

ARKANSAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Eighty-First Annual Conference



*Natural States of Being:
Gender & Sexuality in Arkansas History*

April 18-22, 2022

Online and in Little Rock

The Conference in Brief

Monday, April 18 (via Zoom)

Session 1: Noon-1:00 p.m.

Session 2: 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Session 3: 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 19 (via Zoom)

Session 4: Noon-1:00 p.m.

Session 5: 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Session 6: 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 20 (via Zoom)

Session 7: Noon-1:00 p.m.

Session 8: 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Session 9: 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 21 (via Zoom)

Session 10: Noon-1:00 p.m.

Business Meeting: 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Address by Elizabeth Shores: 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 22 (at Ferncliff)

Reception: 5:30 p.m.

Banquet: 6:30 p.m.

Address by Cherisse Jones-Branch

Awards Presentations

Cover image: Little Rock city directors Myra Jones (left) and Lottie Shackelford (right) speaking at the Arkansas Women's Political Caucus's annual Barefoot and Pregnant Awards, 1983. *Courtesy Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System.*

Natural States of Being: Gender and Sexuality in Arkansas History

The Eighty-First Arkansas Historical Association (AHA) annual conference will be held in a combination of virtual and face-to-face formats, April 18-22. Presentations will be made on Zoom sessions Monday-Thursday. Friday night's events include a reception, talk, and awards banquet.

Our conference theme this year is the history of gender and sexuality in Arkansas—the first time AHA has focused exclusively on this theme. Sessions explore pioneering Arkansas women and men, sexuality and power, notions of femininity and masculinity in shaping Arkansas's past, and the intersections of identities of race and gender.

The conference committee members are Kelly Houston Jones, Arkansas Tech University; Brian Robertson, Central Arkansas Library System; Carl Drexler, Arkansas Archeological Survey; and Lisa Speer, Ouachita Baptist University.

Registration

Complete the enclosed registration form and send it with check or money order to the Arkansas Historical Association, Department of History, Old Main 416, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. You may also register online at www.arkansashistoricalassociation.org.

Please note that space at the awards banquet, as well as lodging on-site at Ferncliff, is limited. See your conference information packet for details.

The registration fee is \$10. Deadline for registration is April 5.

Monday, April 18

Zoom master: Heather Zbinden, CALS

Session 1, noon–1:00 p.m.

Community Expressions and Concerns

Moderator: Mark Christ, Central Arkansas Library System

“Beyond The Un-Natural State: The Arkansas Drag Community Oral History Project”

Deena Owens, Arkansas Drag Community Oral History Project

“What Becomes of the Brokenhearted? The Invisible Life of E. Lynn Harris”

Tamela Tenpenny-Lewis, independent researcher

“‘I am a homosexual’: Dr. Ralph Hyman and the AIDS Epidemic, 1981-1990”

Todd E. Lewis, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Session 2, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Arkansas Identities: The Arkansas History Series by the University of Arkansas Press

Moderators: Jeannie M. Wayne, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville and Kelly Houston Jones, Arkansas Tech University

“Arkansas Travelers: Geographies of Exploration and Perception, 1804-1834”

Andrew Milson, University of Texas at Arlington

“Better Living by Their Own Bootstraps: Black Women’s Activism in Rural Arkansas, 1914-1965”

Cherisse Jones-Branch, Arkansas State University

“Just and Righteous Causes: Rabbi Ira Sanders and the Fight for Racial and Social Justice in Arkansas, 1926-1963”

James Moses, Arkansas Tech University, retired

Session 3, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

***First Person Plural: Reflecting on a Decade of Conversations
with Arkansas Women***

Moderator: Kelly Houston Jones, Arkansas Tech University

Jo Blatti, independent researcher

Susan Kendrick-Perry, Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History

Tuesday, April 19

Zoom master: Lauren Dixon, CALS

Session 4, noon-1:00p.m.

