



RHODE ISLAND
COUNCIL
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

RICH *views*

an independent, not-for-profit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities

Fall 2006

YOU ARE INVITED!! RICH CELEBRATION OF THE HUMANITIES



Charles Sullivan (photo by Lucas Foglia)

MONDAY OCTOBER 16, 2006

The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities (RICH) is pleased to announce our *Honorary Chairs' Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities* will be awarded to Mr. Charles Sullivan and our Tom Roberts Prize for Creative Achievement in the Humanities will be awarded to Mr. Keith and Mrs. Theresa Stokes at our annual event, *A Celebration of the Humanities*, Monday, October 16, 2006 at Trinity Repertory Company.

The Lifetime Achievement award is presented to individuals who have

demonstrated a continued commitment to scholarship in the humanities, the promotion of humanities ideals, and a dedication to pursue work and opportunities for lifelong learning for all Rhode Islanders. Senator Claiborne Pell was last year's award recipient.

Mr. Sullivan has taught English Literature at CCRI for over 35 years. In that time he has touched the lives of many students with his legendary teaching style and promotion of both classic and contemporary works of literature. A published author, great wit, and community activist, Mr. Sullivan has shown his

dedication to the community and the humanities by serving on the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, Trinity Repertory Theatre, and Planned Parenthood, among others. The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities is delighted to have an opportunity to honor a friend and colleague.

The Tom Roberts Prize is given to an individual or group whose work blends the wisdom and methods of the humanities in an inventive, original, and imaginative way and reflects the humanities ability to inspire us to examine everything, challenge established standards, and interpret what we see and what lies beneath the surface. The Stokes possess all these qualities and more.

Mr. Stokes is the Executive Director of the Newport County Chamber of Commerce and is a national advisor representing Rhode Island with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He is also President of the Board of Directors of the Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue. Mr. Stokes is a descendant of Newport's early African American and Jewish families.

Mrs. Stokes is a free-lance writer specializing in multi-cultural topics and history

(fiction and non-fiction.) Formerly editor of Newport Life Magazine, she has written numerous articles on the history of the early African American and Jewish communities of Newport. She is currently working on a novel "Eyes of Glory" based on the 200 years of their extraordinary American family.

Together, Mr. and Mrs. Stokes have dedicated so much of their time to promoting education of history and culture. The Stokes' possess an extensive personal collection of rare books, documents, furniture, and other artifacts that date back over 200 years of ethnic American family experiences.



Keith and Theresa Stokes

NEW ADDITIONS RICH WELCOMES SIX NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Photo of Conrad Building c. 1890, courtesy of the Rhode Island Historical Society.

As of July 1, 2006, the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities said goodbye to three Board members who have served with us for six years; Richard Lobban, Colin McCullough, and former Chair, Elizabeth Delude-Dix. We are grateful for their leadership and commitment to the council and we will miss them!

To cheer our spirits, we added six new members to our Board of Directors. The class of 2006 brings folks from all over the state, all of whom share a commitment to the public humanities in Rhode Island.



Gayle L. Clifford and Grabkdjifajhfk Jkldfsaj;

Roger B. Blumberg is Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science, at Brown University,

a member of the History, Philosophy, and Social Science (HPSS) Department at the Rhode Island School of Design, and a Technology and Education Program Evaluator and Consultant.

Timothy C. Duffy is Executive Director of the Rhode Island Association of School Committees. Mr. Duffy's responsibilities include professional development for school committee members and superintendents, and lobbying state legislators.

Kate A. Greene, J.D. is Director of Programs for Global Rhode Island;

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LETTER FROM THE RICH BOARD CHAIR TEN REASONS I LOVED THE HUMANITIES COUNCIL (THIS YEAR)



RICH Board Chair, Gayle L. Gifford

1. Unearthing the intersections of soil, soul and community through Lucas Foglia's extraordinary photo documentation of southside Providence's community gardens.

