

Archivists and Archives of Color

Newsletter

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In this issue:

Letter from the senior co-chair.....2

Milagro Theatre & Obo Addy Legacy Project collections.....3
now available for research

Professional Notes.....4

John H. Calhoun, Jr. papers open to researchers.....5

Knowledge River awarded national grant.....6

Weaving histories, stories, and lives.....7
one block at a time

Jobs With Justice donates historical.....8
archives to the Kheel Center

Book Publication: Identity Palimpsests: Archiving Ethnicity.....9
in the U.S. and Canada

Letter from the senior co-chair

by
Derek T. Mosley,
Atlanta University Center
Robert W. Woodruff Library



Dear Roundtable:

I hope everyone is doing well and 2014 is starting off with much success. The leadership of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable is working hard to ensure that we remain steeped in the history of those pioneering archivists who sought a voice within SAA. Many social and political events in the news threaten our profession but we must continue to press on. Recently, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) along with the other ethnic affiliates released a statement about ALA hosting its annual meeting in Florida in 2015. They were vocal about the Stand Your Ground law and how it affects minorities in that state. They are taking action by educating the membership of ALA and supporting minority businesses. Is this something that SAA should consider? Should we hold annual meetings in states with these types of laws? I will be adding this to the agenda for our business meeting and after we will continue the dialog via our email list. We should be strong in the support of human justice and strive to be at the forefront of change in our communities.

The Nominating Task Force worked diligently and nominated our membership for a variety of SAA awards. I thank them immensely for their efforts and perseverance. Also our Outreach/Advocacy Task Force is planning a variety of events for the annual meeting and I look forward to interacting with you all. This has been a season of transition for me personally and I see so much change in myself and our great profession. If you have any ideas or concerns, never hesitate to contact myself or any other Roundtable leader.

As we move toward elections, please consider yourself or a colleague running for a position and leading the Roundtable into the future.

Best wishes,

Derek

"We should be strong in the support of human justice and strive to be at the forefront of change in our communities."

The Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable invites nominations for individuals to help lead the Roundtable's activities for 2014-2015. We are seeking candidates for the following positions:

Junior Co-Chair

Newsletter Editor

The Vice Chair/Chair-elect serves a one year term as Junior Co-Chair (2014-2015) and then will serve as Senior Co-Chair for 2015-2016. Please send nominations to derek.t.mosley@gmail.com no later than June 12.

Milagro Theatre and Obo Addy Legacy Project collections now available for research

by Natalia Fernández, Oregon Multicultural Archives

Last year the Oregon Multicultural Archives (OMA) acquired the collections of two Oregonian performing arts groups: the Milagro Theatre and the Obo Addy Legacy Project. This April the OMA curated an exhibit to showcase the histories of both organizations and to celebrate that the collections are now accessible to the public for research.

Milagro (officially known as the Miracle Theatre Group) is a non-profit organization based in Portland, Oregon. Its mission is to “provide extraordinary Latino theatre, culture, and arts education experiences for the enrichment of all communities.” Founded in 1985 by José González and Dañel Malán, Executive and Artistic Directors, Milagro produces classical and contemporary performances, both Spanish and bilingual, through its main stage in Portland and its “Milagro Tour,” a national touring group previously known as Teatro Milagro.

Milagro strives to raise awareness and address the issues that matter to the Latino community through partnerships with schools and social service organizations. The Milagro collection includes materials documenting the theatre’s administration and board, building history, outreach and education endeavors, staff and artists, grants and finances, and creative programming. In addition to textual documents, the collection also contains photographs, posters, and audio/visual materials. The collection currently consists of seventeen cubic feet with an addition expected this summer.

The Obo Addy Legacy Project (OALP) is a non-profit organization based in Portland, Oregon with the mission to “offer authentic experiences with the music and dance of Ghana, West Africa, and to create cultural awareness and understanding through educational offerings, an annual festival, and performing groups that tour the world.”

