



### Fall Conference Plans: October 26, 2024

Plan now to join us for our Fall meeting, held at the Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts. Many thanks to NEHA Vice President Thomas Balcerski and local arrangements for Suffolk, Robert Allison for their work organizing the conference program and handling its orchestration.

Registration is now open at:

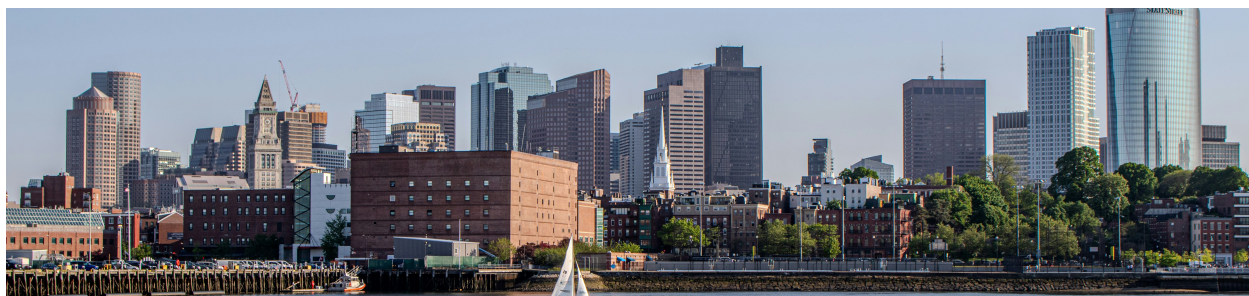
<https://neha.wildapricot.org/events>

**Pre-Registration: \$20 NEHA Members, \$30 non-members. Same-day registration will be \$30.**

**Lunch Buffet: \$30.** Undergraduates attend for free.

To guarantee lunch availability, please sign up online by October 11.

The Fall luncheon business meeting will announce the 2024 James P. Hanlan Book Award and include a plenary session on the history of the New England Historical Association presented by longtime member Clifford Putney of Bentley University



*Boston Harbor. Photo credit: Zoshua Colah*

## Preliminary Conference Program

**Saturday, October 26, 2024**

David J. Sargent Hall, 5th Floor  
110 Tremont St.  
Boston, MA 02108

Conference hashtag #NEHA2024

### Schedule at a Glance

Registration, Complimentary Breakfast	8:30 - 9:00 AM	Smith Commons, 5th Floor
First Morning Sessions (Panels 1 - 4)	9:00 - 10:30 AM	Various 5th Floor
Break	10:30 - 10:45 AM	Smith Commons, 5th Floor
Second Morning Sessions (Panels 5 - 8)	10:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Various 5th Floor
Lunch and Learn Plenary & Business Meeting	12:30 - 1:30 PM	Smith Commons, 5th Floor
Afternoon Sessions (Panels 9 - 11)	1:45 - 3:15 PM	Various 5th Floor
* Quiet Work / Rest / Relaxation	8:30 AM - 3:15 PM	Sargent 5205 Conference Room

### First Morning Sessions, 9:00 am – 10:30 am

#### Panel 1

**Sargent Hall 5220**

#### **Creating the Worlds in New England: Memory, Maritime, and Natural**

**Chair/Comment:** Robert Allison, *Suffolk University*

Steven Pitt, St. Bonaventure University

*"God's Paradox: Boston's Maritime World in the Seventeenth Century"*

Rebecca Taylor, Siena College

*"Exploring Emerson's 'Circles' in the Natural World"*

Kim Richardson, University of South Carolina, Lancaster

*"Memory and Settler Colonialism in Puritan New England"*

#### Panel 2

**Sargent Hall 5250**

#### **World War II & Its Aftereffects: Women, Laws, and Terrorism**

**Chair/Comment:** Eric Cimino, *Molloy University*

Renee Dube, Salve Regina University

*"Forging the Path to the Frontlines: How the Women's Army Corps Expanded the Role of American Women during and after World War II"*

Betsy Wood, Bard Early College

*"'All that Paternalistic Claptrap: How Connecticut Businesswoman Vivien Kellems Made Tax Evasion an American Pastime'"*

Michael Holm, Boston University

*"The Postwar World That Wasn't: Laws of War and Human Rights in the American Imagination, 1939-1945"*

Michael E. Neagle, Nichols College

*"The Utility of Evil: Combating Modern Terrorists in Popular Culture"*

### **Panel 3**

**Sargent Hall 5600**

#### **Americans Abroad and at Home: Traveling and Preserving History**

**Chair/Comment:** Kathryn G. Lamontagne, *Boston University*

Thomas H. Cox, Sam Houston State University

*"'The Heart Knoweth Its Own Bitterness': The Delano Family and Cultural Values in Macau, 1844-1847"*

Edward H. Miller, Northeastern University

*"The Hunt for H.L.: Ambition, Religion, Bigamy and the World's Richest Man"*

Theodore Delisio, Boston University \*

*"Churches, Sustainability, and Spaces: Architectural Preservation in London, St James' Church and St. Martin-in-the-Fields"*

### **Second Morning Sessions, 10:45am – 12:15pm**

#### **Panel 4**

**Sargent Hall 5220**

#### **Digital Humanities and High Impact Opportunities for Students: Research and Teaching with Technology**

**Chair/Comment:** Sean T. Perrone, *Saint Anselm College*

Jody M. Gordon, Wentworth Institute of Technology

*"Digital Archaeology and Web Design: Teaching Transferable Skills through Historical Data"*

David Gary Shaw, Emmei Gardner \*, and Gabriella Dekoven \* , Wentworth Institute of Technology

