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Humanities

A Publication of the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities Fall 2006

FOUNDATION NEWS



Panoramic view of Lisbon looking south toward the Tagus River

THREE FROM FOUNDATION TRAVEL TO PORTUGAL

In early July, Executive Director David Tebaldi and President-elect David J. Harris and board member Frank Sousa spent a week in Lisbon, Portugal, as guests of the Luso-American Foundation. Frank, David and David met with FLAD staff to discuss mutual interests and various collaborative projects. The MFH "delegation" also met with the director of the Camöes National Cultural Center and representatives of the Gulbenkian Foundation to brainstorm possible collaborations, including projects that might involve other state humanities councils. Between meetings, David Tebaldi and his wife, Marjorie Gustafson; David Harris, his wife, Janet Walton, and their son Quentin; and Frank, his wife, Diane, and their three children (Rachel, Matthew and Sophia) enjoyed exploring Lisbon's museums, castles, and picturesque neighborhoods. One highpoint was the aquarium, the world's second largest. Another was a day trip to Sintra, an historic and scenic town a short train ride from Lisbon.



António Luís Vicente, FLAD Assessor; David Tebaldi, MFH; David Harris, MFH; Luís dos Santos Ferro, FLAD Director; Frank Sousa, MFH

LEGISLATURE BOOSTS CULTURAL FUNDING

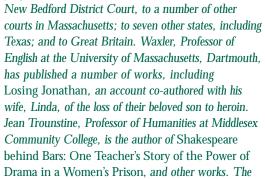
With strong support from the cultural community, the Legislature overrode several of the Governor's budget vetoes to increase state spending on arts and culture through the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) by \$2.45 million.

Foundation News continued on page 5.

Fifteen Years of Changing Lives Through Literature

An Interview with Bob Waxler and Jean Trounstine

Introduction: Robert P. Waxler and Jean Trounstine are co-directors of Changing Lives Through Literature, a program that brings the humanities into the criminal justice system, engaging judges, probation officers, and probationers in conversations about books, stories, and poems. Studies have shown that probationers who participate in the program are less likely than others in the criminal justice system to re-offend. This finding has spurred the expansion of the program from its first site, the



two have collaborated on two books: Changing Lives
Through Literature, an anthology of stories used in the program, and Finding a
Voice: The Practice of
Changing Lives Through
Literature. A related feature on the Changing Lives
Through Literature website is on page 2 of this issue of
Mass Humanities.

MFH Assistant Director Kristin O'Connell interviewed Waxler and Trounstine by email.

Kristin O'Connell: Bob,
What led you to propose a
literature discussion program for probationers in
the New Bedford District Court?

Robert Waxler: It started for me while on a summer seminar grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities at Princeton in the early 1980s. We were exploring the relationship between literature and society, how literature was becoming increasingly marginalized in the culture, how science and technology, quantitative analysis, and images rapidly



flickering across screens had all gained overwhelming power and authority in the American psyche. By contrast, I deeply believed in literature, the power of language, the depth of the imagination. What could be done to demonstrate that literature could still make a difference? I wondered.

A decade or so later, in 1991, I saw an opportunity. After a tennis match with my friend Bob Kane, we sat down to talk. Bob was serving as a district court judge in New Bedford.

He was disturbed by what he characterized as "turnstile justice," sending offenders to jail, then seeing them again before his bench, headed back to jail.

Let's try an experiment, I suggested. Take eight to ten men coming before you over the next few weeks, and instead of sending them back behind bars, sentence them to a literature seminar at the University. I'll get the room on campus, I told him, choose the books, and facilitate the

discussions. This was the model for Changing Lives Through Literature: a professor, judge, and probation officer coming together with criminal offenders to talk about good literature on a college campus.

Bob and I both believed it was worth a try. It took considerable courage for a judge to agree that reading and discussing good literature were worthy alternatives to a jail sentence. In addition, I asked him to try to choose tough guys with significant criminal histo-

ries. If this experiment did work—and I was sure it would—I didn't want detractors claiming that we had stacked the deck by choosing offenders with minimal records.

That was the beginning of the program. Judge Kane, with the help of Wayne St. Pierre, a wonderful probation officer (PO), chose eight men who had 145 convictions, many of them felonies, to come to the UMass-Dartmouth campus that fall.

Surfing The Humanities:

Changing Lives Through Literature Website

A program that brings literature to the lives of prisoners requires a myriad of resources to succeed. It's no surprise, then, that the website for *Changing Lives Through Literature* (cltl.umassd.edu) is brimming with the tools necessary for such an undertaking.

With its sharp design and thorough documentation, CLTL's site offers a vast array of detailed information through extensive multimedia pages of text, photos, and videos. Resources are available for the program's students and instructors, as well as for probation officers and judges who wish to get involved. CLTL's scope and vision are illustrated in thoughtful statements from Co-Director Robert Waxler and other instructors and judges. These essays provide a philosophical examination of the issues that typically hinder programs for incarcerated persons, such as gender differences, literacy levels, and length of participants' prison sentences.

But the greatest indicator of the program's effectiveness is the pages of testimonials from probationers, judges, and instructors that speak about the power of literature in effecting change.

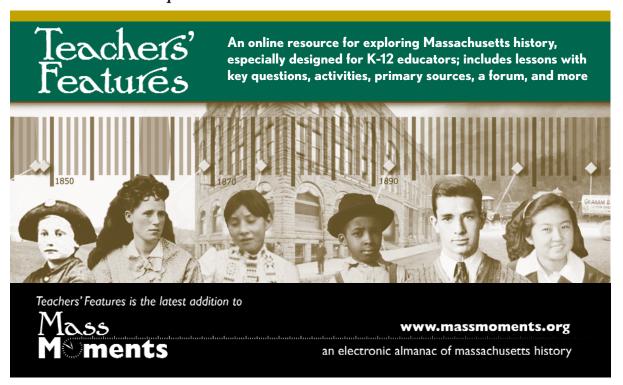
"How do I stack up against your college students?" Jeff wanted to know. He was doing very well; they were all doing very well. In fact, it seemed to me they were teaching me more than I could fully imagine. At first, I had thought each one of them was Pygmalion, and I was the professor. But now I wondered: Was it really the other way around?"



