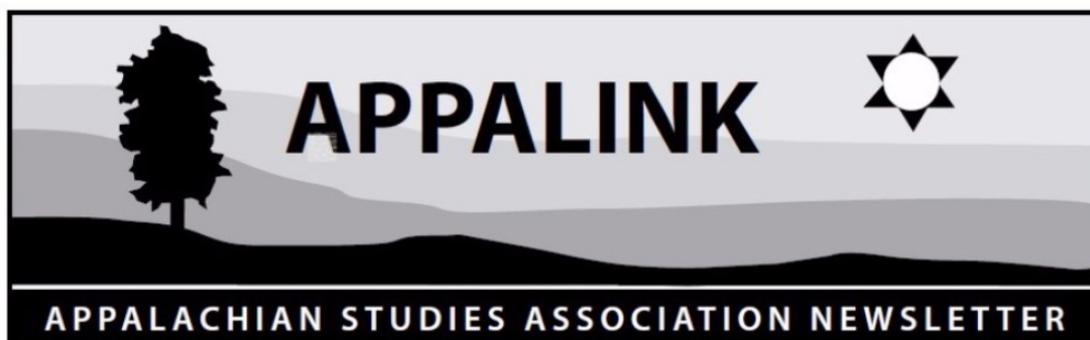


Get ready for the virtual ASA Conference - March 11-14!

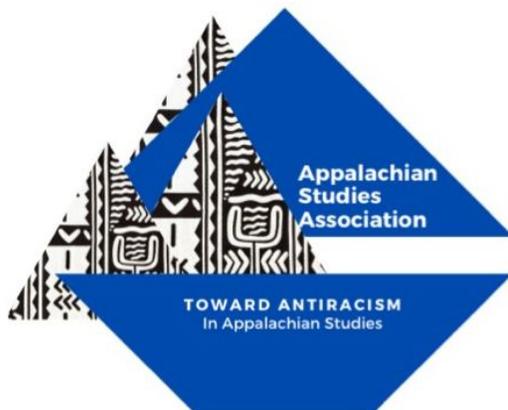
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Spring 2021

Volume 44, Number 2

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello ASA members,

I come to you this spring from much the same place I came to you in the fall: my living room in West Virginia, dachshund by my side. Now snow instead of leaves fall outside the window, but warmer days are ahead. This year, more than perhaps any other I can remember, I am holding my breath for spring. This is the season of new, of fresh air, and beginnings.

By this point, we are all sick of hearing the word "unprecedented". COVID-19 has been with us for over a year and all of our lives have undoubtedly changed in one way or

Which brings me to ASA 2021: for the first time in the history of ASA, this year, the annual meeting will be entirely virtual. While we will miss seeing old friends, happening upon a random fiddle session, browsing through the book fair, or having a friendly fight over a silent auction find, I promise that this year's conference will bring you the outstanding quality of sessions you have come to expect from ASA, while also using technology to reach presenters and attendees throughout the region, country, and world in ways that we have not been able to before (and while keeping everyone safe and healthy). Under the leadership of past-President Michele

another, and sadly, many lives around the world have been lost during the pandemic. In many ways, it is too large to comprehend, let alone put into words. As I write this, the vaccine is slowly making its way to first responders, the elderly, teachers, and others in prioritized groups. Hopefully, by the time you read this newsletter, the vaccine will be more widely available and this spring will open into a summer and fall of cautious celebration and reunion.

This is not the year any of us had expected. When I agreed to take on the role of President of ASA, I anticipated a year of work, certainly, but not quite the work I found. I began my presidency the weekend that the annual meeting of ASA was cancelled due to COVID-19. What followed was several weeks of tough decisions and difficult conversations. Then, a few short months later, the United States was forced to confront racial injustice in the wake of George Floyd's death. As an organization, we, again, had to look inward and admit that we had not done enough to support and represent BIPOC, and we made a pledge that we would do better. I am proud of the statement of unity that came from the ASA Steering Committee, and even more proud of the hard work members have continued to do as we prepare for this year's conference, which will focus on moving towards antiracism.