*“The Medieval Business Trip: Mapping Mobility, Making Society”*

Adam Franklin-Lyons, Daniel DeFraia, and Martin Tran \*, Emerson College

*“Boston’s Smallpox Inoculation Debate: Data Modeling for a Group Research Project”*

Allison K. Lange, Wentworth Institute of Technology

*“Teaching Historical Walking Tours with TikTok”*

### **Panel 5**

**Sargent Hall 5250**

#### **Contested Memories of Suffering and Identity Along the Iron Curtain**

**Chair:** Violeia Ravagnoli, *Emmanuel College*

**Comment:** Melanie Murphy, *Emmanuel College*

Abigail Mullins, *Emmanuel College* \*

*“Over My Dead Body: Recollections of the Katyn and Vinnytsia Massacres”*

Alyssa Martino, *Emmanuel College* \*

*“Believers, Skeptics, and Atheists of Stalin’s ‘Orthodox’ Cult of Personality”*

Evan Decker, *Emmanuel College* \*

*“The Yugoslav Recipes: Gastro-nationalism and Identity through the Building and Deconstruction of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia”*

Emma McCormack, Eastern Connecticut State University University \*

*“McPotempkin Village: Globalization in Post-Soviet Russia”*

### **Panel 6**

**Sargent Hall 5600**

#### **Carry the Torch of Freedom: Education, Civil Rights, and Politics in Modern America**

**Chair/Comment:** Todd Gernes, *Stonehill College*

Timmy Alzamora, Worcester State University

*“The Shortcomings of Social Studies Education in Regards to Reconstruction, and the Need for Greater Standardization in Social Studies Education to Ensure Consistent Learning for All Students”*

Mary Potorti, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

*“‘The bridges that carried us over’: Centering Political Strategies and Tactics in Teaching the Black Freedom Struggle”*

Mia Michael, Wayne State University

*"...we are in fact standing on the shoulders of giants': The Road to the 2014 Domestic Workers Bill of Rights in Massachusetts"*

**Lunch and Business Meeting, 12:15 – 1:00 pm**

**Smith Commons, Floor 5**

**Lunch and Learn Plenary 1:00 – 1:30 pm**

**Smith Commons, Floor 5**

Presiding: Maura Jane Farrelly, Brandeis University

Plenary: Clifford Putney, Bentley University *"Let's Talk: The History of the New England Historical Association"*

## **Afternoon Sessions, 1:45 pm – 3:15 pm**

### **Panel 7**

**Sargent Hall 5220**

**Revolutionary Struggles: Military, Legal, Epistolary and Philosophical**

**Chair/Comment:** Thomas Balcerski, *Eastern Connecticut State University*

Benjamin D. Remillard, Providence College

*"Men at war and the ties that bind: Revolutionary War Patriots of color and their impact off the battlefield"*

Evan Turiano, Wesleyan University

*"Freedom Seekers, Courtroom Rights, and Antislavery Constitutional Thought"*

Troy Paddock, Southern Connecticut State University

*"Different Circles: Libertarianism and Society"*

### **Panel 8**

**Sargent Hall 5220**

**Peak Americana: Pop Music, Punk Rock, and the Olympics**

**Chair/Comment:** Maura Jane Farrelly, *Brandeis University*

Brian Peterson, Shasta College

*"'A Most Rare Champagne': Lloyd Mumm, the Starlight Roof Orchestra, and Covering the Lawrence Welk Orchestra in American Popular Music, 1958"*

Ryan Purcell, Sarah Lawrence College

*"Sounds of the City Collapsing: Punk Rock and the Echoes of Transgender Activism in 1970s New York"*

Erin Redihan, Salve Regina University

*"'We'll be cheering, win, lose, or draw': Ronald Reagan was the Olympic president"*

\* Denotes undergraduate presenter

## Save the Date: NEHA Spring 2025

The Spring 2025 New England Historical Association meeting will be held **Saturday, April 26, 2025** at **Westfield State University** in Westfield, MA.

Our **CFP** will open after the Fall meeting, with proposal deadline **January 15, 2025**. Send proposals and brief CV to: [nehasubmissions@gmail.com](mailto:nehasubmissions@gmail.com)

## Stay Connected

### Social Media

**Twitter / X:** @NEHistoryAssoc

**Threads:** nehistoryassoc

**Bluesky:** @nehistoricalassoc.bsky.social

**Instagram:** @nehistoryassoc

### Join or renew your membership:

[neha.wildapricot.org/join-us](https://neha.wildapricot.org/join-us)

**Website:** [newenglandhistorians.org](https://newenglandhistorians.org)  
Includes latest NEHA updates, past conference programs, prize announcements, newsletter archive, guide for meeting hosting, and our bylaws.

NEHA **Communications Chair** is Ella Howard (Wentworth Institute of Technology), [howarde@wit.edu](mailto:howarde@wit.edu). Please contact her with information, news, or questions about our website and social media.

**Newsletter:** We welcome announcements, calls for papers, fellowship notices, and news suitable for our **newsletter** or for posting to our website. If you have a submission for the Spring 2025 (April) newsletter, please send it to NEHA News editor Allen Horn at [nehanews.editor@gmail.com](mailto:nehanews.editor@gmail.com) by February 15, 2025.

**Book reviews** should be sent to NEHA book review editor, Thomas J. Carty (Springfield College) [tcarty@springfield.edu](mailto:tcarty@springfield.edu) by September 1, 2024. If you have a book you would like to be considered for a future review, mail it to Thomas Carty at: Department of Social Sciences, Springfield College, 263 Alden St., Springfield MA 01109.

