

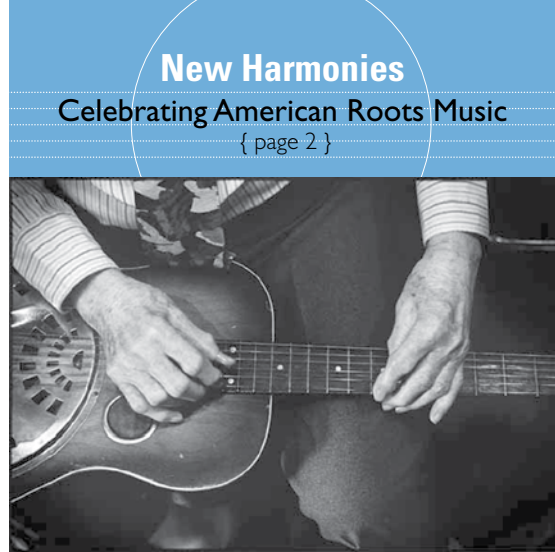


The newsletter of the  
New Jersey Council for  
the Humanities

# Ideas

WINTER 2011

Bashful Brother Oswald  
Photo by Jim Herrington  
www.jimherrington.com



New Harmonies  
Celebrating American Roots Music  
{ page 2 }



John V. Fleming, NEH Chairman Jim Leach, and Stanley N. Katz

## IDEALS, IDEOLOGIES, AND THE JOB OF THE HUMANIST

Jane Brailove Rutkoff called it “these complicated times.” Jonathan Greenburg called it “this divisive climate.” Stanley N. Katz called it “a time when civility is needed.” But it was the best of times October 20 when the New Jersey Council for the Humanities held its annual Awards Celebration at the Montclair Art Museum.

Rutkoff, executive director of the NJCH, welcomed the group and remarked that “in these complicated times, we turn to the humanities,” and Greg Waters, outgoing chair of the

Council’s Board of Trustees, lauded the humanities as a way to “promote the quality of life, to help connect with the past, understand the present and connect with the future.” He noted that for 35 years NJCH has helped to “extend the sense of the otherwise” for the people of New Jersey. Greenburg presented the Teacher of the Year Award and past board chair Alice Chandler presented the Honor Books, but the highlight of the evening was *Ideologies and American Ideals: From the Cold War to the War on Terror*, a conversation with Jim Leach, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and John V. Fleming, Professor of English and Comparative Literature Emeritus, Princeton University and author of *The Anti-Communist Manifestos: Four Books That Shaped the Cold War*, winner of the NJCH Book Award.

Stanley N. Katz, Director, Center for Arts and Cultural Policy Studies, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, proved an adept moderator as these two giants in the humanities sat in easy chairs while

their audience sat at the edge of their seats, having the rare good fortune to listen in on a scintillating conversation. Katz introduced Fleming, a medievalist, by mentioning that “the hardest thing in the world is to write a book out of one’s field,” and called Leach “the perfect person for this job—he has begun to set a tone at a time when civility is needed.”

For these three men, it was no easy task to explain the changing American ideologies and ideals of the past 60 years, and their conversation ranged from the Enlightenment to Communism, from totalitarianism to democracy, from secular economics to religion, with forays into World War I and World War II, the abolitionist movement and the ideals expressed by the Founding Fathers. It was clear that American ideals and ideologies from the Cold War to the War on Terror rested upon American ideals and ideologies from well before that time.

Talking about the Cold War, Leach said, “The Soviet threat was brought about by ideas and science,” and the ideologies of totalitarian Russia and Germany during World War II brought America’s ideals of freedom and liberty into clearer perspective. Leach mentioned a 1964 speech in which historian Arnold Toynbee said the next war would be based on religion. “Now looking internally and externally, it is amazing how strong ideological feelings are,” Leach noted.

Fleming talked about the seriousness with which Americans took ideals expressed in books. “Even today,” he said, “certain books have had profound import. *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* is not a great work of literature, but it had a major impact on American life.” Both men explored the relationship between ideology and religion, and Fleming pointed out that totalitarians use secular ideologies “with crypto-religious certainty. Since the Enlightenment people have been groping to find transcendental meaning,” and often the iron-clad sureness of a secular ideology can provide it.

Making a cogent comparison, Leach called socialism a form of idealistic economic determinism, while the United States’ ideal of “creator-endowed rights implies universal human rights.” For Americans during the Cold War, Soviet Communism was not feared as much for its economic foundations as for its disregard for human rights in favor of the needs of the state.

“Americans were frightened to death about the Soviet Union,” Fleming said, primarily because of its insistence on the  
*continued on page 6*

## LIBRARIES TO HOST NJCH’S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SERIES

The United States Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice like this: “Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. EPA has this goal for all communities and persons across this Nation. It will be achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.”

Here in New Jersey, NJCH has taken Environmental Justice as its underlying theme for the year. The topic is a natural outgrowth of last year’s emphasis on issues of social justice, so ably developed through films and discussion programs at libraries throughout the state. Building on last year’s great success, the new effort was kicked off at a dynamic forum in Camden in September. This engaging panel discussion, cosponsored by the Rutgers University School of  
*continued on page 6*

FACE TO FACE:  
Community Conversations on  
Environmental  
Justice



## AN ARTIST’S HAND TAKES THE HELM OF THE HUMANITIES COUNCIL

Sometimes the line between the arts and the humanities is very faint, and sometimes it disappears altogether. That’s how it is with NJCH’s new Chairman of the Board of Trustees,

Wendel White. An accomplished photographer who is the Distinguished Professor of Art at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, he has melded art and humanities into something more robust than either one alone.

