



eNEWS QUARTERLY Cambridge Historical Society

From the Executive Director



The question posed by this year's theme at the Cambridge Historical Society, "How Does Cambridge Engage?" has brought to mind the many ways that we have taken part in political and cultural movements, starting with the American Revolution. Ever since our founding as Newe Towne in 1636, the citizens of Cambridge have come together — and are coming together today — to make change in our community, and in the world we inhabit.

We need your help to unravel the questions that surround this theme: How are you making a difference for the causes you believe in? How are you a part of history? Are historical events moving around you, or are they moving through you? Are you a part of the action? How will you leave your mark?

Send us your stories of engagement in causes or historical movements. For example, were you here in Cambridge in the 1960s during the Vietnam Era demonstrations? Were you involved in the Civil Rights Movement? Did you take part in the 2017 Women's March? We would love to hear your memories, what you learned, and how your experiences might inform those who are seeking to make change today — and in the future. [Submit your stories today](#), and **please share this with your friends!**

We have an exciting calendar of events shaping up for the summer and fall where we will continue to explore these and other questions. We hope to see you there!

Yours in curiosity,

Marieke Van Damme
Executive Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

History Café 2: Engaging with "Difficult Histories" Workshop

Date: Tuesday, June 25

Time: 6:30-8 PM

Place: First Church Cambridge, 11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA

How do we deal with the tough stuff of



We are honored to hold this event at the [First Church in Cambridge](#), where Reverend Dan Smith and congregants are currently exploring the church's slaveholding past through remembrance and reparation.

history? Using the issue blackface as a lens to engage with challenging histories, including our own personal or family histories, scholars [Stephen Berrey](#) and [Tatiana Cruz](#) will provide historical context, both nationally and locally, to better understand this and other "difficult histories."

The audience will be invited to share how they wrestle with these issues in their own lives, and leave with skills to start unpacking difficult topics.

[Register here](#)

Cambridge Open Archives

Date: Thursday, June 27

Time: 3-4 PM & 4-5 PM

Place: Hooper-Lee-Nichols House, 159 Brattle Street, Cambridge MA



Join us for a look at our archival collections that shed light on Cambridge's rich history of politics and activism.

You'll hear from our archivist, Maggie Hoffman, on the records of the [Cambridge Branch of the Massachusetts Indian Association](#), the [Winwood Serjeant Letters](#), and will have the opportunity to view underground newspapers and [handouts from the 1969 Harvard Strike](#).

Sign up for a 45-minute long tour beginning at 3 PM or 4 PM. Registration is required. **Space is very limited!** Register [here](#).

2019 Walking Tour: Activism in Central Square

Dates: Thursday, July 25 and Saturday, July 27



Save the Date!

What role does place play in a community's engagement? Join us for our 2019 walking tour on either Thursday evening or Saturday morning as we explore the rich history of activism in Central Square. **Details to follow.**

The 2019 Walking Tour is generously supported by the Cambridge Heritage Trust

History Café 3: Engaging Through the Arts

Date: Monday, September 23

Time: 6:30-8 PM

Place: Central Square Theater, 450 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139



Save the date!

What role do the arts play in how we engage with issues important to our community?

Join for a special conversation at Central Square Theater. **Details to follow.**

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

NEW Online Exhibit - 50 Years Later: Harvard's 1969 Protests

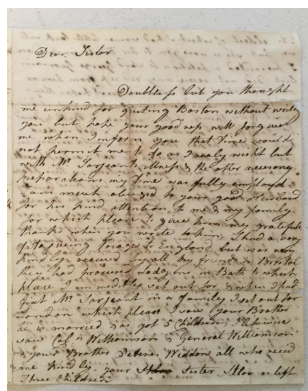


In Cambridge, as in the rest of America, the late 1960s were a period of unrest and upheaval. As we consider our 2019 theme "How Does Cambridge Engage?" we benefit from looking back fifty years to the Spring of 1969.

View these materials in person on June 27 at [Cambridge Open Archives](#).

[Read More](#)

Winwood Serjeant Letters Digitized for Online Research



We are delighted to announce that the [Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati](#) has generously provided funding to digitize the [Winwood Serjeant Letters \(1769-1840\)](#) and make them accessible to the public on our website and in person at the historic Hooper-Lee-Nichols House.

[Read More](#)

PROGRAM NEWS

"Sweet Souls" Oral History Project Underway

The Cambridge Historical Society has launched an oral history project, in partnership with the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House and The Loop Lab. This summer, "Sweet Souls, Voices from the Margaret Fuller



Neighborhood House in Cambridge" will be documenting the life stories of twelve people closely affiliated with the 117-year-old settlement house in the Port.

*Interested in sharing your story? Contact us!
info@cambridgehistory.org or 617-547-4252*

[Read More](#)



This program is funded in part by Mass Humanities, which receives support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and is an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Recap and Video: Digital Engagement History Café



Thank you to everyone who joined us at the April 10 History Café: Digital Engagement, with City Councilors Sumbul Siddiqui and Alanna Mallon and moderator Smarika Suwal. The event, held at CCTV, drew an engaged crowd.

[Read More](#)

Recap: Book Talk with Heli Meltsner



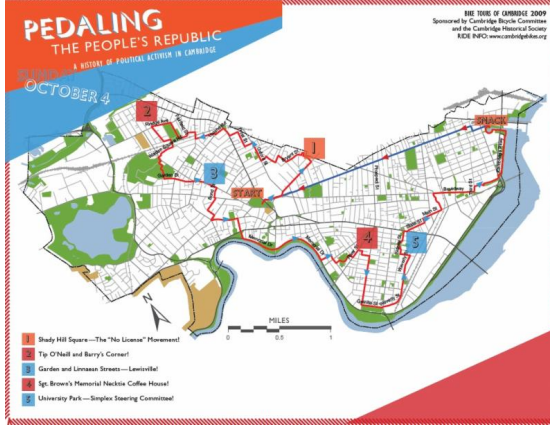
Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Cambridge Historical Society on May 16! What a delight it was to listen to longtime Society and Council member Heli Meltsner as she spoke about her book *The Arts and Crafts Houses of Massachusetts*.

[Read More](#)

Take yourself on a walk – or a bike ride – through history

Cambridge played a central role in the American Revolution and the abolitionist movement before being named “The People’s Republic” for its role in more recent political, social, and environmental movements.

Pedaling the People’s Republic



Sponsored by the Cambridge Bicycle Committee

takes participants on a tour of past political activity from the Revolution to the grassroots movements of the 20th century.

[Read More](#)

SPECIAL THANKS



As MIT Sloan Board Fellows, **Wenwen Gao and Dan Rosengard** have spent the year working closely with us to improve our governance functions. Their work focused on three major areas: defining the role of the treasurer, reviewing the bylaws, and helping to organize our committee structure. We are grateful for their time and expertise!



We also applaud the following businesses who have generously sponsored our work so far this year.

Thank you for your support!

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