Morrone, this year's conference is shaping up to be one that will not soon be forgotten.

Yes, it is different, and by now maybe all you're wanting is some familiarity; I understand that. Let that familiarity come to you through the screen, though. Hear those familiar accents, study with us these important topics, share your ideas with others who care as much about the people and place of Appalachia as you do. And next year, if at all possible, we will meet again in Morgantown, as we take over the campus of West Virginia University.

I will end this message, my last as President of ASA, before I move on to chair the 2022 conference, and the wonderful Meredith McCarroll takes office, by saying thank you, friends. Thank you for being kind and brilliant, generous and creative, for pulling ASA through when we weren't always sure it was going to be possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Natalie Sypolt
President, Appalachian Studies
Association, and Chair 2022
Conference

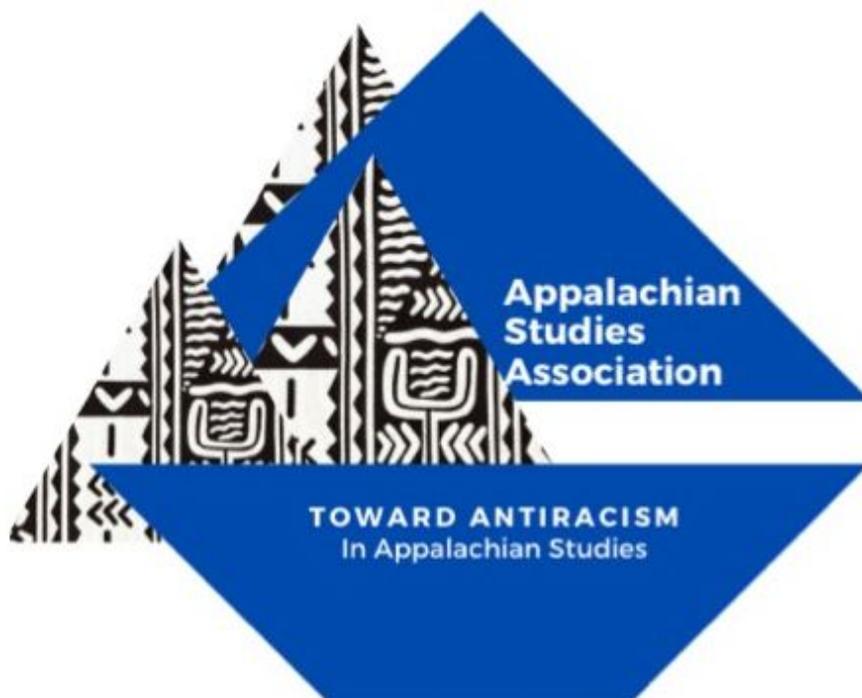
OUR MISSION



The mission of the Appalachian Studies Association is to promote and engage dialogue, research, scholarship, education, creative expression, and action among a diverse and inclusive group of scholars, educators, practitioners, grassroots activists, students, individuals, groups and institutions. Our mission is driven by our commitment to foster quality of life, democratic participation and appreciation of Appalachian experiences regionally, nationally, and internationally.

44th ANNUAL ASA CONFERENCE

TOWARD ANTIRACISM IN APPALACHIAN STUDIES MARCH 11 – 14, 2021, VIRTUAL CONFERENCE



Preliminary Program

Welcome to the Virtual 2021 Appalachian Studies Association Conference!

“Unprecedented” is a word that all of us have heard so much recently. Sometimes this word can be scary, but other times it can be empowering. Regardless, “unprecedented” signals that adaptability, innovation, and hope are crucial to surviving the whirlwind of uncertainty and change. Like so many situations we have found ourselves a part of over the past year, the 44th Annual ASA conference is unprecedented. We have adapted, innovated, and are hopeful that this will be one of the most memorable conferences in our history.

The combination of social justice and public health has created an opportunity for organizational self-reflection. Specifically, the steering committee is engaging in crucial conversations about racism in ASA and in Appalachian studies.

