

American Studies

Middle Atlantic American Studies Association Newsletter

Volume 20, Issue 2

Spring 2009

Inside this Issue:

- Conference Registration 2
- Conference Schedule 3
- Inside the Panels 4
- From the Editor's Desk 6
- Map & Attractions 7

Middle Atlantic ASA Officers

President:

Angus Gillespie, Rutgers University

Vice President:

Francis J. Ryan, La Salle University

Secretary/Treasurer:

Louise Stevenson, Franklin & Marshall College

Conference Coordinators:

John Haddad and Megan McGee,
Penn State Harrisburg

Newsletter Editor:

John Haddad, Penn State Harrisburg

Newsletter Design:

Nancy Jones, Penn State Harrisburg

Newsletter Contributors:

Brant Ellsworth, Megan McGee,
John Haddad, Penn State Harrisburg

Executive Board:

Carolyn Kitch, Temple University;
Yvonne Sims, Penn State Harrisburg;
Mark Rice, St. John Fisher College;
Amy Bischoff, Hershey Museum;
Cali McCullough, student representative

Past Presidents:

Simon Bronner, Penn State Harrisburg;
Charles Kupfer, Penn State Harrisburg;
Mark Sawin, Eastern Mennonite University

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 last year, it is only fitting that our conference theme revolve around...what else? Politics! Specifically, we will explore the intersection of Politics and Religion, with our aim being to better understand how each has influenced the other, both in 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 MAASA we may only flirt with politics 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 the MAASA community in extending our gratitude to Berard Stanley, this year's PPSA Program Coordinator; Fletcher McClellan, Site Coordinator at Elizabethtown; and our good friend Michael Cassidy, Executive Director of the Office of the Democratic Caucus, who bears no formal title this year but who has generously offered to lend his expertise to the group. On the MAASA side, I would like 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 their services. As Conference Organizer, Megan McGee has been working closely 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

Faith, Politics, Culture: American Mixtures

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

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Registration includes all of the following: access to all MAASA and PPSA panels, Friday evening Keynote Address, Friday evening Dinner and Reception, Saturday morning Coffee & Continental Breakfast, and Saturday Luncheon.

Early Registration (before March 14). Please check ONE box:

- \$70 General Registration (University Faculty, Professionals, Scholars)
- \$50 Graduate Students
- \$15 Undergraduate Roundtable Participants (Saturday events & meals only)
- \$15 Friends & Family of Roundtable Participants (Saturday events & meals only)
- \$50 Undergraduate Roundtable Participants (all conference events, Fri. & Sat.)
- \$50 Friends & Family of Roundtable Participants (all conference events, Fri. & Sat.)

Note: For on-site registration or registrations postmarked after March 14, please add \$10.

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
 Middletown, PA 17057
 Phone: 717-948-6201

Hotel Information

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Express in Elizabethtown. Be sure to mention that you are reserving for the PPSA/MAASA conference. Beds available: 1 king size bed or 2 queen size beds.

Holiday Inn Express – Elizabethtown
 147 Merts Drive
 ELIZABETHTOWN, PA 17022

Hotel Front Desk: 1-717-367-4000 or 800-335-4188

Hotel Fax: 1-717-3670292

Room rates: \$104.00

Conference Schedule

Friday, March 27, 2009

- 12:30–2:00 Panel Session 1 (PPSA)
 Political Theory
 Public Policy
 Comparative Politics 1
- 2:15–3:45 Panel Session 2 (PPSA)
 Pennsylvania State and Local Politics
 International Relations: American Foreign Policy during the
 Administration of George W. Bush
 Law and Judicial Politics: Constitutional Law
- 3:00–4:00 MAASA Executive Board Meeting (room TBA)
- 4:00–7:00 MAASA Registration
- 4:00–5:30 PPSA & MAASA
 Plenary Roundtable: Race and Religion in the 2008 Elections
- 5:30–5:45 PPSA Membership Business Meeting
- 6:00–7:00 Reception
- 7:00–9:30 PPSA/MAASA Dinner and Keynote Address
 Speaker: Donald Kraybill, Elizabethtown College
 “Culture Clash: Amish Conflicts with the State”

