

American Studies

Middle Atlantic American Studies Association Newsletter

Volume 20, Issue 2

Spring 2009

Inside this Issue:

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Vice President:
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Secretary/Treasurer:
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Conference Coordinators:
John Haddad and Megan McGee,
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Brant Ellsworth, Megan McGee,
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From the Editor's Desk

Though it may still seem like winter, in this issue of the newsletter we happily turn our attention to spring and to the annual conference of the Middle Atlantic American Studies Association (MAASA). This year, the conference will be held at Elizabethtown College, in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. Given that campaigns and elections have dominated the news over the intersection of Politics and Religion, with our aim being to better understand the distant past and in recent memory.

With such a political theme, we thought it was high time to renew our friendship with the Pennsylvania Political Science Association (PPSA). After all, at every now and then; these folks at PPSA study it for living! Many of you may recall that, back in 2007, PPSA and MAASA joined forces for a wonderful conference that took place under the Capitol Dome in downtown Harrisburg. This year, we plan on generating the same synergy that made that conference such a success. At this point, I would like to thank our partners at the PPSA. I speak for all members of our gratitude to Berard Stanley, this year's PPSA Program Coordinator; Fletcher McClellan, Site Coordinator at Elizabethtown; and our good friend Michael of the Democratic Caucus, who bears no formal title this year but who has generated to acknowledge the sage oversight of our President, Angus Gillespie of Rutgers; of our Vice President, Fran Ryan of LaSalle,

who will again organize the Undergraduate Roundtable; and of Past President, Simon Bronner of Penn State Harrisburg, who continues to offer the organization steady guidance with his "invisible hand." This year, MAASA is pleased to have in its arsenal the skills and energies of three American Studies graduate students who have volunteered with both conference participants and PPSA organizers to assemble a great conference. Brant Ellsworth has lent us his journalistic savvy in producing much of the content in the newsletter you hold. And Nancy Jones, our Newsletter Designer, put it all together in spectacular fashion.



Concerning this issue, the pages are devoted to the conference program. We hope that by perusing the newsletter and noting the topics of the panels, readers will be inspired to attend the conference if they have not already decided to do so. For the convenience of these individuals, we have included a registration form in the issue. That said, the newsletter also possesses a second function. We hope it can serve as a portable guide to the area around Elizabethtown and to the conference itself. So in your rush to get to "E-Town," don't forget to pack the newsletter. We look forward to seeing you in March!

-Dr. John Haddad, American Studies,
Penn State Harrisburg

MAASA-PPSA Conference Registration 2009

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March 27-28, 2009 Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA

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Please send completed registration form and payment (check made payable to **"Penn State University"**) to the following address:

MAASA c/o Sue Etter
 American Studies Program
 Penn State Harrisburg
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 Phone: 717-948-6201

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Conference Schedule

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Political Theory

Public Policy

Comparative Politics 1

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Pennsylvania State and Local Politics

International Relations: American Foreign Policy during the Administration of George W. Bush

Law and Judicial Politics: Constitutional Law

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Plenary Roundtable: Race and Religion in the 2008 Elections

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Speaker: Donald Kraybill, Elizabethtown College

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Panel 2. Race and Gender in Politics and Faith

Panel 3. Religious Controversy!

Panel 4. Politics and Faith in Early America

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Panel 1. Undergraduate Roundtable

Panel 2. Preserving German Culture by Means of Religion in New Jersey

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Inside the Panels

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Moderator: Michael Barton, Penn State Harrisburg

Diana DePasquale, Rutgers University. Presidential Election 2008: Why and How the Democrats Court the Religious Vote

Matthew Stewart, University of Wyoming. "A Continuing Survey of the Farce": The New Pantagruel and the Carnivalesque Prophetic Tradition

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Fascism in Contemporary Reportage

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tavio E. Butler's Parable of the Sower and Parable of the Talents

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Moderator: Yvonne Sims, Penn State Harrisburg

Louise Barnett, Rutgers University. Religion and Politics in Native American Fiction: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

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1820-1860

Christopher House, University of Pittsburgh. God Damn America: A Prophet's Plea

Ann Youngblood Mulhearn, University of Tennessee-Martin. Southern Graces: Women, Faith, and the Quest for Social Justice in Jim Crow Memphis

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Moderator: Craig Haas, Penn State Harrisburg

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Snyder v. Phelps Reveals about America's Heteronationalism

Jeff Nall, Florida Atlantic University. Fundamentalism Atheism and its Intellectual Failures

Jonathan Hansen, University of Iowa. Scientology vs. Psychiatry in the Museum

Jenifer Bianchi, University of Delaware. "Are You Gonna Come and Kill Me?": Death and Deception at Mount Carmel

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Moderator: John Haddad, Penn State Harrisburg

Megan McGee, Penn State Harrisburg. American Political Dynasties: The Unintended Child of American Democracy

Stephanie Gilbert, Dickinson College. "In an illegal, unprecedented manner": The Persecution of the Quaker Community
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Moderator: Francis Ryan, LaSalle

Participants TBA

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Moderator: Angus Gillespie, Rutgers University

Angus Gillespie, Rutgers University. "Fellowship Deaconry, Liberty Corner, New Jersey" (Panel includes a screening of hYŪa Z`ck X`VnXgWgjbL:

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Moderator: Charles Kupfer, Penn State Harrisburg

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Brant Ellsworth, Penn State Harrisburg. "A Sure Storm Will Follow Fine Weather and Vice Versa": Mormon Soldiers in the Civil War

Holly Scott, American University. Doves of a Different Feather. Mennonites and the Antiwar Movement During Vietnam

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Moderator: Carolyn Kitch, Temple University