2. Feeling the Iraq war through veteran Brian Turner's evocative poetry and Jacki Lyden's provocative prose.

3. Sharing in the thoughtful reflections of police cadets aroused by our daring partnership in diversity with the Providence Police Academy.

4. Glimpsing the unimaginable personal experiences of slaves and slavers in *The Door of No Return*.

5. Finding the meaning of *Desire Under the Elms* with the director, humanist-residence and astute audience of 2nd Story Theatre.

6. Facing the stimulating, ongoing challenge of articulating the incredible value of the "humanities" to my community.

7. Hearing a prospective board candidate describe our grant making and the work of our grantees as "excellent, top quality, first class".

8. Connecting with donors to personally say thank you for your continuing commitment to our work – and challenging myself to give until it feels GOOD (to quote my friend Herb Kaplan).

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RICH

...inspiring and supporting intellectual curiosity and imagination in all Rhode Islanders...

OCTOBER IS ARTS & HUMANITIES MONTH

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC...MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

■ OCT. 2, MON.

American Experience: Influenza 1918.
This broadcast is related to the **Action Speaks** panel discussion about the 1918 flu, taking place on Wed. Oct. 4.
TIME: 9:00pm, Airing on RI PBS
CONTACT: SueEllen 273-2250

■ OCT. 3 TUES.

RICH Grantee Project: Ann Fessler presents a public lecture about her oral history project, "Everlasting." Her program is a public lecture about all the projects based on the oral histories – the audio installation, film-in-progress, and completed book "The Girls Who Went Away."
TIME: 7:00pm
LOCATION: RISD Auditorium

■ OCT. 3, TUES.

EnRICHment Opportunities: Stone Walls of South County. EnRICHment speakers Marc Joel Levitt and Mathias Oppersdorff.
TIME: 7:00pm
LOCATION: Conimicut Public Library, Beach Ave (off West Shore Rd.) Warwick
CONTACT: Janis 467-4772

■ OCT. 4, WED.

Action Speaks: Urban Dialogues for a Healthy Democracy: 1918: The Flu Epidemic.
TIME: 5:30-7:00pm
LOCATION: AS220,115 Empire St. Providence
CONTACT: Jen

■ OCT. 5, THURS.

EnRICHment Opportunities: Archaeology of the City. EnRICHment speaker Jim Garman.
TIME: 7:00pm
LOCATION: Portsmouth Free Public Library
CONTACT: Carolyn 683-9457

■ OCT. 8, SUN.

Discussion Sunday
RICH Grantee Project: To accompany it's production of Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee's play "Inherit the Wind," 2nd Story Theatre will host a lively pre-show discussion hosted by Ed Shea. Dr. Eileen Warburton, 2nd Story Theatre's Humanities Scholar in Residence, will guide post-show discussion centered on the humanities themes in the play.
TIME: pre-show discussion 2:00pm
post-show discussion 5:00pm
LOCATION: Bristol Statehouse, in the Courtroom 240 High St. Bristol
CONTACT: Joanne 247-4200

■ OCT. 11, WED.

Action Speaks: Urban Dialogues for a Healthy Democracy: 1933: Roosevelt's Good Neighbor Policy.
TIME: 5:30-7:00pm
LOCATION: AS220,115 Empire St. Providence
CONTACT: Jen

■ OCT. 11, WED. & OCT. 13, FRI.

Living Literature: Common Ground, A Kaleidoscope of Race.
DATE: Oct. 11, Wed, TIME: 7:00pm
LOCATION: Westerly Library
DATE: Oct. 13, Fri, TIME: 7:45pm
LOCATION: First Unitarian Church, Providence
CONTACT: Risa 273-2250

■ OCT. 12, THURS.

Wild Blue Yonder
This forum will begin with a PowerPoint presentation by self-described action architect, Elizabeth Streb. Ms. Streb explores the intersection of dance and theater and the drama of bodies in space. A discussion with Ms. Streb and Julie Strandberg, Director of Dance at Brown University will follow. Dr. Wendy Walters, Assistant Professor of English, RISD is our project consultant for this forum.

