



ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Special Elections Edition

Mark your calendar for important upcoming events

First—Six weeks from today online voting will end for the 2021 Oral History Association elections for first vice president, OHA Council and Nominating Committee members. Here is the form to cast your ballot: <https://oha.memberclicks.net/2021-election>. Rather than waiting six weeks to vote, you could go ahead and do it now!

Next—Be sure you're set for this year's Virtual Annual Meeting scheduled for Oct. 9-14. Conference sessions will commence Oct. 11. Registration will open Aug. 15, when the preliminary schedule also will be published. Look for details in the August **OHA Newsletter** and online at www.oralhistory.org.

New look for OHA elections

The OHA Nominating Committee adopted a new approach to this year's elections. You'll find two candidates for first vice president and three candidates for each council seat. Additionally, six candidates are running for three seats on the Nominating Committee. Vote for up to three candidates, with the top three vote-getters winning vacant slots. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order of last name.

The Nominating Committee offers a detailed explanation of its rationale for the new election format, which you can read here:

<https://www.oralhistory.org/2021/07/15/nominating-committee-employs-new-approach-to-elections/>



Candidates for First Vice President:

Kelly Navies Biography



Kelly Elaine Navies is the museum specialist in oral history for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). As such, she coordinates all aspects of the museum's oral

history initiative. Navies' journey as an oral historian began more than 30 years ago when she was an undergraduate in African American Studies at UC

Berkeley. Her passion for oral history and African American stories led her to graduate studies at UNC Chapel Hill, where she worked with the Southern Oral History Program. She also holds a master's degree in library and information science from the Catholic University of America.

Navies is a published poet and writer whose works can be found in several anthologies. Her research and writing illuminate the connection between poetry and oral history.

Navies has been active in the OHA for the past seven years and has served on the Nominating Committee and the Executive Search Committee. She was on the planning committee for the 2014 OHA Annual Conference and was co-chair of the Planning Committee for the 2020 OHA Annual Conference.

Personal Statement

I am honored to be nominated for this leadership role in the OHA. I attended and presented at my first OHA Annual Conference over 20 years ago when I was a graduate student at UNC Chapel Hill. Back then, as now, I found the OHA to be a welcoming professional organization, open to oral historians from many academic disciplines and to non-academic practitioners as well. However, I was disappointed by the lack of representation by other African Americans, Indigenous and people of color. Over the years, I have seen these numbers grow, but I do believe there is more we can do as organization to nurture a community that is not only diverse professionally, but also culturally and philosophically.

If elected first vice president, I would build upon and continue efforts to create an active membership and leadership that is reflective of the full panorama of the oral history community. I would also encourage the growth of an institutional culture that nurtures and supports oral history research and programming that push us to confront difficult questions and go beyond traditional scholarship. Finally, oral history is a multi-faceted discipline that magnifies the power of storytelling as a catalyst for social change and human transformation. I would like to see the good work of the OHA resonate beyond the walls of this organization.

Sara Sinclair Biography

Sara Sinclair is an oral historian, editor and educator of Cree-Ojibwa and German-Jewish descent. A graduate of Columbia University's Oral History Master of Arts program, Sinclair now teaches in the program. Her book of



contemporary
Indigenous oral
histories, *How We
Go Home: Voices
from Indigenous
North America*, was
released with Voice
of
Witness/Haymarket
Books in October

2020. She was the project manager and lead interviewer for Columbia Center for Oral History Research's [CCOHR] Robert Rauschenberg Oral History Project. With Peter Bearman and Mary Marshall Clark, Sinclair edited a book from these narratives (Columbia University Press, 2019). She currently contributes to the CCOHR Covid-19 Oral History, Narrative and Memory Archive and the Obama Presidency Oral History.

Other current and previous clients include the Whitney Museum of American Art, Museum of the City of New York, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and the International Labour Organization. Sinclair began attending OHA conferences in 2014. She currently serves as OHA Program Committee co-chair.