James E. Siburt, Lancaster Theological Seminary. More Human than Human: Battlestar Galactica's Religious and Political Fields of Cultural Production

Matthew Backes, Rutgers University. Horace Mann and the Shadow of Calvinist Patriarchalism

Jared Lobdell, Harrisburg Area Community College. Presidential Church Membership and the President's View of the Dc`]HW#fY]]ci gB Yi g`Cca Y7Ug`Ch X`Yg`U`XG []Yg]cbg

Gurjit Singh and Harpreet Songh, Baba Banda Bahadur Engineering College. Sikhism and Sikhs in the United States

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K Y U F Y Y I W X h c` Ubci bW h U i 8 f" 8 cbUX Kraybill, Distinguished College Professor and Senior Fellow in the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College, will be the featured speaker at the upcoming MAASA conference in Elizabethtown. Recently, contributor Brant Ellsworth sat down with Dr. Kraybill to discuss the Amish and his research on them.

Are you from this region?

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How did you become interested in the Amish?

I grew up on Lancaster and did my Ph.D. at Temple University with John Hostetler, the leading authority on Amish in North America in the 1960s thru 1980s.

As Keynote speaker for the PPSA-MAASA Conference, on what topic will you be speaking?

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Along with your work, what are some of the other good books on the Amish?

Steve Nolt's *A History of the Amish*, and his *Plain Diversity: Amish Cultures and Identities*, as well as

The Amish and the Media by Diane Zimmerman Umble. I edit a series of Young Center books on the Amish published by Johns Hopkins U. Press, which I feel are all good! You can view some of this work on our webpage. [http://www.etown.edu/Mci b\[7Yb\]f Ug\] 3cd\]W Mci b\[Ž7Yb\]f Ž6cc_g](http://www.etown.edu/Mci b[7Yb]f Ug] 3cd]W Mci b[Ž7Yb]f Ž6cc_g) *What do the Amish think about all the attention they get?*

Well there are about 231,000 of them in 27 states and there are probably that many opinions about it! In general, they do not seek attention or publicity, because it is viewed as self-aggrandizement and runs counter to their religious views about humility and modesty.

Do they read your books and respond?

Some do. I have some Amish readers read drafts of my books before they are published. In general their response has been very positive to my books. Two frequent comments are, "Your books are truthful, sometimes too truthful" and, "You know us better than we know ourselves."

Don't miss the opportunity to hear from Dr. Kraybill in person at the conference this March.

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 surrounding areas.

This year's MAASA conference will be held in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, located in the northwestern corner of Lancaster County. Elizabethtown, or "E-Town" as locals like to abbreviate, is home to a rich Pennsylvania German \lgcfm hUhi XUHg` VW`]bte` hY Yf m`%) Sg` Elizabethtown is an ideal location for our conference VYM gYcZ`]gdfcl`ja]hrtc`a Ubrng`hg`cZ`]bhfYg`hlc` 5a Y]Mb`Gh`XYg`U`M`cbUXcg`

The beautiful campus of Elizabethtown College is within walking distance of the hotel. Established in 1899, the school consistently ranks as one of the top schools in the northeast. Also in Elizabethtown is the Masonic Village, a retirement community founded in 1911 for Freemasons. Today the Masonic Village covers 1400 acres and is home to nearly 1600 residents.

Nearby Hershey is home to Milton S. Hershey's famous chocolate candies and many attractions that revolve around chocolate. Chocolate World is a must-see for chocolate lovers. The tour guides you through the chocolate making process culminating in a free chocolate sample. A new museum, The < Yfg`Ym`Gcfm`cdYbYX`]b`>Ubi`Ufm`UX`Y`d`cf`Yg`h`Y`]Z`UbX`UW`a`d`]g`a`Y`b`g`c`Z`A`]`h`c`b`<`Y`f`g`Y`m`C`Z` interest to sports fans is Hersheypark Arena, which

hosts the Hershey Bears minor league hockey team. Hersheypark Arena is where NBA hall-of-famer Wilt Chamberlain set an NBA record by scoring 100-points in one game.

Tourism in nearby Lancaster has picked up gl`b]U`W`b`h`m`]b`f`Y`W`b`h`m`U`f`g`U`g`bc`g`U`]U`Z`f``ca`Y` grown foods and the "simple life" has increased. Lancaster County is home to a large population of Amish families. It is common to see a horse pulled buggy while driving through back-roads. Inter-course, Pennsylvania, is a popular destination that features many stores that sell Amish made furniture and quilts.

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania's capitol, is about 20 miles from Elizabethtown. The Capitol building has VYU`h`Z``Y`h`f`cf`U`f`W`]h`W`f`Y`Z`M`h`a`U`Y`g`f`Y`h`c`g`h`d` inside and see the artwork in the rotunda. The State Museum in downtown Harrisburg offers free admis-g`cb`U`X`U`b`Y`k`Y`]`M`h`Y`b`h`h`X`I`5`7`ca`a`cb`7`U`b`U`g` D`y`b`b`g`n`j`U`b`U`g`B`Y`k`8`Y`U`D`c`g`h`C`Z`U`W`A`i`f`U`g`i`

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Fun atmosphere, great burgers and fries, large selection of beer
www.tjrockwells.com

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By-the-slice pizza, salad, subs

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Located in an old bank, great home-cooked meals, affordable sit-down

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State Museum: 300 North Street, Harrisburg
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www.theoutletsat Hershey.com



Exhibit at State Museum:
A Common Canvas

The State Museum in downtown Harrisburg offers free admission and features a new exhibit of PA's New <] YdHgkl 'G 'P[] 'E mjYđk

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