share a small island, but they do not feel or act as if they are in the same boat. The vast majority of the population is destitute and neglected, trapped in an endless and hopeless cycle of poverty; meanwhile a wealthy minority enjoys all of the amenities of the modern world. The goods and services the wealthy do not find in Haiti, they import from Miami or the neighboring nation of the Dominican Republic.

There has been no effort to repair the ills afflicting Haitian society; those with the means can travel abroad for quality education and healthcare. Since different groups feel as if they are not in the same boat, no one bothers to bail, and the boat has been sinking.

The rich and the middle class regard the impoverished majority with disdain and treat them as if they have no meaningful role in the society. They wish that the poor would simply disappear. As the February 7, 2006, election shows, however, that majority has faith in a democratic Haiti and will continue to claim its rights to the tree of life—to liberty and to justice.

The tree of life is not reserved for the affluent and powerful but is a right for all. One group cannot continue to deny liberty and justice to another without sacrificing liberty and justice for all. They are rights to which humanity has a claim, whether in a rich country such as the United States or in a poor one such as Haiti.

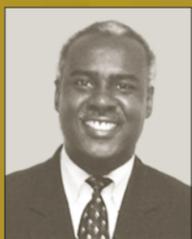
Lord I got a right,

Lord I got a right,

Lord I got a right,

I got a right to the tree of life.

African American Spiritual



Alix Cantave

Alix Cantave is the Economic Development Program Officer at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation in Boston and a member of the MFH board of directors. He was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti and migrated to the US as a teenager in 1974. He has a Masters of Science degree in City and Regional Planning from the Pratt Institute, and a BA in Environmental Design from the State University of New York, Buffalo and will complete a doctorate in Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts in May 2006. Alix was Director and Founder of the Haitian Studies Association. He remains closely connected to Haiti.

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THE HUMANITIES...

are what we do when we reflect upon our lives, when we ask fundamental questions of value, purpose and meaning. The Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities promotes the use of history, literature, philosophy and the other humanities disciplines to deepen our understanding of the issues of the day, strengthen our sense of common purpose, and enrich individual and community life. We take the humanities out of the classroom and into the community.

The Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, a private, nonprofit, educational organization, receives funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency; and private sources.

LIBERTY & JUSTICE FOR ALL

Newsletter Submissions on:

“Liberty and justice for all”

The Foundation welcomes submissions of brief essays addressing the theme “Liberty and justice for all.” Submissions should be 800 words or less and may be edited for length and clarity. Submit your essay by email to editor@mfh.org. Please be sure to include your name, mailing address, and a daytime telephone number.

the grounds of race or the grounds of sex or the failure to pay a poll tax. But those are negative proscriptions. They are not an affirmative guarantee that we really want all citizens of the United States to participate in making the decisions that affect their lives. So this is a structural defect that is at the heart of our constitutional arrangement.

And what I was hoping in 2000 is that the concerns that were then expressed about the unfairness of a president being elected who did not get a majority of the popular vote, who had also not gotten a majority of the votes cast—not necessarily the votes *counted*, but the votes *cast*—in Florida, and who was ultimately put into office by a 5-4 vote of an unelected branch of government, that these concerns might trigger deep reflection among politicians, thinkers, policy makers, and ordinary people about what we might need to do to update our democracy.

MN: Has any progress been made, in your view, towards what you would consider to be progressive reforms of our election system?

LG: Not much. What we've had instead are conversations more about the marginalia—the technology of counting votes or of casting ballots, for example—and not about the fundamental understanding of a genuinely participatory democracy. Basically, what I'm saying is that although the United States was once an advanced democracy, a country that can take credit for pioneering many concepts, today in 2006 we are well behind our peers in terms of our understanding of democracy.

So, to take a contemporary example, because there is no fundamental, affirmative guarantee of the right to vote in the text of the Constitution, we have a problem in New Orleans, where people who were residents of New Orleans in August of 2005 and have been dispersed through an act of God may not be able to continue to participate in elections that are being held in their name. And there's no affirmative obligation on the part of state election officials to canvass what those people think, because our legal arrangements don't create such an obligation. As a result, many people don't believe that there's an affirmative obligation on the part of any state or the federal government to ensure that all citizens can vote, unlike Canada, for example. In Canada, when the government takes the census, the obligation on the part of the government is also to register people to vote. By contrast, we take the view that voting is not a necessity but a luxury, and it's a luxury that people should basically be relied on to take advantage of themselves.

“... although the United States was once an advanced democracy, a country that can take credit for pioneering many concepts, today in 2006 we are well behind our peers in terms of our understanding of democracy.”

MN: You've also written about how elections should be conducted. Virtually every other democracy that we know of is a parliamentary system with proportional representation, which we do not have.

LG: Right, you're absolutely right. We have a different system based on districting.

In election by districts, the districts are drawn to track territorial configurations, and the assumption is made that the residents of any given district share the same interests. And so we create units of political representation based on where people live, and then we have elections within those districts, and even if the candidate you vote for doesn't get elected, you are still presumed to be represented by the candidate you voted against.

So that's the assumption behind districting: that you are still represented, even when you vote against the person who ultimately wins, because whoever wins represents the entire district as if the district were a corporeal being. And this, in some ways, comes from British history where towns were represented, not the individuals within the towns. So the district is like a unit that has its own circulation system, its own thinking and hearing and seeing . . .

MN: Its own interests.

LG: Yes, yes. So, if somebody represents the district, they represent you, without regard to whether you voted for them.

“... the Constitution itself, as drafted by the framers, never explicitly granted the fundamental constitutional right to vote to anyone.”

MN: And so when representatives speak about “my constituents,” they mean everybody in the district, not just those who voted for them.

LG: They mean everybody, including those who voted against them. So, what is called “service to constituents” is one aspect of representation that is satisfied to some extent by districting. But representation of diverse interests, of a range of ideas, of competing ideologies within a district is not served by a district system.

Most people, when they think about being represented, don't think about being represented by somebody they voted against. They think about being represented by somebody they chose, somebody they affirmatively voted for. And the notion is that you want to be able to hold your representative accountable to a set of shared views or interests, that the representative is going to want to hear your ideas, and that you are going to choose someone to represent you who is sympathetic to your ideas.

But no matter how you draw the district lines, you are always going to have people who “waste” their votes, and a “wasted” vote is not a hanging chad, it's not something, going back to Florida, where they actually, you know, throw your vote away because they can't count it. The wasted vote is counted. It's just that it doesn't count toward the election of anybody. So, a wasted vote is a vote that's either in excess of what your candidate needs in order to get elected, or is cast for somebody who doesn't get elected.

Districting is a system that inevitably wastes the votes of some people. Fifty-one percent of the people get to elect an individual who then represents 100 percent of the people. So, in that case, 49 percent of the people have essentially wasted their votes.

The only way you can address this problem is to use some form of proportional representation, like they do in Germany. They have a mixed system where they use districts and then they also have a party list. Everyone gets two votes. Within your district you can vote for a candidate like we do here, but at the same time you also get a vote for the political party that best represents your interests as ideas, as choices that you are making. As a result you are actually represented in terms of both service to constituents and representation of ideas.