Personal Statement

I believe in the power of our field to make meaningful changes to people's lives. I love oral history and oral historians; I am proud to belong to a field that demonstrates its care through curiosity. Because I value our work, I am interested in how to make it more sustainable for those who practice it. I would like to see the OHA take on a practical role in supporting the work of those who are asking: how can we create more stable work lives for oral historians; how can we use our skills to seek employment opportunities in adjacent fields; and how might we introduce our work to professions that don't yet know how much they might benefit from our skills.

As an organization whose practitioners focus on individuals and other organizations' origin stories, I would also love to see OHA strengthen its intergenerational ties internally. I would like to see the OHA amplify the voices of our field's elders so the rest of us can hear stories about how we became the organization we are today, and in parallel, who we left out, whose ears, hearts, minds and voices we should be working to bring back into our fold. I would like

to see the OHA explore a range of oral history practices that embrace different ways of knowing and pursue not only a diverse membership but also promote diverse expressions of what it means to “do” oral history.

I would be honored to serve an organization whose members have taught me so much.

Candidates for OHA Council

Council Seat 1: Alissa Funderburk, Christy Hyman, Rachel Mears

Alissa Rae Funderburk Biography



Alissa Rae Funderburk is the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation funded oral historian for the Margaret Walker Center at the HBCU Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. She maintains an oral history archive dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and dissemination of African American history and culture. Previously, she created an oral history course for high school students at the Roger Lehecka

Double Discovery Center and conducted freelance oral history interviews for the city of Jersey City, New Jersey.

While completing coursework in the oral history master’s program at Columbia University, she served as the deputy director of the Columbia Life Histories Project. Her OHMA thesis on the religious and spiritual experiences of Black men in New York City was based on her undergraduate studies of race, culture, religion and the African diaspora. She graduated from Columbia College in 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in anthropology.

Funderburk has been a member of the OHA since attending the annual meeting in 2018.

Personal Statement

It is a true honor to be nominated for the OHA Council so early in my career as an oral historian, and I am grateful for any opportunity to contribute my growing skills and knowledge to the OHA through my increased involvement. I am running for the council because I value oral history as a way to question, listen, record and preserve all of the different perspectives of the world we live in, and having more diversity within this body of oral history practitioners only adds to that.

I respect and support the values of the OHA because my time spent teaching and learning oral history methods has made me not only a better academic but a better person outside the classroom as well. This betterment led to my recently creating a Black Oral Historian Network with a monthly Zoom power hour in an effort to build even more community around those values. If elected to the OHA Council I plan to continue building an atmosphere of belonging for more members by further broadening the selection of unique candidates for future nominations. To be of such a greater service to our community of oral history practitioners through the OHA would be an immense privilege.

Christy Hyman Biography

Christy Hyman is a cultural worker, environmental advocate, griefworker (as a bereaved mother) and Ph.D. candidate in geography at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her cultural work has spanned heritage communities in eastern North Carolina, southcentral Virginia, southwest Missouri, and Alaska's Seward Peninsula. It was within these experiences of documenting cultural life and resilience that Hyman witnessed the memorialization of great triumph, but also tremendous pain. Her own story of losing her son Ricky during the pandemic provided a heightened awareness of how, when and to whom a life story can be told.

Hyman's service commitments include the OHA Social Justice Principles and Best Practices Task Force, Great Dismal Swamp Stakeholder Collaborative and the People Not Property-Slavery Deeds Working Group. Hyman also works with environmental justice firms to document the stories of human- environmental connections to landscape.

Her dissertation focuses on African-American efforts toward cultural

and political assertion in the Great Dismal Swamp region during the antebellum era as well as the attendant social and environmental costs of human/landscape resource exploitation.

Personal Statement

I extend my kindest wishes to you as we continue to grapple with the ongoing adjustments needed to survive and hopefully thrive in the aftermath of the era of COVID-19. As a scholarly community and individually we have contended with the challenges and opportunity of this time.

I am dedicated to expressing reverence for every human, for the Earth and all cultural communities. My time on the Social Justice Principles and Best Practices Task Force has added to my cultivation of ethical imperatives for connecting with the communities for which our work is accountable. As a discipline, oral history contains an inherent dynamism because it seeks to reveal histories that are not documented in print archives. My principles rooted in social justice foreground the considerations and needs of marginalized communities in tandem with documenting their stories.

