



**ORAL HISTORY  
ASSOCIATION**

NEWSLETTER

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## 2018 OHA Conference Highlights



### Montreal conference marks series of “firsts” for OHA

Record attendance. An international conference co-sponsor. A vibrant urban college campus. More than 160 conference program sessions. Nearly three dozen exhibits at a poster and project bazaar. Ongoing artistic, multimedia and cultural performances. All kicked off with a moving welcome featuring members of the Medicine Bear Drumming Group, an Indigenous performing group comprised of students from Concordia and McGill universities in host-city Montreal.

More than 750 people registered for the 2018 OHA conference, hosted by Concordia University's Centre for Oral and Digital Storytelling and the Concordia University Library. Attendees made their way between the state-of-the-art library and the John Molson Building for most of the conference sessions in the center of Concordia's bustling urban campus.

And they had a chance to explore and engage with nearly a dozen interactive exhibits exploring topics including the work of Indigenous street artists, the lives of people from displaced communities and even a hand-embroidered and pieced textile map with touch-activated audio of stories about the St. Laurence River shoreline.

This issue of the ***OHA Newsletter*** features some key highlights of the conference including stories about the conference plenary sessions, and other OHA news. Upcoming issues of the ***Newsletter*** will include more stories about Montreal conference sessions—from oral history in the Ebola crisis and interviewing Holocaust survivors to documenting foodways in Manitoba with interviews in a traveling food truck.

### **If you missed the conference...**

Unable to attend the Montreal conference? Had a conflict during the poster session? Get a taste of what you missed thanks to Pixstori. You can see the posters and hear the authors discuss their work on the OHA website. Photos of the posters and the authors' descriptions are here:

[www.oralhistory.org/pixstori/](http://www.oralhistory.org/pixstori/)

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## **OHA awards reflect passion for telling untold stories**

Annual Oral History Association awards in 2018 recognized at the Montreal conference reflect projects with international and domestic themes that aim to document untold stories and recognize individuals with a passion for teaching and using oral history. The 2018 award recipients are:

**Article Award:** Naoko Wake for “Surviving the Bomb in America: Silent Memoires and the Rise of Cross-National Identity,” published in the *Pacific Historical Review*, August 2017.

**Book Award:** S. Elisabeth Bird and Fraser Ottanelli for *The Asaba Massacre: Trauma, Memory and the Nigerian Civil War*, published by Cambridge Universtiy Press, 2017.

**Elizabeth B. Mason Major Project Award:** Jenna Bailey, Shiloh Centre for Multicultural Roots at the University of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, for “Canadian Prairie Black Pioneer Settlers,” which documents experiences of African Americans who moved to Canada to escape discrimination in the United States.

**Elizabeth B. Mason Minor Project Award:** Stephen Sloan of Baylor University for “Texas Genocide Survivors,” which includes interviews with people from Bosnia, Cambodia, Darfur and Rwanda/Burundi.

**Nonprint Format, Museum Exhibit Award:** Jenna Bailey, Shiloh Centre for Multicultural Roots for “We are the Roots: Black Settlers and their Experiences of Discrimination on the Canadian Prairies.”

**Martha Ross Teaching Award:** Martha Norkunas, professor of oral and public history in Middle Tennessee State University’s Public History Program.

**Stetson Kennedy Vox Populi Award:** Ruth Edmonds Hill, whose pioneering oral history work includes the Black Women Oral History Project at Harvard University’s Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

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Meet the President



Co-Executive Directors Report

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## Conference sponsors contribute to event's success

More than three dozen U.S. and Canadian academic and other institutions with an interest in oral history contributed financial and in-kind support to the success of the 2018 Montreal OHA conference, for which conference planners are immensely grateful. A list of those contributors can be found here:

<http://www.oralhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Final-Finished-2018-Conference-Program.pdf>

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# OHA's New Principles & Best Practices approved and online

By Sarah Milligan & Troy Reeves

As co-chairs of the OHA Principles & Best Practices Task force, we would like to announce that the 2018 Principles & Best Practices (P&BP) suite of documents--approved by Council and the membership in October--is now online at <http://www.oralhistory.org/oha-principles-and-best-practices/>.

While our part of the P&BP's introduction details the task force's work, we would like to highlight a bit of it, along with some further recommendations here. First and foremost, we want to list and thank all the task force members

once again: Ryan Barland, Doug Boyd, Adrienne Cain, Erin Jessee, Calinda Lee, Tomas Summers-Sandoval, Liz Strong, Sady Sullivan and Anne Valk.

We also want to share a special thanks to three members. First is to Rachel Mears and Martin Meeker, who joined us for a final intense review as we made the four main documents and glossary ready for membership to review. Without their time and effort, that work would have taken far longer (and been far less fun). And to Sherna Berger Gluck for her part of the introduction; it helped frame for future P&BP readers our work into the larger context of OHA history.

In addition to our task force members, we enlisted assistance from a former and current *Oral History Review* editor, Kathy Nasstrom and Elinor Mazé, to volunteer their time to turn their editorial eyes onto the documents. Their work proved invaluable.

We want to remind OHA members, as we do in the P&BP's intro, that we foresee more documents that could go into this suite, and we have compiled recommendations for OHA's Council and Executive Office based on discussions with task force members and your OHA member feedback.