We could not have these conversations without several members speaking up and speaking out to challenge all of us to take immediate and concrete steps. This

We welcome your participation in this informal facilitated discussion. To manage the discussion, we are asking you to pre-register by March 8 at <http://appalachianstudies.org/annualconference/> for the book club so we can get a sense of how many small groups for which we should prepare.

As we put the program together, we identified three major categories of presentations:

1. **Those that explicitly address the conference theme as identified by proposers.** These sessions are multidisciplinary and include education, history, folklore, and social justice among many other topics.
2. **Special sessions from the 2020 conference.** Much was lost when the 2020 conference was cancelled, so we were thrilled when six of the panels agreed to participate in the 2021 conference. Although these

dialogue led to ASA's June 2020 Statement of Solidarity with Black Lives Matter. In this statement we promised to:

- Follow up with cancelled 2020 conference programming that specifically focused on Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities and encourage these submissions to return to ASA in 2021.
- Listen to and provide spaces for conversation at the 2021 conference that focuses on raising the voices of BIPOC including queer, trans, disability, and immigrant populations.
- Share resources on our website about how to effectively build and maintain allyship with Black Lives Matter.
- Listen to feedback from our BIPOC members and act upon how we can empower these voices further.

We are going to do our absolute best to keep these promises and the 2021 conference is just a first step.

When we identified the conference theme, we were uncertain about whether there would be enough submittals to fill an entire conference. However, we were overwhelmed with the research, conversation, projects, and creative activity underway addressing antiracism in Appalachian studies. The fact that there is vibrant and relevant activity already occurring throughout ASA further strengthens the need for this conference.

To frame the conference, we invite you to participate in a pre-conference Book Club on Wednesday March 10 to discuss "How to be an Antiracist," by Ibram X. Kendi. This book is one of the most influential and discussed books to address racism. We will be using the book club kit and discussion guide from Dr. Kendi's website: <https://www.ibramxkendi.com/how-to-be-an-antiracist>.

sessions create sort of a "mini-conference," we have scheduled them throughout the entire conference.

3. **Sessions that include general Appalachian studies topics.** We wanted to be sure to include the good work of others that might not be specifically related to the conference theme. So, you will see many sessions that look like some of those you might have seen at a "normal" conference.

You will note a mixture of individual presentations, panels, and performances in each time slot. We attempted to balance the concurrent sessions, but one of the real values of a virtual conference is that you do not have to make difficult choices. If you miss a session you will be able to view it later since all sessions will be recorded and available to you with your 2021 membership. Another feature is the virtual poster sessions that will be available throughout the conference. Please note that sessions begin on Thursday afternoon.

If you are new to this type of conference or want to be sure that you are prepared to participate, we are hosting a "Technology Café" on Wednesday, March 10. Technology advisors will be standing by from 2:00-3:30 PM so you can stop by to test out the conference platform.

As we reflect on last year, the steering committee, the planning committee at the University of Kentucky, and everyone involved in the 2020 conference faced a very difficult decision to cancel the conference. We were heartbroken because of the tremendous programming that we were looking forward to. In retrospect, 2020 ended up being more heartbreaking for many of us than just missing our conference. While the 2021 conference will not allow us to gather for the hugs and happy hours we look forward to, it does provide us the safe space we need in more ways than one.

**Michele Morrone,
Conference Planning Chair**

Member Spotlight

Carrie and Michael Kline



TALKING ACROSS THE LINES with Michael & Carrie Kline

TUNE IN TO THE TALKING ACROSS THE LINES PODCAST:
WIT AND WISDOM ON RACE, CLASS AND COMMUNITY SURVIVAL FROM THE APPALACHIAN COALFIELDS AND FRACKING FIELDS

Available on iTunes




based on field recordings of life story interviews and music

LISTEN @
SOUNDCLOUD.COM/TALKINGACROSSTHELINES



Michael and Carrie Kline met through a love of singing, old-time music and the oral tradition. They've made a life together performing music, gathering stories, and documenting the experiences of new immigrants and long-established residents of Appalachia and beyond, aiming to sustain families and communities through folklife documentation, listening projects and music.