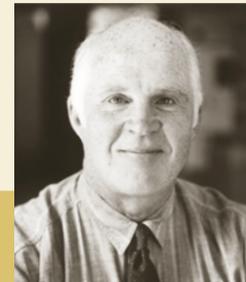
MN: One term you've used to describe what you're talking about in terms of our districting and representation is the “winner take all” system. And I know that one of the things that motivates your call for reform is not only the real disenfranchisement that you describe, but also the tremendous amount of popular disenchantment with the political process that the “winner take all” approach engenders.

LG: There are lots of reasons why an exclusively district-based system alienates voters. First of all, it moves all the candidates to the middle, because that's where most of the votes are, and in order to justify getting 100 percent of the power, you have to get close to 51 percent of the votes. So, if your views are not just in the center, you're not going to be represented, whether you're on the right or the left.

If you have a proportional representation system, and you have the support of only 30 percent of the electorate, you still could get 30 percent of the seats in the legislature. This has two consequences. One, it means that the parties have an incentive to go out and try to mobilize as many voters as possible because each new vote will increase the chance that they'll get another seat. Second, voters have more incentive to participate because there is a greater likelihood that the candidate they vote for will actually get elected. In a “winner take all” system, especially where you have districts that are drawn by incumbents to protect their seats, as we saw in 2004, there are only a handful of seats that ever actually change hands. There's no point in going to vote if the outcome is basically predetermined when the districts are drawn by the politicians who are creating districts to ensure their re-election.

The “winner take all” system alienates voters in three ways. One, as I just mentioned, their votes don't count because there are basically only two parties that are vying for the middle, and if the voters have views that are not represented in the middle, then they're not represented; two, their votes don't count because the district is created by the politicians for the politicians' self-interest; and three, the voters feel alienated because the structure encourages negative campaigning by politicians who seek to depress their opponent's vote total. It doesn't matter if negative campaigning depresses your own vote total as well because whoever gets the most votes gets all the power. You just have to depress your opponent's vote more than you depress your own. Getting more people overall to participate is actually not the point.

"We're here today not just to commemorate history; we're here to complete the unfinished history of our country." Senator John Kerry



Taylor Branch

On Saturday, October 29, 2005, the year's first snow fell on Boston. As *The Boston Globe* reported, "Anyone who wanted a good Halloween scare only had to look out the window: snow, in October." Three hundred people braved the nasty weather to attend the Foundation's second annual fall symposium, *Retracing the Struggle: The Legacy of the Voting Rights Act of 1965*, hosted by Boston College.

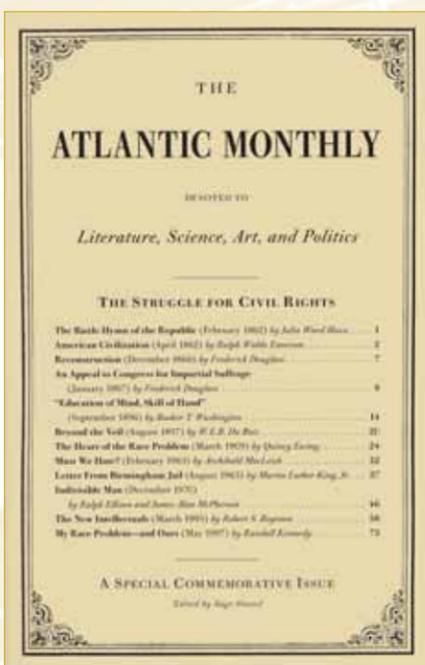
The occasion was both historic and timely, as it marked the 40th anniversary of what many legal scholars consider to be one of the best crafted and most broadly supported pieces of legislation ever enacted by the United States Congress. Provisions of the law are up for renewal in 2007.

The afternoon featured three interrelated conversations with writers, scholars, civil rights activists, and public officials:

- **"From Civil Rights to Voting Rights: The History"** — with Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Taylor Branch; Alex Keyssar, Matthew W. Stirling, Jr., Professor of History and Social Policy, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; and former U.S. Senator Harris Wofford; James Fallows, National Correspondent for *The Atlantic Monthly*, moderator.
- **"The Social and Political Impact of the Voting Rights Act"** — with Abigail Thernstrom, Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute for Policy Research; and Patricia Williams, James L. Dohr Professor of Law, Columbia Law School; Alan Wolfe, Director of Boston College's Center for Religion and American Public Life, moderator.
- **"Voting Rights and Electoral Politics Today"** — with Wade Henderson, Executive Director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; Roger Clegg, President and General Counsel, Center for Equal Opportunity; and Congressman John Lewis (D-GA); *Newsweek* Senior Editor Mark Starr, moderator.

Streaming video of the entire program is online at <http://frontrow.bc.edu>.

Summaries of panelists' opening remarks are available online at: http://bcm.bc.edu/issues/winter_2006/features/the-long-march.html



The Atlantic Monthly's special commemorative publication can be purchased for \$7 at www.mfh.org/retracingthestruggle.

That evening the Foundation held its annual benefit dinner, with Taylor Branch as the keynote speaker. Emceed by James Fallows, the dinner was a farewell celebration of *The Atlantic Monthly*, which moved to Washington, D.C. in January after 149 years in Boston. For the occasion, the magazine published a handsome and substantial commemorative pamphlet entitled *The Struggle for Civil Rights*. It includes Julia Ward Howe's poem "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" (1862), Frederick Douglass's "Appeal to Congress for Impartial Suffrage" (1867), Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (1963), and other historic articles from *The Atlantic's* archives.

Sunday brought blue skies, temperatures in the 60s, and bright sunshine—the perfect backdrop for Part Two of "Retracing the Struggle," a symbolic re-enactment of the civil rights march that Martin Luther King, Jr. led in Boston in 1965. Georgia Congressman John Lewis, a leader of the 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery, reminded people gathered at the First Church in Roxbury that "the Voting Rights Act didn't just happen.... The Congress didn't just wake up one day and say we're going to give you the Voting Rights Act. The President didn't wake up one day and say we're going to give you the Voting Rights Act. We had to struggle."

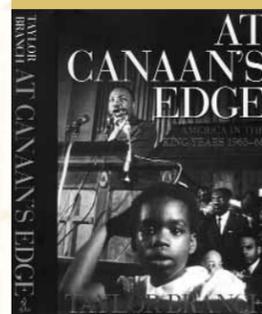
By the time the marchers walked the three miles through the South End to the Boston Common, the *Globe* estimated that the crowd had reached 5,000. Speakers at the rally included Dr. Virgil Woods, who organized the 1965 Boston protest; Deval Patrick, former U.S. Deputy Attorney General, Civil Rights Division; and Rev. William Sinkford, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, who invoked the sacrifices many UU ministers made 40 years ago.

Coordinated by Ron Bell, founder of Dunk the Vote, and supported by more than 40 different community-based organizations, the march drew a diverse group of participants—young and old, black and white, male and female. When the weekend was over, a tired but proud John Sieracki, the Foundation's Director of Development, who spent countless hours helping to organize the march, reflected: "What made it especially meaningful for me was seeing the young people from the Roxbury community learning about voting rights from people directly involved in the struggle."