If elected, I will promise to uphold the concerns of marginalized communities in the strategic planning process, and I will honor the voices of every worker within and beyond our community. Together, we will use the lessons of this difficult past year to benefit the discipline and uplift communities.

Rachel Mears Biography

Rachel Mears has been the head of collections, access, preservation and analysis for the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress since 2009. Overseeing the team that manages more than 111,000 (and growing) collections of U.S. veterans' oral histories and personal narratives, she draws





upon her academic roots in folklife as well as insights gained from working with previous congressional projects, Local Legacies and the Women's Research and Education Institute.

Mears received a master's in American studies with a concentration in folklife from the George Washington University. She has been attending OHA meetings since 2010 and has felt enriched by supporting committees such as the Oral History Principles and Best Practices Task Force. Service on various nonprofit boards in her community also has led her to an

appreciation of the deepened experiences gained from engagement.

Personal Statement

I have worked on a public participation oral history projects for more than 20 years. In that time, I have had the privilege to see firsthand the role oral history can serve in amplifying experiences of multiple communities. Introducing people to the field of oral history has been a highlight of my career and collaborating with and learning from OHA colleagues has been essential to that experience. The warmth and professionalism of OHA drew me in, but the commitment to social justice as well as the organization's willingness to engage in hard conversations and reflections has sustained me, and I would be honored to continue this important work.

Council Seat 2: Tami Albin, Zaheer Ali, Anne Balay

Tami Albin Biography

Tami Albin is an associate librarian at the University of Kansas and director of "Under the Rainbow: Oral Histories of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer People in Kansas." Her involvement in OHA dates to



2008. She has served as chair of the Committee on Diversity, and as a member of the Program Committee, Scholarship Committee, Teaching Awards Committee and the Mentoring Program.

Albin has served as a consultant and adviser to numerous projects, including the Lecompton Homefront World War II Oral History Project (Lecompton, Kansas), the Kansas State

Legislature Oral History Project (Topeka, Kansas) and the Gay and Lesbian Archive of Mid America (GLAMA) Oral History Project (Kansas City, Missouri). She has led oral history workshops and discussions across Kansas. At the University of Kansas, she has led oral history workshops, consulted with faculty, staff and students on their oral history projects and is a regular guest lecturer on oral history methods in many classes.

Personal Statement

I realize it's incredibly cheesy to say, "I love oral history," but it's true. Let me tell you why. In my mind oral history is a 3D model made out of Lego® elements. Different parts of the model represent the various aspects of oral history. As we move the 3D model around and look at it from different angles, we can see new possibilities and visions, open new directions for oral history and push ourselves to new challenges with the work we're presently doing. I love Lego®, too, but the point of this comparison is to appreciate the extent to which oral history allows us to understand the complexity and nuance of people's experiences, that we may otherwise see. I would be proud to bring my love of oral history (and Lego®), and interconnected passions for meta-literacy, inclusion and social justice to the OHA Council.

Zaheer Ali Biography

For nearly two decades, Zaheer Ali has worked as an oral historian whose interviews have informed a Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of

Malcolm X, spawned a viral video on Muslim bakers and inspired a critically acclaimed art installation. His current work focuses on leveraging the power of storytelling for social and cultural change as an Open Society Foundations Soros Equality Fellow for 2020-21, as a public narrative coach for organizations like the El-Hibri Foundation and as an adviser on several other initiatives. Ali also is an executive producer of “American Muslims: A History Revealed,” an NEH-funded short-form film series and feature length documentary exploring untold histories of Muslims in the United States.



Ali has taught for more than a decade as an adjunct lecturer at New York University. He also is teaching a course on oral history research methods as part of Columbia University’s Oral History Master of Arts program. He holds a bachelor’s degree with a concentration in Afro-American studies from Harvard University and master’s degrees in philosophy and history from Columbia University.

