

April 24 and 25, Chemical Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia, PA

Thursday, April 24

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9:00 am – 12:30 pm      Workshop (additional registration fee)

**“An Introduction to Oral History,” presented by David J. Caruso, OHMAR President**

Oral history is a research method and an innovative tool for recording and promoting the understanding of contemporary history; it provides invaluable access to the knowledge, experiences, and motivations of people, in their own words. Learners in this workshop will discover the fundamental concepts of developing an oral history project and the interview process. By the end of the workshop, participants will know about subject selection, interview preparation, equipment usage, and how to conduct interviews. Additionally, they will be able to explain the principles of oral history processing and preservation.

1:45 pm

***Conference Welcome***

David J. Caruso, OHMAR President

2:00 pm -4:00 pm      *Concurrent Sessions 1*

1.1

**Stories of OHMAR: Where Past, Present, and Future Meet (Roundtable)**

Lu Ann Jones (moderator and organizer), National Park Service  
David Caruso, Chemical Heritage Foundation  
Roger Horowitz, Hagley Museum and Library  
Anne Rush, University of Maryland  
Linda Shopes, Development Editor  
Jason Steinhauer, Library of Congress  
David Winkler, Naval Historical Foundation

1.2

**Expanding the Story: Traditional and New Approaches to Oral History**

“Documenting the Stories Unspoken: Oral History Transcripts and the Use of Source Citations,” Jacqueline Boytim, Chemical Heritage Foundation  
“Embracing New Media to Tell the Story of Volunteer Farm Workers,” Chrissie Reilly, University of Maryland Baltimore County

“Choreography and Improvisation: Structure vs. Freedom in Dance Oral Histories at the NY Public Library for the Performing Arts,” Susan Kraft, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

“Securing Unsecured Text: The Nigerian Film Industry Utilizes Video As A Textual Reservoir for West African Oral Tradition,” Sharron Greaves, Nyack College

4:30 pm-6:30 pm **Reception** (included with registration)

Friday, April 25

9:00 am -10:15 am *Concurrent Sessions 2*

2.1 **Relationships and Oral History**

“The Patchwork Biography of Ms. X: A Case Study in Negotiated History from CHF’s Center for Oral History,” Benjamin Gross, Chemical Heritage Foundation

“The Impact of Regret: Collecting Oral Histories on Bronx Community Activism Against Crack Cocaine in the Shadow of the War on Drugs,” Noel Wolf, Fordham University

2.2 **Choosing Subjects: A Complex Issue**

“The manner. . .in which some of these kids act is just appalling to me.’ Oral Histories of Student Veterans at Monmouth University,” Melissa Ziobro, Monmouth University

“Choosing Who to Talk to: Asbestos and Risk Perception in Ambler, Pennsylvania,” Lee Sullivan Berry, Chemical Heritage Foundation

“Collective Identity & the Selection Process: Understanding Community Identity through Oral History,” Shannon Geis, Columbia University

10:30 am-12:15 pm *Concurrent Sessions 3*

3.1 **Emotional Labor and Oral History in the Built Environment (Roundtable)**

Erin Bernard, Philadelphia Public History Truck

Laura Deutch, Media Artist

Patrick Grossi, Temple Contemporary’s Funeral for a Home

Maria Möller, Artist

3.2 **Interviewing: Methodologies of Silence**

“Audio/visual components: still color photographs within the enclosure; audio from oral history interviews with the nuns, and video footage by me and the nuns,” Abbie Reese, Independent Scholar

“Lifer Stories: How do we get oral histories when no technology is allowed?” J. Michael Lyons, Saint Joseph’s University

“Investigating Debt Peonage: The FBI as Interviewer,” Amy Absher, Case Western Reserve University

“Silenced Silences: Conducting Oral History Interviews with Members of Historically Marginalized Communities,” Qresent Mali Mason, Temple University

12:30 pm- 1:30 pm **Lunch** (included with registration)

1:45 pm-3:15 pm **2014 Forest Pogue Award and OHMAR Business Meeting**

The Pogue award recognizes lifetime achievement in the field of oral history. It is named after Forest C. Pogue, an oral history pioneer among whose many contributions were conducting interviews with soldiers during the Allied invasion of Normandy in 1944.

**Judith Knudsen (Awardee)**

For nineteen years, Judith has been manager of the special collections at the Arlington Public Library, formerly called the Virginia Room and now named the Center for Local History (CLH). She has overseen an extensive oral history program that now boasts more than 400 interview transcripts available for researchers. Among her many projects, she organized the Arlington Remembers 9/11 project, which includes 35 interviews with firefighters, policemen and other citizens five years after September 11. An especially notable achievement has been securing oral history interviews with business and civic leaders in Arlington’s long-standing African American community where there is a dearth of written and documentary history. Knudsen is also served as a past president and executive board member of OHMAR.

**OHMAR Strategic Plan Presentation and Discussion**

The new OHMAR strategic plan will be made available for all conference attendees. This five-year plan, which attendees will be asked to discuss and ratify, plots the future directions and initiatives of OHMAR as it moves towards cementing its place in the regional landscape.

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3:30pm-5:00pm *Concurrent Sessions 4*

4.1 **Many Questions and Many Answers: The Library of Congress Veterans History Project (VHP) as a Memory Preservation Effort**

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“Experiencing War: Interpretation of VHP collections by the Veterans History Project,” Megan Harris, Veteran’s History project, Library of Congress

“Tools of the Trade: Effecting a National-Community Dialogue through the Veterans History Project,” Owen Rogers, Veteran’s History project, Library of Congress

“Anyone Can Participate: The Challenges of Volunteer-Driven Collecting at the National Level,” Rachel Telford, Veteran’s History project, Library of Congress

4.2 **Publishing and Oral History (Roundtable)**

Audra J. Wolfe (moderator and chair) independent Writer, Editor, Historian

Chris Chappell, Palgrave Macmillan

Mary Rizzo, *The Public Historian*

Nancy Toff, Oxford University Press