“He is committed, he is dedicated to the humanities,” said the Council’s executive director Jane Brailove Rutkoff. “Wendel White brings a lot of energy to the Council, and he will be an excellent leader in these complicated times.”

White’s appreciation for the humanities “stretches back to my education,” he recalls. His undergraduate education at the School of Visual Arts in New York and graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin gave him a broad foundation in the humanities, and his work at Stockton has built upon that foundation. “My time at Stockton has been critical  
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# MONGOLIAN YURTS AND FRÈRE JACQUES ALL IN A DAY'S WORK FOR TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Jeanne DelColle does not teach at a university or a high school where students have their sights set on college or even an elementary school where children are excited about learning new things every day. She teaches at the Burlington County Institute of Technology, a vocational and technical high school where students go to learn a profession, not to learn about history; but for her, teaching them history is just as important as it would be for college-bound or university students.

Jonathan Greenburg called her “truly remarkable” as he introduced her at the Council’s annual awards event. “Today the archvillain is the teacher,” he told the audience. “In this divisive climate I’m honored to dispel this idea. We are truly blessed to have such an amazing teacher; we have found our superwoman.”

DelColle noted that teaching where she does comes with certain challenges. “In order to make history relevant and challenging to *my* students, I need to take into account the fact that most are spatial learners who are incredibly creative, and so I have to think outside the box,” she noted. “In my classes, we learn the Chinese dynasties in order by singing them to the tune of “Frère Jacques,” we decide what to do about nuclear proliferation by creating web sites called wikis, we blog about current events and how a lack of knowledge leads to fear, we learn how to analyze art and literature in the Renaissance, debate the qualities necessary to make an effective government during the Enlightenment, and how to analyze artifacts and debate where they belong and whom they belong to. Incorporating the humanities into my lessons allows me

*continued on page 6*



Jeanne DelColle and Jonathan Greenburg



## SUMMER IS ACUMEN IN

Yes, we know it’s winter—but winter is exactly the time to start thinking about attending the NJCH annual Summer Teacher Seminars. Each year NJCH offers a series of six-day residential programs that provide in-depth exploration of topics in the humanities. Seminars are tuition-free; housing, meals, and books are also included. Participants can earn professional development credits and stipends and have the opportunity to submit a research paper for graduate credit. Four seminars will be offered this summer.

Check the NJCH website, [www.njch.org](http://www.njch.org), for details.

## IT WILL BE MUSIC TO YOUR EARS—AND EYES NEW HARMONIES COMES TO NEW JERSEY

Not all Americans can go to Washington to visit the Smithsonian Institution, so through its Museum on Main Street program, the Smithsonian sends touring exhibits to local museums, libraries, and other small venues in rural and underserved parts of the country. NJCH will be bringing one of them to New Jersey this year.

A fascinating account of multi-cultural exchange, *New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music* explores the distinct cultural identities of gospel, country, blues, and other forms of roots music as they record the history of the American people and set the foundation for many musical genres appreciated worldwide today. Through a selection of photographs, recordings, instruments, lyrics and artist profiles, *New Harmonies* offers local communities the chance to collect, reflect upon, and celebrate their musical and cultural traditions with an array of educational and engaging programs.

*New Harmonies* will be offered at six venues in New Jersey, and representatives from all six came together recently to discuss site-specific programming to enhance and localize the exhibit. Also attending were Carol Harsh, Director of Museum on Main Street; music journalist and curator of *New Harmonies*, Bob Santelli, a New Jersey native who is Executive Director of the Grammy Museum

in Los Angeles; and *New Harmonies* State Scholars Kathy DeAngelo, a professional roots musician and Music Director of the New Jersey Folk Festival, and Rita Moonsammy, a folklore and folklife scholar who has worked extensively with the New Jersey State Museum and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Given this high-powered brain trust, it’s not surprising that programming ideas flew thick and furious at the meeting. Among them:

- Collecting and editing oral histories using the “Seniors with Seniors” model, in which high school students collect histories from local senior citizens.
- A “curated concert” featuring performances from established roots musicians alongside some of the young, up-and-coming artists they have inspired. Interspersed throughout the music will be celebrity readings from the letters and writings of noted figures from the history of American roots music.
- An exhibit tracing the profound influence of the RCA Victor Company and Camden’s key role in the development of the modern music and radio businesses.



*New Harmonies* state scholars Rita Moonsammy and Kathy DeAngelo

Outreach to schools is a crucial component of the tour, and Santelli conducted a professional development seminar for teachers on the history of roots music in New Jersey, which fittingly enough took place in Asbury Park’s renowned Stone Pony, site of many triumphant appearances by roots-influenced Bruce Springsteen.

The tour opens March 12 at the Asbury

Park Public Library, which is using *New Harmonies* to kick off a year-long celebration of the city’s musical heritage called “Asbury Park: Where Music Lives.” Next up is the West Deptford Free Public Library, whose director, Cheryl Rheiner, herself a musician, is planning a series of programs focused on local music history. The Historic Smithville Mansion Art Annex in Eastampton will feature performances from musicians, dancers, and an array of programs based on the locale’s history as an industrial village. The Trenton City Museum, located in the Ellarslie Mansion in Cadwalader Park, is next on the

tour. The Museum served as an annex for the previous Smithsonian tour, *Key Ingredients: America by Food*, and, with an extensive exhibit on Trenton’s food manufacturing history, attracted audiences from throughout the area. The Sussex County Arts & Heritage Council will bring together musical strands as diverse as eighteenth-century Irish folk tunes and traditional Pakistani music. The exhibit will end its tour at the Wheaton Arts & Cultural Center in Millville, which investigates the rich artistic and cultural traditions of southern New Jersey.