Personal Statement

I came to oral history years ago as a historian seeking primary sources that could help tell the story of communities that were marginalized, ignored and silenced in traditional archives. What I found was so much more: beyond sources to cite, I encountered a whole field devoted to amplifying voices and centering ethical practices that honor and respect the humanness of those voices and the experiences they narrate. I am running for OHA Council because I believe those practices are critical to our craft and, just as importantly, to the broader (and loftier) work of facilitating a more just, equitable, pluralist society.

In recent years, I have heard everyone from journalists to activists to foundations hail “the power of storytelling” and even name their work “oral history,” often without any training, methodology or ethical concerns. Rather than respond with expertise gatekeeping, I would like to see OHA continue to emphasize oral history as a formal discipline and oral historians as uniquely

trained to tap into the power of storytelling (and story-listening!).

I am particularly interested in working with OHA members to design strategies for increased visibility of our work so that oral history can be more viable as a profession and our projects more sustainable. The collective wisdom in our ranks is essential to enhancing the work of the next generation of oral historians, and I would like to help facilitate that process.

Anne Balay Biography



Anne Balay is a labor organizer and an oral historian. Balay earned a Ph.D. in English in 1994 from the University of Chicago and has also worked as a professor, a car mechanic and a semi-truck driver. Balay works to make visible, and then dismantle, barriers dividing blue-collar labor and academic research.

With two books (*Steel Closets: Voices of Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Steelworkers* and *Semi Queer: Inside the Lives of Gay, Trans, and Black Truck Drivers*) and numerous scholarly and mass media publications, Balay imagines how oral history, social justice and queer theory can collectively transform the lives of precarious workers. Balay has served on the Executive Board of the Labor and Working-Class History Association and was its first designated independent scholar representative. She also serves on the Social Justice Task Force of the OHA.

Personal Statement

I have worked outside the academy as much as inside it, and my oral histories unsettle the barriers between these domains. I believe that oral history and queer scholarship can foster and challenge each other when

engaged in from both within and outside academic disciplines and institutions. Queer theory and oral history both gestated in elite institutions, and that shapes each field in ways that are more visible from outside institutional settings. Therefore, the OHA needs sliding scale membership fees that slide all the way down to nothing, and we need to run conferences that center the words and the needs of narrators who are present in body as well as in words.

Candidates for Nominating Committee

Adrienne Cain Biography



Adrienne Cain is a librarian, oral historian and archivist currently serving as assistant director of the Institute for Oral History and lecturer at Baylor University. She provides training and workshops to community groups, students, educators and researchers who desire to create an oral history project for their neighborhoods, classrooms, communities and research. She also is secretary-treasurer of the Texas Oral History Association.

Cain has presented her work and research on oral history use and methodology at regional, national and international conferences. Her oral history work focuses on ethical and legal considerations for oral history as well as the Black/African American experience as told through oral histories.

Cain has been an active member of OHA previously serving on the Diversity Committee, the New Professionals Task Force, Scholarship Committee, Principles and Best Practices Task Force, 2017 Program

Committee and as 2019 Program Co-Chair (Salt Lake City).

Personal Statement

In my almost 10 years of membership in OHA, I have served the organization in several volunteer and appointed positions. I often brag about OHA being the best and most welcoming organization I have ever been a part of, and I believe many other members would agree. I have a unique network and experience with oral history as someone who was exposed to oral history during a graduate internship with a government entity, curated oral history collections within a public library system and is now working at an academic oral history institute.

I would be honored to serve on OHA's Nominating Committee, which is responsible for helping shape the leadership and future of OHA. If elected, I aim to help create a leadership that reflects the diversity of our organization, including the diversity of oral history backgrounds whether one be an independent practitioner, affiliated with an oral history program or somewhere outside or in between. In my five years as secretary-treasurer of TOHA, I have learned that many amazing oral history projects and programs are happening right now that aren't necessarily in the spotlight. I hope to invite and include individuals behind these projects and programs to see what contributions they can make to our growing organization.