Men on the Make

Moderator: Revis Edmonds, Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and
Tourism

“Becoming His Own Man: Winthrop Rockefeller, From New Yorker to
Arkansawyer”

John A. Kirk, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

“From the Tomato Capital to the Big Apple: Harvey Donegan and the
Preservation of the Art, Architectural, and Cultural Scenes of New York
City”

Timothy G. Nutt, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

“Edward Allen Fulton: Missouri Slave, Chicago Abolitionist, and
Arkansas Political Leader”

Blake Wintory, The Heritage Foundation, Williamson County, Tennessee

Session 5, 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Currents of Continuity and Change

Moderator: Jami Forrester, Northwest Arkansas Community College

“Two Spirits: Persons of Consequence in Early Arkansas Native
Communities”

Linda Jones, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

“Mrs. Hotovec and the G-Men: A Japanese Arkansan’s WWII Experiences in the Ouachita Foothills”

Lisa C. Childs, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

“From Jerome to Dermott: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Japanese-American and German POW Internment Camps”

Taylor Cash, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Session 6, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Famous Women of Arkansas

Moderator: Rebecca A. Howard, Lone Star College-Montgomery

“Charlean Moss Williams: Teacher, Mayor, and Preservationist of Washington, Arkansas”

Josh Williams, Historic Washington State Park

“The Pfeiffer Sisters and the Sisterhood of the Traveling Libido”

S. Anthony Childress, Arkansas State University

Wednesday, April 20

Zoom master: Lisa Speer, OBU

Session 7, noon-1:00p.m.

Female Crusaders and Pioneers

Moderator: Susan Young, Historic Cane Hill

“Adolphine Fletcher Terry: Leading Advocate for Change in Arkansas”

Venessa Arthur, Northwest Arkansas Community College

“Lidia Gertrudis Sogandares: A Pioneer for Women in Medicine”

Geoffery Stark, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

“A Crusader in Decline: The Final Years of Carrie A. Nation”

Brian Irby, Arkansas State Archives

Session 8, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Boundaries and Opportunities for Women in Arkansas

Moderator: Janine Parry, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

“Arkansas Methodist Women: The Possibilities and Limitations of One Mainline Denomination’s Female Activism in Arkansas, 1940-1990”

Janet Allured, McNeese State University, retired

“Arkansas Press Women: An Introduction”

Wendy Plotkin, Arkansas Press Women

“Women Who Pioneered the Republican Party of Arkansas”

Revis Edmonds, Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism

Session 9, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Distaff Editorial: Woman Journalists and Women’s Issues in the Arkansas Press

Moderator: David Ware, Arkansas State Archives

“For Women, By Women: How the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP) is Giving Voice to Historically Underrepresented Communities in Arkansas”

Katie Adkins, Arkansas State Archives

“Recovering Lost Voices: Searching for Our Lost African American Newspaper Heritage”

Brian Irby, Arkansas State Archives

“From Streetcar Suburb to the County: Women in the Pages of the *Pulaskian*, 1915-1922”

Darren Bell, Arkansas State Archives

Thursday, April 21

Zoom master: Rachel Patton, Preserve Arkansas

Session 10 noon-1:00 p.m.

Consequential Women

Moderator: Julienne Crawford, Arkansas State Archives

“‘She knew how to sign her own name’: Selma Ford versus the U.S. Forest Service”

Don C. Bragg, USDA Forest Service

“Baroness May Dugas van Pallandt: The Most Dangerous Woman in the World”

John E. Svendsen, independent researcher

“Finding Miss Brady”

Rebecca A. Howard, Lone Star College-Montgomery

Business Meeting, 2:30p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Presiding: Story Matkin-Rawn, President

President’s Report

Secretary-Treasurer’s Report

Election of Trustees and Officers

Address, 6:30p.m.-7:30p.m.

The Queer World of Charles J. Finger

Elizabeth Shores, independent scholar

Friday, April 22

Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center

Annual Awards Banquet

Mosley Tabernacle, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center

Reception, 5:30 p.m.

Banquet, 6:30 p.m.

Address by Cherisse Jones-Branch, Arkansas State University

“Better Living By Their Own Bootstraps: Black Women’s Activism in Rural Arkansas”

Awards Presentations

Lifetime Achievement Award

Award of Merit

Arkansas Diamond Award

J. G. Ragsdale Book Award

John William Graves Book Award

Tom Dillard Advocacy Award

J. H. Atkinson Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Arkansas History

NEARA Award for Exemplary Archival Research

James L. Foster and Billy W. Beason Award

Lucille Westbrook Award

Violet B. Gingles Award

Susannah DeBlack Award

Walter L. Brown County and Local Journal Awards

Arkansas Women’s History Institute Susie Pryor Award

THANK YOU!

This annual conference is supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Arkansas Historical Association is also grateful to the following for their special support:

Arkansas Women's History Institute

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System

Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism

Tom and Mary Dillard

Friends of the Arkansas State Archives

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