Changing Lives Through Literature is a program devoted to synthesizing the simple acts of reading, reflection, and renewal. Repeated in testimonials from participants and instructors alike, visitors can find the core of this program's strength and effectiveness in the sentiment that sharing our experiences with others helps us to improve ourselves.

Note: For further information on Changing Lives Through Literature, see the interview with program directors Robert Waxler and Jean Trounstine, which begins on page 1.

The Foundation is pleased to announce the launch of Teachers' Features:



Developed by the *Mass Moments* editorial staff, in consultation with classroom teachers, Teachers' Features contains a series of self-contained units for grades 5-8 and 11-12. Everything is searchable and printable.

Each unit includes:

- Introduction that answers the question "Why teach this?"
- Relevant Massachusetts state standard(s)
- Several lessons, each with learning activities, key questions, primary sources with discussion questions and glossary, and suggested resources

High school

A. Free But Far From Equal: The African American Experience in Massachusetts, 1780 - 1863

- B. Women's Struggle for Equal Rights, 1830 1920
- C. Working Men and Women Fight for Justice, 1825 1930

Grades 5-8

- A. Two Cultures Collide: Early Relations Between English Settlers and Indigenous People in Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay Colonies
- B. Building a New Society: Life in Colonial Massachusetts

Plus, for third grade teachers: how to use massmoments.org as a resource for teaching Massachusetts history.

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" to be published in *Mass Humanities*. 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.

Humanities Bringing Ideas to Life

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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.

They were, in fact, "tough guys," ranging in age from 18 to 44, and with levels of education ranging from eighth grade to community college. They were all bright, though, and quickly got involved, offering some amazing insights into the stories. After the first series of seminar sessions, we knew we had to continue with the project. It was clearly making a difference.

KO: How would you describe that difference?

RW: We saw that reading and discussing good literature could move people, give them energy, offer them a direction. An early longitudinal study of the program, for example, found that offenders going through CLTL had a recidivism rate of only 19% compared to a control group with a rate of 45%. Those are important statistics to consider when measuring a program like this one. To me the numbers have never been crucial, though. It is the change in the qualitative value of a life that interests me.

In that first CLTL group, there was a young man, Jeff, who was a serious drug dealer, very bright, thrilled by the rhythm of the tough streets. After a few sessions, Jeff came in one night and told us, as we gathered to begin discussing Jack London's *The Sea Wolf*, that he had found through these sessions something as exciting as the streets: reading and talking about books. Jeff had started to read to his three-year-old daughter as well. That was the kind of difference we glimpsed from the beginning. Jeff, by the way, had only an eighth-grade education.

We have had over 4000 offenders go through the CLTL program now, and we have countless anecdotes like this one. CLTL is not a magic bullet, of course. People sometimes fall back, relapse, but that doesn't mean we haven't made a difference even for them. They now know what good literature can do.

I recall another man, call him Anthony, coming into the seminar room one night after we had read Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*. Anthony told us he had been walking down Union Street in New Bedford, anxious and depressed, wrestling with his addiction, not wanting to return to drugs. He came to the corner near his old neighborhood, ready to make the turn. But he stopped, thinking about Santiago, the Old Man, and the battle he fought in the throes of his pain and suffering. It was as if Anthony heard the voice of Santiago at that moment. "I thought if Santiago could endure what he did," Anthony said, "then I could walk down Union Street, one more day, rather than make that turn into the neighborhood."

When we spend two hours talking, their issues take a back seat to the world of the book. It is a luxury they've never had before—to have room and time. "

KO: Jean, how was the program expanded to include women?

Jean Trounstine: A year after the "Bobs" began doing CLTL in New Bedford, I heard about the program. I was working at Middlesex Community College in Lowell as a humanities professor and also teaching writing and literature classes at Framingham Women's Prison, where I eventually directed eight plays (with major grants for three years from the MFH). A friend who worked at the prison heard Judge Kane speak. I was excited about Changing Lives Through Literature because it was philosophically similar to what I was already doing; it used the arts and humanities to increase self-awareness, social skills, and self-esteem and to deepen one's connections to others.

I enlisted an administrator of my college to drive with me to meet Judge Kane and talk about beginning a women's CLTL program in the Lowell area. From my Framingham experience, I knew that women offenders would respond heartily to this program—a chance to get outside of their daily grind and to see themselves and their behavior in a new light—and that there would be different issues for women than for men. I also suspected that working with women outside of prison would be different from working with incarcerated women. Women in prison have too little to do; they take to education partly because they starve for activities in a very lonely environment. Those on probation, in contrast, have too much in their lives. They are often single parents battling addictions, poverty, abusive family situations, and low self-image.

"The heart of the program as I see it has always been in the imagination and its ability to inspire and create hope..."

After some discussion, Judge Kane enlisted Judge Joseph Dever of the Lynn District Court and our first probation officer, Valarie Ashford-Harris. Our first program met in the office of the Middlesex Community College president. We soon realized that because there are fewer women than men in the criminal justice system, we needed to expand, so we began to work in the Lowell District Court as well.

KO: Did that first group of women respond as you had hoped?

JT: At first, I felt concerned since I was less intimately connected than I'd been with my students behind bars. For women on probation, struggling to keep off the streets, I was one more responsibility to contend with. But soon I began to see that they were yearning to come to the class, and that the discussions meant as much to them as the readings. During our class time, the judge and their POs looked at them as thinkers—not as lost souls or tramps or washed-up mothers. But it is precisely because there are POs, judges, professors and offenders in the group (the team concept, so integral to CLTL) that the program participants begin to grow. They feel recognized in a community where they have often felt scorned.

