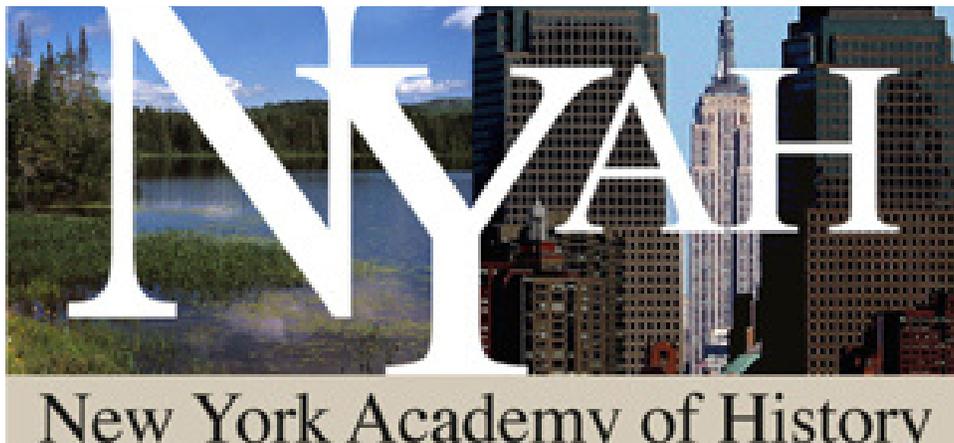


NEWSLETTER

February 2026



Dear Colleagues,

Apologies for the one-year hiatus of Academy News. Sometimes life gets in the way. Many of you have told me about how much you enjoy the dinners in New York City at the Cosmopolitan Club. We are preparing for another dinner. Stay tuned for the specific date. In the meantime, the book prize reviews are complete and will be announced at the dinner. Special thanks to Tim Shannon, Vince Cannato, and Paula Baker for their careful review of the large number of books that were submitted this year.

In reviewing comments that members made when they renewed their membership there were some interesting thoughts about the direction of the NYAH, including planning regional events upstate, supporting a prize for a young scholar and oh yes, continuing to have the dinners to bring historians together for conversation and fellowship.

As you are all aware, history has been much in the news as questions have been raised about exhibitions at the Smithsonian and the National Park Service and there are attempts to whitewash history. You might find historian David Blight's article, "Historian's Voices in Times of Peril" a particularly interesting read in the December issue of the *Journal of American History*.

Gretchen Sorin

News from the Fellows

James Basker

Jim Basker, President of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, has co-curated with Sandra Trenholm a pop-up exhibition entitled "Declaration 1776: The Big Bang of Modern Democracy." Copies of this seven-panel exhibition have gone out to more than 70 schools and historic sites across the country. See it here:

<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/collection/panel-exhibitions/declaration-1776#par-24819>

Charlotte Brooks

Charlotte Brooks [The Moys of New York and Shanghai: One Family's Extraordinary Journey Through War and Revolution](#) (University of California, 2026) is a family saga that follows a group of Chinese American siblings back and forth across the Pacific and through the Jazz Age, the Depression, World War II, the Chinese civil war, and the Cold War.

Jon Butler

Jon Butler has published "Before Minnesota Nice: The Jewish Wartime Campaign against North Star State Antisemitism, 1939-49," *American Jewish History*, 108 (July 2024) [publ Nov 2025], 247-271

Benjamin Carp

Benjamin Carp published "Insurgency and War," in [The Cambridge History of the American Revolution, vol. 2, Revolution](#), ed. Marjoleine Kars, Michael A. McDonnell, and Andrew M. Schocket (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2025). In press is "Raking among the Ashes: The Distorted History of the Great New York Fire of 1776," in [Fire and Freedom: The American Revolution in New York](#), ed. Thomas S. Wermuth, Jennifer Lemak, and Devin Lander (Ithaca, N.Y., Cornell University Press, 2026)

News from the Fellows

Daniel Czitrom

Daniel Czitrom, Emeritus Professor of History on the Ford Foundation, retired from teaching in 2022, after 41 years at Mount Holyoke College. His new book, [Kitchen Table History: Contending With My Family's Radical Past](#), will be published by University of Illinois Press in 2026. It is an historical memoir spanning three generations.