## In Memoriam: Philip A. Grant (1932-2024)

Philip A. Grant, Jr, age 91, of Bronxville, New York, passed away on April 3, 2024, of complications from cancer. After receiving his B.S. degree at Boston College, his M.A. at Fordham University, and Ph.D. in United States History at Georgetown University, Dr. Grant taught at St. Peter's College, St. John's University, University of Dayton, CUNY, and Pace University. Dr. Grant grew up in Massachusetts and frequently vacationed on Cape Cod. Philip is survived by Alice, his loving wife of fifty-four years, and by many other family members.

Dr. Grant's publications number over one hundred articles in History and Political Science journals, while his contributions to professional conferences reflect over 500 presentations. We will remember him as one of NEHA's most consistent presenters, contributing his research almost every year in recent years – crafting what amounted to an ongoing lecture series on the political history of New England, focusing on elections, campaigns, and representatives to Congress.

Recent papers he gave at NEHA included the following:

Fall 2009 “*Northern New England and the Repeal of the 3 Prohibition Amendment, 1932-1933*”

Spring 2013 “*The 1948 Truman Campaign in Southern New England*”

Spring 2014 “*Southern New England and the Nineteenth (Woman Suffrage) Amendment to the Constitution of the United States*”

Spring 2015 “*The Congressional Career of Edward P. Boland of Massachusetts*”

Fall 2015 “*The Presidential and Congressional Elections of 1944 in Connecticut*”

Fall 2016 “*The Congressional Career of Charles W. Tobey of New Hampshire*”

Fall 2017 “*The Presidential Election of 1936 in New England*”

Fall 2018 “*New England Congressmen and American Foreign Policy, 1941-1949*”

Fall 2019 “*The Congressional Career of Edmund S. Muskie of Maine*”

Fall 2022 “*The Congressional Career of John Oliver of Massachusetts*”

Fall 2023 “*The Congressional Career of Rosa L. DeLauro of Connecticut, 1991-2023*”

Dr. Grant's final NEHA presentation was given over Zoom, as he was too frail to travel, but still wanted to be part of the event. His loyalty and many contributions to the organization over the years are much appreciated and he will be missed among our colleagues.

### **In Memoriam: James P. Hanlan (1945-2024)**

James P. Hanlan, one of the most important leaders in NEHA's history, passed away on August 17, 2024, at the age of 79. Jim, as he was known to his many friends in NEHA, was the last surviving member of the Worcester triumvirate that ran the association for many years, enabling it to survive into the twenty-first century.

The triumvirate consisted of Jim, an American labor historian at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), and Worcester State University colleagues Bruce Cohen and Peter Holloran. The recipients of lifetime achievement awards from NEHA at its 50th anniversary celebration in 2015, Jim, Peter and Bruce habitually seated themselves in the registration area at association conferences, welcoming conferees (a job at which Jim was

particularly adept, especially to first-timers and graduate students).

Jim served first as secretary, then as Executive Secretary of NEHA for twenty years starting at a time when the organization was at low ebb. He was, for many of us who joined the organization in the last 25 years, “Mr. NEHA.” As Executive Secretary, Jim excelled as a steward of the funds, keeper of the records, and behind-the-scenes organizer of every conference. Martin Menke, who succeeded Jim in that role, remembers Jim knowing “how to coax funds out of the deans of hosting institutions and limit the avarice of university catering services. Under his leadership, NEHA’s portfolio grew steadily, if incrementally. Jim carried a remarkable institutional history of the organization. The membership might elect the presidents, nominating and executive committees, but Jim really ran the organization. When, about 15 years ago, the organization finally had to face the digital age, Jim generously bowed out after decades of service. The organization thanked him by naming its book prize after him in 2009.”

“Jim was a constant cheerful presence at NEHA meetings and a tireless advocate for our regional community of history faculty, public historians, and history enthusiasts,” writes the current Executive Secretary, Tona Hagen, “The organization’s inclusivity and collegiality owe so much to his personal touch over the years.”

Martin remembers, “On a personal level, I learned much from Jim. I appreciated his dry sense of humor, his kindness, his loyalty to longstanding members and officers of the organization, and his commitment to the organization as a group that maintains high standards and, at the same time, welcomes graduate students and early career historians. Personally, Jim was a modest man. He usually wore the same tweed jacket to conferences and had not changed the frame of his glasses in thirty years. He avoided self-promotion. Naming the book prize after him embarrassed him a good deal. In his home life, he spoke fondly of his wife and children. His wife and he must have had a can-do attitude. One time, he came to the conference with a particular twinkle in his eye. He had hired someone to install new windows in his home. The person proved incompetent, so Jim and his wife installed the windows themselves, did a better job, and saved money. He applied that principle of self-help and frugality to NEHA, and it served the organization well.”

A Worcester native, Jim graduated in 1967 from College of the Holy Cross. He also served for many years on the board of trustees for the Goddard Library at Clark University, where he received his M.A. in 1971 and his Ph.D. in 1979. He authored three books on labor history: *The Working Population of Manchester, New Hampshire, 1840-1886* (which he wrote in 1981), *Historical Encyclopedia of American Labor History* (which he co-edited in 2004), and



*The History of Woodbury and Company* (which he co-edited in 2007).

He taught at WPI since 1976, being promoted to full professor in 2005. Jim enjoyed being a professor in the classroom but also repeatedly as director of WPI's Washington internship term, and once at the institution's program in London. "Jim served the University and the department [of humanities and arts] in substantive ways over decades with kindness, generosity, consistency, and an uncommonly even keel," recalls Kathryn M. Moncrief, the Paris Fletcher Distinguished Professor of Humanities at WPI. "He was a former department head and secretary of the faculty, a trusted source of institutional memory, a long-serving parliamentarian, a noted labor historian, a dedicated citizen and benefactor of NEHA, and a devoted teacher, project advisor, mentor and friend."