The most important aspect of the program, I think, is that it offers a space for reflection in people's lives. Women in the criminal justice system, by and large, have no space. Two women in my current class live in shelters. Two others have been dumped by men and manage to care for their children with or without the help of their own parents. These women literally have never heard of the concept of "a room of one's own." When we spend two hours talking, their issues take a back seat to the world of the book. It is a luxury they've never had before—to have room and time. What also makes a difference is that there, in that sacred space, they are valued by authority figures, and their voices are heard. They begin to recognize that they have voices worth listening to.

KO: As you've overseen the program's development and expansion, have your observations led to any significant changes in that model? What have been your hardest challenges?

JT: There were many skeptics along the way: POs who saw the program as a "soft" (instead of a "smart") approach to crime, and judges who feared the ridicule of their peers. Dropout rates have not been insignificant. But bolstered by anecdotal evidence of success from our probationers and by our own faith in the program, we decided, with our judges, to try to obtain state funding to expand the program. With the help of Executive Director David Tebaldi and Associate Director Gail Reimer of the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, we began to get visibility through news articles and a program that we presented at the State House. In 1994, the Legislature awarded the first public monies to develop CLTL programs throughout the state.

As new programs began in Massachusetts and in other states, practitioners found their own ways of developing CLTL. Some of us expanded the original model—six sessions over twelve weeks—to seven sessions over fourteen weeks or ten weekly sessions. Some of us added poetry or nonfiction to our staple novels and short stories. As CLTL expanded to Dorchester, Roxbury, Framingham, Concord, Cambridge, Worcester, and Woburn and beyond—to Texas, Arizona, Kansas, New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut, California and even to England—we saw that our strength was in our flexibility. Co-ed programs sprang up. Programs in prison were established. Juvenile programs were initiated. Many instructors added writing to their classes. The model was adaptable, but what remained at the core was discussion of literature.

In terms of the most difficult challenges, certainly maintaining programs is an issue. Without secure funding, we have had a year or two where we all worked for free and did not have the money for training, which we try to have twice a year. But what I find most challenging is trying to make ourselves ask the important questions: Can we really make a significant difference in people's lives? How can we improve our program? Whom can we look to, besides our own personnel, for guidance? What will help us make a larger impact?

On a personal level, I miss the women after each group ends and always feel we need more time. I also wish we had the funding to offer a Part II, a second session or a follow-up program that would continue to inspire. I often feel we are just touching the tip of the iceberg.

Humanities on the Inside-Out:

A Mixed Community Course on the Prison Memoir

by Maria Healey

n June 2005, the Foundation awarded Mount Holyoke College funds for the training of a teaching assistant for a spring 2006 class, Inside-Out in Hampden County: Prison Literature and Creative Writing. As designed by Mount Holyoke Visiting English professor, Simone Weil Davis, Inside-Out was an innovative course that brought together incarcerated students and students from the Five Colleges in a classroom "behind the wall" at the Hampden County Community Safety Center, a day-reporting facility in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Kim Keough, Davis' teaching assistant, is a Frances Perkins scholar who graduated from Mount Holyoke in the spring of '06. Keough had previously trained as a writing workshop facilitator with Amherst Writers & Artists and with Voices from Inside, a Western Massachusetts creative writing program for incarcerated women, when in August 2005, with the funds from the Foundation, she attended the Summer Training Institute offered by Temple University's Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program.

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program has been offering mixed-population, semester-long courses to college students and the prison population since 1997. The Summer Training Institute exposes trainees to curriculum development, group dynamics, and protocol.

Davis, a visiting associate professor of English, formerly at Long Island University's C.W. Post campus and New York University, had taught classes on incarceration and social justice issues before, but Inside-Out was her first course with a mixed student body. Awarded an Innovation Grant from Mount Holyoke, as well as the grant from the Foundation, she collaborated with Voices From Inside, devising a course that melded the exchange of creative writing with analysis and discussion of published prison memoirs appropriate to a literature course. Five College students received course credit toward their degree. The incarcerated women received a certificate of course completion, which can aid in parole and, Davis hopes, foster confidence that they "have plenty to offer in a discussion about literature and can succeed in a college environment."

Davis' interest in incarceration stems from her childhood. Her father was a professor at the University of Michigan with radical views during the McCarthy Era. When he was called to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee, he declined to testify and claimed protection of the First Amendment on the grounds that the proceedings were unconstitutional and therefore invalid. Cited for contempt of Congress, he spent six months in federal prison.

"It made me aware of the impact on families of incarceration," she says. "It was part of (our family) culture growing up. My father was blacklisted in the wake of that experience, so we ended up moving to Canada."

An equally passionate interest of Davis' has been adult literacy, especially how people without the benefits of education "figure out a way to get access to full expression." She advocates "a redefinition of the word *literacy*, one that emphasizes community creation and community purpose rather than individual "self-betterment" and "upward" mobility, one that turns *literacy* from a noun to a verb, from a possession into a praxis between people."

The role of community in the Inside-Out course was layered and pivotal. Combining populations that are usually kept separate was crucial to the idea of the class. The mixed student body's efforts in analysis, discussion and shared writings were infused with a an uncommonly wide range of personal experience and social conceptions

The assigned prison writings spanned centuries, cultures and human stories, from *De Profundis* by Oscar Wilde to excerpts from Dostoyevsky's *House of the Dead* to a memoir by Jimmy Santiago Baca, a poet of Hispanic and Native American heritage, who served six years in an Arizona prison for drug possession. The class delved into *Inner Lives: Voices from African American Women in Prison*, a poetry anthology edited by Paula Johnson, as well as a piece by popular contemporary author Dorothy Allison, titled "Stealing in College," and *Finding Freedom: Writings from Death Row*, by Jarvis Jay Masters, a converted Buddhist currently on Death Row in San Quentin, whose vivid, transformative work was particularly inspiring to the class.

Assistant teacher Kim Keough praised the readings for provoking meaningful in-class exchanges on many levels. With an emphasis on shared responses, both oral and written, the course readings became launching pads for intellectual confidence and broadened all students' conception of higher education and civic responsibility as arenas where both academic and experiential knowledge can play vital roles. "Amazing exchanges left students feeling as if they'd opened new parts of their brains," Keough said. Discussions illuminated not only the commonalities in the written and shared incarceration experiences, but also "the thin line between not suffering consequences for some stupid mistake that you made and having your whole life revolve around it."