Juan David Coronado Biography

Juan David Coronado is a *fronterizo* from the Río Grande Valley of South Texas. He is assistant professor of Latino and public history at Central Connecticut State University and coordinator of Latino & Puerto Rican studies. A social and oral historian, Coronado's research and teaching interests include the Latino military experience, Chicana/o/x history, oral history and Latina/o/x history with an



emphasis on class and gender.

In his award-winning book, *"I'm Not Gonna Die in this Damn Place": Manliness, Identity, and Survival of the Mexican American Vietnam Prisoner of War* (2018), Coronado shares the oral histories of Latino POWs.

From 2015-2019, he was the lead interviewer for the Oral History of Latinos in Michigan at the Julian Samora Research Institute at Michigan State University. Coronado previously served as co-president of the Southwest Oral History Association.

Personal Statement

Having attended and participated in the past six Oral History Association annual meetings, I am pleased to take a more active role in the organization by declaring interest in the Nominating Committee.

As you know, OHA is home to an array of practitioners who continuously strive to add previously silenced voices to the historical narrative all while maintaining a humane and dedicated disposition. These are qualities that are reflective of who I am as an oral historian, and I find them welcoming in the organization.

Oral history is beyond a methodology. It is a vehicle that brings inclusivity to the field of history and expands the body of knowledge. I have dedicated the better part of the past two decades recording the oral histories of Latino veterans and their wives, baseball players and community members. Their stories further enrich not only the history of Latinos living in the U.S., but the overall historical record. If elected to the Nominating Committee, I will bring the same passion and compassion that I bring to my work in oral history to OHA.

Andrew Davenport Biography

Andrew M. Davenport is the public historian at the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc. and manager of Monticello's Getting Word African American Oral History Project, which records and archives the family histories of descendants of people enslaved by Thomas Jefferson. He is a Ph.D. candidate in U.S. history at Georgetown University and since 2019 has been a researcher and oral historian at the Georgetown Slavery Archive. Davenport has published in Lapham's Quarterly, Los Angeles Review of Books,

Smithsonian Magazine, and his first two academic articles are forthcoming in edited collections.

Davenport has taught middle school history at Brooklyn Jesuit Prep, high school history at Fairfield College Preparatory School and African American art history at Fairfield University. He earned a B.A. in English from Kenyon College, an M.A. in American Studies from Fairfield University and an M.A. in U.S. history from Georgetown University.



Personal Statement

As a member of the Nominating Committee, I will include, recruit and advocate for the current and next generations of leaders of the OHA. As an interdisciplinary scholar of U.S. slavery and its legacies and one who often works with and records the histories of descendant communities, I know that our practice proceeds at the speed of trust and that ethical stewardship is forged through communicating to one another in spite of the challenges we face.

As I work to include and recruit oral historians to our leadership, I will continue to foster a spirit of fellowship and connectedness throughout our organization. Our discipline is at its best when we are inclusive, reflective and, as ever, when we are listening. I will keep my ear to the ground to seek a talented and diverse slate of candidates for OHA's leadership. Thank you for considering my candidacy to the Nominating Committee.

Shanna Farrell Biography

Shanna Farrell is an interviewer at UC Berkeley's Oral History Center (OHC), where she works on a wide variety of projects and specializes in cultural and environmental history. She has conducted close to 200 interviews during her tenure with the OHC. She has headed the center's educational



programming, including the Introductory Workshop and Advanced Oral History Summer Institute, since 2013. She served as the co-chair for the 2020 Oral History Association conference. She also produces OHC's podcast, *The Berkeley Remix*.

Farrell uses oral history interviewing techniques in her freelance writing projects and is the author of two books, *A Good Drink: In Pursuit of Sustainable Spirits* (which will be published by Island Press on Sept. 16, 2021) and *Bay Area Cocktails: A History of Culture, Community and Craft*. She holds an interdisciplinary master's degree from New York

University and an M.A. in oral history from Columbia University.

Personal Statement

I am a passionate member of the oral history community and have been a proud member of the Oral History Association since 2012. I am committed to diversifying the voices that are part of the historical record and making oral history--in both practice and theory--accessible to myriad audiences. If elected to the Nominating Committee, I will work to nominate people who can make strides in the field of oral history and engage with issues that are meaningful and pressing.

