

AACR Newsletter



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Letter from the Senior Co-Chair

*by Courtney Chartier
Woodruff Library, Atlanta University Center*

It's election time!

This summer, AACR will elect a new co-chair, but we will also need volunteers for the newsletter editor and webmaster positions. You can find full descriptions



for these positions elsewhere in the newsletter. And there are some big shoes to fill! Rabia Gibbs has done a tremendous job in creating a beautiful and informative newsletter, and Eugenia Kim has worked diligently to keep our webpage fresh, and migrating the contents of the old site to the new Drupal format. Please join me in thanking them for all of their hard work.

Traditionally, the new co-chair has been elected at the roundtable meeting at the SAA Annual Meeting. Due to the extremely high cost of travel to this year's meeting, we have decided to hold co-chairs elections online. Candidates should be prepared to share a short bio, a photo, and a statement of their vision for AACR, including one program or activity you would like to see implemented by the roundtable. If you are interested in running for incoming co-chair, please contact me at cchartier@auctr.edu

AACR's annual meeting has been confirmed for Wednesday, August 8, 2012,

from 3:15-5:15 at the San Diego Hilton Bayfront. If you are able to attend the meeting, please share any agenda items with me or Steven Booth (Steven.Booth@nara.gov). There will be an hour long meeting followed by the panel "Building Collections through Collaboration: A Collaborative Archive from the African Diaspora."

We are also introducing some new programs for the summer months. Please see the letter from Co-Chair Steven Booth for a description of our new book club and get ready to read!

This spring, I created and distributed a survey for students and recent graduates of archival studies programs to gauge their interest in a "Speaker Bank" service offered by AACR, with speakers specifically addressing the issues of archivists or archives of color. Out of the respondents, the overwhelming majority either belongs to, or belonged to an SAA student group that actively invited speakers to their meetings. However, only 35% of the respondents had the opportunity to hear a speaker on any number of "diversity" issues. 100% responded that they would want to attend an event with a speaker on diversity within the profession.

The AACR Speaker Bank would be a service offered specifically to SAA affiliated

student groups. AACR members would volunteer to be a speaker within a specific geographic area (we will, hopefully, be able to work out technological options as well), with a focus on a particular topic. Volunteer speakers should be prepared to say what they feel comfortable speaking on, whether it's their personal history, collecting focus, challenges with donors, etc. Student groups would be able to browse a list of speakers in their area and contact them for an event.

If this speaker bank is successful, I see it as a great opportunity for collaboration with other groups within SAA. Over time, the bank can be expanded to include speakers on the many topics addressed by other sections and roundtables. If you are interested in volunteering your name now as a speaker, please contact me. More information, and calls for volunteers, will be released on the roundtable listserv.

Letter from the Junior Co-Chair

*by Steven Booth
Presidential Materials Division, NARA*

Greetings!

I've been diligently working to update the roundtable's "Archives of Color Directory." By now each of you should have received an email requesting contact information. During the quarterly officers meeting, it was unanimously decided to change



the listing format. The basic sections such as *name, title, institution, phone* and *email* will remain. The address portion will be replaced by *institutional/professional website*, as well as *institutional/professional LinkedIn, Twitter, and/or Facebook* accounts. This decision was made in an effort for the roundtable to embrace social networking and connect virtually with the membership.

Speaking of social media, are you following ACCR on Facebook and Twitter? We've had great success using these sites. People who didn't even know the roundtable existed are now fans. I would like to thank our social media team, Harrison Inefuku and Susan Gehr, for their awesome service and dedication. They've done an outstanding job with posting interesting and unique content that is relevant to the mission of AACR. Keep up the good work you two! If you haven't done so already, please take a moment to support YOUR roundtable by visiting facebook.com/saa.aacr and twitter.com/aacr_roundtable.

In an attempt to increase the roundtable's involvement within and outside of SAA, and to serve as an extension of your membership, Courtney and I are implementing fun and engaging initiatives designed to promote diversity within archival collections and in the profession.

One such program I'm excited to introduce is our book club. The purpose of the AACR Summer Reading Series is to explore nonfiction literature pertaining

to people of color. Our book for the month of June is the *New York Times* bestseller *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. This in-depth account explores the life of a poor African American woman's unsolicited contribution to medicine, known as HeLa cells, and her family's discovery of the woman they never knew.

