



eNEWS QUARTERLY

Cambridge Historical Society

From the Executive Director



It has been another great summer at CHS, as we have followed the threads presented by this year's theme, "How Does Cambridge Engage?" and explored the many ways that the citizens of Cambridge have taken part in political and cultural movements.

As you will read in the Recap section below, we organized three fascinating events over the past few months, each of which left us seeing our community—and ourselves—a little differently.

We are grateful to those who have joined us at these events and shared their personal stories and memories of activism. Unable to join us in person? [We're still collecting stories](#) and welcome yours!

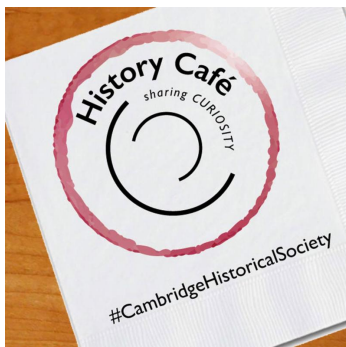
There is much to do this fall as we wind down the theme. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!

Yours in curiosity,

Marieke Van Damme
Executive Director

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS

History Café 3: Engaging Through the Arts



Date: Monday, September 23

Time: 6:30-8 PM | Doors open at 6 PM

Place: Central Square Theater, 450 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge

Cost: CHS Members \$10, Non-CHS Members \$15

Our last History Café of 2019 will reflect on how the arts can serve as a catalyst for— or reaction to— change.

In partnership with [Central Square Theater](#), we invite artists David Fichter, Eryn Johnson, and Vincent Siders to reflect on how their work is informed by a history of social justice in the arts. Dr. Marty Blatt will



moderate the conversation.

This event will be held during the [Nora Theatre Company's production of The Crucible](#), framed and inspired by the #metoo movement.

[Register here](#)

Claiming Our Seats: A Kitchen Table Dialogue on Women's Voting Rights

Date: Wednesday, September 25

Time: 6:30-8:30 PM

Place: Cambridge Public Library Lecture Hall, 449 Broadway, Cambridge

Cost: Free



The Society is pleased to partner with the City of Cambridge on this upcoming event! We invite you for a discussion of the upcoming 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, when women won the right to vote. At this roundtable, we ask: Which women? Dr. Jennifer Guglielmo, Rev. Irene Monroe, and Dr. Laurie Nsiah-Jefferson will engage us in a reflective dialogue about women's rights across the 20th and 21st centuries, moderated by Andrea Asuaje.

[Register here](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

Oral History Round Table

Date: Tuesday, October 22

Time: 6-8 PM

Place: Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House, 71 Cherry Street, Cambridge

Cost: Free



Led by scholar Diana Lempel, you'll hear from the project team and oral history narrators about what we're learning from the narrators' stories about the pivotal role of the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House in supporting and empowering people of the Port neighborhood.

The Fuller House will host the Roundtable, and project partner The Loop Lab will film the event.

Registration details to follow.

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

2019 Fall Conversation: How Can We Make Change Here?

Date: Wednesday, November 13

Time: 6-8 PM

Location: [University Lutheran Church](#), Harvard Square, 66 Winthrop Street, Cambridge, MA

Cost: Free



Our Fall Conversation will bring together [Cheyenne Wyzard-Jones](#) and [Dr. Charlotte Ryan](#), two radical educators and activists. In dialogue with moderator [Mary McNeil](#), we'll ask: What can we learn from activists? What tools do they use to organize and initiate change? What challenges and solutions have they encountered? How do they use education as a tool to engage future generations of activists?

