

# HISTORY NOTES

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Editor: John Grabowski

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## Report from the Department Chair

The Department of History continued to prosper in 2018 and 2019, as faculty and students continued their outstanding work of research and teaching in history.

After an amazing flurry of book publication and dissertation defense in 2017-18, the Department has caught its breath in 2018-19 but maintained its immense productivity. Dan Cohen won fellowships from both the Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities at CWRU and from the University of Connecticut Humanities Institute to complete

his monograph *Burning the Charlestown Convent: Private Lives, Public Outrage, and Contested Memory in America's Civil War Generation*. Jonathan Sadowsky has spent Spring 2019 working on his volume *Depression: A History*, which will appear with Polity Press in 2020. And Gillian Weiss has spent 2018-19 on sabbatical in Marseille completing two books, a co-authored volume called *The Sun King at Sea: Maritime Art and Slavery in Louis XIV's France*, and a sole authored monograph, *The Money Launderer's Daughter: A Tunisian Woman and a Slave Rumor in the Early Modern Mediterranean*. The list of invited talks, conference papers, articles published, and books in progress from the whole faculty is too long for here, but each member of the faculty maintains and expands her or his national and international reputation.

In 2018 and 2019, we greeted two new colleagues, Provost Ben Vinson, III, a distinguished historian of colonial Mexico, the African diaspora, and Latin American history, and Prof. Aviva Rothman, an historian of science with a focus on early modern Europe, whose monograph, *The Pursuit of Harmony: Johannes Kepler on Cosmos, Confession, and Community* appeared with the University of Chicago Press. Each has become a vital member of our own community and an integral part of history at CWRU.

And in 2019 we continue our farewells to colleagues who retire, as Prof. Miriam Levin, Henry Eldridge Bourne Professor of History will assume Emerita status in July. We extend to Miriam our deepest gratitude for her years of outstanding scholarship, teaching, service, and friendship.

2019 sees the establishment of the Department's Postdoctoral Fellowship in African-American History on a new and stronger footing, extended now to a two-year appointment. And the Department is authorized to search in 2019-20 for a beginning Professor of African-American History to join us in fall 2020.

Summer 2018 found the faculty and staff moved out of Mather House for a significant renewal, with paint, carpet, new lighting, and important updates. We invite all of you to come by to see the refreshed home of the Department of History as we together look forward to new ventures and successes in the coming year.

# Faculty News

## **John Grabowski**

The first printing of Professor Grabowski's *Cleveland A to Z: Historical Essentials for Residents and Newcomers in Northeastern Ohio*, published by the Western Reserve Historical Society sold out within a year of publication. The volume has now been re-issued in a second printing by Kent State University Press with the slightly modified title *Cleveland A to Z: An Essential Compendium for Visitors and Residents Alike*.

## **Kenneth F. Ledford**

Since the last History Notes, Professor Ledford has commented on a panel at the German Studies Association Annual Meeting and Presented paper at the Annual Meetings of the American Society for Legal History and the American Historical Association. He has published book reviews in *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* and the *American Historical Review* and an article in *Central European History*. He serves on the Council of the American Historical Association as Parliamentarian, on the Boards of Directors of Ohio Humanities and the Friends of the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C., and as a Faculty Senator from the College and Chair of the Faculty Senate Bylaws Committee. He continues to work on his book manuscript on Prussian judges.

## **Alan Rocke**

Professor Rocke published three articles in successive issues of the 2018 volume of *Isis* (the journal of the History of Science Society), is co-editing a collection of papers on a global comparative examination of graduate education and research ca. 1900 across all academic fields, and is co-general editor of a six-volume *Cultural History of Chemistry*, currently in production at Bloomsbury Press. Professor Rocke has been invited to lecture at conferences in Berlin, Maastricht, San Diego, and Karlsruhe in 2019, and continues to serve on scholarly committees in service to the University and to the larger Historical community. He is also the associate editor of the journal *Ambix*, and continues his research on the work of 19th-century scientists Lothar Meyer and Hermann Kopp.

## **Maddalena Rumor**

Since the last History Notes, Professor Rumor published *At the Dawn of Plant Taxonomy: Shared Structural Design of Herbal Descriptions in Šammu šikinšu and Theophrastus' Historia plantarum IX* in S. V. Panayotov and L. Vacin (eds.), *Magic and Medicine in Mesopotamia. Studies in Honor of Markham J. Geller, Ancient Magic and Divination 14* (Leiden-Boston: Brill), pp. 446-461. Professor Rumor also presented a paper at the *Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale* in Innsbruck, Austria, and was invited to give talks in Columbus, OH in Berlin, Germany, and for the Northeast Normal University in Changchun, China. She also participated in a workshop on "Traces of Ink: Experiences of Philology and Replication" organized by the ERC Project *AlchemEast*, in Bologna, Italy.