In addition to drawing on my connections with those who have existing profiles in the field, I will cull candidates from the relationships that I have with newcomers I meet through the OHC's educational programming. In addition to seasoned practitioners, I will seek up-and-comers who can bring fresh perspectives and diverse experiences--in terms of their background, life experience, community ties, training and research interests--to this work.

Tiffany Gonzalez Biography



Tiffany Gonzalez is an assistant professor of history at James Madison University. She earned her Ph.D. from Texas A&M University in August 2020. Previously, Gonzalez held the Bonquios Postdoctoral Fellowship in Women's History at Tulane University.

Gonzalez specializes in Mexican American/Latinx, American politics and women & gender history. In her current research, she is examining the political labor that Chicanas conducted to make an entry for themselves and other Mexican American women to engage with Texas and at-large U.S. politics in the 1970s and beyond. Her work has received recognition from the American Association of University Women, Coalition for Western Women's History, the Organization of American Historians and several other respected organizations.

Personal Statement

I am thrilled to be a candidate for the Oral History Association, where I am committed to fostering diversity and inclusivity and helping recruit committed leaders who value the mission and principles that form the organization. I am devoted to ensuring that the organization and its members continue to embrace the values of democracy, inclusivity and equality to bridge the field between the community and the varying institutions of education.

My research is indebted to oral history methodology. Therefore, I have a profound responsibility to ensure the oral testimony of the historical figures I write about--especially those of women and people of color--are preserved for everyone.

My interest in joining the Nominating Committee stems from wanting to ensure that community members, scholars and writers who value oral history have a place in the Oral History Association. I want to make sure that

the members continue to value diversity and the overarching purpose of the organization. By being part of the Nominating Committee, I will contribute to the current organizational community and help recruit leaders who wholeheartedly value the Oral History Association.

Francine D. Spang-Willis Biography



Francine D. Spang-Willis is an oral historian and educator based in Bozeman, Montana. She is of Cheyenne, Pawnee, and settler descent. As the owner of Appearing Flying Woman Consulting, LLC, she collaborates with diverse organizations, communities, and individuals on oral history and community-centered projects.

Spang-Willis holds master's degrees in oral history from Columbia University and in Native

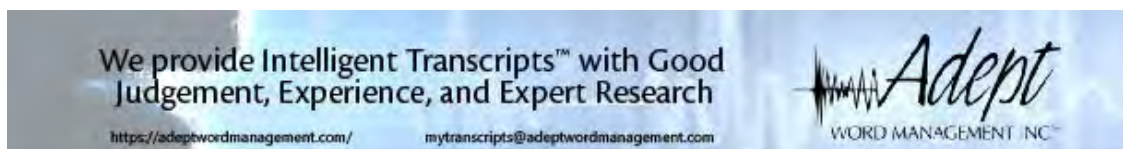
American studies from Montana State University. She has been invited by diverse organizations to share her knowledge and expertise on oral tradition, oral history, project design, settler colonialism processes, Cheyenne leadership, and bison and land recovery and restoration. She also has had diverse roles in higher education, the U.S. government and the nonprofit sector.

Spang-Willis was director of the American Indian Tribal Histories Project (AITHP) at the Western Heritage Center in Billings, Montana, from 2003 to 2009. She and the AITHP team collaborated with Northern Cheyenne, Crow and Chippewa Cree narrators to amplify, share and preserve Indigenous history and culture through storytelling as an oral tradition and oral history method.

She currently serves on the Oral History Association Diversity Committee and the OHMA Anti-Oppression and Oral History Workshop Series Committee.

Personal Statement

I am honored to be nominated to serve on the Oral History Association (OHA) Nominating Committee. I first participated in the OHA conference as a presenter in 2018, and I found the presentations and conversations stimulating and inspiring. If elected, I will help the OHA community include, center and amplify diverse and marginalized perspectives and knowledge. In doing so, I hope to meaningfully contribute to a deeper understanding, dialogue, connection and new processes to benefit the greater whole.



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