[Read more](#)

Annual Member Holiday Party

Date: Wednesday, December 4

Time: 5:30-7 PM

Place: Hooper-Lee-Nichols House, 159 Brattle St., Cambridge

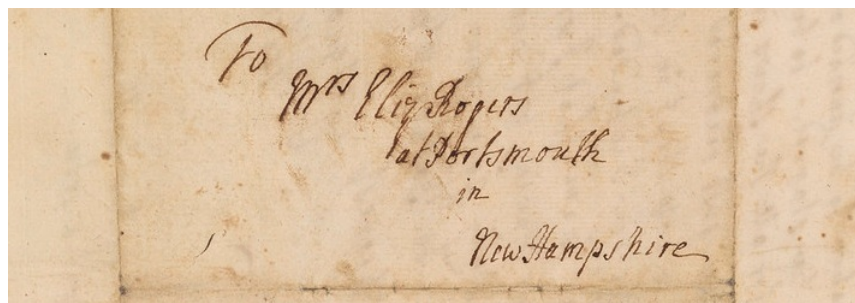


Join us for our annual gathering celebrating the successes of our year.

Registration details to follow.

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Serjeant Family Letters Transcribed and Open to Researchers



*"I am sorry to find by your last that you are so highly disgusted at the sight of men:
I own you have had bad luck with some of our Sex:
but my Dear Soul! be not impatient, trust in a kind providence,
I hope in God things may have a turn to your better satisfaction & comfort.
— I am very sorry for Christian — a most improper name for him
— his scandalous behaviour:
he has taken lodgings with his dirty Jade in a publick house in Charles town,
& frequently passes thro' Cambridge with her in a chaise.
She will soon become—poor Creature!
a common prostitute in Boston...."*

—Letter to Elizabeth Browne Rogers Roche from Winwood Serjeant (21 May 1774)

Thanks to a recent grant from the [Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati](#), the Society's collection of [Serjeant Family Letters \(1769-1840\)](#) are now digitized, transcribed, and fully accessible to the public on our website.

This collection offers insight into the life of a Loyalist family in the years leading up to and following the Revolutionary War. The letters illuminate the connections between family and religion and shed light on colonial New England's involvement in slavery.

This fascinating collection is ripe for interpretation by scholars and researchers.

[Read More](#)

PROGRAM NEWS

Recap: Difficult History Workshop



Our June History Café: Engaging with “Difficult Histories” Workshop at First Church Cambridge was led by two historians, Dr. Stephen Berrey, University of Michigan, and Dr. Tatiana Cruz, Lesley University. Together they guided us through a facilitated conversation based on their research and scholarship.

[Read More](#)

Recap: Cambridge Open Archives



In late June, the Cambridge Historical Society participated in the eleventh annual Cambridge Open Archives, a free event organized by the [Cambridge Historical Commission](#) where archival repositories around Cambridge open their doors to visitors and highlight thematic collections.

This year's theme was “Politics and Activism

in Cambridge (and Beyond)."

Visitors to the Society learned about our archival collections, including the records of the [Cambridge Branch of the Massachusetts Indian Association](#), underground newspapers and handouts from the [1969 Harvard Strike](#), and the records of [The Bee](#). Also on view were the [Serjeant Family Letters](#), which were recently digitized with the generous support of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati.

[Read More](#)

Recap: History Tour 2019: Central Square Activism from the 1960s to Now



Our 2019 History Tour with guide Amelia Zurcher looked at Central Square and its surrounding neighborhoods as sites of tremendous social and political activity. Here activists sought to achieve visions of affordable housing and food, equal representation, civil rights, and global peace.

[Read more](#)

IN MEMORIAM | Roger Webb



Marieke Van Damme, Roger Webb, Frank Kramer, and Liz Adams at the Society's 2018 Spring Benefit

We were saddened to learn of the passing of historical preservationist Roger Webb, a good friend and long-time member of the Society.

During the course of his long and storied career, Roger facilitated the preservation of numerous historic buildings. He documented his adventures in a small collection titled "Memories of a Preservationist."

He shared his recollections of moving an 1853 Greek Revival English Regency style house down Brattle Street in a piece called "**The Judge Daniel Wells House.**"

[Read More](#)

SPECIAL THANKS

For many years, the Cambridge Plant & Garden Club has kept the Hooper-Lee-Nichols gardens beautiful. We cannot



thank them enough for their tireless work caring for this special place!

Extra special thanks to Maggie Booz, Janet Burns, Annette LaMond, and the entire Works Committee.

IRB

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& Property Management

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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