The locales for the exhibit may be spread across the face of our state, but nothing brings people together like music, and *New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music* will stimulate research, discussion, and community-building as it examines musical traditions that are as rich and eclectic as New Jersey itself. ■



### EXHIBIT TOUR

**Asbury Park Public Library**  
March 12– April 17

**West Deptford Free Public Library**  
April 26 – June 6

**Historic Smithville Mansion Annex Art Gallery**  
June 13 – July 26

**Trenton City Museum**  
August 1 – September 12

**Sussex County Arts & Heritage Council**  
September 19 – October 31

**Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center**  
November 7 – December 31

*Roy Acuff performs at the Grand Ole Opry, 1939 Grand Old Opry Archives*



# NEW MEMBERS JOIN NJCH BOARD

As the NJCH Board bids farewell to **David Bossman**, we welcome three new members. **Douglas Greenberg**, **Mitchell Seltzer** and **Valerie Smith** join **Linda Morgan** and **Cynthia Pellegrino** as the newest Trustees.

**Bossman**, a professor in the Graduate Department of Jewish-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University and Executive Director of the Sister Rose Thering Endowment for Jewish-Christian Studies, served on the Board from 2004 to 2010. We are grateful for his deep commitment to the Council's mission and for his invaluable contributions to our work.

Professor of history and Executive Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers University, **Greenberg** has written extensively on the history of early America and American law, and on technology, scholarship and libraries. He also speaks and writes widely about the Holocaust, comparative genocide and Jewish identity in the post-Holocaust United States. He has



served as Vice President of the American Council of Learned Societies and as Chair of the California Council for the Humanities. Recently he co-edited *Colonial America: Essays in Political and Social Development* (6th edition).

**Seltzer** (not pictured) founded Seltzer Rees, LLC in Princeton to help corporations adopt broad progressive ideas about social responsibility and community activities. Today, the firm focuses almost exclusively on health care providers throughout the country, addressing strategic and operational planning needs. **Seltzer** has conducted extensive research on low-cost, high-quality health care. He previously was head of strategic planning and marketing for the Quaker Oats Company, where part of his job was to guide the company's thinking on social responsibility, a theme he has continued throughout his career.

**Smith**, Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson Professor of Literature and a professor of English and African American studies, has been named Dean of the College, effective July 1, 2011. From 2006 to 2009 she served as Director of the interdisciplinary Center for African American Studies at Princeton. A specialist in African American literature and culture with specific interests in black feminist theory and film studies, she is the recipient of a number of fellowships, including a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2005-06. She is currently completing a book on the Civil Rights Movement in cultural memory and another on Toni Morrison's writing.

**Pellegrino**, Director of Grant Programs and Administration for the New Jersey Bar Foundation, began her term on the Board in November 2009. Prior to her work with the Bar Foundation, she was Director of Membership and Inter-Bar Relations for the New Jersey Bar Association. Earlier, she served as Regional Vice President for United Jersey Bank, Hackensack, and as corporate trust officer for First Jersey National Bank, Jersey City.

**Morgan's** term on the Board began in January 2010. She is a consultant in urban planning and redevelopment in New York and New Jersey, advising on strategic planning, economic incentives and marketing initiatives for various developers and the Newark Real Estate Board. She is also active on several non-profit boards, the Newark Museum Business and Community Council and Glass Roots. She directs creative writing groups in Montclair. ■

Top to bottom:  
Douglas Greenberg  
Valerie Smith  
Linda Morgan  
Cynthia Pellegrino



# HIKE THE DELAWARE RIVER — ACTUALLY OR VIRTUALLY

The only free-flowing river east of the Mississippi—it's the Delaware, and for more than 10,000 years it has been a source of food and water for people and wildlife. It is the river George Washington and his troops famously crossed one Christmas Eve, and the river that was a major factor in the settlement and growth of Philadelphia and of Trenton. Soon the Delaware River Heritage Trail will bring New Jerseyans closer to this remarkable waterway.

The Heritage Trail will be a 60-mile, multi-use loop highlighting the cultural and natural resources along the upper portion of the river, linking 24 communities from Trenton to Palmyra on the New Jersey side and Morrisville to Philadelphia's Tacony neighborhood in Pennsylvania. The Delaware River Greenway Partnership and a bi-state advisory committee of government and nonprofit representatives coordinated initial planning for the trail in 2003 and are currently developing interpretive signage for 18 historic places along the 10-mile segment from Bordentown to Burlington City. In addition, with funding from NJCH, a website with an interactive map has been developed, accessible at [www.delrivgreenway.org/heritagetrail/index.html](http://www.delrivgreenway.org/heritagetrail/index.html).