I hope you will consider joining me in this endeavor. Be on the lookout for information regarding the virtual book discussion. If you have any book recommendations, please feel free to contact me at boothsd@gmail.com.

Until next time, Happy Summer and Happy Reading!

Photos in the City

When it comes to creating digital access to historical records, the focus is often on academic institutions or cultural heritage organizations; however, municipal organizations have been showing innovation in a number of recently released collections. Two unique portals are [PhillyHistory.org](http://www.phillyhistory.org) and the New York City Municipal Archives Online Gallery. Both collections use municipal photographs to document their respective city's history, both cultural and civic.

[PhillyHistory.org](http://www.phillyhistory.org) is a searchable photograph database and all materials

have been assigned a geographic location so that materials are discoverable not only by date and keyword, but by approximate addresses, neighborhoods, and place names as well. The website's functionality also includes a mobile application.



While the Philadelphia City Archive is one of the largest municipal archives, containing over 2 million photographs, the [PhillyHistory.org](http://www.phillyhistory.org) project was a collaborative effort with additional scanned materials contributed by The Athenaeum of Philadelphia and The Philadelphia Water Department. Funding sources included the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. For more information, please <http://www.phillyhistory.org/>

Released less than a month ago, the New York City Municipal Archives Online Gallery contains over 2 million photographs that document multiple facets of the city from sources as varied as the Depression-era Works Progress Administration, the New York City Police Department, and the Board of Education. Unique finds include historic pictures of Harlem, market photographs that capture the city's ethnic



Brooklyn Bridge

and culinary diversity, as well as early photos of historic landmarks. The project was four years in the making and will continue to grow with new additions. Visit

<http://nycma.lunaimaging.com/> to take a tour of history.

UNC Exhibit, Programs Encourage African-American Families to Preserve Their History

by Holly Smith
UNC, Chapel Hill

Southern Roots, Enduring Bonds: African American Families in North Carolina will be on view in the Southern Historical Collection (4th floor) of Wilson Library at UNC through July 1, 2012. The exhibit will mark the launch of the African American Family Documentation Initiative in the Southern Historical Collection (SHC). This initiative focuses on collaborating with black families in the South, particularly North Carolina, to share and preserve their stories through acquisition of collections, exhibits, public programming, and other outreach.

The focal point of the exhibit will be photographs, letters, and documents from the newly acquired Lewis Family Collection (http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/l/Lewis_Family.html). Pioneering broadcaster J.D. Lewis Jr. was North Carolina's first African American radio announcer, hired at WRAL in 1947. For nearly five decades, he was a leading local figure on radio and television, including as host of "Teenage Frolic," a popular weekly dance program that debuted in 1958 on WRAL television

The Lively Morgue

The *New York Times* recently started publishing "The Lively Morgue," a site which posts a few pictures every week from the newspaper's sizeable library of photographs. Because of the NYT's scope, the pictures capture everything from behind-the-scenes on film sets to public works to international politics. Photos include captions and dates and are searchable by keyword tags. Photos with a more detailed description are available at the "Lens" blog.

The Lively Morgue
<http://livelymorgue.tumblr.com/>

Lens
<http://lens.blogs.nytimes.com/>



and aired until 1982. Also on exhibit will be items relating to Civil Rights activist Floyd McKissick and his family, and other materials related to African American families in Durham, Raleigh, and across North Carolina.



Lewis's daughter, Yvonne Lewis Holley, and her family chose to donate their father's papers to the SHC in order to help preserve their family legacy.

An exhibit opening was held on March 20th, and featured remarks from Ms. Holley; Dr. Reginald Hildebrand of UNC; Dr. Joshua Davis, whose research includes African American radio; and Geoff Hathaway, a musician/producer who performed on "Teen Frolic" in the 1970s.

Wilson Library staff also conducted a workshop on researching and preserving African American history on Saturday, April 14. The workshop focused on tips for conducting genealogical research as well as basic preservation techniques for family collections.

For more information, please see <http://www.lib.unc.edu/blogs/afam/> and select the "African American Family Documentation Initiative" tab.