This forum is presented as part of **FIRST WORKS PROV**, an arts and cultural event. For a full schedule of events for **FIRST WORKS PROV**, please visit www.firstworksprov.org
TIME: 5:00pm
LOCATION: Brown University
CONTACT: Maitrayee 273-2250

■ OCT. 16-MON.

EnRICHment Opportunities: The Old House. EnRICHment speaker Sue Maden.
TIME: 7:00pm
LOCATION: East Smithfield Public Library, 50 Esmond St. Smithfield, RI
CONTACT: Maxine 231-5150

■ OCT. 16-MON.

A CELEBRATION OF THE HUMANITIES! RICH is proud to honor Mr. Charles Sullivan and Mr. Keith and Mrs. Theresa Stokes for their contributions to the humanities.
TIME: 5:30-7:30pm
LOCATION: Trinity Repertory Company
CONTACT: Aimee 273-2250 for tickets and more information

■ OCT. 16, MON.

American Experience: Meltdown at Three Mile Island. This screening is related to the **Action Speaks** panel discussion: 1979: Three Mile Island. Please see below for details.
TIME: 9:00pm, Airing on RI PBS
CONTACT: SueEllen 273-2250

■ OCT. 18, WED.

Action Speaks: Urban Dialogues for a Healthy Democracy: 1979: Three Mile Island
TIME: 5:30-7:00pm
LOCATION: AS220,115 Empire St. Providence
CONTACT: Jen

■ OCT. 18, WED.

Living Literature: Common Ground, A Kaleidoscope of Race.
TIME: 7:00pm
LOCATION: North Kingstown Public Library
CONTACT: Risa 273-2250

■ OCT. 19, THURS.

Living Literature: Common Ground, A Kaleidoscope of Race.
TIME: 7:00pm
LOCATION: Jamestown Public Library
CONTACT: Risa 273-2250

■ OCT. 21, SAT.

The Drum is the Thunder, the Flute is the Wind

Kevin Locke (Hunkpapa Lakota) is known in this country and abroad as the preeminent player of the indigenous Northern Plains flute, as well as an

inspiring hoop dancer, and traditional storyteller. Kevin Locke will be joined by local storyteller Len Cabral to examine the idea of storytelling and archetypes. Theresa Secord, a Penobscot artist and a member of the NEFA Board of Directors, will moderate the discussion.
TIME: 4:15pm
LOCATION: RISD Auditorium
CONTACT: Maitrayee 273-2250

■ OCT. 23, MON.

Ecological Design: Inventing the Future. This is being aired in conjunction with the **Action Speaks** panel discussion: 1968 Whole Earth Catalog. Please see listing for Oct. 25 for more details.
TIME: 9:00pm, Airing on RI PBS
CONTACT: SueEllen 273-2250

■ OCT. 24, TUES.

Living Literature: Common Ground, A Kaleidoscope of Race.
TIME: 7:00pm
LOCATION: Warwick Public Library
CONTACT: Risa 273-2250

■ OCT. 25, WED.

Action Speaks: Urban Dialogues for a Healthy Democracy: 1968: Whole Earth Catalog.
TIME: 5:30-7:00pm
LOCATION: AS220,115 Empire St. Providence
CONTACT: Jen

■ OCT. 26, THURS.

Living Literature: Common Ground, A Kaleidoscope of Race.
TIME: 7:00pm
LOCATION: Rochambeau Branch, Providence Public Library
CONTACT: Risa 273-2250

■ OCT. 27, FRI.

EnRICHment Opportunities: Stone Walls of South County. EnRICHment speakers Marc Joel Levitt & Mathias Oppersdorff.
TIME: 7:30pm
LOCATION: The Kettle Pond Visitor Center, 50 Bend Road, Charlestown, RI
CONTACT: Ana 364-0087

■ OCT. 30, MON

Living Literature: Common Ground, A Kaleidoscope of Race.
TIME: 7:00pm
LOCATION: Weaver Library, East Providence
CONTACT: Risa 273-2250

LIVING LITERATURE

Living Literature, in partnership with RICH, has created a 45 minute program in their unique readers theatre style, to celebrate Arts and Humanities Month.