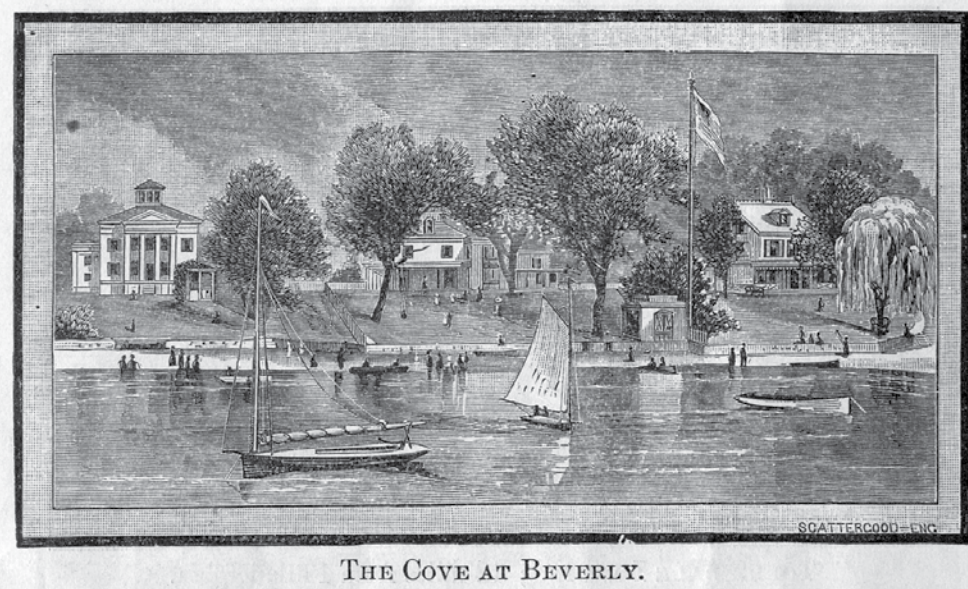
When it is completed, the trail will focus on the historic connections between the human and natural environments along the river, providing a physical link for cultural sites and the communities along its route. Among them are pre-European and early European areas such as Abbott Farm Historic District and Burlington Island; colonial and Federal era sites of political, cultural and religious significance such as Bordentown and Burlington City; and locales that mark New Jersey's pivotal role in transportation history and industrialization. The Camden & Amboy Railroad, the Delaware and Raritan Canal, the Roebing Company mills at Kinkora all testify to the state's prominence in industry.

Indeed, the 200-acre Kinkora plant, opened in 1905, represented a bold new business strategy: The new mills allowed the company to create its own supply of the high quality steel needed for its wire products, used most famously in the building of the Brooklyn Bridge. Kinkora's workers also manufactured the wire used in the Golden Gate and George Washington bridges and the control cables in the Spirit of St. Louis, the first airplane to cross the Atlantic. Adjacent to the plant was a town designed by Charles Roebling as a self-contained community to attract skilled immigrant steel workers.



The Roebing Company sold the steel mill in 1952, and in 1974 the plant was closed for good. In the 1980s, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency determined that the abandoned plant was an environmental hazard: The buildings contained toxic materials and the groundwater under the site and in nearby waterways was contaminated. The plant was added to the list of "Superfund" sites in 1983, and the lengthy clean-up and remediation process began in 1985. Two of the plant's original structures, the distinctive gatehouse at the plant entrance and the ambulance garage, now house historical collections and a museum.

When it's done, you will be able to take a hike or a bike and immerse yourself in history. In the meantime, visit the website and click on each of the listed sites for an amazing virtual tour. ■



## Hosting a Grants Workshop

Every year, NJCH awards thousands of dollars in grants to nonprofit organizations in New Jersey in support of public humanities programs. In order to receive such a grant, an organization must submit a detailed proposal, and sometimes the prospect of writing one can be daunting. In order to help make it easier, each

spring the Council conducts workshops in the northern, central and southern parts of the state where those who attend can learn more about the procedure and gain tools for proposal preparation.

NJCH is now developing its schedule of workshops for 2011. If you would like to host a workshop for organizations in your area, call Robert Apgar, Program Officer, at 888-394-6524. You will be doing a great service to organizations that are planning public humanities programs — and to the people who will attend them. ■

# IT WAS CELEBRATION TIME ONCE AGAIN

as friends from across the state gathered at the **Montclair Art Museum** on **October 20** for the annual humanities awards presentations. Book award winner **John V. Fleming**, the distinguished Princeton historian, partnered with **Jim Leach**, the equally distinguished chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, in a public conversation, “Ideals and Ideologies: From the Cold War to the War on Terror,” moderated by **Stanley N. Katz**, director of the Center for Arts and Cultural Policy Studies at Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

Five honor book recipients were also honored as was the sparkling teacher of the year, **Jeanne DelColle**, while in the intervals private conversations, as observed below, were carried on in a fittingly “humanistic” style.