On Sunday, March 5th, Taylor Branch returned to the First Church in Roxbury. A large and appreciative audience heard him talk about the third and final volume of his trilogy, *At Canaan's Edge: America in the King Years 1965-1968*.

Fifty-nine year-old Taylor Branch initially expected that his study of Martin Luther King would take three years; 24 years later, he has just completed his 2,849-page, three-volume trilogy, a work reviewers have called "magisterial" and "a monumental achievement."

Reviews of the third and final volume, *At Canaan's Edge: America in the King Years, 1965-68*, have been uniformly positive. Anthony Lewis, writing in the *New York Times Book Review*, called it "a thrilling book, marvelous in both its breadth and its detail." "There is drama in every paragraph," Lewis wrote. "'America in the King Years,' Branch's running title for the



trilogy, is not a mere conceit, a fancy way of describing a biography. It is not a biography of Dr. King. It is a picture of the country and the times as he intersected with them."

The Washington Post agreed that "Branch offers a moving and panoramic view of America during the last three years of the life of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr." *The Christian Science Monitor* praised Branch for removing the iconic image of a leader who never feared or wavered while marshaling a movement with discipline and dignity. King was no saint, and he certainly wasn't without equivocation or fear. But through Branch's meticulous research and nuanced portrait, King's accomplishments and character soar even higher."

For more reviews, go to www.taylorbranch.com.

"The right to vote is precious, almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent instrument we have in a democratic society."

Congressman John Lewis

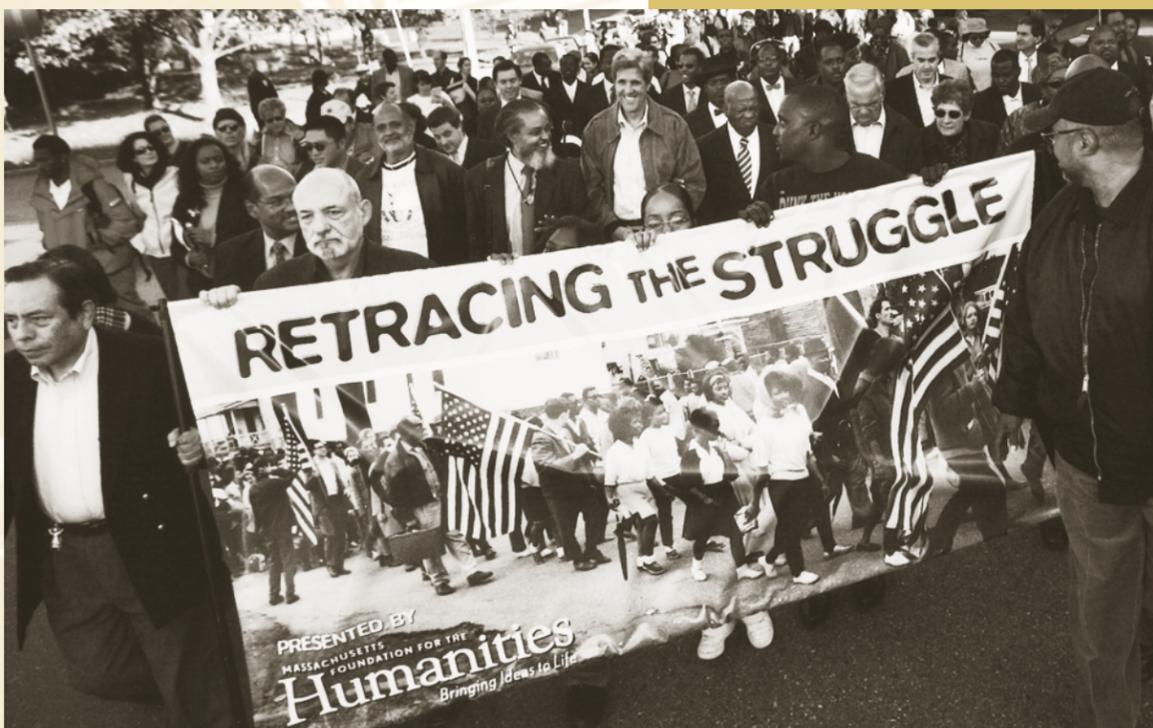


photo credit: David Kamerman - The Boston Globe

FOUNDATION NEWS

MFH BEGINS LONG-TERM EVALUATION OF THE CLEMENTE COURSE

The Foundation has begun a multi-faceted evaluation project to gather data on the long-term effects of the Clemente Course on its graduates. Although we have abundant anecdotal evidence of the course's power to transform individual lives in the short term, we have lacked a comprehensive, statistically valid method for documenting its lasting effects. In early 2005, the Foundation arranged through the UMass Amherst Center for Policy and Administration for the services of four graduate students, who took on the task of designing an evaluation instrument for the Clemente Course as part of their course work. The plan they developed combines a numerically coded survey, which all Clemente students will fill out at intervals from enrollment to three years after graduation, with an in-depth interview, which will be administered to a sampling of students over the same period. This fall, with the support of a grant from the Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation, MFH engaged another graduate student, Barbara Steel Lowney, to create a database for the new information and conduct a one-time survey of past graduates. Her initial findings, admittedly no more than a snapshot, are nonetheless encouraging. Respondents reported increased self-confidence, engagement in cultural activities, and motivation to improve their lives and those of their families. Members of the current Clemente classes in Holyoke and New Bedford have already provided baseline data for the long-term assessment. They will be revisited periodically in the years to come.

MASS MOMENTS ENHANCED

PODCAST o)))

As of April 3, the Mass Moments radio spots, produced by the Foundation, will

be available as a podcast as well as on the web at www.massmoments.org. You can subscribe or download individual spots at iTunes and elsewhere online. We are working on other enhancements, chiefly a feature that links the "moments" to the Massachusetts history and social science frameworks and provides other tools to increase teachers' use of the website.

"STILL PRESENT PASTS" EXHIBITION TRAVELS TO CALIFORNIA

One of the most exciting projects to receive MFH grant support in recent years has begun a national tour. "Still Present Pasts: Korean Americans and the Forgotten War" will be on view from March 8th through April 16th at the ProArts Gallery in Oakland, California. This innovative, multi-media exhibition combines evocative works of art, documentary film footage, recorded excerpts from oral history interviews, and bilingual text to explore the haunting legacies of the Korean War in the lives of Korean Americans. Interactive components allow visitors to contribute their own memories and reflections. The exhibition was developed in Massachusetts under the guidance of



From the exhibit "Still Present Pasts": black and white photograph from the 6-part series "Defining Moments" by Yong Soon Min, an embodied chronology of significant events relating to the artist's personal and political history. Photograph by Stephen Vedder, Boston College.

Boston College professor Ramsay Liem. MFH awarded two grants to the project, which was featured in the Spring 2004 issue of MassHumanities. After highly successful installations in 2005 at the Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center and at Wellesley College's Jewett Arts Center, the exhibition will travel to venues across the nation, with Oakland as its first stop. For further information, visit the project website, www.stillpresentpasts.org.