The OALP was originally established in 1986 as the Homowo African Arts and Cultures organization by Obo and Susan Addy who served as artistic and executive directors. Obo Addy was a Ghanaian master drummer who performed all over the world, wrote music, and taught at both the K-12 and college levels. Addy passed away in 2012; however, led by Susan Addy, the OALP is committed to continuing his legacy of creating, performing, and teaching African arts.



Milagro Theatre Group exhibit

The OALP collection is nineteen cubic feet and includes administrative records, promotional materials, and media related to the Homowo African Arts and Cultural organization. The archival collection also includes Obo Addy’s personal papers, such as correspondence, promotional and teaching materials, and photographs.

To learn more about Milagro visit: <http://bit.ly/milagro-archives>

To learn more about the OALP visit: <http://bit.ly/oalp-archives>

OMA continued on page 6

PROFESSIONAL NOTES

Dr. Christine Marin

Professor Emeritus; Historian/Archivist
Arizona State University



Dr. Christine Marin

- ◆ Elected to a three-year term as a member of the Council, Western History Association (WHA). The WHA's historians study and teach all aspects of North American Wests, frontiers, borderlands, and homelands. It also publishes the *Western Historical Quarterly* and hosts an annual conference in the western states.
- ◆ Presented the paper, "The Dual Wage System of Work and Pay and Mexicanos in Miami, Arizona's Copper Industry, 1910-1967" at the Southwest Oral History Association's Conference, 2014, held at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel on April 3-5 in Tempe, Arizona.
- ◆ Served as Arizona Humanities Scholar for the grant, "Arizona Women: Hiding in Plain Sight," which was the theme for the first Arizona Women's History Symposium held at Chandler-Gilbert Community College, Chandler, Arizona, on March 28-29 and sponsored collaboratively by the Arizona Women's Heritage Trail and the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame under the new Arizona Women's History Alliance.

Rebecca Hankins, CA

Associate Professor
Africana Studies/Race & Ethnic Resources Librarian/Curator
Texas A&M University



Rebecca Hankins, CA

- ◆ Published a book chapter titled "The Influence of Muslims and Islam in Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Comics" with Joyce Thornton (retired Associate Professor Emerita, Texas A&M University Libraries). The chapter appears in the first volume of the series *Muslims and American Popular Culture* by Iraj Omidvar and Anne R. Richards published by ABC-CLIO's Praeger Imprint.

<http://www.abc-clio.com/product.aspx?isbn=9780313379628>

- ◆ Presented a talk titled "The Influence of Islam in Science Fiction and Fantasy Comics" in Seoul, South Korea at Sogang University's American Culture Lecture Series on April 30. While there, facilitated a discussion with a group of graduate students on Derrick Bell's short story "Space Traders" and its film featured on HBO's short-lived series "Cosmic Slop."

- ◆ Nominated and chosen as a member of the International Standards Organization (ISO) International Archives Statistics Working Group.
- ◆ Hosted a panel discussion for the Bryan/College Station Public Library on the NEH/PBS film "Slavery by Another Name." This was the last film in the four-part *Created Equal* series funded by the NEH.

John H. Calhoun, Jr. papers open to researchers

by Stacy Jones, Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center

The Archives Research Center of the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library is pleased to announce the opening of the John H. Calhoun, Jr., Papers. John Calhoun was a businessman, community leader, civil rights activist, and political organizer in Atlanta. He dedicated much of his life to politics, business, community, and economic development.

The manuscript collection will provide documentation on civil rights and the Atlanta business and political communities, as well as complement other collections such as the Clarence Bacote Papers, Voter Education Project Organizational Records, Carl Ware Papers, and the Maynard Jackson Mayoral Administrative Records.