More than 100 years ago, Walt Whitman shared his perception of America as a melting pot: "Here is not merely a nation, but a teeming Nation of nations." In the June 2006 New York Times, David Mamet said "The dark secret of America has always been and always will be race. It's a secret hard to be rational about because it's so much a part of lives." To better understand ourselves, we must have a better understanding and appreciation of the diverse racial tapestry that is our national environment.

Living Literature Artistic Director, Barry Press; actor/writer, Nehessau deGannes; and Hurtis Mitchner will present excerpts from a variety of authors to further explore this idea. Some of the authors include: Frederick Douglas, Jesus Colon, Amy Tan, Grace Paley, Toni Morrison, and Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni.

Look for their performances throughout the month.

ACTION SPEAKS



Join us for the eleventh season of **Action Speaks**, every Wednesday in October at AS220 in downtown Providence. Come and learn about underappreciated dates that changed history. Topics are listed here, but for more information, check out our website: www.rihumanities.org

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

RHODE ISLAND COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES CATCHES UP WITH THREE FORMER GRANTEES

When Tim Gallagher and Courtney Hayes came to us for a grant in 2000, they were just starting their documentary project. Now their full-length documentary is complete and will air on PBS this October. RICH is proud to have funded a project that highlights an issue close to many Rhode Island communities.

A Fish Story is the tale of two women who lead their communities in a battle for control of the ocean. Angela Sanfilippo of Gloucester, Massachusetts, and Shareen Davis of Chatham, Massachusetts were born into fishing families and married men who continue to make a living from the sea. But their way of life is threatened when a coalition of national environmental organizations files a lawsuit that could put hundreds of fishermen out of business. *A Fish Story* finds Angela and Shareen at the center of this political storm as they struggle to save both fish and fishermen.

Rory Raven came to our council looking for a grant to do research on ghosts. He had been leading ghost tours around Providence, and was looking to add more substantive research. While this project has a lighthearted approach,



Former RICH grantee, Rory Raven, tells ghost stories about Providence

Mr. Raven's thoughtful research into local history, folktales, and storytelling make his tours a humanities-rich experience.

Stories include, the macabre Lamplighter of Mill Street, Benefit Street's Man in Black, the phantom women of Power Street, and the sad tale of John Gordon, the last man to be executed in Rhode Island – for a crime he did not commit. Mr. Raven also regales his crowds with odd pieces of local history, strange poet-

ry, and old New England epitaphs to be found in some of the over 3,000 graveyards here in Rhode Island.

The Providence Ghost Walk begins every Saturday and Sunday in October at 3pm, meeting at the intersection of Benefit and College Streets, in the shadow of the Providence Athenaeum.

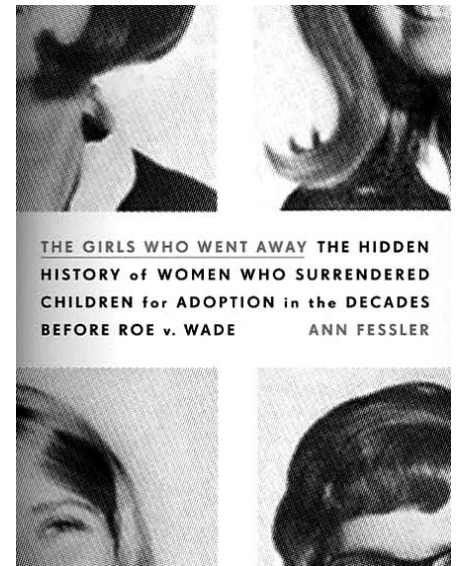
Ann Fessler's relationship with RICH started in 2003 when she came to us for funding for an oral history project she had been working on called "Everlasting." Ms. Fessler was collecting oral histories from women who surrendered children for adoption between 1945 and 1973. At the time, Ms. Fessler, a professor of photography at RISD, was collecting stories of women here in Rhode Island to be incorporated into her project that would become an audio installation and documentary film. In the years since, Ms. Fessler has expanded her project into a book: *The Girls Who Went Away, the Hidden History of Women Who Surrendered Children for Adoption in the Decades before Roe v. Wade*.