THE MEANING OF SERVICE

MFH recently joined with other 12 state humanities councils in a national effort to bring a scholar-led reading and discussion series exploring the meaning and value of community service to AmeriCorps members across the country. Developed by the Illinois Humanities Council and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the program is being piloted in Massachusetts with City Year in Boston and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, the Dunbar Community Center, and Springfield College in Springfield. Sessions are facilitated in Boston by Julia Legas, a philosophy instructor at Suffolk University, and in Springfield by John Drabinski, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Assumption College.



Participants in The Meaning of Service at City Year National in Boston.

MFH LEADER RETURNS

MFH Executive Director David Tebaldi returned from his three-month sabbatical on January 3, extolling the virtues of Pietrasanta, the historic Tuscan city that served as his home during his sojourn in Italy. David's travels also took him to Ireland, southern France, and Barcelona.

Request For Proposals: For additional information on the theme, see www.mfh.org/grants/granttypes/liberty or call (413) 584-8440.

Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities

For a Reading and Discussion Program Exploring the Theme "Liberty and justice for all"

The Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities seeks proposals from scholars and/or librarians for a new library-based, scholar-led, reading and discussion series on the theme "Liberty and justice for all." This thematic initiative was created to encourage public humanities programs that examine the conflicts, accomplishments, and challenges embodied in the relationship between "liberty" and "justice" across cultures and over time.

The series should consist of no more than four sessions. All texts must be accessible to the general adult reader and readily available from libraries, bookstores, or online sources (preferably in paperback). They may include a mix of fiction and nonfiction, classic and contemporary texts, essays, short stories, poems, and/or historical documents.

Proposals should be 1-2 pages in length and must include:

- (1) the proponent's name, institutional affiliation (if any), and contact information (phone and e-mail, please);
- (2) a statement of the proposed topic or sub-theme, beginning with a descriptive title;
- (3) a narrative that explains how each of the proposed texts relates to the others in the series and illuminates the topic or sub-theme described in (2), and
- (4) a list of three to five possible discussion questions for each text.

A panel of scholars and librarians will review the proposals and select one for implementation by the Foundation. The new series will be piloted in the fall of 2006, revised if necessary, and launched statewide early in 2007. The Foundation reserves the right to make changes in the selected proposal.

The author of the winning proposal will receive a \$1,000 honorarium with the possibility of additional compensation for leading the pilot series and giving an orientation workshop for other discussion leaders. If the winning proposal has more than one author, the honorarium will be shared.

The deadline for submissions is May 15, 2006. Proposals may be sent by regular mail to: 66 Bridge Street, Northampton, MA 01060 or as an e-mail attachment to hwood@mfh.org.

Recent Grants

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

\$5,000 to Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield to support the planning of the upcoming exhibit *Handled with Care*, which will examine the relationship between design and religious expression in Shaker-made objects.

\$5,000 to Wistariahurst Museum Association in Holyoke to develop a series of exhibitions on immigration in the Holyoke area.



St. Jerome Parish was established as a church for Irish immigrants in 1856. The St. Jerome's Temperance Society was established around 1867. Photograph courtesy of Wistariahurst Museum, Holyoke, Massachusetts.



Mr. DuBois, of French-Canadian descent (center), was the foreman of the inspecting room at the Skinner Silk Mills in 1926. French Canadian immigrants to Holyoke mostly worked in the textile industry, some having been recruited directly from Canada in the 1860s. Photograph courtesy of Wistariahurst Museum, Holyoke, Massachusetts.

\$5,000 to Hampshire College in Amherst to develop *Nostoi*, a series of public events relating to the theme of the war veteran's return home.



Detail of a burial stele marking the grave of a young Athenian warrior, at the National Archaeological Museum of Greece. Photo: Robert Meagher

\$2,917 to the Emily Dickinson Museum in Amherst to support a panel discussion on the portrayal of Emily Dickinson in various media.

\$1,000 to the Plainfield Historical Society to index the papers of the late Dyer sisters, who spent decades collecting information on the town's history.

\$10,000 to the Hatikvah Holocaust Education Center in Springfield to develop curriculum materials using the history of the Holocaust to explore issues of individual responsibility.

\$5,000 to the Sheffield Historical Society to support *If They Close the Door on You, Go in the Window*, an exhibit and symposium on southern Berkshire County's black history, with emphasis on the story of Elizabeth "Mumbet" Freeman.



Lesley Dill (b. 1950), *White Poem Dress #3*, 1993 [*"I've known a Heaven, like a Tent,"* Poem No. 243] Painted metal and plaster, 55 x 36 x 30 in. Private Collection Image courtesy of the artist and George Adams Gallery, New York.



Four employees at an inn in Sheffield c. 1900. Source: Coenen, Christopher. *Sheffield 1773-1983: A Pictorial Recollection*. Sheffield: Sheffield 250th Anniversary Committee, 1983.

\$4,500 to Shakespeare & Company in Lenox for a series of free, pre-performance lectures and demonstrations on cultural and historical aspects of Shakespeare's world and on the history of Shakespeare performances.

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

\$2,000 to the Classical Association of New England in Worcester to provide partial scholarships to Massachusetts teachers to attend a summer institute which examines the concept of freedom in the cultures of Ancient Greece and Rome.

NORTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

\$10,000 to the Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center to support the planning and design of a permanent exhibit on the history of the Gloucester fishing industry.

GREATER BOSTON

\$5,000 to the University of Massachusetts at Boston to sponsor a Dorchester visit from the Mass Memories Roadshow, a program that invites area residents to collectively archive documents concerning their families' origins and arrivals in Massachusetts.



(Above) "In the Good Old Days - Frank Cofsky, American Lunch, Inc." Mr. Cofsky, owner of American Lunch, Inc., at 1212 Washington St., Norwood, MA. Photo contributed to the Mass Memories Roadshow by Carol Cofsky Treciakas.



(Right) Alden "Sonny" Washington "playing cowboy" on Hammond Street in the South End, Boston, July 4, 1941. Photo contributed to the Mass Memories Roadshow by Valerie Stephens-Washington.

Southboro

\$1,000 to Primary Source in Watertown to develop, in collaboration with the Watertown Schools, a curriculum on immigration and settlement in Watertown over the past 375 years.

\$5,000 to the Newton History Museum to develop *Hyphenated Origins*, an exhibition on present-day immigration in Newton.



The student curators of *Hyphenated Origins*, an exhibition exploring identity and culture in young adults whose families emigrated to the United States. Photo credit: David DeJean.

\$998 to the Southborough Historical Society to catalog historical documents pertaining to the town's 18th century triphammer mill.



Detail of a 1794 map indicating Southborough's Stony Brook, its bridges, mills, clothier works, and the triphammer works. Courtesy, Southborough Historical Society.

\$1,000 to the Westwood Historical Society to catalog the recently acquired Pickhardt family collection, the archives of a family who settled in the town in the late 1800s.

\$10,000 to Theatre Espresso in Boston to underwrite 18 courthouse-based performances of the historical drama *Uprising on King Street: The Boston Massacre* for school groups, followed by a conversation about the issues raised in the play.