In addition to serving both NEHA and WPI in his professional capacity, Jim provided leadership to two organizations in his hometown of Southbridge, Massachusetts: St. John Paul II Parish and Boy Scout Troop 160. He was married for 42 years to Gaye D. (Francis) Hanlan until her death in 2014, and he is survived by his three grown children and four grandchildren.

### **In Memoriam: Ronald P. Formisano (1939- 2024)**

We mourn the passing of Ronald Formisano, who served as President of

NEHA from 1984 to 1985. Please view his obituary at <https://www.historians.org/perspectives-article/ronald-p-formisano-1939-2024/>

### **Ways to Get Involved**

***Make a Tax-Deductible Donation.*** We welcome contributions to help support our programs and expand our reach! <https://neha.wildapricot.org/Donate/>

***Contribute a book review*** for our newsletter. Contact: **Tom Carty**, [tcarty@springfield.edu](mailto:tcarty@springfield.edu)

***Volunteer*** at an upcoming conference at check-in or with the local arrangements chair.

### ***Serve on a prize committee***

Book Prize: contact **Marie McDaniel**, [mcdanielm4@southernct.edu](mailto:mcdanielm4@southernct.edu).

Student Paper Prize (Grad / Undergrad): contact **Dominic DeBrincat**, [ddebrincat@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:ddebrincat@missouriwestern.edu)

***Run for office.*** We welcome NEHA members to run for Nominating Committee or the Executive Board; elections are held each spring. Contact us for information about becoming a candidate.

Have your institution ***host an upcoming NEHA conference***; more info on our website, [newenglandhistorians.org](http://newenglandhistorians.org).

## Welcome New Members

Kyle Adams, Gale Academic  
Carolyn Corretti, Bentley University  
Leo Eigen  
Kathleen Kaldis  
Laura Kitchings  
Allison K. Lange, Wentworth Institute of  
Technology  
Samuel Moore, University of Southern New  
Hampshire  
John St. Marie

## NEHA Prizes

NEHA sponsors four annual prizes: book award, research grant, and two student paper awards.

The **James P. Hanlan Book Award** is presented to an author based in New England who has produced an outstanding work of history published in the prior year. It is awarded each fall.

**2023 James P. Hanlan Book Award winner Matthew Delmont** (Dartmouth College), for *Half American: The Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad* (Viking, 2022).

**Criteria:** Monographs on any historical topic, time, or place published in 2024, written by an author who lives or works in New England (or who has done so in the past two years), are eligible for the annual NEHA James P. Hanlan Book Award. The nominated book should represent the best historical writing and scholarship in

any era or field of history. Award certificate and honorarium will be presented to the winner at the next Fall conference.

Any publisher may nominate one book each year by writing to **Book Prize Chair, Marie McDaniel**, Southern Connecticut State University by June 1, 2024. Other members of the committee include Lisa Edwards (UMASS Lowell), Don Wyatt (Middlebury College), and Elizabeth DeWolfe (University of New England).

## NEHA Research Grant

Apply now for the New England Historical Association Research Travel Grant. We recognize how challenging it can be to obtain funding for historical research. We give one grant each year for up to \$1250 to meet the costs of travel and research at libraries, archives, museums, parks, and other historical sites. The grant will be awarded in February 2025. Those eligible to apply must be an active NEHA member for at least four years, who have not previously been awarded this grant, proposing valid academic research that requires the applicant to travel to access relevant materials (including public history projects). Current Board members are not eligible.

If you want to confirm your NEHA membership status or eligibility, please email the Executive Secretary ([neha.execsec@gmail.com](mailto:neha.execsec@gmail.com)). The grant should be used within the calendar year in

which it is awarded. Grant recipients will be expected to present initial findings from their work at a NEHA conference within two years of conducting the research, and to acknowledge the grant in any scholarly publications resulting from it.

**The deadline for the 2025 application season is November 1, 2024.**

To apply complete the application form at <http://www.newenglandhistorians.org/prizes/research-grant/>, plus a 500-750 word project statement, C.V., and budget for use of the grant funds.

Submit your application to NEHA Executive Secretary Tona Hangen at email: [neha.execsec@gmail.com](mailto:neha.execsec@gmail.com).

## Student Paper Prizes

NEHA encourages the participation of students in its conferences and considers papers delivered at a NEHA conference for prizes for the **top graduate student paper** and **top undergraduate student paper**. Panel chairs may nominate papers from their sessions, or students may self-nominate.

Papers given during 2024 meetings will be eligible for the Spring 2025 award. Submit papers to **Student Prize Committee Chair, Dominic DeBrincat** (Missouri Western State University), [ddebrincat@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:ddebrincat@missouriwestern.edu).