Dennis Connors

[The Gilded Age on Syracuse's James Street](#) by Dennis Connors, edited by Gregg Tripoli, is the winner of the 2025 Preservation Association of Central New York CNY History Award. The award was presented on December 5 at the Preservation Awards Ceremony, held at St. Paul's Syracuse, and recognizes and celebrates exceptional work done to document and share Central New York's architectural heritage.

David Dunlap

David Dunlap is offering interested members a tour of the private Museum at The Times. Please contact David for more information. dunlap@nytimes.com

Amy Godine

Independent scholar Amy Godine has published [The Black Woods: Pursuing Racial Justice on the Adirondack Frontier](#). This comprehensive history tracks the wealthy upstate abolitionist Gerrit Smith's plan to ease equal access to the ballot with three thousand gifts of Adirondack land lots to Black New Yorkers in 1846. Godine's richly documented account argues for a fresh appraisal of this initiative and its impact on the social culture of the frontier and Adirondack history.

News from the Fellows

Jeff S. Gurock

Jeff Gurock Klaperman Professor of History at Yeshiva University, recently published *Marty Glickman: The Life of an American Jewish Sports Legend* (NYU Press, 2023), a biography of New York's foremost sportscaster of the 1940s-1990s.

Martha Hodes

Martha Hodes is President of the Society of American Historians (2025-26 term). She recently published "The Diary of a Twelve-Year-Old Hostage: Erasure and Survival in Family Memories, Stories, and Archives," in *Scholars and Their Kin: Historical Explorations, Literary Experiments*, ed. Stéphane Gerson (University of Chicago Press, 2025). Dr. Hodes gave the keynote address, "Lincoln's Death in Myth and Memory, Fact and Fiction, A 160th Anniversary Conversation," with Thomas Mallon, 30th Annual Lincoln Forum Symposium, Gettysburg, PA, 2025

Harold Holzer

From acclaimed Abraham Lincoln historian Harold Holzer comes *BROUGHT FORTH ON THIS CONTINENT: Abraham Lincoln and American Immigration* (Dutton, February 13, 2024). Holzer charts Lincoln's political career through the lens of immigration, from his role as a member of an increasingly nativist political party, to his evolution into an immigration champion, a progression that would come at the same time as he refined his views on abolition and Black citizenship.

Jaap Jacobs

Jaap Jacobs edited, *A Firm Peace and Sincere Friendship? Four Centuries of Dutch-American Stories*. Amsterdam University Press, 2025 a book of 26 essays, 12 of which deal with New York State or City. Jaap received the New Netherland Institute's Clague and Carol Van Slyke Article Prize, 2025, for "The First Arrival of Enslaved Africans in New Amsterdam," *New York History* 104-1 (Summer 2023), 96-114.

News from the Fellows

Seth Kamil

Seth Kamil President & Founder of Big Onion Walking Tours has published “The New York-Barbados Connection: An Exploration of Surviving Colonial Spaces and Interconnected History” in the Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society (Vol. LXXI).

Simon Middleton

Available on Great Courses popular streaming platforms is "History of Money from 3000 BCE. To the Present,"
<https://www.thegreatcoursesplus.com/the-history-of-money>

Julie Miller

Julie Miller published an article: “General Washington and Mrs. French: A Woman Wields her Power in Eighteenth-Century Virginia,” Virginia Magazine of History and Biography Vol. 133, No. 3, pages 179-224. She also curated the exhibition “The Two Georges: Parallel Lives in an Age of Revolution.” <https://www.loc.gov/exhibitions/two-georges/about-this-exhibition/> at the Library of Congress. It will be open through July 4, 2026 (extended from its original closing date).

Deborah Dash Moore

Deborah Dash Moore published Walkers in the City: Jewish Street Photographers of Midcentury New York (Ithaca: Three Hills press, 2023). This book showcases the distinctive urban vision that working-class Jewish photographers produced with these new cameras on New York City’s streets and in public spaces.

News from the Fellows

Edward T. O'Donnell

Edward O'Donnell from Holy Cross has completed a book on the 1894 Pullman Strike that will be published by Routledge in 2024. title - The Pullman Strike of 1894: A Gilded Age Battle between Labor and Capital.