\$10,000 to the City of Waltham Planning Department for a pilot program and study to develop a plan for use of a replica of an historic trolley as a means of linking cultural sites in the city.

\$4,970 to the USS Constitution Museum in Boston to support a teacher workshop on the use of primary sources and a special turn-around cruise designed to introduce educators to the *Constitution's* resources.

SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

\$5,000 to the Handhouse Studio in Norwell to support its traveling exhibition *Wooden Synagogues: A Lost World Revisited*, which explores the architectural heritage of the Jewish communities of Eastern Europe.



The 2005 Handhouse Studio replica of the Gwozdziec north ceiling, surrounded by students at the Massachusetts College of Art and Rick and Laura Brown of Handhouse Studio.

\$1,000 to the Westport Historical Society to survey and create a database of their collections.



The Bell School in Westport. Courtesy Westport Historical Society.



Plans detailing the graphic panel on ancient fishweirs to be installed in the Arlington Street MBTA station in Boston's Back Bay. Courtesy Ross Miller and the Ancient Fishweir Project.

\$3,060 to Touchable Stories in Boston to complete a permanent graphic installation depicting the ancient fishweirs used by the native communities that once occupied the area where modern Boston has grown.

\$4,987 to the Education Collaborative for Greater Boston in Brookline to help underwrite the costs of a one-week teacher institute on the history of topographical changes in Massachusetts and their effect on communities throughout the state.

\$2,400 to the Belmont Historical Society for the recording and transcribing of oral histories of Belmont's farming past.

An envelope from the Belmont farm of Warren Heustis & Sons, which in 1894 was purported to be "the largest fancy pig farm in the region." Courtesy of the Belmont Historical Society.



\$10,000 to the USS Massachusetts Memorial Committee in Fall River to help develop and construct an exhibition on the contributions of women to the U.S. armed forces, to be installed on the battleship *Massachusetts*.

\$5,000 to the Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum in New Bedford to support the planning phase of a new exhibit on the life of whaling merchant William Rotch, Jr.

\$2,200 to the Committee to Encourage Public Art in Falmouth to support the continuation of a project that successfully combines public art and public history by commemorating the industries that helped shape the town's development.

OUT-OF-STATE

\$10,000 to the Maine Alliance of Media Arts in Portland to develop a script and trailer for a documentary film entitled *Henry David Thoreau: Surveyor of the Soul*, which examines Thoreau's influence on American literature and culture.



\$9,993 to 888 Women's History Project, Inc. in Cambridge to produce a trailer for *Left on Pearl: Women Take Over 888 Memorial Drive, Cambridge*, a documentary on the 1971 takeover of a Harvard University building by women's rights activists.

Second Wave Feminism's impact on U.S. society is re-examined through the memories of several diverse women who participated in an unprecedented 1971 Harvard building takeover and occupation by women. Herald Traveler Staff Photo by Laban Whittaker

“...districting is a basically a system in which the politicians are choosing their voters rather than the voters choosing their politicians.”

MN: But doesn't proportional representation simply push the “winner take all” result up to the next level? The legislature has to take decisions on various issues, there has to be a “yes” or “no” vote, ultimately, on what the country is going to do in this or that area of policy. Even in a proportional representation system, if the majority votes to go the way that an awful lot of people don't like, those people are going to be very angry about that. Do you think this kind of system you're talking about will ameliorate this type of disenfranchisement that results from the ultimate governmental decision?

LG: Okay. Let me break that down a little bit, because what you're saying is that there are really three different levels at which we should think about participation. One is just the right to cast a ballot. Are you going to be able to go to your polling place and physically cast a ballot? And the second is the aggregation question, meaning are they going to count your ballot in a way that leads to the election of somebody that you like, or are they going to discount your ballot because you're in a district in which your ballot really doesn't matter because the incumbent has gerrymandered the district so that his or her supporters are in the majority and it doesn't matter what you do.

So, one level is participation. The second is aggregation, meaning, how do we join your vote with others to elect somebody. And then, the third level is governance. And that's when you're talking about legislative policy outcomes. When your representative gets into the legislature, is that person going to be able to influence the outcome of the debate? If the majority rules at the legislative level, and your representative is in the minority, you're still not going to be satisfied with the policy outcome.

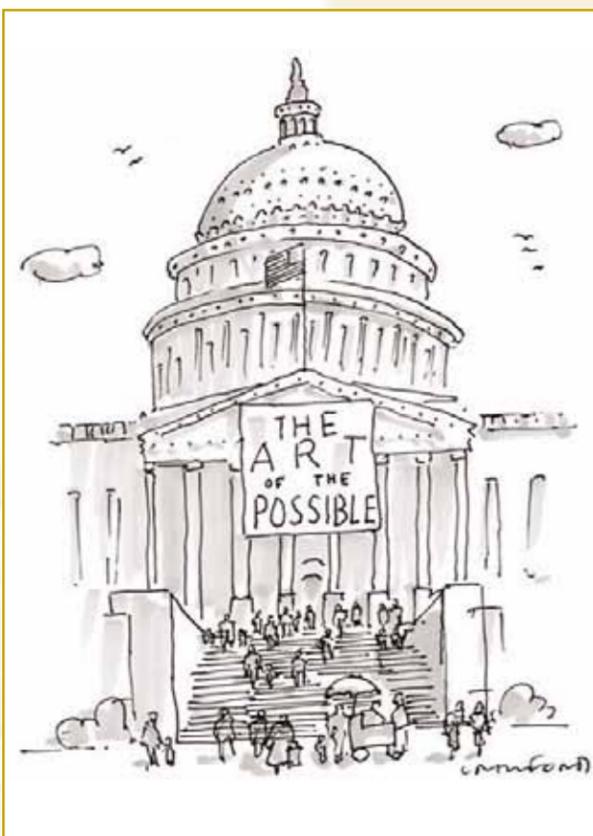
Well, I think that public policy is not made on straight up or down votes. I think the way in which we hold elections is a very artificial way of making decisions. Most of the time in the legislature, while ultimately there may be an up or down vote, there's plenty of negotiation that takes place before the final vote. And in that negotiation, it's really important to have a diverse set of views at the table, to have a range of ideas in play, to have representatives who bring new perspectives to bear on the shape of the legislation—so that it's not just an either/or proposition, it's really trying to solve a problem and be informed by the vast range of information that should be brought to bear on both the definition of the problem and then the solution.

So you're right in a literal sense, that at the end of the day, you've got to get a majority of the votes to support the outcome. But if the people that agree with you are not even at the legislative table, where the bargaining is going to take place, then you have absolutely no influence on the shape of the bill that the majority is ultimately going to vote on.

MN: In preparing to talk to you, I read your article on *Brown v. Board of Education* that appeared in the *Journal of American History*. It was a very good article, very thought-provoking, and I also have dipped into *The Miner's Canary*, which deals with issues of race. Before we close, I wonder if you could just speak a little bit about the relationship between districting and race.