Saturday, March 28, 2009

- 8:00 Coffee & Bagels (Saturday Registration)
- 8:30–10:00 Session I (4 panels)
 Panel 1. Exploring the Christian Right
 Panel 2. Race and Gender in Politics and Faith
 Panel 3. Religious Controversy!
 Panel 4. Politics and Faith in Early America
- 10:00–10:30 Coffee Break
- 10:30–12:00 Session II (4 panels)
 Panel 1. Undergraduate Roundtable
 Panel 2. Preserving German Culture by Means of Religion in New Jersey
 Panel 3. War, Pacifism, and Religion
 Panel 4. Religious Contexts and their Consequences
- 12:00–2:00 MAASA Luncheon

Inside the Panels

Saturday, March 28, 2009

Session I: 8:30-10:00

Panel 1. Exploring the Christian Right

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

Chris R. Vials, SUNY Buffalo State College. Exposing the "Christian Nation": The Christian Right and the Metaphor of Fascism in Contemporary Reportage

Kevin Snow, Indiana University of Pennsylvania. From Christian Right to Earthseed: An Exploration of Religion in Octavio E. Butler's Parable of the Sower and Parable of the Talents

Panel 2. Race and Gender in Politics and Faith

Moderator: Yvonne Sims, Penn State Harrisburg

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

Melanie Steimle, Penn State Harrisburg. Betwixt and Between: The Ambiguous Space of Protestant Missionary Wives, 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

Panel 3. Religious Controversy

Moderator: Craig Haas, Penn State Harrisburg

Rebecca Barrett-Fox, University of Kansas. Westboro Baptist Church versus American Media: What Public Response to Snyder v. Phelps Reveals about America's Heteronationalism

Jeff Nall, Florida Atlantic University. Fundamentalist 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

Panel 4. Politics and Faith in Early America

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 during the American Occupation of Revolutionary Philadelphia

Christopher Fritsch, University of Oxford. The Pursuit of Faith and Government: William Penn and His Colonial System

Session II: 10:30-12:00

Panel 1. Undergraduate Roundtable

Moderator: Francis Ryan, LaSalle

Participants TBA

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

Moderator: Angus Gillespie, Rutgers University

Angus Gillespie, Rutgers University. "Fellowship Deaconry, Liberty Corner, New Jersey" (Panel includes a screening of the film followed by discussion)

Panel 3. War, Pacifism, and Religion

Moderator: Charles Kupfer, Penn State Harrisburg

Beth Graybill, Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society in Pennsylvania. Gender & Pacifism in an Anabaptist Context

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

Panel 4. Religious Contexts and their Consequences

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 Political/religious Nexus: Some Case Studies and Suggestions

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

Q&A with Dr. Donald Kraybill, 2009 Keynote Speaker

We are excited to announce that Dr. Donald 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?

Yes, I was born in Mt. Joy, about 5 miles east of Elizabethtown!

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?

Culture Clash: Amish Conflicts with the State

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/YoungCenter.aspx?topic=Young+Center+Books>

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.

Introducing: Elizabethtown, PA



The newsletter is your portable guide to the MAASA conference, Elizabethtown, and 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 history that dates back into the early 1750s. Elizabethtown is an ideal location for our conference because of its proximity to many sites of interest to American Studies aficionados.

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 Hershey Story, opened in January and explores the life and accomplishments of Milton Hershey. Of 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 significantly in recent years, as nostalgia for home-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 beautiful exterior architecture, but make sure to step inside and see the artwork in the rotunda. The State Museum in downtown Harrisburg offers free admission and a new exhibit entitled "A Common Canvas: Pennsylvania's New Deal Post Office Murals."