Stephen Petrus

Stephen Petrus curated the digital exhibition, The Battle for Intro. 2: The New York City Gay Rights Bill, 1971 - 1986. He also received the 2025 Gettysburg College Distinguished History Department Alumni Award and the 2024 Vincent Maltese Triangle Fire Memorial Award for lifelong commitment to teaching about the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911. He was interviewed on The Brian Lehrer Show, "Context and a Movie: A Complete Unknown," WNYC, 93.9 FM, January 2, 2025 and "A History of the Struggle to Pass NYC's 1986 Gay Rights Bill," WNYC, 93.9 FM, June 21, 2024.

Jerald Podair

Jerald Podair co-authored Wrecked: The Edmund Fitzgerald and the Sinking of the American Economy, published by Michigan State University Press in August 2025.

Shannon Risk

Shannon Risk published The Life and Times of Elizabeth Upham Yates: A Crusader for Women's Suffrage, Temperance, and Missionary Work. The book was the end result of ten years of research about a major women's suffragist from Maine who had been lost to history.

She was also promoted to full professor of history at Niagara University and took on the director role for two M.A. programs--one in interdisciplinary studies at our New York campus and the other in Disaster and Emergency Management and National Security at our Canada campus.

News from the Fellows

Lou Roper

Lou Roper published “Global pursuits: English overseas initiatives of the long seventeenth century in perspective” and co-author of “Introduction” in eds. Elodie Peyrol-Kleiber, Agnès Delahaye-Dado, L.H. Roper and Bertrand Van Ruymbeke, Agents of European overseas empires: Private colonisers, 1450-1800 (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2024, <https://manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/9781526167330/>), 1-19, 66-87. And, wrote a guest post on recent and forthcoming scholarship for the Global Maritime History Blog, 2 December 2024, <https://globalmaritimehistory.com/guest-post-lou-roper/>.

Lynne Sagalyn

Lynne B. Sagalyn, Professor Emerita of Real Estate at Columbia Business School has published her new book: Times Square Remade: The Dynamics of Urban Change. MIT Press. Oct 2023. For more information please visit <https://mitpress.mit.edu/9780262048545/times-square-remade/>

Sarah Seidman

Sarah Seidman curated, Activist New York, the ongoing exhibition at the Museum of the City of New York, was named one of the best New York City exhibitions by Hyperallergic. With Dr. Zinga A. Fraser of Brooklyn College she also curated the temporary exhibition at MCNY, Changing the Face of Democracy: Shirley Chisholm at 100, received the Excellence in Design award from the Museum Association of New York. It was designed by the firm We Should Do It All.

News from the Fellows

Daniel Soyer

Cornell University Press has published [Left in the Center: The Liberal Party of New York and the Rise and Fall of American Social Democracy](#). The book traces the history of one of New York's longest lasting and most influential small parties, from its origins as a social democratic labor party to its degeneration into a cynical patronage machine, and its final downfall. Writing in the Hudson River Valley Review, Michael Armato called the book "a gift to students of New York State politics, whether at the academy or in the political arena. Simply put, this historical work is useful today on many fronts. It shows struggles and successes, aspirations and realities, power and influence, greed and generosity."

Andrew Sparberg

Andrew Sparberg has been delivering tours and presentations for the New York Transit Museum and teaching at CUNY on mass transit history. He lectures on New York Worlds Fairs 1939 and 1964, Penn Station History, Manhattan's Elevated Lines and Nelson Rockefeller and the MTA. He published a letter critiquing Zohran Mamdani's proposal for free bus service 7/27/2025 NY Times Metropolitan Section and a Newsday Guest Essay about Penn Station 7/29/2025

Philip Terrie

Philip Terrie has published [Wild Forest Lands: Finding History and Meaning in the Adirondacks](#) with Syracuse University Press, 2025.

Lillian Williams

Congratulations to William Williams on receiving the Buffalo History Museum's prestigious Red Jacket award. Established in 1957, The Red Jacket Award is presented in recognition of "quiet, continued, unbroken devotion to our civic progress and needs by one who, through such devotion, has thereby enlarged our awareness of our heritage in order that it may be built upon for the enrichment of our future."