Gregory Waters



Jane Brailove Rutkoff



John Wefing, Beryl Satter, Robert Wright



Stanley Katz, Maxine Lurie, Chairman Jim Leach



Marue Walizer, Judith Pinch, Sondra Fishinger



Lauren Mazzari, Carl Kraus, Maryanne Ford



Mary and Bob Carrington



Clement A. Price



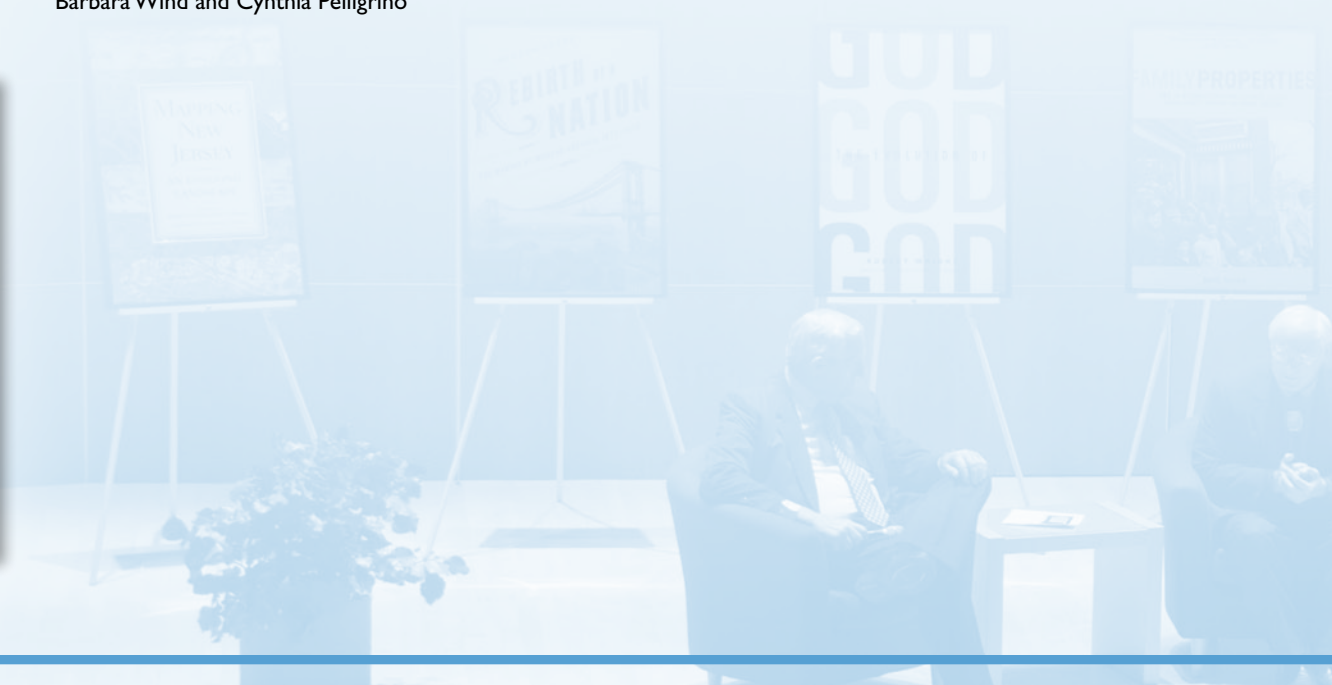
Barbara Wind and Cynthia Pelligrino



Chris Turso, Joe Shoberi, Daniel Cenzano



Roberta Renard and Gary Nissenbaum





Stanley N. Katz



Alice Chandler



John V. Fleming



Karen Gill, Renay Reyes, Dolores Szymanski, Jeanne DelColle, Joe Venuto, Beverly Hutton



Richard Levao, Pat Tumulty, Ed Viner



Linda Morgan, Gregory Woodruff, Helen Paxton



Judge Estela De La Cruz, Judge Sue Pai Yang, Judge Sandra Robinson, Yolanda Hansen, Mamie Lau, Judge Siobhan Teare, Deacon Keith McNight



Phillip and Nila Aronow, Susan Wallner



Pat Tumulty (right) with representatives from the winning libraries



Greg Waters, Marietta Morrissey, Jack Shannon



Leslie Wilson, Marina Cunningham, Tony Spanakos, Jack Baldwin LeClair, Jonathan Greenberg



Zachary Narrett



Beryl Satter signing her book for one of our evening's guests.

# WORDS FROM THE WISE ON RADIO OR ONLINE

WWW.

Wouldn't you just love to sit down and have a chat with some of New Jersey's most fascinating scholars, authors, filmmakers and educators about critical topics facing our state, nation and world? How about the second best thing: listening to them discuss these issues while you sit in your comfy chair, drive your car, or run your daily errands?

The last Sunday of each month at 8 a.m., Fairleigh Dickinson University's public radio station, WFDU (89.1 FM), broadcasts **Humanities Connection**, hosted by Bob Mann and sponsored by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. Mann's incisive and always fascinating interviews with such humanities luminaries as award-winning historian Jackson Lears, Book Award winner John V. Fleming, and writer, philosopher and humorist Cathy Bao Bean, make it worth getting up early in the morning.

But if Sunday at 8 a.m. is not your favorite time of day, listen to these interviews at your leisure: Audio clips from each episode are available as podcasts at [www.njch.org/Humanitiesconnection.html](http://www.njch.org/Humanitiesconnection.html). Listen as Lears, whose most recent book, *Rebirth of a Nation: The Making of Modern America, 1877-1920*, was a Council Honor Book, talks about the commercial and capitalist motives at the heart of American growth during that time, and about how the secularization of Protestant ethics eventually led to such wide-ranging changes as women's suffrage and an eight-hour workday. Or hear Fleming discuss his book, *The Anti-Communist Manifestos: Four Books That Shaped the Cold War*, and his argument that "excess breeds excess" as extremists on each side tried to promote opposing ideas. Or laugh with Bean as she talks about how important humor is in our approach to multiculturalism, especially in New Jersey, one of the most diverse states in the nation, where citizens interact on a daily basis with people from varying cultures, races, ethnicities and religions.

October's program, *Responses to the Holocaust and its Aftermath by American Presidents: Realpolitik or Real Justice?* features Ann Saltzman, Co-director of the Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study at Drew University, and Harry Reicher, Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Delving into how a society can be prepared for state-sponsored genocide, Saltzman looks to the German civilian population, without whose support the Nazi

party would never have gained power, and tries to understand how the populace came to be acclimated to the horrors of the Holocaust. Reicher provides a unique legal perspective, exposing the Nazis' near-obsessive need to justify by law their acts of genocide. The topics raised by this episode stem from a recent Drew University conference on genocide, made possible by a grant from NJCH.