LG: The metaphor of the miner's canary is a helpful metaphor in responding to your question. This is a metaphor that my co-author, Gerald Torres, and I use to talk about race, but it really is a good metaphor for talking about race and redistricting. And, we basically argue that the experience of those who are most vulnerable in a particular situation, the experience of those who've been left out, who've been perennially excluded—the experience often of blacks or Latinos or gays or women in certain circumstances—is often the experience of the canary in the mine.

Miners took canaries into the mines to alert them when the atmosphere was too toxic, because the canary's more fragile respiratory system would give way when it was dangerous, and the canary's suffering was a signal that the miners should evacuate the mine. And so, the argument that we make is that the experience of blacks or Latinos in a particular instance is like the experience of the canary—that these groups



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are often more vulnerable to the toxicity in the atmosphere. Unfortunately, the way our society has framed the conversation to date is to say, when we see the canary gasping for breath, “Well, let's give it a little gas mask so it can continue to survive, or a little respirator to allow it to breathe more easily,” rather than saying, “It's telling us something. What is the message?” Because the miners ultimately had a lot to learn from the canary and so the idea is that the miners and the canaries have to get together in order to fix the atmosphere in the mines, not simply to evacuate them.

So, how does that apply to race and redistricting? Well, during the 1990s, the Supreme Court was very much preoccupied with the question of race-conscious districting, and the Court took offense at the appearance of certain districts which were drawn in order to provide a black community or a Latino community with the opportunity to be a majority in a particular district.

And again, given our “winner take all” districting system, the only way that any group can have power is to be a local majority, because the local majority essentially defines the identity of the district. So, if you are a numerical minority statewide, the only way you can have representation in the state legislature is to create majority minority districts, or districts in which your group is the majority. This is true of Democrats or Republicans or Blacks or Latinos, any group that feels it has a political identity.

What I was arguing, or we were arguing, in *The Miner's Canary* in terms of the racial gerrymandering cases, is that they were really the canaries in the mines; they were a signal that all districting is in fact gerrymandering. So that the bizarre shapes of some of these districts that caught the Court's attention because they were districts that were drawn to protect racial minorities were in some ways no different from the excessive partisan gerrymandering that is going on, not to protect a racial minority or necessarily to protect a racial majority, but to create a safe district for a partisan minority or a partisan group.

And so, you see, especially now with computers, the map makers can draw districts that meander around collecting voters and they can predict that the districts will vote a certain way even though their residents may have very little in common in terms of their lived experience. They may create a district that includes Newton and New Bedford, for example, and give them one member of the legislature or Congress because they are basically looking to protect incumbents and meet the requirements of one person, one vote.

And that process of going around, looking for voters is a process that ultimately disenfranchises all voters, not just racial minorities or political minorities, but all voters, because districting is a basically a system in which the politicians are choosing their voters rather than the voters choosing their politicians. So, race-conscious districting serves as the diagnostic tool. The Court could see the problem because they were alarmed when it was highly visible in a racial context, but, as we see with the Tom DeLay/Republican mid-decade redistricting adventure in Texas that is now before the U.S. Supreme Court, it is not a problem

limited to race. It's a problem, as I suggested earlier, endemic to the structure of our democracy.

MN: Well, this has been fascinating. Thank you so much.

Martin Newhouse is General Counsel of the New England Legal Foundation, a nonprofit public interest law firm that advocates for balanced economic growth, rational regulation, and the protection of property rights in New England. Previously he was a litigation partner in the law firm of Ropes & Gray LLP in Boston, where he practiced law for 20 years. He earned his A.B. in Economics from Columbia College in New York City, his J.D. at Yale University, and a Ph.D. in Modern European Cultural History from Columbia University.



Martin Newhouse

2006 SPRING • SUMMER

Humanities Calendar

All programs are open to the public free of charge unless otherwise noted.

 MFH grant funded events

Greater Boston

Hyphenated Origins: Going Beyond the Labels

A student-curated exhibition on immigration in the 21st century.

When: Through January 2008
Where: Newton History Museum
Cost: \$5 adults, \$3 students/seniors
Phone: (617) 796-1450
Web: www.newtonhistorymuseum.org

Wooden Synagogues: A Lost World Revisited

An exhibition of scale models, recreated interior paintings, photographs, and other documentation of the wooden synagogues built in the 17th and 18th century in the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth.

When: Monday, April 24–August, 2006
Where: Boston Center for Jewish Heritage at the Vilna Shul
Phone: 617-523-2324
Web: www.vilnashul.com

When: Fall, 2006
Where: Brandeis University, Waltham
Phone: (781) 736-2127
Web: www.brandeis.edu

The Big Dig

Jim Aloisi presents a behind-the-scenes look at the project that is dramatically changing downtown Boston. The last lecture in a series funded by the Lowell Institute examining the people and events that shaped the history of the city.

When: Tuesday, April 25, 2006, 6:30pm
Where: Old State House, Boston
Phone: (617) 720-1713
Web: www.bostonhistory.org

Remaking Boston: The City and Environmental Change Over the Centuries

A conference examining Boston's environmental history. Panel discussions will consider topics ranging from weather and climate to water and land use.

When: Thursday, May 4 through Saturday, May 6, 2006
Where: Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston
Cost: \$75, \$45 students
Phone: (617) 536-1608
Web: www.masshist.org

Kennedy Library Forums

A series of forums featuring authors, artists, and other noteworthy personalities. Though the forums are free to attend, reservations are strongly recommended.

Where: John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum
Phone: (617) 514-1643
Web: www.jfklibrary.org

Charles Daly, Richard Donahue, and Jack McNally share stories of working in the Kennedy White House.

When: Monday, May 1, 2006, 5:30-7pm

Geoffrey Canada, founding president of Harlem Children's Zone, and Barbara Ehrenreich, author of *Nicked and Dimed*. Moderated by David Ellwood, Dean of the Kennedy School of Government.

When: Monday, May 8, 2006, 5:30-7pm

Arlo Guthrie and other musicians discuss the cultural impact of protest music from the 60's through the present.

When: Monday, May 15, 2006, 5:30-7pm

James Carroll discusses his new book, *House of War*.

When: Monday, June 12, 2006, 5:30pm-7pm

Words of Thunder

Another lecture series funded by the Lowell Institute honors the bicentennial of the birth of William Lloyd Garrison, abolitionist and editor of *The Liberator*. Lectures will focus on social movements and the role of journalism in effecting change.

Where: Boston Public Library, main branch
Phone: (617) 725-0022, ext. 12
Web: www.wordsofthunder.org
 www.bpl.org

"Tout Moun Se Moun"

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tracy Kidder speaks about Dr. Paul Farmer, the subject of his book *Mountains Beyond Mountains*.

When: Wednesday, May 10, 2006, 6pm

"Race in America: Does it Still Matter?"

Author and commentator Walter Mosley, author of the popular Easy Rawlins detective novels, often writes about the black experience through the eyes of ordinary men and women.

When: Wednesday, June 7, 2006, 6pm

Mass Memories Roadshow visits Dorchester

Dorchester residents are invited to bring in photographs reflecting their family's origins and arrival in Massachusetts. Images will be scanned and indexed in an online database.