Professor Davis observed that the prison memoir has particular power in this setting. "It makes it clear that experiences and emotions caused by incarceration connect people across time and place and circumstance. It also makes it clear that the things incarcerated people are experiencing are 'literature-worthy'."

Davis had expected that assembling a mixed community to study literature together in a correctional facility would prove uniquely transformative. "Inside" student Tracey Bacote, had this to say about the intangible value of a humanities course behind bars: "You can show me how to do something in terms of (earning money) but it doesn't mean it's going to do me any good, because the only thing I (may) use it for is to support my addiction. But if you teach me how to address those issues that I've never been able to discuss with anyone, I will be better off as a person. I will realize my value as a person is more than me just doing the same thing I've always been doing."

"Language gave me a way to keep the chaos of prison at bay and prevent it from devouring me; it was a resource that allowed me to confront and understand my past, even to wring from it some compelling truths, and it opened the way toward a future that was based not on fear or bitterness or apathy but on compassionate involvement and a belief that I belonged."

- Jimmy Santiago Baca,

from his memoir,
A Place to Stand, one of
the texts read in the
Inside-Out course

FOUNDATION NEWS

This gives the MCC its third budget increase in as many years, bringing the agency's state appropriation to just over \$12 million, of which MFH will receive a total of \$458,030. Combined with recent passage of a separate, new \$13 million Cultural Facilities Fund, the increase represents a substantial new infusion of state investment in the arts, humanities, and sciences. It is also a major achievement for advocates across Massachusetts who urged legislators to reverse the effects of deep budget cuts to arts and culture during the state's fiscal crisis in 2002. The Legislature's continuing support for the Adams program means that the Foundation will once again be offering Cultural Economic Development grants.

Another legislative victory came when the legislature appropriated \$200,000 in the FY 2007 budget to support the Clemente Course in the Humanities. We are especially grateful to Senate President Travaglini; Senators Mark Montigny, Steve Knapik, and Harriette Chandler; and Representatives Marie St. Fleur and Jay Kaufman for their support. The Clemente Course will run in Holyoke, Dorchester, and New Bedford in the coming academic year.

MASSART STUDENTS TO DESIGN NEW LOOK FOR MFH

In the fall of 2006, the Foundation will undertake an unusual collaboration with the Massachusetts College of Art, the only publicly supported, freestanding college of visual arts in America. Under the guidance of Professor Elizabeth Resnick, students in the Advanced Graphic Design class will devote themselves to developing a new graphic identity for MFH, which will begin doing business as Mass Humanities in January 2007. Our legal name will remain, as it has for more than 30 years, the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy. Watch for our new look in the spring issue of Mass Humanities.

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR ATTENDS EMERGING LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

John Sieracki, the Foundation's Development Director, is finishing up the Emerging Leaders Program at UMass Boston's Center for Collaborative Leadership (www.leaders.umb.edu). A diverse group of people from business, government, schools, and nonprofits in greater Boston met monthly to hear the heads of some of Boston's largest institutions discuss topics such as negotiation and public speaking. The participants form teams to work on special projects. John's team assessed the effectiveness of programs that deal with race relations in the city for the team's client, a consulting firm that is interested in introducing a race relations program. The Emerging Leaders Program, which began in January, culminates in September, when the teams present their projects to Boston Mayor Thomas Menino.

NORTHAMPTON STAFF CHANGES

The Foundation bids farewell to Maria Healey, Administrative Assistant in the Northampton office, who relocated to San Francisco in July. Maria joined our staff in 2002 and was a delight to work with. We all wish her well on her next journey.

At the beginning of September, Karen Racz replaced

Maria as the Administrative Assistant in the main office. Karen earned her BA in Studio Art with a Minor in Art History at Douglass College, Rutgers University. Most recently Karen worked as Administrator at the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS



David A. Bryant is
Director of Urban
Initiatives at the Trustees
of Reservations in Sharon.
He previously worked in
government relations at the
Maryland State Teachers'
Association and the
National Education
Association and as

Manager of Communications at Housing Investments, Inc./Preservation of Affordable Housing in Boston. He received his A.B. in Theology from Georgetown University. David currently serves on the boards of Generations, Inc. and the Cambridge-Ellis School. He resides in Brookline.

Frances Jones-Sneed is Director of the Berkshire Center for the Study of History and Culture, Director of the Women's Studies Program, and Professor of History of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams. She received her M.A. in African History



from Northwestern University and her Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Frances is the author of numerous academic papers and publications and a recent recipient of the NEH Curriculum Development Award for her project "The Shaping Role of Place in African American Biography." She lives in North Adams.

John Sedgwick is the author of the novels The Education of Mrs. Bemis and The Dark House, as well as the nonfiction work The Peaceable Kingdom, which became the basis for a dramatic television series. His writing has appeared in magazines such as The Atlantic Monthly,



GQ, and Newsweek, where he was a contributing editor. John's current project, a multi-generational family memoir, In My Blood: A Saga of Madness and Desire in an American Family, will be published by HarperCollins in January of 2007. He resides in Cambridge.

Carl Valeri is President and Chief Operating Officer of the Hamilton Company, a privately held real estate company. He received his Bachelor's degree in Finance from Boston College. His career has included stints managing a financial consulting practice and working in real estate and loan



restructuring at the First National Bank of Boston. Carl is an active member of the Dante Alighieri Society. He lives in Arlington.

BOARD PRESIDENT DEPARTS

Only one member of our board is departing this fall, but he leaves big shoes to fill. John Dacey served for eight years, including the last two as president. A Winchester resident, John came to the Foundation from a successful career as a high-tech entrepreneur and manager. Having studied philosophy as an undergraduate, he had a natural affinity for the humanities, which only grew with his exposure to the Foundation's work. An intrepid outdoorsman and world traveler, he had an adventuresome spirit that made him open to new ideas and projects. During his tenure as president, John helped refine and clarify our mission and introduced a number of organizational and procedural reforms that have made the Foundation's operations both more participatory and more efficient. He and his wife, Marie, were generous and loyal members of the MFH family. While we will miss John at board meetings, we look forward to seeing him take up his new role as a leader of the President's Advisory Board.

