



The NERWHA Newsletter

Fall 2013

Michele Louro, President

Dear NERWHA members and friends,

I am pleased to send this newsletter as we celebrate an exciting year for NERWHA. In the Fall of 2012, we welcomed new officers, Michele Louro as President and James Diskant as Vice-President, while also congratulating Mary Jane Maxwell on another term as Secretary-Treasurer. Currently, NERWHA has 31 dues-paying members, and we expect this number to continue to grow as a consequence of the success of our widely attended bi-annual symposia. These symposia have been the hallmark of our efforts to reconstitute and develop NERWHA's presence in the New England region.

FALL 2012 SYMPOSIUM

Our Fall 2012 symposium was held on September 22 at the African Studies Center, Boston University. The program co-chairs, Al Andrea and James Diskant, in collaboration with Barbara Brown of the African Studies Center, Boston University, hosted forty-four attendees. The event featured keynote speaker Trevor Getz, who led a workshop and discussion on his co-authored graphic text, *Abina and the Important Men: A Graphic History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), an illustrated history based on the 1876 court transcript of an enslaved West African woman who used the court system to sue for her freedom.

SPRING 2013 SYMPOSIUM

Building on the success of the fall event, the Spring 2013 symposium, "Connecting the Local and the Global: A Symposium for Researchers, Teachers and Practitioners of World History" took place on Saturday, March 2 at Salem State University. Program chair, Michele Louro, organized this event featuring keynote speaker and renowned world historian, Howard Spodek, who has been a leader in the field of world history and author of several books including *Ahmedabad: Shock City of Twentieth Century*, and the widely circulated textbook,

The World's History, now in its fourth edition. He spoke before a standing-room-only audience on the connections of local and global history in the case of Ahmedabad, India.



Howard Spodek speaking about Jerry Bentley's impact on world history studies at the Spring Symposium 2013



A special themed panel, "Researching and Teaching India and the World" following the keynote. Whitney Howarth speaks about indigenous land rights and world history.



Dane Morrison and Angela Lee taking questions
after their roundtable on teaching the 'glocal' approach

UPCOMING SYMPOSIA

The Fall 2013 NERWHA symposium promises to be another exciting and successful event. The symposium, organized by co-chairs Holly-Lynn Busier and Al Andrea, will be held on Saturday, 26 October 2013, at the University of Vermont (UVM), Burlington, Vermont. The theme is “The Hispanic Americas in World History,” and the keynote speaker will be Felipe Fernández-Armesto, William P. Reynolds Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame. Professor Fernández-Armesto is the author or editor of thirty-three books on a wide variety of topics relating to world history, especially in the areas of exploration and colonization, environmentalism, and the transmission across vast spaces of commodities and ideas, including foods and cuisines. Additionally, he has authored several surveys of the history of the interconnected human community that have become standard texts in the field. I hope to see many of you in Vermont!

The Spring 2014 symposium will be held in Portland, Maine on April 5. The theme will be maritime world history. Plans are already underway and a call for papers will be sent out very soon. Please save the date!

THE NERWHA WEBSITE

In addition to the symposia series, NERWHA launched a new website at <nerwha.org>. We extend a special thanks to our new webmaster, Thomas Rushford of Northern Virginia Community College. NERWHA’s web presence has been a critical component of outreach. In addition to the webpage, NERWHA reaches current and potential members through its Facebook and Linked In pages.

NERWHA AND THE WHA

NERWHA strongly supports the programs of World History Association. As a regional affiliate, NERWHA donates funds annually to support the WHA. In addition, the 2013 annual conference of the WHA in Minneapolis featured many of our members, while two of our members currently serve on the WHA's Executive Council, and two NERWHA members are past-presidents of the WHA.

NERWHA also continues to sponsor special panels at local venues including the New England History Teachers Association (NEHTA – Fall 2012) and New England Historical Association (NEHA- Fall 2012).

NERWHA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING - 2013

On September 7, 2013, the members of the Executive Council and the association's three executive office holders met for NERWHA's first annual executive retreat. I extend a special thanks to David Kalivas for hosting the event at Middlesex Community College's Lowell Campus. This gathering followed an exciting year of growth, and the all-day retreat offered members an opportunity to discuss new and exciting initiatives for NERWHA.

Among the highlights was a decision to expand our current website. In the upcoming weeks, NERWHA will launch a members-only website featuring previous symposia materials, newsletters, and book reviews. We are considering for the future other items for the website including lesson plans based on papers presented at future symposium.

The Executive Council also passed a proposed amended constitution for NERWHA, the first of two steps in amending our constitution. The proposed revisions are modeled after the WHA constitution and also offer clarification for the procedures and roles of the Executive Council and NERWHA's three executive office holders. The proposed revised constitution will be placed before the entire NERWHA membership for a vote. Please look for it in upcoming emails.

Looking ahead, NERWHA hopes to launch a mentorship program and to continue to grow our existing programs. We look forward to members' input as we develop NERWHA.



NERWHA's First Annual Retreat

NERWHA ELECTIONS

NERWHA is currently holding elections for its officers and members of the Executive Council. Elections will be held electronically between September 30 and October 11. The results will be announced at the NERWHA symposium on October 26 in Burlington, Vermont.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Please consider renewing your membership for 2014. NERWHA Membership is open to all interested persons within and outside of the New England region. NERWHA supports and works to advance scholarship and teaching within a trans-national, trans-regional, and trans-cultural perspective. Through the researchers, teachers, students, independent scholars, and authors who are its members, NERWHA fosters historical analysis undertaken not from the viewpoint of nation-states, discrete regions, or particular cultures, but from that of the human community.

We hope to see you at the symposium in Vermont. Registration details can be found on our website, nerwha.org.