When: Saturday, May 13, 2006, 10am-3pm
Where: Dorchester Historical Society
Phone: (617) 287-7654
Web: www.msp.umb.edu

Walking Tour of the Pierce House Neighborhood

A look at the changing face of Dorchester's Pierce House neighborhood in the nineteenth century, and the Pierce family's role in the neighborhood's development.

When: Saturday, May 13, 2006, 10am-12pm
Where: Pierce House, Dorchester
Phone: 617-227-3957, ext. 242

Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and the Massachusetts Institute for a New Commonwealth congratulate



SISSELA BOK

2006 Commonwealth Humanities Lecturer

The annual Commonwealth Humanities Lectureship recognizes a Massachusetts scholar or writer who has made a significant contribution to our understanding of civic life or public affairs in the Commonwealth.

Sissela Bok is the author of several important and widely read books in applied ethics including *Lying: Moral Choice in Public and Private Life* (1978), *Secrets: On the Ethics of Concealment and Revelation* (1982), *A Strategy for Peace: Human Values and the Threat of War* (1989), *Common Values* (1995), and *Mayhem: Violence as Public Entertainment* (1998). Formerly Professor of Philosophy at Brandeis University, she is Senior Visiting Fellow at the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies.

Previous Commonwealth Humanities Lecturers

Michael J. Sandel, 2004

Ilan Stavans, 2005

For more information or to submit a nomination for the 2007 award, see www.mfh.org/specialprojects/chl



Genealogy and Family History at the Boston Public Library

An orientation and tour of the Boston Public Library's resources, presented by Henry Scannell, Curator of Microtext, and Marta Pardee-King, Curator of Social Sciences.

When: Wednesday, May 31, 2006, 6:30pm
Where: Boston Public Library, main branch
Phone: (617) 536-5400 ext. 2261
Web: www.bpl.org

Northeastern Massachusetts

The Sedgwicks in Love: Courtship, Engagement, and Marriage in the Early Republic

Author Tim Kinslea reads from his richly researched book, which chronicles the evolving relationship between men and women in the early nineteenth century as lived by two generations of the Sedgwick family. Includes book signing.

When: Tuesday, May 9, 2006, 7pm
Where: Wenham Museum
Cost: Members \$5, non-members \$7, includes admission to museum galleries from 6:30 pm to 30 minutes following the event.
Phone: (978) 468-2377
Web: www.wenhammuseum.org

Vintage Baseball Double-Header

The Essex Baseball Club plays a double-header using 1861 rules. In these lively, historically accurate games, no gloves are allowed. No reserved seating—guests must provide their own blankets and lawn chairs.

When: Saturday, June 10, 2006, 1-5pm
Where: Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm, Newbury
Phone: 978-462-2634
Cost: \$3, free to members of Historic New England

Southeastern Massachusetts

Net Working: The Portuguese Community and the Arts - Inspiration, Sustenance and Support

An exhibition examining the relationship between the Providence Portuguese town folk and the artists of the local art colony. Stories will be illustrated through paintings, prints, sculpture, dioramas, and historic photographs and documents.

When: Opening reception, Friday, May 19, 2006, 5-7pm
 Exhibit runs through October 2006
Where: Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum
Phone: (508) 487-1310
Web: www.pilgrim-monument.org
Cost: Free with admission; \$7 adults, \$5 seniors/students, \$3.50 children 4-14, free for 3 and under

2006 SPRING • SUMMER Humanities Calendar

Understanding Ourselves by Looking Back: Falmouth at Work

A celebration of the industries and peoples who collaborated to make Falmouth the town it is today. Scholarly articles and bas-relief plaques have been commissioned to examine eleven specific trades, such as whaling, cranberry harvesting, and marine sciences. The final five plaques are to be unveiled in a public ceremony.

When: Saturday, June 17, 2006, 11:30am
Where: Falmouth Public Library
Phone: (508) 548-1006
Web: www.arts-cape.org/pubart/

Central Massachusetts

A Perfect Union: Dolley Madison and the Creation of the American Nation

Author Catherine Allgor presents a lecture based on her book of the same name, which depicts Dolley Madison as a model for a modern form of politics emphasizing cooperation over coercion.

When: Monday, May 15, 2006, 7:30pm
Where: American Antiquarian Society, Worcester
Phone: (508) 755-5221
Web: www.americanantiquarian.org

The 24th Annual James Russell Wiggins Lecture in the History of the Book

An annual scholarly lecture program featuring statements on key methodological and interpretive issues. David Shields, the McClintock Professor of Southern Letters at the University of South Carolina, presents "We declare you independent whether you wish it or not: The Print Culture of Early Filibusterism."

When: Friday, June 16, 2006, 11:30am
Where: American Antiquarian Society, Worcester
Phone: (508) 755-5221
Web: www.americanantiquarian.org

Western Massachusetts

Bankside

A series of informal talks, performances, and demonstrations focusing on aspects of life in Shakespeare's time, including swordplay, falconry, and music, and on the history of Shakespeare performance. For a complete program schedule, visit shakespeare.org.

When: July 20 - August 24, 2006
Where: Rose Footprint Theater, Shakespeare & Company, Lenox
Web: www.shakespeare.org
Phone: (413) 637-3353
Cost: free, tickets required

Disasters in the Valley

An exhibit of photographs and historic newspaper accounts of weather events that have dazzled and devastated the Connecticut River Valley over the last two centuries.

When: Through September 3, 2006
Where: Connecticut Valley Historical Museum, Springfield
Phone: (800) 625-7738
Cost: included with admission, \$10 adults, \$7 seniors, \$5 students, \$3 children 6 and up, free for children 5 and under

Nostoi: Stories of War and Return

An extensive public program of films, symposia, and photo exhibits centered around first-person accounts of combat and its aftermath, the homecoming. A collaboration of the Five Colleges, the Veterans Education Project, and the American Friends Service Committee.

Selected events listed below. For full schedule visit nostoi.hampshire.edu

Photo Exhibit - Iraq: A War

When: Monday, April 17 through Friday, April 28, 2006, 9am-4pm (closed Saturdays and Sundays)
Where: Frost Hall, Holyoke Community College
Phone: (413) 552-2418

Symposium - Rituals of Return and Healing

Panelists include military psychiatrist Jonathan Shay, author Kristin Henderson, and the Very Reverend James G. Munroe.

When: Saturday, April 22, 2006, 9am-3pm
Where: Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield

Film Screening

Occupation: Dreamland and All That I Can Be
Occupation: Dreamland is an award-winning documentary that follows a squad of American soldiers into the Iraqi city of Falluja during the winter of 2004. *All That I Can Be* is the story of young Americans for whom joining the military seems the best or only option. Followed by discussions with filmmakers.

When: Sunday, April 30, 2006, 1:30pm
Where: Academy of Music, Northampton

Paddy on the Railway

Dennis Picard of Storowton Village Museum discusses the role of Irish laborers in building America's rail system.

When: Tuesday, April 18, 2006, 7pm
Where: Mittineague Congregational Church, West Springfield
Phone: (413) 732-3002

"The Poets Light But Lamps": A Viewing and Discussion of The Belle of Amherst and Modern Perceptions of a Major Poet

Film screening and panel discussion on portrayals of Emily Dickinson in various forms of media.