As the name of their business states, they build cross-cultural understanding through "Talking Across the Lines." The Klines weave West Virginia stories and folklore with spine tingling harmonies on voice and guitar. They present their music both as entertainment and social history, with engaging ease and hard-hitting passion. Talking Across the Lines is the name of their oral history and folklore enterprise as well as the Talking Across the Lines podcast. Tune in. Join in.

PLANNED GIVING

Thank you Carrie and Michael Kline!

On behalf of the Appalachian Studies Association, we send our sincere thanks to long time members Carrie and Michael Kline for adding ASA as a beneficiary in their will. As far as we are aware, this is the first time members have included the ASA in their planned giving. We are inspired by Carrie and Michael's generosity and thoughtfulness toward our Association.

Michael and Carrie Kline expressed the following about their support of ASA, "we feel that ASA encompasses so much of what we believe in, a network of people studying and sharing cutting edge issues of community, economic and ecological survival. ASA gatherings inspire like little else. And we always love singing and playing music around the edges." Please go to the Members Spotlight to find out more about Michael and Carrie Kline and their "Talking Across the Lines" Podcast.

After a year of financial stress for the organization due to COVID-19, we appreciate the hope for the future that the Kline's planned gift represents. We hope this act will spark ideas for many members thinking about how they can support the ASA. To share your ideas for sustaining the ASA now and in the future, please contact Rachel Terman at terman@ohio.edu.

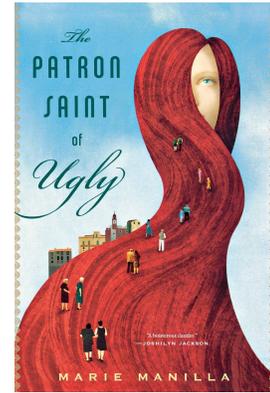
With gratitude,
Rachel Terman
ASA Finance Chair

News



The Shepherd University Board of Governors has approved a **new and innovative undergraduate degree program**. The new interdisciplinary degree, part of the curriculum and programs for the Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities, has two degree tracks—a BA designed for students, who will go on to graduate or law school, or some type of professional studies, and a BS designed for students who wish to directly enter the workforce and remain in the region or engage with the community. The latter track is geared toward enhancing and increasing students' marketability. With a foundation in Appalachian Studies, the various tracks for this degree focus on the environment, business, and provide a range of skillsets that give the graduates flexibility and allow them to provide service to the community. Courses and experiences include Celtic Roots Global Appalachia and community service programs. The degree points toward a new direction for Shepherd University in preparing students for the future and encouraging them to make a contribution to their region.

The Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities announces **the 21st Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence (AHWIR) and winner of the Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award, West Virginia writer Marie Manilla**. Manilla's book *The Patron Saint of Ugly*, a Weatherford Award winner, will be the 2021 West Virginia One Book One WV Common Read selection. Manilla will work throughout the year to contribute to a number of stateside programs, including the WV Fictions Competition, *The Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Volume 14*, scholarship and programs associated with the AHWIR. Manilla follows an esteemed list of writers in the program, including Henry Louis Gates, Denise Giardina, Silas House, Ron Rash, Nikki Giovanni and others.



Culmination of the series occurs at the Appalachian Heritage Festival, September 24-October 1, 2021. The series is partnered with and supported by the Shepherd University Foundation, WV Humanities Council, and the WV Center for the Book.

The Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Dorothy Allison Volume will arrive in April. The collection includes this year several Weatherford Award winners, state and city poet laureates, and some of the finest writers in the region and the country.

The collection centers around the work of Dorothy Allison and the prose and poetry pieces address themes of stereotyping, LGBTQ rights and gender issues. For copies of the volume and to pre-order, contact Kendra at Four Seasons Books, 304.876.3486 or 4seasons114@gmail.com.

The Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities will host an August **tour of the Scottish Highlands and the Orkney Islands**, as part of the Celtic Roots Global Appalachia program. For information about the tour or the course, see <https://worldstrides.com/custom/celtic-roots-global-appalachia-highlands-hebrides/>. The Celtic Roots course is taught every two years and focuses on places associated with the Celtic and Scot-Irish Diaspora. This year's travel will take students and the community to the English Lakes, Ayr, Edinburgh, Inverness, the Orkney Islands, Whitby and the Yorkshire Moors, and London, as students explore associations with Scottish history, culture and Appalachian/Scottish literature.



Vol 3, Issue 1 (2021) - Available Now

Appalachian Curator

A newsletter about Appalachian special collections and archives | ISSN 2642-8822

Vol 2, Issue 2 (Fall 2020) - Available Now

IN MEMORIAM



James A. Cook, passed away on Wednesday, January 6th, the day of the Epiphany. He was a good friend to the community, performing for decades at events sponsored by the Urban Appalachian Community Coalition, Cincinnati Arts Association, Appalachian Studies Association, the Fraley Festival of Traditional Music, Cincinnati Dulcimer Society--plus jamming with friends from Hills of Kentucky Dulcimers, Thomas More University, and the Appalachian Festival.

Obituary and Tribute Wall

Officer & Steering Committee Election

The word 'VOTE' is written in large, bold, black letters with a red and blue 3D shadow effect. The letters are arranged in two rows: 'VO' on top and 'TE' on the bottom.

The election for ASA Y'ALL Steering Committee members is open and **closes Sunday, March 14 at 9:00 AM.**

There is an option on the ballot to write-in candidates.

Contact Meredith McCarroll at mmccarro@bowdoin.edu with questions.

[Click here to VOTE!](#)

Nominees

One Y'ALL Steering Committee Member (2021-2023)

Nicholas Tyler Reich (he/they) is a born-and-raised South Appalachian. They are a doctoral student at Vanderbilt English, where he studies queer and trans* ecologies, literatures of the US Deep South and Appalachia, and energy ontologies. Their work has been published or is forthcoming in *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly*, the upcoming edited collection *The Anthropocene: Approaches and Contexts for Literature and the Humanities*, and elsewhere. He is currently working on Appalachian histories of racialized extractive capitalism, gender (in)stability, and activism around the 'just transition' through the work of the Affrilachian Poets.

Alex White: I come from a small mountain town of 5,000, and I currently attend Harvard University—nearly 600 miles away. Doing so as a first-generation low-income student, I have experienced the challenges facing young Appalachian people who enter the world of higher education. As a result, I founded the Rural Leadership Initiative, a 501(c)3 nonprofit supporting rural students at top schools. My work recently won a Rural Spirit Award (Next Gen), and I was also selected to serve as a delegate to the 2020 National Rural Youth Assembly. It would be an honor to continue this work with Y'ALL!

[Click here to VOTE!](#)

Committee Reports

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

In 2020, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee did the following:

- Attempted to host a non-profit drag show organized by Imperial Court of Kentucky (local LGBTQ organization in Lexington) that was cancelled because of Covid-19
- Was to receive pronoun stickers funded by the Imperial Court of Kentucky
- Printed a press release in response to the Black Lives Matter movement

In 2021, we plan to:

- Focus on BIPOC voices at the conference as seen in the statement below and align the conference and organization accordingly
- Host another Drag Show in 2022
- Have pronouns stickers available at the conference

Statement on Black Lives Matter

The Appalachian Studies Association stands in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and with those protesting the horrific murders of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Sean Reed, James Scurlock, and many other Black Americans.

We acknowledge that ASA is an overwhelmingly majority white association. We admit that we have upheld structural inequalities within our organization and have not taken sufficient action to address our involvement in systemic racism. In accordance to our mission of promoting and engaging dialogue, research, scholarship, education, creative expression, and action among a diverse and inclusive group of scholars, we offer the following immediate plans to change the future of our organization:

We will follow up with cancelled 2020 conference programming that specifically focused on Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities and encourage these submissions to return to ASA 2021.