Thank you for taking the time to engage with us on this process. We can report that one change has already been made: we inserted an updated bibliography from *The Oral History Manual*, 3rd Edition with permission from co-author Barb Sommer and the publisher Rowman & Littlefield.

Finally, we want to reiterate our favorite thought from the P&BP, which comes from the ethics document, asserting the ideas there “represent the beginning of the path toward becoming an ethical oral historian, rather than its culmination.” We hope these documents encourage the journey forward from many starting points. It was a great honor and privilege to help craft these documents, which we feel represent who we strive to be as oral historians.

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## New ‘principles, best practices,’ new council members, new dues structure highlight annual meeting

In addition to unanimously approving a new “Principles and Best

Practices” document described elsewhere in this **Newsletter**, OHA members attending the Saturday morning business meeting learned about Council approval of a new dues structure and welcomed newly elected leaders.

OHA President Todd Moye said the Council approved a Membership Committee recommendation to establish a new dues structure effective Jan. 1, 2019. Beginning then, dues will be:

- \$100 for general membership
- \$75 for emerging and independent oral history practitioners
- \$35 for student and community practitioners
- \$1,000 for a life membership

Moye said members could self-identify as “emerging,” “independent,” “student” or “community” oral historians.

Moye also reported that the OHA Council has created the position of OHA treasurer, with six-year terms, to create overlap with other leadership positions. Kristine Navarro-McElhaney of Arizona State University, who served as interim executive director of OHA, has agreed to serve as the first treasurer.

Incoming president Natalie Fousekis of California State University, Fullerton welcomed newly elected OHA leaders: Dan Kerr, first vice president, of American University; and Council members Sarah Milligan of Oklahoma State University, Alexander Freund of the University of Winnipeg and Gwendolyn Etter-Lewis of Miami University of Ohio.

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## Plenary sessions

### OHA 2018—A Reporter’s Notebook

By Barbara W. Sommer, Independent Oral Historian

### International scholars reflect on OHA conference

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# 2019 OHA conference focus: Pathways in Oral History

OHA members next year will travel to Salt Lake City, Utah, for a conference aimed at exploring the many different professional pathways that can involve oral history, particularly those outside traditional academic realms. The conference is scheduled for Oct. 16-20, 2019, at the Sheraton Salt Lake City Hotel.

Proposals are due Feb. 3 and may be submitted online. A complete description is available here: <http://www.oralhistory.org/2019-call-for-proposals/>.

Questions? Contact:

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Faith Bagley, OHA program associate, [oha@oralhistory.org](mailto:oha@oralhistory.org)

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## Opportunities for community groups, archives advocates, people interested in African American oral history, end-of-year tax-deductible donations

**Community researchers or groups** that want to do oral history but have no access to other funds can apply for an Abe and Bertha Arnold Grant from the Oral History Centre at the University of Winnipeg. The grant is worth \$1,000, and the application deadline is April 30, 2019.

To apply, submit your completed application to the Oral History Centre by email to: [oralhistorycentre@gmail.com](mailto:oralhistorycentre@gmail.com). Applicants may also provide the information in person. To do so please email [oralhistorycentre@gmail.com](mailto:oralhistorycentre@gmail.com) to request an appointment.

**If you work with an archive, take note:** People you may know who are *not* archivists but who advocate for archives may be eligible for the Society of American Archivists' J. Franklin Jameson Archival Advocacy Award. Nominations are now being accepted for the 2019 award recognizing people whose efforts have had broad, long-term impact at the regional level or beyond.

Eligibility: Nominees must be from outside the archives profession.

Individuals directly involved in archival work, either as paid or volunteer staff, or institutions or organizations directly responsible for an archival program are *not* eligible for this award.

Nominations should be sent through [the online submission system](#) by **Feb. 28, 2019**.

**If you care about African American oral history, mark your calendar** for the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program's symposium "From Segregation to Black Lives Matter." The event also celebrates the opening of the Joel Buchanan Archive of African American Oral History. The symposium is set for March 21-23, 2019, at the University of Florida.

The event will bring together scholars, educators and community organizers to discuss how to infuse African American history in K-12, higher education and social justice organizing on a local and national level. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss the role of African American history in classrooms, communities and civic engagement. Here is the [free registration link](#).

### **And finally...**

The Oral History Association reminds members that year-end, tax-deductible contributions always are welcomed. Many thanks!

Donate



**Visit the OHA Member Site**



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Mary Kay Quinlan, Editor

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# Meet Your New President



Natalie Fousekis is Director of the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH) and Professor of History. She specializes in modern U.S. History, grassroots politics, women's history, and oral history. Natalie has been engaged in oral history work for almost twenty-five years — conducting dozens of interviews, teaching oral history methodology to undergraduate students, graduate students, and community members. She has coordinated and directed a number of oral history projects, including the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project in collaboration with the Orange County Great Park Corporation, as well as the Women, Politics, and Activism Since Suffrage Project (WPA) funded by a Major Research Grant from the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation. In 2011 she also received a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant for COPH's Renovation and Expansion Initiative. Her book *Demanding Child Care: Women's Activism and the Politics of Welfare, 1940-1971* (2011) uses oral histories among other sources to examine a grassroots movement waged by mothers and educators to preserve California's public child care program from World War II to the War on Poverty. In her free time, Natalie coaches her son's baseball team, volunteers at her son's school, and enjoys hiking in the Sierras.