RICH is proud to have funded this project, in its early stages, allowing it

to grow into so much more than a collection of oral histories.

Ann will present a public lecture about all the projects based on the oral histories—the audio installation, film-in-progress, and completed book, on Tuesday October 3, 2006.

The lecture begins at 7:00pm at the RISD Auditorium. The program is free and open to the public.



Former RICH grantee, Ann Fessler, turned her independent research into a book

MAJOR AND INDEPENDENT RESEARCH GRANTS SPRING CYCLE 2006

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH GRANTS

BURRIVILLE BICENTENNIAL VIDEO PROJECT

Betty Mencucci,
Award: \$2000
Funds will support research on the history of Burrillville for a film.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME: THE FIFTH WARD NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY PROJECT

Joyce M. Botelho,
Award: \$2000
Funds will support research on the history of Newport's 5th Ward for a publication and presentation.

THE AMERICANA DREAMING PROJECT

Abraham Bienvenido Henderson,
Award: \$2000
Funds will support research that chronicles the pursuit of the "American Dream" concept by Dominican refugees for a stage and film documentary.

KING PHILIP AND THE PEOPLE'S WAR

Ann Tweedy,
Award: \$2000
Funds will support research and documentation of Narragansett stories for a film.

STEVE TYSON DOCUMENTARY

Don Manley with Michel Schtakleff,
Award: \$2000
Funds will support research on the local history of architectural preservation with a focus on preservation architect Steve Tyson for a film.

SCRIPT DEVELOPMENT GRANT

THE LANGUAGE OF AMERICANATIVE CULTURAL SURVIVAL IN A GLOBAL AGE

Northeast Historic Film
Award: \$2500
Funds will support local research about the Narragansett language and scriptwriting for the film.

HUMANITIES RESOURCE GRANTS

UNCOVERING THE LEGACY OF THE NEWPORT CASINO

International Tennis Hall of Fame
Award: \$2000
Funds will support ITHF efforts to plan a more accessible archive in consultation with an archivist.

SZATHMARY MENU COLLECTION

Johnson and Wales University-Providence Campus
Award: \$2000
Funds will support Johnson and Wales University efforts to increase public accessibility to the Szathmary Menu Collection by organizing the collection and the creation of a related exhibit.

PUBLIC PROJECT GRANTS

HUMANITIES OUTREACH AT 2ND STORY THEATRE

2nd Story Theatre
Award: \$2920
Funds will support a scholar-in-residence program at the theatre that produces humanities dialogues with audiences in conjunction with performances.

RI CAPITOL FORUM

Global Rhode Island
Award: \$10,696
Funds will support teacher and student engagement in a project that will bring Rhode Island high school students to the State House in 2007 and 2008 for an up-close study of civic and international issues.

ARCHITECTURAL GEMS: EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH CENTURY BUILDINGS IN SOUTH COUNTY

Culture Coalition
Award: \$2300
Funds will support a group of South County historical sites working together to produce discussion programs and a brochure highlighting the history of each site.

CREATIVE CARTOGRAPHY

New Urban Arts
Award: \$4500
Funds will support creation of a summer youth workshop in consultation with a scholar; the program critically examines and discusses cartography and result in an exhibit and publication of the youth work.

FIRSTWORKSPROV: ARTISTS UP-CLOSE: HUMANITIES FIRST

First Works
Award: \$3000
Funds will support Humanities First audience discussion forums that will take place in connection with the FirstWorksProv arts and cultural festival.