When: Sunday, April 23, 2006, 2-5pm
Where: Converse Hall, Amherst College
Phone: (413) 542-8161
Web: www.emilydickinsonmuseum.org

Handled with Care: The Function of Form in Shaker Craft

A special exhibit examining the role of utilitarian objects created by the Shakers. Includes items never before seen publicly.

When: Sunday, May 14 through Sunday, December 31, 2006
Where: Hancock Shaker Village, Pittsfield
Phone: (413) 443-0188
Web: www.hancockshakervillage.org

Declaration of Independence

A staged reading of the document on which America was founded.

When: Tuesday, July 4, 2006, 3pm
Where: Shakespeare & Company, Lenox
Phone: (413) 637-1199
Web: www.shakespeare.org

If They Close the Door on You, Go in the Window

An exhibition on the African American heritage of the southern Berkshires, centering on the case of Elizabeth Freeman, also known as "Mumbet," who won her freedom in the late 18th century, helping to bring an end to slavery in Massachusetts.

When: Saturday, August 5 through Sunday, September 17, 2006

A symposium in conjunction with the exhibit will examine the implications of race in American society.

When: Friday, September 15, 2006
Where: Sheffield Historical Society's Old Stone Store
Phone: (413) 229-2694
Web: www.sheffieldhistory.org
Cost: call for information

Statewide and Beyond

Historic New England Open House

The oldest and largest regional preservation organization in the country opens the doors to 22 of its finest historic properties.

When: Saturday, June 3, 2006, 11am-5pm
Where: Various locations throughout New England
Phone: (617) 227-3956
Web: www.historicnewengland.org

Black New England: Life, History, and Community in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont

A 2-day conference gathering scholars, teachers, researchers, and community members to share their work and insights on the Black experience, past and present, in northern New England.

When: Friday, June 23 and Saturday, June 24, 2006
Where: University of New Hampshire, Durham
Phone: (603) 862-0353
Web: www.neculture.org
E-mail: jreianne.boggis@unh.edu or david.watters@unh.edu

 MFH grant funded events



Humanities Calendar						
wk	M	T	W	T	F	S S
13						1 2
14	3	4	5	6	7	8 9
15	10	11	12	13	14	15 16
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17	24	25	26	27	28	29 30

Publicize Your Humanities Event

Do you have a humanities event coming up? If your event is open to the public and held in Massachusetts go to our website at www.mfh.org and submit your event via the online form. Your information will be reviewed for possible inclusion on our website and in our print newsletter.

GRANT CATEGORIES

Current guidelines and application forms for MFH grants can be obtained by returning the form below, telephoning either of the Foundation's offices, or downloading materials from our website. You must be a nonprofit organization, or have a nonprofit fiscal sponsor, to be eligible for funding.

Northampton (413) 584-8440 Metro Boston (617) 923-1678

Project Grants

In most cases, the maximum amount of a project grant will be \$5,000. Projects responding to our current theme, "Liberty and justice for all;" projects that qualify for special cultural economic development funds; and pre-production media projects may receive up to \$10,000.

Proposals are due at the Northampton office on the first business day of November, February, May and August. A draft proposal must be submitted at least 15 days before the final deadline. Applicants must consult with Kristin O'Connell in the Northampton office before submitting a draft. Notification is within 90 days of the deadline.

Reading and Discussion Programs

Grants are awarded for up to \$1,000 for first-time applicants. A catalogue of program themes and a directory of experienced discussion leaders can be obtained by emailing hwood@mfh.org or by calling (413) 584-8440.

Scholar in Residence & Research Inventory Grants

These programs, designed to improve the presentation of history in historical organizations, are administered by the Foundation. May 15th and January 15th are the deadlines for RIG applications. SIR grants have only one deadline per year, March 15th. Applicants must contact the Foundation's Local History Coordinator at localhistory@mfh.org or (617) 923-1678 before submitting a proposal. Guidelines are available at www.mfh.org.



Outside the Textbook: Writing History for Everyone



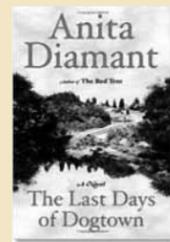
2006 CONFERENCE for MASSACHUSETTS HISTORY ORGANIZATIONS

Co-sponsored by the
Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and
University of Massachusetts Amherst Program in Public History

Hosted by Clark University Department of History

Higgins University Center
Clark University • Worcester

Monday, June 12, 2006 • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm



**Keynote address: Anita Diamant
Writing The Last Days of Dogtown:
A Novelist Brings History to Life**

Anita Diamant, whose most recent novel, *The Last Days of Dogtown*, is set in early nineteenth century Gloucester, is best known for *The Red Tent*, a word-of-mouth bestseller based on chapter 34 in the biblical book of Genesis. Since *The Red Tent* was published in 1997, she has written two other novels — *Good Harbor*, set in the present, and

The Last Days of Dogtown, which like *The Red Tent* retells and reinvents an obscure chapter in history from the point of view of "minor" characters.

Sessions on:

- Writing Clear, Concise Exhibit Text
- Organizing Reading and Discussion Groups
- Writing Historical Fiction
- Creative Publishing Options for Local History
- Writing for Town Anniversaries
- Writing Local History for the Web
- Children Writing History

For detailed conference program and to register, please go to
www.mfh.org/newsandevents/calendar/history.html
or call (617) 923-1678.

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Reading & Discussion Programs

Scholar in Residence Program/Research Inventory Program

I am a humanities scholar and would like to participate in Foundation-supported public humanities programs. Please contact me.

Mail this form to:

Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities

66 Bridge Street

Northampton, MA 01060

or fax to (413) 584-8454

Request For Proposals

“ . . . with liberty and justice for all ”

The last six words of the Pledge of Allegiance give expression to a particular vision of democracy — one that provides both liberty and justice for its citizens. Ensuring liberty and justice, however noble, has rarely been free of controversy, as different generations and interest groups have sought to determine the meaning of “liberty” and “justice” and reach agreement on how to achieve both ends.

The interplay between liberty and justice is a vitally important topic, not just for those interested in the humanities, but for all citizens, especially at this particular moment in our history. At a time of increasing public debate on this topic, there is a need for the reasoned perspectives offered by historians, philosophers, and other humanities scholars.

Therefore, for three years beginning in January 2006, the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities is seeking grant proposals that focus on the theme “Liberty and justice for all.”

We welcome grant proposals for public programs examining topics such as:

- *changing definitions of justice and freedom through history and across cultures*
- *relationships, including conflicts, among the concepts of liberty, justice, and other fundamental values of a democratic society*
- *the accomplishments of individuals, organizations, and/or social movements devoted to the quest for social justice*
- *challenges to the achievement of “liberty and justice for all”*

Grant awards will range up to \$10,000.

About the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities:

The Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities supports and conducts programs that use history, literature, philosophy, and other humanities disciplines to enhance and improve civic life throughout the Commonwealth.

For more information:

Go to www.masshumanities.org/grants/grantypes or call (413) 584-8440.

LIBERTY & JUSTICE FOR ALL