BOARD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

At its meeting in June, the board elected new officers: For the next two years, David J. Harris of Medford will serve as President, Susan Winston Leff of Brookline as Vice-President, John Burgess of Boston as Treasurer, and Nancy Netzer of Newton as Clerk.

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



Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities

"Liberty and justice for all"

he last five words of the Pledge of Allegiance give expression to a particular vision of democracy—one that provides both liberty and justice for its citizens. The question of how to ensure liberty and justice has long been the source 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.

Through 2008, 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
- the interaction 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"

The maximum LJA award is \$10,000. All other guidelines apply.

Recent Grants

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

\$10,000 to Historic Northampton Museum and Education Center to plan, in cooperation with municipal officials and city groups, an "outdoor museum" of historic markers located throughout Northampton.

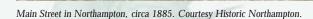
\$2,497 to the Trustees of Reservations' Bryant Homestead in Cummington to analyze 20th century farming practices at the Homestead.

(Right) Haying in Cummington, Courtesy The William Cullen Bryant Homestead, a property of The Trustees of Reservations.



(Right) Miguel Pou y Becerra (1880-1968) Los coches de Ponce (Horse Drawn Carriages in Ponce), 1926, oil on canvas, 28 1/4 x 23 1/4, (33 3/4 x 28 3/4 x 1 3/8 framed), Museo de Arte de Ponce. Luis A. Ferré Foundation, Inc. Ponce, Puerto Rico.





\$10,000 to the Fund for Women Artists in **Northampton** to support pre-production expenses for a film about the experiences of Somali women immigrants to Springfield.



Somali women at the Community Music School in Springfield, where they meet to learn English and crafts. Photo: Mary Averill, (c) 2005.

\$5,000 to the Northampton Center for the Arts to conduct oral history interviews with women veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, which will form the basis for a theater piece to be performed in conjunction with a discussion of women's perspectives on war.



Army Capt. Jill Caliri, South Hadley, who served in Iraq, is interviewed for the "Women at War" project.

\$5,000 to the University of Massachusetts

Amherst to support production of a film, *Spirit of Providence*, on the historic contributions and present-day situation of the Sisters of Providence, a Catholic order.



The House of Providence in 1874, one of the first non-profit hospitals in Western Massachusetts. Located in Holyoke, MA and founded and staffed by the Sisters of Providence, it was filled to capacity within days of opening. As a result, only the very sick and friendless could be admitted. When a Sister was not tending to those in the House of Providence, she was visiting the sick poor in their homes, spending nights with the dying, or preparing the dead for burial.

\$9,500 to Springfield

Museums to support a discussion, brochure, and online version of an exhibition of Currier & Ives prints related to ideals of liberty and justice.

(Right) Abraham Lincoln, Sixteenth President, no date Nathaniel Currier & James Ives Hand-colored lithograph Collection of the Springfield Museum of Fine Arts

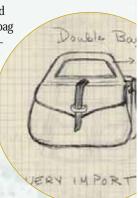
(Below) The Great Bartholdi Statue, Liberty Enlightening the World, 1885 Nathaniel Currier & James Ives Hand-colored lithograph Collection of the Springfield Museum of Fine Arts



\$2,500 to the Worcester

Historical Museum to interpret a recently acquired collection of documents related to the Daveys handbag manufacturing company, which began in Worcester.

(Right) Sketch from Daveys handbag manufacturing company Collection of the Worcester Historical Museum.



GREATER BOSTON

\$10,000 to the Friends of the Commonwealth Museum in Boston to support the final design stages of a permanent exhibition on the founding of Massachusetts.

\$5,000 to Documentary Educational Resources in Watertown for the production of the documentary film *Scenes from a Parish*, which examines three years in the life of an inner-city parish in Lawrence.

\$5,000 to the Concord Museum to help publish "An Observant Eye," a catalogue of the museum's Thoreau collection.



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

\$5,000 to the Worcester Art Museum to develop a bilingual audio tour and public programs in conjunction with an exhibition of the work of three major Puerto Rican artists.



Francisco Oller y Cestero (1833-1917) Hacienda Aurora, 1898-99, oil on wood panel, 12 x 22, (19 x 28 x 2 1/8 framed), Museo de Arte de Ponce. Luis A. Ferré Foundation, Inc. Ponce, Puerto Rico.



Charter of William and Mary, the charter in place at the time of the Revolution. Courtesy

Recent Grants



Graphite was the principal source of income for the Thoreau family in Concord. John Thoreau, Sr., sometimes working with his son Henry, used graphite to make pencils and sold it to typographers for use in making printing type. After his father's death in 1859, Henry took over the operation of the business. Three different trademarks occur on the pencils in the Concord Museum collection.



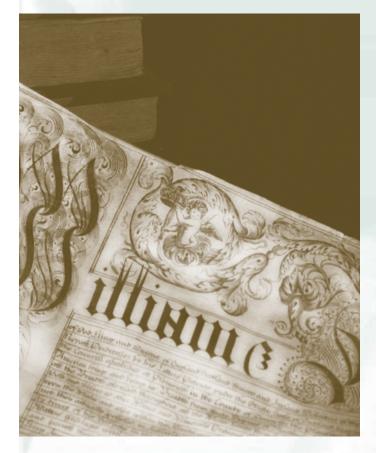
A simple green desk, made in Concord around 1838 by a cabinetmaker who charged perhaps one dollar for it, had a career in America's intellectual history entirely out of proportion to its humble origin, because it was Henry Thoreau's desk. Since it entered the collection in the 1870s, the desk has become a cornerstone of the Concord Museum and a treasured American icon.

The wear pattern around the keyhole on Thoreau's desk demonstrates an interesting fact about him: he habitually kept it locked. "I had no lock or bolt," he wrote of his house at Walden, "but for the desk which held my papers."