## **Einav Rabinovitch-Fox**

Professor Rabinovitch-Fox published an article entitled "Dressing Up for a Campaign: Hillary Clinton, the Suffragists, and the Politics of Fashion" in *Nasty Women and Bad Hombres: Gender and Race in the 2016 Presidential Election*, a book edited by Christine Kray, Hinda Mandell and Tamar Carroll through the University of Rochester Press. Her commentary on fashion and politics also appeared in popular venues such as *The Conversation*, *Public Seminar*, and *On the Media*. She was also the recipient of the Baker Nord Center Faculty Affiliate Fellowship and the Faculty Travel Grant, which she used to make progress on her book manuscript *Dressed for Freedom: The Fashionable Politics of American Feminism*, currently under review by University of Illinois Press.

### Jonathan Sadowsky

Professor Sadowsky delivered two invited talks entitled “Depression and Culture: The History of a Global Mental Health Conundrum” for the “Global Histories of Psychiatry” at Groningen University in The Netherlands, and “Before and After Prozac: The Historiography of Depression” for the Department of the History and Sociology of Science and Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He was also the recipient of the 2019 Jessica Melton Perry Award for Distinguished Teaching in Disciplinary and Professional Writing; the award recognizes outstanding commitment to and success in teaching disciplinary and professional writing to CWRU students.

### Renée Sentilles

Professor Sentilles wrote a book review for the *Journal of the History of Society and Youth* on Sari Edelstein's book *Adulthood and Other Fictions*. Sentilles wrote a book proposal and secured an agent for *In Her Shoes: Getting to the Sole of American Women's History*; the final proposal will be sent to publishers shortly. She received a grant from the Freedman's Center to create a website called [toldaroundshoes.com](http://toldaroundshoes.com) (now live!) which will serve as a repository of women and girls' histories - told around shoes of course. Sentilles also received a Baker Nord grant this past spring to begin research and writing *In Her Shoes: Getting to the Sole of American Women's History*; with the help of research assistant Sherri Bolcevic and WRHS costume curator Patti Edmonson, drafts of 10 shoe stories have been written and most of the shoes have been collected. Finally, Professor Sentilles accepted an article for publication in a work called "Reclaiming the Tomboy: Posthumanism, Gender Representation, and Intersectionality," which will be published by Lexington Books, in the UK.

### Aviva Rothman

Professor Aviva Rothman was selected as a keynote speaker at "Kepler's Vision of Harmony" at the international conference on "The Harmony of the World" in St. Petersburg, Russia, from June 21-23 of this year.

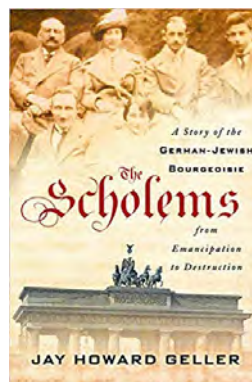
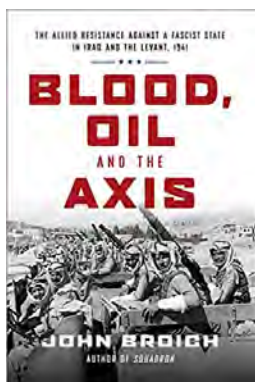
### Gillian Weiss

Professor Gillian Weiss was selected for the Flora Stone Mather Research Grant for 2018-2019 to fund research in France.

## History Faculty Books Published January 2017-May 2018 and Forthcoming

**John Broich**, *Blood, Oil, and the Axis: The Allied Resistance Against a Fascist State in Iraq and the Levant, 1941* (Abrams Books, May 2019).

**Jay Geller**, *The Scholems: A Story of the German-Jewish Bourgeoisie from Emancipation to Destruction* (Cornell University Press, March 2019). Professor Geller's book is currently being considered for the Cundill Prize for the best history writing in English; the prize is administered by McGill University in Montreal.



## Comprehensive Exams

**Davis Allen**, September 26, 2018

**Sherri Bolcevic**, May 7, 2018

**Hsiao-Ling Chen**, January 10, 2019

## Degrees Awarded

**Sara Montagno**, August, 2019; successfully defended her M.A. thesis on May 6, 2019 titled *Settlement Houses, Changing Neighborhoods, and Adaptation for Survival: An Examination of Merrick House in Cleveland's Tremont Neighborhood and Its Place in the Wider Context of the Social Reforms of the United States, 1919-1961*.