Concentric Circles: Harlem's African American Jews

(adapted from "The Jews of Harlem" in the NYT)



Some of the earliest reports of New York African American Jews date around the turn of the 20th century with sporadic anecdotal narratives appearing

in both African American and Jewish newspapers. By the 1920s, New York City was an amalgamation of races, ethnicities, and religions and as the Black Jewish community solidified, the number of narratives about their presence and practice increased. Early congregations included the Commandment Keepers and the Moorish Zionist Temple. Records for these early groups are scarce but it is this sparsely documented history that Marlane Glicksman is trying to capture in her documentary film "The Commandment Keepers."

The Commandment Keepers Synagogue was founded in Harlem in 1919 by Wentworth A. Matthew, an African American rabbi. At that time, Harlem included sizeable Jewish and African American populations and each group had its own distinct culture. Thus, the film not only documents the congregation's background but also examines definitions of race, identity, and the limits of social and cultural acceptance. Her research resources included collections at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black

Culture and photographer Larence Shustak's documentary photographs of Harlem Jews in the 1960s.

To learn more about the film, go to <http://thecommandmentkeepers.net/crew.htm>. Click **here** for the New York Times profile on Marlaine Glicksman.

What They Captured, What We Remembered

by Cheylon Woods

When I decided to become a public history professional I made a personal vow to help interpret the history of all people. I wanted them to understand and value their stories as part of the Great American Story, and I quickly realized that the best way to do this was through archiving.

Throughout my professional development I've come to realize that many archives have photo collections that are intellectually and descriptively incomplete. While this is a problem for the educational usability of the collection, it is an awesome opportunity to actively involve the public in collection processing, impart a feeling of importance and stewardship within the communities, and publicize the archive.

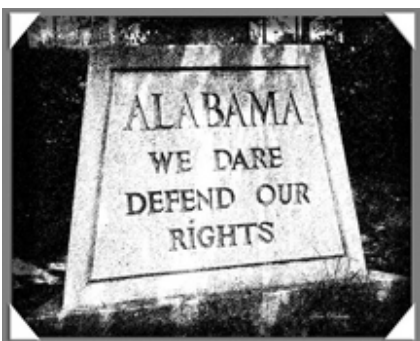


On March 24, 2012, I, in conjunction with the Alabama Department of Archives and History and the Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center, hosted a public program entitled "What They Captured and What We Remember." This event had a two-fold purpose, the first to gather information about the people and events photographed in Tuskegee by Jim Pepler during his years as a Southern Courier photographer, and to inform the community that the Alabama Department of Archives and History has collections that may be of importance and of use to them. The second purpose of this program was to generate honest conversation about civil rights and the Civil Rights Movement in Tuskegee, Alabama.

The event was free and open to the public, and approximately 30 people were in attendance. Most of those who attended and participated had first-hand recollections of the Civil Rights Movement. Many were also former Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Tuskegee Institute Advancement League (TIAL) members and had participated in the protests documented in the photographs.

All of the attendees provided important information about the photo collection. In addition to identifying as many people as they could, they also provided insight into life in Tuskegee during the 1960s. They discussed the different social spheres within the town and how those circles interpreted the Civil Rights Movement in general.

One very interesting point that was discussed was the idea of silent supporters. Many of the former members of the above-mentioned civil rights organizations noted that the parents of demonstrators were always present to make sure that their children were not hurt during protests. They made it clear that this did not mean that the parents always supported the cause, but they always supported their children.



Another example of the silent supporter was that most, if not all, of the white agitators were actually “outsiders.” This was particularly important because it implied that although White Tuskegee citizens could not openly support the movement, they did not support the violence and mistreatment of the protestors.

In addition to gathering some insightful information, there has also been increased interest in the collection as a whole. In the week following the program there were a number of offers to host the program and several community members and Tuskegee alums came to the archives to help identify people in the photographs.

Interested in Contributing?