Thoreau acquired these snowshoes on his second trip to Maine, in the summer of 1853. They are of a square-toed type produced along the Penobscot River in the mid-19th century. On the cross bar of one shoe is written "Henry D. Thoreau" in Thoreau's characteristic block print lettering.

\$5,000 to the Actors' Shakespeare Project in Cambridge to underwrite the cost of a summer teachers' institute on teaching Shakespeare to middle and high school students.



of the Commonwealth Museum/MA Archives.



Karim Nagi Mohammad, Performer/Educator, Modern Middle Eastern Music and Dance.

\$5,000 to Primary Source in Watertown for a summer teachers' institute examining historical, political, economic, social, and cultural aspects of the contemporary Middle East.

\$4,580 to the Lexington Historical Society to underwrite the cost of developing and disseminating educational programs and materials based on the Society's collections.

\$2,427 to the Old North Foundation in Boston to interpret the history of the Old North Church through research and investigation of the building's crypts.

NORTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

\$7,978 to the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust for the creation of six wayside exhibits for the city's Concord River Greenway Park.



Professor Chad Montrie of UMass Lowell shows the location of the factories and mills at Massic Falls on the Concord River during a walking tour with the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust.

\$2,500 to the Andover Historical Society to interpret a collection of materials regarding the history of food as it relates to agriculture, industry, and family life in Andover and North Andover.

\$2,500 to the Center for Lowell History to research the role of male overseers in Lowell's antebellum textile industry.



A sampling of primary documents from the collections at the UMass Lowell Center for Lowell History, used by historian Gray Fitzsimons to study overseers in the Lowell Textile Mills, 1820–1860.

SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

\$7,022 to the Community Development Center of Southeastern Massachusetts in New Bedford to support an ongoing oral history project documenting the occupational culture of the commercial fishing industry.

\$3,565 to the Payomet Performing Arts Charitable Trust in North Truro to support a summer series of living history performances.



Joan Gatturna as Deborah Samson, "Petticoat Patriot," will perform in the Payomet Humanities Solo Historical Series.

\$2,390 to the Stoughton Historical Society to research the development of the straw and textile industries in Stoughton and Easton during the early 19th century.



The Gay Cotton Manufacturing Corporation of Stoughton, MA, incorporated in February of 1814, courtesy Stoughton Historical Society.



The view of a smokestack at Massachusetts Mills at the confluence of the Concord and the Merrimack Rivers, as seen from the south along the banks of the Concord River, the future site of the Concord River Greenway Park in Lowell under development by the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust.

2006 FALL • WINTER

Humanities Calendar

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



MFH grant-funded events

Greater Boston

2006 Massachusetts History Lecture

Historian David Hackett Fischer explores the concepts of liberty and freedom as they have changed throughout the nation's history. Presented in conjunction with the exhibition "American Visions of Liberty and Freedom."

When: Sunday, October 15, 2006

Lecture: 2 pm

Exhibit tours: 1 pm and 3:30 pm

Where: National Heritage Museum,

Lexingtor

Phone: (617) 923-1678

The Least Dangerous Branch? Liberty, Justice, and the U.S. Supreme Court

MFH's annual symposium presents some of the nation's most prominent legal scholars, jurists, and journalists, including Akhil Reed Amar, author of America's Constitution, A Biography, Linc Caplan, founder and former Editor, Legal Affairs; Marci Hamilton, author, God vs. the Gavel; two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times columnist Anthony Lewis; Harvard Law School scholar Randall Kennedy; Dahlia Lithwick, Legal Affairs Correspondent, Slate magazine; Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court; Mary-Rose Papandrea, Boston College Law School; Federal Appeals Court Judge Richard A. Posner; and Jeff Rosen, Legal Affairs Correspondent, The New Republic

When: Saturday, October 21, 2006,

12:30-5 pm

Where: Boston College Web: www.mfh.org Phone: (413) 584-8440

Power and Protest: The Civil Rights Movement in Boston, 1960-1968

A symposium of four panel discussions focusing on education, employment, and other social issues within the larger Civil Rights movement.

Where: John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston

Phone: (617) 427-0997

\$30 (teachers/seniors, \$20); includes lunch.

Keynote address by Professor Gerald Gill, Tufts University

Friday, November 3, 2006,

7-9 pm

Saturday, November 4, 2006,

Southeastern Massachusetts

Working Waterfront **Documentation Project**

Oral history interviews, panel discussions, and author readings in conjunction with the annual festival celebrating New England's commercial

fishing industry.

September 23 and 24, 2006 Fisherman's Pier, New Bedford Where:

www.workingwaterfrontfestival.org

(508) 993-8894

Web:

Central Massachusetts

Mi Puerto Rico: Master Painters of the Island, 1785-1952

A series of gallery talks and community discussions in conjunction with an exhibit of paintings by three principal figures in Puerto Rican art.

Exhibition begins Sunday, October 8, 2006;

events TBA throughout the fall. Where: Worcester Art Museum

www.worcesterart.org Phone: (508) 799-4406

Western Massachusetts

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

An exhibition exploring the history of African Americans in the Southern Berkshires

When: through Sunday, October 29, 2006

Saturdays, 10 am-2 pm; Sundays 11 am-3 pm; and by appointment.

Where: The Old Stone Store, Sheffield

Phone: (413) 229-2694

Women at War

Readings of a play based on interviews with women veterans from Western Massachusetts who have returned from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

When: Friday, November 10, 7:30 pm

Saturday, November 11, 2 pm and 7:30 pm

Where: Northampton Center for the Arts

Visions of America

A panel discussion based on the works in the exhibition Liberty and Justice: American Ideals Portrayed by Currier & Ives. Panelists will examine the concept of "liberty and justice for all" as experienced by 19th century Americans in contrast to ideals represented in Currier & Ives prints.