We will listen and provide spaces for conversation at the 2021 conference that focuses on raising the voices of BIPOC including queer, trans, disability, and immigrant populations.

We will share resources on our website about how to effectively build and maintain allyship with Black Lives Matter.

We will listen to feedback from our BIPOC members and act upon how we can empower these voices further.

We stand with those in the streets and march alongside you. Let it be clear as to which side we're on as we continue to raise our voices in the streets, hills, and hollers of the mountains and beyond to empower the oppressed against the injustices that still exist.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Looking back on 2020, I can certainly say that this was an eventful year filled with unexpected challenges. The year began with an ending. Rachel Vagts, the first chair of the Special Collections committee, departed for a new position in Colorado. Following her departure, I was asked to fill the position. Next up was the emergence of the COVID 19 virus. Due to the virus and the subsequent cancellation of the 2020 conference, the first meeting of the Special Collections Committee, which was to be held during the conference, was delayed.

"Appalachian Understories," the theme for the 2020 conference, aimed to grow hope and resilience within the region. With this theme in mind, the special collections committee proposed a session called "Roots of the Region." In this session, the committee planned to discuss special collections as our regional roots, the archival understory composed of the papers, oral histories, books, films, photography, recordings, and other materials that make up the history of Appalachia. The assembled accumulation of our collections, spread throughout the mountains, provide the groundwork for our collective histories, by gathering, sharing, and preserving the multilayered voices of the diverse region that is Appalachia. We hoped to share all of this, as well as, news of the committee and its goals with conference attendees.

Though delayed, the meeting was held via Zoom on April 17. The full committee membership was in attendance: Gene Hyde, Jeff Dey, Jeremy Smith, Scott Sikes, Cassie Patterson, Marc Brodsky, Liz Skene Harper, Jinny Turman and myself, Stewart Plein, Chair.

As a committee, we discussed five topics or goals for the committee to address. Among the topics discussed during the first meeting included:

1. the impact of COVID 19 as it affects institutional electronic reference and the inability to access physical collections,
2. providing an outlet for the committee to perform region wide reference under the suggested tag line "Ask an Appalachian Archivist,"
3. Issues faculty face across the region during the pandemic,
4. readership and visit stats for the *Appalachian Curator*, and
5. development of a web presence.

Over the course of the year, the Special Collections committee has addressed each of these goals and added new ones. Since the April meeting, the voice of the committee, the *Appalachian Curator* newsletter, added the "Ask an Archivist" tab on the web page. This is an important addition. Similar to the "Ask a Librarian" feature at many colleges and universities, the "Ask an Appalachian Archivist" tab allows anyone to inquire about Appalachian collections, their repositories, and contact information. It's an outreach service for the entire region.

In addition, five issues of the newsletter are now available on the web:

Appalachian Curator

Many thanks to Gene Hyde as editor, and the entire editorial board, for making the newsletter a success. The impact of COVID-19 as it affects special collections repositories and the issues faculty have faced have been addressed in the Curator as well. Readership and visit statistics have also been shared during meetings.

We welcomed two new members this year. Julie Fox-Horton, at the ETSU Archival Studies Program, and Tim Binkley, Head of Special Collections and Archives at Berea College. Their experience and expertise will be of great value to the committee and the region as we continue to address challenges faced by special collections in Appalachia and celebrate their significance.

In September, committee members Gene Hyde and Liz Harper presented a webinar, "Raising Archival Awareness in a Regional Studies Organization: The Appalachian Studies Case." The talk was originally scheduled for the Society of North Carolina Archivists' Conference last March. With that conference cancelled, Gene and Liz gave the presentation as part of UNC Asheville's Library Brown Bag Talk series. The presentation described archivist led efforts to create a Special Collections Committee within ASA, as well as the newsletter, the *Appalachian Curator*. The talk also reviewed the creation of the Special Collections Committee as a group focused on historical as well as current initiatives and programs, with an aim to provide a forum for news and information about Appalachian archives.