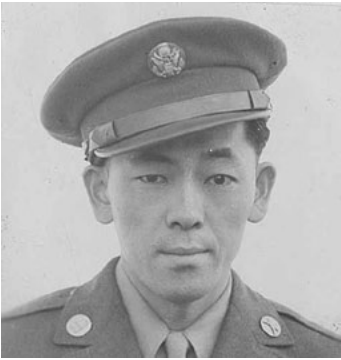
The Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable is currently seeking submissions for its quarterly newsletter. We welcome:

- * articles about current news and trends
- * op-ed and perspective pieces on topical issues
- * descriptions of and examples from digitization initiatives
- * excerpts from developing or recently completed research projects and scholarly writings
- * institutional profiles and projects
- * professional updates
- * book reviews

Article length should be between 300-500 words. Shorter or longer pieces may be accepted upon prior approval. Submissions should follow and will be edited according to the Chicago Manual of Style. Due to limited space, please use in-text citations and include a bibliography at the end. Editors reserve the right to make editorial revisions for clarity and brevity. Substantial changes will be submitted for author approval before publication.

We look forward to hearing from you!

In the News



Immigration files originally targeted for storage or disposal were recently saved by the San Francisco Federal Records Center. The materials are a unique resource, not only from a genealogical standpoint, but also for their contribution to a fuller and more accurately representative historical record. 43,000 case files were released in phase one, documenting immigration case files prior to 1910.

The records of Yasser Arafat, former chairman of the Palestinian Authority, are currently being held in Tunis by the Tunisian government. The Palestinian Authority, chaired by Mahmoud Abbas, is attempting to obtain ownership of the materials as are Arafat's widow and the Hamas group. Dispute over ownership of the archives has been ongoing as reports in early 2011 indicated that at the time, both the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Liberation Organization were seeking ownership. The materials are said to contain information such as funding sources and attack plans.



The Southern Christian Leadership Conference's archives, located at Emory University, are now publicly available. The sizeable collection is over 400 linear feet and documents the organization from 1968 until 2007 and includes AV material, photographs, and administrative records. Also included is evidence of such activities as boycotts, fundraisers, and rallies. Availability of the materials was made possible by a generous CLIR grant to uncover and create access to hidden collections.

The SCLC was founded in 1957 by, among others, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., social activist Bayard Rustin, and Reverend C.K. Steele. As King was assassinated in 1968, the materials in the collection document the organization under subsequent leadership including Ralph David Abernathy (1968-1977), Joseph Lowery (1977-1997), and Martin Luther King III (1997-2004).

Announcements

(2) AACR Officer Positions Now Open

Beginning in August 2012, the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable will have two available officer positions: newsletter editor and webmaster. Duties for these respective positions include but are not limited to:

Newsletter Editor

- solicit and write newsletter content
- edit accepted submissions and contact authors for editorial changes
- design the cover and layout of the newsletter
- maintain the newsletter page in Drupal and upload new content

Webmaster

- act as AACR's liaison to SAA for technical issues
- maintain the Drupal share for AACR, including adding, removing, and modifying pages and menus
- work with the other officers to configure content for presentation
- open new social media accounts as needed
- provide guidance to social media interns as needed

Interested candidates should contact Rabia Gibbs (rgibbs4@utk.edu) for the newsletter editor position and Eugenia Kim (eugeniakim@purdue.edu) for the webmaster position.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kansas City, Here We Come! JCLC Registration Now Open

Kansas City will soon be the host to the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC). Housing and registration for the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color, Sept. 19-23,

2012, will open on March 1st. For complete details, visit Housing & Registration at www.jclc-conference.org

Located in the heart of downtown, the Crown Center offers attendees luxurious accommodations at the Westin Kansas City and Sheraton Kansas City along with three levels of great shopping, dining and entertainment. JCLC hotel rates start at \$139.

JCLC is a conference for everyone! Emmy® winner Sonia Manzano, voted one of the most influential Hispanics by People en Espanol for her work playing Maria on "Sesame Street," will welcome attendees at the opening keynote. There will be numerous opportunities to network and socialize, including an opening reception at the beautiful Kansas City Public Library's central branch. JCLC provides a unique setting for learning with three pre-conferences and more than 70 concurrent sessions in five tracks—Advocacy, Outreach and Collaboration; Collections, Programs and Services; Deep Diversity and Cultural Exchange; Leadership, Management and Organizational Development; and Technology and Innovation. Author luncheons will allow attendees to get up close and personal with award-winning authors, including Lauren Myracle and Sharon Flake, and a busy exhibit hall will feature the latest from library vendors and partners.

JCLC is sponsored by the five associations of ethnic librarians—the American Indian Library Association (AILA), the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), and REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking. JCLC is an experience like no other. See you in Kansas City!