When: Sunday, January 7, 2007, 2 pm

exhibit runs from January 7

through July 8, 2007

www.springfieldmuseums.org

Where: Museum of Fine Arts, Springfield Web:

Free with museum admission

Adults, \$10; seniors/students, \$7; children 3-17, \$5; children 2 and under, free Phone: (800) 625-7738

Call for Nominations

FOURTH ANNUAL COMMONWEALTH HUMANITIES LECTURE

Thursday, March 29, 2007 **National Heritage Museum** Lexington, Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, in partnership with MassINC, will select one outstanding Massachusetts humanities scholar or writer to deliver the third annual Commonwealth Humanities Lecture. This honor recognizes a significant contribution to the study of public life and civic affairs in the Commonwealth.

Nominations may be submitted via e-mail (chl@mfh.org); fax 413-584-8454 or by regular mail to Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, 66 Bridge Street, Northampton, MA 01060. Please provide the name and address of the individual you are nominating and tell us why he or she should be honored with this award.

Nominees must live or work in Massachusetts.

The lectureship carries a \$5,000 stipend.

The deadline for nominations is Friday,

December 15, 2006.

For more information and to read transcripts of previous Commonwealth Humanities Lectures, visit www.mfh.org





Call for Proposals

As part of its ongoing partnership with the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities the Massachusetts Cultural Council has provided the Foundation with \$50,000 from the Adams Arts Program. In an

effort to meet the needs of the humanities community and stimulate economic development in the Commonwealth, MFH will use these monies to support innovative humanities projects that have the capacity to "revitalize communities, stimulate income, create or enhance jobs, and attract tourism."

Five or more Cultural Economic Development (CED) grants of up to \$10,000 each will be made in FY 2007 beginning with the November 1, 2006 deadline. The Foundation's regular application deadlines and procedures apply, including at least a one-to-one matching requirement. (Other MCC funds may not be used to satisfy the matching requirement.)

MFH encourages proposals that (1) involve collaboration between humanities institutions and non-humanities organizations, and (2) reach out to communities that lack ready access to the humanities due to social, economic, or geographic circumstances.

For more information or to discuss a possible application, contact Hayley Wood in the Northampton Office.

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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.

"There are times around the CLTL table when all our social roles fade away, when the free flow of language leads us to a moment of equality, and then we all hear the beat of the human heart."

But what keeps me going is students like Kim. Kim came to CLTL with a long record, including prison time. She had been strung out on drugs, could hold down a job but was often secretive, got high at work, was engulfed in her own life and impervious to others, and couldn't manage a good relationship. Most of the men she was attracted to were abusive or abrasive or just not interested in much outside of drinking and drugging. Kim had a tough demeanor, and from the things she said during the CLTL classes, it was clear that her childhood had been rough. After CLTL, Kim wrote: "I've changed my personal attitude about expressing myself. I feel comfortable. I feel sincere. I feel and see myself changing. A lot of self awareness—how opinionated, how extreme, how vulnerable."

She took some important steps in CLTL on her road to a better life. She allowed herself to learn and to be open to the process of reading and reflecting during the sessions. I remember how surprised she was when Judge Dever, a man she never imagined would give her the time of day, actually listened to her intently as she discussed her reactions to Pearl in Anne Tyler's novel Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant. Kim said she understood and admired Pearl in spite of the character's seeming coldness, because Pearl had raised her children by herself, after a man had left her. After CLTL, Kim went on to Middlesex Community College and graduated, worked toward a BA in Psychology at UMass Lowell, and kept up with AA and NA. She fell in love, got married,

bought a house, became a stepmother, and had her own children. None of these steps was easy for Kim. She struggled every inch of the way to stay off drugs and alcohol, to keep perspective, to handle her emotions. Kim used CLTL in the best possible way, understanding that she was part of a community and that she had the power to build community.

The heart of the program as I see it has always been in the imagination and its ability to inspire and create hope: a yearning for getting beyond one's limited worlds, stepping into the shoes of another, initiating new behavior and seeing the road to change.

KO: Kim's story, like those of "Jeff" and "Anthony," illustrates the kind of personal transformation that Bob hoped for when he conceived the program. The individual experience remains at the heart of your work. But it seems clear that from very early on, you saw the program as not just a potentially life-changing opportunity for participants, but also a model of a social ideal. In *Finding a Voice*, you write: "When we talk about changing lives . . . we are also talking about a vision of an inclusive society."

RW: I am convinced that literature offers us the best opportunity we have to keep ourselves and our community human. It is not just the criminal offenders who glimpse this. Judges who participate in the reading and discussions have described CLTL as the most enriching experience of their own long careers. Probation officers are often inspired and rejuvenated by the process of reading and discussion.

There are times around the CLTL table when all our social roles fade away, when the free flow of language leads us to a moment of equality, and then we all hear the beat of the human heart.

Nathaniel Hawthorne reminds us that the first signs of an established community are often the cemetery and the jail. The cemetery is perhaps the boundary, the limit of our mortality in this context. But for most of the inmates, the jail is only a temporary stay, a marginal position. They will return to the community. It is the silence from the grave, though, that calls to all of us already in the community to open ourselves to those other living voices, as marginal and dispossessed as they may be. For those other voices are also ours. We need to listen to each of them if we are to know ourselves.

To me, that is the meaning of "human community," the obligation of democracy: to find a way to open the closed spaces that stifle the rich variety of the human voice, to allow people the opportunity to name themselves, to create their own story in the midst of other stories, in the flow of the community. I believe that the best measure of a democratic society is how inclusive it is, not how exclusive it has become. Reading and discussing good stories point us in that direction, at least for a while.

Note: The Changing Lives Through Literature website is featured on page 2.

Power and Protest: The Civil Rights Movement in Boston, 1960-1968

a public symposium

November 3-4, 2006
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum
Columbia Point, Boston

Friday, November 3, 7-9 pm

Keynote address by Professor Gerald Gill, Tufts University

Saturday, November 4, 8:30 am - 4 pm

Panels:

Jim Crow Education in Boston: Spark of the Movement Jim & Jane Crow Employment The Churches and the Movement African American Organizations, Students, and the Movement

Registration (includes lunch): \$30 (\$20 for teachers and seniors); high school and college students free with ID. To register, go to www.masshistory.org

For more information, contact Kelley Chunn, kcprmail@aol.com or (617) 427-0997.