## CFPs, Grants and Fellowships

The **American Academy in Rome** awards an annual Rome Prize to 15 scholars working in ancient, medieval, Renaissance and early modern, or modern Italian studies. It also awards 15 fellowships for emerging artists (e.g. architecture, landscape architecture, design, historic preservation and conservation, literature, musical composition, or visual arts). Recipients of the prize study at the academy in Rome. Application deadline is Nov 1. For more information, visit <https://www.aarome.org/apply/rome-prize>

The **American Antiquarian Society** in Worcester offers three broad categories of visiting research fellowships: long-term, short-term, and fellowships for creative and performing artists and writers. For more information, visit [americanantiquarian.org/fellowships](http://americanantiquarian.org/fellowships)

The **American Philosophical Society Library** in Philadelphia offers competitive short-term fellowships to support in-residence research employing its renowned scholarly collections. Applicants with a Ph.D. or advanced Ph.D. candidates or independent scholars may apply for the fellowships, which carry a monthly stipend of \$2000 for 1-3 months. To apply, visit [www.amphilsoc.org/grants/resident.htm](http://www.amphilsoc.org/grants/resident.htm)

The **Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in**

**America** at Radcliffe College offers a variety of research grants to support new scholarship on women, gender, and sexuality. Current grants include summer research fellowships and dissertation research funding. For more information, visit <https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/schlesinger-library/grants>

The **Boston Athenaeum** offers short-term fellowships to support use of its collections for research, publication, curriculum and program development, or other creative projects. Athenaeum fellows are for a residency of 4 weeks. For more information, visit <https://www.bostonathenaeum.org/library/fellowships>

The **Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine**, an alliance of the Boston Medical Library and the Harvard Medical Library, offers two annual fellowships to support research in the history of medicine. There is the largest academic medical library in the nation, with an extensive collection of European medical texts from the 15th to 20th centuries and many other collections. For application information, visit <https://countway.harvard.edu/center-history-medicine/services/fellowships>

**Historic Deerfield** in Deerfield, MA, invites college juniors and seniors to apply for its 9-week, fully-funded Summer Fellowship Program in History and Material Culture. February deadline. For more information, visit <https://www.historic-deerfield.org/sfp>

**Historic New England** provides \$1000 grants to small and mid-sized heritage organizations in each of the six New England states, for historic community preservation. For more information, visit <https://www.historicnewengland.org/helpful-links/awards-programs/community-preservation-grants/>

The **John F. Kennedy Library** offers various research fellowships and grants every year to support scholars who need to use the archival holdings of the JFK Library. For more information, visit <https://www.jfklibrary.org/archives/research-fellowships-grants>

The **Massachusetts Historical Society** offers short-term and long-term research fellowships each academic year. The Society is a participant in the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium. For more information and application deadlines, visit [www.masshist.org/fellowships](http://www.masshist.org/fellowships). Contact [fellowships@masshist.org](mailto:fellowships@masshist.org) or call (617) 646-0577.

The **New England Regional Fellowship Consortium**, a collaboration of 30 major cultural agencies in our region, offers two dozen awards each academic year for a minimum of 8 weeks of research at participating institutions. For more information, visit <http://www.masshist.org/fellowships/nerfc/>

The **Women's Studies Research Center** invites applications to be a Visiting Scholar in residence at Brandeis University for up

to a year. For more information, visit <https://www.brandeis.edu/wsrc/scholars/index.html>

## Future Conferences

### **American Historical Association**

2025: New York City, Jan 3-6

2026: Chicago, Jan 8-11

### **African American Intellectual History Society** ([aaihs.org](http://aaihs.org))

2025: Providence, RI March 14-15

### **African Studies Association**

([africanstudies.org](http://africanstudies.org))

2025: Atlanta, Nov 20-22

### **American Academy of Religion**

([aarweb.org](http://aarweb.org))

Concurrently held with the **Society of Biblical Literature**

2025: Boston, Nov 22-25

### **American Conference for Irish Studies**

([acisweb.org](http://acisweb.org))

2025: Savannah, GA, Feb 23-26

### **American Society for Environmental History** ([aseh.org](http://aseh.org))

2025: Pittsburgh, April 9-13

### **American Studies Association**

([theasa.net](http://theasa.net))

2025: San Juan Puerto Rico, Nov 20-23

2026: Chicago, Nov dates TBA

2026: Atlanta, April 8-11

### **Italian American Studies Association**

([italianamericanstudies.net](http://italianamericanstudies.net))

2025: Long Beach, CA

### **Mormon History Association**

([mormonhistoryassociation.org](http://mormonhistoryassociation.org))

2025: Ogden, UT, June 5-8

### **National Council on Public History**

([ncph.org](http://ncph.org))

2025: Montreal, March 26-29

### **National Women's Studies Association**

([nwsa.org](http://nwsa.org))

2024: Detroit, Nov 14-17

2025: Puerto Rico, Nov 13-16

2026: Atlanta, Nov 5-8

### **North American Conference on British Studies**

([nacbs.org](http://nacbs.org)) in conjunction with the

### **Western Conference on British Studies**

2024: Denver, Nov 15-17

### **Oral History Association** ([oralhistory.org](http://oralhistory.org))

2025: Atlanta, Oct 14-19

### **Organization of American Historians**

([oah.org](http://oah.org))

2025: Chicago, April 3-6

2026: Philadelphia, April 16-19

2027: San Francisco, April 1-4

### **Popular Culture Association / American**

### **Culture Association** ([pcaaca.org](http://pcaaca.org))

2025: New Orleans, April 16-19

### **Social Science History Association**

([ssha.org](http://ssha.org))

2025: Chicago, November 20-23

**Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations** ([shafr.org](http://shafr.org))

2025: Arlington, VA, June 26-28

**Society of Historians of the Early American Republic** ([shear.org](http://shear.org))

2025: Providence, RI, July 17-21

2026: Philadelphia, July 16-19

**World History Association** ([thewha.org](http://thewha.org))

2025: Louisville, KY, June 26-28

## Opportunities for Authors

If you would like to write a book review for **NEHA News**, please contact our book review editor, **Thomas J. Carty**, Springfield College, Department of History, Springfield, MA 01109; [tcarty@springfield.edu](mailto:tcarty@springfield.edu). We have books available for review or you may suggest a good new book you have in hand. Reviews are 600 words and are due in 60 days.