## Student News

### **Daniel Halverson**

Daniel graduated from Case with a Masters degree in history in the spring of 2017, and since then has presented his research at the History of Science Society in November of 2017, published work in the *Past Tense Graduate Review of History* (Spring Issue, 2018), was admitted as a PhD student to University of Toronto's Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, and earned the John MacRory Fellowship.

### **Davis Allen**

Davis passed his oral exams and advanced to candidacy this past September, and will be presented his conference paper "A Natural Improvement: Wetland Drainage, Privatization, and the Origins of the Swamp Land Acts" at the annual meeting of the Agricultural History Society in Washington, D.C. this coming June.

## Spring Graduate and Undergraduate Awards 2019

**The Marion Siney Prize** to the best performance/  
qualifying exams during the last year

**Sherri Bolcevic**

**The Carl W. Ubbelohde Prize** to the best teaching  
assistant during the last year

**Sam Duncan**

**Meghan Schill**

**The Annie Spencer Cutter Prize** to a senior for  
outstanding achievement in history

**Andrew Gliebe**

**Hannah Pomerantz**

**The Clarence H. Cramer Award** for excellence  
in research and writing of history

**Christopher Cannon**

**Sean Stevens**

**The Donald Grove Barnes Award** to a senior for  
excellence in history

**Sierra Lipscomb**

**The John Hall Stewart Prize** for excellence in  
historical studies

**Benjamin Bulpitt**

**The Sigma Psi Prize in honor of Elbert J. Benton** for  
excellence in history

**Susan Howard**

**Emma Risley**

**The History Department Award** for outstanding  
achievement in history

**Liam LeBlanc**

**Sierra Lipscomb**

# Encyclopedia of Cleveland History

Meghan Schill and Ryan Chamberlain continued in their positions as Besse Fellow Associate Editors of the Encyclopedia of Cleveland History (ECH) during the 2018-'19 academic year. Their work, along with that of editor, John Grabowski, focused on several new initiatives designed to enhance content and increase awareness of the ECH.

The primary effort involved the organization of community-based working groups responsible for creating new entries and updating existing entries in specific topical areas. Each group is headed by someone with expertise in the topic. Several CWRU graduates are among them, including Dr. Stephanie Liscio (sports history), Dr. Todd Michney (African-American History), and Dr. Jonathan Walsiuk (environment and landscape). Content produced by the working group is reviewed at two levels – first by the group leader and finally by the editorial staff. The results have been extraordinary. Dozens of new and updated entries relating to sports, African-American history, and Cleveland neighborhoods are now part of the ECH. The coming year will see focus on getting work started by other topical groups in areas as diverse as immigration and popular culture. Ryan Chamberlain has overseen the management of the Slack communication network used to coordinate work by the various groups and also continued his work on the expanding ECH social media network. As of May 2019, the ECH had 4,245 Facebook followers, 5,838 Twitter followers, and 1,306 followers on Instagram. The Twitter connection has been particularly successful. In many instances it has resulted in media content based on ECH articles.

The ECH has also expanded its partnership with the Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) and created a new partnership with the Cleveland Public Library (CPL). These partnerships focus on direct links between ECH articles and associated digitized content held in the collections of WRHS and CPL including finding aids for archival collections, and images. Meghan Schill has overseen the creation of hundreds of links to WRHS and CPL collections that are helping make the ECH a primary portal to resources relevant to regional history. Our goal for the coming year is to expand our network of links to other libraries and archives.

The generation of new content will also be enhanced by two internship programs, one a summer program at the Western Reserve Historical Society and the second, a new course (HSTY 248) in Digital Humanities which will be offered by the Department in the Fall 2019 semester. Each will focus on readings and discussions relating to the evolving field of digital humanities and each will require students to research and prepare new content for the Encyclopedia.

Of course, the Encyclopedia is always looking for more contributors. We encourage the friends and alumni of the Department of History to join in this landmark project which had its beginnings in the Department in 1980! If you are interested contact John Grabowski at [jjg4@case.edu](mailto:jjg4@case.edu) and be certain to become one of our many followers on social media. It's one of the best ways to keep up to date with Cleveland's past.



# 2019 Region 3 History Day Competition

By Mary Manning, Region 3 Ohio History Day Associate

On March 16, 2019, the Cleveland history Center of the Western Reserve Historical Society (CHC) and Case Western Reserve University again saw around 450 students competing in the Region 3 Ohio History Day contest. This success proved to be the culmination of a year of growth and change for the Region 3 Ohio History Day program, with new programs and initiatives impacting how students pursued their research topics. In addition, this past fall, the baton of Region 3 Ohio History Day Coordinator was passed once again, as Mary Manning was promoted from History Day Associate to

History Day Coordinator. With the knowledge that National History Day was founded in Cleveland in 1974, Mary is proud to continue to distinguished legacy of History Day in Northeast Ohio.