EARLY RESPONSE GRANTS

JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

Touro Synagogue Foundation
Award: \$2000
This three-part series examines historical aspects of religious freedom and the interfaith dialogue that has evolved during the colonial era in New England

UNTITLED ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Hamilton House
Award: \$2000
This multi-faceted oral history project will document and archive the personal history of Hamilton House seniors. The results will be displayed in a traveling exhibition to include a short video documentary, an art and photography component, essays, and a story quilt.

BURLEIGH EXHIBITION AND FAMILY DAY

Little Compton Historical Society
Award: \$2000
This exhibition and day-long event explores the contribution of Little Compton artist and philosopher Sydney Burleigh. The Family Day event provides Victorian activities and amusements for the whole family to gain a better understanding of Little Compton life in the late 19th century.

BOOTS ON THE GROUND DISCUSSIONS

Trinity Repertory Company
Award: \$2000
These moderated discussions will follow performances of Boots on the Ground – an original play based entirely on interviews with Rhode Island soldiers, families, employers, and others about their concerns and perceptions regarding the ongoing war in Iraq.

NATHANAEEL GREENE PUBLIC HUMANITIES FORUM

Rhode Island Historical Society
Award: \$2000
This public forum, coinciding with RIHS's completion of the 13-volume Papers of General Nathanael Greene, will bring together scholars and a journalist working on a newspaper series on Nathanael Greene, Rhode Island's famous Revolutionary War general, to explore his life and career from a variety of vantage points.

NOT YOUR CLASSROOM RADIO PROGRAM

AS220
Award: \$2000
Originally aired on Brown Student Radio, this radio program featuring interviews with RI university faculty about their current research and its connection to the greater world will be re-edited to air on WRNI, Rhode Island's NPR news station.

THE VIKINGS RETURN

Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology at Brown University
Award: \$2000
This three-day public program brings together humanities scholars and costumed interpreters with the general public to explore the world of Vikings, Viking explorations and activity in North America, and the roles of Rhode Island and New England in understanding the Viking Age.

THANK YOU! TO OUR RECENT DONORS . . .

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and is Rhode Island Director for the U.S. State Department International Visitor Program. Ms. Greene is also a Board Member for the World Affairs Council of Rhode Island.



Gayle L. Clifford and Grahkdjifajhfk Jklfalsaj;

Kenneth G. Orenstein is an architect and Rhode Island real estate broker. Mr. Orenstein has served as Guest Lecturer at Harvard, Boston University, and many Rhode Island institutions of higher learning, has published widely, and has served in many civic/community advisory roles. Mr. Orenstein is the former Executive Director of the Providence Foundation, which earned numerous awards under his leadership.

Angela R. Renaud, Ed.D. is Dean of the John Hazen White School of Arts and Sciences at Johnson & Wales University. Dr. Renaud's professional memberships include Leadership Rhode Island Program Committee, Rhode Island Women in Higher Education, New England Resources Center for Higher Education, and the American Association for Higher Education.

Rebecca Rex is Director of Development for the Newport Art Museum. Ms. Rex is currently an MA Candidate in Art History at Hunter College, CUNY. She lives in Newport and is especially interested in expanding the reach of RICH to Aquidneck Island.

We welcome them all to RICH!

LETTER *continued*

9. Experiencing the rewards of working with smart, devoted, talented, curious, and hard working colleagues – both staff and board.

10. Sharing my enthusiasm for the Rhode Island Humanities Council each day with my spouse, children, friends, family, colleagues, clients, neighbors, strangers, my cat ...

Truly, I'm honored to serve as your board chair this year. And eager to learn what will make you love the Humanities Council as much as I do, just in case you don't already. Give me a call – 331-2272.

Warmly, Gayle L. Gifford

P.S. A very grateful thank you to all of our departing directors – Elizabeth Delude Dix, past chair; Colin McCullough, Richard Lobban, Vanessa Gilbert, Angeline Martyn, and Ana-Cecilia Rosado.

For information on RICH events please visit our website at www.rhumanities.org or call the office at 273-2250.

If you would like to be placed on our mailing list to receive this publication, please contact RICH at 273-2250.



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