***The Historical Journal of Massachusetts***

(HJM) seeks articles about any aspect of Massachusetts history, culture, politics, and life. HJM is a peer-reviewed journal published twice a year since 1972. HJM is especially interested in articles on the history of recent immigrant communities. Subscriptions are \$12.00 per year, and the acceptance rate is 35%. For submission guidelines see [www.wsc.mass.edu/mhj/](http://www.wsc.mass.edu/mhj/) or email [masshistoryjournal@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:masshistoryjournal@westfield.ma.edu).

**The History Press** ([historypress.net](http://historypress.net)) is looking for local historians and writers who are interested in publishing accessible histories of the towns and communities of New England. The History Press is a traditional, full-service press that focuses exclusively on publishing works of local and regional interest. They publish a wide range of books from brief histories of a town to collections of folklore and essays on the local culture. A typical author has strong ties to their community, and they strive to make their local history more accessible.

**For more information, contact** Edward Mack, commissioning editor, at [Edward.Mack@historypress.net](mailto:Edward.Mack@historypress.net)

***The International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*** (IJHSS), an open access, peer-reviewed and refereed journal, seeks interdisciplinary articles in humanities and the social sciences. If you have questions about the journal, please contact its editor, **J. Sabrina Mims-Cox** ([editor@ijhssnet.com](mailto:editor@ijhssnet.com)).

***The International Journal of Liberal Arts and Social Science*** (IJLASS), a newly established, open access, peer-reviewed journal, seeks all manner of contributions, including articles about history. Send your manuscripts to the editor at [editor@ijlass.org](mailto:editor@ijlass.org), or [editor.ijlass@hotmail.com](mailto:editor.ijlass@hotmail.com).

***The New England Journal of History*** ([www.nejh.org](http://www.nejh.org)) seeks articles and

book reviews for upcoming issues; it is published twice yearly by the New England History Teachers Association, with rolling submission deadlines January 15 and July 15. Please send submissions or inquiries to editor Linda Morse, [editors@nejh.org](mailto:editors@nejh.org).

***The New England Quarterly*** editors invite submissions for their consideration. This historical review of New England life and letters has been published since 1928. NEQ is an open forum dedicated to the exploration and discussion of New England civilization and its effects on the nation and the world. The journal is open to any historical method, and there is no restriction on the time period covered. Features also include brief memoranda, recently discovered documents, reconsiderations of historical controversies, periodic essay reviews, and approximately fifteen book reviews per issue. Manuscripts should be sent to the editor, **Jonathan Chu**, at: [jonathan.chu@umb.edu](mailto:jonathan.chu@umb.edu)

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## Book Reviews

Evan Thomas. *Road To Surrender: Three Men And The Countdown To The End Of World War II*. New York: Random House, 2023.

Evan Thomas has written eleven books, including New York Times best sellers such as *First: Sandra Day O'Connor* and *Being Nixon*. Thomas, a former correspondent and editor at *Time* and *Newsweek*, taught writing and journalism at Princeton and Harvard. He was Ferris Professor of Journalism in Residence from 2007 to 2014 at Princeton. In this new book, Thomas tackles the thorny question of what exactly compelled the Japanese to capitulate in August 1945.

This is a well-traveled road. The author, however, takes a somewhat novel approach. In his well-received *Sea of Thunder* (2006), Thomas selected two American and two Japanese naval officers as his vehicles for describing the World War II Battle of Leyte Gulf (October 1944). In *Road to Surrender*, Thomas recounts Japan's submission through the eyes of American Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, Army Air Force General Carl "Tooe" Spaatz, and Japanese Foreign Minister Shigenori Togo.

While Stimson and Togo often take center stage in analyses of Japan's surrender, Spaatz is an interesting and unconventional selection. Not one of the best-known American generals, he was a commander

of America's air war in Europe. Starting in July 1945, he led the US strategic air war against Japan. Thomas asserted Spaatz's leadership has not been fully appreciated by historians.

A narrative style and chronological approach are used to indicate how the most destructive war in history ended. After a helpful, stage-setting introduction, Chapter 1 opens in March 1945 largely through Stimson's eyes. The individual views and settings change throughout the remaining thirteen chapters, so readers can learn what contributions the three protagonists made to bring about Japan's surrender. The author credits Togo with convincing the Japanese Supreme Council for the Direction of the War to accept surrender, which was not inevitable, according to Thomas.

Despite his skepticism about relying on diaries to relate history, Thomas' conclusions are heavily dependent upon Stimson's, Spaatz's and Togo's diaries, papers, and files. But *Road to Surrender* is much more than a simple narrative of the last few months of World War II.

Throughout, and especially in the epilogue, Thomas tackles the difficult question of whether the atomic bombs were necessary to force the Japanese to give up. The dilemma of attempting precision bombing versus area or terror bombing is addressed. Stimson and Spaatz were concerned about unnecessarily targeting civilians. This is a timely topic today.



Thomas repeatedly stresses that the decision makers in Washington were stuck in a dilemma as old as war: namely, that sometimes, to save lives, it is necessary to take lives, maybe even hundreds of thousands of them. In 2023, when at least two major wars are being fought, this conundrum remains relevant.

Road to Surrender is mainly aimed at the general public, but college undergraduates will benefit from learning how the second world war ended, and even academics will have much to ponder after reading Thomas' latest book.

**Ed Calouro**, Rhode Island College

Alain Munkittrick. *Historic Houses of the Connecticut River Valley*. Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2023.