Farewell

Edward Countryman

Edward Countryman passed away on March 24, 2025. He was 80 years old. Countryman taught at Yale and wrote many books on the history of the American Revolution. Among his many popular works were Enjoy the Same Liberty: Black Americans and the Revolutionary Era, A People in Revolution, which won the Bancroft Prize and Americans a Collision of Histories. He was the series editor of *Historians at Work*.

Alex Garvin

Alexander Garvin, 80, passed away on December 17, 2021. Garvin taught urban development and architecture at Yale for over 50 years, authored multiple renowned planning and development books, and served New York City under five mayoral administrations as Deputy Commissioner of Housing and City Planning Commissioner. Garvin educated generations of urban planners, developers, and architects, and his influence on the built environment of the modern era remains incalculable. He will be greatly missed. <https://www.architecture.yale.edu/about-the-school/news/inmemoriam-alexander-garvin>

Ron Grele

Ronald Grele, 89, passed away peacefully surrounded by family and friends in his New York City home on December 13, 2023. Hailing from Naugatuck, His career in oral history took him across the country, from Los Angeles to New York City, from writing and archiving, to research, to teaching. He served as editor-in-chief of The International Journal of Oral History and authored two seminal texts in the field of oral history. Grele was also an avid gardener, and for maintained a community garden for several decades. He will be remembered as a pillar of many communities, an oral history thinker and writer who inspired thousands of oral historians throughout the world.

Farewell

Barry Lewis

Former NYSID Instructor Barry Lewis was best known as the quintessential New York City historical and architectural walking tour guide. He co-hosted with David Hartman the TV special “A Walk Down 42nd Street,” which aired on the New York PBS station WNET in 1998. The special bloomed into a series that was shown on PBS stations throughout the country. In addition to lecturing at institutions like the New York Historical Society, Mr. Lewis taught Modern Architecture & Design I & II at the New York School of Interior Design for 25 years. His courses were wildly popular, and he won NYSID’s William Breger Faculty Achievement Award for extraordinary teaching in 2001.

<https://www.nysid.edu/blog/remembering-barry-lewis>

Jeff Kroessler

Jeffrey Kroessler was a Professor and Interim Chief Librarian at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY. He was long active in historic preservation issues in New York City with the Historic Districts Council and the Municipal Art Society; he was most recently president of the City Club of New York. He was also the author of [Sunnyside Gardens: Planning and Preservation in a Historic Garden Suburb](#) (2021), which received critical acclaim in The New York Review of Books.

<https://edwarddlynchfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/1731/JeffreyKroessler/obituary.html>

Save The Date

New York State History Day

Sunday, April 26, 2025 SUNY Oneonta, Oneonta, New York
NY HISTORY DAY THEME: Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in History
History Day is a national program that brings together middle and high school students from all over New York State to present their year-long projects in History. It takes 100 judges to evaluate the students' exhibitions, documentaries, papers, websites, and performances. The program is important because it teaches students to engage with history through primary documents. NYS History Day needs historians to judge .If you would like to support this program by serving as a judge, please contact Cristal De La Cruz at DELAC059@oneonta.edu

New York History Journal

Since 1932, New York History has served as the foremost scholarly journal on the state's past. New York History, now under the leadership of the Cornell University Press, and working closely with staff from the New York State Museum, seeks to unify the diverse field of New York State history and meet the needs of a growing historical community that includes scholars, public historians, museum professionals, local government historians, and those seeking an in-depth look at the Empire State's history.

For more information and submission guidelines:
New York History Journal | The New York State Museum

Save The Date

New York History Conference

The New York State Museum, State Library, State Archives, and the New York State Archives Partnership Trust, in collaboration with the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist University and the Cooperstown Graduate Program at SUNY Oneonta, are excited to announce the annual New York History Conference. The goal of the conference is to provide an inclusive and engaging forum in which historians, educators, museum professionals, archivists, and librarians can share research and resources on the practice, research, preservation, and teaching of New York State history.

When: June 11-12, 2026

Where: Marist University, 3399 North Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

For more information: [New York History Conference | The New York State Museum](#)

2026 Dinner

Stay tuned for an email about the 2026 dinner. We are having difficulty finding an available date at the Cosmopolitan Club and wanted to get this newsletter out to you as soon as possible.