November's program highlights NJCH's most recent Teachers of the Year, Greg Woodruff, who teaches at Montclair High School, and Jeanne DelColle, a teacher at Burlington County Institute of Technology. Woodruff's students are in school to prepare for college and DelColle's students are in school to learn a profession; these two groups need to be challenged in different ways, and these two outstanding educators compare notes and let us in on how they do it so successfully.

Invite these interesting people and dozens of others like them to keep you as informed, engaged and excited about the humanities as they are — visit them through your computer, smartphone, or just listen on your radio. ■



## IDEALS AND IDEOLOGIES, *cont' from page 1*

elimination of religion. Whittaker Chambers' book *Witness* addressed Communism in America from the point of view of a man who had been a Communist in America. But, Fleming pointed out, Chambers later had "a religious conversion from godless Communist to Christian Quaker."

"What made anyone think Communism would actually work?" Leach asked. Fleming responded that the Industrial Revolution, with its new class of downtrodden laborers, "completely destroyed the ideology of the United States. Then World War I came, and people had never seen anything like it." Communism seemed then to be a viable way of rectifying the wrongs of society, and intellectuals tried to debunk stories of the Soviet gulags and purges, wanting to believe that those wrongs could be rectified and that Communism was the way to do it.

Fleming mentioned Alexis de Tocqueville's notion of America's need for self-applause, and Leach countered that "self-applause is human nature. Most of us like to slap ourselves on the back." And at the end, Fleming summed it up: "The job of the humanist is to try to understand."

On this night, the job of these humanists was to help their audience try to understand, too, and if they raised more questions than could be decisively answered, that is also the job of the humanist. ■

## TEACHER OF THE YEAR, *cont' from page 2*

to make history more hands-on so that it comes alive for my students and they begin to see the relevance of past events to their own lives. There is no greater reward for me than the light bulb moment when a student has an epiphany and discovers that knowledge is connected and history does not happen in a vacuum."

DelColle's life is not limited to the classroom; when NJCH's executive director, Jane Brailove Rutkoff, tried to call her to let her know she had been chosen Teacher of the Year, it was not easy. "I was living in a yurt in Mongolia without electricity, running water or wi-fi doing an environmental preservation project," DelColle said. "While roughing it like this may seem unusual, this was not the first time I had gone halfway around the world for an educational adventure and it probably will not be the last. The great thing about the humanities is that wherever I travel, to China and Mongolia, Jordan or Europe, the humanities allow me to incorporate the knowledge I have gained on my trips directly into my classroom. Having firsthand knowledge of different places and cultures allows me to dispel stereotypes and bring the enthusiasm I have for learning back to my students. Since I come from the same town as many of them, my students look to me as a role model and once they see what I have done with my life, they believe it is possible for them to achieve their dreams."

Someone who can go live in a Mongolian yurt, then come back to New Jersey and incorporate her experience into her teaching — this is the Council's Teacher of the Year. ■

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, *cont' from page 1*

Law in Camden, examined the city's environmental problems through history, law, policy and ethics. The audience of more than 150 brought together the different populations that make up the fabric of Camden: academics, attorneys, community activists, local residents, college students, and interested people from the surrounding suburbs. A lively question and answer session brought out a constructive exchange of ideas and talk of next steps.

While the Social Justice programs were based on films and discussion, this year's programs will be of two types: film and discussion, and readings and discussion. Events will be led by scholars who will bring their unique disciplinary perspectives to the program, and will be designed for general audiences who may have little or no familiarity with the concept of environmental justice. At each event, one of two films, *Crude: The Real Price of Oil* or *The Last Ghost of War*, will be shown. Both films focus on major legal cases, *Crude* dealing with the consequences of oil extraction in the Amazon and *The Last Ghost of War* focusing on the aftermath of the use of Agent Orange in Vietnam. The program scholar will deliver a brief introduction to the film and highlight its connections to the theme of environmental justice, and then facilitate a post-film discussion with the audience.

After each film screening, participating libraries will schedule one or two public reading and discussion sessions based on *American Earth: Environmental Writing Since Thoreau* and *So Glorious a Landscape: Nature and the Environment in American History and Culture*, and program scholars will lead discussions based on the readings.

Following the success of the Council's programs on social justice themes, which attracted hundreds of participants all across New Jersey, this year's efforts should bring a new appreciation of our environment and the people who live in it.

For more information about this program, please visit [www.njch.org/justice.html](http://www.njch.org/justice.html). ■

# NJN AND NJCH: PERFECT TOGETHER



Students Eli DeLeon and Jessica Lewis as archaeologists in Jeanne DelColle's classroom

If you want to see why Jeanne DelColle was selected as NJCH's Teacher of the Year, tune in to NJN. She will be featured on Classroom Closeup, NJ, a program focusing on innovative education in New Jersey's public schools. This program shows her with her students, doing a lesson on archaeology in which her students paint symbols on flowerpots, which are then broken by DelColle and redistributed as she asks them to piece them together, interpret the symbols, and figure out which pot was done by whom. But the lesson, finally, is about cultural heritage and ownership. We listen as DelColle's students enter into lively discussion: Do the reconstructed pots belong to the students who painted them? To their teacher for having purchased the materials? To the school as the "museum" that may exhibit them?

This Classroom Closeup program will air on NJN on February 21 and 28 at 7 PM and on March 28 and April 2 at 9 AM.