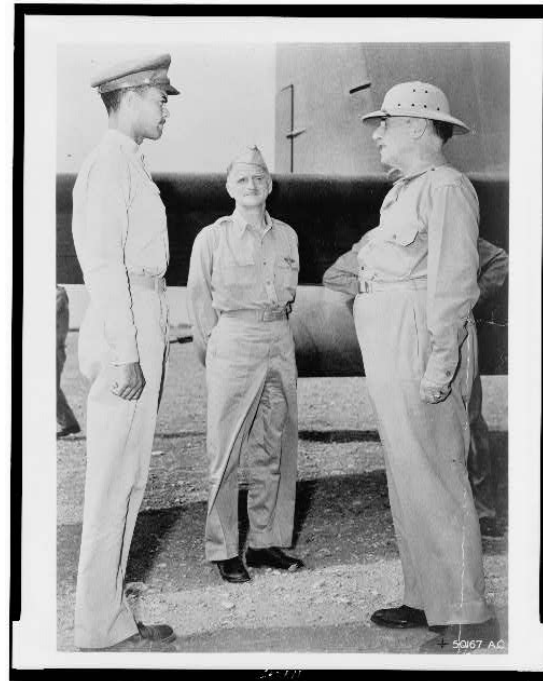
One can find untold thousands of paintings, drawings, and photographs of Connecticut River Valley historic houses and their architects, original owners, and later residents. Alain Munkittrick performs the Herculean task by reducing the final number to 333. Within a compact 160 pages, this book presents many black-and-white images for the first time in published form. Confined to the 410-mile river's four-state region of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont, the houses he selected range from the 1636 Thomas Hooker House (12) to the 1939 Katharine Hepburn House (159).

The volume is an expanded edition in the popularly written "Images of America" paperback series that began in 2004 in order "to preserve history on a local level" and "act as valued touchstones for community identity."

This is Munkittrick's second volume in the successful series, the first being his co-authored Middletown's High Street and Wesleyan University (2020). An architect, architectural historian, and advocate for historic preservation, Munkittrick considered the following criteria in selecting the houses to include: (1) architectural significance, (2) rich historical associations, (3) National Historic Landmark designation by the National Park Service, (4) listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and (5) structures "that have escaped attention until now" (8)

Despite no map and no indexes, the book has many strengths. It fills a need, especially when compared to the abundance of historical literature on New York's Hudson River Valley. The research is extremely thorough as evidenced by its 72 sources. The writing is clear and remarkably succinct. It is honest and fair-minded, fully acknowledging the use of enslaved peoples and the complicity in the slave trade by some of the original and subsequent house owners. In both image and caption, "human interest" stories appear throughout (over one-third of the images contain people). And the architectural commentary is highly informative but not excessive.

Munkittrick's excellent work will prove a valuable resource to current and aspiring professional historians of New England. And for the hobbyist historian simply desiring a broad and pictorial history of the topic, his volume—along with in person visits to the Historic Deerfield outdoor museum (Deerfield, Mass.) and Connecticut River Museum (Essex, Conn.)—supplements well *A History of the Connecticut River* (2012) by the same publisher; and the 528-page *The Great River: Art and Society of the Connecticut River Valley, 1635-1820* (1985) by Hartford's Wadsworth Atheneum.



**Francis Kyle III**, Roanoke Rapids, N.C.

From left to right, Col. Benjamin Davis, Lt. Gen. Carl Spaatz, and Henry L. Stimson in North Africa, c. 1942. Courtesy Library of Congress.



The 1746 Seth Wetmore House in Middletown, CT.  
Photo credit: Jerrye and Roy Klotz, Creative Commons

Judith Tick. **Becoming Ella Fitzgerald: The Jazz Singer Who Transformed American Song.** New York: W.W. Norton and Company 2024, 560 pages.

Ella Fitzgerald (1917-1996), renowned singer of jazz and popular music in the United States of America, receives a fresh, comprehensive historical biography from Judith Tick, PhD., senior scholar and professor of music (emerita) at Northeastern University (Boston, MA). Tick's book offers a careful chronology of the artist's life and professional journey, abundantly rooted in historical sources for a captivating, authoritative, and fascinating insight into the personal origins and lived experiences of this famed vocalist of American music.

Several strengths distinguish this academic work. First, the author carefully identifies the social and political realities of commercial music in the 1930s. This places the renowned jazz singer in clearer historical, social, and artistic contexts, as opposed to simple biography or general narrative. The "stakeholders," as Tick explores, enacted multiple pressures, demands, and attitudes that Fitzgerald navigated to emerge as a recognized, viable recording star (58).

A second distinguishing feature of this academic book is how the author confronts many assumptions which endure as "myth with a core of truth" about Fitzgerald (68). For example, the tendency by industry critics and reviewers to categorize her as



Dizzy Gillespie, Ray Brown, and Milt Jackson listen to Ella Fitzgerald perform in an NYC club, 1947. Courtesy Library of Congress

either jazz or pop, Tick interrogates, obscures the "mutual dependency" or how the singer was "indebted to both" in a "fusion of jazz and pop" that defined her abilities and longevity in the business (101, 103). Critical inquiry not only leans into the technical and aesthetic legacy of Fitzgerald but it also explores other ambiguities and concerns for more precise scholarship about the famed vocalist, such as her "modesty and shyness" and how various audiences and cultural gatekeepers "loved Ella in different ways" (288, 435). In short, this monograph engages numerous questions and topics for a more nuanced, comprehensive insight into this

historical life and career of the great North American jazz icon.

More specific points of focus offer helpful insights through careful, close attention to diverse historical sources. These areas augment the utility and merit of Tick's work. For example, analysis about the impact of Fitzgerald's business managers Moe Gale and Norman Grantz and her success on television ("the ultimate conduit to mass acceptance") provide enlightening passages about Fitzgerald's embrace of "current material [that] risked her reputation as the archetypal jazz singer" (349, 384). And, Tick's attention to Fitzgerald's later interest in pops concerts (a "more substantive avenue to the general public") results in a fascinating insight (384). Ella Fitzgerald, a "virtual encyclopedia of jazz practice and repertoire" in United States history and culture, endures as a "well-spring for the present" and this academic book—meticulous and exact in a foundation of sources—offers a fresh and compelling examination certain to add to an understanding and appreciation of this seminal musician (418).