Supported by Blue Cross Blue Shield, *The Boston Globe*, Paul and Phyllis Fireman Charitable Foundation, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Massachusetts Historical Society, Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, Museum of African American History, Trotter Institute at UMass Boston, and Tufts University.



Picketing at Boston School Committee, August 7, 1963. Archives and Special Collections Department, Northeastern University.

"Mass Memories Road Show"

approved a new co-sponsorship. MFH is joining forces with the Massachusetts Studies Project to support the next phase of the Mass Memories Road Show. Based at the Graduate College of Education at UMass Boston, the Road Show sponsors public scanning events organized around a theme (currently immigration and arrival). A collaborative team drawn from the local library, historical society, schools, and other community-based organizations helps promote and arrange the events, which are held in a variety of venues. Residents bring photographs to be scanned and entered into a online database (accessible at www.massmemories.org), receive free information and advice from volunteer professionals from the New England Archivists, and have the opportunity to record brief oral histories.

As Project Director Joanne Riley told *The Boston Globe*, MMRS takes off on the idea of the PBS hit *Antiques Road Show* — "people coming and bringing their precious objects," in this case photographs and documents. Riley's dream is eventually to collect images, documents, and oral histories in every city and town in the Commonwealth and use them to build a database of "bottom up" Massachusetts history.



"Riley's dream is eventually to collect images, documents, and oral histories in every city and town in the Commonwealth and use them to build a database of "bottom up" Massachusetts history."

With funding from the Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board, the project hired consultants to help develop a handbook that will soon be available on the website. Designed to ensure that the protocols used to collect and preserve data are legally, archivally, and technically sound, the handbook will guide future Road Shows and similar projects undertaken by other organizations.

Norwood was the site of the first Road Show in 2004. In 2005 the Mass Studies Project applied to MFH to fund three Road Shows in Dorchester, one of Boston's largest and most diverse neighborhoods. The board awarded MMRS a \$5,000 grant for a project it considers an extremely promising model for engaging people in exploring the history of their families and communities.

In the winter and spring of 2006 the Mass Studies Project partnered with Social Capital, Inc. (SCI Dorchester) to hold Road Shows at the Vietnamese American Community Center, the Codman Square branch of the Boston Public Libary, and the Dorchester Historical Society. The most successful took



Valerie Stephens-Washington holds a picture of her mother, Marlene Stephens. The photo was taken by Ellen Shubb at the "We Cannot Live Without Our Lives" rally against violence against women in 1979.

place on the one of the rainiest days imaginable. On May 13th, more than 100 people, including a group of intrepid senior citizens, braved a downpour to bring their photographs to be scanned at the Historical Society's William Clapp House, where volunteers scanned 114 photographs and videotaped 21 "stories-behind-the-photos." All of this material is being processed and uploaded to the project website, and plans are underway to use the photographs in curriculum projects and exhibits. In addition, with the help of the MFH, the Mass Memories Road Show website is undergoing a redesign and upgrade to provide a more interactive and user-friendly interface.

The Road Shows were well received in Dorchester, and SCI Dorchester proved to be an excellent partner, but it soon became clear to both the Mass Studies Project and the Foundation that creating a sustainable model for the project means making the Road Show a local initiative. This requires enough ongoing financial support to allow MMRS to identify, mobilize, and train community residents to do both the outreach and the data collecting. This will be the focus when the Road Show moves to Quincy in 2006-2007.

For more information or to inquire about bringing the Mass Memories Road Show to your community, go to **www.massmemories.org** or call Joanne Riley at (617) 287-7654.

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 (for most grant categories) or Hayley Wood (for Cultural Economic Development proposals) in the Northampton office before submitting a draft. Notification is within 90 days of the deadline.

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 local history@mfh.org or (617) 923-1678 before submitting a proposal.

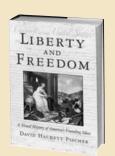
Guidelines are available at www.mfh.org.

Name _



"Liberty and Freedom: Many Ideas, One Tradition"

Liberty and freedom have long been central to American experience and identity. David Hackett Fischer will explore the different meanings of "liberty" and "freedom" and discuss how these ideas have changed throughout the nation's history.



Sunday, October 15, 2006 National Heritage Museum Lexington

2:00 pm Lecture Refreshments to follow

1:00 and 3:30 pm

Guided tours of

"American Visions of Liberty and Freedom,"

an exhibit that shows how generations of Americans have drawn, carved, and quilted symbols to represent their sometimes conflicting definitions of liberty and freedom. Exhibit closes on October 15th.

Free and open to the public. Seating limited.

For reservations, please email localhistory@mfh.org or call (617) 923-1678.

Historian David Hackett Fischer is University Professor at Brandeis University and author of numerous books, including Albion's Seed, Paul Revere's Ride, Liberty and Freedom, and most recently Washington's Crossing.

Co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and the National Heritage Museum.

Please help us continue our work.

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Date

Information Requests

 $_$ Please sign me up for MFH eNews, your quarterly electronic newsletter.

Email address

___ I have a friend who should know about the Foundation. Please add her/his name to your mailing list.

___ Please send me Project Grant Guidelines

____ Please send me information on the Scholar in Residence Program/Research Inventory Program

___ I am a humanities scholar and would like to participate in Foundationsupported 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





66 Bridge Street Northampton, MA 01060 www.mfh.org

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THE MASSACHUSETTS FOUNDATION FOR THE HUMANITIES **ANNUAL FALL SYMPOSIUM**

The Least Dangerous Branch? LIBERTY, JUSTICE, AND THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

A series of timely and provocative conversations featuring some of the nation's most prominent legal scholars, jurists, and journalists.

Saturday, October 21, 2006

12:00 - 5:00 PM

HOSTED BY BOSTON COLLEGE

Robsham Theater, Boston College

To register for free symposium: Go to www.mfh.org or call (413) 584-8440