After the announcement that the 2019 theme would be *Triumph and Tragedy in History*, the History Day staff made special efforts to persuade students to work on local Cleveland topics and to engage more deeply with local archives. We were aided by our ongoing efforts to preserve old History Day data and records, which contained many local topics that had been used for *Triumph and Tragedy* in the past. We saw winning projects on the Collinwood School Fire of 1908, the Ashtabula Train Disaster, and the Warner & Swasey Company, among many others. This year also saw the first History Day Skills Workshops taught by CHC staff—we piloted a two-hour long workshop on Navigating Primary Sources that asked students to hone their analytical skills using museum objects



and historic documents on display in CHC galleries. We hope to continue to add and develop programs like these to both support History Day teachers in Region 3 and to provide another revenue stream to support History Day throughout the year.

Of the projects that Region 3 sent to the state-level Ohio History Day contest on April 27, 2019, 16 projects from Region 3 placed 1st or 2nd in their categories and will move on to the National History Day contest in Maryland in June. That's about 45% of all Ohio qualifiers, maintaining the high standard for projects coming out of Region 3. An additional 16 projects from our region placed 3rd or received Honorable Mentions in their categories—the 3rd place winners will serve as alternates in the event that a first or second place winner cannot attend the national contest. Region 3 students also won an additional 11 special prizes sponsored by statewide and/or national organizations including the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, the Ohio Local History Alliance, the Ohio Council for the Social Studies, Chronicling America, and the Ohio Academy of History. We wish our stellar students good luck as they continue on to the National History Day contest.

The CWRU History Associates again played a crucial role in honoring Region 3's past and supporting its future. On February 10, the History Associates hosted a reception where Cathy Gorn, current Executive Director for National History Day, presented John Vacha, the Emeritus Region 3 Ohio History Day Coordinator, with a plaque acknowledging his many years of service to the program.

It was a delightful occasion, and wonderful to see so many supporters of Region 3 in one room. Also on contest day, the CWRU History Associates awarded the David Van Tassel Award for Outstanding Contributions to History Day to David Saluga, a social studies teacher at Shaker Heights Middle School. Though Shaker Heights High School has long used History Day as a central part of their AP U.S. History curriculum, David brought it to 7th and 8th graders at the middle school by starting a history club. Students meet afterschool to discuss topics and develop their projects, and they have the opportunity each year to go to the Shaker Heights Public Library for one-on-one research help from the librarians as well as a project consult with History Day staff. David is also planning a research skills boot camp through the Shaker Heights Middle School summer program that will help students learn to examine documents in preparation for joining the history club when school starts in the fall.



Nation History Day has announced that the 2020 theme will be *Breaking Barriers in History*, and our History Day staff will once again be prepping a list of local history topics to help our students explore their own communities and stand out from the crowd of common projects. Our goals for 2020 also include continued efforts to recruit promising new schools and teachers to participate in our project, and to provide them with thorough year-long support in the form of teacher workshops, curriculum support, and outreach/on-site programming. We want to ensure that more students take advantage of project categories beyond exhibits to express their creativity and learn new skills. We look forward to 2020, and continuing to break barriers and open minds to how History Day prepares students for college and careers. We hope that you will join us in this important work. Inquiries regarding judging and sponsorship may be directed to [historyday@wrhs.org](mailto:historyday@wrhs.org).

# History Associates News

by Judith Cetina, Ph.D.

The History Associates have enjoyed another successful year; one that began in the Fall of 2018 with a Cleveland History Tour led by Dr. John Grabowski. In December of 2018, Professor Robert Gerwarth from the University College of Dublin, was the Ubbelohde lecturer, and address "1918 and the End of Empires." Over 150 people were in attendance at the Tinkham Veale Center to hear Dr. Gerwarth speak and the program included an opportunity for questions and answers with the presenter. The attendees were also able to obtain copies, signed by Dr. Gerwarth, of his book The Vanquished: Why the First World War Failed to End, 1917-1923.

The winter weather of 2019 did not prevent an appreciative audience from attending a February reception for History Associates Board Member John Vacha, in celebration of his many years as head of the region's History Day contest. Cathy Gorn, a CWRU history graduate, and head of National History Day, was the featured speaker.

Please do not miss out on what plans to be another stimulating year; and if you have not already done so please renew your History Associates membership for 2019-2020. In an era where increasingly courses in history are not required as part of a liberal arts curriculum, your support for the CWRU History Department and its students, the historians of the future, is vital. For more information about membership please contact the Dean's office in the College of Arts and Sciences at 216-368-0097.