

Academic Program Committee

February Meeting Report

Report on Plenaries

Typically, there are four plenaries from Wednesday thru Saturday. Since 2004, our policy has been to use the programming of plenaries to ensure that we can bring in a crowd as early as possible with a good plenary and keep them until Sunday morning with a great plenary on Saturday.

This year, the Wednesday Plenary is being outsourced, if you will, to Sam Black and Senator John Heinz History Center. They are holding a conference around Martin R. Delany and ASALH members will attend that as our own.

The CAP has opted to yield to the Park Service the Friday plenary and will coordinate the program with them. Historically this plenary has been on Wednesday, and for us Friday is the best day to sacrifice in hopes of bringing people in on Thursday and keeping them for the Saturday plenary.

The Thursday and Saturday plenaries have not been nailed down. The cornucopia of topic connected to the theme, African Americans and the Arts, and two plenaries means that coverage of the plenaries are key as are the personnel.

I have reached out to a well-known ASALH member Guthrie Ramsey, who has just published a book, *Who Hears Here*, which covers black music from the Civil War Era to present. I want to ask him to work with me to put together a round table of stature such as Mark Anthony Neal and Claudrena Harold to talk about Black music from the spirituals forward.

I am also trying to organize a round table on black literature that will capture leading scholars to talk about *Black Women's Literature* from past to present. I intend to invite figures like Lisa B. Thompson of U of Texas, Farah Jasmine Griffin of Columbia,

Event Speakers

While this is not about the plenaries or even the academic program committee proper, I have discussed with two authors of new books about Mary McLeod Bethune in having a lunch time conversation about our longest-running president. Ashley Robertson Preston or Howard and Noliwe Rooks of Brown University.

Another potential luncheon or banquet speaker is Eddie Glaude of Princeton who has just published a book on Baldwin. I will be willing to work with the VP of Programs/headquarters to see if we can get him to come for no honorarium.

Finally, I also think that Ava DuVernay should be sought since we have a connection.