Calhoun was born July 8, 1899 in Greenville, South Carolina. He began working at the age of twelve as an apprentice to a blacksmith. A lifetime student, Calhoun graduated from high school at Hampton Institute in 1922 at the age of 23. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College in 1937 and a Master of Business Administration degree from Atlanta University in 1968 at the age of 69. Calhoun had two children, Ninaking C. Anderson and Lt. Col. John H. Calhoun III.

To support himself and his family, Calhoun held a variety of jobs that included work as a janitor, dock worker, bookkeeper, insurance salesman, real estate broker, newspaper reporter and editor. Community service and politics, however, were Calhoun's true passions.



John Calhoun, undated, John H. Calhoun, Jr. Papers
Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library

In 1934, Calhoun moved to Atlanta and for the next thirty years, became affectionately known by many as "Your Man in Community Action." In 1949, he and several others formed the Atlanta Negro Voters League and served with the Statewide Registration Committee (for Voter Education). In 1974, he was elected to the Atlanta City Council where he was instrumental in implementing a number of new initiatives.

In addition, Calhoun received many awards and was very passionate about his volunteer activities in various organizations such as the Butler Street YMCA, Atlanta Business League, and Big Bethel AME Church. On May 6, 1988, John Calhoun died at his home in Atlanta, Georgia.

The collection dates span the years 1916 to 2000 with the bulk of the materials from 1960-1979. The majority of the materials document the organizations with which he was affiliated including Economic Opportunity Atlanta, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Atlanta Negro Voters League, and others.

There are some materials in the collection related to his furniture and real estate businesses, his position as an Atlanta City Councilman, and his activities with the Republican Party. Of note is a draft of his unpublished book *Atlanta – The Cradle of Black Leadership in America*. Correspondence, photographs, printed materials and artifacts are also included in the collection.

**To view the
John H. Calhoun, Jr. Papers,
please contact the
Archives Research Center
to make an appointment
archives@aucr.edu
or (404) 978-2052**



by Janet Ceja Alcalá,
University of Arizona
School of Information Resources and Library Science

The University of Arizona's School of Information Resources and Library Science (SIRLS) was recently awarded an Institute of Museum and Library Services Laura Bush 21st Century Learning Grant to continue to support its highly successful Knowledge River program. Knowledge River was founded at SIRLS in 2001 to address the information needs of Latino and Native American populations through its curriculum, outreach, and research. It is the only ALA accredited program of its kind in the country and to date more than 150 students have graduated from Knowledge River. The program provides academic support, specialized advising, professional development activities, funding for conference travel, and financial aid through graduate assistantships along with other opportunities. Applications for the 2015-2016 school year will be accepted on September 1, 2014.

To learn more about Knowledge River at the University of Arizona visit <http://sirls.arizona.edu/kr>
For more information contact Gina Macaluso at kriver@email.arizona.edu

OMA continued from page 3

For the joint exhibit featuring the two collections, both organizations loaned numerous artifacts including instruments and textiles from the OALP and costumes and props from the Milagro Theatre. To give viewers a sample of the groups' performances, the exhibit includes two listening stations with concert and play footage. The exhibit is located in the library of the Oregon State University campus. Located in Corvallis, Oregon, the OMA is a part of the Oregon State University Libraries' Special Collections & Archives Research Center. The OMA's mission is to assist in preserving the histories and sharing the stories that document Oregon's African American, Asian American, Latino/a, and Native American communities. Its diverse collections reflect how these communities have contributed to the identity of the state of Oregon.



Obo Addy Legacy Project exhibit

For more information about the OMA, please visit:
scarc.library.oregonstate.edu/oma

Weaving histories, stories, and lives one block at a time: creating a digital repository at the Marian Cheek Jackson Center

by Dr. Rhonda D. Jones, North Carolina Central University

Inspired by a grassroots community approach to documenting and preserving collective memories, the Marian Cheek Jackson Center for Saving and Making History is touted as a public history and community development resource center. Nestled within the historic neighborhoods of Northside and Pine Knolls in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, the Center was established in 2005. Named in honor of Mrs. Marian Cheek Jackson, a stalwart community activist who has served as the historian at St. Joseph C.M.E. since the early 1950s, the Center seeks to preserve the legacies of everyday history makers.