In December, State of the Arts, the weekly NJN magazine show which focuses on the cultural scene in and around New Jersey, aired *The American Dream*, a half-hour program which grew out of one of NJCH's 2010 teacher seminars, "Poverty, Affluence, and the American Dream," led by Dr. Matt Ruben, who teaches courses on writing and American poverty at Haverford and Bryn Mawr colleges. Hosted by NJN's Desiree Taylor, the program featured, along with Ruben, Khalil Murrell, coordinator of the Dodge Foundation's Poetry-in-the-Schools Program, and Dr. Elayne Tobin, who teaches courses on literature and popular culture at New York University. They discussed the evolving imagery of the American Dream in the arts, dealing with topics such as poverty and affluence, aspiration and class – from the nineteenth-century young boys' novels of Horatio Alger to the HBO hit series, *The Wire*. The program offers a fascinating examination of how the arts have both interpreted and shaped our concept of the American Dream.



Norman Rockwell's "Freedom from Want"

You can see this program by going to the Council's website, [www.njch.org](http://www.njch.org). ■

## ARTIST'S HAND, *con't from page 1*

because it's a very interdisciplinary institution," White says. He has collaborated with historian Margaret Marsh on her book, *Suburban Lives*, a study which conceptualizes that subject as a way of life, with Nelson Johnson on his new book, *The Northside: African Americans and the Creation of Atlantic City*, and with librarians on an exhibit about women and war. He credits his introduction to, and fascination with, digital technology to a faculty colleague in the literature program.

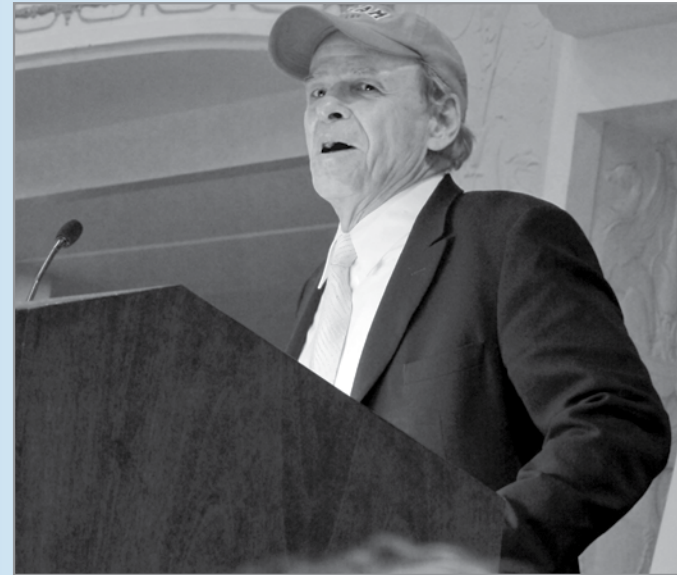
"Art making is first of all an expression of ideas," White believes, and therefore similar to writing. "I face this challenge with my students in their response to the visual world. For many of them the expression of beauty becomes central. I don't want to diminish that, but even the notion of beauty can be complex. The best artists are working with a heightened sense of meaning—what does this represent, what am I trying to say. Like writing, some works of art can be competent but not move us. The best art goes beyond that."

Two of White's most recent projects bear out his philosophy. *Small Towns, Black Lives* began as a web site with his early works that addressed history and memory in the African American community. "I started out thinking I was going to a small town to take photographs," White says. "Over 13 years a tremendous evolution took place, and it became photos and text and incorporated maps and historical documents." The project eventually became a book and

# LITERATURE AND MEDICINE CONFERENCE LOOKS AT TRAUMA OF WAR

Recently returned from a two-day conference in Washington, DC, titled *After Shock: Humanities Perspectives on Trauma*, NJCH's associate director, Mary Rizzo, said it "took a powerful look at the effect of trauma and how the humanities can help us understand how to respond to and help others who have suffered from it."

Organized by the Maine Humanities Council as part of the Literature and Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care® project that has been offered by NJCH at hospitals in New Jersey since 2005, the conference featured a screening of the documentary *Lioness*, about female combat vets from the Iraq War; presentations by Vietnam veteran Tim O'Brien, author of *The Things They Carried*; Jonathan Shay, clinical psychiatrist and author of *Achilles in Vietnam* and *Odysseus in America*; and Kate Braestrup, community minister, law enforcement chaplain, and author of *Here If You Need Me*.



Tim O'Brien

Also attending from New Jersey were representatives from four of our participating hospitals: Nancy Gross, Palliative Care Community Liaison, Overlook Hospital; Nancy Herron, LCSW, Clinician, Mountainside Hospital; Suzanne McConnell, fiction editor of the Belleville Literary Review and facilitator for the program at UMDNJ and VA Health Care New Jersey; and Dr. Carol Gill, Chief, Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders Service at the VA New Jersey Health Care System. ■



Kate Braestrup

continues as a web project as well. He describes his current work, *Schools for the Colored*, as a "continuation of my journey through the African American landscape... The architecture and geography of America's educational Apartheid, in the form of a system of 'colored schools,' within the landscape of southern New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois is the central concern of this project," he says. The *Schools for the Colored* exhibit will be shown at Princeton University's Bernstein Gallery in the Woodrow Wilson School from January 10 to February 24, 2011.

