

The Journal of
African American History

Formerly The Journal of Negro History *Founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, January 1, 1916*

May 22, 2024

TO: Executive Council
 Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)

FROM: Bertis D. English
 Editor, *Journal of African American History (JAAH)*

The editorial staff and board continue to extend the history of success the previous staff and board achieved. The present staff again thanks erstwhile editor Pero Dagbovie and book review editor and general manager LaShawn Harris for their invaluable assistance.

The University of Chicago Press (UCP) is finalizing the next issue of *JAAH*: volume 109, no. 2, spring 2024. Press personnel sent the galley, or page, proofs today, May 22, and requested the editorial staff return the proofs May 28. Accordingly, UCP should produce the issue by mid-June.

The issue will contain twenty-four book reviews; a statement recognizing the death of former ASALH president and esteemed historian William H. Harris Sr.; a review essay by Vincent P. Franklin titled “Caribbean History: From Slavery to Reparations”; and five articles.

1. Tiyi Morris, “From the Deep South to the Global South: The Transnational Activism of Clarie Collins Harvey and Unita Blackwell”
2. Barry M. Goldenberg, “To Serve the People of the Community and of the City: Edward Carpenter and the Story of Harlem Preparatory School”
3. Tracey Johnson, “Value, Access, and the Role of Black Art Collectors during the Financialization of the Visual Arts in New York City, 1975–1991”
4. Melissa N. Shaw, ““Who Used to Run the UNIA Hall’: Black Canadian Women’s Leadership of Toronto Division #21, 1919–1939”
5. Jarvis R. Givens, “Black Education as the General Strike: The Radical Origins of African American Teaching and Learning”

As stated in the preceding report to the executive committee, dated February 21, 2024, *JAAH* had sufficient articles and book reviews for issues 109, nos. 2 and 3, spring and summer 2024, respectively. Now there are enough articles for 109, no. 4, fall 2024. The next issue, 110, no. 5, winter 2025, has three prospective articles in the queue and one in the hopper. The editorial staff has 5 submissions under review, 11 manuscripts out for revision, and 1 new manuscript that will undergo in-house review next week.

The book review editor and assistant book review editor are commissioning reviewers weekly. More than fifty scholars are reviewing books. That the number of advanced graduate students

(e.g., those who have completed coursework but await the completion of dissertations) serving as reviewers will increase in the future is the staff's hope.

The February 21, 2024, *JAAH* report indicated that scholars Jelani M. Favors and Fredara Hadley agreed to guest edit a special issue in 2025, titled "Reassessing the Long History of Historically Black Colleges and Universities." That issue is slated for 110, no. 4, to be published in the fall. Favors, Hadley, and the editorial staff drafted a call for papers. The press and ASALH posted the call to ASALH's website and various other places. The call also appeared in 109, no. 1, winter 2024. Submissions are due July 1, 2024.

The editorial staff arranged two special issues for 2026. One, "The Significance of Black History: A Century of Observance, 1926 to 2026," will focus on the development and subsequent commemorations of Black History Month since its inception as Negro History Week. Daryl M. Scott and Karsonya W. (Kaye) Whitehead are guest editing the issue. Scott is professor of history and chairperson of the Department of History, Geography, and Museum Studies at Morgan State University. Whitehead is professor of communications and African and African American studies at Loyola University Maryland. The UCP is finalizing the call for papers, which will appear on ASALH's website and with H-Net, among other places.

Black Power is the theme for the second 2026 special issue. The year will be the 60th anniversary of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, a cornerstone organization during the traditional Black Power phase of the modern freedom struggle. Ohio State University College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Associate Professor of History Hasan Kwame Jeffries and Texas University at Austin Associate Professor of African and African Diaspora Studies and History Ashley D. Farmer agreed recently to guest edit the special issue.

In the preceding *JAAH* report, the editorial staff conveyed concern about the number of article manuscript and book review submissions. The staff reiterates: Recently launched and forthcoming disciplinary, interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and open-access journals will heighten competition for manuscripts. Aware of that fact, *JAAH*'s staff and editorial board continue to recruit, morally and ethically, scholars whose work can pass blind review. The staff speaks monthly by video, phone, or in person to discuss ways to increase the number of other publishable items (e.g., forums, interviews, review essays, roundtables, symposia). In July, the staff will confer by video with the editorial board to discuss additional ways to achieve *JAAH*'s goals, but under no circumstance will the staff or board consider sacrificing quality for quantity. The *Journal of African American History* set and has remained the standard in the field since 1916, and that tradition will continue uninterrupted through the present staff's tenure.

As always, if any executive council member has a question or comment, please communicate it in writing by sending a message to jaah@alasu.edu. An editorial staff member will reply as soon as possible.