In conclusion, historian Judith Tick accomplishes many inquiries simultaneously in this academic study—all grounded in extensive, authoritative work in historical sources. From a sobering assessment of the "realities of the profession" to how Fitzgerald articulated her own understanding or "sense of purpose" about her "cultural work" or

collaborations with Duke Ellington in her later years, *Becoming Ella Fitzgerald* reflects the experience, skills, and historical care of a veteran scholar (78, 341). Overall, one emerges with a stronger sense of "what made [Ella] original" and her place in a "particular cultural niche" within American popular music in addition to the definitive jazz canon (103, 233).

### **Brian Peterson, Shasta College**

H. R. McMaster, **At War with Ourselves: My Tour of Duty in the Trump White House**. First edition. New York, NY: Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2024.

Evangelical Protestants make no appearance in H.R. McMaster's memoir of his 2017-2018 "tour of duty" as National Security Advisor for President Donald Trump. This omission is surprising since several political scientists and historians have chronicled the rise of the Religious Right as pivotal for leadership in the Republican Party today. In 2016, Trump's victory relied on support from more than 80 percent of evangelicals. But McMaster's book reveals the potency of a different worldview—which sociologist Robert Bellah called civil religion—on the 21st-century GOP and, more broadly, on U.S. foreign policy.

McMaster does not portray the nation's 45th president as pushing a Judeo-

Christian agenda, which several members of that administration emphasize in their memoirs. For example, Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner have depicted faith as critical to many key White House deliberations. Kushner's 2022 memoir, *Breaking History*, emphasizes the Christian evangelical and Jewish support for U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Pence's 2022 *So Help Me God* presents the vice president as driven by Providence to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem. Similarly, Pompeo's 2023 *Never Give An Inch* addresses his efforts as the nation's chief diplomat to promote religious liberty overseas. In McMaster's book, the exercise of U.S. power vis-à-vis Afghanistan, China, North Korea, and Russia overshadows the religious issues surrounding U.S.-Israeli relations. Discussion of the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem receives coverage in only 5 of 340 pages.

McMaster does make a few references to his religious beliefs, which he presents as a private matter. According to *At War with Ourselves*, McMaster's Catholic faith provides support during personal challenges. Priests play a role in the narrative of his daughter's wedding and father's illness. Regarding politics, however, the book makes no reference to Catholic teachings on issues such as abortion or immigration. Neither does McMaster suggest or imply that his Catholicism had an impact on his view of the U.S. projection of military

might. Given the consistent opposition of popes Saint John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis to U.S. military action in Iraq and Afghanistan, one might have expected McMaster to mount a moral case for these wars.

Rather than addressing matters such as just war theory, *At War with Ourselves* assumes the legitimacy of the U.S. projection of power worldwide, which likely derives from McMaster's personal story. Whereas Pence and Pompeo rose to political prominence by campaigning for election to Congress, McMaster climbed the military ladder.

Initially achieving recognition as captain of a tank regiment during the 1991 U.S. war in the Persian Gulf, McMaster later engaged in post-Cold War planning, anti-terrorism operations, and state-building in Afghanistan. Rather than needing to persuade voters, he reported to fellow soldiers on a path to the third-star general rank in the U.S. army. Ultimately, McMaster implemented agendas established by the Commander-in-Chief, whoever might hold that office, rather than creating a policy platform that aligned with a political party or religious organization.

Despite this presumption of neutrality regarding moral or religious bias, McMaster's faith in U.S. hegemony seems inspired by civil religion. This phrase, popularized during the Vietnam War by Robert Bellah, has regained significance during the 21st century U.S. wars overseas. McMaster characterizes Trump's

killing of Iran's Qasem Soleimani and Iraqi Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis as "the righteous decision (331)." McMaster's White House office decorations call to mind Bellah's theory that the nation's past military leaders become quasi-religious saints. The author makes a point to reference the two pieces of art -- *Lee Surrendering to Grant at Appomattox* by Alonzo Chappel, and *Washington at Princeton* by Charles Willson Peale -- he requested on loan from the Smithsonian. McMaster cherishes the ritual surrounding his final day as a White House staff member, especially "experiencing emotions associated with the end of my last tour of duty in the U.S. Army" (327) as he departed in a Suburban decorated with the U.S. flag and a three-star general officer flag.

Historians will appreciate that McMaster earned a Ph.D. in history from the University of North Carolina in 1996. In a "Note to Readers" which precedes chapter 1, he self-consciously identifies himself with the profession: "As a historian, I have been a consumer of books like this one, and I have always approached them with vigilance and skepticism. I expect that you will do the same." McMaster cites his teaching and research as perhaps his "most valuable experience" (22) in preparation for public office. In the Notes section at the conclusion of *At War with Ourselves*, he points to his earlier book, *Battlegrounds: The Fight to Defend the Free World* (2020), as "a companion to this book," which

contains "extensive historical background and details of policy formation and implementation." (340)

This review focused on religion and U.S. and global politics, but McMaster's book should appeal to a much wider audience. Scholars of recent U.S. foreign relations will likely appreciate McMaster's mixed evaluation of Trump's disruptive approach to global politics. The general public will also find this book a very readable account of the day-to-day operations of the 45th president's first year in office.

**Thomas Carty, Springfield College**

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