White's vision for NJCH is twofold: "To continue the high quality of programming and stewardship of funds that promote the public humanities, and to use this as a time to say that in spite of the financial realities, we can find a way to move forward, expanding the role of the humanities in society." He points out that all the new additions to curricula in the state's public colleges over the past 20 years have been mostly in the professions. "The pie got bigger but the humanities slice remained the same," he says. "How do we continue to talk about why the humanities are essential to everything that's taking place? We need to bring the humanities to students at all levels of their education because the decisions they will need to make about voting, health care, and work must have that foundation. And the Council certainly will continue its outreach to all New Jerseyans with programs that aim to strengthen our cultural and civic lives." ■

## RECENT GRANTS AWARDED

### MAJOR GRANTS

#### A Place Out of Time: The Bordentown School Curriculum Development

Development of curriculum materials for the documentary film *A Place Out of Time – The Bordentown School*.

##### Hudson West Productions

\$16,410  
Dave Davidson  
(914) 271-8643

#### Engendering Justice: Women's Cross-Cultural Prison Narratives

Two-day symposium examining justice as it relates to the incarceration of women through cultural, political, historical, and legal frameworks.

##### Montclair State University, Women's and Gender Studies Program

\$15,434  
Fawzia Afzal-Khan  
(973) 655-7309

#### The Abundant Oyster?

Development and production of an inaugural exhibit for the Bivalve Center's Delaware Bay Museum.

##### Bayshore Discovery Project

\$15,000  
Rachel Dolhanczyk  
(856) 785-2060 x109



Crewmember redistributing oysters onboard Lady Rae

Courtesy Bayshore Discovery Project

#### New Jersey South Asian Women's Film Festival

Day-long festival featuring films by independent South Asian female artists.

##### Asian American Film and Theater Project

\$14,450  
Sakti Sengupta  
(732) 310-0236

#### A New History of the Garden State

Publication of a chronological history of New Jersey informed by recent scholarship.

##### Rutgers University Press

\$10,000  
Marlie Wasserman  
(732) 445-7762 x624

#### Newark Poverty Reduction Conference: Historical Perspectives and Strategies

Day-long conference offering a context and discussion of solutions for poverty in New Jersey cities with Newark as a focus.

##### Renaissance Newark Foundation, Inc.

\$10,000  
Marylou Tibaldo-Bongiorno  
(973) 481-0076

#### Fertile Crescent: Gender, Transnationalism, and Postcolonialism in Contemporary Culture of the Middle East

Series of five public programs exploring the themes of gender, transnationalism, and postcolonialism in contemporary Middle Eastern culture.

##### Rutgers Institute for Women & Art

\$9,990  
Ferris Olin  
(732) 932-3726 x13

#### Remembering South Cape May: Exhibition & Programs

Development of an exhibition on the history of South Cape May, which was founded in 1894 and disappeared by the 1950s.

##### Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities

\$6,629  
Elan Zingman-Leith  
(609) 884-5404

#### Thursday Evening Salon Series

Series of ten interdisciplinary lectures exploring contemporary art and influences on the creative process.

##### Visual Arts Center of New Jersey

\$5,000  
Mari D'Alessandro  
(908) 273-9121 x46

#### Jessie Redmon Fauset Literary Series

Two-day event celebrating the life of Lawnside native Jessie Redmon Fauset, who served as editor of the NAACP's *Crisis* magazine in the 1920s.

##### Lawnside Historical Society, Inc.

\$3,907  
Linda Shockley  
(856) 546-8850



Warwick Road, Lawnside's main street, c. 1900

### MINI GRANTS

#### Caring Communication Heals — Bringing Caregivers Closer

Day-long conference considering the quality of communication in the healthcare environment from a humanistic perspective.

##### AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center

\$3,000  
Carol Brill  
(609) 569-7006

#### Why American Plays Matter

Series of free public lectures on the relationship between American theater and culture.

##### Kean University, Department of English

\$3,000  
Jan Balakian  
(908) 737-0374

#### Milton and the Cultures of Print

Exhibition and related programming on the life and works of John Milton.

##### Rutgers University Libraries, Special Collections and University

Archives  
\$2,965  
Fernanda Perrone  
(732) 932-7006 x363



Courtesy Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University Libraries

#### The Healing Power of Art

Panel discussion exploring religious and philosophical views of art and its ability to heal.

##### Guild of Creative Art

\$2,966  
Vicky Culver  
(732) 741-1441

#### South Asian Theater Festival Bringing Communities Together

Post-performance panel discussion on the relationship between theater and society.

##### Epic Actors' Workshop

\$2,600  
Aparna Tandon  
(732) 397-8911

#### 'Cops' Night at The New Jersey Historical Society

Screening of the documentary film *Revolution '67* and a related panel discussion.

##### The New Jersey Historical Society

\$1,975  
Linda Caldwell Epps  
(973) 596-8500

#### An Iliad Panel Discussion: Making Sense of War through Storytelling

Panel discussion on the relationship between storytelling and war to be held at the conclusion of a production of the play *An Iliad*.

##### McCarter Theatre Company

\$1,900  
Carrie Hughes  
(609) 258-6507

#### Patriots' Week 2010

Series of public lectures to be held in association with Patriots' Week, which celebrates Trenton's role in the American Revolution.

##### Trenton Downtown Association, Inc.

\$1,570  
Candice Frederick  
(609) 777-1770

Founded in 1972, the New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH) is a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The mission of NJCH is to serve the people of New Jersey by developing, supporting, and promoting projects that explore and interpret the human experience, foster cross-cultural understanding, and engage people in dialogue about matters of individual choice and public responsibility.



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*Ideas* is published by the  
NEW JERSEY COUNCIL FOR  
THE HUMANITIES

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