The committee met three times this year: April, September, and October with plans to meet on a quarterly basis. The October meeting was added in order to discuss the committee's plans for the upcoming ASA 2021 Virtual Conference. Together, as a committee, we discussed a variety of topics, with Liz Harper's monuments concept emerging as the best among them. With input from Tim Binkley, we added a restorative justice concept to the initial topic. In November, we submitted a conference panel proposal, "Reclaiming the Edifice: Restorative Justice and the Archives." The panel will explore the role of archival repositories in the work of restorative justice, examining the decisions regarding the removal, placement of historical context, or the creation and renaming of monuments and buildings as entities of public memory. The panel will also address the work of researchers and community organizers, using archives to inform their advocacy as part of the movement for restorative justice. Please join us for the panel presentation on Thursday, March 11, at 10:30 am.

The first year of the revived ASA Special Collections committee has produced some significant achievements: from the creation of the *Appalachian Curator* newsletter, to the implementation of the "Ask an Appalachian Archivist" link, to the outreach of programs designed to introduce others to the importance of primary resources and special collections throughout our region. Through these outlets, the Special Collections committee documents the broad knowledge of this region; including the archives and oral histories that recall the voices, the stories and communities recounting the lives of the people who live here.

If you want to be a part of the Special Collections committee, please contact Stewart Plein at Stewart.Plein@mail.wvu.edu.

Stewart Plein
Curator, Rare Books & Printed Resources
West Virginia University

ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN

Personnel changes and the effects of the pandemic have played a role in both the revision of the ASA timeline as well as the regular deposit of ASA material to the repository at Berea College, which holds the ASA archive.

The director's position at Berea has transitioned in fairly quick succession over the last few years. Formerly under the leadership of Shannon Wilson, Rachel Vagts took over the director's position following Wilson's retirement. At that time, Rachael assumed the role of ASA point person during her administration. Archival responsibility for the ASA archives now continues under Tim Binkley, who joined Berea College as the Head of Special Collections and Archives in March 2020.

In consultation with Mary Thomas and Ann Bryant, a schedule will be determined to continue the deposit of ASA archival materials under the new administration.

Progress has slowed on the revision of the ASA timeline, available on the association's webpage, due to the pandemic and its impact on day to day activities. Updating and revising the timeline remains a goal.

Stewart Plein
Curator, Rare Books & Printed Resources
West Virginia University

SUPPORTING SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH THE VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION



Since Howard Dorgan launched the silent auction in the late 1990s, this annual fund-raiser has supported student and community member participation at ASA conferences.

The Silent Auction is taking a hiatus this year. We are in the process of re-envisioning the Silent Auction for the 2022 conference.

If you have ideas or are interested in volunteering to help, please contact Stewart Plein, Stewart.Plein@mail.wvu.edu.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

44th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference
March 11-14, 2021, Virtual Conference
Conference Planning Committee Chair:

Michele Morrone, morrone@ohio.edu

Conference Planning Committee Members:

Tiffany Arnold, Ann Bryant, Sophia Enriquez, Aaron Guest, Meredith McCarroll, Z. Zane McNeill, Eliot Parker, Stewart Plein, Caleb Pendency, Lindsay Radomski, Travis Rountree, Scott Sikes, Travis Stimeling, Natalie Sypolt, Mary Thomas

45th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

March 17-20, 2022, West Virginia University

Natalie Sypolt, Conference Chair, natalie.sypolt@pierpont.edu

Travis Stimeling, Program Chair, Travis.Stimeling@mail.wvu.edu

Melanie Page, Local Arrangements Chair, melanie.page@mail.wvu.edu

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to stay up-to-date on ASA news and events



Appalink is published twice a year.

We welcome submissions, announcements, and/or news.

Email submissions to Anne Chesky Smith at anne.chesky.smith@gmail.com.

Submissions for the fall issue are due August 1. Submissions for the spring issue are due December 1.

Editors: Anne Chesky Smith, Mary Kay Thomas, and Ann Bryant

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