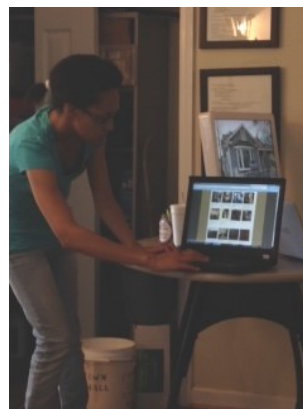
In collaboration with the Southern Oral History Program (SOHP), the Center conducted hundreds of life history interviews and recordings of community members regarding education, religion, Jim Crow segregation, civil rights activism, desegregation, and community relations concerning preservation and gentrification.

In the effort to continue to facilitate the transformative power of oral history and collective witness, in Spring 2014, Deputy Director Hudson Vaughan and Elizabeth McCain, Manager of Operations, Education, and Research, partnered with North Carolina Central University's (NCCU) Public History program to create a digital archive. Designed to encourage research and critical thinking about community archives methodology, preservation, and documentary techniques, the students utilized the transcribing and editing skills they obtained in the courses *Introduction to Oral History* and *African American Community Archives* taught by Dr. Rhonda D. Jones.

Providing technical assistance, University of North Carolina (UNC) undergraduate student Olivia Dorsey uploaded the interviews into Omeka, a content management database system that allows users to design interactive exhibits. Using the oral histories, photographs, and students' artwork, the students and staff designed exhibits for a May Day community celebration.

Joshua Trower edited the detailed tape log and transcript of UNC Campus Police Officer Paul Caldwell. Discussing a wide range of subjects, what Josh found most intriguing was that Caldwell provided security for a number of fraternal and PanHellenic organizations during the 1970s through 1980s. Further introspection revealed Caldwell's desire to use his "pig picking" culinary skill to broaden his interaction with the community.

As is common in oral history projects, students began to see connections between themselves and the interviewees. Several students formed relationships with these individuals and became so invested in the oral history work that they will continue to volunteer at the Center.



"Jones' class is a powerful model for how engaged scholarship and applied learning can be mobilized for the community's benefit."

Elizabeth McCain

This ongoing relationship between the Jackson Center, Dr. Jones and North Carolina Central University will serve as an invaluable resource in making the history of Northside and the surrounding communities accessible to community members, teachers, students, librarians and scholars.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.jacksoncenter.info>

Jobs With Justice donates historical archive to the Kheel Center

by Cheryl Beredo, Cornell University, Catherwood Library Kheel Center

Jobs With Justice (JWJ), a grassroots organization focused on advancing workers' rights, donated its archives to the Kheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation and Archives in January 2014. As a "coalition of coalitions," JWJ's work and historical archives may be of special interest to members of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable.



Founded in 1987 and based in Washington, D.C., JWJ has devoted itself to organizing with faith- and community-based groups, organized labor, and others on issues such as collective bargaining and immigration reform. JWJ may be best known for the Justice at Smithfield Foods and Justice for Janitors campaigns, or perhaps its current work with OUR Walmart and the National Domestic Workers Alliance.

Though these efforts are not by name focused on people of color, people of color are involved in and leading the organizing. The organization and its records provide a window into the lives of people of color by focusing on work. The records document the efforts of diverse working people to achieve economic justice, and many of the issues that JWJ tackled may be of interest to members and the researchers we support. The records from JWJ's first twenty-five years include organizing and planning material, newsletters, photographs, audio-visual material, and memorabilia.

The Kheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation and Archives is one of the major repositories of the history of work in the United States, with collection strengths in garment workers' unions, organized teachers in New York State, railroads, and labor arbitration and mediation. The Kheel Center is also home to the archives of 1199SEIU, which represents health care workers in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maryland, Florida, and Washington, DC. The Kheel Center is building on these strengths in organized labor collections to also serve as the archives for organizations that are engaged in labor relations in other ways, for example, through workers centers and community coalitions. We are very honored to partner with Jobs With Justice in this way and delighted to share the news with the archival community!

For more information about the history of Jobs With Justice and links to the archival finding aids, please visit:

<http://www.jwj.org/about-us/our-history>

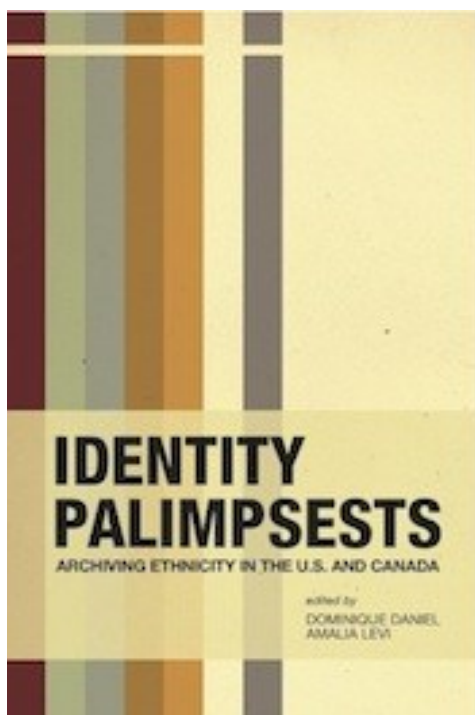
Book publication:

Identity Palimpsests: Archiving Ethnicity in the U.S. and Canada

by Amalia Levi

Identity Palimpsests assesses the ways ethnic identities and other forms of belonging are affected by, and also affect, current practices in ethnic archiving. The book begins with an overview of the evolution of the way ethnic organizations and communities have collected, preserved and provided access to their heritage. It then goes on to examine contemporary practices and theories in the context of a cultural heritage sector that is today defined by the digital medium and the Web. Institutions involved in ethnic archiving include libraries, archives and museums that document the history of immigration and ethnicity in the United States and Canada.

Archives shape the way we understand the past and see the future. This has repercussions for the construction, writing, and representation of minority and diaspora histories in the North American context. Considering the variety and diversity of ethnic populations in North America, these repercussions reach beyond the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans as well. In an age of citizen-archivists and citizen-historians, the changing ways we understand authority in archival settings signal a paradigm shift. Archivists and historians are called to reexamine and redefine their roles and professions in this process.



The book contains both theoretical and practical contributions by practitioners in the field and scholars in history and archival science. Practical contributions not only focus on particular institutions, but also provide comparative studies among cultural heritage institutions. They also debate what is "ethnic archiving" today and who should be entrusted with the curation of ethnic collections in heritage institutions. The book's chapters cover heritage institutions run by minorities themselves and also others run through mainstream or official channels (government, academic, etc.).

At the theoretical level, the chapters discuss the impact of ethnic studies and evolving theories of ethnicity on archiving practices, the effect of ethnic archiving on historical research, and the emergence of memory studies as a lens for understanding identity. Both contemporary and historical perspectives are included.

Archival science has long challenged the image of the archivist as a neutral guardian of the historical record and recognized her role as an active shaper of archives, but historians have yet to discuss implications for historical research. This book is designed to bring new theoretical insight into the impact of this challenge on ethnic archiving, to suggest ways historians are affected, and to begin to study implications for the archivist's practice. The book also innovates by exploring the impact that archivists have on the very ethnic identities they are trying to preserve. The book's intended audience is cultural heritage professionals, iSchools and Library Science schools' students and faculty, and historians. While the book deals with heritage institutions in the U.S. and Canada, it appeals to an international audience.

Identity Palimpsests: Archiving Ethnicity in the U.S. and Canada

Editors: Dominique Daniel and Amalia Levi

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