—Brant Ellsworth, Penn State Harrisburg

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce. U.E.D. HBO-09-216

In and Around “E-Town”

Sample the local fare:

TJ Rockwells: 800 Mt. Gretna Rd, Elizabethtown

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

Flavors: 45 N. Market St., Elizabethtown

Historic building from 18th century, rumored to have operated as part of the Underground Railroad, large variety of dinner plates www.flavors.net

My Place: 95 Anchor Rd, Elizabethtown

By-the-slice pizza, salad, subs

Brownstone Café: 1 North Union St, Middletown

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

Go out on the town:

The Hershey Story: 111 West Chocolate Avenue, Hershey:

www.hersheystory.org

Hershey's Chocolate World: 251 Park Boulevard, Hershey

www.hershey.com/chocolateworld/

State Museum: 300 North Street, Harrisburg

www.statemuseumpa.org

Outlets at Hershey: 46 Outlet Square, Hershey

www.theoutletsathershey.com

Elizabethtown College is near several places you might visit, like Hershey, Lancaster County, and Harrisburg



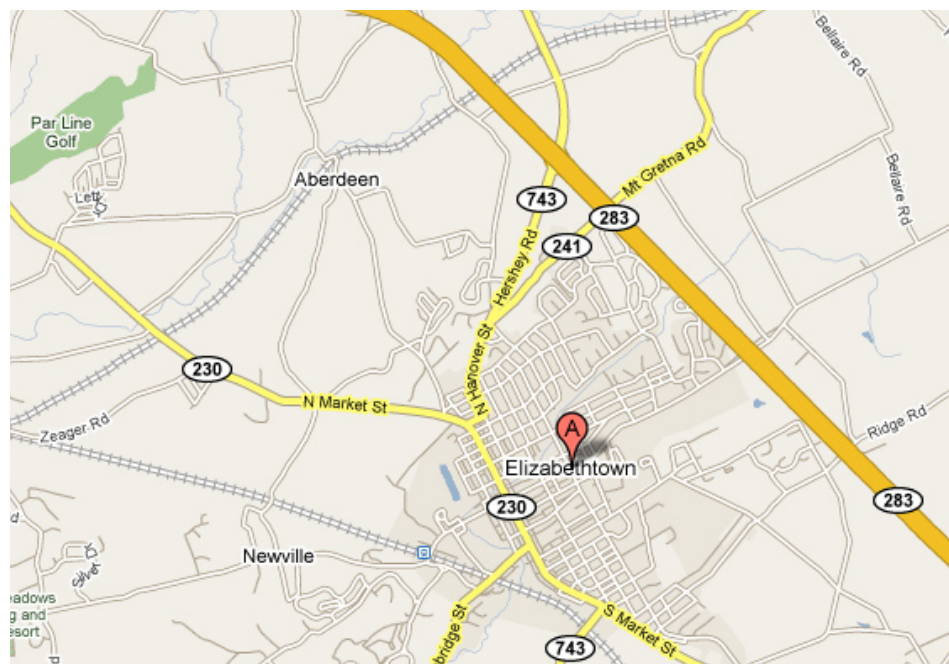
Exhibit at State Museum:
A Common Canvas

The State Museum in downtown Harrisburg offers free admission and features a new exhibit of PA's New Deal Post Office Murals

Directions

From Elizabethtown Station, Amtrak: Drive north on High Street for .5 mile. Turn right on Market Street and continue straight for 2 miles. Turn left on Cloverfield Road. Holiday Inn Express is 1 mile ahead on the left.

Driving: Take Highway 283 to the Rheems/Elizabethtown exit. Turn South onto Cloverleaf Rd followed by an immediate right onto Merts Rd. The Holiday Inn Express is at the end of the road.





MAASA

The Middle Atlantic American Studies Association (MAASA) is a regional chapter of the American Studies Association organized to promote and encourage the study of American Culture in the Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania areas. The MAASA sponsors an annual conference, special lectures and events, and publishes the newsletter twice a year.



The Spring 2009 MAASA-PPSA Conference
Faith, Politics, Culture: American Mixtures



777 West Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057-4898